L.N. 78 of 2009

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master in Information Technology - M.IT – under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following bye-laws made the Board of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 81 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by section 81 (2) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2009 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Information Technology - M.IT – under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology.

(2) In these bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires –

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology;

"the Board of Studies" means the Board of Studies appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Board, responsible for the administration and organization of the Course;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master in Information Technology - M.IT;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master in Information Technology - M.IT;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall apply to courses commencing in October 2008 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered in areas of study in IT where the Faculty can offer expert guidance and supervision. The areas of study shall be announced by the Board before the commencement of each Course, after approval by Senate.

Requirements for Admission

4. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) a first cycle degree with at least Second Class Honours or Category II in an area of study other than ICT; or

(b) a first cycle degree with Third Class Honours or Category III in an area of study other than ICT, if they are also in possession of other qualifications, including relevant experience, obtained following the first cycle degree.

(2) Applicants may be required to sit for an interview before being accepted for the Course.

Duration of Course

5. The Course shall extend over four semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

Programme of Study

6. The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 120 credits shall be assigned.

7. The programme of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, and a dissertation study-unit to which 30 credits are assigned.

8. Students who obtain 60 credits for taught study-units in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Regulations with an average mark of at least 50%,

and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the Course, shall be eligible to the award for the Postgraduate Diploma.

9. The programme of study shall be published after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

Assessment and Progress

10. (1) The assessment of each taught study-unit shall be completed by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

(2) Students who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits, if following the Course full-time, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course part-time, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail in more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (2) of this bye-law or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain the credits for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

11. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a continuous basis during the period of study.

(3) A provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the end of the third semester in the case of full-time study and by the end of the fourth semester in the case of part-time study.

12. (1) The Board shall appoint a Panel of Supervision for each student, normally composed of three members as follows: the head of department, or his or her delegate as Chairman, and two other members, one of whom being the research supervisor, provided that when the head of department is the supervisor, he or she shall not chair the Panel.

(2) The Panel of Supervision shall follow, as it deems fit, the progress of students throughout the Course, provided that it meets at least twice a year to review such progress.

(3) Students shall be required to report to their supervisors at least once every two months, and in addition as often as their supervisor deems necessary.

(4) At the end of each semester of studies supervisors shall be required to submit to the Panels of Supervision reports regarding the students under their supervision. Students shall seek approval from the Panel of Supervision for any substantial modification in the title or content of the dissertation. The dissertation may not normally be submitted for examination without the approval of the supervisor.

(5) The Panel of Supervision shall periodically inform the Board, in writing, on the general performance of each student. Such advice may include a recommendation to either (a) extend the period of study in order to enable the student to complete the dissertation; or (b) terminate studies prematurely if the supervisor deems this to be proper in the circumstances, provided that:

(i) the extension of the study period referred to in (a) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Regulations; and

(ii) the Board may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

Classification of the Awards

13. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

14. The provisions of the foregoing bye-laws shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to courses followed on a part-time basis, and subject to such changes as may reasonably be deemed by the Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

Repeal

15. The Regulations of 2005 for the Degree of Master in Information Technology - M.IT published as Legal Notice 360 of 2005, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2008, provided that students registered for this course before the 1st October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their joining the course.

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