

Faculty of Laws Newsletter

Faculty of Laws' calendar

As in past years Faculty Admin have prepared the Faculty of Laws' calendar for this Academic Year. Although it was sent to all academics and admin members of staff, it is being reproduced hereunder (in case you missed the email):

FACULTY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026

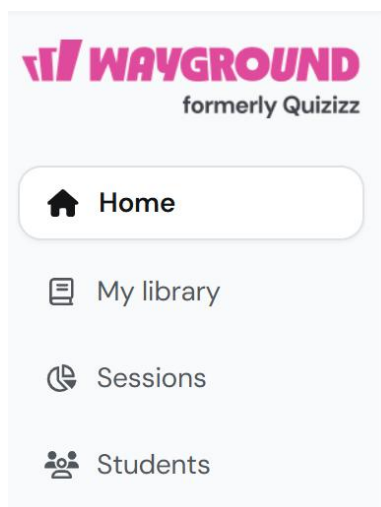
September/October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026
<p>22 Sept - Commencement of new academic year for continuing students 24 Sept - Faculty Annual Seminar 29 Sept - Opening Ceremony Freshers 30 Sept - Dean and HoDs' Introductory Meeting with Freshers 2 Oct - Commencement of lectures for new intake 10 Oct - Faculty Board meeting 14.00 - 16.00 10 Oct - Faculty Doctoral Committee meeting</p>	<p>10 - Graduation Mass 18.30 17 - UG Graduation Ceremony 14.00 19 - HoD meeting 10.00 - 12.00 21 - LLM EU BoS SEM1 meeting</p>	<p>3 - Dean's Award 12 - Faculty Christmas Lunch 13.00 15 - MAFS BoS SEM1 meeting 19 - Commencement of Christmas Recess</p>	<p>4 - End of Christmas Recess 5 - Deadline for handing in Exam Papers for the January and September Exam Sessions 9 - Faculty Board Meeting 14.00 - 16.00 12 - Deadline for SEM1 assignment submission 12 - 16 - Revision week 13 - LLBH/MAdv/MNot BoS SEM1 meeting 13 - DLProc BoS SEM1 meeting 15 - MA Mediation BoS SEM1 meeting</p>
January 2026 cont.	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
<p>16 - MA Law BoS SEM1 meeting 16 - HDip BoS SEM1 meeting 16 - LLM Int Law BoS SEM1 meeting 19 - Commencement of SEM1 Exam Session</p>	<p>6 - End of SEM1 Exam Session 9 - Commencement of SEM2 11 - HoD meeting 10.00 - 12.00</p>	<p>3 - Faculty Doctoral Committee meeting 6 - PG Graduation Ceremony 13 - Faculty Board meeting 14.00 - 16.00 20 - LLM EU BoS SEM2 meeting 30 - Commencement of Easter Recess</p>	<p>12 - End of Easter Recess 14 - LLBH/MAdv/MNot BoS SEM2 meeting 16 - MA Mediation BoS SEM2 meeting 17 - LLM Int Law BoS SEM2 meeting</p>
May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	September 2026
<p>11 - MAFS BoS SEM2 meeting 15 - HDip BoS SEM2 meeting 15 - MA Law BoS SEM2 meeting 18 - Deadline for handing in Exam papers for June and September Exam Sessions 22 - Faculty Board meeting 14.00 - 16.00 25 - Deadline for SEM2 assignment submission 25 - 29 Revision week</p>	<p>1 - 26 - SEM2/YR Exam Session</p>	<p>6 - DLProc BoS SEM2 meeting 7 - LLBH/MAdv/MNot BoS SEM3 meeting</p>	<p>1 - 12 - Supplementary Exam Session</p>

Resident Academics in particular are reminded that they should attend graduation ceremonies on 17th November 2025 and 6th March 2026 (PG); these are not half days off work; our putting on a good attendance is common decency and a sign of respect towards our Graduands, which ultimately reflects well on nobody other than ourselves.

Moving with the times

Last September at the annual Faculty Seminar, Prof. Doreen Spiteri had delivered a presentation titled ‘Methods of Assessment: Challenges and Opportunities’. Given that this was so well received, and also made so much sense, a decision was taken to hold a further meeting with Prof. Spiteri, to see how we can reconsider the way we teach, tutor and assess PBL1015 and PBL2015 in light of her presentation. Prof Spiteri kindly obliged, and met some of the examiners of PBL 1015 and PBL2015; this first discussion was limited to how to organise “exercises” for the students, such as a short multiple choice paper, using modern technology, the idea being for the students to first carry out the exercise, and then hold a discussion on the same e.g. during a tutorial. In carrying out this exercise, the students will have to think, and read, and therefore this exercise will serve as a way how to engage them, and get them more involved especially where tutorials are concerned.

Prof. Doreen Spiteri introduced us to ‘Wayground’ (<https://wayground.com/admin>), which allows the user to generate multiple choice questions, with answers. The Academic organising this can, for example, upload the Constitution of Malta in pdf and ask the system to generate a number of questions of a certain level of difficulty, with answers (which answers can then be hidden from the students). It took the system less than a minute to perform this task, including generating the answers. The questions can then be edited, if the human organiser of the exercise feels the need to fine-tune. The students will then be directed to reply to these questions, for instance ahead of a tutorial, and the tutor can then use these same questions, and the responses, as a basis for the same tutorial. As an alternative to Wayground, one can simply use Microsoft Copilot, which when tested (during the session with Prof. Doreen Spiteri) appeared to generate a better quality multiple choice exercise than Wayground.



The plan, insofar as concerns PBL1015 and PBL2015, is to familiarise oneself with Wayground and Copilot, and organise exercises for our students, ahead of tutorials, or possibly ahead of lectures, in an attempt to engage them further and help them learn more. Others (who like some, though not all, of the attendees, had never considered such methods) would do well to look into Wayground and consider whether and how this or Copilot, or possibly other systems, can help us engage more with students and update our teaching and tutoring methods.

MA Ombudsman Law & Governance study programme kicks off

The Faculty of Laws is pleased to announce that our latest study programme, co-organised with the Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy (FEMA), this being Master of Arts in Ombudsman Law & Governance, has started running for the very first time and has got on to a positive and promising start. Contrary to what the name might imply, this is more about ‘governance’ than about ombudsmen; in fact, and as can be seen from the study programme reproduced below, students only have one study unit on the Ombudsman, which is being held in the first semester of second year.

Year 1	Year 2
<p><u>Year</u> (This/these unit/s start/s in Semester 1 and continue/s in Semester 2)</p> <p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>PPG5115 Researching Politics, Governance and Law</p>	<p>Semester 1</p> <p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>MCT5003 Mediation and Negotiation Skills PBL5034 International Protection of Human Rights PBL5052 Ombudsman Law, Procedure and Implementation</p>
<p>Semester 1</p> <p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>MCT5018 Advanced Privacy and Data Protection Law PPL5008 Good Governance and Leadership</p>	<p>Semester 2</p> <p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>CVL5000 Mediterranean Legal Traditions EMA5108 Governance, Regulation and Social Dialogue</p>
<p>Semester 2</p> <p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>PBL5050 Comparative Constitutional Law PPL5012 Comparative Governance and Institutional Design</p>	<p>Compulsory Units (All students must register for this/these unit/s)</p> <p>IFC5003* Dissertation PPG5114 Behavioural Public Policy</p>

This point is being made because the Organisers are aware that some prospective applicants thought it was a study programme about ombudsmen, and looked elsewhere out of concern that this study programme was too specialised and too narrow in scope for them.

We are also happy that, so far, the students who signed up for this study programme are giving us very good feedback.

Welcome address during Freshers' Week

This year, the Dean, Deputy Dean, Faculty Manager and Heads of Department welcomed 190 students into our undergraduate study programme. We were joined by representatives of our three student organisations. The message was clear: to take their studies very seriously, while at the same time availing oneself of the opportunities which UM has to offer; this will help their formation and also create good, lasting memories which they will carry for the rest of their lives.

Faculty of Laws Represented at the BBMRI-ERIC Academy Symposium

Prof. Mireille M. Sant, Principal Investigator of the Data Integrity and Stewardship (DISC) Research Cluster, attended the BBMRI-ERIC Academy Symposium: Ethical, Legal, and Societal Aspects in View of Recent EU Legislation, held on 22-23 October in Bilbao, Spain. Together with DISC Research Support Officer and M.Adv. student Ms. Kim Tabone, she co-presented on 'From Biospecimens to Bytes: Aligning GDPR, Tissue Laws, and the European Health Data Space for Seamless Health Research'.



From Biospecimens to Bytes:

Aligning GDPR, Tissue Laws, and the European Health Data Space for Seamless Health Research



Prof Mireille M Sant & Ms Kim Tabone



Their joint presentation explored how EU data protection law, biobank governance, and emerging data infrastructures intersect to shape access, consent, and the secondary use of biological samples and associated data. The symposium provided an excellent opportunity for engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and networking with international researchers and experts in biomedical ethics and data governance.

Conversations on Campus event

On 13th October, in an event jointly organised by the Office of Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe and the University of Malta, university students got the opportunity to debate with and ask questions to three prominent politicians who also work at the Council of Europe.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Theodoros Rousopoulos, and Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Tourism, Ian Borg, each delivered engaging talks about the continent's present state, its strengths and challenges as well as the role of youth in shaping its future.



Photos and part of this article were lifted from Newspoint and Facebook

This prestigious and well received event, was facilitated by David Chetcuti Dimech, a warranted advocate who graduated from the Faculty of Laws a year ago. David was invited to take on this task at very short notice, by the Dean of the Faculty; he rose to the occasion and did the UM proud. We are very grateful to David for coming forward to help make this event a successful one.

Important Dates!

 **Dean's Awards: Wednesday 3rd December at midday**

 **Faculty Christmas Lunch: Friday 12th December at 13.00**

 **If interested in attending: send an email ASAP to laws@um.edu.mt**

New Publication in *International Data Privacy Law*

Prof Mireille M. Sant (Faculty of Laws) and Dr Claude J. Bajada (Faculty of Medicine and Surgery) published their latest article titled ‘Processing neuroimaging data for research purposes: Open Science, FAIR data, and the GDPR’ in *International Data Privacy Law* (Oxford University Press).

The paper examines how Open Science and FAIR data principles intersect with the GDPR, focusing on the legal and practical challenges of sharing neuroimaging data. This interdisciplinary work bridges law and neuroscience, an increasingly important area in data-driven research, and forms part of the outputs of the *Data Integrity and Stewardship Cluster* (DISC).

International Data Privacy Law is a leading journal in the field, making this an important achievement for the authors and their research community. The article is open access and available here: https://academic.oup.com/idpl/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/idpl/ipaf020/8305329?utm_source=advanceaccess&utm_campaign=idpl&utm_medium=email

Have you got any news to share? If you have any item of relevance to this newsletter, feel free to inform us about it. You may contact any member of the editorial board, these being Prof Tonio Borg, Prof Ivan Sammut, Ms Rowena Leontijevic and Prof Ivan Mifsud. The Board reserves the right to refuse to publish an item submitted to it for its consideration.