L.N. 192 of 1997

EDUCATION ACT

(CAP. 327)

Magister Juris - M. Jur. - 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 Magister Juris. - M. Jur. - Degree Course Regulations, 1997.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Laws;

"the Course" means the Course leading to the Degree of Magister Juris - M. Jur.;

"the Degree" means the Degree of Magister Juris - M. Jur.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses starting in 1995 or later.

Eligibility for the Degree

3. To be eligible for the award of the Degree, a student must:

(a) be registered as a regular student in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University;

(b) satisfy any qualification requirements for admission to the Course;

(c) complete the course of studies, qualify in the examinations and comply with any other requirements as prescribed in these regulations;

(d) comply with any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes and regulations of the University.

Qualifications for Admission

4. (1) Candidates for admission to the Course shall be in possession of one of the following qualifications:

(a) the LL.D. degree;

(b) a Bachelor's degree in Law with at least Category II;

(c) a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours;

(d) equivalent qualifications from this University or another University recognised by Senate for the purpose.

(2) The admission of a candidate whose first degree is not the LL.D. may be made conditional on the results of an interview and the Board may impose additional requirements including the requirements to follow a preparatory programme of studies and passing a qualifying examination prior to registration for the Course.

Registration

5. On admission to the Course, students shall be required to choose the area of study they intend to follow from the areas of study offered in terms of paragraph (1) of Regulation 7 and register for the appropriate number of credits for the area of study chosen, as may be required in the catalogue published in terms of Regulation 7.

Course Duration

6. (1) The Course shall extend over twelve months of full-time study, provided that the student may choose, with the permission of the Faculty Board, to study for the Degree on a part-time basis, in which event the course of studies shall last for twenty-four months of part-time study.

(2) A student shall submit his dissertation not later than three months after the taking of the Examinations referred to in Regulation 8. Part-time students shall submit their dissertation not later than three months after the Examinations in the second year of their Course.

Course of Studies

7. (1) The Course shall be offered in those areas of study related to Law as determined by the Board.

(2) In order to complete the Course students must obtain not less than eight credits of which at least three-quarters (usually six) must be in the area of a study chosen, with the option of taking the remaining number of credits from another approved area of study, and be approved in the dissertation related to the area of study followed.

(3) A catalogue of study-units for each area of study shall be published before the commencement of the Course. The catalogue for each area of study shall indicate the credits assigned to each study-unit and the number of credits required to satisfy paragraph (2) of this regulation.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2) of this regulation, in exceptional cases the Board may, before the commencement of the Course, decide to allow a student to obtain the Degree by dissertation only. In such instances, students may be required by the Board to register for study-units relevant to the proposed area of research. In such cases the dissertation shall be of not more than 50,000 words in length.

Assessment and Examinations

8. (1) During their Course, students shall be set coursework which shall be assessed. They shall also be required to pass end-of-year written examinations.

(2) Credits for each study-unit shall be assigned according to the grades A, B, C, D, or F, in descending order of merit, F indicating Fail. The coursework assessment shall account for 40% of the weighting for the award of the grade and the written examinations shall account for the remaining 60%.

(3) A student who fails in the written examinations in one or more areas of study with a mark of not less than forty per cent (40%) of the marks allotted to the examination in that area of study shall be allowed to resit that examination once only. In such cases the maximum grade that can be awarded is grade D.

(4) A student who fails to obtain a minimum of five credits at the first sitting shall be considered to have definitely failed. A student failing in an examination with a mark below 40%, or failing any resit, shall be considered to have definitely failed, unless the Faculty Board, in exceptional circumstances, decides to review the case.

Dissertation

9. (1) The dissertation is a compulsory element in the Course.

(2) The dissertation shall be of not more than 25,000 words in length on a subject proposed by the student and approved by the Faculty Board. It should provide evidence of independent research and constitute an original contribution to the subject.

(3) The student shall present a written proposal for a dissertation topic not later than six months from the beginning of the Course referred to in Regulation 6. Part-time students shall present their proposal not later than six months from the beginning of the second year of the Course.

(4) On approval of the dissertation proposal, the student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall be appointed by the Board.

(5) The dissertation shall be submitted not later than the end of the period referred to in paragraph (2) of Regulation 6.

(6) The Board may in its discretion grant a student an extension of the submission date referred to in paragraph (5) of this regulation up to a maximum of three months.

(7) The dissertation shall be examined by a Board of Examiners appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(8) The student shall submit eight copies of the dissertation and declare in writing that the dissertation is his own work and conforms to the requirements stated in paragraph (2) of this regulation.

(9) The Board of Examiners shall be convened by its Chairman to discuss the dissertation. A student may also be required to take a ***viva voce*** examination in defence of his dissertation.

(10) The Board of Examiners may approve the dissertation. It may require the student to make corrections or to completely rewrite the dissertation within a stated time limit or may reject the dissertation altogether.

(11) A student whose dissertation is rejected or whose corrections or rewriting are considered inadequate or who has not submitted his dissertation within the required time limit, shall not be awarded the Degree.

Classification and Award of the Degree

10. (1) The award shall be classified as a Pass with Distinction, or Pass, depending on the overall results obtained. For classification purposes, the performance of the student in the study-units shall account for 70% of the final weighting for the classification of the Degree, while the performance of the student in the dissertation shall account for the remaining 30%.

(2) The names of successful students shall be published on the notice-board of the University, in alphabetical order, and in the order of the classification awarded.

(3) The certificate of the award of the Degree shall indicate the area of study in which the Degree was obtained.

Transitory Provision

11. The Regulations for the Degree of Magister Juris (International Law) and Magister Juris (European and Comparative Law) shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 30th September, 1996.

Provided that students registered for these courses before the 1st October 1995 shall continue to be governed by the Regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.

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