Students who would like to study Financial Services at post-graduate (Masters) level in an English-speaking environment may do so in the Department of Commercial Law which forms part of the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta. A comprehensive postgraduate degree programme is offered leading to the award of the Master of Arts in Financial Services.

This inter-disciplinary course deals with the legal principles and main techniques involved in the regulation of financial services and the protection of investors and other consumers of financial services. Specialized units on insurance, banking and securities regulation are also offered. The focus is not limited to the national level of regulation, and the international dimension of financial services is also covered. Although the course content is largely legal, substantial attention is also given to the relevant areas of accounting, finance, investments and taxation. The Masters programme is a taught course and students may choose from a number of elective study-units.

**TAUGHT COMPONENT**

**Year Long Study Units** - these units commence in Semester 1 and continue in Semester 2

Compulsory Units (all students must register for these study units)

- ACC5266 Accountancy and Financial Management (9 ECTS)
- CML5029 International Fiscal Principles (8 ECTS)

**Semester 1**

Compulsory Units (All students must register for these study units)

- CML5028 Principles of Company Law (8 ECTS)
- BKF5041 Principles and Issues in Investment Management (5 ECTS)
- CML5030 The Legal Framework of Financial Services and Investor Protection (5 ECTS)

Elective Study-Units

In addition to compulsory study-units, students are required to choose a number of elective study-units as follows:

- Four study-units to the value of 20 ECTS credits from Category ‘A’ Electives on offer throughout the year.
- One study-unit to the value of 5 ECTS credits from Category ‘B’ Electives.

**Semester 1**

Category ‘A’ Elective Units

- BKF5122 Regulation of Banking and International Investment (5 ECTS)
- CML5031 Trusts and Trustees: Legal and Practical Issues (5 ECTS)

**Category ‘B’ Elective Units**

- ACC5276 Strategic Issues in Financial Control ** (5 ECTS)

**Semester 2**

Category ‘A’ Elective Units

- CML5032 The Legal Framework for Insurance Business (5 ECTS)
- CML5033 Securities Regulation (5 ECTS)
- CML5034 Legal Aspects of Winding Up and Corporate Recovery (5 ECTS)
- BKF5132 Securities Markets: Financial and Organizational Aspects (5 ECTS)

Category ‘B’ Elective Units

- BKF5061 Financial Derivative Investments * (5 ECTS)

* This study-unit cannot be taken by students who are qualified in Banking & Finance.

** This study-unit cannot be taken by students who are qualified in Accountancy.

**RESEARCH COMPONENT**

**Semester 3**

Compulsory Unit (All students must register for this study unit)

- CML5035 Dissertation 30 ECTS

N.B. Students pursuing the programme on a part-time basis are required to register for 30 ECTS taught credits during each of the first two academic years of study (Semesters 1 to 4).

**Requirement for award of Master’s Degree:**

- 60 credits – taught study-units
- 30 credits – research component
- 90 credits – total credits

**PROGRAMME**

**M.A. IN FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Students who would like to study Financial Services at post-graduate (Masters) level in an English-speaking environment may do so in the Department of Commercial Law which forms part of the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta. A comprehensive postgraduate degree programme is offered leading to the award of the Master of Arts in Financial Services.
The Department of Commercial Law

The main objective of the Department of Commercial Law is to introduce students to the law regulating traders and business, undoubtedly a fascinating and vital element of any legal system. This objective is pursued within a comprehensive and systematic format, designed to reflect relevant developments and changes in commercial activity. Modern day business activities are extremely varied and dynamic, spanning from retail and wholesale trade and intellectual property rights to shipping, company administration and financial services. The Department seeks to provide the most updated position of how business is regulated in its various sectors including recent important reforms in relatively new areas, such as competition financial services and consumer law. The courses offered show that trading activity is best carried out within legally and socially accepted boundaries which are set out in the Commercial Code and other specialized legislation. The various study-units place students in a better position to understand how the law regulating traders and business, trade and its framework, which is constantly renewing itself, permits entrepreneurs to pursue their legitimate activities and to innovate. Students would thereby be able to develop an understanding that trade is a multi-faceted phenomenon which, when properly regulated, creates wealth and job opportunities and that trading law is a vital tool for a working and viable modern economy.

Requirements for Admission

3. The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL. D.) or the Diploma of Notary Public; or

(b) a Bachelor degree with at least Second Class Honours in Accountancy, Banking and Finance, or Economics;

(c) professional qualifications in Accountancy or Accountancy and Auditing recognised by the University of Malta for the purpose; or

(d) equivalent academic qualifications in a related area from this University or another University recognised by the University of Malta for the purpose.

The academic year is split into two semesters: the first from 1st October to 31st January (with a two-week break over Christmas), and the second, from 1st February to 31st May (with a two-week break over Easter). Written exams are held at the end of each semester in January and in June.

Fees

Tuition fees need to be settled in full for the whole of the academic year prior to 1 October. At the start of each academic year, students must have sufficient funds in their possession for the whole of their stay at the University of Malta. The University of Malta does not offer any scholarships to overseas students.

For an up-to-date list of tuition fees go to http://home.um.edu.mt/finance/finance_office-fees.htm

Course Co-ordinator & Head of Department

Dr David Fabri, LL.D. (Malta)

Course Enquiries:

Ms Elisa Attard
Administrator for Post-Graduate Courses
Tel: [+356] 2340 2786
Fax: [+356] 21324478
E-mail: elisa.attard@um.edu.mt

Applications and General Enquiries

Application forms for overseas students may be obtained at any time of year from: International Office, University of Malta, Msida, MSD 2080, MALTA

Tel: [+356] 2340 3332 or [+356] 2340 2225, [+356] 2340 3334 Fax: [+356] 23403331
Email: infoff@um.edu.mt

Applications supported by required documentation must reach the above address by the 15th May.

Online applications forms may be found on the University of Malta website: www.um.edu.mt

University of Malta

The University of Malta traces its origins to the Collegium Mellitense founded in 1592. In 1968, the University moved from the original buildings in Valletta to a new and more spacious campus at Msida, some 3kms away from the capital. The campus has been extended recently in order to cater for the large increase in the student population.

The University of Malta enjoys an excellent reputation among other European universities and Maltese graduates are accepted every year for postgraduate studies at leading universities worldwide. The student body numbers close to 10,000, including about 1,000 non-Maltese students (comprising over 78 nationalities), reading for full-time and part-time degrees or attending diploma courses.

The University of Malta is very active on the international scene. It has link agreements with many universities ranging from the USA to the UK, France, Italy and Australia. It is also very active on the Mediterranean front. In order to maintain standards, foreign professors are invited regularly to lecture to students and to sit on examination boards as External Examiners.

Student Accommodation

The University Residence is situated in extensive private grounds, approximately 4kms from the University. A shuttle service runs to and from the campus.

Most of the apartments have two, occasionally three, bedrooms accommodating one or two persons per bedroom. Charges vary accordingly and further information is available on request from the International Office. Amenities at the Residence include: bar, snack/ breakfast service, mini-market, launderette, games room, tennis court, jogging track, large outdoor swimming pool, photocopy bureau/stationers and conference facilities.

Curriculum

The degree is a “ten units” course, comprising five core (compulsory) subjects, four subjects from a number of “Category A Electives” and one subject from a number of “Category B Electives”. In addition, participants must also complete a dissertation written under the supervision of one of the members of the teaching staff.