



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA ANNUAL REPORT 2007



# UNIVERSITY OF MALTA ANNUAL REPORT 2007

## CONTENTS

Quality Assurance	02
Research Project Team	02
Degree Plus	03
Ceremonies at University Church	03
Malta University Holdings Company	04
University Website	04
Foundation Day Celebrations	05
Honouring UoM's First Female Graduate	05
Strengthening our Links with the Media	05
International Masters Programme	06
University Library	07
New Departments	07
Faculty of Information and Communication Technology	08
Strengthening the Administrative Capacity	09
Recruitment Campaign	10
International Opportunities	10
Financial Statement (Income & Expenditure Account)	11
Financial Statement (Balance Sheet)	12
Student Statistics	13



## QUALITY ASSURANCE

The University set up the Academic Programmes Quality and Resources Unit (APQRU) to provide the administrative support necessary to ensure that:

- The learning outcomes, and the course and study-unit descriptions of any new teaching programme proposed are well defined in accordance with established practice and University regulations, and moreover that the resources required to deliver the programme to the highest standards of quality are determined;
- The learning outcomes, and the course and study-unit descriptions of any established teaching programme are reviewed periodically, and moreover the resource requirements are updated; and
- The mechanisms to obtain student appraisal and feedback on delivery of lectures in the various teaching programmes are established and moreover the feedback received is followed up with an eye to improving the quality of the delivery.

## RESEARCH PROJECT TEAM

A university's capacity to carry out research is really what defines an educational institution as a university. The University of Malta is keen to create the coordinates for the best possible access to EU and other funds so that its academic staff can maximise their potential for their benefit and that of the whole University. A team of advisors has been appointed to assist members of staff in the project proposal stage and during the project's life, in particular to provide assistance relating to administrative and financial procedures. The team will provide assistance on the technical, legal and financial aspects of a project. (Faces)



## DEGREE PLUS

The Degree Plus programme is the first of its kind at the University in many ways, as it sets out to provide students with the opportunity to boost their academic studies with additional practical skills and experiences that enrich their character and employability. Degree Plus activities are being promoted as an opportunity to obtain a more holistic approach to education in a fun environment.

For the first year 2007/2008, the programme is targeting first year students, but eventually it will be made available to all students. Among the units on offer, there is 'Entrepreneurship' which focuses on inspiring participants to be the leaders of tomorrow, 'Voluntary work' which requires students to undertake 20 hours of social work, 'Information and Communication Technology' that seeks to provide a basic understanding of computers, and 'Language Development for Professional Purposes' that seeks to enhance students' language competence.

The appointment of the Bank of Valletta as the official Education Partner of the Degree Plus programme is also part of a wider strategy to involve business and industry in the University's activities.

## CEREMONIES AT UNIVERSITY CHURCH

As part of its effort to valorise its graduates, the University started to organise its postgraduate graduation ceremonies at the University Church in Valletta. The Church forms part of the Old University Building in Valletta which was built in 1592 and continued to be used by University of Malta until 1968. The move of the four postgraduate ceremonies was very much appreciated by the graduates and their families who crowded the Church with a record turnout of academic staff for the occasion.

The street was decked with banners and a formal procession took place between the Old University entrance and that of the Church. The University Ensemble participated in the ceremony and a reception for all participants was held after each ceremony.



## MALTA UNIVERSITY HOLDING COMPANY

A major development within the commercial arm of the University of Malta saw the transformation of Malta University Services into a Holding Company encompassing several different areas of commercial activity. (Illustrated List)

This move will give the University space to develop actions which, while enhancing the University's economic potential, will give it the opportunity to valorise the academic staff who perform work within the University community in ways which are not necessarily directly connected with their lecturing and research activities.

## UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

The relaunch of the UoM website took place in October 2007 after many months of planning and fruitful discussions held both physically and, appropriately, virtually. The original site had developed amorphously over a number of years and needed to be given not only a totally new look but a new structure. The user mind set had to be changed to suit the needs of the University as we move towards the second decade of the new century.

The Content Management System is now being adopted by all faculties, institutes and centres while important information which is common to all will be accessed from central points. This CMS will give 'ownership' of the individual pages to the faculties and departments while reducing the chance of error and misinformation.

The Maltese version of the site is in the pipeline and should be up and running shortly.



## FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate Foundation Day (22nd November) and to honour its new graduates, the University held a concert at the Mediterranean Conference Centre. The National Orchestra conducted by Michael Laus performed popular classical pieces. A reception was held afterwards in the La Valette Hall. The evening was attended by graduands, their parents and guests.

## HONOURING UoM's FIRST FEMALE GRADUATE

The University commemorated its first female graduate, Miss Tessie Camilleri, with the naming of a campus walkway in her honour. Vjal Tessie Camilleri is the walkway opposite the old university gateway by the side of University House. Tessie Camilleri entered the University in October 1919 and commenced an Arts degree. She graduated B.Litt., on 2 May, 1922 and thus became the University of Malta's first female graduate.

## STRENGTHENING OUR LINKS WITH THE MEDIA

A good relationship with the media is of paramount importance for a university that is so much part of Maltese life. Our graduates form the basis of virtually all the institutions on the island: political, business, industrial, as well as many of the non-governmental organisations that form Malta's civil society. Getting our message across is extremely important because the University is always in the front line. As part of an effort to nurture the University's rapport with the print, sound and digital Media, a luncheon was held in the Rector's dining room at the Old University Building in Valletta. The aim was to meet members of the media in a congenial relaxed environment. After a brief outline by the Rector of the University's main strategy areas, journalists and senior officials of the University enjoyed an excellent meal and a chance for an informal chat.



## INTERNATIONAL MASTERS PROGRAMMES

The University embarked on an initiative with the aim of creating collaborative graduate degree programme together with leading North American universities. The creation of such partnerships by the University of Malta is considered as a major step in the development of higher education in Malta. Such collaborative programmes are expected to attract the interest of higher education and prestigious research institutions, as well as international students to Malta and increase research opportunities for the Maltese.

The University of Malta is marketing such dual degree programmes under the brand “International Masters Programmes” (IMPs). This brand will provide the umbrella to market a series of dual Masters Programmes to be taught in Malta, which address the demand for innovative expertise and problem solving skills on a variety of contemporary issues in the face of emerging globalisation. Today, decision makers have to draw upon a range of traditional areas of knowledge to provide practical solutions in real-world scenarios. Degree programmes organised under the IMPs brand will also seek to draw real-world case-studies from a Euro-Mediterranean perspective.

The teaching of these degree programmes will be principally housed in the old building of the University of Malta in Valletta, the historic campus of the university built in 1598. Plans are underway to start renovating parts of this building to incorporate state-of-the-art instructional technology, a suitably resourced library, and other supporting facilities.

The M.Sc in Sustainable Environment Resources Management (SERM) is the first in a series of such collaborative programmes. The University of Malta and James Madison University, USA signed an agreement to offer a dual postgraduate degree programme leading to the SERM Masters. The degree will be awarded by the University of Malta and concurrently an MS. in Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) will be awarded by James Madison University.



## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Another important initiative was the formulation of a plan to transform parts of the University library into an information commons with spaces that are conducive of informal individual and group learning, blending books with digital media in an environment which encourages more and more of our students to remain on campus to socialise whilst learning in and across disciplines.

This plan forms part of a general upgrading of the Library and seeks to bring together, for the convenience of users, the Library's print collection, its growing range of electronic resources, and the extensive facilities of the University IT Services unit.

## NEW DEPARTMENTS

### **Translation & Interpreting, German and History of Art**

As part of the University's strategy to enhance the job opportunities for its students, the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies in the Faculty of Arts was set up with a one year postgraduate diploma and one Masters course starting in October 2007.

The Department of German was set up towards the end of 2007, with the University of Malta funding one full-time post, and DAAD - the German Academic Exchange Services - supporting a second full-time member of staff and committing itself to support the Department through exchange visits and through the provision of technical materials.

The new Department of History of Art was inaugurated in time for the new academic year and, although History of Art has been taught at the University for some years, the elevation to department level aims to give the study of fine art the importance it deserves and a position which reflects the high level of research that has already been achieved by Maltese academics in this field.





## FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The need for a Faculty of Information and Communication Technology had long been felt. The new Faculty, which was set up in October 2007, is responsible for the areas of Informatics, Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Communications and Computer Engineering, and of Microelectronics and Nanoelectronics.

As from October 2007, the new Faculty of ICT started to offer a new three-year B.Sc. (Hons) ICT degree with a number of areas of study that replaced the four-year course B.Sc. IT (Hons). This new degree programme aims to prepare graduates to take on positions in the Information and Communication Technology industry within the respective ICT areas of study.

Over 200 prospective students attended a presentation of the new three-year B.Sc. (Hons) ICT degree programme. The students, who were addressed by various academic members of the Faculty, showed a keen interest in the different study options available, which include Communications and Computer Engineering (CCE), Computer Information Systems (CIS), Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (CSAI) and Information & Communication Technology (ICT). Some of the areas may be taken with a subsidiary subject such as Linguistics; Creativity, Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Mathematics.

The Faculty is also running a part-time evening degree course leading to a B.Sc. (Hons.) ICT, chiefly aimed at those who are already working. There is also a conversion Masters course, MIT, for graduates in areas other than ICT.



## STRENGTHENING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

The University has been growing steadily since the early 90s. Student numbers have increased from around 1,000 in 1991 to 10,000 in 2007 with nearly 3000 students now graduating every year.

The academic staff numbers have increased proportionately to retain a good student/lecturer ratio and the administrative and technical staff has had to also increase to cope with the support needs of the University.

During 2007, the effort was focussed on enhancing already existing structures while at the same time creating new ones. The Communications Office was one of the first to be strengthened as it added 'Alumni Relations' to its remit and the new Director became responsible not only for the University's public and internal image but also for the development of an Alumni Association which had never existed at this University in any formal manner.

It was also important to have a permanent and dedicated legal office within the Administrative set up to deal with every aspect of capacity building, from HR to Projects and from Estates to Intellectual Property. The Director of Legal Services will soon be joined by a much-needed team of young lawyers.

The burgeoning numbers and enormous increase in activities has put pressure on the existing buildings on campus and much effort is being put into a sustainable increase in floor space to accommodate such important fields as Information and Communication Technology.



## RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

The development of the University services, both academic and administrative, have necessitated the expansion of the human resources pool and in 2007 there was a drive to recruit at every level. An extra emphasis was made on strengthening the senior management structures and a number of directorates were setup, whilst others were reorganised and strengthened. However, the strengthening of the high level structures could not happen without an increase at the other levels – clerical and graduate trainees, in particular as well as technical and support staff. A proportional increase in the number academic staff was also felt necessary so as to maintain a healthy balance between the number of students and the number of academic staff.

## INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

An important initiative in the area of international relations was the agreement between the University of Malta and the Embassy of France through which science and engineering students will have the opportunity to gain work experience by visiting industrial laboratories and scientific institutions in France. The French Embassy will finance the students during their stay in France. The aim of strengthening collaboration in the scientific and technological fields in cooperation with French industry fits perfectly with the University's objective of offering international experience to its students. In 2007 six students took up placements in prominent French laboratories to benefit from this initiative.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Group		University	
		Period from 1 January to 30 September 2007 Lm	Year ended 31 December 2006 Lm	Period from 1 January to 30 September 2007 Lm	Year ended 31 December 2006 Lm
<b>Income</b>	3	13,068,068	16,817,858	12,362,901	16,088,491
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Staff costs	4	9,646,164	11,789,496	9,449,661	11,574,492
Other operating expenses	5	3,221,204	4,803,653	2,866,301	4,354,741
Net allocation to funds	16	25,300	54,619	25,300	54,619
		12,892,668	16,647,768	12,341,262	15,983,852
<b>Surplus for the period/year before tax</b>		175,400	170,090	21,639	104,639
Tax expense	6	-67,269	-25,753	-	-
<b>Surplus for the financial period/year</b>		108,131	144,337	21,639	104,639
<b>Attributable to:</b>					
Equity holders		105,207	141,639	21,639	104,639
Minority interest		2,924	2,698	-	-
		108,131	144,337	21,639	104,639

### STATEMENTS OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	Group		University	
	Period from 1 January to 30 September 2007 Lm	Year ended 31 December 2006 Lm	Period from 1 January to 30 September 2007 Lm	Year ended 31 December 2006 Lm
Surplus for the period/year	105,207	141,639	21,639	104,639
<b>Total recognised gains for the year</b>	105,207	141,639	21,639	104,639
<b>Reconciliation</b>				
Opening funds and equity	193,008	51,369	-457,357	-561,996
Total recognised gains for the period/year	105,207	141,639	21,639	104,639
<b>Closing funds and equity</b>	298,215	193,008	-435,718	-457,357



BALANCE SHEETS

	Notes	Group		University	
		As at 30 September 2007 Lm	As at 31 December 2006 Lm	As at 30 September 2007 Lm	As at 31 December 2006 Lm
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets					
- Property, plant and equipment	8	257,467	222,520	-	-
Financial assets					
- Investments held-to-maturity	9	192,400	192,400	192,400	192,400
- Investments in subsidiaries	10	-	-	326,450	326,450
- Available-for-sale investments	11	10,996	10,996	-	-
- Loans to subsidiaries	12	-	-	112,116	134,800
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>460,863</b>	<b>425,916</b>	<b>630,966</b>	<b>653,650</b>
Other non-current assets					
Deferred taxation	19	23,472	30,431	-	-
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>484,335</b>	<b>456,347</b>	<b>630,966</b>	<b>653,650</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	13	26,082	7,539	-	-
Debtors	14	1,369,409	829,767	1,192,379	734,243
Taxation recoverable		11,950	53,599	-	-
Short term deposits	15	1,272,324	1,272,324	750,000	750,000
Cash at bank and in hand		2,842,933	2,432,466	2,546,365	2,073,436
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>5,522,698</b>	<b>4,595,695</b>	<b>4,488,744</b>	<b>3,557,679</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Funds designated for specific purposes:					
Academic	16	1,110,930	1,171,081	1,110,930	1,171,081
Operational resources	16	524,899	936,111	524,899	936,111
Other	16	1,730,206	1,603,314	1,730,206	1,603,314
Capital projects funding	17	-47,824	1,111	-47,824	1,111
Trade and other creditors	18	2,300,974	1,060,972	2,237,217	957,069
Current taxation		8,089	7,825	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,627,274</b>	<b>4,780,414</b>	<b>5,555,428</b>	<b>4,668,686</b>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>-104,576</b>	<b>-184,719</b>	<b>-1,066,684</b>	<b>-1,111,007</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>379,759</b>	<b>271,628</b>	<b>-435,718</b>	<b>-457,357</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Specific endowment funds	20	124,741	124,741	124,741	124,741
<b>Other funds</b>					
Capital fund	21	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500
Accumulated net surplus/(deficit)	22	113,974	8,767	-619,959	-641,598
Minority interest	23	298,215 81,544	193,008 78,620	-435,718 -	-457,357 -
<b>Total funds and equity</b>		<b>379,759</b>	<b>271,628</b>	<b>-435,718</b>	<b>-457,357</b>



## STUDENT STATISTICS

### Student Intake 2006/2007

	f	m	total
<b>Undergraduate</b>			
Humanities	911	463	1374
Sciences	236	321	557
Other disciplines	159	110	269
<b>Postgraduate</b>			
Humanities	369	249	618
Sciences	22	48	70
Other disciplines	55	29	84

### Student Population 2007

	f	m	total
<b>Undergraduate</b>			
Humanities	2986	1667	4653
Sciences	817	1151	1968
Other disciplines	588	295	883
<b>Postgraduate</b>			
Humanities	855	604	1459
Sciences	89	201	290
Other disciplines	125	89	214

### New Graduates 2007

	f	m	total
<b>Undergraduate</b>			
Humanities	1004	584	1588
Sciences	127	192	319
Other disciplines	180	55	235
<b>Postgraduate</b>			
Humanities	224	146	370
Sciences	17	25	42
Other disciplines	59	50	109

### Degrees conferred, Diplomas awarded 2001-2007

Year	f	m	total
2001	1029	943	1972
2002	1096	937	2033
2003	1248	965	2213
2004	1643	1067	2710
2005	1496	1098	2594
2006	1533	1129	2662
2007	1611	1052	2663

