

Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

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Visit by Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi

On Saturday 23rd February Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi, accompanied by the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, visited the Gozo Campus. They were shown around the premises by Prof Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo. During his visit Dr Gonzi had the opportunity to talk to students attending some of the courses.

Visit by the Ambassador of Spain to Malta

On 22nd March the Ambassador of Spain to Malta, H.E. Felipe de la Morena, paid a short visit to the Gozo Campus. He was shown round the campus by Prof Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo.

Visit by the Hon. Evarist Bartolo

On 22nd March, the Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, paid a visit to the Gozo Campus. He was shown round the campus by the Rector of the University of Malta, Prof Juanito Camilleri, accompanied by Prof Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo. The Minister was briefed about the courses and services offered at the campus. He was also shown round the Atmospheric Research Unit by Prof Raymond Ellul, who directs the unit.

Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership

On the same day Hon. Evarist Bartolo, together with Hon. Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo, inaugurated a course leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership. Introductory speeches were also delivered by Prof Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo, and Prof Christopher Bezzina, co-ordinator of the course. The course

is being offered by the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo. Tuition for the course is being offered free of charge as a result of financial support by the Ministry for Gozo. The course is part-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) under Operational Programme II - Cohesion Policy 2007 - 2013. Forty one students are attending the course.

Gozo Lace Day 2013

On Sunday 21st April, the Lace-Making Programme of the University Gozo Campus organised the "Gozo Lace Day". The event, which was held for the seventeenth consecutive year, included a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lace-making. Present for the event were the Hon. Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo, Dr Consiglia Azzopardi, coordinator of the Lace Making Programme, and Mr Amadeo Mifsud as guest speaker.

In her introductory speech Dr Consiglia Azzopardi gave an overview of the courses offered by the Lace-Making Programme at the Gozo Campus. Mr Amadeo Mifsud delivered an interesting talk about some curious aspects related to lace. Among other things he showed the similarity between the stone bas-reliefs at the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary and traditional lace motifs. One bas-relief is actually a representation of the cloth stitch. The same affinity can also be seen between lace and traditional Maltese patterned tiles. And, to top it all, the speaker showed how Michelangelo's paving pattern on the Capitoline Hill is really an English stitch adapted to a curved grid.

In his speech the Hon. Anton Refalo praised the various initiatives taken at the University Gozo

Campus and remarked that the Ministry for Gozo is committed to support these initiatives. The Minister was then shown round the exhibition by Dr Consiglia Azzopardi. He also had the opportunity to meet and talk to a number of lace-makers and visitors.

Examinations at the Gozo Campus

During the May/June Session of Examinations, 383 Gozitan students following courses at the Msida Campus were given the opportunity to sit for their end-of-semester examinations at the Gozo Campus. 247 exams were held. Another 27 exams were held for those students who are following courses at the University Gozo Campus.

Courses at the Gozo Campus

A new course leading to the Certificate in Proof Reading in Maltese started in February. The course, which is being offered by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Malta in collaboration with the Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti, is organised on a part-time basis and is spread over one academic year. Nineteen students are following the course.

Another course, leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership, started in March. The course is being offered by the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta and is designed to cover issues related to leadership in an educational setting. It is being organised on a part-time basis, and is spread over two academic years. Forty-one participants are following the course.

Nine other courses are at present being run at the Campus. These courses are in the areas of Arts (Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology), Commerce, Criminology, and Inclusive Education. Courses in Clinical Nursing Practice, Public Accounting and Master of Science in Sustainable Energy are being offered via video-conferencing.

In October, the University of Malta will be offering a number of other courses at the Campus

at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The courses on offer are the following:

- Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education
- Diploma in Gozo Studies
- Diploma in Commerce
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theology
- Executive Master of Business Administration (via video-conferencing)
- Master in Translation
- Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies
- Master of Arts in Hospitaller Studies

These courses will be offered subject to there being a sufficient number of qualified applicants.

Donation of Books

Prof Joe Friggieri secured a gift of 400 books, mostly related to Philosophy, which are now available for borrowing from the Gozo Campus library. The books were donated by Ms Liz Groves of Island Books.

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