

Bye-Law No. 5 Degrees, Diplomas & Certificates

1. The University shall have the power to award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions in accordance with the Articles of Government and on the conditions laid down in this bye-law.
2. Regulations made by the Academic Board, after consultation with the Board of Governors, shall prescribe:
 - (a) the requirements for entry to a particular degree, diploma, or certificate course;
 - (b) the relevant examinations, tests and other forms of assessment and such certificates of the University, including, where appropriate, the classification of awards.
3. The degrees of the University shall be:-

a) Foundation Degrees	
Foundation Degree (Arts)	FD(Arts)
Foundation Degree (Science)	FD(Sci)
Foundation Degree (Engineering)	FD(Eng)

b) First Degrees (Undergraduate) - (with Honours)		
Bachelor of Arts	BA(Hons)	BA
Bachelor of Design	BDes(Hons)	BDes
Bachelor of Education	BEd(Hons)	N/A - exit award is BA
Bachelor of Engineering	BEng(Hons)	BEng
Bachelor of Laws	LLB(Hons)	LLB
Bachelor of Medical Science	BMedSci(Hons)	BMedSci
Bachelor of Midwifery	BMid(Hons)	BMid
Bachelor of Music	BMus(Hons)	BMus
Bachelor of Nursing	BNurs(Hons)	BNurs
Bachelor of Science	BSc(Hons)	BSc

c) Integrated Masters Degrees (Undergraduate)(with Honours)		
Master in Art	MArt(Hons)	MArt
Master in Biology	MBiol(Hons)	MBiol
Master in Chemistry	MChem(Hons)	MChem
Master in Engineering	MEng(Hons)	MEng
Master in Law	MLaw(Hons)	MLaw
Master in Mathematics	MMath(Hons)	MMaths
Master in Nursing ¹	MNurs(Hons)	MNurs
Master of Pharmacy	MPharm(Hons)	MPharm
Master in Science	MSci(Hons)	MSci

d) Masters Degrees (Postgraduate)		
Master of Adult Nursing	MAN	
Master in Architecture	MArch	
Master of Arts	MA	
Master of Arts by Research	MA by Research	
Master of Business Administration	MBA	
International Master of Business Administration	IMBA	
Master of Clinical Research	MClinRes	
Master of Design	MDes	
Master of Education	MEd	
Master of Laws	LLM	

¹ Approved 02/07/15

Master of Medical Education	MMedEd	
Master of Medical Sciences	MMedSci	
Master of Mental Health Nursing	MMHN	
Master of Music	MMus	
Master of Public Health	MPH	
Master of Research	MRes	
Master of Science	MSc	
Master of Science by Research	MSc by Research	
Master of Teaching and Learning	MTL	
Master of Technology	MTech	

e) Masters Degrees in Research (Postgraduate)		
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Master of Letters	MLitt	
Master of Philosophy	MPhil	

f) Other Postgraduate Degrees (either in time or level)		
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Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	PGCE (H)	
Post Graduate Certificate in Education	PGCE (M)	
Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	No award acronym	

g) Professional Doctorates		
Professional Doctorate in Business Administration	DBA	
Doctor of Biomedical Science	DBMS	
Doctorate in Education	EdD	
Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology ²	PsychD	
Professional Doctorate in Health and Wellbeing ³	DProfHW	

h) Higher Degrees (Doctoral)		
Doctor of Arts	DArt	
Doctor of Design	DDes	
Doctor of Engineering	DEng	
Doctor of Laws	LLD	
Doctor of Letters	DLitt	
Doctor of Medicine	MD	
Doctor of Music	DMus	
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	
Doctor of Philosophy by Published Work	PhD(PW)	
Doctor of Professional Practice	DPP	

² replaced Doctor of Counselling Psychology - DCounsPsych

³ replaced Doctor of Health and Wellbeing - DHSCW

Doctor of Science	DSc	
Doctor of Social Science	DSocSc	
Doctor of Technology	DTech	

i) Intermediate / exit awards

Certificate in Education	CertEd	
Certificate of Higher Education	CertHE	
Diploma of Higher Education	DipHE	
Graduate Certificate	No award acronym	
Graduate Diploma	No award acronym	
Post Graduate Certificate	PgCert	
Post Graduate Diploma	PgDip	
University Statement of Credit	No award acronym	
Foundation and Preparatory Studies	No award acronym - exit award for degrees with Foundation Years	
Higher Masters in	No award acronym - intermediate / exit award for Professional Doctorate	

j) Flexible Learning Awards

Advanced University Diploma	No award acronym	
Statement of University Credit	No award acronym	
University Certificate	No award acronym	
University Diploma	No award acronym	

k) BTEC Awards conferred under licence

Higher National Certificate	HNC	
Higher National Diploma	HND	

In addition or alternatively, as the Board of Governors shall determine, such other degrees as the Board of Governors may from time to time determine on the recommendation of the Academic Board.

4. The diplomas of the University shall be those for which provision is made in Regulations made by the Academic Board.
5. The certificates of the University shall be those for which provision is made in regulations made by the Academic Board.
6. The degrees of the University may be awarded:
 - (a) To candidates who have pursued to completion and to the satisfaction of the Academic Board a course of study or a programme of supervised research approved by the Academic Board and who have attained the standard required by the Academic Board in such examination, test or other assessment as the Academic Board shall prescribe;
 - (b) *Honoris causa*, except that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall not be thus awarded;
 - (c) To members of the academic and other staff of the University, on the special recommendation of the Academic Board and under such conditions as may be prescribed in Regulations made by the Academic Board.
7. The diplomas and certificates of the University may be awarded to candidates who have pursued to completion and to the satisfaction of the Academic Board a course of study approved by the Academic Board and who have attained the standard required by the Academic Board in such examination, test or other assessment as the Academic Board shall prescribe.
8. To qualify to be admitted to a degree of the University, other than a degree awarded *honoris causa* or a degree awarded *ex officio* to a member of the staff of the University on the special recommendation of the Academic Board, a candidate must first have:
 - (a) Satisfied the requirements for entry on the appropriate course of study, or programme of supervised research, as the case may be, as prescribed in the Regulations approved by the Academic Board for the degree;
 - (b) Pursued that course of study or programme of supervised research, as the case may be, for the prescribed period and, except in the case of an *aegrotat* degree, attained the standard

required by the Academic Board in the examinations, tests or other assessments prescribed by the Academic Board for the degree;

- (c) Paid, as and when required, the fees prescribed by the Board of Governors; and
- (d) Complied with such other Rules, bye-laws, and regulations as may be relevant.

9. To qualify for a diploma or certificate of the University, a candidate must first have:

- (a) Satisfied the requirements for entry on the appropriate course of study as prescribed by the Regulations approved by the Academic Board for the diploma or certificate;
- (b) Pursued that course of study for the prescribed period and, except in the case of an *aegrotat* diploma or certificate, attained the standard required by the Academic Board in the examinations, tests or other assessments prescribed by the Academic Board for the diploma or certificate;
- (c) Paid, as and when required, the fees prescribed by the Board of Governors; and
- (d) Complied with such other rules, bye-laws and regulations as may be relevant.

10. In the case of a person who -

- (a) Has not registered formally as a student or associate student of the University in such manner as the University may require; or
- (b) Fails to enter into, or fails to fulfil, such undertaking as the University may require of the student to abide by the rules, bye-laws, regulations and Codes of Conduct laid down by the University; or
- (c) Fails to enter into, or fails to fulfil, an undertaking to pay or cause to be paid to the University by the due dates and in full all fees and charges required by the University; or
- (d) Fails to comply with such regulations as the Academic Board may make in relation to the attendance, conduct and progress of students;

The University may, with regard to such person and so far as the law allows:

- (i) Withdraw at any time the provision of any or all of the University's services and facilities;

- (ii) Withhold the results of any examinations, tests or other assessments; and
- (iii) Prohibit progress to the next stage on a course of study or the award of a degree, diploma, certificate or other qualification.

11. Subject to the provisions of the Instrument and Articles of Government of the University, the Academic Board may permit persons who have pursued to the satisfaction of the Academic Board courses of study or programmes of supervised research at such other universities and places of learning or other institutions, establishments and organisations (including those in industry, commerce and the professions) as may be approved by the Academic Board for this purpose, and who have attained a standard acceptable to the Academic Board in such examinations, tests or other assessments thereat as the Academic Board may consider appropriate, to receive such credit for such courses of study and programmes of supervised research and for the results of such examinations, tests and other assessments towards the completion of the requirements for the award of a degree of the University as the Academic Board shall determine, provided that no degree of the University shall be conferred on any such person unless that person has attained the standard required by the Academic Board in such final examination, test or other assessment as is prescribed by the Academic Board for the award of a degree of the University.
12. Honorary Fellowships of the University may be awarded, on the recommendation of the Academic Board or of the Vice-Chancellor and in accordance with regulations made by the Academic Board in consultation with the Board of Governors, to persons who are deemed to have contributed significantly to the life of the community.
13. All of the degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards and distinctions of the University shall be awarded by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Academic Board.
14. Degrees not higher than that of Master may be awarded *ex officio* to members of the academic and other staff of the University who, by virtue of the seniority of their position, their professional or other qualifications or experience, and their length of service, are deemed worthy of such degrees. An *ex officio* degree shall not qualify the holder to become a candidate for a further degree.
15. If a candidate is prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking the whole of a final examination, test or other assessment for a degree, diploma or certificate, or so substantial a part of such examination, test or other assessment that it is impossible for the person or persons appointed by the Academic Board to conduct the examination, test or other assessment to

return a fair and true result, and provides such certification or other evidence as may be required by the Academic Board, an *aegrotat* degree, diploma or certificate, as appropriate, may be awarded, provided always that it is shown to the satisfaction of the Academic Board that the candidate's work during the course of study or programme of supervised research has shown beyond reasonable doubt that the candidate would otherwise have obtained a degree, and provided also that an *aegrotat* degree shall not be distinguished by honours, class or division, and that this provision shall not exempt a candidate from the requirement to present a thesis where such is prescribed.

16. If a candidate is prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from taking or completing an examination, test or other assessment other than a final examination, test or other assessment for a degree, diploma or certificate, and provides such certification or other evidence as may be required by the Academic Board, the candidate may, subject to the conditions laid down in Regulations made or approved by the Academic Board, be exempted from such examination, test or other assessment.
17. On the recommendation of the Academic Board, degrees, diplomas and certificates may be awarded posthumously.
18. Degrees shall be conferred at a Congregation of the University to be held for that purpose at such time and place as may be determined by or on behalf of the Board of Governors, provided that such a Congregation shall be held at least once a year. Degrees shall be conferred by the Chairman of the Board of Governors or by such other person as shall be determined by or on behalf of the Board of Governors.
19. At the Congregation, recipients of degrees *honoris causa* and candidates for all other degrees, diplomas and certificates shall be presented for admission by such members of the academic staff of the University as the Academic Board may consider appropriate.
20. Notwithstanding paragraph 19 above, degrees may be conferred upon persons *in absentia*, on the recommendation of the Academic Board and subject to such conditions as the Board of Governors may determine.
21. An individual who owes the University non-academic debt shall not be prevented from being awarded a degree, diploma or certificate.
22. Degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the University shall be valid from the date shown on the document of certification issued by the University, irrespective of the date of the relevant Congregation.

23. The Board of Governors may, on the recommendation of the Academic Board, revoke the degree, diploma, certificate and other academic distinctions and all privileges and rights associated therewith of a person who is convicted of a criminal offence triable on indictment or who has obtained such degree, diploma, certificate or distinction by fraud or deception or whose name has, on grounds of misconduct, been removed by a properly constituted legal authority from any official register or roll of members of a profession, or who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, has brought the name of the University into disrepute; and may, on cause being shown, restore to any such person, without further examination, test or similar assessment, the degree, diploma, certificate and distinctions which have been revoked.
24. The Board of Governors may, on the recommendation of the Academic Board, authorise, for such periods as the Board of Governors may think appropriate, other institutions which have attained a standard deemed satisfactory to the Academic Board to grant, subject to such regulations as the Academic Board may make, degrees, diplomas and certificates on behalf of the University to persons who have pursued to completion and to the satisfaction of the Academic Board of the University a course of study or a programme of supervised research approved by the Academic Board and who have attained the standard required by the Academic Board in such examination, test or other assessment as the Academic Board shall prescribe, provided always both that, in any case of dispute or conflict, the relevant bye-laws and Regulations of the University shall have absolute precedence over any Rules, bye-laws and Regulations of such other institutions to which authority to act on behalf of the University has been granted and also that the Board of Governors may, in its absolute discretion and without notice, withdraw such authorisation at any time.
25. The Board of Governors may, on the recommendation of the Academic Board, make rules whereby the University may, on terms and conditions laid down in the Instrument of Government, in Rules and bye-laws made by the Board of Governors or in Regulations made by the Academic Board, confer and grant jointly with any other institution of higher education degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards and distinctions on and to persons who have pursued to completion and to the satisfaction of the Academic Board of the University a course of study or a programme of supervised research approved by the Academic Board and who have attained the standard required by the Academic Board in such examination, test or other assessment as the Academic Board shall prescribe, provided always that, in any case of conflict or dispute, the relevant Rules, bye-laws and Regulations of the University shall have absolute precedence over any rules, bye-laws or regulations of the other higher education institutions with which the University is jointly conferring and granting such academic awards and distinctions.

Revised Bye-law approved by Board of Governors on 20th November 1997.

Amendments to Section 3 approved by Board of Governors on;

- 23rd March 2000
- 20th March 2003
- 23rd March 2006
- 13th March 2008
- 25th June 2009
- 6th July 2011
- 3rd July 2014
- 16th March 2016
- 21st May 2020
- 26th June 2024.

Amendment to Section 21 approved by the Board of Governors on;

- 20th November 2014.

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Approved date	26 th June 2024	Approved by	Board of Governors