L.N. 214 of 2010

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 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 Theology in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by article 81 (2) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Theology;

"the Degree" means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Theology; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. Degree Regulations, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from October 2009 onwards.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees:

(a) a Licentiate classified with at least Magna cum Laude or a Master's degree obtained with at least Pass with Merit, in an area of study offered by the Faculty; or

(b) degrees comparable to those indicated in sub-paragraph (a) awarded by another recognised university.

(2) The Board may also consider applications from applicants with qualifications at Master's level or higher in another discipline and possessing experience or knowledge which in the opinion of the Board enables them to pursue research in the Faculty.

4. Applicants are normally required to have a thorough reading knowledge of languages of primary and secondary sources.

5. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a comprehensive research proposal outlining the proposed project, including research sources and materials, at any time of the year.

(2) Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate competence in those skills required by the nature of the proposed research.

Faculty Doctoral Committee

6. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Faculty Doctoral Committee composed of 3 to 5 members, including the Dean or his delegate, who shall chair the Committee, the other members being normally heads of department. The Faculty Doctoral Committee may co-opt other members if deemed necessary.

Areas of Study

7. The main area of study shall be in an area of Theology, Religious Studies, or Ethics.

8. The research proposal should include a brief outline of approximately 1000 words regarding the project and should mention the sources on which the research will be based.

Supervision and Students' Progress

9. Principal Supervisors shall be required to submit a written report to the Board, through the Faculty Doctoral Committee, every June for all students under their supervision.

10. Students shall only be allowed to proceed with their studies subject to satisfactory progress reports from their Principal Supervisor. If the report is negative, the Board shall make recommendations to Senate on the student's continuing registration for the Degree.

11. (1) Before being allowed to transfer registration to the Ph.D. status, students shall be required to submit a substantial sample of their research work for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The *ad hoc* board shall be composed of a chairman, who shall be the head of the department concerned or his delegate, and two examiners, one of whom shall be the Principal Supervisor.

(2) The *ad hoc* board shall examine the student orally and shall submit a written report for consideration by the Faculty Doctoral Committee in the first instance. The report shall contain recommendations according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

12. Students registered at the Faculty may be required to participate in the Faculty's research and teaching programmes.

Thesis Presentation and Format

13. Students shall be required to inform the Faculty that they will be submitting their thesis for examination not less than three months before the submission deadline.

14. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Board of Examiners in accordance with the Principal Regulations.

15. The Board shall approve and publish guidelines on the format and presentation of the thesis for the Degree.

16. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their thesis for each member of the Board of Examiners, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Faculty shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Faculty three hard bound copies of the thesis and one copy in digital format within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the thesis shall be kept in the Library of the department and another at the University Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree.

Repeal

17. The Bye Laws of 1998 for the degree of Master of Philosophy – M.Phil. – under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology, published as Legal Notice 46 of 1998 and the Bye-Laws of 1998 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology, published as Legal Notice 68 of

1998, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2009, provided that students registered for these degrees before 1st October 2009 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their registering for the degree.

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