

# Recent Activities at the University of Malta – Gozo Campus

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## Courses at the Gozo Campus

The second semester of academic year 2022/23, saw the continuation of the courses being offered at the campus, namely the Diploma in Commerce (Yr 2), the Bachelor of Commerce in Business and Enterprise Management and Economics (Yr 1), the Bachelor of Commerce (Yr 2), the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) (Yr 2), the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology (Hons) (Yr 5) and the Master in Counselling (Yr 2).

The Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences continued with the offering of another study-unit, entitled, ‘The Art of Maltese Bobbin Lace II’. This course was intended to help students explore the Maltese Lace style and technique and improve on it. It consisted of 28 hours of lectures and practical sessions and was attended by a good number of participants, both Gozitans and Maltese.

The University of the Third Age continued with its programme during the second semester with the offering of more courses to the elderly. The courses offered are: ‘Xjenza u Reliġjon’ and ‘The Psychology of Aging: A practical approach to understanding its process’. The lectures were offered on Friday mornings. As usual, the number of participants for these courses was very good.

## Gozo Lace Day

The University Gozo Campus, in collaboration with the International Organisation of Needle and Bobbin Lace (OIDFA) (Malta) and Koperattiva Ghawdxija tal-Bizzilla u Artigjanat, organised the annual event “Gozo Lace Day”. This event was organised after a break of three years due to the COVID pandemic. The event was held on Sunday 16th April 2023 at the University Gozo Campus and consisted of a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lace-making. Present for the event



Students during one of the practical sessions of the course in Maltese Bobbin Lace.



Dr Consiglia Azzopardi showing one of the exhibits to the Rector’s Delegate for Gozo, Prof Philip Von Brockdorff, during Lace Day.



Dr Consiglia Azzopardi delivering her speech during Lace Day.

were Professor Philip Von Brockdorff, Rector's Delegate for Gozo and Dr Consiglia Azzopardi.

In his introductory speech Professor Von Brockdorff welcomed those present and gave a brief description of the courses being offered at the campus including those in lace-making. The courses related to lace-making are being offered by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of Malta and it is planned that such courses continue to be offered in the future. He also explained how lace-making is considered as one of the unique characteristics of the Gozitan touristic product and how it forms an intrinsic part of the island's traditions.

In her speech Dr Consiglia Azzopardi gave an overview of the works and courses, related to lace-making, offered at the Gozo Campus. She also introduced a lace pattern to the audience and gave a detailed explanation of how it is worked. She thanked the staff at the Gozo Campus for their assistance in the offering of courses and the organisation of similar events.

Numerous lace makers and friends attended the event which also included exhibitions of contemporary lace master-pieces and textile crafts. There were a number of stands mounted by OIIFA (Malta), the Koperattiva Ghawdxija tal-Bizzilla u Artigjanat and by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences students.

### CLAS Presentation of Certificates

A presentation of certificates was held at the Gozo Campus to celebrate 33 students who successfully completed their studies in four stand-alone study-units offered by the Centre for the Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Gozo Campus during academic year 2023/24. The study-units offered were:

- LAS1019 – Wild Plants: Identification, Appreciation and Uses
- LAS1082 – The Art of Maltese Bobbin Lace 1



Prof Philip Von Brockdorff (centre) awarding the certificate to a successful participant. Prof David Mifsud is on the left.



The group of participants who were awarded with the certificates.

- LAS1085 – Appreciating Antiques: An Introduction to Art and Antique Collecting in Malta and Gozo
- LAS2050 – The Art of Maltese Bobbin Lace 2

This is the result of a collaborative agreement between the Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the management of the University Gozo Campus. During the ceremony, which was held on 29 September 2023, certificates were presented to the students by Professor Philip von Brockdorff, Rector’s Delegate for Gozo, and Professor David Mifsud, Director CLAS.

### **The U3A Opening of Academic Year 2023-24**

The University of the Third Age opened its academic year at the Gozo Campus on Friday 13th October 2023. The opening ceremony included an introductory speech by Ms Simone Ellul, administrator at the U3A and a Holy mass celebrated by Rev. Colin Apap. The Minister for Gozo, Hon. Clint Camilleri, who was also present for the event, delivered a short speech to the numerous participants. Hon. Camilleri stressed the importance of keeping active during elderly age and encouraged those present to continue attending



Celebration of the holy mass during the opening of the U3A academic year.



The main facade of the University Gozo Campus after restoration.

similar courses in the future. The courses offered during this academic year are: ‘Through the Eyes of The Media – How to Face the Cultural Wars of Today’, ‘L-Istatistika reġjonali u l-importanza tagħha fuq temi ambjentali u soċjo-ekonomiċi’, ‘On the Future of Humanity’ and ‘Discovering the Middle Ages’.

### **WISEflow Exams at the Gozo Campus**

During the month of October, a number of exam rooms at the campus were furnished with the necessary technology in order to hold WISEflow exams on campus. Power sockets have been installed at every desk in order to ensure that students would have access to electricity for their laptops during exams. Wi-Fi access points were installed in each room to provide a stable internet connection during the examination process. Moreover, the University of Malta will also be providing a dedicated IT technician to be present throughout all examination sessions. This technician will offer immediate



An onsite meeting was held on 16th October in order to launch this new facility. Present for the meeting were the Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo, Dr Colin Borg, Academic Registrar, University officials and representatives from the GUG.

support to address any technical issues, which may arise during the exams. The first WISEflow on campus exams are scheduled to be held in February 2024.

### **Restoration and Refurbishing Works**

Extensive restoration works on the exterior walls of the campus have been completed. This project, which included the restoration of the stone fabric as well as the numerous wooden apertures, was financed by the Ministry for Gozo.

Internally, a number of lecture rooms and corridors are being upgraded and refurbished. New furniture for lecture rooms will be procured in the coming months, while a new kitchenette will be installed in one of the smaller rooms.

Over the past couple of years, the campus was extended with a completely new wing. Once finished, this wing will include a state-of-the-art conference hall on the first floor, a computer laboratory and a number of lecture rooms on the ground floor. It will also incorporate offices and a lift, which will provide adequate access also to the old part of the campus.

All this is in line with plans for the campus to extend its activities beyond programmes and examinations.

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