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L.N. 90 of 2023

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2023 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021 for the Degree of Master of Science - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking

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 Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 7 (b) (v) of the Statute for the Centre, which bye-laws have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta:

Citation and Interpretation

(1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2023 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021 for the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc. - under the auspices of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.;

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

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Science - M.Sc.; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2021.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in February 2023 or later.

Areas of Study

3. Subject to approval by Senate and to the availability of resources, the Course shall be offered in any area of study related to Molecular Medicine

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and Biobanking in which the Centre can offer expert guidance and supervision. The Board shall announce the areas of study/areas of specialization, at the time of the call for applications.

Requirements for Admission

4. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a first cycle degree obtained with at least a Second Class (Honours) or Category II classification, in an area related to the life sciences or any other area of study deemed relevant by the board.

(2) Applicants whose first degree was obtained more than 10 years previous to their application for the Course may also be admitted, provided that they produce sufficient proof of their competence to follow the Course with profit.

Course Duration

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

Programme of Study

6. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 ECTS credits are assigned, of which 85 ECTS credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit and 5 ECTS credits are assigned to a taught study-unit.

(2) 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

7. The assessment of the taught study-unit shall be held by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

Dissertation

8. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 40,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) The provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval at the time of the call for applications.

(3) Work on the dissertation may be undertaken at any time during the Course after approval of the research proposal. Each student shall be assigned a principal supervisor, and if necessary a co-supervisor, who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

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9. (1) Students shall be required to report to their supervisors at least once a month, and in addition as often as the supervisor deems necessary.

(2) At the end of each semester of studies, supervisors shall submit to the Board of Studies progress reports for the students under their supervision. Students shall seek approval from the Board of Studies through their supervisor for any substantial modification in the title or content of the dissertation.

(3) The Board of Studies shall periodically inform the Board, in writing, on the general performance of each student. 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 principal 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 Award

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

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

11. 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.

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