VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 151 of 2016

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2016 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care – B.A. (Hons) ECEC - under the auspices of the Faculty of Education

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 Education 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 2016 in terms of the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004 for the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care - B.A. (Hons) ECEC - under the auspices of the Faculty of Education.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Education;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care - B.A. (Hons) ECEC;

"the Degree" means the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care - B.A. (Hons) ECEC;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Education; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2004.

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Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2016 or later.

Special Course Requirements for Admission

3. (1) To be registered as regular students in the Course, applicants shall, apart from satisfying the general requirements for admission as specified in the Admissions Regulations of the University, be in possession of a pass at Advanced Matriculation Level at Grade C or better in any one of the following subjects:

Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, English, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Italian, Maltese, Mathematics (Applied or Pure), Music, Philosophy, Physics, Religious Knowledge, Sociology and Spanish.

(2) Applications shall also be accepted from persons who are not in possession of the general requirements for admission as specified in the Admissions Regulations but have obtained the following:

(i) the MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Early Years OR the MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Children's Care Learning and Development OR the MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Child's Play Learning and Development OR the Certificate in Pre-School Education (Education Division - Further Studies and Adult Education Department) OR the Certificate in Childcare (Education Division - Further Studies and Adult Education Department); and

(ii) a pass at Advanced Matriculation Level at grade C or better in any one of the following subjects:
Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, English, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Italian, Maltese, Mathematics (Applied or Pure), Music, Philosophy, Physics, Religious Knowledge, Sociology and Spanish; and

(iii) a pass at SEC level at Grade 5 or better in Mathematics.

(3) In accordance with the provisions of regulation 15(1) of the Admissions Regulations, the Admissions Board, acting on the advice of the Board of Studies, may admit applicants into any year of the Course if in possession of the following:

(i) MCAST–BTEC Higher National Diploma in Advanced Studies in Early Years OR any other comparable and equivalent recognised qualification; and

(ii) passes at SEC level at Grade 5 or better in English Language, Maltese and Mathematics.

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(4) Applicants considered in terms of paragraph (c) of regulation 6 of the Admissions Regulations must be in possession of those qualifications and/or experience that would satisfy the Faculty Admissions Committee that they have reached the academic standard required to follow the Course with profit. The eligibility of such applicants shall be decided by the University Admissions Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Admissions Committee, following an interview conducted by an interviewing board appointed for the purpose.

(5) (a) All applicants shall have achieved the level of *Good Users,* as defined in the guidelines issued by the Faculty, in each paper of the Written and Spoken Proficiency Tests in English and in Maltese, or a qualification recognised by the Board as comparable, obtained not more than three years prior to the commencement of the Course,

provided that for courses commencing in 2016 and 2017, applicants who obtained a pass at SEC level at Grade 3 or higher, or an Intermediate Matriculation Level pass at Grade C or higher, or an Advanced Matriculation Level pass at Grade C or higher in English and/or Maltese may be exempted from obtaining a pass in the respective Written and Spoken Proficiency Test.

(b) Applicants who do not pass the English and Maltese proficiency tests at the required level (as applicable) by the 30 September, and are not exempted from this requirement in terms of the provisions of these bye-laws, shall not be admitted to the Course.

(6) All applicants shall submit with their application a Police Good Conduct Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police in terms of the Conduct Certificates Ordinance, and shall not be included in the Register established under the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act.

4. Applicants with other qualifications considered to be sufficient may be exempted by the University Admissions Board, on the advice of the Faculty Admissions Committee, from the whole or part of these special course requirements.

5. (1) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of students that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of human resources and the number of suitable classes available for the field placement component. The Board shall announce the number of available places at the time of the call for applications.

(2) When the number of applicants that may be admitted to the Course is limited in terms of paragraph (1) of this bye-law, and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected according to the following criteria, the weighting of which shall be published at the time of the call for applications:

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(a) academic qualifications;
(b) experience in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care; and
(c) performance during an interview.

(3) When more than ten places are available, the interviewing board shall interview a number of applicants that is 25% more than the number of available places. Further groups of applicants as decided by the interviewing board shall only be interviewed if all the places have not been filled.

(4) The interviewing board appointed by the Board for the purpose, shall be composed of at least 3 members from the Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education.

6. The University Admissions Board, after seeking the advice of the Faculty Admissions Committee, shall first consider eligible applicants whose qualifications were obtained in the Matriculation Certificate Examination or from another examining board, if the Faculty Admissions Committee is satisfied that the qualifications presented are comparable in content and equivalent in standard to the Matriculation Certificate Examination in the same subject/s. For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications and the special course requirements as stipulated in bye-law 4, were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first. If vacant places are still available, applicants who obtain all necessary qualifications and fulfil all special course requirements as stipulated in bye-law 4 after the 31 August and before the 30 September shall be considered to take up the remaining places.

Course Duration

7. The Course shall extend over a period of three years of full-time study.

Programme of Study

8. The Board shall publish the programme of study before the commencement of each Course. Subject to changes that the Board may, with the approval of Senate, be constrained to make, students are bound to follow the study-units and obtain the credits as indicated in the programme of study for the Degree, provided that the programme of study shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Principal Regulations.

9. Students shall be required to register and pass in study-units to which a total of 180 ECTS credits are assigned.

Field Placement

10. (1) There shall be a period of observation and teaching in an early childhood setting, under supervision, as determined by the Board in each of the three years of the Course.

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(2) Field placements shall be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

(3) The Board shall appoint a field placement Board of Examiners which shall follow the University Assessment Regulations and any other procedure that the Board may determine for the purpose of the field placement, provided that such procedures are in conformity with the University Assessment Regulations.

(4) Each student shall be assessed by at least two examiners as provided for by the University Assessment Regulations. The number of assessment visits shall be stated in the Faculty guidelines but examiners may increase assessment visits as they deem fit.

(5) Students shall be required to pass all the field placements.

(6) Students shall be required to abide by the Field Placement Code of Ethics published by the Board. Any breach of this Code of Ethics shall be referred to the Board of Examiners of the field placement and may result in a recommendation to Senate for expulsion from the Course.

(7) (a) Students who, for health reasons, fail to attend for up to three days should present a medical certificate within 24 hours to the coordinator of the field placement. The medical certificate, drawn up by a medical doctor, should clearly state the ailment which is preventing the student from attending school and should include the name, the signature and the medical registration number of the medical doctor.

(b) Where students are away from the early childhood setting for up to three days for health reasons or for any other reason which the Board considers valid, as well as in special circumstances for which prior approval would have been given by the field placement Board of Examiners, they shall be requested to make up for any missed teaching duties in accordance with instructions issued by the coordinator of the field placement and the Head of Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education.

(c) Students who fail to attend four days or more shall either be required to repeat the whole field placement or, at the discretion of the Board, may be required to carry out additional days of supervised practice during the same academic year as directed by the Board.

(8) Students shall only be declared to have passed the field placement by the field placement Board of Examiners. The academic and professional judgement of the field placement Board of Examiners is not reviewable.

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Classification of the Award

11. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in each year of the Course, all credits being weighted equally.

12. In the case of assigning the classification of First Class Honours, the Degree Classification Board shall take into consideration the students' record of performance during the field placements.

13. The Degree classification shall be published according to the provisions of the Principal Regulations.

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