L.N. 36 of 1997

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Master of Arts in Theology and Human Studies – M.A. – Degree Course Regulations, 1997

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 Master of Arts in Theology and Human Studies – M.A. – Degree Course Regulations, 1997.

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

"the Board" means the Board of Studies appointed under regulation 4;

"the Course" means the Course leading to the Degree;

"the Degree" means the Master of Arts in Theology and Human Studies – M.A.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses starting in October 1991 or later.

Eligibility for the Degree

3. To be eligible for the award of the Degree a candidate must have:

(a) completed the appropriate course of studies;

(b) been successful in the relevant examinations and dissertation; and

(c) satisfied all other requirements prescribed in these regulations and any other relevant statutes and regulations of the University.

Board of Studies and Coordinator

4. (1) A Board of Studies consisting of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology and three other members shall be appointed by the Faculty Board of Theology for a period of three years to manage and supervise the Course in accordance with these regulations.

(2) The Faculty Board shall appoint a course coordinator for a period of three years from among the members of the Board.

Registration and special course requirements

5. (1) A candidate may register for the Course if he has:

(a) obtained the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology, *Summa cum Laude*, *Magna cum Laude* or *cum Laude*, from this or another University approved by Senate for the purpose; or

(b) obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theology and Human Studies or an equivalent qualification with First or Second Class Honours from this or another University approved by Senate for the purpose; or

(c) obtained at least grade B in the Qualifying Examination and in the overall assessment of the M.A. Preparatory Course.

Preparatory Course

6. (1) A candidate may be registered for the M.A. in Theology and Human Studies preparatory course if he has:

(a) obtained from this University the degree of B.A. in Theology and Human Studies or the B.A. in Religious Studies and satisfied the Board that he has attained the standard required to follow the Course; or

(b) obtained another degree from another Faculty or University provided that such a degree includes not less than 20 credits in Theology or Religious Studies and the average grade in these credits is at least B; or

(c) studied, on a full-time basis, Philosophy and Theology for five years in a Major Seminary or in an Institution which, in the opinion of the Faculty Board, is of a similar academic standing and obtained at least an average of grade B in the tests or examinations.

(2) Candidates admitted to the preparatory course shall normally be required to obtain 16 credits in not less than two semesters in such study-units as the Faculty Board deems appropriate and may also be required to write a dissertation.

(3) On obtaining the necessary number of credits candidates shall be required to sit for a qualifying examination which shall normally be similar to all or part of the examination for the B.A. (Honours) in Theology and Human Studies.

(4) The qualifying examination shall comprise two papers.

Course duration

7. (1) A candidate for the Degree shall be required to present a written dissertation not less than fifteen and not more than twenty-seven calendar months after registration. The Faculty Board may, before the presentation of the dissertation, extend registration for one period of twelve calendar months.

(2) A candidate may, by permission of the Faculty Board, register as a part-time student for any period spent in part-time study or research required to complete the course of studies. Any period to be sent in part-time study or research shall be considered to be equivalent to half the same period of full-time study or research.

(3) A candidate, whether full-time or part-time, shall be required to re-register for the Course at the beginning of each academic year.

Final Examination

8. (1) Before presenting the dissertation a candidate shall also be required to have followed and successfully completed two or more courses, one of which shall be in Methods of Research.

(2) A candidate shall normally also be required to take a *viva voce* examination to defend his dissertation.

Supervision

9. The Faculty Board shall in each case appoint as supervisor a Professor or Lecturer, who will require the candidate to report at least once a term and, in addition, as often as is deemed necessary. The supervisor may refer to the Faculty Board a candidate whose work is considered unsatisfactory and must refer, for the approval of the Faculty Board, any substantial modification in the title or content of the projected dissertation No dissertation may be submitted to the examiners without the supervisor's certificate of conformity with the regulations.

Dissertation

10. (1) A provisional title and outline of the dissertation must be submitted for the approval of the Faculty Board within three calendar months of registration.

(2) Every dissertation presented for the Degree shall:

(a) be either a record of original work or an ordered and critical expression of existing data with regard to a particular subject;

(b) fulfil all specifications laid down by the Faculty Board; and

(c) include a declaration of originality signed by the candidate.

(3) No dissertation shall be accepted which is identical in substance to a dissertation already submitted for a degree in this or any other University. No candidate, however, shall be precluded from incorporating such previous dissertation work as may be necessary for the presentation and fuller understanding of his exposition, provided that the nature and extent of such incorporation are clearly indicated in the dissertation itself.

(4) Each dissertation shall be examined by at least three examiners.

(5) A candidate whose dissertation is found unsatisfactory may be allowed by the Faculty Board, on the examiners' recommendation, to re-submit the dissertation in revised form within a period of not less than six and not more than eighteen calendar months.

Final Results

11. In the Final Results the names of the candidates qualifying for the Degree shall be published in alphabetical order according to the following classification:

Passed with Distinction
Passed.

Certification

12. On successful completion of the Course candidates shall be awarded the Degree.

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