VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 379 of 2014

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy

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 Space Sciences and Astronomy in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 8 (b)(v) of the Statute for the Institute of the said Act and 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 2014 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under the auspices of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy;

"the Degree" means the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.;

"the Institute" means the Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from 1 October 2014 onwards.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Institute shall be in possession of one of the following degrees, obtained in the last ten years prior to registration:

(a) a Bachelor Honours degree obtained with at least Second Class Upper Division in an area of study related to the proposed area of research, provided that the Board ascertains that the applicant has a very strong background in the area of study related to the proposed area of research; or

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(b) a Master's degree in an area of study related to the proposed area of research; or

(c) qualifications which the Board deems comparable to the degrees indicated in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

(2) Applicants in possession of one of the degrees indicated in paragraph (1) of this bye-law obtained more than ten years prior to their application may apply and are required to produce sufficient proof of their competence to carry out the research at the required level.

(3) When the Board deems it necessary, it may require students to successfully complete a number of study-units during the course of their study, under those conditions that it may impose, after approval by Senate.

4. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a detailed *Curriculum Vitae,* including one relevant reference letter, transcripts of qualifications, and a comprehensive research proposal outlining the proposed project, at any time of the year.

(2) Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate competence in skills required by the nature of the proposed research.

Institute Doctoral Committee

5. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of an Institute Doctoral Committee composed of between three and four members possessing academic doctoral qualifications, chaired by the Director or his delegate.

Supervision and Students' Progress

6. Principal Supervisors shall be required to submit a written report to the Board, through the Institute Doctoral Committee, every June for all students under their supervision.

7. Students shall only be allowed to proceed with their studies subject to satisfactory progress reports from their Principal Supervisor. If the report is negative, the Board shall make recommendations to Senate on the student's continuing registration for the Degree.

8. (1) After 12 months and not later than 24 months of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study have elapsed, students are required to submit a report on their research work for consideration by an *ad hoc* board appointed by the Board. The *ad hoc* board shall be composed of a chairman, who shall be the Director of the Institute or his delegate, and two examiners, one of whom shall be the Principal Supervisor and the other a member of the Institute as long as the Director is not the Supervisor. In that case, another member shall act as a Chairman.

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(2) The *ad hoc* board shall examine the student orally and shall submit a written report for consideration by the Institute Doctoral Committee in the first instance. The report shall contain recommendations according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

9. Students registered at the Institute may be required to participate in the Institute's research and teaching programmes.

Thesis Presentation and Format

10. Students are required to inform the Institute that they will be submitting their thesis for examination not less than three months before the submission deadline.

11. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of the Board of Examiners in accordance with the Principal Regulations.

12. The Board shall approve and publish guidelines on the format and presentation of the thesis for the Degree.

13. (1) Students shall be required to submit a loose bound copy of their thesis for each member of the Board of Examiners, together with a copy in digital format. The officer in charge of the Institute shall issue a dated receipt.

(2) On successful completion of their studies, students shall be required to submit to the Institute three hard bound copies of the thesis and one copy in digital format within six weeks from the publication of their result. One copy of the thesis shall be kept in the Library of the Institute and another at the University Library. Students who do not comply with this bye-law shall not be awarded the Degree.

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