VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 159 of 2016

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2016 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Laparoscopic Surgery - M. Lap. Surg. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

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 Medicine and Surgery 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 Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Laparoscopic Surgery - M.Lap.Surg. - offered under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery;

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

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Laparoscopic Surgery - M.Lap.Surg.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Laparoscopic Surgery – M.Lap. Surg.;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Laparoscopic Surgery – P.G.Dip. Lap. Surg.; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008.

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Applicability

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

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery or equivalent together with at least 3 years work experience in surgery. This experience should normally be obtained after applicants have been awarded the qualification of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery.

(2) All applicants shall be required to submit with their application a letter written in English giving their motivation for applying for this Course together with a copy of their *Curriculum Vitae* (C.V.). Applicants shall further be requested to provide evidence that they are covered by a valid indemnity insurance policy throughout the duration of the Course.

(3) Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, shall determine the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The number of available places shall be announced at the time of the call for applications.

(4) When the number of applicants that may be admitted to the Course is limited in terms of paragraph (3) 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:

(a) classification of the first degree;
(b) experience in the area of study;
(c) motivation letter; and
(c) performance during an interview.

(5) The interviewing board appointed by the Board shall be composed of at least three members. The interviewing board may make use of electronic means of communication in order to carry out interviews with applicants.

(6) For the purpose of selection, applicants whose qualifications as stipulated in this bye-law were obtained by 31 August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

Course Duration

4. The Course shall extend over a period of three semesters of full-time study or six semesters of part-time study, including the summer semesters.

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Programme of Study

5. (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 and clinical study-units and 30 ECTS credits are assigned to the dissertation.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the taught and clinical 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 Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

(3) Students shall be eligible for the award of the Degree if they obtain the 90 ECTS credits as outlined in the programme of study for the Course with an average mark of at least 50%.

(4) 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

6. (1) The assessment of each taught and clinical 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 and clinical 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 required to withdraw from the Course.

Dissertation

7. (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 date indicated by the Board of Studies.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies progress reports for students under their supervision. Such reports may include a recommendation 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

9. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provision for Part-Time Courses

10. The provisions of the foregoing bye-laws shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to courses followed on part-time basis and subject to changes as may reasonably be deemed by the Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

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