

Diploma Programmes

One of the core mandates of CLS has been carving out many spheres for education – work linkage. The Centre is probably best known for the series of attractive, two-year, part-time educational programmes that lead to a diploma in applied social studies. The CLS has been the first to provide adult-oriented courses at the University of Malta leading the participants to awards that have traditionally been targeted at younger students.

The CLS has developed a four-semester course template which allows participants to combine study with other commitments. The courses organised by the Centre in 2007/2008 were the following:

- i Diploma in Social Studies (Industrial Relations) formerly 'Labour Studies' offered since 1983.
- ii Diploma in Social Studies (Occupational Health and Safety) offered since 1997.
- iii Post-graduate Diploma in Lifelong Career Guidance and Development organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Education, started in February 2006. This course replaced the Diploma in Occupational Guidance and Career Counselling which was offered in 2003.

An outline of the objectives of these diploma streams, the regulations governing their administration, course structure, and details concerning the specific credits offered in part fulfilment of each course are available in the course prospectus. Further details or clarifications may be obtained by:

Visiting the CLS web-pages at the University of Malta website
<http://www.um.edu.mt/cls>

Contacting the specific diploma course co-ordinator (see below)

Contacting the Centre's Office on:
Telephone: (356) 2340 2731/2727
Fax: (356) 2134 0251
Email: cls@um.edu.mt

Diploma in Industrial Relations

Course Coordinator:

Mr Saviour Rizzo: saviour.rizzo@um.edu.mt

Course Objectives:

- To impart knowledge, skills and awareness about those factors which influence employment relations and conditions of work;
- To facilitate the effective participation of workers in decisions which invariably affect their lives;
- To facilitate co-operative labour-management relations based on mutual recognition and understanding.

Client Base:

Actual and prospective worker leaders and trade union activists, human resource managers, middle-level administrators, labour officers. Institutional beneficiaries have included the General Workers' Union (GWU), the Union Haddiema Magħqudin UHM) and the Department of Industrial & Employment Relations (DIER).

Study-Units Include:

Sociology of Work; Psychology of Communication; Political Science; Labour Economics; Industrial Relations; Structure and Change in Malta's Economic History; Public Speaking & Communication; Occupational Psychology; Industrial & Labour Law; Current Issues in Labour Relations; Gender Issues at Work; Research Methods & Design; Human Resource Development; Official Statistics & the Labour Market; Workplace Representation & Negotiation; Principles of Occupational Health & Safety; Long Essay.



The secretary generals of the GWU, Tony Zarb and of the UHM, Gaetan Vella together with Professor Zammit and Saviour Rizzo addressing the students of Diploma course in Industrial Relations (2008-2010) during the inauguration of the course

Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety

Academic Consultant:

Dr Francis La Ferla: flaferla@onvol.net

Course Coordinator:

Dr Manwel Debono: manwel.debono@um.edu.mt

Course Objectives:

- To introduce the concepts and skills involved in the promotion and effective pursuit of health and safety at work;
- To develop the basic investigative and analytic competences necessary so that workplace hazards can be recognised, evaluated and minimised;
- To inculcate the principle of risk reduction of workplace hazards and practices;
- To identify and appreciate the psycho-social features of workers and working environments which have a bearing on the nature and incidence of occupational hazards and diseases.

Client Base:

Occupational health and safety (OHS) officers, safety managers, human resource personnel, supervisors, health and safety representatives, worker representatives and other H&S practitioners.

Study Units Include:

Introduction, Familiarisation & Physical Science; People, Work, Industrial Relations & OHS; Business Management & Occupational Psychology; Epidemiology, Statistics & Research Methods; Elements of Toxicology & Management of First Aid; Occupational Safety Principles; Occupational Hygiene & Occupational Health; Health Promotion at Work & Ergonomics; Environmental Health Management & Supervisory Skills; The Legal Framework; Risk Assessment; Long Essay; Synoptic Examinations.

IOSH

The Diploma Course in Social Studies (Occupational Health and Safety) is accredited by the Institution of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH) based in UK. IOSH is Europe's leading body for health and safety professionals with over 30,000 members across the world which include 10,000 Chartered Safety and Health Practitioners. IOSH is also the secretariat to the European Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organisation (ENSHPO) whose members are safety Practitioner Associations from EU member states, and candidate countries to EU accession. It is also supported by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. As part of its initiative to share its expertise with

new accession countries, in April 2008 IOSH held its annual conference in Malta. This conference was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Labour Studies and the Malta Occupational Safety and Health Practitioners Organization (MOSHPA). The students following the diploma in Social Studies (Occupational and Health) participated in the sessions and workshops of this conference. Among the guest speakers for this conference was Dr Jukka Takala, director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

Fulbright Professor

The students of the Diploma in Social Studies (Occupational and Health) also benefited from a visit by Dr Mary Newman, a visiting Associate Professor at Ohio University–Athens in USA. This visit, as part of the Fulbright Senior Specialist Project, was made possible following the approval of a grant by the United States Bureau of Educational Affairs and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. During her six week stay (17th April-28th May 2007) in Malta, Dr Newman specializing in Occupational Hygiene, delivered a number of lectures to the students of this diploma during which she focused on control banding which is a complementary strategy to the current occupational hygiene exposure limit paradigm assessing health risks of workplace chemicals.



Dr Mary Newman in the middle of the first row (standing) with the students of the Diploma course in Occupational Health and Safety (2006-2008)

Post-Graduate Diploma in Lifelong Career Guidance & Development

Course Coordinator:

Dr Manwel Debono: manwel.debono@um.edu.mt

Course Objectives:

Employment is becoming always more flexible and careers are nowadays less predictable. The problem of unemployment is a national priority debated at the highest levels of our society. At the same time, there has been an expansion of education with a particular focus on lifelong learning. People are thus seeking increasing amounts of career-related assistance throughout their whole lives. The Postgraduate Diploma in Lifelong Career Guidance and Development seeks to enhance professional career guidance services in Malta.

Client Base:

The course is designed for applicants in possession of a graduate level of education who wish to work at a professional level in the career guidance field.

Study Units Include:

Sociology of Work (Sociology of Work and Maltese Work Ethics; Critical Perspectives on the Transition to Work); Helping Skills for Career Guidance Practitioners; Guidance Theories, Models and Strategies; The Labour Market (Evolving Labour Markets; Sourcing, Using & Analyzing Labour Market Data); Research Methods (Research Methods; Basic Statistical Notions); Professional Development (Professional Issues; Sensitivity Training); Group Skills; Placement in Career Guidance Settings; Career Guidance Tools; Career Guidance Management (Management & Delivery of Career Guidance Services; Programme Evaluation); Dealing With Particular Groups; Labour Law and Economics; Career Information Systems; Career Management & Lifelong Learning; The Workplace (Work Design and Job Classification; Organizational Behaviour); Career Guidance Policy Developments Across Europe; Issues Relating to Specific Sectors; Long Essay/ Project.

External Visiting Lecturers

The visit of four external visiting lecturers, who shared their expertise with the students during their presentation, proved to be a very valid contribution to the course. The four lecturers were the following:

Dr Raimo Vuorinen from the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä, delivered two lectures about “The use of ICT in guidance”.

Professor Richard Sweet from the University of Melbourne, who occupied various important posts throughout his distinguished career, including principal policy analyst in the OECD’s Education and Training Policy Division, delivered a lecture on “Understanding youth transitions: Lessons from four research traditions”.

Dr Andreas Walther from the University of Tübingen lectured on “Integration policies for young people in Europe”.

Professor Salvatore Soresi a leading Italian expert on career guidance and disability issues from the University of Padova, gave presentations about the activities being carried out in Italy on the promotion of career guidance among persons with disability.