L.N. 449 of 2021

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Master of Science in Paediatric Dentistry - M.Sc. - Degree Course Regulations, 2021

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 articles 75 (3) and 79 (b) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Master of Science in Paediatric Dentistry - M.Sc. - Degree Course Regulations, 2021.

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

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

"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 Science in Paediatric Dentistry - M.Sc.;

"the Degree" means the Master of Science in Paediatric Dentistry - M.Sc.;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Dental Surgery;

"the Senate" means the Senate of the University of Malta; and

"the University" means the University of Malta.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2021 or later.

Qualifications for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the qualifications listed hereunder, awarded by this University or any other higher education institution recognised by Senate:

(a) the degree of Master of Dental Surgery awarded from July 2018 onwards; or the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery obtained with at least Second Class Honours or better, if awarded prior to July 2018; or

(b) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Dental Hygiene obtained with at least Second Class Honours or better.

(2) The admission of applicants may be made conditional on the result of an interview conducted by an interviewing board composed of at least three members, appointed by the Board for the purpose.

(3) (a) The Admissions Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Admissions Committee, may admit into the Course applicants not in possession of a first cycle degree, if it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other academic or professional qualifications and a minimum of ten years' documented professional experience, that together are deemed to be comparable to one of the qualifications indicated in paragraph (1) of this regulation. Such applicants shall be required to demonstrate the learning achieved through prior experience and qualifications through the evaluation procedures established by the University Policy for the Recognition and Accreditation of Prior Learning (RPL).

(b) The admission of applicants referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, may be made subject to those conditions that the Faculty Admissions Committee may impose to address any lacunae in the applicants' academic preparation. Conditions imposed may include the satisfactory completion of a preparatory programme, or the requirement to follow and pass supplementary study-units, up to a maximum of 12 ECTS credits, in addition to the programme of study specified in regulation 5 of these regulations.

(4) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of resources. The Board shall announce the areas of study and the number of available places at the time of the call for applications.

(5) When the number of places is so limited and the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants shall be selected using the following criteria, the weighting of which shall be published at the time of the call for applications:

(a) degree type and class;
(b) experience in the area of the proposed study; and
(c) performance during the interview, if deemed necessary.

(6) For the purpose of selection, applicants who fully satisfy the entry requirements by 31st August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

(7) Prior to enrolling for the Course, accepted applicants are required to undergo an occupational health assessment so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies. Students who do not fulfil this requirement may be barred from progressing with their studies. Failure to disclose information about a physical or mental health problem that could affect patient safety is considered to be a serious breach of the University Suitability to Practise Regulations.

Course Duration

4. (1) The Course shall extend over three years of full-time study inclusive of the summer months.

(2) The Board of Studies may allow students to extend their studies by not more than six months, provided that in special circumstances, Senate, on the recommendation of the Board of Studies, may grant students a further extension of up to two years in order to enable them to complete their studies.

Programme of Study

5. (1) The programme of study shall consist of study-units to which a total of 180 ECTS credits shall be assigned, of which 140 ECTS credits are assigned to taught and clinical study-units and 40 ECTS credits to the dissertation study-unit.

(2) The programme of study shall be published by the Board 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 study-unit shall be completed by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

(2) Results for the assessment of the study-units and the dissertation shall be published as a percentage mark and grade as indicated below:

Mark Range	Grade
80% - 100%	A
70% - 79%	B
55% - 69%	C
50% - 54%	D
45% - 49%	E
0% - 44%	F

provided that the minimum pass mark for the dissertation shall be 50%.

(3) Students who fail in the assessment of not more than 20 ECTS credits for taught and/or clinical study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session. The maximum grade/mark that can be awarded after re-assessment of taught and/or clinical study-units shall be 45%/Grade E.

(4) 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.

(5) Students who fail in the dissertation shall be allowed a re-examination in terms of regulation 11. The maximum grade/mark that can be awarded after re-examination shall be 50%/Grade D.

(6) Students who fail more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (3) of this regulation, or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Attendance

7. (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 studies and/or practical and/or clinical work and/or laboratory work as the Board may in each case determine.

Dissertation

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

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third year 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) Students shall submit to the Board for approval a title and a detailed research proposal by the deadline and in the format specified by the Board.

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

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies progress reports for each student under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. 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 regulation 4 of these 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.

(3) The role of the supervisor shall cease when the dissertation is submitted for examination but may be re-assumed, on the advice of the Board of Examiners, in order to provide guidance to students whose dissertation is referred back for significant correction pending final acceptance.

10. (1) Each dissertation shall be examined by a Board of Examiners, composed of at least three members one of whom may be an external examiner from an overseas institution.

(2) Students shall be required to take a *viva voce* examination to defend their dissertation.

11. Students whose dissertation is found unsatisfactory may be allowed by the Board of Studies, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, to resubmit it in a revised form, within a period of up to six months from the day on which it is referred back to them.

Classification of the Award

12. (1) For the purpose of the classification of the Degree, the Final Weighted Average shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

(2) Students shall be eligible for the award of the Degree if they obtain the 180 ECTS credits as outlined in the programme of study for the Course with an average mark of at least 50%.

(3) Students whose Final Average Weighted Mark is between 0 and 49% shall be considered to have failed to qualify for the Degree.

13. (1) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order classified as follows:

Pass with Distinction
Pass with Merit
Pass.

(2) The Award 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
50 – 69%	Pass.

(3) The Award Classification Board, at its own discretion, may award the Degree with a higher classification than that indicated in paragraph (2) of this regulation to students whose Final Weighted Average Mark is up to five 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 category/class shall be awarded the higher classification. In such cases, the Award Classification Board is required to minute the decision and the justification for it.

(4) The Award Classification Board, at its own discretion, may also award the Degree with a lower classification than that indicated in paragraph (2) of this regulation, provided that all students who obtain the same or a lower Final Weighted Average Mark within that category/class shall be awarded the lower classification, and provided that no student shall be awarded the degree with a final weighted mark that is less than 50%. In such cases, the Award Classification Board is required to obtain the authorisation 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.

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 Postgraduate Awards, 2021, as applicable.

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