B 2872

L.N. 308 of 2023

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bye-Laws of 2023 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2023 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology

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 Information and Communication Technology 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 2023 in terms of the Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2023 for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology;

"the Degree" means the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.;

"the Faculty" means the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2023.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable from 1 February 2024 onwards.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) Applicants for the Degree offered by the Faculty shall be in possession of one of the following degrees: a Master's degree, or a Bachelor's degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours (Upper Division), normally in the same area of study applied for. In addition, the Master's or Bachelor's degree obtained must be in Engineering, or Information and Communication Technology, or Mathematics, or Science.

(2) The Degree is normally open to applicants who have obtained the qualifications specified in paragraph (1) of this bye-law:

(a) within the last ten years before applying for registration for the Degree; or

(b) if the qualification is older than ten years, if they produce sufficient proof of their competence to carry out such a research degree, subject to approval by Senate on the advice of the Board.

4. (1) Applicants may submit their application form, together with a comprehensive research proposal outlining the proposed project, including research sources and materials, at any time of the year. The proposal shall include the research questions to be addressed, the hypothesis to be tested, and the methodology to be adopted in dealing with the research issues.

(2) Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate competence in those skills required by the nature of the proposed research.

Faculty Doctoral Committee

5. The Board shall recommend to Senate the appointment of a Faculty Doctoral Committee composed as follows:

The Dean of the Faculty or delegate (Chair)
3 – 4 Heads of Department or their delegates.

Taught Study-Units

6. When the Board deems it necessary, it may require students to successfully complete a number of study-units during the course of their studies, and/or to satisfactorily undertake tasks recommended by the Board, under those conditions that it may impose, after approval by Senate.

Transfer of Registration from M.Phil. Degree to Ph.D. Degree

7. (1) Further to the provisions of the Principal Regulations, students shall submit a written application requesting the transfer from the M.Phil. degree to the Ph.D. degree, together with a summary of the work carried out by them, preferably in the form of a technical report, for consideration by the Transfer Assessment Board. The report shall also include any modifications to the original research proposal.

(2) The Transfer Assessment Board would give favourable consideration to work published or accepted for publication in refereed technical journals and conferences.

Research Seminars

8. The Faculty attaches great importance to the association of doctoral students with other research students and members of staff. Students shall therefore be required to participate fully and present in the research seminars of the Faculty at least once per year, or equivalent in the case of part-time registration, during the course of their studies.

Thesis Presentation and Format

9. The Board shall approve and publish guidelines on the format and presentation of the thesis for the Degree.

10. Further to regulation 47 (1) of the Principal Regulations, the Ph.D. thesis shall not normally exceed 200 pages, exclusive of appendices, bibliographies, glossaries, abstract, endnotes, and footnotes.

Procedure during Oral Examination

11. During the oral examination, the students are expected to present a synopsis of the thesis of about 20 minutes, to provide a demonstration of the artefact if so required, and then to answer questions posed by the members of the Board of Examiners.

Repeal

12. The Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. – Degree Regulations, 2008 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – under the auspices of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, published as Legal Notice 215 of 2010, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1 February 2024.

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