



UNIVERSITI MALAYA (MASTER'S DEGREE) RULES 2024

VERSION 3



Academic Strategic Planning Department
Jabatan Perancangan Strategik Akademik

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

NO.	VERSION	AMENDMENT RECORD	LPU	ENFORCEMENT DATE
1.	1	The amendment of the UM (Master's Degree) Rules 2019 and UM (Master's Degree) Regulations 2019 must undergo the latest revision exercise to ensure the suitability with the following current changes: (i) Notifications/amendments to policies of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA); (ii) Rationalisation of UM's Organisational Structure as approved by the Board of Directors (LPU) on 23.01.2024; and (iii) Approvals of the Board of Directors (LPU), University Management Committee (JKPU), and Senate from time to time. This matter was endorsed by the Senate on 23.05.2024 and submitted to the Board of Directors (LPU) for approval.	11.07.2024	Academic session 2024/2025
2.	2	Amendments to the UM (Master's Degree) Rules 2024 (latest version) were made in accordance with the approval of the University Management Committee (JKPU) on 03.07.2024, as recorded in Minute 4(33)(a), concerning the change in nomenclature from "Language Teacher" to "Language Lecturer", which also carries implications on the interpretation of the term "teacher" in these Universiti Malaya Rules. Taking into account the Faculty of Medicine's proposal to include the category of "clinical teacher" in the definition of teacher. This is because	07.11.2024	Academic session 2024/2025

NO.	VERSION	AMENDMENT RECORD	LPU	ENFORCEMENT DATE
		“clinical teachers” also contribute to Teaching and Learning activities, even though their status is not officially that of a teacher. This matter was endorsed by the Senate on 26.09.2024 and submitted to the Board of Directors (LPU) for approval.		
3.	3	The Universiti Malaya (Master’s Degree) Rules 2024 (latest version) is amended in line with: (i) the enforcement of the Universities and University Colleges (Universiti Malaya) (Discipline of Students) Rules 2024; (ii) the admission requirements for Foundation, Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral programmes for entry from Academic Session 2025/2026 to 2027/2028, as approved by the Senate on 17.12.2024. This matter was endorsed by the Senate on 27.02.2025 and submitted to the Board of Directors (LPU) for approval.	02.07.2025	Within one (1) day after LPU meeting

UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT 1971

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CONSTITUTION

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA (MASTER'S
DEGREE) RULES 2024**

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UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT 1971

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CONSTITUTION

UNIVERSITI MALAYA (MASTER'S DEGREE) RULES 2024

In the exercise of the powers conferred under subsection 37(1) of the Constitution of the University of Malaya, the Board of Directors of the Universiti Malaya has formulated the following rules:

(LPU: 02.07.2025)

PART I **PRELIMINARY**

1. Name, Commencement and Application

- (1) These Rules may be cited as the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Rules 2024 and shall come into force from the 2024/2025 Academic Session.
- (2) These Rules shall apply to all candidates of the Master's Degree programme of study admitted prior to and in the 2024/2025 Academic Session and thereafter.
- (3) Notwithstanding that provided in subrule (2), candidates admitted in the 2020/2021 Admission Session and prior will continue to be subject to the Academic Programme conditions and the Minimum Duration and Maximum Duration conditions as prescribed under the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Rules 2019.
- (4) Notwithstanding that provided for under these Rules and the Regulations made hereunder, the implementation method of the Master's Degree that will be used by the University shall also be read concurrently with the fundamentals, policies, guidelines, procedures and/or other resolutions defined by the University from time to time.

2. Interpretation

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires an alternative meaning:

"academic programme" means a group of courses, training and research including a combination of such courses, or training and research that are planned and offered for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements for the award of a degree;

"academic programme by Clinical" means a programme of study as defined under subrule 3(1)(d);

“academic programme by Coursework” means a programme of study as defined under subrule 3(1)(c);

“academic programme by Mixed Mode” means a programme of study as defined under subrule 3(1)(b);

“academic programme by Research” means a programme of study as defined under subrule 3(1)(a);

“Academic Session” means a duration of study of an academic programme which comprises two (2) normal semesters and a special semester where the date of commencement and date of completion is determined by the Senate;

“Admission Session” means a session where a candidate is admitted into a programme of study;

“Bursar” means an officer of the University as provided under section 14 of the Constitution;

“calendar of studies” means the duration of study that consists of lecture week, revision week, examination week and break in any semester where the commencement and ending dates are as prescribed by the Senate;

“Calendar Year” means a time period (time) in which the duration is twelve (12) months (January - December);

“candidate” means a person who has registered to study for any of the Master’s Degree programme of study of the University;

“citizen” means Malaysian citizens;

“Committee of Examiners” means the committee established by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty to consider the examination results of candidates and exercise such other powers granted to it pursuant to the provisions of these Rules or Regulations concerned;

“Common semester” means a semester system which uses 17 weeks of study. A semester system other than 17 weeks of study needs to determine the appropriate minimum credit amount;

“Constitution” means the Constitution of University of Malaya;

(LPU: 02.07.2025)

“consultant” means a person who is not a teacher who has the expertise in the related field of study who is appointed by the Faculty to supervise a candidate in his programme of study;

“Co-Supervisor” means a person appointed by the Faculty from amongst Adjunct Professors, Honorary Professors, visiting lecturers, experts, industry practitioners or

research fellows appointed by the University and full-time teachers from the University/another university to supervise the candidate in his programme of study;

"course" means a unit of study, training or clinical training including but not limited to lecture, tutorial, electronic learning (e-learning), case study, presentation, visit, practical, internship and scientific training conducted over a prescribed period of time, which contributes to the credit or to the learning outcome of a programme of study;

"credit" means the quantitative measurements representing the volume of learning or the burden of learning to achieve specific learning outcomes;

"credit counted" means a credit obtained by a candidate for any course undertaken in a programme of study where the grade obtained for that particular course is included in the calculation of the GPA and CGPA;

"credit obtained" means a credit obtained by a candidate for a course undertaken in a programme of study for the purpose of completion of graduation;

"Dean of Faculty" means the Dean of a Faculty of the University and includes any Director or Head of Academy, Centre, School or Institute, who has been appointed under subsections 24(4) and (5) of the Constitution;

"Degree" means a Master's Degree of the University;

"Department" means any department of study of the Faculty and includes any division of studies of the Faculty;

"Deputy Dean Postgraduate Studies" means a person who is appointed by the University as a Deputy Dean including any Deputy Director responsible for the management of the postgraduate programme at the Academy, Faculty, Centre, School or Institute;

"dissertation" means original research document prepared and handed in by the candidate for the award of a Master's Degree by Research and by Mixed Mode;

"examination room" means the premises for the conduct of an examination for a course or courses;

"External Examiner" means a person who is not a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the Faculty to examine a dissertation of a candidate;

"Faculty" means any Faculty of the University and includes any School, Centre, Academy and Institute of the University established under subsection 24(1) of the Constitution;

"field of research" means details offered in an academic programme;

Note:

Refers to field of details under field of study in the National Education Code (NEC).

“field of study” means the area of specialization offered in an academic programme;

Note:

*field of study shall refer to the field of specialization written in the National Education Code (NEC).

“Head of Department” means the Head of any Department of study of a Faculty including the Programme Coordinator where relevant;

“Internal Examiner” means a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the Faculty to examine a course, part of a course or dissertation of a candidate;

“Invigilator” means an invigilator and includes a chief invigilator appointed by the University from among full-time or part-time teachers of the University to invigilate an examination of an academic programme;

"Needs and requirements" means the Requirements and Special Requirements for the Master's Degree Programme of the Universiti Malaya to be read concurrently with the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Rules 2024 and Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024;

"non-citizen" means non-Malaysians including those with permanent resident status;

“Normal Semester” means Semester I or Semester II as provided in the Calendar of Study;

"place of study" means the University including any other place approved by the University;

“Programme Coordinator” means a person appointed by the Dean of the Faculty from amongst the full-time teachers of the University to coordinate any academic programme;

"Programme External Assessor / Programme External Examiner" means a person who is not a full-time or part-time teacher of the University appointed by the University for one or more academic programmes;

"Registrar" means an officer of the University as provided under section 14 of the Constitution;

“Research Report” means the outcome of research conducted by a Master's Degree programme of study by Coursework or Master's Degree by Clinical candidate during his candidature and includes research paper, project paper, project report and relevant research outcome known by whatsoever name;

“semester” means a specific duration determined by the University in an academic session which constitutes Normal Semesters and Special Semesters;

"Senate" means one of the University's Authorities established under Section 22 of the Constitution;

“Special Semester” means a semester with a shorter duration from a Normal Semester and offered after Semester II;

"supervisor" means a person appointed by the Faculty from amongst the full-time teachers of the University and an Emeritus Professor of the University to supervise a candidate in his programme of study;

"Teacher" means a person appointed as a teacher in accordance with the Constitution of the Universiti Malaya, and includes senior professor, professor, associate professor, clinical teachers, fellow, assistant professor, reader, senior lecturer, lecturer, teaching assistant and language lecturer; (LPU: 07.11.2024)

“Teaching Assistant” means a teacher appointed by the University to assist in the management of teaching and learning including but not limited to demonstrator, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Graduate Research Assistant and Graduate Teaching Assistant;

“term” means a specific duration fixed by the University for an academic session and may include a semester;

"University" means the Universiti Malaya;

"Vice-Chancellor" means the chief executive officer and academic officer of the University appointed under subsection 12(1) of the Constitution;

“*viva voce*” means one of the components in the Master’s Degree programme in the form of oral examination for the candidates to defend their dissertation. This component is held at the last stage of the programme of study after the candidates complete their research and submit their dissertation for the purpose of examination.

PART II

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

3. Academic Programme

(1) An Academic Programme offered by the University may be offered as full-time or part-time study. The academic programme shall be classified as follows:

- (a) Master’s Degree Programme by Research, that is, an academic programme that is conducted fully by research leading to the production of a dissertation;
- (b) Master’s Degree Programme by Mixed Mode, that is, an academic programme that is conducted by a combination of courses and research leading to the production of a dissertation;
- (c) Master’s Degree Programme by Coursework, that is, an academic programme that is conducted fully by courses and leading to the production of a research report; and

- (d) Master's Degree Programme by Clinical, that is, an academic programme involving clinical expertise training and leading to the production of a research report.
- (2) Based on the mode of study of the programme as stated in the subrule (1) above, the normal duration for a full-time study is two (2) years for programme by research and one (1) year for programme by mixed mode and coursework.

The common duration for a part-time study is three (3) years for programme by research and two (2) years for programme by mixed mode and coursework.

4. Admission to the University's Programme of Study

- (1) Each applicant who wishes to pursue a Master's programme of study shall meet the following general requirements:
 - (a) obtain a Bachelor's Degree recognized by the Senate with a CGPA of not less than 3.00 or other qualifications considered equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree accepted by the Senate; (LPU: 02.07.2025)
 - (b) meet the minimum requirements and qualification conditions for the University's Master's Degree Programme as specified in Schedule 1, Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024;
 - (c) acknowledge receipt of the admission offer;
 - (d) verified by a Registered Medical Practitioner, University Malaya Clinic that the applicant has a satisfactory level of health and is not suffering from any disease or any physical disability that could interfere with the study at the University; and
 - (e) fulfilled all immunization requirement specified for the academic programmes by clinical and non-clinical involving *clinical activities; and
 *with reference to sub-rule (e) above, clinical activities are as specified in the Universiti Malaya Vaccination Policy.
 - (f) pay the specified fees.
- (2) In certain circumstances, the admission of an applicant is subject to the Senate's decision on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty fulfillment of subrule (1)(c) until (f) above.
- (3) Admission to the programme of study usually is at the beginning of Semester I or Semester II of each academic session and the admission offer is for a specific semester and session.

5. Mobility Programme Candidate

- (1) A Mobility Programme Candidate refers to:
 - (a) a candidate from outside the university/institution who has been approved to follow certain courses or to conduct research for an academic programme at the University, whether or not for the purpose of obtaining a grade and/or credit. They are not candidates of the University.
 - (b) A candidate of the University who is approved to undertake certain courses at other universities/institutions whether or not for the purpose of obtaining a grade and/or credit subject to the resolutions of the relevant universities/institutions.
- (2) The admission of the Mobility Programme Candidate shall be at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty.

PART III **REGISTRATION**

6. Registration as a Candidate

- (1) Any person who has been offered by the University to pursue a Degree programme of study and who accepts the said offer is required to register in accordance with the regulations under the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024.
- (2) Subject to subrule (3) below, any person registered pursuant to subrule (1) above is a student of the University and shall be known as a candidate of a Degree programme of study. The name of the said candidate shall be entered into the student register of the University until such time as the candidate shall have completed his programme of study and the Senate has confirmed that the said candidate is qualified to be conferred the Degree or, for any specific reasons the candidate loses his status as a student of the University, following whichever is the earlier.
- (3) Every candidate who is registered for a Degree programme of study offered to him shall register on a continuous basis with the University.
- (4) Any candidate who fails to register continuously for a duration of two (2) semesters with the University shall cease to be a student and his name shall be removed from the register of students of the University.
- (5) Notwithstanding that provided in the subrule above and subject to subrule (3) above, the Senate may at any time terminate the registration of any candidate if it deems the candidate, for academic reasons as decided by the Senate, is not able to continue his programme of study and the name of the said

candidate shall be removed from the register of students of the University and the said candidate shall henceforth cease to be a student of the University. The Senate's decision made in accordance with this subrule (5) is final.

PART IV **PAYMENT**

7. Fees and Other Payments

A candidate shall pay all fees and other payments as determined by the regulations under the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024.

8. Right to Revise Fee Rates and Other Payments

The University has the absolute right to revise the rate of the stipulated fees and other payments without prior notice to the candidate.

9. Duration to Settle Fees and Other Payments

The candidate shall pay all fees and other payments within the duration specified by the University.

10. Failure to Settle Fees and Other Payments

Failure by a candidate to settle all fees and other payments within the duration specified by the University may result in the relevant candidate being:

- (1) prevented from registering for the following semester and his status as a student of the University may be terminated;
- (2) prevented from obtaining the examination results for the relevant semester, academic transcript and degree scroll;
- (3) prevented from submitting dissertation for examination; and/or
- (4) prevented from being conferred a degree in a Convocation Ceremony.

PART V **DURATION OF PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

11. Duration of Programme of Study

A candidate shall pursue and complete his programme of study within the prescribed duration.

12. Minimum and Maximum Duration

- (1) The minimum and maximum duration for the Master's Degree programme of study is as determined in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of these Rules.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subrule (1) above, under certain circumstances, the Dean of the Faculty or any other officer as determined by the University may extend the duration of candidature beyond the maximum duration as prescribed in subrule (1) above with the condition that such extension shall not exceed three (3) semesters.

13. Suspension of a Candidate's Programme of Study

The duration of suspension of a candidate's programme of study where punishment has been imposed under the Universities and University Colleges (University of Malaya)(Discipline of Students) Rules 2024 shall not be taken into account as part of the maximum duration of the programme of study.

(LPU: 02.07.2025)

PART VI **STRUCTURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMME**

14. Structure of Programme by Research and by Mixed Mode

- (1) For an academic programme by Research, the candidate shall undertake research fully resulting in the production of a dissertation. Notwithstanding that, a candidate may be required to attend certain courses as may be prescribed by the University or the relevant Faculty.
- (2) For an academic programme by Mixed Mode, the candidate shall be required to follow the said programme based on the structure of the academic programme and produce a dissertation as may be prescribed in the Regulations made under these Rules.
- (3) Programme External Assessors for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of a Special Committee appointed by the Senate as specified in the Regulations.

15. Structure of Programme by Coursework

- (1) For an academic programme by Coursework, the candidate is required to pursue an academic programme fully comprising of courses and produce a research report.
- (2) Programme External Assessor for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of a Special Committee appointed by the Senate as specified in the Regulations.

16. Structure of Programme by Clinical

- (1) For an academic programme by Clinical, the candidate is required to pursue the academic programme involving clinical expertise training and produce a research report.
- (2) Programme External Examiner for each academic programme offered by the University shall be appointed by the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Faculty as specified in the Regulations.

PART VII **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

17. *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* Requirement

- (1) A candidate who is a Malaysian citizen shall be required, before being conferred the degree, to possess at least a:
 - (a) Pass grade in *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* at the *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* level;
 - (b) Level III in the *Sijil Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu Universiti* or at an equivalent level;
 - (c) pass grade in the *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* course as recognised by the University; or
 - (d) pass the *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* exemption assessment as set by the University.
- (2) A non-citizen candidate is required to attend at a satisfactory level a *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* course conducted by the University before being conferred his degree unless he obtains at least a:
 - (a) pass grade in the *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* at the *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* level;
 - (b) Level III in the *Sijil Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu Universiti* or at an equivalent level;
 - (c) pass grade in the *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* course as recognised by the University; or
 - (d) pass the *Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Melayu* exemption assessment as set by the University.

- (3) Notwithstanding subrules (1) and (2) above, the *Bahasa Malaysia* or *Bahasa Melayu* requirement may be waived for a candidate who has pursued a programme of study and has been conferred a degree from a Local and Private Institute of Higher Learning where the medium of instruction used was the national language.

18. English Language Requirement

- (1) A non-citizen applicant who pursues a degree programme of study in the University and/or writes his dissertation in English, and who obtained a degree from a university or an institution of higher learning where the medium of instruction is not the English language for the degree concerned is required to fulfil the English language competency requirement set by the University from time to time.
- (2) An non-citizen applicant who pursues a programme of study and/or writing a dissertation in a language other than the English language, that is, *Bahasa Melayu* or Arabic or any other language approved by the Senate related to his field of research, is required prior to graduation to fulfil the English language competency requirement set by the University from time to time as stipulated in Schedule 1 of the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024.

PART VIII **ASSESSMENT METHOD**

19. Assessment

- (1) In accordance to the Universiti Malaya (Master's Degree) Regulations 2024, assessment shall be conducted for the following academic programmes:
- (a) Research;
 - (b) Mixed Mode;
 - (c) Coursework; and
 - (d) Clinical.
- (2) An assessment carried out by the University may be via final examination and/or continuous assessment together with other assessment methods which have been approved by the Senate upon the recommendation of the Faculty.
- (3) For programmes which have a programme standard and/or professional body requirements, assessment methods shall be conducted according to the prescribed requirements.

20. Committee of Examiners

A separate Committee of Examiners shall be formed for every examination for every academic programme.

PART IX **GRADUATION**

21. Graduation Requirements

- (1) A candidate may be awarded the relevant degree subject to the candidate having:
 - (a) complied with all requirements of these Rules and any regulations made thereunder;
 - (b) been recommended by the Committee of Examiners to be awarded the Degree and approved by the Senate; and
 - (c) satisfied any other requirements prescribed by the Senate from time to time.
- (2) The University reserves the right to withhold the conferment of the degree if the candidate fails to pay all fees and other payments prescribed by the University.
- (3) Notwithstanding any decision in relation to a candidate's graduation, the University reserves the right to forfeit the conferment of the degree of a candidate if the University is satisfied that it has been proven that the candidate has done the following:
 - (a) falsified information to meet the requirements for graduation; and/or
 - (b) committed an act of academic dishonesty that in the view of the University the candidate does not deserve to be awarded the degree.

PART X **GENERAL**

22. Termination of Candidature

The Senate has the right to terminate the candidature of a candidate who is found to have provided false information in connection with admission to the University or commits an act of academic dishonesty other than those stated in the Universities and University Colleges (University of Malaya)(Discipline of Students) Rules 2024

which in the view of the Senate is inappropriate and detrimental to the image of the University.
(LPU: 02.07.2025)

23. Power of the Senate to Formulate Regulations

The Senate may generally make any regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out or enforcing the provisions of these rules.

24. Exemption of Application

Notwithstanding anything stated in these rules and any regulations made thereunder, the Senate may exempt the application of any provisions of these Rules.

25. Compliance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971, University of Malaya Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations

Every candidate shall be subject to the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971, the University of Malaya Constitution, all other Statutes, Rules and Regulations currently applicable in the University including the Universities and University Colleges (University of Malaya)(Discipline of Students) Rules 2024.

(LPU: 02.07.2025)

26. Repeal

Subject to the provision in Rule 1(3), the University of Malaya (Master's Degree) Rules 2019 are hereby repealed.

Made on 11.07.2024 by the LPU (V1).
Amended on 07.11.2024 by the LPU (V2).
Amended on 02.07.2025 by the LPU (V3).

YBhg. Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar
Chairman
University of Malaya Board of Directors

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA (MASTER'S
DEGREE) RULES 2024**

**SCHEDULE 1
(Rule 12)**

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION FOR FULL-TIME STUDY

1. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Research

Minimum duration : 2 semesters
Maximum duration : 8 semesters

2. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Mixed Mode

Minimum duration : 3 or 4 semesters
Maximum duration : 8 or 9 semesters

3. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Coursework

Minimum duration : 2 or 3 semesters
Maximum duration : 8 or 9 semesters

4. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Clinical

Minimum duration : 4 years
Maximum duration : 7 years

Note: The minimum and maximum duration of a programme of study according to the mode of study may vary from that stated above and is subject to approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA (MASTER'S
DEGREE) RULES 2024**

**SCHEDULE 2
(Rule 12)**

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM DURATION FOR PART-TIME STUDY

1. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Research

Minimum duration : 4 semesters
Maximum duration : 12 semesters

2. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Mixed Mode

Minimum duration : 5 or 6 semesters
Maximum duration : 12 or 13 semesters

3. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Coursework

Minimum duration : 4 or 5 semesters
Maximum duration : 12 or 13 semesters

4. Duration of Study of Master's Degree by Clinical

Minimum duration : 5 years
Maximum duration : 9 years

Note: The minimum and maximum duration of a programme of study according to the mode of study may vary from that stated above and is subject to approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.



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