L.N. 215 of 2010

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology

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 Information and Communication Technology 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 Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy 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 Degree" means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.;

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

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

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from October 2008 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 Master's degree, other than a conversion degree as

defined by the Principal Regulations, or a Honours degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours (Upper Division), normally in the same area of study applied for. In addition, the Master's or Honours degree obtained must:

(a) be in Engineering, or Information and Communication Technology, or Mathematics, or Science; or

(b) be an equivalent degree qualification as approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) The Degree is normally open to applicants who have obtained the qualifications specified in paragraph (1) of this bye-law:

(a) within the last ten years before applying for registration for the Degree; or

(b) if the qualification is older than ten years, if they produce sufficient proof of their competence to carry out such a research degree, subject to approval by Senate on the advice of the Board.

4. (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. The proposal shall include the research questions to be addressed, the hypothesis to be tested, and the methodology to be adopted in dealing with the research issues.

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

Transfer of Registration from M.Phil. Degree to Ph.D. Degree

5. (1) Further to regulations 9, 10 and 35 of the Principal Regulations, students shall submit a written application requesting the transfer from the M.Phil. to the Ph.D. degree, together with a summary of the work carried out by them, preferably in the form of a technical report for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The report shall also include any modifications to the original research proposal.

(2) 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 and the other appointed on the advice of the Faculty Doctoral Committee.

(3) The ad hoc board would give favourable consideration to work published or accepted for publication in refereed technical journals and conferences.

(4) 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.

Faculty Doctoral Committee

6. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Faculty Doctoral Committee composed as follows:

The Dean of the Faculty or delegate (chairman)
3 – 4 Heads of Department or their delegates.

Supervision and Students' Progress

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

Research Seminars

10. The Faculty attaches great importance to the association of doctoral students with other research students and members of staff. Students shall therefore be required to participate fully in the research seminars of the Faculty and present at least one per year, or equivalent in the case of part-time registration, during the course of their studies.

Change in Title or Content

11. Further to regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations, any substantial modification to the title or content of the thesis shall be subject to approval by Senate, following a recommendation of the Board, on the advice of the Faculty Doctoral Committee, and following a written recommendation by the student's supervisor.

Eligibility for the Award of the Ph.D. Degree

12. Further to regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations, a thesis for the Degree shall report the discovery of new facts and/or demonstrate that the student has exercised independent critical power in reaching the reported conclusions. In

both respects, the student shall indicate clearly the extent to which the thesis embodies the results of his or her own research and observations, and to what extent the investigation advances the study of the subject.

Thesis Presentation and Format

13. Six months before the submission deadline students shall be informed that they are 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. Further to regulation 38 of the Principal Regulations, the Ph.D. thesis shall not normally exceed 60,000 words, exclusive of appendices, bibliographies, glossaries and footnotes.

17. 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.

Procedure during Oral Examination

18. During the oral examination, the student is expected to present a synopsis of the thesis of about 20 minutes, to provide a demonstration of the artefact if so required, and then to answer questions posed by the members of the Board of Examiners.

Final Version of Thesis

19. In addition to regulation 50 of the Principal Regulations, students shall be required to submit a copy of the final version of their thesis, within six weeks from the publication of the result, to each member of the Board of Examiners, as well as one copy in digital format and at least three hard bound copies to the Faculty Office, one of which shall be retained in the University Library, another one in the custody of the department concerned, and one copy for each supervisor and co-supervisor (where applicable). The latter copies shall be in the format required by the Faculty.

Repeal

20. The Bye-Laws of 2008 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. - and Master of Philosophy – M.Phil. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, published as Legal Notice 214 of

2008, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2008, provided that students registered for this degree before 1st October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their registration for the degree.

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