

L.N. 161 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 in Teaching and Learning – MTL –
under the auspices of the Faculty of Education**

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 Education 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 in Teaching and Learning – MTL – under the auspices of the Faculty of Education.

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

“the Board” means the Board of the Faculty of Education;

“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 in Teaching and Learning – MTL;

“the Degree” means the degree of Master in Teaching and Learning – MTL – in the relevant area;

“the Faculty” means the Faculty of Education;

“the Postgraduate Diploma” means the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Studies (P.G. Dip. Ed. St.) 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.

Areas of Study

3. The Degree shall be awarded under the auspices of the Faculty in the following areas:

- (a) Early Childhood and Primary Education, or
- (b) Secondary Education, which shall be offered *either* in one main teaching area and an education-related area; *or* in one main teaching area; *or* in one main teaching area and a subsidiary teaching area; or
- (c) Primary and Secondary Education, which shall be offered in one teaching area.

4. The Board shall announce the teaching areas offered within the Secondary Education area as well as within the Primary and Secondary Education area as approved by Senate, at the time of the call for applications.

Requirements for Admission

5. Apart from being in possession of a first cycle degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours or Category II as indicated for each area in bye-law 6, applicants shall:

(a) be in possession of a pass in the Written and Spoken Proficiency Tests in English and in Maltese at the level indicated in the relevant section of these bye-laws, or a qualification recognised by the Board as comparable, suitable for prospective teachers, and which has been obtained not more than three years prior to the commencement of the Course, provided that:

- (i) holders of a first cycle degree with a main area in Maltese or English shall be exempted from the respective test; and
- (ii) applicants in possession of the first cycle degree in Early Childhood Education and Care of the University of Malta shall be exempt from this requirement;

(b) present reflections on an Educational Encounter, conducted not more than three years prior to the commencement of the Course. The Educational Encounter shall include a minimum of forty hours of experience in an approved educational setting as well as non assessed reflections on their educational responsibilities. The Board shall publish a list of educational settings and educational responsibilities that are considered acceptable for this purpose;

(c) submit a Police Good Conduct Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police in terms of the Conduct Certificates Ordinance; and

(d) not be included in the Register established under the *Protection of Minors (Registration) Act*.

6. In addition to the requirements for admission as specified in bye-law 5:

(a) applicants choosing the area of Early Childhood and Primary Education shall have attained the level of *Good Users* as defined in the guidelines issued by the Faculty, in each paper of the Proficiency Tests referred to in bye-law 5 (a) above, and be in possession of one of the following qualifications:

- (i) the first cycle degree in Early Childhood Education and Care;
or
- (ii) a first cycle degree with a main area of study that is a subject directly related to at least one subject taught as part of the Primary Education Curriculum; or
- (iii) a first cycle degree with a main area of study in an area related to human/child development or childhood;

(b) applicants choosing the area of Secondary Education in the following teaching areas shall have attained the level of *Competent Users* as defined in the guidelines issued by the Faculty, in the Proficiency Tests referred to in bye-law 5 (a) above, and be in possession of the following:

- (i) for **Business Education**: a first cycle degree with at least 20 ECTS credits in Accountancy, 20 ECTS credits in Economics and 30 ECTS credits in any combination of the following areas: Accounting, Economics, Banking and Finance, Management, Marketing, or Public Policy;
- (ii) for **Computing and Information Technology**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Computer Science, Information Systems or Computer/Communications Engineering, which must include study-units in the following areas to ensure a sufficiently broad knowledge base in the subject: Programming beyond an introductory level in any high-level programming language, Computer Logic and Organisation, Database Management Systems, Systems Analysis and Design, Data Structures and Algorithms, and Operating Systems,

provided that applicants who have not completed study-units in all of these areas but who have successfully completed study-units in at least four of the areas may also be admitted to the Course but shall be required to follow supplementary study-units as indicated in bye-law 7 in areas not covered in their previous degree;

- (iii) for **Drama**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Theatre Studies;
- (iv) for **English**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in English, which must include a minimum of 25 ECTS credits in taught study-units in English language and linguistics, and 25 ECTS credits in English literature, provided that for courses commencing in October 2016 only, the degree must include a minimum of 20 ECTS credits in taught study-units in English language and linguistics, and 20 ECTS credits in English literature;
- (v) for **French**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in French;
- (vi) for **German**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in German;
- (vii) for **Geography**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Geography;
- (viii) for **Italian**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Italian;
- (ix) for **History**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in History;
- (x) for **Maltese**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Maltese, which must include a minimum of 25 ECTS credits in taught study-units in Maltese language and linguistics, and 25 ECTS credits in Maltese literature, provided that for courses commencing in October 2016 only, the degree must include a minimum of 20 ECTS credits in taught study-units in Maltese language and linguistics, and 20 ECTS credits in Maltese literature;
- (xi) for **Mathematics**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Mathematics;
- (xii) for **Music**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Music;
- (xiii) for **Religious Education**: a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Theology or in an area considered relevant by the Board of Studies, of which at least 15 ECTS credits in Biblical Studies, 15 ECTS credits in Christian Fundamental Beliefs and 15 ECTS credits in Christian Morality;

- (xiv) for **Science:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in the Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry or Physics);
 - (xv) for **Social Studies:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Sociology or Social Studies; and
 - (xvi) for **Spanish:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Spanish and Latin American Studies;
- (c) applicants choosing the area of Primary and Secondary Education in the following teaching areas shall have attained the level of *Competent Users* as defined in the guidelines issued by the Faculty, in the Proficiency Tests referred to in 5 (a) above, and shall be in possession of the following:
- (i) for **Art:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Fine Art or in a related area of study; all such applicants are required to also present a detailed portfolio showing a diversity of their recent artistic practice in different media; applicants may be requested to sit for an interview and to provide more information about their artistic background and interest in the teaching profession;
 - (ii) for **Ethics Education:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Philosophy;
 - (iii) for **Personal, Social and Career Development:** (a) a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in Psychology or Youth Studies or Social Work; OR (b) a first cycle degree with a minimum of 35 ECTS credits in Psychology together with a minimum of 35 ECTS credits in either Anthropology, Philosophy or Sociology;
 - (iv) for **Physical Education:** a first cycle degree with at least 70 ECTS credits in sport or physical education; and a pass in a Proficiency Test in Physical Education organised for the purpose by the University and which has been obtained not more than four years prior to application.

Supplementary Study-Units

7. In cases where applicants lack essential knowledge, based on academic qualifications or relevant experience, they may be required to follow supplementary study-units as directed by the Board up to a maximum of 12 ECTS credits.

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Selection of Applicants

8. (1) The Board shall recommend to Senate the number of applicants that may be allowed to register for the Course, depending on the availability of human resources and the number of suitable classes available for the field placement component. The Board shall announce the number of available places in each area of study and/or teaching area at the time of the call for applications.

(2) If there are more eligible applicants than the number of places available, applicants shall be selected according to the following criteria:

- 1st Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6, together with a Doctoral degree and a Master degree in the same or a closely related subject area
- 2nd Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 together with a Doctoral degree in the same or a closely related subject area
- 3rd Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 together with a Master degree in the same or a closely related subject area
- 4th Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 and a Postgraduate Diploma in the same or a closely related subject area
- 5th Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 obtained with First Class Honours or Category I
- 6th Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 obtained with Second Class Honours (Upper Division) or Category IIA
- 7th Category: Holders of a first cycle degree in the relevant subject area indicated in bye-law 6 obtained with Second Class Honours (Lower Division) or with Category IIB,

provided that for the purpose of selection, applicants who fully satisfy the requirements for admission by 31st August preceding the commencement of the Course shall be considered first.

(3) If, after the rank order is established as indicated above, there is a tie for any one or more places: (a) the final average mark obtained by the student in his/her Master or Bachelor degree shall be considered, and (b) if there is a further tie, the applicants shall be interviewed.

(4) The Board may also require applicants to sit for an interview during which their ability to successfully complete the Course with profit shall be assessed.

(5) The Interviewing Board shall be composed of at least three members.

Course Duration

9. The Course shall extend over four semesters of full-time study.

Programme of Study

10. The programmes of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 120 ECTS credits are assigned, of which:

(a) 70 ECTS credits are assigned to an Education and Pedagogy taught component, which shall include 40 ECTS credits assigned to study-units in Pedagogy and 30 ECTS credits assigned to Education core study-units;

(b) 20 ECTS credits are assigned to two field placement study-units; and

(c) 30 ECTS credits are assigned to the Research and Inquiry component, which shall include a research and inquiry study-unit (10 ECTS credits) and a written dissertation (20 ECTS credits).

11. Students who obtain 60 ECTS credits with an average mark of at least 50% and who do not successfully complete the Course, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

Assessment and Progress

12. (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 for taught study-units shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessment during the September supplementary examination session.

(3) Students who fail more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (2) of these bye-laws or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Field Placement

13. (1) There shall be a field placement, comprising a period of observation and teaching in schools and/or other educational settings, under supervision, as determined by the Board in each of the two years of the Course.

(2) Field placements shall be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

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(3) The Board shall appoint a field placement Board of Examiners for each of the following areas (i) Early Childhood and Primary Education, (ii) Secondary Education (Humanities subjects), (iii) Secondary Education (Science and Technical subjects), and (iv) Primary and Secondary Education.

(4) Each student shall be assessed by at least two examiners as provided for by the University Assessment Regulations. The number of assessment visits shall be stated in the Faculty guidelines but examiners may increase assessment visits as they deem fit.

(5) Each field placement Board of Examiners shall follow the University Assessment Regulations and any other procedure that the Board may determine for the purpose of field placement, provided that such procedures are in conformity with the University Assessment Regulations.

(6) The Board may assign a field placement Mentor to each student. The mentor shall not be responsible for assessing the student but may be consulted by the field placement Board of Examiners to assist it in the assessment process and deliberation. Other roles and duties of the mentor shall be determined by the Board.

(7) Students are required to conduct a minimum of 210 hours of supervised observations per academic year.

(8) (a) Students are also required to take on full teaching responsibilities under supervision for a minimum of 24 scholastic days per year.

(b) Students who, for health reasons, fail to attend for up to four days should present a medical certificate within 24 hours to the Faculty Office. The medical certificate, drawn up by a medical doctor, should clearly state the ailment which is preventing the student from attending school and should include the name, signature and the medical registration number of the medical doctor.

(c) Where students are away from school for up to four days for health reasons or for any other reason which the Board considers valid, as well as in special circumstances for which prior approval would have been given by their field placement Board of Examiners, they may be required to make up for any missed teaching duties as directed by the Board.

(d) Students who fail to attend five days or more shall either be required to repeat the whole field placement in an additional year or, at the discretion of the Board, may be required to carry out additional days of supervised practice during the same academic year as directed by the Board.

(9) Students who fail a field placement shall be allowed to repeat the field placement once only in an additional year of study under those conditions established by the Board, provided that:

(i) students whose field placement includes the teaching of two teaching areas and who fail to satisfy the examiners in the teaching of one of the teaching areas shall be considered to have failed the field placement but may be allowed to repeat the field placement in the failed teaching area only, if eligible in terms of the Principal Regulations and of these bye-laws, and

(ii) students shall only be allowed to repeat one of the two field placements.

(10) Students shall only be declared to have passed the field placement by the field placement Board of Examiners. The academic and professional judgement of the field placement Board of Examiners is not reviewable.

Dissertation

14. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 25,000 words, provided that, in specific areas approved by the Board where the nature of the study requires this, students may submit a combination of an activity or project and a project report of not less than 10,000 words and not more than 15,000 words, in accordance with the relevant Principle Regulations and any further guidelines that may be issued by the Board.

(2) A provisional title for the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted for the approval of a Dissertation Committee appointed by the Board by not later than the end of the second semester of the Course.

(3) Each student shall be assigned a supervisor, who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

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

(5) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies. 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 the Principle 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.

Professional Misconduct or Unsuitability

15. The Dean of the Faculty may at any time suspend or preclude from the field placement any student who, following appropriate investigatory procedures that the Board may establish for such cases, is deemed to have acted or be acting in a manner which jeopardises the welfare of pupils or which contravenes the relevant professional code of conduct (i.e. professional misconduct), or whose behaviour is deemed to be incompatible with that required by the profession (i.e. professional unsuitability).

Classification of the Awards

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

Transitory Provision

17. **For courses commencing in October 2016 only**, (i) applicants who present a first cycle degree with a Third Class Honours, and (ii) applicants who present a first cycle degree with 60 ECTS credits instead of 70 ECTS credits in the main area/s of study as specified in bye-law 6, may be considered for admission by the Board.

Repeal

18. The Bye-Laws of 2015 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master in Teaching and Learning – MTL - published as Legal Notice 308 of 2015 shall be repealed forthwith.

