L.N. 313 of 2009

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2009 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 Engineering

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 Engineering 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 2009 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 Engineering.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Engineering;

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

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Engineering;

"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 obtained in the last fifteen years prior to registration:

(a) a Bachelor Honours degree in an area of study related to Engineering, Science or Mathematics obtained at First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Upper Division), provided that the Faculty Doctoral Committee:

(i) ascertains that applicants have a very strong background in the area of study related to the proposed area of research; and

(ii) submits a clearly motivated recommendation for acceptance to the Board for eventual consideration by the Ph.D. Committee and Senate; or

(b) a Master's degree, in an area of study related to Engineering, Science or Mathematics; or

(c) qualifications which the Board deems comparable to the degrees indicated in (a) and (b).

(2) Applicants in possession of one of the degrees indicated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law obtained more than fifteen years prior to their application may apply and are required to produce sufficient proof of their competence to carry out research at the required level.

4. When the Board deems it necessary, it may require students to successfully complete a number of study-units during the course of their studies, under those conditions that it may impose, after approval by Senate.

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 as follows:

The Dean of the Faculty (chairman) or his delegate

3-4 heads of departments or their delegate, in all cases the delegates being of Lecturer level or higher.

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.

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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 concerning the continuation of the student's doctoral programme.

9. (1) After 12 months of full-time study or 24 months of part-time study, students are required to submit a report on their research work, preferably in the form of a technical report, for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The board would give favourable consideration to work published or accepted for publication in refereed technical journals or conferences. 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 a member of the Faculty.

(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.

10. Students registered at the Faculty may be required to participate in the Faculty's research and teaching programmes. They are required to attend postgraduate research seminars organised by the Faculty. They are also required to deliver at least one presentation and present at least one poster during such seminars during their registration for the Degree.

Thesis Presentation and Format

11. 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.

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

13. Students shall be required to defend their thesis orally. They are expected to present a synopsis of the thesis of about 20 minutes and then to answer questions posed by members of the Board of Examiners.

14. (1) Ph.D. theses shall not normally exceed 60,000 words, exclusive of appendices, bibliographies and footnotes and shall not exceed 350 pages in total.

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

15. (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

16. The Bye-Laws of 2005 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering, published as Legal Notice 205 of 2005, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2008, provided that students registered for this course before 1st October 2008 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.