

Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

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Courses Offered at the University Gozo Campus

In October the University of Malta opened a number of courses at its campus in Gozo. For the first time the International Institute for Baroque Studies at the University of Malta organised a new course leading to a Pre-tertiary Certificate in Baroque Architecture. The aim of the course is for participants to appreciate the value of Baroque heritage and to develop the skills needed to understand the Baroque architecture, distinguish between different architectural styles, how Baroque buildings are constructed and the mechanisms of their building elements. The course, which is being organised with the collaboration of the Ministry for Gozo, is being followed by seventeen students.

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, opened for the first time a degree course leading to the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours). The course, which is spread over five years, is being attended by eleven participants.

Another two courses which commenced in October are the Diploma in Commerce and the Masters in Islands and Small States Studies. The former aims to introduce students to Economics, Management and Accountancy, Tourism Studies and Information Technology. It also prepares them for further studies leading to the Bachelor of Commerce degree. The latter aims to impart knowledge on Islands and Small State issues and to provide the opportunity for students to conduct research on the same issues by submitting assignments and writing a dissertation.

Two other courses, namely the Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education and the Executive Master of Business Administration in Public Management, also commenced in October and are being offered via video-conferencing.

Following the success of the second course offered in Gozo, the Maltese Department of the University of Malta opened, for the third time, the Certificate course in Proof Reading: Maltese. The course is being followed by nine students.



The Hon. Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo (centre), with Prof Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo (left) and Prof Denis De Lucca, Director of the International Institute for Baroque Studies (right), during a visit to a course lecture in February 2016. Courtesy MGOZ/George Scerri.



Students during a lecture of the course in Baroque Architecture. Courtesy MGOZ/George Scerri.

Other courses running at the Gozo Campus are: Certificate in Clinical Nursing Practice: Emergency Nursing, Diploma in Commerce, Bachelor of Commerce, Executive Master in Business Administration, and Higher Diploma in Public Accounting and Finance.

The Lace Making Programme at the University Gozo Campus organised two short courses in lace-making, namely 'Introduction to the Art of Making Lace' and 'Making a Lace Jacket'. Both courses are spread over one academic year.

Examinations at the Gozo Campus

For the June session of examinations as well as for that of September, almost all Gozitan students

following courses at the University of Malta were given the opportunity to sit for their end-of-semester examinations directly in Gozo. Over 860 exams were organised both at the Gozo Campus and at the Examination Centre in Victoria.

Graduation of Students

During the recent graduation ceremonies held at the Tal-Qroqq Campus, a number of students graduated after having successfully completed courses at the University Gozo Campus.

Thirty six students graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership. Two students obtained a Master of Science in Sustainable Energy, and two others graduated with an Executive Masters in Business Administration. Thirty eight students obtained a Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education and four others graduated with a Diploma in Commerce.

International Theatre Symposium

Between the 14th and 16th September 2015, the Gozo Campus hosted around forty international academics and theatre practitioners for a symposium entitled *Redefining Theatre Communities: Community Perspectives in Contemporary Theatre-making*.



The group of students who followed the Post-Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership at the University Gozo Campus between 2013 and 2015, with Professor Christopher Bezzina, Course Co-ordinator.



One of the speakers during the symposium. Courtesy Fran Blanes.

Over the three days the delegates discussed issues relating to creating communities through theatre and finding ways of bringing about changes in communities through the use of theatre.

The delegates were welcomed by Prof. Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo, who introduced them to the university's history and its long connection with theatre-making and the study of theatre. He also made references to Gozo's unique heritage, including its many active theatres, which are run and maintained by the communities that use them.

The keynote speech by Prof. Mark O'Thomas, Head of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Lincoln, treated the ways theatre-makers in Europe have reacted to the recent austerity. Following this, the delegates discussed their research and practice ranging from performance art in the Caribbean to micro-theatre in the Australian outback, with several papers, presentations and workshops discussing issues of representation of identity, audience composition and reception, the use of conventional and non-



Participants during a break in the back garden of the Gozo Campus. Courtesy Fran Blanes.

conventional space for meaningful performance within communities and several other topics related to the main theme of the symposium.

The symposium was convened by Dr Marco Galea from the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Malta and Dr Szabolcs Musca from New Tides Platform (U.K.). It was made possible through a research grant from the University of Malta, financial help from the Theatre Studies Department and logistical assistance from the university's Logistics and Events Coordination Office and staff at the Gozo Campus. The premises were kindly made available by the University of Malta.

Commonwealth Writers Workshop

As part of the CHOGM activities held in Malta during November, the Commonwealth Writers organised a short story workshop at the University Gozo Campus. The workshop was aimed at new and emerging Gozitan writers, as well as new, unpublished writers from the island of Malta. The workshop, which was led by short story writers Clare Azzopardi from Malta and Jacob Ross from Grenada and the UK, was attended by a number of writers who write in Maltese and also by those who write in English.



The workshop in progress. Courtesy MGOZ/George Scerri.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator of the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.