L.N. 199 of 2019

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2019 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master of Arts in Contemporary Family Studies - M.A. - under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing

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 for Social Wellbeing 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 2019 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Contemporary Family Studies - M.A. - under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing;

"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 Arts in Contemporary Family Studies - M.A.;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Arts in Contemporary Family Studies - M.A.;

"the Postgraduate Certificate" means the Postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Family Studies - P.G. Cert.;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Family Studies - P.G. Dip.; 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 2019 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. The course shall be open to applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree from this University, or another higher education institution recognized by Senate for the purpose, obtained with at least Second Class Honours in Psychology, Social Work and/or Education, or in an area of study related to a caring profession including Nursing or Midwifery, or in any other area related to Social Sciences, deemed relevant by the Board.

Course Duration

4. The Course shall extend over three semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

Programme of Study

5. 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 a dissertation study-unit.

6. Students who successfully complete a prescribed set of study-units totalling 30 ECTS credits for 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 Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

7. Students who obtain the 60 ECTS credits assigned to the 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.

8. 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%.

9. The programme of study shall be published by the Board of Studies after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

Assessment and Progress

10. (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, if following the Course full-time, or not more than 10 ECTS credits if following the Course part-time, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment 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

11. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board of Studies.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third semester of the Course after approval of the research proposal. 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 of the dissertation and a research proposal shall be submitted to the Board of Studies for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student 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 the 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

13. 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 relevant components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

14. 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.

Repeal

15. The Bye-Laws of 2014 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the Degree of Master in Family Studies under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, published as Legal Notice 283 of 2012, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from the 1st October 2019, provided that students registered for this course before the 1st October 2019 shall continue to be governed by the bye-laws that were in force at the time of their joining the course.

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