L.N. 222 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 in Digital Games – M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Institute of Digital Games

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 Institute of Digital Games in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 7 (b) (v) of the Statute for the Institute, which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta:

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 in Digital Games – M.Sc. - offered under the auspices of the Institute of Digital Games.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Institute of Digital Games;

"the Board of Studies" means the Board of Studies appointed by Senate for the Course, on the recommendation of the Board;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science in Digital Games – M.Sc.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science in Digital Games – M.Sc.;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Games; 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.

Requirements for Admission

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

(a) a Bachelor's degree from this University with at least Second Class (Honours) in the areas of Information Technology, Engineering, Communications, and the Humanities, or in any other area which the Board deems as appropriate; or

(b) a Bachelor's degree from this University with at least Category II in the areas of Information Technology, Engineering, Communications, and the Humanities or in any other area which the Board deems as appropriate; or

(c) a professional qualification/qualifications and/or experience as evidenced by a substantial portfolio of recent works, deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to satisfy in full or in part the admission requirements of the Course, provided that such applicants may be required to complete a preparatory theoretical programme as specified in bye-law 4.

(2) The admission of applicants under sub-paragraphs (b) and, if necessary, (c) of this bye-law may be made conditional on the results of an interview conducted for the purpose.

(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 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 will 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 classification;
(b) experience in the area of the proposed study; and
(c) performance during an interview.

(5) Interviews, when 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.

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

Preparatory Programme

4. (1) Applicants admitted under sub-paragraphs (b) and, if necessary, (c) of paragraph (1) of bye-law 3 shall be required to complete a preparatory programme, comprising not less than 30 ECTS credits and not more than 60 ECTS credits, and to obtain an overall average mark of 55% or better, prior to their registration as regular students on the Course.

(2) The Board may grant students full or partial exemption from the requirement of the Preparatory Programme if it is satisfied that the students possess post-first cycle qualification work experience that is relevant to the Course.

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. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 ECTS credits are assigned, of which 60 ECTS credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 ECTS credits assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to 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.

(3) 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

7. (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 ECTS credits for taught study-units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments during the September supplementary examination session.

(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

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

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the final 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 date indicated by the Board of Studies.

9. (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 study. 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

10. 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

11. 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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