L.N. 76 of 1995

EDUCATION ACT

(CAP. 327)

The Diploma in Agriculture Course Regulations, 1995

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 Diploma in Agriculture Course Regulations, 1995.

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

"the Course" means the Course leading to the Diploma in Agriculture;

"the Diploma" means the Diploma in Agriculture; and

"the Institute" means the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Malta.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to the Course starting in the academic year 1992/93 or later.

Eligibility for the Diploma

3. To be eligible for the award of the Diploma a candidate shall have:

(a) been registered as a probationary or regular student of the University of Malta in the Institute for a minimum period of two academic years, of which one shall be as a regular student;

(b) completed a course of studies in Agriculture and been successful in the examinations in accordance with these regulations;

(c) submitted a project report on an approved agricultural topic to the satisfaction of the examiners; and

(d) satisfied all other requirements laid down in these regulations and in any other relevant regulations and statutes of the University.

Registration

4. (1) A candidate may be registered as a student in the Course if he:

(a) is aged not less than 17 years within three calendar months from the date on which the Course commences;

(b) satisfies the requirements as a probationary or regular student in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University, and if he is a probationary student, satisfies also the entry requirements specified in regulation 5 below; and

(c) satisfies the Institute that he has the necessary aptitude for agriculture and for this purpose five years working experience in agriculture may be considered as an indication of such aptitude; the Institute may require the candidate to attend an interview/assessment for this purpose.

(2) A candidate shall obtain a medical certificate indicating that he has no infirmity or disability which might hinder him from carrying out practical work in agriculture.

(3) An overseas candidate, in addition to satisfying the foregoing requirements, must demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral English.

Entry requirements for probationary students

5. (1) In order to be admitted as a probationary student in the Course, the candidate shall be in possession of one of the following:

(a) six passes at Ordinary Level, including Maltese, English Language, Mathematics and a science subject;

(b) a diploma from the College of Agriculture of the Department of Education with a grade of merit or better;

(c) the qualifications for entry for mature students under the Admission Regulations of the University.

(2) Probationary students shall also satisfy the requirements of paragraph (3) of regulation 4 as regards the English Language.

Duration of the Course

6. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of two academic years. A candidate may not take the Final Examination before two years or later than three years from the date of commencement of the Course except with the permission of the Board of the Institute.

(2) The Foundation Programme in Agriculture comprises the first year of the Course.

(3) A probationary student who successfully completes the Foundation Programme shall be entitled to be registered as a matriculated student of the University.

(4) Following the successful completion of the Foundation Programme candidates shall continue their studies in Agricultural Sciences for a further year. This further year comprises the Diploma Programme of the Course.

Foundation Programme

7. (1) During the Foundation Programme of the Course candidates shall receive training in a number of subjects and carry out fieldwork in preparation for their subsequent professional and academic development.

(2) The subjects of the Foundation Programme shall be General Biology, Chemistry, Elements of Biotechnology, Crop Science and Animal Science. Candidates shall be assessed in these subjects by a written examination in each subject at the end of the year.

(3) The fieldwork shall be carried out on an approved farm two days a week under the supervision of a field teacher recognised by the Institute and subject to continuous assessment.

Successful Completion of the Foundation Programme

8. (1) To complete the Foundation Programme successfully and to continue the Course, the candidate shall obtain the following:

(a) a pass grade in Biology and Chemistry;

(b) a pass grade in all the other subjects with an average grade of C; and

(c) a pass grade in the fieldwork assessments.

(2) A candidate who fails to obtain a pass grade under sub-paragraph (a) or fails to obtain an average grade of C under sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of this regulation, or under both such sub-paragraphs, shall be entitled to repeat, once only, examinations in two subjects only at the end of the Foundation Programme. A candidate who fails to obtain the required grades in any examination which he has repeated shall not be allowed to continue the Course.

(3) A candidate who fails to obtain a pass under sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (1) of this regulation shall not be allowed to continue the Course.

(4) The following grades shall be awarded:

A Excellent
B Very good pass
C Good pass
D Pass
F Fail

Diploma Programme

9. (1) Following the Foundation Programme there shall be a further year of study for the attainment of the Diploma.

(2) The Diploma Programme shall consist of:

(a) Academic studies in Animal Husbandry, Crop Husbandry, Soil Science, Agricultural Mechanisation and Agricultural Economics and Business; and

(b) Case studies in Agricultural Management.

(3) At the end of the year candidates shall sit for a written examination in each subject listed in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2). Each subject shall be covered by one examination paper except for Animal Husbandry and Crop Husbandry both of which shall be covered by two papers each. The candidates shall be examined and graded on each paper.

(4) The case studies in Agricultural Management shall consist of three field projects in either Animal Husbandry or Crop Husbandry. Candidates shall be assessed separately for these three studies by continuous assessment.

(5) The following grades shall be awarded:

A Excellent
B Very good pass
C Good pass
D Pass
F Fail

(6) A candidate who fails to obtain a pass under paragraph (3) in not more than three papers may repeat the examinations only once. A candidate who fails to obtain three passes under paragraph (4) shall carry out further field projects as necessary to obtain the three pass grades.

Completion of the Course

10. (1) To complete the Course, a candidate must:

(a) successfully complete the Foundation Programme;

(b) successfully complete the Diploma Programme; and

(c) submit a project report of 5000 words on an approved topic in either Animal Husbandry or Crop Husbandry.

(2) An accepted project report shall be graded as stated in paragraph (5) of regulation 9.

(3) (a) The names of candidates who have successfully completed the Diploma programme shall be published in alphabetical order in one of the following categories:

Passed with Distinction
Passed

(b) A candidate who obtains an average grade B or better in the examinations and assessments and a grade A in the project report shall be awarded the Diploma with Distinction.

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