L.N. 240 of 2010

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery – M.D. - Course (Amendment) Regulations, 2010

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 regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by articles 75 and 79 of the said Act:

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery – M.D. – Course (Amendment) Regulations, 2010 and shall be read and construed as one with the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery – M.D. – Course Regulations, 1998, published as Legal Notice 137 of 1998, hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations".

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses commencing in October 2009 or later.

Amendment to regulation 4 of the principal regulations

3. For paragraph (4) of regulation 4 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"(4) Applicants in possession of one of the following degrees obtained from the University of Malta may also apply:

(i) **applicable up to September 2011**: a Bachelor of Science with a classification of Category II or better or a Bachelor of Science (Honours) with a classification of Second Class Honours or better, in both cases with Biology and Chemistry as principal areas, or in Nursing Studies, or in Midwifery, or in Physiotherapy, or in Radiography or in Medical Laboratory Science or a comparable degree; or

(i) **applicable as from October 2011 onwards**: a Bachelor of Science with a classification of Category II or better or a Bachelor of Science (Honours) with a classification of Second Class Honours or better, in both cases with Biology and Chemistry as principal areas or a comparable degree; or a degree in an area of the

Allied Health Sciences obtained with a classification of Second Class Honours or better, provided the programme of study includes study-units in both Biology and Chemistry that are comparable in standard or higher than the Advanced Matriculation Level in the subjects and provided these study-units had been successfully completed; or

(ii) a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) with a classification of Second Class Honours or better; or

(iii) a Bachelor of Dental Surgery with a classification of Second Class Honours or better if awarded from July 2009 onwards."

4. For paragraph (6) of regulation 4 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"(6) Applicants for the Course may be required to attend for an interview and/or examination. The Interviewing Board/s shall be composed of the Dean or his delegate, three other members appointed by the Board, one of whom shall be from outside the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and another member appointed by Senate. Up to three such Interviewing Boards shall be appointed for each intake of students as determined by the Board."

Amendment to regulation 5 of the principal regulations

5. For paragraph (2) of regulation 5 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"(2) Except with the permission of the Board, students must follow the Course without interruption or repetition. The Board may allow students to interrupt or to repeat a year once in each of the two parts of the Course."

Amendment to regulation 6 of the principal regulations

6. For regulation 6 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"**Programme of Study**

6. The Board shall publish the programme of study, comprising all the subjects taught in each year of the Intermediate Course, their syllabus and assessments prior to the commencement of each Course following the approval of Senate. Subject to the approval of Senate, the Board may make any necessary changes to the programme of study as required."

Amendment to regulation 7 of the principal regulations

7. For regulation 7 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"7. The subjects of the Final Course shall be the following:

First Year

Pathology
Medicine (including Neurology)
Clinical Pharmacology
Surgery
Family Medicine
Behavioural Sciences

Second Year

Pathology
Medicine
Clinical Pharmacology
Surgery (including Orthopaedics)
Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Paediatrics
Public Health
Dermatology
Ophthalmology
ENT
Anaesthesia
Forensic Medicine
Family Medicine

Third Year

Medicine (including Paediatrics)
Surgery (including Orthopaedics)
Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Psychiatry
Family Medicine
Behavioural Sciences."

Addition of regulations 9, 10 and 11 to the principal regulations

8. Regulations 9, 10 and 11 shall be added after regulation 8 of the principal regulations:

"**Mark Scheme in the Intermediate and Final Course**

9. During the Course the assessment result in each subject of the two parts of the Course shall be published according to the following marks and grades in descending order of merit:

95% - 100%	A+
80% - 94%	A
75% - 79%	B+
70% - 74%	B
65% - 69%	C+
55% - 64%	C
50% - 54%	D+
45% - 49%	D
0% - 44%	F

Assessment and Progression in the Intermediate Course

10. (1) The result of each subject shall take into account all parts of the assessment in that subject.

(2) Students are allowed to resit any failed subject of Years I and II of the Intermediate Course in the September supplementary session of examinations, provided that students who commence the Course in October 2010 or later shall only be eligible to be re-assessed in subjects to which not more than 16 ECTS credits are assigned, except when students fail in only one study-unit to which more than 16 ECTS credits are assigned or in two study-units which between them are assigned more than 16 ECTS credits but not more than 20 ECTS credits.

(3) Students who after the supplementary session of Year I of the Intermediate Course fail in subjects to which 10 or less ECTS credits are assigned shall, whenever possible and after academic counselling by the Dean and/or the Head of Department concerned, be given the option by the Board to either:

(a) refer the failed subject/s to the following year to be done over and above the subjects indicated for Year II of the Intermediate Course; or

(b) repeat the year, if eligible in terms of these regulations.

(4) Students referred to in paragraph (3) of this regulation who take up the option to refer failed subjects to Year II of the Course shall be considered to have progressed conditionally and shall not be allowed to continue with the Course if, after the supplementary assessment session of Year II, they fail again to obtain a pass in the referred subject/s.

(5) If a student is prevented for a reason considered valid by Senate from being assessed in referred subjects, the student shall be required to complete the

previous year's requirements in an additional year of study. Under no circumstances shall a student be allowed to progress from Years I or II to Years II or III if the requirements of the year previous to the current have not been satisfied.

(6) Students who after the supplementary sessions of Years I and II fail in subjects to which more than 10 ECTS credits are assigned shall not be allowed to proceed to Year II or Year III of the Course, as applicable, but may be allowed by the Board to repeat the year, if eligible in terms of these regulations.

(7) In a repeat year, students are required to follow and be assessed in all subjects of the programme of study for the year. Any mark/grade may be obtained.

(8) Students in Year II shall not be allowed to progress to Year III if they have not successfully passed in all subjects. However, students who after the supplementary session of examinations of Year II fail in subjects to which 10 or less ECTS credits are assigned shall be required to obtain passes in the failed subjects in an additional year of study, except in the case of subjects referred to in paragraph (2) of regulation 11.

(9) A study-unit that has been accepted by the Board as an alternative to a referred subject shall, for purpose of these regulations, be deemed to be a referred subject and the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of this regulation shall apply.

(10) The maximum mark/grade that may be awarded to a pass in a referred subject, including subjects accepted as alternative to the referred ones, and irrespective of whether the subject is assessed in a normal or a supplementary session of examinations, is 45%, grade D.

(11) Attendance for lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical or clinical sessions or work placements, and any other teaching session in whatever mode is obligatory. The Board of Examiners may bar a student whose attendance in a subject is not satisfactory from being assessed in that subject. In such cases a 0 mark and an F grade shall be assigned and recorded.

Admission to the Final Course

11. (1) Before being admitted to the Final Course, students must pass in all subjects of the second year of the Intermediate Course, or in the case of transfer students be exempted from them by Senate, acting on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) In the case of assessments that can only be held once during an academic year and hence no supplementary session is possible, students who fail these assessments shall be allowed to proceed to the Final Course, provided that they pass such assessments in Year I of the Final Course."

Renumbering of regulations 9 to 21 of the principal regulations

9. Regulations 9 to 21 of the principal regulations shall be renumbered as regulations 12 to 24.

Amendment to regulation 12 of the principal regulations

10. For regulation 12 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"12. (1) In the Final Course, Progress Tests shall be held in subjects, the teaching of which extends over more than one academic year.

(2) Progress Tests in the Final Course shall be held as follows:

During the First Year in:

Pathology
Medicine
Clinical Pharmacology
Surgery
Behavioural Sciences

During the Second Year in:

Medicine (including Neurology)
Clinical Pharmacology
Surgery (including Orthopaedics)
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

During the Third Year in:

Behavioural Sciences

(3) Progress Tests shall be held during the year.

(4) A supplementary session shall be held for those students who fail a Progress Test.

(5) Students shall not be allowed to proceed to the following year of the Course if the Board is not satisfied, as a result of the Progress Tests, that they have followed the year with profit.

(6) Students who fail in any Progress Test in the supplementary session shall not be allowed to proceed to the following year of the Course but may be allowed by the Board to repeat the year."

Deletion of regulations 13, 14, and 15 of the principal regulations

11. Regulations 13, 14 and 15 of the principal regulations shall be deleted.

12. Regulations 16 to 24 shall be renumbered as regulations 13 to 21.

Amendment to regulation 13 of the principal regulations

13. For regulation 13 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"Subject Tests in the Final Course

13. (1) During the Final Course, Subject Tests shall be held in each of the following subjects:

Public Health
Dermatology
Forensic Medicine
Ophthalmology
Paediatrics
ENT
Psychiatry
Anaesthesia.

A Subject Test in Family Medicine shall be held during the third year of the Final Course.

(2) A supplementary session shall be held for those students who fail a Subject Test.

(3) Students shall not be allowed to proceed to the following year of the Course if they have not passed each Subject Test prescribed for the year.

(4) Students who fail in any Subject Test in the supplementary session may be allowed by the Board to repeat the year."

Amendment to regulation 15 of the principal regulations

14. For regulation 15 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"**Result**

15. (1) Exceptional performance in the Pathology examination shall be indicated in the result.

(2) Students who do not pass the examination in Pathology in the sessions prescribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of regulation 14 shall not be allowed to proceed to the third year of the Final Course. Such students may be allowed by the Board to repeat the year at the next opportunity."

Amendment to regulation 17 of the principal regulations

15. For regulation 17 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following:

"**Result**

17. (1) The names of students who have passed the Final Examination at the first session shall be published in another list in alphabetical order in the following two categories:

Passed with Distinction
Passed.

Exceptional performance in a subject shall be indicated on the list.

(2) The names of students who are successful in the examination sessions as prescribed in paragraph (2) of regulation 16 shall be published in a simple Pass List in alphabetical order.

(3) The result of the Final Examination shall take into account all parts of the examination in the three subjects specified in paragraph (3) of regulation 16, the result of the examination in Pathology, as well as the work done by the students during the Final Course."

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