L.N. 405 of 2010

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Science in Materials Engineering 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 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Science in Materials Engineering – offered 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 Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Materials Engineering;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science in Materials Engineering;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Materials Engineering; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2010 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree comprising 240 credits with at least Second Class Honours; or

(b) a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering (Honours) degree comprising 240 credits with at least Second Class Honours; or

(c) a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours) degree of 180 credits with at least Second Class Honours; or

(d) a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chemistry with Materials Science degree of 180 credits with at least Second Class Honours; or

(e) equivalent qualifications approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board,

provided that applicants registering under sub-paragraphs (c), (d) and if considered necessary (e), shall be required to complete a preparatory programme as specified in bye-law 4.

(2) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(3) When the number is so limited and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected through an interview by a board composed of at least three members appointed for the purpose. The board shall select applicants using the following criteria which shall be weighted as follows:

(a) degree type and class - 40%;
(b) performance in materials science and engineering subjects at undergraduate level - 40%; and
(c) their performance during an interview - 20%.

Preparatory Programme

4. (1) Applicants registering under sub-paragraphs (c), (d), and if required (e) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 3 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme comprising 30 credits as directed by the Board, with an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

(2) Preparatory programmes of study shall also be covered by the Principal Regulations.

Course Duration

5. The Course shall extend over three semesters of full-time studies or the equivalent in part-time studies.

Programme of Study

6. The programme of study shall consist of study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which 60 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits are assigned to a dissertation study-unit.

7. Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the taught study-units with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the dissertation, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

8. The programme of study shall be published by the Board after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

Assessment and Progress

9. (1) The assessment of each taught study-unit shall be completed by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

(2) Students who in the course of the academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits for taught study-units if following the Course full-time, or not more than 10 credits if following the Course part-time, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments at the first practicable opportunity, as determined by the Board.

(3) Students who fail in more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (2) of this bye-law or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

10. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) A provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the end of the first semester.

11. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for students under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. Such reports may include recommendations to either (a) extend the period of study in order to enable the student to complete the dissertation; or (b) terminate studies prematurely if the supervisor deems this to be proper in the circumstances, provided that:

(i) the extension of the study period referred to in (a) shall be in accordance with the provisions of Principal Regulations; and

(ii) the Board may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

Classification of the Awards

12. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

13. (1) The Board may, from time to time, offer students the opportunity to follow the Course on a part-time basis.

(2) The provisions of the foregoing bye-laws shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to courses followed on a part-time basis, and subject to such changes as may reasonably be deemed by the Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

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