VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 101 of 2014

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Master of Dental Surgery - M.D.S. - Degree Course Regulations, 2014

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 regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 75(3) and 79(b) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Master of Dental Surgery - M.D.S. - Degree Course Regulations, 2014.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Dental Surgery - M.D.S.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Dental Surgery - M.D.S.; and

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2013 or later.

Eligibility for Degree

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

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

(b) satisfy the Special Course Requirements in accordance with regulation 4;

(c) complete the programme of study, qualify in the examinations and satisfy any other requirements as prescribed in these regulations; and

(d) satisfy any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

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Admission and Special Course Requirements

4. (1) Senate, on the advice of the Board, may limit the number of students that may be admitted to the Course. In such circumstances, Senate shall make regulations for the selection of applicants for admission.

(2) To apply for admission to the Course applicants must, besides satisfying the requirements for admission as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations, satisfy the following Special Course Requirements:

(a) passes in the Matriculation Examination at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in Biology and Chemistry; and

(b) a pass in the Matriculation Examination at Intermediate Level at Grade C or better in Physics,

provided that all passes in these Special Course Requirements have been obtained together in one session of examinations (i.e. one sitting) and are from recognized examining boards from the same country.

(3) For the purpose of paragraph (2) of this regulation, a pass obtained in a session of examinations which is held after the results of a previous session were published shall be deemed to be a pass obtained in a session that is distinct from the previous one. This regulation shall also apply to the second session of the Matriculation Examination offered by the MATSEC Board of the University of Malta according to the provisions of the Matriculation Examination Regulations and this notwithstanding any other regulation governing the award of the Matriculation Certificate.

(4) For courses commencing in October 2014 or later, prior to enrolling for the Course, accepted applicants are also required to undergo an occupational health assessment as detailed in the Occupational Health Protocol approved by the Board, so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies. Students who do not fulfil this requirement shall be barred from attending the clinical placements.

Course Duration

5. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of five years and shall be divided into two parts: the Pre-Clinical Part, of two years' duration, that is, Years 1 and 2, and the Clinical Part, of three years' duration, that is, Years 3, 4 and 5.

(2) Except with the permission of the Board, students must follow the Course without suspension or repetition. The Board may allow students to suspend or to repeat a year once in each of the two parts of the Course.

(3) The Board may allow students an additional year of study in the final year only, if eligible in terms of these regulations.

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Programme of Study

6. The Board shall publish the programme of study, comprising all the study-units taught in each year of the Course, their syllabus and method of assessment following the approval of Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course. Subject to the approval of Senate, the Board may make any necessary changes to the programme of study as required.

7. (1) The programme of study for each year of the Course shall comprise study-units to which 60 ECTS credits are assigned and may include practical, laboratory and clinical placements as detailed in the description for each study-unit on offer during the year.

(2) Practical, laboratory and clinical placements shall be carried out throughout the Course, including during the periods when the University is in recess and may take place in the teaching clinics of the Faculty and/or in community or hospital settings as indicated by the Board before each placement.

Mark Scheme for the Course

8. (1) During the Course, the result of each study-unit shall be published according to the following marks and grades in descending order of merit:

Mark Range	**Grade**
95% - 100%	A+
80% - 94%	A
75% - 79%	B+
70% - 74%	B
65% - 69%	C+
55% - 64%	C
50% - 54%	D+
45% - 49%	D
0% - 44%	F

(2) Students who fail in a study-unit declared to be compensatable in the programme of study with a mark of not less than 35% shall be awarded the grade CP (Compensated Pass) if their Year Average Mark is at least 50%. Study-units passed by compensation shall not be re-assessed.

(3) In any academic year, students may not be awarded more than 8 ECTS credits through compensated passes.

Assessment and Progression in the Course

9. (1) The method of assessment for each study-unit shall be indicated in the study-unit description and published in the catalogue of study-units. The result of each study-unit shall take into account all components of the assessment of that study-unit.

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(2) In any academic year, students who fail study-units to which not more than 16 ECTS credits are assigned, or two study-units which between them are assigned not more than 20 ECTS credits, and who are not eligible to a compensated pass, shall be allowed a supplementary assessment in September of the same year.

(3) Students who after the supplementary session fail in study-units to which 10 or less ECTS credits are assigned, after academic counselling by the Dean and/or the Head of Department concerned, may be given the option by the Board, to either:

(a) refer the failed study-unit/s to the following year to be done over and above the study-units indicated for that year; or

(b) repeat the year, if eligible in terms of these regulations; or

(c) refer the failed study-unit/s to an additional year of study, if the student is in Year 5 of the Course and if eligible in terms of these regulations.

(4) Students referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (3) of this regulation who take up the option to refer failed study-units to the following year of the Course shall be considered to have progressed conditionally and shall not be allowed to continue with the Course if, after the supplementary session of that year, they fail again to obtain a pass in the referred study-unit/s.

(5) Study-units which students may be allowed to refer to the following year will be indicated in the programme of study.

(6) If a student is prevented for a reason considered valid by Senate from being assessed in referred study-units, the student shall be required to complete the previous year's requirements in an additional year of study, if eligible in terms of these regulations. Under no circumstances shall a student be allowed to progress to the following year if the requirements of the year previous to the current one have not been satisfied.

(7) Nothwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) of regulation 9, in the case of assessments that can only be held once during an academic year and hence no supplementary session is possible, students who fail these assessments or are prevented for a reason considered valid by Senate from being assessed in these study-units shall be allowed to proceed to the following year of the Course, provided that they pass such assessments in that year, or in an additional year of study, if eligible in terms of these regulations.

(8) Students who after the supplementary session fail in study-units to which more than 10 ECTS credits are assigned shall not be allowed to proceed to the following year of the Course, but shall be required to repeat the year if eligible in terms of these regulations.

(9) In a repeat year, students are required to follow and be assessed in all study-units of the programme of study for the year, even those they may have previously passed. Any mark/grade may be obtained in the repeat year and will replace the marks/grades obtained in the preceding year.

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(10) The maximum mark/grade that may be awarded in a referred study-unit, irrespective of whether the subject is assessed in a normal or a supplementary session of examinations, is 45%, grade D.

Attendance

10. (1) Unless otherwise specified in the description of a study-unit, attendance for lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical, laboratory and clinical placements, and any other teaching session in whatever mode is obligatory. Following consultation with the Head of Department, lecturers may bar a student whose attendance in a study-unit is not satisfactory from being assessed in that study-unit.

(2) Before being allowed to sit for any of the assessments specified in the programme of study, students must present to the Dean a certificate, signed by the heads of department concerned, showing that they have completed satisfactorily the schedule of clinical placements prescribed for the year.

(3) Students shall not be allowed to re-sit any study-unit unless they have satisfactorily followed such courses of studies and/or practical and/or clinical work as the Board may in each case determine.

Classification of the Award

11. (1) The classification of the Degree shall be determined by the Degree Classification Board composed of the Dean as Chairman, the Heads of Department and the course coordinators involved in the teaching of the programme.

(2) The Final Weighted Average Mark for the classification of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained during the five years of the Course, which shall be weighted as follows:

First Year Weighted Average Mark	10%
Second Year Weighted Average Mark	10%
Third Year Weighted Average Mark	15%
Fourth Year Weighted Average Mark	25%
Fifth Year Weighted Average Mark	40%.

(3) The Degree Classification Board shall consult the following guidelines when deciding upon the final classification of the Degree:

Final Weighted Average Mark	**Classification**
80 – 100%	Pass with Distinction
70 – 79%	Pass with Merit
45 – 69%	Pass.

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(4) The Degree Classification Board, at its own discretion, may award the Degree with a higher classification than that indicated in paragraph (3) of this regulation to students whose Final Weighted Average Mark is up to three marks less than the minimum for the classification, provided that all students who obtain the same or a higher Final Weighted Average Mark within that classification shall be awarded the higher classification. In such cases, the Degree Classification Board is required to minute the decision and the justification for it.

(5) The Degree Classification Board, at its own discretion, may also award a Degree with a lower classification than that indicated in paragraph (3) of this regulation, provided that all students who obtain the same or a lower Final Weighted Average mark within that classification shall be awarded the lower classification. In such cases, the Degree Classification Board is required to obtain the authorization of the Board that shall minute the decision and the justification for it. The students concerned may appeal to Senate against the decision within 15 days of the publication of the classification.

Consequences of Withdrawal from the Course

12. When a student withdraws from the Course either by choice or because ineligible to proceed further in terms of these regulations, but has obtained at least 180 ECTS credits, the student may request to be awarded the Bachelor in General Studies degree (B.Gen.St.).

13. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the degree of Bachelor in General Studies (B.Gen.St.) shall be based on the results obtained, all study-units being weighted equally and shall be classified as follows:

Average Mark	**Classification**
80 – 100%	Category I
70 – 79%	Category IIA
55 – 69%	Category IIB
45 – 54%	Category III.

General Provision

14. In matters not provided for by these regulations, the Board shall be guided by the provisions of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004, published as Legal Notice 127 of 2004, as applicable.

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*
€0.54