

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

Assessment Criteria for Applicants with Overseas Qualifications\* for the  
M.D. Course starting in October 2018

1. Preamble

- 1.1 The following criteria are based on the principle that all eligible applicants must satisfy both the General Entry Requirements (GER) and the Special Course Requirements (SCR) for the M.D. course.

The General Entry Requirements are satisfied through the Matriculation Certificate and a pass at grade 5 or better in the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examinations in English Language, Maltese\*\* and Mathematics.

- 1.2 To qualify for the Matriculation Certificate, offered by the MATSEC Board, candidates must (a) take six subjects as follows: two (2) at Advanced Level, and three (3) at Intermediate Level and “Systems of Knowledge”; (b) pass in a language, a humanistic and a science subject as well as in “Systems of Knowledge”. Further details about the Matriculation Certificate and the Matriculation Examination may be obtained by accessing this link: <http://www.um.edu.mt/matsec>

\* Except the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the European Baccalaureate Diploma

\*\* A non-Maltese applicant may be allowed to offer instead of Maltese, another language as approved by the Admissions Board; provided that, such other language cannot be English and applicants whose mother tongue is English shall be required to offer a language other than English instead of Maltese. This does not replace the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate referred to in Section 1.3 (c) and Section 6 of these Assessment Criteria.

1.3 Applicable for courses commencing in October 2018 or later:

Applicants who apply for admission to the Course must, besides satisfying the requirements for admission as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations, satisfy the following Special Course Requirements:

(a) be in possession of passes in the Matriculation Examination at Advanced Level at Grade B or better in Biology and Chemistry; and

(b) be in possession of a pass in any subject taken in the Matriculation Examination<sup>1</sup> at Intermediate Level and obtained at Grade B or better except for Environmental Science and Systems of Knowledge, provided that all passes in these Special Course Requirements are obtained together in one session of examinations (i.e. one sitting) and are from recognised examining boards from the same country, and

(c) (i) Maltese applicants who, in terms of paragraph (5) of regulation 12 of the Admissions Regulations, 2016 are exempted from possessing a pass in Secondary Education Certificate in Maltese are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta prior to the commencement of the Course; and

(ii) non-Maltese applicants are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta, or a pass in the study-unit in Medical Maltese as part of the Certificate in Medical Foundation Studies course, prior to the commencement of the Course, provided that applicants presenting overseas qualifications and a pass in the Secondary Education Certificate examination in Maltese shall be exempted from presenting the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate.

The Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate is required for admission to both Year 1 and Year 3 of the Course.

1.4 The criteria outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3 apply in all cases. The University will also consider comparable qualifications to those required for admission to the M.D. course.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject must be chosen from: Accounting, Applied Mathematics (Mechanics), Arabic, Art, Classical Studies, Computing, Economics, Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication, English, French, Geography, German, Greek, History, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Italian, Latin, Maltese, Marketing, Philosophy, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Pure Mathematics, Music, Religious Knowledge, Russian, Sociology, Spanish, and Theatre and Performance.

- 1.5 (i) Applicants presenting overseas qualifications **must** apply by the application deadline indicated in Appendix 1, but will be permitted to present the official published results by the end of August.
- (ii) **All documentation, including all educational documents such as certificates, transcripts and programmes of study, must be submitted by the application deadline indicated in Appendix 1, Table A. Only those documents submitted by the deadline will be taken into consideration for the evaluation of the applications. Any documents submitted after the application deadline will not be accepted, and the application will be evaluated taking into consideration only those documents submitted by the application deadline.**
- (iii) **Applicants who are applying conditionally should submit all documents as are available to them. Such applicants would be applying conditionally pending the results of the following examinations:**
- (a) Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary examinations, (refer to Section 2)**
  - (b) the examinations of the final year of a degree, (refer to Section 3.1) or**
  - (c) the examinations of the first year of a five-year medical course or the second year of a six-year medical course, (refer to Section 3.2)**
  - (d) the examinations of the second year of a five-year medical course or the third year of a six-year medical course, (refer to Section 4.1).**
- 1.6 Admission to the M.D. course is only possible in Year 1 or Year 3 of the course.
- 1.7 Applicants who complete their secondary education overseas must satisfy the University's English language requirement since the language of instruction and assessment at the University of Malta is English. They may submit a pass in English acquired as part of their national examinations if the level is considered by the University of Malta to be comparable to the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC). Otherwise, they must submit a Secure English Language Test (IELTS/TOEFL/Cambridge Advanced Certificate or other qualifications approved by the University Admissions Board) result at the required level and grades by not later than the deadline stipulated on the University website. No test result submitted after this deadline will be accepted. More information can be found at:  
[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements)

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## 2. **Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary Certificates from UK Examining Boards \***

2.1 Applicants presenting Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary certificates from UK Examining Boards, **which must include passes in a language, a science and a humanistic subject**, are required to be in possession of either:

- (a) three (3) passes at Advanced Level and one (1) pass at Advanced Subsidiary Level, of which:
- i. two (2) passes at Advanced Level at MATSEC Board equivalent grade B or better in Biology and Chemistry; **and**
  - ii. one (1) pass at Advanced Subsidiary Level at MATSEC Board equivalent grade B or better in any one of the subjects listed in section 1.3 (b) above except in Environmental Science and General Studies; **and**
  - iii. one (1) pass at Advanced level at MATSEC Board equivalent grade E or better may be obtained in any subject, except in Environmental Science and General Studies.

### **OR**

- (b) two (2) passes at Advanced Level and three (3) passes at Advanced Subsidiary Level, of which:
- i. two (2) passes at Advanced Level at MATSEC Board equivalent grade B or better must be obtained in Biology and Chemistry; **and**
  - ii. three (3) Advanced Subsidiary Level passes, one of which must be obtained at MATSEC Board equivalent grade B or better in any of the subjects listed in section 1.3 (b) above, except in Environmental Science and General Studies; **and**
  - iii. the remaining two (2) passes at MATSEC Board equivalent grade E or better at Advanced Subsidiary Level may be in any subject, except in Environmental Science and General Studies.

**Please note that no subject can be presented at both Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level.**

2.2 The passes in Biology and Chemistry, as well as in the third subject, must be obtained together in **one** session of examinations (i.e. one sitting) and must be from recognised Examining Boards from the same country. For more details refer to Appendix 2.

**\* GCE Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary qualifications will be assessed according to Appendix 2.**

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### 3. Alternative Routes for Admission to Year 1

- 3.1 Applicants holding a Bachelor's Degree: Applicants in their final year of a course leading to a degree in an Allied Health Science, or a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry, or a degree in Pharmacy, or already in possession of one of these degrees classified at Second Class Honours or better or Category II or better, may also be considered. It is at the absolute discretion of the Faculty Admissions Committee to determine the degrees that can be classified as Allied Health Science degrees.

Eligible applicants are required to sit for an Entrance Examination - see details in Section 5. Applicants who have not yet completed their degree will be allowed to sit for the Entrance Examination **conditionally**, subject to their obtaining the degree with the classification indicated above by not later than the end of August.

- 3.2 Applicants already following a course at a recognised university comparable to the M.D. Course of the University of Malta: Applicants who successfully complete the first year of a five-year medical course they are currently following to which at least 60 ECTS credits are assigned will be considered as eligible to sit for the Entrance Examination for admission to Year 1 if the qualifications obtained prior to their enrolment on the medical course being followed overseas are deemed as comparable to the University's General Entry Requirements explained in Section 1

Applicants following a six-year medical course will only be considered eligible to sit for the Entrance Examination for admission to Year 1 if they successfully complete the first two years of the medical course they are currently following, to which at least 120 ECTS credits are assigned and if the qualifications obtained prior to their enrolment on the medical course being followed overseas are deemed comparable to the University's General Entry Requirements explained in Section 1.

Details in relation to the Entrance Examination for admission to Year 1 of the course may be found in Section 5.

Applicants, who will not have completed their first year of studies of a five-year medical course or their second year of studies of a six-year medical course by the application deadline indicated in Appendix 1 will be allowed to sit **conditionally** for the Entrance Examination – see details in Section 5, subject to their satisfying the conditions as stipulated above, by not later than the end of August.

- 3.3 Applicants must also satisfy the Maltese Requirement set out in Section 6 of these Assessment Criteria.
- 3.4 Italian qualifications will be assessed according to Appendix 3.
- 3.5 Holders of other qualifications not mentioned above are to communicate with the International Admissions Office by email – [intadmissions@um.edu.mt](mailto:intadmissions@um.edu.mt), to receive information about the comparability of their qualifications, which may make them

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eligible for the Entrance Examination – see details in Section 5. Such applicants are advised to submit their application as early as possible.

#### 4. Requirements for Admission to Year 3

4.1 Applicants for admission to Year 3 of the M.D. Course must submit a detailed transcript of studies currently being followed in a full medical programme at a recognised university by the application deadline specified in Appendix 1 indicating that:

- (i) they have obtained at least 120 ECTS credits and have progressed to Year 3 of their five-year medical course; or
- (ii) they have obtained at least 180 ECTS credits and have progressed to Year 4 of their six-year medical course.

Moreover, applicants who will not have obtained the required 120/180 ECTS credits by the application deadline specified in Appendix 1 will be allowed to sit **conditionally** for the examinations mentioned in section 4.3 below, subject to their satisfying the conditions as stipulated in section 4.1 above by not later than the end of August.

4.2 In all cases the 120/180 ECTS credits, as applicable, must be obtained in subjects that are comparable to the subjects and at the levels of the first two years of the M.D. Course of the University of Malta.

The programme of study of the University's M.D. Course can be found here:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/ms/overview/UMDFT-2018-9-0>

4.3 Applicants who satisfy the conditions stipulated in section 4.1 are required to sit for the examinations in the following study-units (four units from the programme for Year 2 of the M.D. course and one unit from the Year 1 programme of the M.D. Course). These examinations will be held in September (prior to the commencement of the academic year) in Malta:

<b>Study-Unit Code</b>	<b>Study-Unit Title</b>
- MDS 1004	Cardiovascular System (written and practical examinations) (10 ECTS credits)
- MDS 2008	Pathology (written examination only) (4 ECTS credits)
- MDS 2020	Integrated Biomedical Sciences (written and practical examinations) (14 ECTS credits)
- MDS 2023	Nervous System 1 (written and practical examinations) (8 ECTS credits)

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- MDS 2027                      Nervous System 2 (written and practical examinations)  
(8 ECTS credits)

- 4.4 After receiving notification from the International Admissions Office that the Faculty Admissions Committee has deemed them eligible to sit for the above-mentioned examinations, applicants must confirm their attendance by completing the Year 3 Examination Registration Form and settling the examination administrative non-refundable fee indicated in Appendix 1 – Table B by **the** Year 3 Entrance Examination Registration deadline **indicated in Table A of the same appendix**. The Year 3 Entrance Examination Registration Form, which will include an online payment gateway, will be sent with the notification email informing applicants of their eligibility for the examinations. For administrative and logistical reasons, only those individuals duly registered for the examinations will be admitted to the examination hall.
- 4.5 Applicants who satisfy the conditions stipulated in section 4.1 and who pass in the examinations indicated in section 4.3 and obtain at least 45% in each subject shall be eligible to join Year 3 of the M.D. course in October 2018, provided that they also satisfy the Maltese Requirement set out in Section 6 of these Assessment Criteria.

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## 5. Entrance Examination for Admission to Year 1

5.1 The Entrance Examination for Admission to Year 1 consists of:

- (i) a written Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) examination in Biology – duration 90 minutes; and
- (ii) a written Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) examination in Chemistry – duration 90 minutes; and
- (iii) an oral examination – only for applicants who pass both written examinations in Biology and Chemistry.

5.2 The Entrance Examination (both written and oral) shall focus on:

- Human Biology;
- Human Cell Biology;
- Human Genetics;
- General and Organic Chemistry; and
- Biochemistry.

Specimen questions will be forwarded to all eligible applicants in due course.

The Periodic Table and calculators will be provided. Only the provided calculators can be used.

5.3 During the oral examination, marks will be awarded as follows:

- Biology (30%)
- Chemistry (30%)
- Other related medical subjects (based on general knowledge) (10%)
- Communication Skills (20%)
- Aptitude (10%)

The duration of the oral examination is of 10 minutes.

5.4 The pass marks for each of the written and oral components shall be 70%.

**The written examinations do NOT compensate for each other which means that a mark of 70% or higher must be obtained in BOTH the Biology AND the Chemistry examinations for applicants to be eligible to be called for the oral component.**

**Applicants who are not successful in the written component will be notified by email and they will not be called to attend for the oral component. All applicants will be informed by email of all the marks obtained once the whole Entrance Examination process is concluded.**

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- 5.5 Both written examinations will be held in Malta on the date indicated in Appendix 1 - Table A. The oral examination for applicants who pass both written examinations will be held in Malta on the date indicated in Appendix 1 - Table A. The dates for these examinations cannot be changed.
- 5.6. After receiving notification from the International Admissions Office that the Faculty Admissions Committee has deemed them eligible to sit for the Year 1 Entrance Examination, applicants must confirm their attendance by completing the Year 1 Entrance Examination Registration Form by the deadline stipulated in Appendix 1, Table A and settling the examination administrative non-refundable fee indicated in Appendix 1 - Table B. The Registration Form, which will include an online payment gateway, will be sent with the notification email. For administrative and logistical reasons, only those individuals duly registered for the examinations will be admitted to the examination hall.

6. **SEC MALTESE/ MEDICAL MALTESE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE AS APPLICABLE**

The following is an extract from the MD Regulations for courses commencing in October 2018. Regulation 4 paragraph 2(c) specifically refers to the requirement of a Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate:

“(c) (i) Maltese applicants who, in terms of paragraph (5) of regulation 12 of the Admissions Regulations, 2016 are exempted from possessing a pass in Secondary Education Certificate in Maltese are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta prior to the commencement of the Course; and

(ii) non-Maltese applicants are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta, or a pass in the study-unit in Medical Maltese as part of the Certificate in Medical Foundation Studies course, prior to the commencement of the Course, provided that applicants presenting overseas qualifications and a pass in the Secondary Education Certificate examination in Maltese shall be exempted from presenting the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate.

The Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate is required for admission to both Year 1 and Year 3 of the Course.”

For the full set of the M.D. Regulations please refer to:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/190315/MD-Regulations-2013.pdf](http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/190315/MD-Regulations-2013.pdf)

Details regarding the examination leading to the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate can be found at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/arts/maltese/avvizi/medicalmaltese>

The University of Malta is offering a course to introduce participants to conversational medical Maltese focusing on the areas of basic anatomical terminology, doctor/patient communication, understanding patients’ symptoms and interacting in a Maltese medical setting. Throughout the course, participants will have the opportunity to extend their communication skills through case studies, role-play and following medical conversations. The course description and further information can be found at: <http://www.um.edu.mt/arts/maltese/avvizi/medicalmaltese>. Applicants for the M.D. course may choose to register for this course in order to prepare themselves for the Medical Maltese Proficiency Examination. Registration on this course is not obligatory.

## 7. VISA REQUIREMENT

Applicants should check with the nearest Maltese Embassy or Consulate whether they require a visa to enter Malta. For further information please refer to: [www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/visa](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/visa)

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**APPENDIX 1:****Table A: Important Deadlines and Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Description</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 at midnight CET (Central European Time)	Application Deadline	Application deadline for applications presenting overseas qualifications for admission to 1 <sup>st</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year of the MD course.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at midnight CET (Central European Time)	Year I Entrance Examination Registration Form	Registration deadline for applications eligible to sit for the entrance exam leading to the 1 <sup>st</sup> year of the MD Course.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at midnight CET (Central European Time)	Year 3 Entrance Examinations Registration Form	Registration deadline for applications eligible to sit for the exams leading to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of the MD Course.
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 at midnight CET (Central European Time)	Medical Maltese Registration Form I	Registration Form for applicants who:  i. are fully eligible for entry to the MD Course on condition of obtaining a pass in the Medical Maltese Requirement; or  ii. are eligible for entry to the MD course but pending official results or a final degree classification; or  iii. are eligible for the Entrance Examinations leading to admission to Year 3 of the MD course.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Date of Year 1 Written Examination	Written Biology and Chemistry Examinations for admission to Year I of the M.D. Course.

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Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018	Date of Year 1 Oral Examination	Oral Examination for applicants who successfully pass the written examination for admission to Year I of the M.D. Course.
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2018 at midnight CET (Central European Time)	Medical Maltese Registration Form II	Registration Form for applicants who are eligible for the Year I Entrance Examinations.
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Date of Year 3 Written Examinations	Examinations (listed in Section 4.3) for admission to Year 3 of the M.D. Course

**More information about the Registration Form for the Medical Maltese Proficiency Examination and/ or Course will be communicated by means of an official notification sent by the International Admissions Office. This information will be sent to those applicants who are deemed eligible/ conditionally eligible for the M.D. Course.**

**Table B: MD Entrance Examination Registration Fees**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Examination Registration for admission to Year 1	€500
Examination Registration for admission to Year 3	€300

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## APPENDIX 2: Information for applicants presenting GCE Advanced and Advanced

### Subsidiary qualifications

- 1 The following grades obtained in subjects taken at Advanced Level set by GCE examining boards will be deemed to be comparable to grades obtained in subjects taken at Advanced Level set by the MATSEC Board as follows:

<b>MATSEC Board</b>	<b>GCE Examinations</b>
Grade A	Grade A*
Grade B	Grade A
Grade C	Grade B
Grade D	Grade C
Grade E	Grade D
Grade F	Grade E

- 2 “Access to Medicine” certificates awarded in the U.K. or equivalent, are not considered comparable to the Advanced Level syllabi in Biology and Chemistry and hence to passes at GCE Examining Boards Grade A or better in either Biology or Chemistry. These certificates do not satisfy the Special Course Requirements of the M.D. course.

### Additional Notes

For the purpose of calculating the equivalence of UK credits to ECTS credits, the following criteria shall be used:

**1 ECTS Credit is equivalent to 2 UK Credits**

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### APPENDIX 3: Information for applicants presenting the Diploma di Esame di Stato and additional qualifications

#### 1. Requirements for Admission to Year 1

1.1 Applicants in possession of the *Diploma di Esame di Stato* certificate awarded by the Italian authorities for admission to Year 1 of the M.D. course must be in possession of:

a) the *Diploma di Esame di Stato* in order to satisfy the General Entry Requirements;

And

b) One of the following:

i. a full one-year programme of studies (60 ECTS credits) at a recognised university in the following sciences: Biology, Chemistry or Physics

Certified copies of the syllabi for the university's programme of study are required during the application stage so that the University of Malta may compare the academic level of the subjects studied with the requirements for admission to the M.D. course.

Applicants, who will not have successfully completed a full one-year programme of studies (60 ECTS credits) by the application deadline will be allowed to sit conditionally for the Entrance Examination – see details in Section 5 - subject to their satisfying the conditions as stipulated above, by not later than the end of August.

Or

ii. Applicants who successfully complete the first year of a five-year medical course they are currently following to which at least 60 ECTS credits are assigned will be considered as eligible to sit for the Entrance Examination.

Or

iii. Applicants following a six-year medical course will only be considered eligible to sit for the Entrance Examination if they successfully complete the first two years of the medical course they are currently following, to which at least 120 ECTS credits are assigned - see details in Section 5.

Applicants, who will not have completed their first year of studies of a five-year medical course or their second year of studies of a six-year medical course by the application deadline will be allowed to sit **conditionally** for the Year 1 Entrance Examination – see details in Section 5, subject to their

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satisfying the conditions as stipulated above, by not later than the end of August.

And

*Since the language of tuition and communication is in English, all applicants presenting overseas qualifications are required to submit a Secure English Language Test (TOEFL/IELTS/Cambridge Advanced) at the required grades and by the stipulated deadline. Kindly refer to this link for more information:*

*[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements).*

And

Applicants are also required to satisfy the requirements stipulated under Section 6 in connection with the Medical Maltese.

Information about alternative routes for admission to Year 1 of the M.D. Course may be found at Section 3, Paragraph 3.1 of this document.

Alternatively, information about admission to Year 3 of the M.D. Course may be found at Section 4 of this document.

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