VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 219 of 2013

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences

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 Health Sciences in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) (c) 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 2013 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.;

"the Postgraduate Certificate" means the Postgraduate Certificate in the relevant area of study;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in the relevant area of study; 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 2012 or later.

Areas of Study

3. The course shall be offered in any one of the following areas of study:

Applied Biomedical Science, Applied Food and Nutritional Sciences, Communication Therapy, Environmental Health, Health Services Management, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, and Radiography or in any other area of specialisation related to the above areas of study, following approval of Senate.

Requirements for Admission

4. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor's degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours in an area of study deemed suitable by the Board; or

(b) a degree from this or another university which the Board considers as comparable to the degree indicated in sub-paragraph (a) of this bye-law.

(2) Applicants may be required to provide evidence of work experience following registration with the relevant regulatory council in the proposed area of study or area of specialisation, if applicable. The minimum number of years of experience required shall be indicated at the time of the call for applications,

provided that for the Health Services Management area of study, applicants must have at least three years' work experience in the Health Service sector.

(3) 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 Board shall announce the areas of study/areas of specialisation and the number of available places at the time of the call for applications.

(4) When the number of places is so limited and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected using the following criteria, the weighting of which shall be published at the time of the call for applications:

(a) degree type and class;
(b) experience in the area of the proposed study; and
(c) performance during an interview, if deemed necessary.

(5) Interviews, if necessary, shall be conducted by a board composed of at least three members appointed for the purpose.

(6) For the purpose of selection, applicants who fully satisfy the entry requirements by 31st August preceding the commencement of the course shall be considered first.

(7) As from October 2013, prior to registering for the Course, eligible applicants may be required to undergo a medical fitness test as directed by the Board, so as to ascertain that they are fit to undertake work related to clinical placements.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

6. Applicants shall be required to indicate their choice of area of study/area of specialisation at the time of applying for admission to the Course.

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7. The programme of study for each area of study/area of specialisation shall comprise 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.

8. Students who obtain the 30 credits assigned to any taught study-units covered during the first and second semesters with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

9. 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.

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

Assessment and Progress

11. (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 any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits for taught study-units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session, provided that, if applicable, students who fail in a study-unit involving a clinical placement that requires assessment over a period of time shall not have the right to a supplementary assessment and shall be required to withdraw from the Course.

(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 required to withdraw from the Course.

Dissertation

12. (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 for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student 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

14. 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

15. 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.

Repeal

16. The following bye-laws shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 1st October 2012, provided that students registered on these courses before 1st October 2012 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their joining the course:

(a) Bye-Laws of 2008 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Health Services Management under the auspices of the Institute of Health Care, published as Legal Notice 314 of 2008;

(b) Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Nursing or Midwifery under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences, published as Legal Notice 316 of 2008; and

(c) Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Science in Radiography under the auspices of the Institute of Health Care, published as Legal Notice 386 of 2010.

Ippubblikat mid-Dipartiment tal-Informazzjoni (doi.gov.mt) — Valletta — ***Published by the Department of Information (doi.gov.mt) — Valletta***
Mitbugħ fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern fuq karta riċiklata — ***Printed at the Government Printing Press on recycled paper***

Prezz/*Price*
€0.36