

Faculty of Laws

Newsletter

New Head of Department

The Faculty of Laws congratulates Dr Antoine Grima on his recent appointment as Head, Environmental Law Department. He replaces Prof. Simone Borg, who has commenced her sabbatical.

New Resident Academic

The Faculty of Laws welcomes Dr Steffi Vella-Laurenti, who recently joined the European & Comparative Law Department on a full time basis.

Useful telephone number

Recently a small incident occurred within the Faculty, leading the involved academics to query security arrangements within the UM. When enquiries with Security were made, we were told that should we ever need to call for security, we are to phone on 23402803.

Senate approval of amendment to regulations

The Doctoral School has favored the amendment to the Ph.D. Regulations proposed by the Faculty Board, which effectively confirms that holders of M.Adv or M.Not degrees must first read for a master degree with at least 30ECTS research component (thesis) before they are considered eligible to read for an M.Phil / Ph.D. This was also approved by UM Senate, at the meeting held on 28th October 2022. Therefore, it is now official, that persons holding an LL.D. are qualified to apply to read for an M.Phil/ Ph.D, but persons with an M.Adv., or M.Not. are not.

SAVE THE DATES:

GRADUATION MASS AT ST JOHN'S CO CATHEDRAL ON 15TH NOVEMBER AT 18.30

GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON 22ND NOVEMBER AT 1400 AND 1700

DEAN'S AWARDS: THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER AT 11.30

STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH: FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT 18.00

Important reminder from the Dean

Following a recent meeting with the University Rector and Academic Registrar, I am constrained to remind you all about the importance of preparing a Marking Scheme and Model Answer when submitting exam questions and assignments. Model answer may be in point form, and need not necessarily be a full and complete answer.

The Marking Scheme must not only be prepared, but must also be used when carrying out the actual corrections. Ideally, every mark is broken down as per the marking scheme, and detailed records kept pertaining to every student.

The question of 'keeping detailed records' extends to BOE meetings: Examiners must meet in person or remotely, and avoid decisions taken via email. Minutes should be taken and kept, of such meetings.

It must be clarified that the model answer and the marking scheme are not intended for publication purposes i.e. are not to be divulged to the students, at least at this stage. On the other hand, if it comes to Revisions of Papers, they are to be provided to the Revising Examiner.

It is to be kept in mind that the above are mandatory procedural requirements.

A final point: BOEs are to avoid 44's, which can arise where the method of assessment consists of multiple components. In fact even 43s and 42s are best avoided, but any change in mark (whether up or down) must be a BOE minuted decision and not arbitrary.

Faculty of Laws' journal

A first meeting was held on 2nd November, to discuss our hope to set up an official journal for the Faculty of Laws. Various aspects were discussed, such as a name for the journal (a possibility being The University of Malta Law Journal), number of issues per year (not less than two), ensuring that it has international appeal and also ensuring its long term viability. The last will require a guaranteed source of continuous funding, because until it is established and actually attracts subscribers we will be paying to have it published and earning nothing. Such a project also requires people dedicated to its production, ideally a full timer possibly a member of academic staff whose designated (long term) duties will include the production and marketing of the journal. Needless to say, an academic with a low AE might be interested in assuming this task, but there is a real risk that such an academic would let it go as soon as his / her AE is increased. The possibility of obtaining funding via some EU-funded project was also floated, but this did not seem very possible, a fact which was confirmed by Ms Sarah Albanozzo (UM Research Projects Manager). A decision was taken to first secure such resources, if the idea is to materialize. The Dean undertook to inquire about the possibility of securing such resources, remote as the possibility may seem under current circumstances.