We make leaders out of ordinary people
Welcome to the Department of Public Policy. This brochure introduces you to our range of academic programmes, together with a broad overview on our philosophy and concerns. You are very welcome to find out more about the Department of Public Policy by visiting: www.um.edu.mt/fema/publicpolicy/ for more information about staff, dissertations, activities and news.

“One of the best qualities of the lecturers in the Public Policy Department is their eagerness to integrate international students at the utmost level. The various discussions regarding Malta and its socio-political aspects are made simple and with further explanation to those of us who are not familiar with them. Furthermore, we are being encouraged to participate in the lectures. Our points of view are appreciated, even if contradictory to the common beliefs, and that is the hardest and most respected attitude that a foreign student could ask for.

Denitsa Mitova (International Student 2008/9)
On behalf of the Department of Public Policy at the University of Malta, welcome! We have a rich community we’d like to tell you about.

What exactly is public policy? It is the study of policy making – how policies are and should be made to serve the public interest, how policies should be designed and implemented to have the desired impact on individuals and communities, and how policies should be monitored and evaluated to see if they are having the desired impacts. The field of policy analysis has become critically important as societies have grown more complex, and public and private organizations increasingly play a more active role in addressing social problems and influencing the quality of people’s lives.

Public policy is interdisciplinary in nature; it is affected by social and economic conditions, political as well as cultural values, and the structure of local, national and supranational governing institutions. The study of public policy requires the integration of knowledge from multiple disciplines to understand and critically assess common challenges and potential solutions.

Furthermore, the European dimension in each and every aspect of national and local policy affairs is of paramount importance since Malta has become a state member of the European Union in 2004. Thus our programmes also call students to familiarise themselves with the supranational institutions of the EU, together with an understanding of the impact of EU legislation, schemes and projects in all aspects pertaining to European and Maltese policy-making.

Equipped with a versatile array of professional and academic expertise, the Department of Public Policy provides students with the factual, analytical, practical, and theoretical competences necessary for contemporary policy design, implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore the Department promotes direct linkages with other national and European academic institutions as well as with the business world through fieldwork, study visits, applied research assignments and dissertations.

We pride ourselves on the fact that, today, most of the leading positions in Malta are under the direction of graduates of Public Policy and the success of these graduates drives us to work harder to achieve our aim of ensuring a constant supply of young people having leadership qualities.

Prof Godfrey A. Pirotta
Head of Department
The Department of Public Policy forms part of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA) at the University of Malta. Since its inception in 1978, the Department has been totally committed to the highest quality research, learning and service in the areas of policy formulation, survey research, organisational change and institutional design.

The department cares for its students and provides them with support during the course and in advancing their careers. Students also find a strong element of accountability and staff are always willing to provide guidance and pastoral service. Our coursework marking scheme is open and transparent, so that students have a means of knowing how their grades are arrived at. Our members of staff all come with years of professional experience in public and private sectors and continue to be engaged with the world outside campus.

The Department of Public Policy is also proud of having established a memorandum of understanding with Competitive Malta Foundation on research on domestic competitiveness. This partnership with a leading think-tank is a reference point on policy-related matters associated with making Malta a wealthier and wiser nation - a place investors can trust and a place where good ideas can be lent an attentive ear.

The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the Collegium Melitense by the Jesuits in 1592. In 1769, Grand Master Pinto established a ‘Pubblica Universitá di Studi Generali’.

During the British period (1800-1964), the University’s statutes and regulations were modelled on those of universities in the United Kingdom. The present coat-of-arms and the motto ‘Ut Fructifcemos Deo’ – That we may bear fruit for the glory of God – were proposed in 1923 by the then Rector, Professor Sir Themistocles Zammit.

The University is the highest academic institution of the state and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. There are over 10,000 students, including some 750 foreign/exchange students, following full or part-time degree and diploma courses, most of them run on the modular and credit system.
Our Vision
To make leaders out of ordinary people.

Our Mission
To empower students and policy practitioners to take leadership positions by acquiring cutting-edge competences in the fields of public affairs, economic and social development through quality education, knowledge creation and research design.

Our Goals
- To provide students, administrators, managers and others who participate in public affairs with challenging leadership development opportunities in private/public management and policy making.
- To equip under-graduate and post-graduate students of all ages with competences that will improve the quality of policy formulation and decision-making in governmental, non-governmental and business organisations, locally and abroad.
- To draw academia, business and government into mutually beneficial relationships that contribute to good governance, national competitiveness and social stability.
- To train future scholars and researchers who can contribute to the development of policy science.
Diploma in Political Studies

Two years part-time evening course

This diploma programme focuses on the dynamics of public life, the actors and the institutions of the contemporary polity. It gives an in-depth understanding of Malta’s political economy within the European Union. It provides an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the workings of Malta’s governing institutions: Parliament, the Judiciary, the Cabinet, Public Service and Local Councils. It explains the role of Parliamentary Committees, and of the scrutinising agencies such as the National Audit Office, the Ombudsman, and other authorities in securing good governance, as well as the part played by civil society.

It is intended for:

* Leaders of non-governmental organisations
* Political activists
* Mayors and councillors
* Writers, journalists and opinion leaders
* Civil Servants

Students are required to acquire 60 ECTS credits and to submit a long essay (5000 words) at the end of the programme.

Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Public Policy and any other major area of study offered by FEMA

Three years full time

In FEMA’s Bachelor of Commerce programme, students select two major areas of study during the second and third years of the course. Thus, students opting for Public Policy as one of their majors, choose another subject as major from the list of programme specialisations offered by FEMA. Currently, these are Accountancy, Management, Economics, Banking and Finance, Marketing and Insurance.

The Public Policy major provides students with skills relevant for designing, managing and evaluating policies and programmes. With its emphasis on applying social science theory and methods to issues of strategy, development and organisational design, the Public Policy major is an excellent complement to a major in economics, banking and finance, or management.

The course requires 180 ECTS credits of which 172 credits are compulsory and 8 credits are optional.
Our programmes

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Public Policy

One year full time (following the 3-year B.Com. programme)

The Honours year in Public Policy is interdisciplinary and focuses on leadership development. Our graduates acquire a fundamental and diverse understanding of economic, environmental, fiscal, physical, political, and social characteristics of a nation. Students are exposed to an array of themes, including policy making in micro states, supranational governance, project management and political sociology.

As a result, our graduates are well-versed to provide leadership, enhance the capacity of governing institutions and to bring about planned change.

The Honours programme requires 60 ECTS credits and the writing of a dissertation (10,000 words) on any theme related to the programme.

Master of Arts in Public Policy

Three year part-time evening programme

It is specifically designed to meet the needs of Government Officials, EU advisors, Fund Managers and Administrators, Policy Practitioners, Strategy Formulators, Trade Unions’ representatives and NGO leaders.

The programme addresses the critical social, economic, environmental and political issues of our time. The curriculum is designed to provide a combination of academic theory, analytical skills, and real world scenarios, so that participants become effective, creative leaders in public institutions and private enterprise. Special consideration is given to academic research and writing, as students are provided with many opportunities to enhance their research skills.

The Masters programme requires 90 ECTS credits, including the writing of a policy oriented dissertation (25,000 words).

Doctor of Philosophy

Three years full-time, Six years part-time

The PhD programme offers Doctoral students an intellectually charged, challenging environment in which to explore new ways of thinking about problems facing small states in a globalised world scenario. It offers an atmosphere of academic freedom rooted in a shared commitment to make the world a better place to live in. The programme is rigorous, but it takes pride in its philosophy that there are no preset fields of study or methods of research. Students, who may be full-time or part-time, are registered initially for the M.Phil qualification, with a decision as to upgrade to PhD status being taken within the first eighteen months of registration, subject to satisfactory completion of written work.

The Doctorate of Philosophy programme requires a scholarly research dissertation of 90,000 words and the development of personal competencies, including research design and policy expertise.
Ideas, state and society

This core area of interest comprises the following issues of the recent past, the present, and the likely shape of the future:

• State failure and failed states – the Mediterranean region offers a rich field of experience and experimentation, as well as stagnation and failure
• Under-governed areas of public life – outer space; the seas; climate; cyberspace
• Balancing public interest and private life – the regulation of privacy and markets
• Improving service delivery and the integrity of public services – public management, privatisation, accountability, anti-corruption, welfare reform
• Small states and islands – distinctive characteristics, consequences for politics, government and public administration, capacity-building, patterns of governance.

Issues of good governance

• The public square – now including civil society as well as ‘virtual’ squares such as the internet
• Political thought – an area which is still evolving, and which could contribute immeasurably to future generations of Maltese leaders
• Law – an area of renewed interest to economists, political scientists and governance specialists; the rule of law in securing good governance is our primary interest
• Citizenship – an evolving idea, under the influence of migration, multi-culturalism, New Public Management and European integration.
Spheres of public policy

Our alumni can now be found in all of the following spheres of governance, which operate under a wide variety of regimes and interact intensively:

- The nation-state
- Sub-national government
- Multilateral institutions
- Supra-national government – the European Union is an astonishing innovation in the history of government, and a powerful player in contemporary policy-making
- Civil society – Malta offers one of the most interesting and diverse forms of civil society, deeply rooted in Catholicism and in representative democracy
- Corporate governance
- Cybergovernance

Leadership and management

This field is exceptionally rich, offering numerous opportunities for the development of study programmes, professional development and research. It covers such issues as:

- Leadership in public affairs, including the idea of leadership, biographical research, patterns of leadership in Maltese public life (political, social and commercial)
- Leadership development – including career paths, qualities of leadership, professional conduct
- Negotiation and conflict resolution
- Knowledge management
- Public management at central, local and supra-national levels
- NGO management
- Project planning and management
- Human resource development for competitive, transitional societies as well as for organisations.

Institutions and processes

This field covers matters traditionally identified with ‘public policy’, including:

- History of government and governing institutions
- Constitutional studies and institutional design
- Decision making, policy analysis and design
- Regulation
- Policy reform and organisational change
Graduates' Testimonials

Raymond Bartolo – Project Manager, EU Fund Office
In 2006 I left University with an Honours Degree in Public Policy and embarked on job hunting. At first I had a short spell within the private sector, as an administration controller in a small firm, and subsequently as an accounts officer with an international iGaming company. I acquired my first job within the public sector in 2006 as an EU Funds Officer with the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division, OPM, and was assigned to the Financial Control Unit. My tasks were to assist the financial control coordinator in monitoring and controlling Structural Funds. Eventually I was promoted to the post of Project Manager within the same department.

Krystle Bugeja - Legal Office, University of Malta
I owe gratitude to all my lecturers, whose influence during the past years has meant a great deal to me. I am truly grateful for having exceptional lecturers, who have encouraged me to develop independent thinking and research skills, and who have set an example of expertise, which I will strive to follow. My intention is to further my studies overseas.

Bernard Busuttil - Journalist, Standard Publications
Just a month after my last examination, I was employed as a journalist with The Malta Independent. At first I was afraid that I would not be up to the job as I had not taken a university course related to journalism. However, after a few weeks I realised that my studies in public policy were an invaluable asset in understanding the “real world”. Through my job I can see how the government uses its powers to implement its programme, how the opposition dissents, how minor parties try to make an impact and how civil society reacts and proposes its own ideas.

Robert Zammit - Policy Consultant, Bank of England
The Department of Public Policy has over time delivered an excellent mixture of academic content and practical vision by focusing and investing in its main features: first-class lecturers, capacity to evaluate itself, an open-door policy, and most of all a mentality that is rooted in the principle that lecturers are cherished friends, walking the path with each and every one of us.

Diane Vella - Malta International Airport
Albert Einstein once said that, “Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.” I truly experience this quote whilst doing my M.A in Public Policy, where the special relationship the lecturers and the students have is greatly based on the quality of the communication between them.

Andrei Patap - HR consultant, Moscow
My life experience in Malta is something I will cherish for a long time, and I plan to come back to Malta sooner or later. The qualifications I have obtained were a major key in embarking on my rewarding career in Human Resources consultancy. I miss the Department of Public Policy, the staff and my colleagues because such people can rarely be found.

Robert Zammit - Project Manager, EU Fund Office
In 2006 I left University with an Honours Degree in Public Policy and embarked on job hunting. At first I had a short spell within the private sector, as an administration controller in a small firm, and subsequently as an accounts officer with an international iGaming company. I acquired my first job within the public sector in 2006 as an EU Funds Officer with the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division, OPM, and was assigned to the Financial Control Unit. My tasks were to assist the financial control coordinator in monitoring and controlling Structural Funds. Eventually I was promoted to the post of Project Manager within the same department.
Research in our Department

Research in the Department of Public Policy occurs both within the traditional disciplinary subfields and across them. Our academic staff and postgraduate students specialise in different areas or employ different methods, but they tend to share substantive research interests and themes. These include constitutional development, governing institutions, public service reform, local governance, small states, civil society, European affairs, political theory and comparative politics. All full time members of the Department are actively engaged in research and regularly publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals, monographs and books. The Department also maintains relations with many institutions and centres around Europe, including the University of Birmingham, the Commonwealth and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration. These bring scholars from diverse academic fields into conversation. Besides the publication of various scholarly works, the Department also organises public lectures and special events during the year. Three annual memorial lectures are held on campus or at other venues, wherein foreign and local keynote speakers are invited to share their expertise and views on specific issues relating to public policy. The lectures are open to the public and revolve around the following themes:

- **Dr Anton Tabone**
  Founder of the Gozo Civic Council
  Memorial Lecture
  Debates policy issues concerning local government, subsidiarity and the roles of civil society and the non-governmental sector in policy making.

- **Sir Anthony Mamo**
  Attorney General, Chief Justice & First President of Malta
  Memorial Lecture
  Discusses policy issues concerning governance, governing institutions, organisational reforms, democracy and statehood.

- **Josephine Burns Debono**
  Advocate of Women’s Rights
  Memorial Lecture
  Reviews matters relating to gender issues, ethics, equality, human resources and women’s emancipation in public affairs.

- **Agatha Barbara**
  First Women elected to Parliament, appointed to cabinet & elected president
  Memorial Lecture
  Debates policy issues concerning local government, subsidiarity and the roles of civil society and the non-governmental sector in policy making.
Selection of works published by our staff
Academic Staff

Resident Academics

Prof Godfrey A Pirotta
Research Interests: Political Thought, Local Government, Civil Service, Small States’ Governance, Governing Institutions.

Dr Edward Warrington
B.A. (Hons) Public Administration, M.A. (Toronto), D.Phil (Oxon), A.C.I.S. (UK)
Research Interests: Politics & Governance of Small States and Islands, Government Reform, Public Sector Management

Dr Carmel Tabone O.P.
Research Interests: Family Policy, Social Policy, Social Development

Ms Anne Marie Thake
B.A. (Hons) Public Admin, M.Sc HR (Manchester)
Research Interests: Public Sector Management, Human Resources Development, Organisational Strategy & Behaviour, Gender Issues

Mr Robert Micallef
Research Interests: EU External Relations, Public Opinion Surveying

Mr Mario Thomas Vassallo
B.Com., B.A. (Hons) Public Policy, M.A. (European Studies), M.M.
Research Interests: Research Design, Supranational Governance, Civil Society, People Management, Adult Learning, Leadership & Personal Skills, Maltese Language.

Visiting Academic Staff

Prof Edward Zammit
B.A. (Sociology), Ph.L. (Chicago), M.Lit. (Oxford), D.Phil. (Oxford)
Research Interests: Industrial Relations, Organisational Participation, industrial Sociology, Public Sector Management.

Dr Keith Patrick Grech
B.Com., B.A. (Law), B.A. (Hons) Public Policy, M.A. (European Studies), L.L.D.
Research Interests: European Affairs, Legal Affairs.

Mr Adrian Dalli
B.Com (Hons), M.Sc (Management & Public Policy) London
Research Interests: Policy Matters, Political Economy.

Dr Emanuel Camilleri

Mr Colin Borg
B.Com.(Hons), M.A.(Public Policy)
Research Interests: Public Management, Local Governance.

Mr Alfred Grixti
B.Educ(Hons), D.S.S.(Oxon), M.Sc.(Oxon)
Research Interests: Education Policy, School Management, Political Thought.

Mr Godwin Mifsud
B.Com (Hons) Economics, M.Sc Economics (Essex), M.A. (Public Policy)
Research Interests: Economics of Ageing, Public Finances, Sustainability, Welfare State Reform.

Mr Vincent Caruana
B.Ed (Hons), M.Sc Environmental & Development Education (London), Diploma in Political Studies
Research Interests: Sustainable Development, Environmental Policy, Corporate Social Responsibility.

Dr Sandra Dingli - Director, Edward De Bono Institute
B.A. (Hons), Ph.D. (Dunelm)
Research Interests: Creative Thinking, Innovation in Management

Adminsitrative Staff

Amanda Bartolo - Executive Officer
Employers’ Testimonials

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Gutenberg press was established 26 years ago. I have started my own business in a small garage with just one worker, myself. Throughout these years we have grown very fast and today we employ over 100 workers. We do believe a lot in recruiting young and new blood both in production as well as in our offices.

FRANK SPITERI
Managing Director
Gutenberg Press

Since its inception the Department of Public Policy has not only collaborated closely with the various institutions that make up the Public Service but it has provided the service with leaders of undisputed quality. Today, many of the leading positions in the Public Service are occupied by graduates in Public Policy and their contribution to economic and social development in Malta has been outstanding. No less than five Permanent Secretaries (Head of Ministries) come from Public Policy. The training given by the Department of Public Policy to its graduates makes these graduates a target for employers from both the public and the private sector. The future development of Malta and membership of the EU will continue to open up exciting opportunities for graduates of Public Policy. The Public Service has gained enormously from its association with the Department.

DR GODWIN GRIMA
Principal Permanent Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
Malta

The Department for Local Government is inter alia responsible for the monitoring of the functions and operations of all the Local Councils within the Maltese Islands. The administrative, executive and financial head of the Local Council is the Executive Secretary. In the performance of their duties, Executive Secretaries are expected to be persons of integrity and competence, more so since they are entrusted to administer public funds.

As regulator, I am in continuous contact with both the political and executive heads of the Councils, that is, the Mayor and the Executive Secretary. With respect to the latter, I am, therefore, in a good position to judge the competences of the latter.

It is with satisfaction that I note that all the Executive Secretaries who have undergone their studies through the Department of Public Policy are not only academically qualified for the post, but have also proved to be amongst the most efficient and effective Executive Secretaries.

MR NATALINO ATTARD
Director, Local Government
Office of the Prime Minister
Malta

“We selected Maria Cassar from a highly competitive group of applicants, and are pleased with her performance so far. Her previous experience in commercial matters was vital in considering Ms Cassar for the position of Commercial Specialist at the US Embassy. Her Masters degree in Public Policy also influenced our hiring decision, and there is no doubt that the knowledge she gained pursuing that educational goal has served as an invaluable asset for her to better understand US government policy, the environment in which the US government operates and how US policy is implemented.”

MS MARIETTA BAROLETTI
Management Officer
US Embassy Malta

Gutenberg press was established 26 years ago. I have started my own business in a small garage with just one worker, myself. Throughout these years we have grown very fast and today we employ over 100 workers. We do believe a lot in recruiting young and new blood both in production as well as in our offices.

From the number of ex-university students we employ, two of them, Nicolai Portelli and Blodwen Spiteri, are public policy graduates. Nicolai has now been working with Gutenberg press for these past 3 years and will soon start his masters in Business Administration on a part-time basis. Blodwen has joined the company this summer soon after finishing her studies in public policy. Both of them have proven to be successful in our company and we would not hesitate to employ more public policy graduates if the need arises.

FRANK SPITERI
Managing Director
Gutenberg Press
Frequently Asked Questions

I want a good job. Why should I study public policy?
Public policy offers graduates of the department great opportunities to quickly take up leadership positions in both the public and the private sector. Employers want graduates with skills that are not merely mechanical but able to identify challenges and opportunities as early as possible. Public policy will give you these skills because it educates in a holistic manner. Our graduates are sought after by employers in the public service and in industry precisely because they are proactive. There is not one sphere of activity in Malta today which does not have policy graduates within its upper echelons, but our graduates can also be found at the Bank of England, the European Commission and its related institutions and international corporations and NGOs. Furthermore, our courses are constructed in a way which prepares students to further studies at postgraduate studies. Our department boasts the highest number of Ph.D graduates in the Faculty. And post-graduate qualifications obtained by our graduates range from MAs / Ph.Ds in Public Policy to similar qualifications in International and European Studies, Human Resource Management, and Economics. Versatility is the key to a successful career. Versatility is what we give you.

Can I enrol on a part-time or full-time basis?
Currently, enrolment in the Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Public Policy, including the Honours programme, is only available on a full-time basis. In the case of both the Diploma in Political Studies and the Master of Arts in Public Policy, courses are only available on a part-time basis.

Are any tuition costs involved?
In respect of Maltese and EU citizens, no tuition fees are levied for the Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Public Policy, including the Honours programme. Tuition fees are charged for the Diploma in Political Studies, Masters and Doctorate courses in Public Policy. Information about fees can be obtained from the Admissions Office website: admissions@um.edu.mt in the case of Maltese applicants and from the International Office for international applicants. Non-EU applicants are required to pay tuition fees established by the University of Malta. Non-Maltese applicants must register their intention to study at the University of Malta with the International Office for international applicants. Non-EU applicants are required to pay tuition fees established by the University of Malta. Non-Maltese applicants must register their intention to study at the University of Malta with the International Office for international applicants. Non-EU applicants must register their intention to study at the University of Malta with the International Office for international applicants.

Are there any pre-requisites for admission?
For Maltese applicants, the University has established minimum entry qualifications for the course leading to the Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Public Policy. Applicants must be in possession of an Awarded Matsec Certificate, including an intermediate level pass at grade E or better in Pure Mathematics. Applicants who lack a pass in the latter subject will be admitted on the proviso that they will satisfy special conditions within the course.

The Master of Arts in Public Policy is open to applicants in possession of:
(a) a Bachelor degree obtained with at least Second Class Honours in Public Policy or in related areas; or
(b) an Honours degree in Public Policy classified as Third Class provided that they have obtained other qualifications, including relevant experience.

How do I apply?
Applications for courses starting in October of each year are normally received during the first weeks of July. The application process is advertised in local newspapers and on the University website. The University also receives applications online. For further information, contact the Admissions Office on: admissions@um.edu.mt. Applications from international students are normally received in March and April. Further information can be obtained from the International Office on: int-eu@um.edu.mt.

What are the admission pre-requisites for mature and international students?
For each of our courses, students who are deemed mature by the University regulations and who do not possess the required academic qualifications may also be admitted if they satisfy the Admissions Board that they can pursue their studies with profit. International students must contact the International Office on: int-eu@um.edu.mt. For further details on this matter.

What can I expect if I join one of the courses organised by the Department of Public Policy?
In the first instance, academics who themselves are recognised leaders in their field and in Maltese society. Second, a learning environment which allows for the widest possible level of academic freedom and debate. Third, transparent and accountable processes which give students the peace of mind necessary for academic and human development.

Whom should I contact to obtain more information?
For queries concerning academic issues arising from our academic programmes, kindly contact us on publicpolicy.fema@um.edu.mt or by phoning 2340 3358. For all other queries, kindly contact the appropriate offices (Admissions Office and the International Office). Further information can be obtained from the University website: www.um.edu.mt.