University of Malta

... a long-established reputation for excellence
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MALTA


Because of its strategic geographic location and its excellent harbours, Malta has always been a major attraction to the world’s maritime powers. As a result, Malta was ruled by many foreign powers, starting with the Phoenicians and ending with the British. Thus Malta was in continuous contact with diverse cultures, which greatly enriched the islands' historical, archaeological and cultural heritage. Malta boasts of a 7,000-year history with prehistoric temples older than the pyramids of Egypt and Britain’s Stonehenge. Today, Malta’s relaxed lifestyle, its climate and sea make it a favourite holiday destination.

The Maltese economy has experienced a shift over the years - from a manufacturing based economy the islands have moved towards a more service-oriented industry. The growth in the services sector is mainly due to great human resource potential found in Malta and its strategic location in a very important region. In the past few years steady growth has been registered in the provision and development of niche financial, ICT and tourism services. Malta is thus strengthening its position as a major hub for the provision of transhipment, financial services and Information and Communication Technology and pushing to become a leader in the region.

Malta has two official languages, Maltese and English, a legacy of British rule that lasted over 160 years. Malta became independent in 1964, a republic in 1974 and joined the European Union in May 2004. Although predominantly Catholic, the Constitution of Malta guarantees freedom of worship and association.
The University of Malta is an increasingly popular choice for students from around the world. At present, there are around 9,500 registered students, of whom approximately 10% are international students from some 80 countries worldwide, including the EU and USA. Many are enrolled in full-time courses, others on semester exchanges or as transfer students.

The ever-growing number of international students at the University is a result of a combination of factors, including:

**A Very High Standard of Tuition**

Members of the University’s academic staff hold doctorates from leading universities and are experienced private sector practitioners. There is a very healthy student – staff ratio.

**English is the Language of Instruction**

All tuition at the University is in English except in the case of a modern languages and Maltese. Malta is a world-renowned centre of excellence for the teaching of English as a foreign language.

**A Long-Established, Reputation for Excellence**

The University traces its origins to the founding of the Collegium Melitense by the Jesuits in 1592, making it the oldest university in the Commonwealth outside Britain. Its degrees are recognised worldwide.

**Moderate Tuition Fees, Accommodation and Living Expenses**

Tuition fees are very competitive compared with equivalent universities worldwide. The University Residence provides welcoming accommodation for new students. The cost of living in private self-catering rental rooms and apartments is moderate. Travel distances are short and public transport is cheap.
SAFE, LIVELY SOCIAL LIFE

Malta’s size means it offers a relatively safe living environment where students can mix easily with both Maltese and other international students. At the same time, the lively Mediterranean, tourist-oriented lifestyle means that students can enjoy a wide variety of nightlife, leisure and cultural activities all year round.

MILD CLIMATE

Malta has a typical mild Mediterranean climate with warm, occasionally wet springs and autumns, hot dry summers and short cool winters. The annual average temperature is a pleasant 18°C (64°F) and on average there are 8 hours of sunshine daily.

OVERVIEW

The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in the country. The Collegium Melitense set up in the capital Valletta was raised to University status by Grandmaster Pinto in 1769. In 1968, the university moved to a spacious new campus at Msida. It is State-funded and is open to all students who have the requisite qualifications. Its faculties and inter-disciplinary institutes and centres offer courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a wide range of disciplines, whilst also conducting and supervising research.

For international students who have already completed their secondary or high school education overseas but who do not have the necessary general entry requirements to qualify for admission to an undergraduate degree course, the University runs a one-year pre-tertiary Foundation Studies Course to qualify them for admission.

The University Junior College www.jc.um.edu.mt runs a two-year course aimed at preparing students specifically for the Maltese Matriculation Certificate, which serves as a passport for entry to the University degree courses.

Through Malta University Services Ltd (MUS) www.mus.com.mt the University also offers short professional training courses. MUS runs a specialised English language school and also provides consultancy services to industry.
INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The University is a member of several international organisations such as the European Universities Association (EUA) www.eua.be, the Association of Commonwealth Universities www.acu.ac.uk, the European Access Network (EAN) www.ean.edu.org, the Santander Group www.sgroup.be, the Compostela Group of Universities www.groupcompostela.org, the Urecht Network and the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) www.isep.org and the Euromed Permanent University Forum (EPUF) www.epuf.org

Moreover, the University faculties, centres and institutes maintain ongoing research and cooperation links with a large number of universities and research institutes worldwide, especially in the UK, USA and Italy.

The University campus also hosts several international institutions including the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) www.imli.org, the International Ocean Institute Malta Operational Centre (IOI) www.ioinst.org and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) www.home.um.edu.mt/medac
FACULTIES \ CENTRES \ INSTITUTES

FACULTIES

Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Dental Surgery
Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Engineering
Faculty of Laws
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
Faculty of Science
Faculty of Theology
Faculty of Information and Communication Technology
CENTRES

Centre for Communication Technology
Centre for Environment and Education Research
Centre for Labour Studies
Centre for Literacy
European Documentation and Research Centre
Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research
Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics
European Centre for Gerontology
Gozo Centre

INSTITUTES

Institute of Agriculture
Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies
International Institute of Baroque Studies
Institute for Energy Technology
Institute of Forensic Studies
Institute of Health Care
Institute of Linguistics
Institute of Maltese Studies
Institute for Masonry and Construction Research
Institute for Physical Education and Sport
Institute of Public Administration & Management
Mediterranean Institute
The Edward De Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
Foundation for International Studies
  International Environment Institute
  Islands and Small States Institute
  Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics
ACADEMIC YEAR

THE Academic Year consists of two semesters, each incorporating 14 weeks of teaching, with two weeks of recess during Christmas (December) and Easter (March/April) respectively. Tests / examinations are held towards the end of each semester.

The Academic calendar may vary slightly from one year to the next. However, in general, the first semester runs from October to February whilst the second semester runs from February to June/July.

The academic calendar for the current, as well as the forthcoming year is available on the website: www.um.edu.mt/registrar

International students are expected to remain in Malta until the end of the examination period in June / July and return to Malta in time for the September supplementary assessments / re-sits if necessary.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

An orientation programme is organised for international students prior to the start of each semester. It is advisable to attend the programme, which includes important information sessions, student talks, meeting with University officials and a tour of the campus.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each course comprises a programme/s of study in particular areas of learning. The programme is broken down into study units to which a specified number of credits is assigned. A study-unit may take the form of a series of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical or clinical sessions, field placements, projects, research work, dissertation, private study or a combination of such work, or any other method of teaching.

A total of 60 credits are assigned to the study units that students are expected to complete over one academic year of full time study. Assessment of study units may be through coursework, assignments, written or oral examinations, or a combination of these.

The University has adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for credit accumulation, which simplifies the process of transferring credits between universities as well as for the recognition of degrees.
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

All courses at the University of Malta are taught in English except in the case of a foreign language or Maltese. You will be required to have a good command of written and spoken English. If your mother tongue is not English, you must show proof of your level or proficiency by presenting internationally recognised certificates such as TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge. The following are the minimum requirements for courses at the University of Malta:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>TOEFL Paper-based</th>
<th>TOEFL Computer-based</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>Cambridge*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Studies Course</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Degree</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>79-80</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Degree</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>114-115</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cambridge Certificates have to be at a Grade C or better

If when applying you are still awaiting your English Language proficiency results, the University will issue a conditional letter of acceptance.
A large number of overseas qualifications are accepted as satisfying the University of Malta’s General Entry Requirements and Special Course Requirements. Each application is treated on its own merits but, as a general rule, international students in possession of qualifications that give access to universities in their home country are accepted provided that their qualifications are of comparable standard to those required by the University of Malta. The University accepts British Advanced Level certificates, the International Baccalaureate, the American Advanced Placement System and the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE). Maltese is not a requisite for International Students.

SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Special Course Requirements seek to ensure that candidates wishing to follow a particular course of study at the University have already achieved a certain standard in the subjects that are the basis for the proposed area of study or which are necessary for a proper understanding of parts of the course. The Special Course Requirements applicable to particular academic years may be viewed on the website: www.um.edu.mt/courses

FOUNDATION STUDIES COURSE

The Certificate in Foundation Studies Course is a one-year full-time preparatory programme purposely designed for those overseas students who do not meet the necessary entry requirements for undergraduate degree courses at the University of Malta. Applicants wanting to join the Course have to be in possession of an internationally recognized English Language certificate at the required level. The strong language component on the Foundation Course gives further practice in English.

Students following the Foundation Studies Course are required to choose study-units that will complement the degree course that they intend to pursue later on and in this way satisfy the special course requirements. For details about the Course, view the website: www.um.edu.mt/intoff/foundationstud
APPLICATIONS

Applications must reach the International & EU Office by 15 May in order to be eligible for entry the following October. It is strongly advised to submit your application as early as possible (e.g. January - March), even if you are not yet in possession of all your results or certificates. Your application will still be processed and may be accepted subject to subsequent receipt of the outstanding certificates and qualifications. You will need to submit the following supporting documents with your application:

- Two copies of the application form;
- Two passport-size photos;
- Certified copies of original educational certificates and / or transcripts;
- Certified English translation of certificates and transcripts;
- English Language Proficiency Certificate;
- Birth Certificate or photocopy of passport (mainly pages with personal and passport details);
- Non-refundable application fee.

You may download the application form from the University website at: www.um.edu.mt/intoff/applications

Applications received after 15th May will only be processed at the discretion of the University.

If you require assistance or further information regarding the application process, contact the International & EU Office at: intoff@um.edu.mt or intadmissions@um.edu.mt

EXCHANGE TRANSFER STUDENTS

If you are already enrolled at your home University and would like to spend a semester or two at the University of Malta, you may apply as an exchange / transfer student. In order to be accepted for the first semester, you must send your application by 15 May, whilst for the second semester, applications must be received by 30 October. Applications may also be downloaded from the following website: www.um.edu.mt/intoff/applications

For further information kindly contact the International & EU Office at: intexchanges@um.edu.mt

ERASMUS PROGRAMME

The University of Malta also participates in the European Union’s Erasmus Programme, which enables students from the EU Member States, EFTA and Turkey to spend a semester or a full academic year at another European University as part of their degree course. The University has signed over 500 Bilateral Agreements, which enable students from the above-mentioned countries to spend a short period of study at the University of Malta. Further information can be obtained from the International & EU Office webpage on the University website: www.um.edu.mt. Queries can also be sent by email to: erasmus@um.edu.mt
TUITION FEES

The University's tuition fees are quite moderate when compared to the fees of other reputable western universities. Information about tuition fees may be downloaded from the University website at: www.um.edu.mt/intoff/tuitionfee.pdf

You are required to settle your tuition fees in full prior to the start of the academic year. You will also need to supply evidence that you have sufficient funds for the duration of your stay in Malta. The University of Malta is not in a position to offer any scholarships or financial aid.

IMMIGRATION

Since Malta is a member of the European Union, EU nationals do not require a visa to enter Malta. However, other nationalities may require a visa. You should check with the nearest Maltese Embassy, High Commission or Consulate to find out whether you require a visa. Alternatively, you may consult the website of the Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.foreign.gov.mt

Living costs

The cost of living in Malta is; on the whole, considerably lower than in neighbouring European countries. Hereby is included an approximate guide of the monthly expenses you are likely to incur while studying in Malta. These are only approximations since your monthly bill will be determined by your personal lifestyle.

Prices shown are for information purposes only and have been converted using the central parity rate as at date of publication. (Lm1 = €2.329 and Lm1 = $3.190)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maltese Lira Lm</th>
<th>Euro €</th>
<th>US Dollars $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Transport</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, stationery, etc</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure activities</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes, laundry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
<td><strong>935</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,277</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT SERVICES

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at the University Residence which is situated in Lija, approximately 4kms from the Msida campus. A free shuttle service to and from the University campus runs daily (Monday - Friday).

Amenities at the University Residence include: self-catering apartments; launderette; computer / study room; tennis court; basketball court and outdoor pool. Further details about the University Residence and accommodation rates may be obtained from: www.university-residence.com.mt

HEALTH CARE, TESTS & INSURANCE

Malta enjoys a high standard of living and has health care facilities at par with those of Western European countries. Costs for private medical treatment are significantly lower than in other European countries.

During the Orientation Session students are provided with information regarding health care facilities and services available locally.

International students from Non-EU member states who are registered with the University are entitled to free treatment at Malta’s state-funded hospitals and health centres only in case of emergency. Such students must therefore take out a personal health insurance for the duration of their stay in Malta. The University’s International & EU Office can provide information on insurance providers in Malta.

Students from EU and EEA member states and Switzerland have direct access to Malta’s state-funded health care services upon presentation of an original European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) certifying their entitlement to health care under the social security / social insurance legislation of their country of origin, together with an identification document providing proof of their nationality. Prior to arriving in Malta, such students should therefore contact the social security / social insurance office of their country of residence to apply for the EHIC. Further details on this subject are available from:

Entitlement Unit, Ministry of Health 24, St John’s Street, Valletta CMR 02, MALTA
Tel: (+356) 2299 2515
Fax: (+356) 2123 0863
E-mail: entitlement.mhec@gov.mt
website: www.sahha.gov.mt
COUNSELLING SERVICE

The Counselling Service based on campus offers short-term personal counselling to help students overcome any emotional difficulties they may encounter during their course of studies. Apart from the student welfare officer at the International & EU office, the university has also appointed welfare officers within a number of faculties and departments to assist you in your choice of subjects, or any assistance you might require at an academic level.

LIBRARY

The University Library occupies a central location on campus and houses some 700,000 volumes covering most academic areas. An online catalogue of all books is also available and this may be accessed from the website: www.lib.um.edu.mt

It is also important to mention the fact that the library also subscribes to some 5,500 full text electronic periodicals.

COMPUTER SERVICES CENTRE

The Computer Services Centre (CSC) is located within the library building and offers computer network facilities for students and staff. A number of computer labs are available on campus from where you will have access to computers, Internet and e-mail to keep in touch with family and friends at home, conduct research and even work on your assignments. In addition to this, CSC have recently announced the availability of more Wireless Hotspots on campus, in order to facilitate internet access for students.

SPORTS FACILITIES

At the Sports Complex you will be able to practice your favourite sports discipline. Facilities include a football pitch, athletics track, tennis and basketball courts as well as a multi-purpose gym. You will also find an Olympic-size swimming pool and diving pool for use at subsidised rates.
**Banking**

There are two banks on campus: Bank of Valletta and HSBC (Malta). They carry out all normal banking transactions, including foreign exchange transactions and money transfers. You will also find Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) on campus. Both banks accept the major credit cards for all your banking needs.

Bank of Valletta  
www.bov.com

HSBC (Malta)  
www.hsbcmalta.com

**Student Organisations**

As a student of the University of Malta, you will automatically be a member of the University Students’ Council (KSU) www.ksu.org.mt. Throughout the year, KSU, as well as several other student groups, organises activities and events that cater for varied interests such as sports, theatre, politics and anthropology. There are also a number of student faculty associations such as SACES (Architecture), ASA (Arts), and MMSA (Medicine), which organise faculty-related events. Several international student associations also have their affiliates on campus such as ELSA (European Law Students Association), AIESEC (International Association of Students of Economics), AEGEE (International Association of European Students) and IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience).
Life in Malta

As a tourist-oriented island with a long history of intercultural exchange, the Maltese people are renowned for their warm hospitality and friendliness. Moreover, the fact that most people speak English is a bonus for any traveller visiting the islands.

During your period of study here, you will need to take some time out to relax and enjoy the Mediterranean culture. The size of the Maltese Islands makes every town and village easily accessible. Throughout the year there are numerous cultural events that you can attend: theatre, historical re-enactments, classical and rock concerts, art exhibitions, fireworks festivals, traditional festas and much more. You can spend your free time walking in the Maltese countryside, or you may dive into the clear Mediterranean waters for a refreshing swim, to snorkel or to explore the breath-taking depths. There is also the opportunity of savouring local dishes and culinary delights with a specific Mediterranean flavour.

And if you are a sport enthusiast, you may participate in several disciplines such as abseiling, football, basketball and tennis tournaments, water skiing, horse-riding; cycling; athletics; martial arts and many other activities.

For more information about Malta you may visit the Malta Tourism Authority website:
www.visitmalta.com