B 158

L.N. 31 of 1998

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - and Master of Philosophy - M.Phil. - Degrees Course Regulations, 1998

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30 (5) and 31 (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 sections 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - and Master of Philosophy - M.Phil. - Degrees Course Regulations, 1998.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty or Institute where the research will be carried out;

"the Committee" means the M.Phil. / Ph.D. Committee;

"the Courses" means the Courses leading to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - and of Master of Philosophy - M.Phil.;

"the Degrees" means the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - and of Master of Philosophy - M.Phil.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply from October 1997 onwards.

Award of Degrees

3. (1) The Ph.D. degree shall be awarded upon the successful defence of a thesis containing original and significant contributions to knowledge in one of the disciplines studied at the University.

(2) The M.Phil. degree shall be awarded upon the successful defence of a dissertation based on original research.

Committee appointed by Senate

4. (1) Applications for registration for the Degrees shall be accepted by Senate, on the recommendations of the Board and of an M.Phil. / Ph.D. Committee appointed by the Senate for this purpose.

(2) The Committee shall be appointed for three years and shall be composed as follows:

The Rector (or his delegate) as Chairman
Three members elected from and by the Senate
The Registrar as Secretary
The Dean of the Faculty or Director of the Institute in which the candidate plans to carry out his research, co-opted.

Registration for Degrees

5. (1) The Committee shall consider applications for the Ph.D. degree from candidates who possess a Master's degree of this or another University or qualifications of comparable standard recognised for this purpose by the Senate.

(2) The Committee shall consider applications for the M.Phil. degree from candidates who possess a good Honours degree (not below Second Class (Upper)) of this or another University or qualifications of comparable standard recognised for this purpose by the Senate.

(3) In addition to the qualifications specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this regulation, candidates shall possess such qualifications and

satisfy such other conditions as the Board may from time to time establish for the purpose and which shall be approved by Senate in the form of bye-laws.

(4) Applications for the Degrees shall include the following:

(a) the proposed title of the thesis / dissertation;

(b) a detailed research proposal, normally of approximately 1000 words;

(c) a statement on whether the studies will be undertaken on a full-time or a part-time basis, and, in the latter case, the number of hours that will be dedicated to this research work;

(d) the name of a member of staff of the University who has agreed to act as supervisor, and in special cases, the name of a member of staff of this or another University or of a specialist who has agreed to act as co-supervisor; and

(e) a recommendation from the head of the department or the division co-ordinator that the topic of research is acceptable.

(5) The Committee shall submit to Senate all applications which satisfy the requirements under paragraphs (1) to (4) of this regulation. Senate may accept such applications and may impose such conditions as it deems fit.

Duration of Studies

6. (1) Studies for the Ph.D. degree shall extend over the following periods:

(a) not less than three years and not more than five years in the case of full-time studies;

(b) not less than four years and not more than eight years (which should normally include one year of full-time study) in the case of part-time studies.

(2) A Ph.D. thesis shall not be considered if submitted later than the maximum period allowed in paragraph (1) of this regulation, unless in special circumstances, on the recommendation of the Board and the Committee, and with the approval of Senate.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (1) of this regulation, in exceptional circumstances, the Senate, on the recommendation of the Board and the Committee, may give permission for the submission of a Ph.D. thesis after the equivalent of two years of full-time study have expired from the date of first registration.

7. (1) Studies for the M.Phil. degree shall extend over the following periods:

(a) not less than 15 months and not more than 2 year in the case of full-time study;

(b) not less than 30 months and not more than 4 years in the case of part-time studies.

(2) An M.Phil. dissertation shall not be considered if submitted later than the maximum period allowed in paragraph (1) of this regulation, unless in special circumstances, on the recommendation of the Board and the Committee, and with the approval of Senate.

Annual Registration

8. (1) Students are required to register at the Faculty or Institute concerned at the beginning of each academic year throughout their period of study.

(2) Such registration shall be allowed only on the submission of a satisfactory progress report from the student's supervisor.

Transfer of Registration

9. (1) Senate may allow a transfer of registration from the M.Phil degree to the Ph.D. degree with the same research proposal if the following conditions have been satisfied:

(a) fifteen months of full-time study or thirty months of part-time study have elapsed;

(b) a satisfactory progress report from the student's supervisor has been received;

(c) a board appointed by the Board for the purpose, composed of a chairman, the student's supervisor and another member, has assessed the student's work and has certified that it has reached the standard of at least a Master's degree; and

(d) the Board and the Committee have recommended the transfer.

(2) If the transfer is allowed by Senate, the work already done for the M.Phil. degree will count towards the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

Submission of Theses / Dissertations

10. (1) Not less than three months before the intended date of submission, students shall apply to the Board for permission to present the thesis / dissertation stating its exact title. Before giving permission, the Board shall consult the students' supervisor and shall ascertain that the period of study conforms with that stipulated in Regulations 6 and 7.

(2) When submitting a thesis / dissertation, students shall:

(a) submit a signed declaration that the thesis / dissertation is their own personal work, and that the greater portion of the work has been done after their registration for the degree;

(b) if a part of the thesis / dissertation has already been submitted for another degree or qualification or the thesis / dissertation has been

independently published, a statement to this effect shall be included with it, and the Board of Examiners set up under paragraph (1) of Regulation 11 shall recommend to Senate whether the thesis / dissertation should be accepted for examination or not.

Examination of Theses / Dissertations

11. (1) Theses / dissertations for these Degrees shall be examined by a Board of Examiners appointed for the purpose by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) The Board of Examiners shall consist of at least three examiners including a Chairman, an external examiner and another member.

(3) Students shall be required to defend their thesis / dissertation orally before the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners shall submit a final report to Senate stating whether the student should be admitted to the degree.

Provided that, in the case of an M.Phil. dissertation, if the external examiner is unable to take part in the final deliberations of the Board of Examiners because of his being abroad, it shall be lawful for the other members of the Board of Examiners to take decisions in his absence so long as any views he may have expressed in writing are taken into consideration and the final decision is acceptable to him.

12. (1) After examining the thesis / dissertation, the Board of Examiners may refer it back to the student for revision prior to his defending the thesis / dissertation orally.

(2) In cases indicated in paragraph (1) of this regulation, the student shall apply to the Board for permission to submit the revised thesis / dissertation for examination. The Board shall be guided in its decision by the recommendations of the Board of Examiners but in all cases the revised thesis / dissertation shall be submitted for examination within six months of the original thesis / dissertation being referred back to the student. Such permission shall be granted once only.

(3) A student who fails to satisfy the Board of Examiners in the oral examination may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and with the permission of the Board, be re-examined orally within a period of six months. Such permission shall be granted once only.

(4) If a student for the Ph.D. degree does not satisfy the Board of Examiners that his thesis has reached the standard required for the award of a Ph.D. degree, the Board of Examiners may recommend to Senate the award of an M.Phil. degree.

Bye-Laws

13. The Senate may, on the recommendation of each Board, draw up bye-laws governing the Degrees to regulate matters not covered by these regulations.