L.N. 73 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 of Science in Information and Communication Technology - M.Sc. ICT - 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 by 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 of Science in Information and Communication Technology – M.Sc. ICT – 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 Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Information and Communication Technology – M.Sc. ICT;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science in Information and Communication Technology – M.Sc. ICT;

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

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

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2008 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The Course shall be offered in any area of study that falls within the academic responsibility of the Board, after approval by Senate.

Requirements for Admission

4. Subject to the conditions laid down in bye-law 5, the Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information and Communication Technology; or

(b) the degree of Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (Honours); or

(c) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in two areas of study, one of which is an area related to ICT; or

(d) the degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in a suitable area of study; or

(e) the degree of Bachelor of Science in two areas of study, one of which is an area related to ICT; or

(f) a degree with a strong ICT component comparable to the degrees listed in (a) and (e).

Preparatory Programme

5. (1) Applicants registering under paragraphs (e) and (f) of bye-law 4 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme comprising not less than 30 credits and not more than 60 credits as directed by the Board, obtained with an average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

(2) Preparatory programmes of study shall also be governed by the Principal Regulations.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

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

8. The programme of study shall comprise taught study-units to which a total of 60 credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 60 credits are assigned.

9. Students who obtain the 60 credits for the taught study-units with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the dissertation, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

10. 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

11. (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.

12. Students shall be allowed to proceed to the dissertation study-unit subject to obtaining the 60 credits assigned to the taught study-units with a minimum average mark of 55%.

Dissertation

13. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 40,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third and fourth semesters of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular 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 not later than six weeks before the end of the second semester.

14. (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) Panels of Supervision shall follow, as they deem fit, the progress of students throughout the Course, provided that they meet 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 the 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) Panels 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

15. 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

16. 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.

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