

# A beautiful journey

Robert Napier

Students are tomorrow's society, tomorrow's industries and tomorrow's country leaders, KSU president **Robert Napier** says.

**As KSU president, what are your main projects and aims for the new academic year?**

Throughout the upcoming academic year, together with the rest of the team, we aim to take a very proactive approach, specifically concerning those things which may have been swept under the carpet over the past few years.

We aim to change our image and become more united with the student population at large. We need to make students aware of how important the students' council is to their university studies, and instil a sense of community on campus.

We will definitely be placing emphasis on alternative methods of transport to University, putting forward changes to continue strengthening the social policy and education commissions, and voicing our concerns on national issues, both those which are currently being discussed, and others we believe should be put on the national agenda, for the benefit of students and society.

**University students are not just a country's investment in the future – they are also a present resource, especially in terms of ideas. Is Malta, specifically the administration, listening to University students?**

This is my third year in KSU, and I must admit that while things are changing, there is still a lot to be done. Unfortunately, sometimes we tend to take for granted how important the students' perspective is in national policies and when implementing changes at University.

We are extremely glad that the Minister for Education for instance, is working hand in hand with us during the consultation process for the University of Malta Act. That said, a lot of bureaucracy still exists which hinders the ability of students

to voice their concerns. We will strive to be the council that is at the forefront of any issues which directly or indirectly affect the students we represent, and we will ensure that we continue to ensure that students' perspectives are taken into account, regardless of the hurdles we might need to overcome.

We look forward to strengthening our healthy relationship with the University administration and national stakeholders, in order to ensure that students are always consulted and that their rights are never cast aside.

**“We hope that students join us in taking a proactive approach, and help us be energetic and truly representative”**

**The University campus is constantly getting bigger, both in terms of size and in student population. What challenges does this bring?**

Primarily, there's the logistical nightmare of physical space – a problem that continues to increase year after year with the influx of new students. The recognition that this problem needs to be prioritised is one of the reasons why KSU will aim to detach itself from complaining about parking issues, and work on implementing realistic alternatives.



It is important to recognise that although these logistical issues are problematic, the fact that they're there means that more students are entering university and this is a positive step forward, and not a negative one. We hope that students join us in taking a proactive approach, and help us be energetic and truly representative rather than complain in hindsight.

**Can the University be a test-bed for nation-wide initiatives, such as green mobility?**

Definitely – we are tomorrow's society, tomorrow's industries and tomorrow's country leaders. It should be up to us to work hand in hand with those in authority in order to become more sustainable and to implement green initiatives.

We are glad that throughout the summer, we've had healthy discussions with the relevant authorities and ministers, and will be in fact launching a number of initiatives related to green mobility over the coming year. We hope that students understand this need for us to be at the forefront of these nationwide initiatives, and collaborate with us in making them a success.

**Is university life over once students graduate or can they still contribute?**

KSU, hopefully with support from the University administration, aims to increase the influence and participation of the alumni. University alumni ought to become an integral part of the University community, as they are the ones best qualified to help us improve the situation on campus, both academically and beyond, through their experiences with the working world and their understanding of the realities that exist beyond academic study.

**What is KSU's message to students for the new academic year?**

Never give up, set your priorities straight, get involved and most importantly, never let anyone discourage you. Voice your concerns, and work hand in hand with us. Steer away from political rivalry, and never forget your values.

This journey at University is all about what you make it – every individual is the sole author of his or her chapter at University, so make it worthwhile and interesting. University has the potential to be one of the most beautiful journeys of your life – don't waste it.

## Making the best choice for students

**Choosing the best Mac for a student can be tricky: should you buy a MacBook Air, MacBook or the MacBook Pro?**

If you're looking for stability and a reliable operating system that won't crash each time you try and save your work, the MacBook range of laptops is truly impressive. The choice depends on what type of student you are, the course you are taking and your budgetary arrangements will be a significant factor.

If you're looking for a MacBook that doesn't break the bank, but still offers good portability, then the MacBook Air might be the perfect fit.

The MacBook Air has a 13-inch screen, and comes equipped with a 1.8GHz Intel i5 processor, 128GB or 256GB of storage, and 8GB RAM. It features the right ports too, with two USB 3.0 ports, a Thunderbolt 2 port, an SDXC card slot.



This makes the Air cheaper than other Macs while also being very practical.

It does have a slower processor than the other MacBooks but it's unlikely you'll notice a difference in every-day tasks. With the Back School Offers, price start from €1,029.

If you want something that's super portable and ideal for travelling to lectures, libraries and coffee shop, the best option is the 12-inch Retina MacBook. It's lightweight and incredibly

thin, only 13.1mm thick, about the thickness of an iPad.

It doesn't handle editing apps as well as the other models but it's perfect for browsing, answering emails and writing assignments. You are essentially trading performance for portability, but it does come with some pretty cool features like a Retina display and four different colours: space grey, silver, gold and rose gold.

Starting at €1,249 with the back to school offer, the Mac-

Book has a quite impressive performance for its size.

If you're doing a degree in film and video, music, or graphic design then it makes sense to have a look at the MacBook Pro.

The MacBook Pro crams a lot of power into a slim and light chassis. This machine is the same weight as the MacBook Air, but you get a much faster seventh-generation Core i5 or i7 processor and the latest Intel Iris graphics. It offers the

brightest display and powerful speakers, plus two Thunderbolt 3 ports for the fastest possible transfer speeds.

It also comes with the option of the touch bar and touch ID. The touch bar provides all sorts of contextually relevant buttons and controls as you use various apps. You'll see editing buttons in the Photos app, buttons for open tabs in Safari, emoji in Messages, shortcuts in Final Cut and a lot more. Of course all the above power comes at a price, with the basic model starting from €1,767 with the Back to School offer.

The back to school offers are available at all iCentre shops until October 14, 2017 at Sliema, Valletta, Pietà, B'Kara, Paola, The Point, Gozo.

For more information call 2144 2123 or visit [www.icentre.com.mt](http://www.icentre.com.mt).

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