



L-Università  
ta' Malta

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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# Foreword by the Rector

**PROFESSOR ALFRED J. VELLA**

Rector

The teaching and research agenda remain at the heart of our work at L-Università ta' Malta (UM) as stated in our mission statement, namely "to serve the aspirations of the people of these islands through locally and globally significant research and the provision of quality higher education in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development, via the scholarship of discovery, teaching and service to the community." Moreover, the focus also remains on the need to run the University in a "sustainable manner that is responsive to the country's present and emergent needs."

The vision of the University remains focussed on providing high quality higher education and research opportunities to our students whose experience on campus is enriched by the presence of a significant fraction of international students. The international dimension remains important for UM for several reasons, including that our scholars and students have to navigate current and future challenges and opportunities in an increasingly internationalised world strongly influenced by technology and digital communication where the distinction between local and global is often blurred. Evidence of the importance which UM accords its internationalisation strategy is shown by the fact that Erasmus exchanges for students were practically totally subscribed during this year.

A different kind of international presence is UM's dedicated and proactive participation within the European University Alliance known as SEA-EU. During this year, the Alliance, which has grown from six member universities (Cádiz, Kiel, Split, Western Brittany, Gdańsk and Malta) in 2019 when it was founded to nine universities (by addition of Naples – Parthenope, Algarve and Nord in Norway) was this year given additional funding to run for a second term of three years and is currently among the 64 University Alliances operating on the European Continent.

University Alliances across Europe, funded by the Erasmus programme, now comprise about 500 universities or 17% of the total present on the Continent. During the year, the UM Rector served as the "Semestral Rector" of the SEA-EU Alliance, also known as the The University of the Seas, and we organised the Governing Board Meeting at the Valletta Campus during November where important decisions were taken, including those pertaining to the first joint master and doctoral degrees planned for launching in October 2025.

During this year, the Office of the Academic Registrar was busy operationalising the digitilisation strategy of the University that will improve services for students and staff and make our processes more reliable and easier to deliver. The multiplicity of initiatives

involved in this important development is seriously changing the way Registrar's office works including how examination and assessment processes are delivered. Graduation ceremonies for postgraduate and doctoral degrees were held for the first time at the Basilica of Our Lady of Safe Haven and St Dominic due to the fact that the Church of the University was under renovation, a process that will take longer than one or even two years. All ceremonies were streamed live, which was another first for these important events in the life of our students and their families and friends.

The research scholarship continued to be encouraged and supported successfully as evidenced by the number of research publications (> 900) generated. The Project Support Office, a key function crucial for the acquisition of funds for research, managed approximately 360 projects during the year which involved about €55 million. Our academics were joined in the research venture by over 500 research support officers on temporary contract and over 1000 postgraduate students on master and doctoral degrees, about 40% of whom were active in this work on a full time basis. More details about research at UM are given in this Annual Report below.

Intellectual property is generated as a result of research and our Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) was busy helping academics exploit this resource. During the year under review, a number of licence agreements, priority filings, Patent Cooperation Treaty and National filings were made which pave the way to eventual possible commercialisation. KTO also facilitates student placements with companies, non-governmental and public sector entities and also works closely with Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd to assist in the creation of UM's spin-out companies. Details about this important work at the University is given in this report.

Since UM is a public, state-funded institution, it is essential for it to disseminate its work effectively among the local community which supports it through its taxes. Through online, social media and print publications, the Marketing, Communications and Alumni Directorate assist in the University's outreach function as is described in this report. While acknowledging the international reach and significance as a centre of learning and research of UM, it needs to be recognised that the University of Malta mainly exists for Malta and the needs of the Maltese and, for this reason, the local community needs to be kept abreast and properly informed about what is happening on the various campuses of UM, both in Malta and on Gozo. This detailed report serves such a purpose.



# Vision, Mission, Values

The University of Malta aims to be among the best universities in Europe and the world and to provide world-class research and education. Our community of scholars endeavours to maintain the highest standards in education and strives to ensure that what we deliver is fit for the purpose of serving industry and the country in general, keeping both the economic and the social wellbeing in focus.

This is expressed in our mission statement: "to serve the aspirations of the people of these islands through locally and globally significant research and the provision of quality higher education in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development, via the scholarship of discovery, teaching and service to the community. These functions shall be delivered in a sustainable manner that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs".

As is typical of any European University, ours is committed to the values of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, and this commitment is sealed in the Magna Charta Universitatum, which we signed together with another 387 rectors in Bologna in 1988. Other values which we embrace as members of the European Higher Education Area are academic integrity, institutional accountability, and the involvement of our students and staff in the institution's governance.

# Governance of the University

## COUNCIL

The Council is the supreme governing body of the University.  
Its functions are defined in the Education Act, Article 77.

The members of Council are listed hereunder:

Pro-Chancellor   President ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	<b>Perit Karmenu Vella</b>
Rector   Vice President ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )	<b>Professor Alfred J. Vella</b>
Representatives of Senate	<b>Professor Joseph Caciottolo</b> <b>Professor Dominic Fenech</b> <b>Professor Emmanuel Sinagra</b> <b>Professor Noellie Brockdorff</b>
Members elected by the academic staff	<b>Professor Frank Camilleri</b> <b>Professor Matthew Montebello</b> (up to 23.06.2024) <b>Professor Liberato Camilleri</b> (as of 24.06.2024) <b>Professor David Mifsud</b>
Members elected by the non-academic staff	<b>Mr Clive Ferrante</b> <b>Mr Elton J. Baldacchino</b> <b>Mr Noel Caruana</b>
Student representatives	<b>Mr Jeremy Mifsud</b> <b>Mr Andrea Grima</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Mr Eucharist Bajada</b> (as of 10.11.2023) <b>Mr Neil Zahra</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Ms Michaela Spiteri</b> (as of 10.11.2023)
Member appointed by the Minister for Education, Youth and Employment	<b>Mr Matthew Vella</b>
Member appointed by the Chair of the Foundation for Theological Studies	<b>Rev. Professor George Grima</b>

Members appointed by the Prime Minister to represent the general interest of the country

Ms Krista Caruana Falzon  
Dr Marius Caruana  
Mr Reginald Fava  
Ms Josanne Ghirxi  
Mr Mario Grech  
Dr Charles Mangion  
Dr Danika Marmara  
Mr Charles Micallef  
Mr Carlo Mifsud  
Mr David Muscat  
Mr James Pearsall  
Mr Roderick Psaila  
Mr Oliver Scicluna  
Ms Stephanie Scicluna Laiviera

Secretary to Council |  
Secretary of the University

Mr Simon Sammut

**The Council has established a number of Committees with specific responsibilities as follows:**

**Student Affairs Committee (including Travel Grants, Bursaries, Scholarships)**

**Staff Scholarship and Bursaries Committee**

**Staff Affairs Committee**

**Academic Resources Funds Committee**

**Administrative, Technical & Industrial Staff Work Resources Committee**

**Audit & Risk Committee**

**Committee to consider extension of appointments of Academic Staff**

**Finance Committee**

**IT Services Committee**

**Safety Committee**

**Gender Equality and Sexual Diversity Committee**

**Board of Discipline (Administrative, Technical and Industrial Staff)**

**Medical Board for University (for University Staff)**

**Committee for Council Rules of Procedure**

**Shortlisting Committee for the appointment of Directors of Institutes/Centres/Schools**

**Research Fellowship Committee**

# SENATE

The University Senate is responsible for the general direction of the academic matters of the University and deals with any matter of an academic nature arising in the administration of the University. The Senate regulates studies and research in the University; it establishes the conditions for admission into the University through regulations, makes regulations governing all courses leading to University awards, and approves the programmes of study constituting such courses. It also advises the Council on matters of an academic nature.

The members of Senate are listed hereunder:

<b>President (Ex Officio)</b>	<b>Professor Alfred J. Vella</b>
<b>Pro-Rectors</b>	<b>Professor Frank Bezzina</b> <b>Professor Joseph Cacciottolo</b> <b>Professor Ing. Simon Fabri</b> <b>Professor Carmen Sammut</b> <b>Professor Valerie Sollars</b>
<b>Deans</b>	<b>Professor Dominic Fenech</b> <b>Professor Alex Torpiano (up to 07.03.2024)</b> <b>Chev. Professor Marc Bonello (as of 08.03.2024)</b> <b>Professor Nikolai J. Attard</b> <b>Professor Emanuel Said</b> <b>Professor Colin Calleja</b> <b>Professor Ing. Andrew Sammut</b> <b>Dr Stephen Lungaro Mifsud</b> <b>Professor Ing. Carl J. Debono</b> <b>Dr Ivan Mifsud</b> <b>Professor Noellie Brockdorff</b> <b>Professor Godfrey Laferla</b> <b>Professor Emmanuel Sinagra</b> <b>Professor Andrew Azzopardi (up to 31.07.2024)</b> <b>Dr Sandra Scicluna (as of 01.08.2024)</b> <b>Rev. Professor Stefan Attard</b>
<b>Representatives from each of the faculties</b>	<b>Professor Keith Sciberras</b> <b>Professor JoAnn Cassar</b> <b>Dr Maria Luisa Gainza-Cirauqui</b> <b>Dr Joseph Schembri</b> <b>Dr Michelle Attard Tonna</b> <b>Professor Ing. Paul Refalo</b> <b>Professor Josef Trapani</b> <b>Professor Ing. Owen Casha (up to 07.10.2024)</b> <b>Professor John Abela (as of 08.10.2024)</b> <b>Professor Ivan Sammut</b> <b>Professor Joseph A. Cannataci</b> <b>Professor Josanne Vassallo</b> <b>Dr Monique Borg Inguanez (up to 12.10.2023)</b> <b>Dr Fiona Sammut (as of 13.10.2023)</b> <b>Professor Mary Anne Lauri</b> <b>Rev. Dr Kevin Schembri</b>

Student representatives	<b>Mr David Debattista</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Ms Emma De Gabriele</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Ms Nicola Kirkpatrick</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Ms Elisa Micallef Peplow</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Mr Karl Andrew Schembri</b> (up to 09.11.2023) <b>Mr Andrea Cuschieri</b> (as of 10.11.2023) <b>Ms Marthea Grech</b> (as of 10.11.2023) <b>Mr Andrew Sciberras</b> (as of 10.11.2023) <b>Ms Cherise Sultana</b> (as of 10.11.2023) <b>Mr Gerard-William Zammit Young</b> (as of 10.11.2023)
Representatives of the Minister for Education and Employment	<b>Ms Ritianne Borg Saliba</b> <b>Judge Emeritus Joseph Filletti</b>
Representatives of the Institutes	<b>Professor Odette Vassallo</b> <b>Professor Kristian Zarb Adami</b> (up to 16.06.2024) <b>Professor Ing. David Zammit Mangion</b> (as of 17.06.2024)
Librarian (Ex Officio)	<b>Mr Kevin J. Ellul</b>
Secretary   Registrar	<b>Dr Colin Borg</b>

### The Senate has established a number of Committees with specific responsibilities as follows:

**Animal Welfare Committee**

**Board to Review Reason for Absences from Assessments**

**Committee for Student Societies**

**Committee for Students' Requests**

**Committee for the Implementation of the Students' Charter**

**Committee of Discipline (regarding Students' Misconduct)**

**Committee when students/applicants present a Police Conduct**

**Digital Education Committee**

**Doctoral Academic Committee**

**Editorial Board – Malta University Press**

**Library Committee**

**Ph.D. & Master (by research) Degrees Scholarship Selection Board**

**Professional Development Committee for the Doctoral School**

**Programme Validation Committee**

**Quality Assurance Committee**

**SEA-EU Affairs Committee**

**Selection Committee for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings**

**UM Fitness to Practise Board**

**University Admissions Board**

**University Assessment Appellate Board**

**University Assessment Disciplinary Board**

**University Research Ethics Committee**

**Web Editorial Board**

### Joint Senate and Council Boards/Committees

**Academic Promotions Board A (Lecturers, Senior Lectures and Junior College Academics)**

**Academic Promotions Board B (Associate Professors and Professors)**

**ACCESS Disability Support Committee**

**Committee for Research Engagement**

**Committee for Safeguarding the Code of Professional Academic Conduct**

**Committee for Sustainability at the University of Malta (C-SUM)**

**Committee for University of Malta's Strategic Plan**

**Committee on Race and Ethnic Affairs**

**Research Fund Committee**

**University Equity Committee**

**University Honours Committee**

**Visiting Lecturers and External Examiners Committee**

# Operational Review

## INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK

During the Academic year 2023/24, through the Estates, Facilities & Capital Development Directorate, the University continued with its programme of construction and refurbishment works, together with regular maintenance/ minor works and facilities management to provide the University with those facilities necessary to effectively achieve its objectives of excellence in teaching and research, whilst focusing on sustainability both in the way these were implemented as well as in the manner in which they are operated and maintained.

Work proceeded on major works, routine maintenance, and minor works, in their majority undertaken by the Estates' in-house maintenance team and partly outsourced where the nature and size of the job demanded the intervention of external contractors, following various requests from the faculties and other University entities, including observations and inspections conducted by the Estates staff. These requests again exceeded 6,000 items, which reflects that there is a wider understanding of the system whereby University staff may request Estates staff assistance and intervention. The major maintenance works included extensive plastering and pointing works on the Sports Hall façades, the Maths and Physics building façades, the Chemistry building façades and major concrete repair works on the façades and concrete columns of Dar Ġużeppi Zahra, together with concrete repairs at the Gateway building and on the Library façade. Maintenance and repair works also proceeded at the University's other sites. A number of maintenance interventions were carried out at the Marsaxlokk Campus. Extensive painting works were carried out at the Faculty of Health Sciences facilities at Mater Dei Hospital, whereas urgent repairs were conducted on the Junior College façades.

Within the Facilities Management Unit (FMU), the preventive maintenance on plants, lifts, air conditioners, Photovoltaics (PVs) and generators was, to a large extent, undertaken under the various maintenance agreement contracts with external contractors. The FMU's technical staff also continued to monitor and address issues related to the above as soon as they arose. Further access control systems were introduced to ensure greater security over University buildings. A tender for lightning protection systems and surge protectors was issued for all the University buildings that are lacking such

protection. Tenders were prepared and are being processed for a new A/C system for Sir Temi Zammit Hall, for Waste Management, and to introduce electric vehicles for use by the University's Transport service.

Parking and logistical issues that arose as a consequence of the current continued construction activity on campus and the newly operating Campus Hub continued to offer a challenge but were adequately handled. The Precincts Office also continued to introduce a number of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address issues that developed over the year and also had a change in management.

### i) Construction works in progress

One may mention the official opening of the Transdisciplinary Research and Knowledge Engineering (TRAKE) building, now renamed Engineering Research and Innovation Labs (ERIL). Extensive external hard and soft landscaping works were completed in the areas surrounding the TRAKE and Faculty of Science buildings.

As for the Gozo Campus, minor decoration works were undertaken on the older part of this building. The tender for furniture was awarded, and the furniture was delivered. Much still needs to be done on this building as the tender for the finishes, mechanical and electrical works on the extension and the total refurbishment of the original building remains pending until the necessary funds become available.

Construction works on the Sustainable Living Complex (SLC) proceeded, and several issues related to this building site continued to be supported by the Estates' architects and staff. Three architects from the Estates have been assigned to this project full time, to coordinate the office and lab furniture designs, coordinate finishes and the lab services layout, and to update architectural plans.

The Gozo Dental Clinic was launched in October 2023 following extensive works. Structural works on the New Administration Block had to be suspended due to tender issues, but a new tender is soon to be published for the work to continue. Refurbishment works in the Faculty of Laws were initiated and completed over the summer recess. Likewise, the extensive refurbishment work at the Junior College Biology labs was initiated and is nearing completion.

## **ii) Project designs and PA applications**

The eventual relocation of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing to the current Faculty for the Built Environment continued to be developed in liaison with the new faculty dean. The Estates design team also continued to work on the Students House Refurbishment Project and the Maths and Physics sanitary facilities refurbishment. Extensive design work and an eventual PA application was submitted to convert the old Department of Metallurgy & Materials Engineering building into a faculty building for Dental Surgery. Designs were also prepared for a dental lab in the Biomedical Sciences building. Extensive designs were also prepared to rehabilitate the Wied Ghollieqa car park and a method statement was duly submitted to the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA). Design work and an eventual PA application was also submitted for an extension to the Archaeology Centre, including detailed cost estimates.

## **iii) Tenders preparation**

A number of tenders were and are still being prepared by the Estates' professional team, some directly related to the above mentioned projects and some for new initiatives. Tenders have now been prepared by the Estates for the necessary repair and maintenance work on the Junior College façades, for the total refurbishment of the sanitary facilities at

the Gozo Campus, for a new main electrical distribution board for the Lecture Theatres area, for the lightning protection of all University buildings, a new tender for the structural works required at the New Administration Block, for the repair and reconstruction work required for the flooring of the covered walkway leading to the Biomedical Sciences building, for the new Dental Lab at the Biomedical Sciences building, for the repair and maintenance of the Library façades, for the refurbishment of the childcare facilities on campus, for the refurbishment and replacement of seating in one of the main Lecture Theatres on campus, the refurbishment of the Engineering Lecture Hall, the substation/generator room for the SLC, the connection of services to the existing University infrastructure tender for the SLC, the chiller area tender for the SLC and an update of the Sports Facilities project tender documents. Again, the Sports Facilities project has a valid PA permit and tender documents have been completed, but funds remain unavailable for this project to move forward.

Tenders have already been prepared but have yet to be issued for the supply and installation of double-glazed window apertures at the Valletta Campus and for the upgrade and relocation of the electrical cable in the Sports Area. A revised tender for a fire detection and gas suppression system for the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) at Marsaxlokk is still being pursued. Preliminary work is also being carried out in preparation for a tender to cover the outstanding finishes works at the SLC.





## THE VALLETTA CAMPUS

In total, the Valletta Campus hosted around 156 conferences, seminars, public lectures, workshops, trainings and other public events, including eight COST events, two Frontex trainings and ten events organised by the Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ), whose offices are based on the premises. The two major conferences hosted this year were the 20 years of EU Membership Conference and the Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe (AIDA) 2024 Conference, both organised in May 2024.

Apart from all University Senate and Council meetings, the Valletta Campus also hosted 14 award ceremonies and 14 launches, organised by UM faculties as well as other external entities. The most important ceremonies hosted by the Valletta Campus were the Honoris Causa on 17 November 2023 and the Masters and Doctoral Graduation ceremonies in March 2024.

Governmental ministries and other national agencies made regular use of the Valletta Campus premises. In fact, the campus hosted 30 third-party internal meetings, 16 non-UM press conferences and two national consultation meetings. This collaboration between the Conferences and Events Unit and various national entities and third-party companies continued to consolidate the importance of the Valletta Campus as an excellent historic events venue to accommodate contemporary corporate requirements.

Two exhibitions were organised at the Valletta Campus as follows:

- EU50: Ireland's 50 years since membership – from 30 October to 3 November 2023
- TRACtion (Tradition in Action) The Ghonella: Malta's national costume – from 3 to 8 May 2024.

The Valletta Campus Theatre (VCT) had the privilege of hosting a diverse array of performances over the past season. From *Carmen* by Company of Dance Arts, which provided a platform for emerging companies to work in a professional environment, to interdisciplinary collaborations like Moveo Dance Company's *Kinetic Waves* with Late Interactive and *Għajnej Xutnha* – a performance inspired by Malta's historic watchtowers – the season was marked by dynamic productions.

The New Victorians, in collaboration with ŻfinMalta, held their Christmas performance *Ħolm Tal-Milied*, based on Trevor Zahra's beloved classic, at the VCT. In the realm of music, the theatre played host to the Mosaic Ensemble's performance as part of the Vernal Festival, where Mediterranean and jazz sounds converged, and to the Hinge Project's album launch of *Causatum*.

The season also featured *The Great Dictator*, produced by young talent Nikolai Azzopardi and inspired by Charlie Chaplin's iconic film. Additionally, the VCT proudly hosted performances from some of Malta's major cultural festivals, including Notte Bianca 2023, the ŻiguŻajg Festival, the Malta International Arts Festival, and the Dance Festival. The season truly showcased the vibrancy and diversity of Maltese and international talent, cementing the VCT's role as a key cultural venue on the island.



## THE COMPANIES

Building on a successful 2022/23, business continued to grow and improve in all sectors. Operational financial results for 2023/24 for the Companies surpassed that of 2019's benchmark results.

Both the Language School under Malta University Enterprises (MUE) and Hotel Kappara under the Malta University Holding Company (MUHC), registered their highest ever operating profit. Operating profit for MUHC improved by approximately 5%, with MUE improving by 62% and the Group of companies marking an overall improvement of approximately 42% from 2022/23.

All other units under Malta University Consulting (MUC) – now MUE – showed a profit, with the consultancy unit (PD) improving considerably over the last few years. Following the downsizing of staff in both PD (Professional Development) and Malta University Distributors (MUD), the units continued to work efficiently without compromising business or revenue.

The Language School has grown exponentially, fulfilling the vision of becoming one of Malta's leading language schools. So much so that, as from 2025, it will change from being a unit under MUE to becoming a company under MUHC. Hotel Kappara is currently awaiting the planning permit to be granted with all necessary documents and checks having been done. The added rooms and beds are badly needed following a successful year where occupancy averaged 83% throughout.

Revenue from other accommodation services, a relatively new unit which was setup following the closure of Malta University Residence and the move from Lija to the Campus Hub, has gone from strength to strength since 2021. Hotel Kappara and Campus Hub remain the primary focus for accommodation; however, several other properties have been added to our portfolio due to the lack of availability in accommodation in these two venues.

Under the guidance of the Investment Committee, further careful investments were made which rendered decent percentage returns. All investments are liquid and can be dipped into in the eventuality that funds are needed to execute any upcoming projects.

Malta University Broadcasting (MUB) has continued to progress. Apart from revamping and rebranding Campus 103.7, a lot of work has gone into the careful selection of staff to complement the radio station and what it stands for. Not only have the number of programmes increased, but also the variety of the content, which aims to target and attract more listeners. The radio presenters make it a point of promoting the University whether it be courses or events going on at the University or simply a mention that the show is being aired from the University campus.

As from October 2024, Campus 103.7 will no longer fall under MUHC, but instead become part of UM. UM and MUHC have met on several occasions in order to ascertain the smooth transition of MUB from MUHC to UM.



## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

### New Courses

During Academic Year 2023/24, the University launched a number of new courses, offered by various academic entities. At undergraduate level, the Faculty of Education introduced the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Primary Education, a three-year full-time course for aspiring primary school educators, providing them with the knowledge, skills and practical experience needed to effectively teach and inspire young learners. The Faculty of Theology introduced the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Scripture Studies, a five-year part-time course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of various scientific methods and approaches to Biblical interpretation, thereby enabling a deeper comprehension of Scripture. The Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy re-structured the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Politics and Governance and introduced the Higher Diploma in Organisation and Business Leadership, a two-year part-time course ideal for those who have a background in managerial and/or supervisory positions. The course aims to familiarise students with a range of theories and proven practices that are appropriate to contemporary organisations.

At the postgraduate level, the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy has also redesigned its longstanding Executive MBA, introducing a new curriculum of purposefully tailored applied masterclasses and workshops that address increasingly complex, disruptive, and competitive realities; at its core, the curriculum embraces an immersive delivery modality that caters to the needs of working professionals, whether based locally or abroad. It also launched the Master of Arts in Banking, Investments and Finance, a one-year full-time course with a comprehensive programme designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the dynamic world of finance. Throughout this course, students will delve into a wide range of subjects, including financial markets, risk management, investment analysis, corporate finance and banking regulations.

For the first time, the Faculty of Health Sciences offered the Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics, a three-year part-time course that equips students with the skills, knowledge and research methodology to become professionals in the health sciences sector. The Faculty of Health Sciences also offered the Postgraduate certificate in Extracorporeal Shockwave Lithotripsy, which is designed to engage students and enhance their knowledge and skills in urinary tract imaging. It aims to promote high-quality practice and offer career development opportunities. Through this programme, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the scientific principles, anatomy, physiology

and pathology relevant to medical imaging, while also advancing their practical expertise in the field. The Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health offered for the first time the Master in Resilience in Educational Contexts, a two-year full-time course aimed to create environments that promote the resilience and growth of marginalised children and young people by providing them with the tools, resources and learning contexts which facilitate their social and emotional learning and wellbeing and consequently their social inclusion and active citizenship. The Master of Science in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment was another new course spread over one year of full-time studies, providing students with the knowledge and expertise to work in environmental science. The industry is increasing its demands for graduates who are qualified in this field, and the course will therefore train students in monitoring approaches, handling environmental data and assessing observed changes for the sake and responsible use of environmental resources.

In addition to these courses, the University also offered new areas of study in Master courses. These include the Master of Arts in English (Literary Studies) offered by the Faculty of Arts, the Master of Education in Business Education and the Master of Education in Early Childhood and Primary Education (Early Childhood Education and Care) and (Moral Education), both offered by the Faculty of Education.

### Micro-credentials

Micro-credentials refer to short, focused learning experiences in the form of study-units which are designed to equip learners with specific skills and knowledge. They aim to equip learners with relevant information, skills, and competences that address societal, personal, cultural, or labour market demands, without replacing conventional qualifications. Instead of offering a full programme of studies, one or two study-units are offered to entice potential and targeted audiences, provide a comprehensive understanding of studying a specific subject and encourage students to continue engaging in other studying initiatives.

The micro-credentials initiative was formally launched by the University as of academic year 2023/24. One can trace the roots of this initiative to a period when the University started offering study-units as individual fee-paying units. Initially, these study-units were aimed at giving learners the flexibility to focus on specific areas of additional development and skills enhancement. Over the years, the initiative started to garner more interest and attract numerous locally renowned stakeholders, such as the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing, the ERA and the Malta Police Force. The shift towards more targeted and specialised learning saw a significant rise in demand, particularly for study-units that address professional or academic needs. Due to an increased call for focused learning opportunities, this interest

not only fuelled greater enrolment, but also contributed to stronger and more consistent revenue for the University. With this momentum, the University formally launched its micro-credentials initiative, thus expanding its offerings and positioning itself as an accredited institution that provides flexible and high-impact learning experiences. The below figures attest the success of the micro-credentials initiative.

Academic Year/ Number of study-units offered	Number of applications received
2020/1   97	495
2021/2   91	1002
2022/3   80	744
2023/4   4116	1076

Since the majority of micro-credentials are tailored to industry-relevant skills, offering them can help educators determine if there is a demand for certain skills or knowledge within the local market. Through the feedback given, these can then be refined and, if successful, form the foundation for more formal courses/programmes.

The University is currently expanding this initiative further. As of academic year 2024/25, the focus will be turned towards a more solid marketing approach that promotes and gives prominence to micro-credentials while continuing to fine-tune current modes of operation, as well as aiming to introduce and consolidate new schemes, such as awards, that fall under the cap of micro-credentials.

### Information Technology based systems and applications

In order to offer students and employees a better service, the Office of the Registrar continually innovates with the technology that is now available. Numerous projects in this area of focus have already been completed, while other are still in progress with the aim to be completed in the near future.

The University has launched a digital student and staff card on My UM app for all enrolled University students. This will be providing a better service to both students and staff.

UM students can now make use of services offered both on and off campus by presenting a digital identification as University of Malta students. Furthermore, all UM students may use this service abroad, even on an Erasmus+ mobility. The My UM student card can be used in instances where students need to verify their enrolment status to obtain any discounts offered by museums, public transportation and any other services. The UM Digital Card was developed by several

offices: Office of the Registrar, IT Services, and Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office.

The UM Staff card is also available via the My UM app. The Junior College student card will also be launched in the near future.

In collaboration with IT Services, a new system was developed where students would receive their letter of acceptance digitally and would be able to activate their UM IT account directly through the use of the Maltese e-ID. This new system would make the sending of letters of acceptance to applicants more efficient where the students would be able to activate their UM IT account instantly once the letter of acceptance is sent. Apart from making the system more efficient it further reduces the use of paper and of traditional mail services and thus reducing the costs for the university. A system to also include applicants that are not in possession of a Maltese e-ID is also being implemented and will be launched in the near future.

The Registrar's Office in close collaboration with IT Services and Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office designed, developed and built a new course finder in time to be launched at the beginning of Academic Year 2023/24.

The new course finder is designed to provide an enhanced browsing journey. With this new tool a prospective student can explore University's wide range of programmes with ease.

Searching for the courses will be simpler by using keywords, selecting a specific stream or mode of study, or even browsing through the comprehensive A to Z directory. The search results will lead the users to courses that are closely related to their specific interests and preferences. All the information will be neatly organised in intuitive tab screens, making it effortless for users to find all the information they require.

Another project that was launched in November 2021 was that of the European Digital Credentials for learning (EDC). Thanks to this project, all graduates are being provided with a digitally sealed copy of their qualifications. Digital qualifications can be stored on the students' Europass accounts and shared digitally with anyone the holder deems fit to share. Digital qualifications reduce the need for verifying copies of qualifications submitted as the validity and authenticity is immediately verified by the Europass website. All students graduating from November 2022 onwards were provided with the EDC. During Academic year 2022/23, this was also extended to micro-credential awards. All processes developed were sustained in 2024.

During 2024, the University also took a further step in the improvement and modernisation of the academic administration of doctoral programmes, through the

launch of the first phase of a project designed to enhance the management of research degree students by digitising processes that have historically relied on physical records. The Research Support Module within the Student Information Management System (SIMS) will streamline key aspects such as the approval of research proposals and supervisory teams, and it will act as a progression tool, prompting administrators and supervisors to track student progress. Once fully implemented, the module will significantly improve the monitoring of research students' progress and strengthen the support provided by Faculties, Institutes, Centres & Schools (FICS) and the University as a whole. This module will be piloted with doctoral students, and in a second, subsequent phase, it will be extended to postgraduate programmes at Master's level.

The first phase of this project was launched in July 2024, with an e-SIMS task enabling the input of dissertation/thesis titles and supervisory team details. This data was input by FICS and is being stored in SIMS for the very first time. The upcoming phase will utilise this data and focus on student progression, allowing supervisors to create events and track meetings with students. The ultimate goal is to develop an online system for the submission of progress reports, improving both the efficiency and accountability of the process. Work on this next stage of the project is ongoing, and it is expected that the next phase will be launched in May/June 2025.

During the summer of 2024, the SIMS Office developed a 'request for use of dictionary during examinations' tool. Foreign students that satisfy particular conditions are entitled to use an English to native language dictionary during examinations, which requires a process of application, verification and approval.

The SIMS Office continued improving on existing processes. Together with the Doctoral School, a series of automated letters to students were created, in addition to improved class list reports, which are to include the route of the course for each student in the list together with the already existing programme.

Following the launch of Scientia Timetabling and Scheduling Software with a pilot project within the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Information and Communication Technology during 2022/23, four new faculties were added for the academic year 2023/24: Built Environment and Theology in Semester 1 and Laws and Media and Knowledge Sciences in semester 2. This means that the number of faculties participating in the project by the end of the year was seven out of fourteen faculties. Additionally, training was organised for other entities in preparation for the addition of these entities for the 2024/25 academic year.

This software package enables timetablers to produce a timetable more efficiently. The integration with SIMS enables

the software to automate the scheduling of timetable activities while being able to provide a clash-free timetable easily. Changes in timetables or scheduling of ad hoc activities will also be done more efficiently. Further to that, the use of the automation process will be able to make use of resources – such as lecture rooms – more efficient as the algorithm is programmed to make the best use of available resources when scheduling activities.

Students and lecturers are also being provided with a personalised timetable available on the My UM app and eSIMS, which can also be synchronised with various online calendars such as Google Calendar and iCal.

The software also enables the digital dissemination of timetabling information to third parties, such as the FMU, so as to provide an overview of the day-to-day timetable for the buildings involved.

The project will be deployed to the rest of the University in coming academic years. For the academic year 2024/25, the software will be rolled out to the Faculties of Arts and Social Wellbeing, the Institutes of European Studies and Linguistics and Language Technology, the School of Performing Arts and the Centre for English Language Proficiency.

The Registrar's Office has also further disseminated the use of the digital assessment platform, WISEflow. The software was initially implemented remotely during the pandemic and was retained post-pandemic, both because of the advantages it provides in comparison to traditional pen and paper examinations and because a number of examiners opted to keep using WISEflow to hold examinations remotely. In 2020/21, the software was first used for physical exams. For physical exams, students make use of their own device, and the exam paper can only be accessed via LockDown Browsers, meaning that contrary to remote exams, students have no access to the internet and their hard disc.

In 2023/24, the number of exams held through WISEflow on Campus once again increased substantially. The number of physical exams using WISEflow far outnumbers the number of remote exams. Furthermore, the use of remote exams has decreased due to the availability of ChatGPT. In total, the number of exams held using WISEflow (both physically and remotely) amounted to around 20% of all exams held during the academic year 2023/24.

#### WISEflow on Campus exams

Semester 1	Semester 2
Malta 129	Malta 179
Gozo 79	Gozo 87

The number of examination halls that are fully equipped to support WISEflow on Campus exams (through the installation of the necessary infrastructure) now stands at nine halls on Campus, and two halls at Mater Dei Hospital.

The use of WISEflow also helps the UM to continue meeting its sustainability goals.

During the 2023/24 academic year, another milestone was attained, because WISEflow on Campus exams was organised at the Gozo Campus for the first time. A number of lecture rooms in Gozo have been equipped for this purpose. The internet service has been overhauled, and an IT Services Officer was employed to support these exams.

For both Scientia and WISEflow, the Registrar's Office, in conjunction with the Human Resources and Development Office, organises a number of training courses for users across the various faculties involved, and specifically:

Scientia

- Course 1: Data collection (for administrative staff)
- Course 2: Operation the Timetabling Software (for administrative staff)

WISEflow

- The Manager role (for administrative staff)
- The Author role (for academic staff)
- The Assessor role (for academic staff)

## Student outreach

The UM continues to strive to provide all students with an academically inspiring and motivating environment, with the knowledge that this will lead to the enhancement of learning and performance for our graduate community. Experience has shown us that students who are provided academic and social support and who are engaged in campus life achieve more in their studies and career. The UM also seeks to support and assist future students from the application stage.

In fact, the UM conducts online webinars in collaboration with the Student Advisory Services to facilitate the application process of hundreds of applicants. This year, two online videos presented by popular faces on TV known to parents and prospective students were used to promote our services on social media. The Student Advisory Services also participated in the 'I Choose' event aimed at students who have finished their secondary education and would like to know what educational path to choose in order to work in their desired careers. These informative videos were made available online to be easily reached by interested students and parents. A physical meeting was also held prior to the opening period of the applications. As usual, one-

to-one sessions with applicants were held in Gozo during the weekend between the publication of results and the application deadline.

Following the official launch of the HelpHub in May 2022, this office has become a one stop shop for many students, both local and international. Having a full-time officer at the Help Hub office, brought a lot of stability, and the number of students visiting the HelpHub is on the increase. Students come with all sorts of queries and concerns, from help in filling online forms – including applications for courses – to Erasmus issues, student progression, activation of their UM account, connecting devices to eduroam, downloading of My UM app and information about how to access e-SIMS, time-tables and registered study-units information, assisting students with timetable clashes and referring them to FICS Managers/Officers in charge and other services on offer by the University as necessary. The HelpHub provides students with directions (videos) to various lecture rooms/labs on campus and at Mater Dei. The list is endless. Recently a desk and a computer were set up in the HelpHub office to enable UM staff to better assist students in completing registration forms for electives and optional study-units, and to provide explanation of timetables and other matters. The HelpHub has truly become a contact point for many students: some come to seek assistance, a number come just to make use of the seating area to calm down when they feel overwhelmed or simply to charge their devices between lectures.

The Office of the Academic Registrar continued striving to create more comfortable areas around the University where students can study or have a break between lectures. The efforts invested during the pandemic era are still having a positive effect in present days. During the past years, the University has undergone an infrastructural project in order to enable wider use of the WISEflow platform on campus. This new way forward is being implemented, keeping in mind the advancement and advantages brought forward by the use of IT. Technology has proven a key element in the effort to become a more efficient institution for all our stakeholders. The University also recognises the positive environmental effect that this change brings with it. The University has continued to promote a 50-50% in person-remote mode of delivery for part-time courses with the aim of helping part-time students, who have employment and family commitments to follow, to eventually complete their course programme with success.

The Office of the Registrar believe in the importance of having a conducive learning environment to make learning effective. For this reason, in liaison with other offices such as the Estates, Facilities and Capital Development Directorate and IT Services, the Office of the Registrar assisted in the refurbishment of lecture rooms and areas like the Interpreters and Audio-visual Translation Laboratory and the Biology



Department, which is currently being refurbished. The University also inaugurated state-of-the-art laboratories – Engineering Research & Innovation Laboratories (ERIL) as part of the TRAKE project, to further strengthen Engineering-related Research in Malta. The University strives to keep up with the ever-changing needs of its students. The tables in lecture rooms were upgraded with electrical sockets (Halls A, B and D in the Gateway (GW) Building), which will allow students to charge their laptops whilst in class. This will help students who take notes on their laptops during lectures or who will be having WISEflow on Campus exams, as the student can stay engaged without having to worry about running out of battery power.

The University also installed Zoom Room facilities in all 14 rooms at the Campus Hub, enabling a number of students to attend lectures remotely, while providing better audio, capturing the whiteboard through a dedicated camera, and allowing the remote students to actively participate.

### Graduation Ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies contribute to preserving and promoting the University's position as the principal higher education institution on the island, nurturing and disseminating the University's good name. They also have a ripple effect on the community, inspiring younger generations and fostering a culture that values educational attainment. As families and friends gather to celebrate, they reinforce the notion that success is achievable through hard work and dedication.

The Office of the Academic Registrar plays a vital role in organising these ceremonies, striving to balance the introduction of innovations, such as enhanced technology for greater graduate participation and interaction, with the preservation and respect for the traditions that define this rite of passage. This commitment to innovation reflects a responsive approach to the evolving needs of graduates and their families, fostering a more inclusive atmosphere that acknowledges diverse backgrounds and experiences. The graduation ceremonies for undergraduate courses were held in November 2023 at the Msida Campus. The ceremonies were preceded by the celebration of the graduation thanksgiving masses on 13 and 14 November

2023, both held at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. The undergraduate graduation ceremonies commenced on Monday 20 November 2023 and consisted of 11 ceremonies, with the last one taking place on Friday 24 November 2023. A total of 2040 students (1215 females and 825 males) graduated during the November 2023 sessions.

The Church of the University in Valletta hosted the ceremony for the Conferment of Honoris Causa degrees on Friday 17 November 2023. The University conferred the Honoris Causa degrees on Judge Philip Sciberras (posthumously) and Maltese-American cartoonist Joe Sacco. Orations were delivered by Prof. Kevin Aquilina from the Faculty of Laws for the late Judge Sciberras, and Dr Gilbert Calleja from the Faculty of Arts for Mr Sacco.

One of the major challenges the organisation of these ceremonies faced in 2024 was the need to relocate postgraduate ceremonies, normally held at the Jesuits' Church in Valletta, to another venue in view of a large-scale restoration and conservation intervention on the church. Following discussions with the Order of Preachers, in particular the Parish Priest of the Parish of Our Lady of Safe Haven and St Dominic in Valletta, the Registrar's Office managed to secure the Basilica dedicated to Our Lady of Safe Haven and St Dominic in Merchants Street, Valletta as an alternative venue for a period of three years. This fully restored gem in the capital served as a wonderful backdrop for the March 2024 ceremonies, and its close proximity to the University's Valletta Campus ensured that the proceedings of the ceremonies were preserved in their entirety, as were the vibrant colours and the dignified atmosphere associated with these ceremonies.

The first session for the year was held between 1 and 14 March 2024 in Valletta. The streets of our history and architecture-rich capital city, Valletta, came alive with the excitement of 1,532 doctoral and master's students (944 females and 588 males). This included a record number of Ph.D.s awarded this year, with a total of 66 graduands successfully obtaining their doctoral degree.

The session commenced with a thanksgiving mass at St John's Cathedral, celebrated by His Lordship Bishop George Frendo O.P., held on Wednesday 28 February 2024. The session continued with a special ceremony, dedicated to doctoral graduands, held on Friday, 1 March. Ceremonies continued



for almost two weeks and came to a close with the last ceremony held on Thursday, 14 March 2024.

For the first time ever, the graduation ceremonies were streamed live on a Maltese private broadcasting station. Further innovations included the introduction of an online form for academics to confirm their attendance and to book transport and/or their gown. Efforts were also made, and the Office succeeded, in securing a more advantageous arrangement for the musical programme for postgraduate ceremonies.

These ceremonies actively engaged the campus community and promoted public outreach by creating a shared space where students, FICS, staff, and alumni came together to celebrate academic achievements. Performances by students from the School of Performing Arts were once again incorporated into undergraduate ceremonies to increase engagement.

Through these initiatives, graduation ceremonies become a platform for reinforcing the University's role as a community leader, preserving its place as the principal higher education institution on the island and a unique academic hub in the Mediterranean, promoting engagement, and inspiring future generations to pursue their academic goals.

### **Improving the Academic Administration of Doctoral Programmes**

The University recognises the essential role that its doctoral researchers play within the research ecosystem. Enhancing the newly established Doctoral School has been, and remains, a key strategic priority for 2020–2025, with the aim of providing comprehensive support to both doctoral researchers and their supervisors. Over the past year, the Office of the Academic Registrar has actively supported the Doctoral Academic Committee, the Doctoral School, and FICS to ensure a positive research experience for all doctoral students at the UM.

During 2024, the Office of the Academic Registrar, in collaboration with the Doctoral School, continued strengthening the academic administration of doctoral programmes through the implementation of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Regulations, 2023 and through

the standard operating procedures governing the M.Phil./Ph.D. transfer process and the Ph.D. examination process. Information sessions for both academic and administrative members of staff continued to be held throughout the year. Sessions held by the Academic Registrar and the Director of the Doctoral School were addressed to academic members of staff, whereas sessions held by Assistant Registrars and the Officer-in-Charge of the Doctoral School targeted administrative members of staff. This included a networking meeting of doctoral committee administrators.

A novelty in the Ph.D. Regulations promulgated in 2023 is the inclusion of a mandatory 100 hours of transversal skills/professional training. Efforts were made to draw up a standard template which would facilitate the work of students, supervisory teams, but also of faculty doctoral committees in keeping a record of the number of hours of professional development activities completed and validated by the doctoral committee and boards of examiners in accordance with guiding principles for the professional development of doctoral students at the University of Malta.

### **Regulations, policies and procedures**

During academic year 2023/24, the Office of the Registrar prepared and processed over 83 documents for promulgation and publication as legal notices, which included the revision of all FICS Ph.D. by-laws in terms of the new Doctor of Philosophy Regulations, 2023.

Several training sessions were provided to administrative staff, where academics attended as well, with regards to:

- (i) Progression rules for undergraduate and postgraduate courses
- (ii) Drafting new or amending existing bye-laws or regulations
- (iii) Procedures for Boards of Examiners of Bachelor and Master's dissertations
- (iv) Student Lifecycle Management

Guidance and advice on academic and administrative procedures was continuously provided to FICS and other administrative offices to ensure fairness and compliance with the University's regulations and policies.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research and innovation are two important components of the University's vision and mission statements. The activities on research and innovation during this period, as measured by key performance indicators such as research funding, number of research projects, number of researchers, publications, collaboration with external entities and innovation actions, reflect a healthy and stable performance, as well as positive increases in some cases.

### STRATEGY



UM's academics are highly active in competing for national and international research funding through submission of research proposals, many of which are successful in securing funds. Such funding helps to support research equipment and staff, including research support officers and Ph.D. students that would help improve the doctoral-researcher-to-staff ratio. We also continued to strengthen research niches where we excel and to support other promising and relevant areas that exhibit potential for research impact and innovation.

As part of our strategy to encourage multidisciplinary research collaborations between different University entities, this period also saw the approval and founding of the first set of research clusters under a new scheme that was launched in 2023. Each cluster benefits from €100,000 per annum to implement a thematic research programme against the presentation and approval of a five-year financial plan.

The first three research clusters that were set up are: the Poverty Research Observatory Malta: Innovate, Seek, Explore (PROMISE) cluster championed by the Faculty for Social Wellbeing; the Knowledge discovery for HERITAGE materials: Multi-scalar approaches to resource mapping, building databases and data mining (HERITAGE) cluster championed by the Faculty for the Built Environment; and the Data Integrity and Stewardship Cluster (DISC) championed by the Faculty of Laws.

### RESEARCH FUNDING



The major portion of the operational budget of the University that is directed towards research is allocated to cover the salaries of our main researchers, namely the academics employed by the University. During this period, UM employed 783 academics with Teaching & Research (TR) appointments, whose duties include contributions to research and innovation.

The University provides funding for research projects carried out by its academics through two programmes that are managed internally: the Research Seed Fund (RSF) and the Research Excellence Fund (REF) schemes. During this period, a total of €320,000 was distributed among 290 academics in RSF grants. For the REF scheme, four projects were awarded. This scheme allocates an award of not more than €60,000 for each project, to be disbursed over a two-year period.

In addition to the above, the UM relies heavily on competitive external funds to fulfil its research mission. During the period, 149 research projects were awarded local funds, and 39 projects were awarded international funds. These local and international awards amounted to €10.2 million and €7.5 million respectively.

### RESEARCHERS



Of the 783 academics with TR appointments, 94% have doctoral qualifications. This is significant since TR academics are expected to spend at least one third of their time on research activities, including conducting research themselves, applying for research funds, managing research projects and supervising postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers.

Research Support Officers (RSOs) are funded directly by research grants and perform all their duties on research projects. The number of RSOs employed during this period, including postdoctoral researchers, stood at 520.

Postgraduate students are also crucial to research at UM, particularly those undergoing doctoral and Master by Research studies. During this period, there were 492 doctoral and professional doctorate students registered on their studies, 213 on a full-time basis and 279 on a part-time basis. Additionally, 532 Master by Research students were registered during the period (210 full-time, 322 part-time). All these postgraduate students contribute directly to UM research through their projects, theses, dissertations and publications.



## PUBLICATIONS

In this period, UM researchers published 940 articles as indexed by Scopus and Web of Science. This data does not include other possible publications not targeted by these two indexing engines. From these articles, 538 were published in Open Access, which represents 57% of the total.



## UNIVERSITY OF MALTA RESEARCH EXPO

An unprecedented amount of research is being carried out at the University of Malta across many areas, and the University Research Expo (UMRE) provides the opportunity for this research to get the exposure it deserves. UMRE, with the aim to give UM researchers the opportunity to showcase their research activities to the wider UM community, to encourage the sharing and cross-pollination of ideas and to celebrate the successes achieved, was held at the University of Malta Valletta Campus on 29 May 2024. The Expo incorporated the traditional Doctoral School Symposium thus providing a space for the celebration of the up-and-coming research of doctoral students.



## RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

The UM supports academics applying for research funds through the Research Support Services Directorate (RSSD). During the period, RSSD supported the compilation of 337 national research grant applications requesting funds amounting to €38.8 million, and 225 international applications requesting another €69.7 million.

The Project Support Office (PSO) provides both pre-award and post-award financial support services to researchers. The pre-award section helped the RSSD prepare the budgets of the above 562 research grant applications. The post-award section helps academics with the financial management of awarded research projects. At the beginning of this period, the PSO was managing 358 projects, 231 locally funded and 127 internationally funded, and by the end of the period had 367 projects, 246 locally funded and 121 internationally funded. The total amount of external research funds under management at the end of the period was €54.7 million.



## INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

The Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) facilitates the transfer of knowledge, technology, results and innovation generated by University research into practical use for the benefits of industry and society. It also supports research collaboration between academia and external stakeholders, such as industry, commerce and the broader community.

During this period, the KTO coordinated 36 collaboration agreements with industry, commerce and other entities, attracting €2.7 million for research and innovation. Fifteen new patents were filed.



## STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The UM continued to manage two major research projects funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes; the TRAKE project and the Sustainable Living Complex. The Engineering Research and Innovation Laboratories complex, which is one of the major deliverables of the TRAKE project, was officially launched in February 2024.

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND OUTREACH

The Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer Office at UM is dedicated to advancing the commercialisation of research and fostering strategic collaborations with external stakeholders, including industry partners and government entities. The KTO's goal is to translate innovative research into practical applications and increase the impact of UM's work on society. The KTO also facilitates student placements with companies, non-governmental organisations and public sector entities. Furthermore, the KTO works with Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd (MUIP) to assist in the creation and growth of UM's spin-out companies.

## Industry and Academia Collaborations

The KTO oversaw the signing of 36 agreements, ranging from annexes to framework agreements, with various external entities from October 2023 to September 2024. These partners included industry, research institutions, government and non-governmental organisations. Below are three notable examples:

- A sponsorship agreement between the Malta Tourism Authority, UM, and the Research Innovation & Development Trust was created for the conservation of the Nymphaeum at the Argotti Botanic Gardens, Floriana, with €300,000 allocated to the three-year project led by Prof. JoAnn Cassar.
- €1,301,897 was allocated by Malta Enterprise for a collaboration between UM and ST Microelectronics under the Collaboration on the Important Project of Common European Interest on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies. This is a four-year project led by Prof. Joseph Micallef.
- €163,979 was allocated by the ERA to a project led by Prof. Sebastiano D'Amico focusing on the mapping and characterisation of sea caves along the Maltese coastline.

## Post-Doctoral Fellowship Awards 2023/24

A total of €609,082 has been allocated to the Post-doctoral Fellowship Scheme 2022, funded by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research & Innovation (MEYR) and administered in collaboration between UM, MEYR, and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. These funds were distributed over a two-year cycle (2023 and 2024) for projects approved under the 2022 cycle. Out of 14 applications, 5 were selected for funding. Discussions with the Parliamentary Secretary Mr Azzopardi Tanti and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry resumed in January 2024, leading to the launch of the 2024 cycle with an

additional €600,000 to be allocated over the next two years (2024 and 2025).

## Student Placements

The KTO operates a placement scheme that provides UM students with opportunities for part-time, non-curriculum-based work placements with companies, government and non-governmental organisations. KTO supports these organisations in posting placement opportunities on the University's Student Placements portal, allowing students to apply. From January 2024 to September 2024, 56 placements were posted, and 673 student applications were received.

## TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award

The TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award (TOSFA) is a joint initiative between the Ministry for the Economy, Enterprise, and Strategic Projects and the KTO, the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation, and the TAKEOFF Business Incubator. The Malta Digital Innovation Authority also joined the initiative, supporting research projects in the area of Artificial Intelligence. The KTO coordinated the 2024 annual cycle and supported UM researchers, who received proof-of-concept funding. For the 2024 cycle, €150,000 was awarded through a competitive call to two proof-of-concept projects and six start-ups, where grants ranged from €2,500–€25,000 per project.

## Research Commercialisation

The KTO works with several research groups to help progress their research towards commercialisation. The KTO was involved in licensing and filing a number of patent applications to protect intellectual property. Specifically, in the 2023/24 academic year, one licence agreement was signed, and another was finalised and agreed upon, but yet to be signed. In terms of patent protection, seven priority filings were made, along with four Patent Cooperation Treaty filings and four National filings. Some projects with potential commercialisation outputs include:

- Solaqua has been developed by Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno from the Institute for Sustainable Energy and relates to modular floating platforms specifically designed to host commercially available photovoltaic (PV) panels. The platforms are designed to withstand offshore conditions predominant in the Mediterranean. Tackling the issue of land scarcity faced by many countries looking to set up PV farms, the technology



is also a cost-competitive solution to land-based solar solutions. Following testing in local wave tanks, the team is pursuing the next steps leading to full-scale offshore testing. The KTO is working closely with Prof. Mule Stagno and team to secure funding for the next stage in the technology's development through outreach to both private sector stakeholders as well as local public entities. The project has also been presented at a number of events including the Malta National Energy conference, Posidonia Event and the Green Summit in Malta.

- Knowledge Fabric is a platform developed by Prof. Mark Micallef from the Department of Computer Science and Dr Chris Porter from the Department of Computer Information Systems. The platform aims to help software companies maintain their competitive edge by identifying and mitigating knowledge risks. It focuses on tracking and preserving tacit knowledge: the unwritten, experience-based insights that are crucial yet often undocumented. By analysing team activities and interactions with systems like source control repositories and issue tracking systems, Knowledge Fabric constructs a dynamic model of who knows what within an organisation. This model enables early detection of potential knowledge gaps, allowing companies to take proactive measures to prevent productivity losses and maintain quality standards. The KTO is collaborating closely with the development team to identify their niche target market, establish pilot partnerships, validate the minimum viable product and determine an appropriate business model with the prospect of creating a spin-out company.

### Funding and Knowledge Valorisation Grants

Knowledge and Technology Transfer Offices throughout Europe are increasingly being integrated into publicly funded research and innovation (R&I) projects to enhance knowledge valorisation. In 2023/24, the KTO participated in the Horizon International Partnership Award Scheme, with €6,000 awarded, and in the Technology Development Programme Lite to support UM researchers, with a sum of €23,657 dedicated to KTO's input/hours from November 2024 to May 2026.

### Outreach and Events

The UM's KTO is the sole knowledge transfer entity in Malta and is actively engaged at the EU level. The team is composed of members of the Association of European Science and Technology Transfer Professionals (ASTP) and of Registered

Technology Transfer Professionals. The KTO's staff represents the UM in the Network of IP Academies and Malta on the National Association Advisory Committee. Below are some of the outreach activities conducted by the KTO in 2023/24:

- Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on Knowledge Valorisation: The MLE on Knowledge Valorisation aims to help Member States and associated countries to improve policies and support for knowledge uptake and deployment, putting focus on skills, intersectoral cooperation and incentive systems. KTO's staff participated in the MLE, which was running officially from March 2023 to March 2024, with the drafting of the guiding principles taking place in 2021/22.
- ASTP Directors' Forum: In April 2024, the ASTP hosted its Directors' Forum in Malta, bringing together knowledge transfer directors from over 20 different countries.
- Patents to Deep Tech Spinouts event: In April 2024, the KTO partnered with J A Kemp LLP, one of Europe's leading patent and trademark attorney firms, along with local startup Smart Materials Ltd and Bajada Lyons Group, for the event Patents to Deep Tech Spinouts. This event featured talks from Dr James Egleton (European Patent Attorney at J A Kemp LLP), Dr Judith Mercer (European and UK Patent Attorney at J A Kemp LLP), Mr Andy Linnas (Co-Founder of Thought3D and Smart Materials Ltd), and Jessica Camilleri (Head of Business Advisory at Bajada Lyons Group).
- European Patent Office (EPO) & European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO): The KTO acts as UM's representative with the EPO and EUIPO with respect to the Pan-European Seal (PES) Traineeship Programme. One-year paid traineeships are offered to students and recent graduates, with the possibility a three-year extension in the case for the EPO. The September 2023 cohort saw one student accepted for the EPO, and a further three for the EPO, while the 2024 cohort saw one student accepted for the EUIPO.
- As a PES University, the UM was invited to participate in the Modular IP Education Framework (MIPEF), a flagship programme of the European Patent Academy structured around different levelled courses titled Create – Protect – Innovate: Bringing ideas into market. A total of 24 UM participants were enrolled for the academic year 2023/24, commencing on 4 November 2024.

The KTO also promoted the EUIPO Intensive Programme, open for students from all backgrounds, offering a comprehensive series of presentations related to trade marks, registered community designs, geographical indications, copyright, patents and plant varieties.

## **Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd (MUIP)**

The MUIP is the University company that supports the KTO in setting up new spin-out companies that originate from research and innovation carried out at the UM. Once the spin-outs are incorporated, MUIP supports post-formation operations of these companies. In September 2024, a new director for the KTO was appointed (Ing. Michelle Cortis), whilst the previous director, Dr Ing. Anton Bartolo, retained their role of acting managing director of MUIP.

During the 2023/24 academic year, FLASC B.V., one of the spin-outs supported by MUIP that is developing an offshore energy storage technology, was successful in obtaining an EIC Accelerator Grant of €2.5 million, and is currently raising a further €2.5 million in equity financing to support its next stage of development. Garland Surgical Ltd, a spin-out working on the commercialisation of an innovative hip prosthesis known as the MaltaHip, opened a subsidiary in Malta to focus on R&D and strengthen its collaboration with the UM. Smart Materials Ltd, a company developing a special mattress foam based on technology originating from the UM, has made significant progress in upscaling the technology and is in talks with international companies to discuss development, manufacture and sales agreements. Regrettably, MUIP had to close down De Novo Cell Ltd due to a lack of progress in the R&D of the technology, which faced unforeseen complexities.

## MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS & ALUMNI OFFICE

During the academic year 2023/24, the Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office (MCAO) dealt with a substantial number of marketing initiatives with an emphasis on student recruitment and internal and external communication while maintaining a strong UM brand presence.

To enhance the University's visibility, the Audio-Visual (AV) and Graphic Design Team within MCAO produced design and AV content by servicing the whole of UM and the Junior College to highlight their happenings and initiatives. Taking photos and videos and designing material for events, activities, research projects, campaigns etc. was crucial in creating the necessary content for UM's social media platforms and public relations endeavours. The work produced showed that the aesthetics and quality of the content were prioritised while keeping to stipulated deadlines. The photography tasks added up to 368 items, whereas the videography assignments were 244. Design tasks completed reached a total of 1,160 items between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024.

A key responsibility of the MCAO centred on duties relating to student recruitment at UM. The Student Recruitment Office (SRO) team was essential in marketing courses to attract international students to UM for the academic year 2024/25. Through campaigns launched before the admissions period – a total of 173 online adverts and 77 marketing campaigns to promote UM courses – the SRO boosted application rates, resulting in 2,187 received from applicants with overseas qualifications.

Furthermore, the SRO gained insight into global student recruitment trends and marketing practices by participating in events, tours and discussions with delegates from foreign universities, including interactions at student fairs. The SRO also engaged with schools by participating at the St Edward's Career Fair and the St Monica 2024 Science Fest.

During the 2023/24 academic year, the MCAO assisted in organising and participating in events like the UM Research Expo 2024, Festalingwi, THINK Soapboxes and Malta Café Scientifique. With the promotion of science reaching new heights, the MCAO dedicated significant effort to organise the Unconventional Science Careers #STEAM@UM event, held towards the end of 2023, drawing close to 1,000 Year 8 students, counsellors and teachers from different schools for hands-on activities, demonstrations and laboratory tours. Another event related to STEAM was the She Can Exhibition, a showcase of female role models who challenged gender stereotypes and traditional roles while strengthening the support system for girls who wish to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. STEAM@ UM participated in Kuržitājiem, held at Esplora in May 2024, a

week-long event for young students to discover STEM-related projects and research through interactions with experts in these fields. The SRO also organised STEAM sessions at Kids on Campus during summer.

As in previous years, Newpoint, UM's news portal, sought to engage various audiences by focusing on content related to events and initiatives at UM, educational opportunities and showcases of cultural and educational activities in Malta. The Newpoint Team relentlessly ensured that the portal offered users current information, issuing approximately 1,650 articles. The Newpoint Team contacted local news media houses for 74 of these articles to be published on their portals.

The weekly e-newsletter, branded Newpoint Update, which used to be issued every Friday since its inception, instead shifted to a Wednesday as of the academic year 2023/24. Another change was an improvement in the design for a more structured layout. There were 44 Newpoint Update issues overall throughout this time. Besides these, the Communications Team created and/or oversaw a total of 225 mailings sent out to staff, students and alumni relating to training opportunities for career and self-development, job prospects, general notices, events, surveys and educational programmes. A number of notifications were sent via the My UM app, which targets mostly students. During the same years, as part of its effort to keep in contact with UM's alumni community, the Communications Team reached out to all UM's former graduates to opt in to receive mailings related to UM's events and initiatives.

During 2023/24 MCAO, together with IT Services, set up a system to resume the service of disseminating obituary announcements concerning the demise of relatives of UM staff. This service, which had ceased for a brief period, came back into effect in April 2024 following a discussion at the UM Senate. The service was resumed differently from the former practice: obituary announcements would only be sent to UM staff members who opted in to receive such communication. A total of 14 obituary announcements were disseminated.

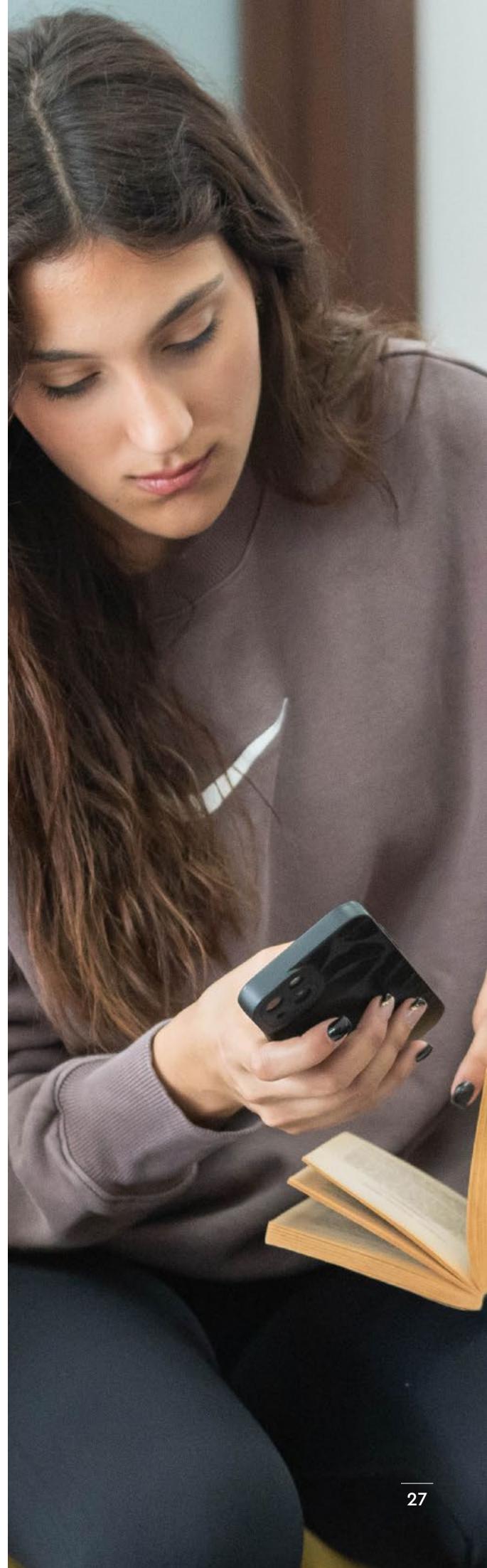
With regard to UM's social media, Facebook engagement reach was 811,300, meaning an 11.7% increase from the previous year, and there were 56,100 content interactions, meaning an increase of 47%. As for Instagram, the reach was 235,600, which translates into an increase of 6.3% from the previous academic year, and there were 18,200 content interactions (a 100% increase). UM's research magazine THINK saw an 11.2% increase in content interaction on Facebook and a 100% increase in Instagram. Reach increased substantially on Instagram (74.6%). In its constant commitment to improving engagement with staff, students,

alumni and the broader community, THINK actively engaged with the general public through social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X), as well as through radio interviews and TV appearances.

THINK magazine published 4 issues during the academic year 2023/24: Issue 42 on Automation, Issue 43 on Cyberspace, Issue 44 on Personal Space and Issue 45 on Natural Space. The team also produced two special issues during the same year, where one related to the tenth anniversary of the Institute of Digital Games whilst the other was concerned with the proceedings of the University of Malta Research Expo 2023. During the same year, 55 articles were published on the THINK website, with the number of articles from students seeing a substantial increase. THINK's website has changed to improve readability and functionality, and this helped achieve a significant increase in the number of e-newsletter subscriptions. Improved features included the creation of new sections such as The Editor's Notebook, the categorisation of articles, and ensuring that the site follows good web accessibility practices. THINK collaborated with the Department of English at UM to offer B.A. creative writing students the opportunity to carry out an interview and write an article for the magazine with the intent that students gain valued skills to build their portfolio. Researchers, scientists and students had the opportunity to discuss topics of a scientific nature during the weekly Radio Mocha Malta, aired on Radju Malta with a live stream available on Facebook. The radio show is produced by the STEAM section of MCAO.

The MCAO, as part of the Web Policies Team, also dealt with enquiries and queries received with regard to UM-branded websites on the content management system known as Terminalfour. MCAO mainly offered guidance and assistance, evaluated content and helped improve the style and aesthetics of the websites using the UM-branded template, while IT Services saw to any technical matters.

The SRO assisted externals by answering a large number of enquiries via telephone, email and social media messages. A broad overview of the emails received at [info@um.edu.mt](mailto:info@um.edu.mt), 29,954 in total, shows that they spanned a variety of aspects including local/international admissions, scholarships and internships, fees, visas, Erasmus+, international projects, career advice, vacancy postings, accommodation, lost and found items, queries related to MATSEC, enquiries received from FCIS, enquiries received from governmental entities and other internal offices (including the Junior College, the Conference & Events Unit) and other generic emails. Requests for campus tours for prospective students organised by the SRO reached a total of 117. There were 7,983 enquiries related to admissions at UM submitted through the MCAO website's online form and third-party sources.



## STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT 2023/24

The Office for Professional Academic Development (OPAD) and the Office for Human Resources Management & Development (HRM&D) delivered a comprehensive staff training programme during the 2023/24 academic year. This collaborative initiative aimed to enhance professional capabilities, promote continuous learning, and advance organisational development across all staff categories at the University.

Over 116 staff courses were organised in 2024, and 104 staff courses were organised in 2023, addressing a wide range of topics, including teaching and research development, learning technologies, academic quality, sustainability, inclusivity, health and safety, data protection and wellness. New training initiatives introduced in 2023/24 included:

- Preparing for Tenure
- Generative AI for Teaching, Learning & Assessment
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Building a Sustainable University: Empowering UM Staff for Change
- Academics for Quality Assurance (A4QA)
- Sustaining & Managing a Growing Cohort of Doctoral Students
- Think Sensory! Practical Tips for Wellness, Teaching & Learning

Training sessions were delivered through diverse formats, including in-person workshops, online webinars and blended learning options. This flexible approach ensured accessibility for participants while accommodating varying schedules.

Attendance across all training sessions totalled 1,250 participants in 2024 and 1,077 in 2023, representing academic, research support, administrative, technical and industrial staff.

The success of these training initiatives was built on strong collaborations with academic departments, administrative directorates, UM committees and external experts. These partnerships ensured the relevance and practicality of the content while aligning it with institutional goals.

Looking ahead, OPAD and HRM&D remain dedicated to expanding training opportunities and addressing emerging challenges. The focus will remain on fostering a learning environment that empowers staff to excel professionally and personally.



# University Staff

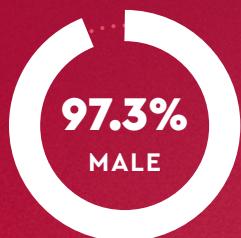
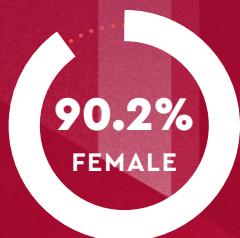
	2022/2023		2023/2024	
	F	M	F	M
Resident Academic Staff	413	580	390	558
Visiting Teaching Staff	243	440	259	439
Post-docs	3	6	6	15
Other Research Staff	136	154	162	185
Managerial, Admin, Technical, Support Staff	593	427	613	420
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1617</b>
% of resident academics with Doctorates	71.2	85.9	75.1	89.1
% of resident academics who are Associate & Full professors	21.8	44.7	25.1	51.8

**Note:** Resident Academic Staff are including Junior College (JC) staff.

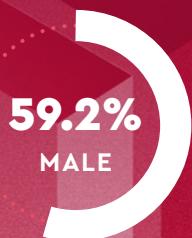
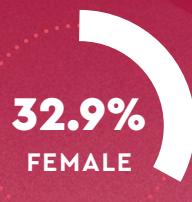
## POST DOCS

If we consider Research Support Officers III (RSOIII) as post-docs, there are **11 female** and **10 males**.  
Hence, the other research staff amount to **151 female** and **175 male**.

Percentage of resident academic staff with Ph.D.s by gender\*



Percentage of resident academic staff who are Associate & Full Professors by gender\*



# Number of University Students

2023/2024

STUDENTS (full-time and part-time)	F	M	X	TOTAL
Visiting	1027	551	4	1582
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	12	7	-	19
Certificates	170	67	1	238
Diplomas	157	138	-	295
Undergraduate Degrees	3319	2070	10	5399
Postgraduate Certificates	43	14	-	57
Postgraduate Diplomas	13	3	-	16
Master Degrees	2400	1438	-	3838
Professional Doctorates	20	4	-	24
Doctoral Degrees	224	215	-	439
Other	260	292	1	553
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>7645</b>	<b>4799</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12460</b>
Local Students	5716	3850	8	9574
International Students	1929	949	8	2886

Total number of students

12,460

9,574

LOCAL STUDENTS

2,886

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

# Programme Offerings\*

CATEGORY	2023 / 2024
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	2
Certificates	11
Diplomas	22
Undergraduate Degrees	368
Postgraduate Certificates	6
Postgraduate Diplomas	3
Master Degrees	295
Master of Philosophy	102
Professional Doctorates	1
Doctoral degrees	89
Other	31
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMES OFFERED</b>	<b>930</b>

\* Number of courses having current students as at March 2024.

# Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees Conferred

NOVEMBER 2023 /  
MARCH 2024 \*

CATEGORY	F	M	TOTAL
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	8	3	11
Certificates	114	65	179
Diplomas	147	117	264
Undergraduate Degrees	941	636	1577
Postgraduate Certificates*	34	4	38*
Postgraduate Diplomas*	5	-	5*
Master Degrees*	963	606	1570*
Professional Doctorates*	11	2	13*
Doctoral Degrees*	39	35	74*
<b>TOTAL AWARDS</b>	<b>2262</b>	<b>1468</b>	<b>3730</b>

\* Expected to Graduate in March 2024

# Students by Locality

## MALTA

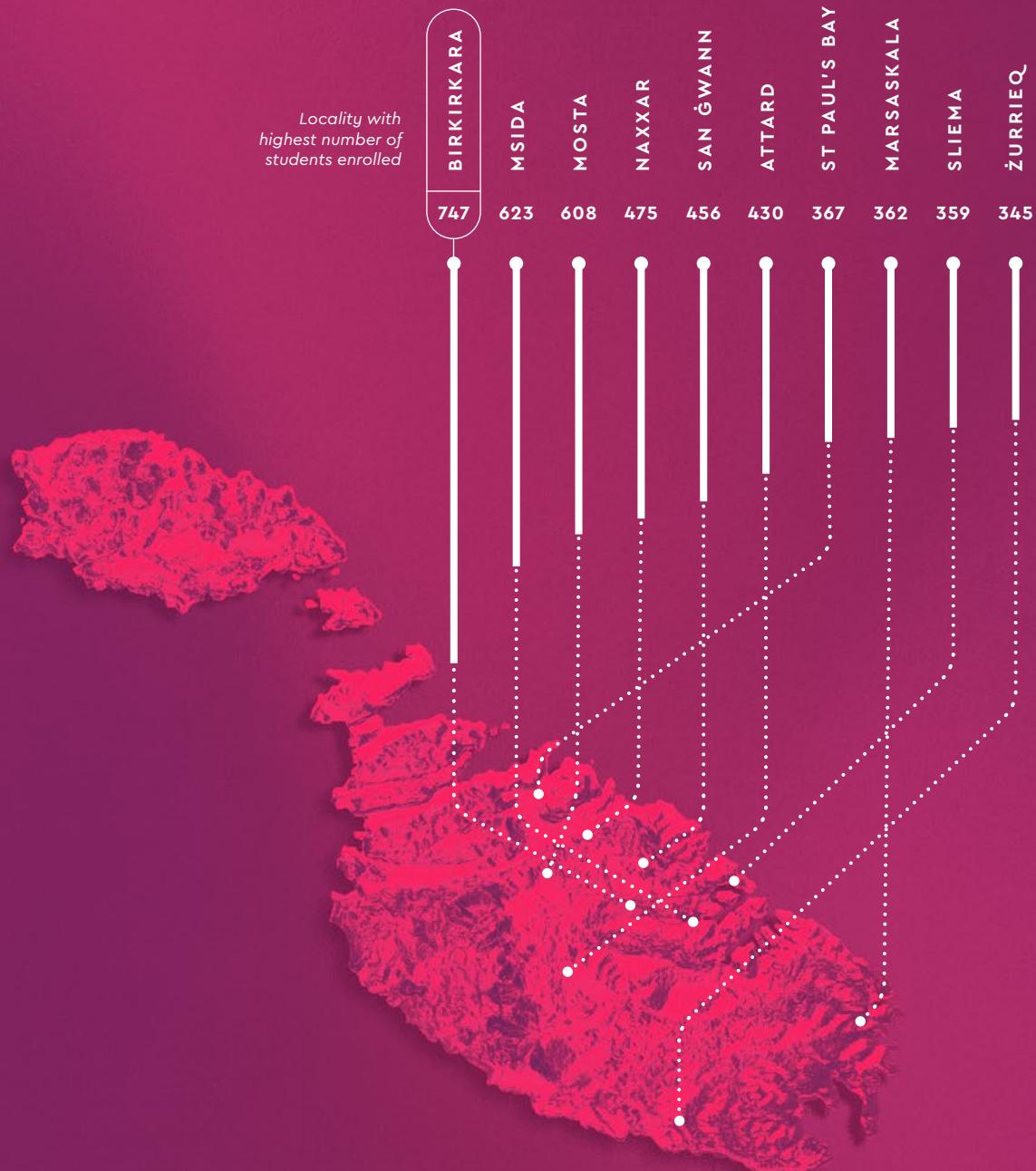
LOCALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Attard	244	185	1	430
Balzan	74	53	-	127
Birkirkara	446	301	-	747
Birżeppuġa	115	88	-	203
Cospicua	23	16	1	40
Dingli	61	46	-	107
Fgura	142	96	1	239
Floriana	21	11	-	32
Għargħur	68	50	-	118
Għaxaq	71	50	-	121
Gudja	51	25	1	77
Gżira	130	71	-	201
Hamrun	75	59	-	134
Ikklin	55	55	-	110
Kalkara	41	35	-	76
Kirkop	37	21	-	58
Lija	65	30	-	95
Luqa	74	44	-	118
Marsa	28	18	-	46
Marsaskala	210	152	-	362
Marsaxlokk	71	36	-	107
Mdina	2	1	-	3
Mellieħha	173	89	-	262
Mġarr	71	47	-	118
Mosta	376	232	-	608
Mqabba	57	34	-	91
Msida	410	212	1	623
Mtarfa	62	45	-	107
Naxxar	257	218	-	475
Paola	80	47	-	127
Pembroke	68	51	-	119
Pietà	57	39	-	96
Qormi	191	116	-	307
Qrendi	46	15	-	61
Rabat	170	122	1	293
Safi	33	18	-	51
St Julian's	136	85	-	221
St Paul's Bay	226	141	-	367
San ġwann	307	149	-	456

Santa Luċija	16	27	-	43
Santa Venera	95	64	-	159
Senglea	17	8	-	25
Siġġiewi	164	93	-	257
Sliema	217	141	1	359
Swieqi	187	127	-	314
Ta' Xbiex	40	21	-	61
Tarxien	130	74	-	204
Valletta	37	28	-	65
Vittoriosa	11	9	-	20
Xgħajra	25	17	-	42
Żabbar	203	124	1	328
Żebbuġ	175	134	-	309
Żejtun	162	82	-	244
Żurrieq	208	134	3	345

## GOZO

LOCALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Fontana	18	10	-	28
Għajnsielem	43	17	-	60
Għarb	34	9	-	43
Għasri	7	12	-	19
Kerċem	27	14	-	41
Marsalforn	13	5	-	18
Munxar	21	13	-	34
Nadur	63	42	-	105
Qala	26	19	-	45
San Lawrenz	8	9	-	17
Sannat	31	13	-	44
Santa Luċija	5	1	-	6
Victoria	116	74	-	190
Xagħra	85	49	-	134
Xewkija	37	29	-	66
Xlendi	7	3	-	10
Żebbuġ	39	13	-	52
No local address	532	274	4	810

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7645</b>	<b>4799</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12460</b>
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FEMALE

**7,645**

MALE

**4,799**

X

**16**

**12,460**

TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL STUDENTS

# International Students

## EU

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Austrian	26	8	-	34
Belgian	26	10	-	36
British (TUE)	15	7	-	22
Bulgarian	19	10	-	29
Croatian	7	1	-	8
Cypriot	4	3	-	7
Czech	31	17	-	48
Danish	8	7	-	15
Dutch	42	13	-	55
Estonian	3	1	-	4
Finnish	26	3	-	29
French	78	43	-	121
German	130	65	1	196
Greek	24	18	1	43
Hungarian	38	12	-	50
Icelander	2	-	-	2
Irish	69	32	-	101
Italian	183	108	1	292
Latvian	20	4	-	24
Lithuanian	20	5	-	25
Luxembourger	3	5	-	8
Norwegian	9	3	-	12
Polish	108	32	2	142
Portuguese	9	9	-	18
Romanian	32	11	-	43
Slovakian	18	5	-	23
Slovenian	11	2	-	13
Spanish	60	27	1	88
Swedish	22	5	-	27
Swiss	11	3	-	14
<b>EU TOTAL</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1529</b>

## NON-EU

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Afghan	1	2	-	3
Albanian	5	4	-	9
Algerian	1	-	-	1
American	91	41	-	132
Argentinian	1	-	-	1
Australian	11	5	-	16
Azeri	5	3	-	8
Bangladeshi	6	3	-	9
Barbadian	-	1	-	1
Belarusian	2	3	-	5
Belizean	1	1	-	2
Botswanan	1	1	-	2
Brazilian	17	3	-	20
British	32	16	-	48
Cameroonian	1	2	-	3
Canadian	23	8	-	31
Chilean	3	-	-	3
Chinese (HK)	1	3	-	4
Chinese (PR)	34	25	-	59
Colombian	7	4	-	11
Congolese	1	1	-	2
Costa Rican	1	1	-	2
Danish (Greenland)	1	-	-	1
Dutch (Net. Antilles)	1	-	-	1
Ecuadorian	3	1	-	4
Egyptian	7	7	-	14
Eritrean	-	2	-	2
Filipino	76	18	-	94
Gabonese	1	-	-	1
Georgian	7	4	-	11
Ghanaian	7	7	-	14
Grenadian	-	1	-	1

**NON-EU** (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Guatemalan	2	1	-	3
Honduran	1	1	-	2
Indian	112	62	-	174
Indonesian	9	2	-	11
Iranian	2	5	-	7
Iraqi	2	-	-	2
Jamaican	1	2	-	3
Japanese	28	13	1	42
Jordanian	1	4	-	5
Kazakhstani	5	1	-	6
Kenyan	10	5	-	15
Korean (South Korea)	9	2	-	11
Kosovar	1	-	-	1
Kuwaiti	51	39	-	90
Lebanese	3	1	-	4
Liberian	1	-	-	1
Libyan	33	16	-	49
Macedonian	7	2	-	9
Malawian	-	2	-	2
Malaysian	3	2	-	5
Maldivian	4	1	-	5
Mauritian	3	1	-	4
Mexican	8	1	-	9
Moldovan	3	-	-	3
Mongolian	1	-	-	1
Montenegrin	1	1	-	2
Moroccan	5	1	-	6
Namibian	2	-	-	2
Nepalese	9	1	-	10
New Zealander	1	-	-	1
Nicaraguan	1	-	-	1
Nigerian	28	34	-	62
Omani	13	16	-	29
Pakistani	19	14	-	33
Palestinian	10	4	-	14

**NON-EU** (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Panamanian	1	-	-	1
Peruvian	3	1	-	4
Russian	24	9	-	33
Rwandan	2	-	-	2
Saint Vincentian	1	1	-	2
Saudi	3	1	-	4
Serbian	21	12	-	33
Seychellois	4	2	-	6
Singaporean	-	1	-	1
South African	2	1	-	3
Sri Lankan	2	1	-	3
Stateless	1	-	-	1
Sudanese	4	3	-	7
Surinamese	1	-	-	1
Syrian	4	2	-	6
Taiwanese	-	2	-	2
Thais	1	-	-	1
Togolese	-	1	-	1
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	1	3	-	4
Tunisian	6	2	-	8
Türkiye	5	12	1	18
Turkmen	2	-	-	2
Ugandan	2	-	-	2
Ukrainian	32	13	-	45
United States Minor Outlying Islands	-	1	-	1
Uruguayan	1	-	-	1
Venezuelan	2	1	-	3
Vietnamese	9	3	-	12
Yemeni	1	2	-	3
Zambian	-	1	-	1
Zimbabwean	3	4	-	7
<b>NON-EU TOTAL</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1357</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2886</b>

EU  
1,529  
STUDENTS

NON-EU  
1,357  
STUDENTS

**2,886**

TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

# Americas Students

## UNDERGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
American	4	1	-	5
Brazilian	1	-	-	1
Canadian	2	3	-	5
Costa Rican	1	1	-	2
Peruvian	-	1	-	1
<b>UG TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

## POSTGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
American	41	24	-	65
Barbadian	-	1	-	1
Belizean	1	1	-	2
Brazilian	12	2	-	14
Canadian	11	3	-	14
Chilean	3	-	-	3
Colombian	4	2	-	6
Ecuadorian	1	1	-	2
Grenadian	-	1	-	1
Guatemalan	2	1	-	3
Honduran	1	1	-	2
Jamaican	1	2	-	3
Mexican	8	-	-	8
Nicaraguan	1	-	-	1
Panamanian	1	-	-	1
Peruvian	3	-	-	3
Saint Vincentian	1	1	-	2
Surinamese	1	-	-	1
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	1	2	-	3
Uruguayan	1	-	-	1
Venezuelan	-	1	-	1
<b>PG TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>

## VISITING

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
American	46	16	-	62
Argentinian	1	-	-	1
Brazilian	4	1	-	5
Canadian	10	2	-	12
Colombian	3	2	-	5
Ecuadorian	2	-	-	2
Mexican	-	1	-	1
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	-	1	-	1
Venezuelan	2	-	-	2
<b>VISITING TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>242</b>

# EU Students

(excluding Maltese nationals)

## UNDERGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Austrian	9	2	-	11
Belgian	1	2	-	3
British (TUE)	10	3	-	13
Bulgarian	15	8	-	23
Croatian	3	-	-	3
Cypriot	1	1	-	2
Czech	3	3	-	6
Danish	2	2	-	4
Dutch	7	4	-	11
Estonian	2	-	-	2
Finnish	8	2	-	10
French	14	6	-	20
German	26	18	-	44
Greek	8	8	-	16
Hungarian	27	7	-	34
Icelander	1	-	-	1
Irish	15	8	-	23
Italian	75	34	1	110
Latvian	1	2	-	3
Lithuanian	5	-	-	5
Luxembourger	1	1	-	2
Norwegian	2	1	-	3
Polish	52	11	1	64
Portuguese	5	2	-	7
Romanian	21	8	-	29
Slovakian	9	2	-	11
Slovenian	4	-	-	4
Spanish	12	1	1	14
Swedish	6	1	-	7
Swiss	1	2	-	3
<b>UG TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>488</b>

## POSTGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Austrian	7	4	-	11
Belgian	5	2	-	7
British (TUE)	5	4	-	9
Bulgarian	3	2	-	5
Croatian	2	-	-	2
Cypriot	3	2	-	5
Czech	5	2	-	7
Danish	4	2	-	6
Dutch	19	3	-	22
Estonian	1	1	-	2
Finnish	1	-	-	1
French	24	2	-	26
German	38	15	-	53
Greek	11	9	-	20
Hungarian	4	1	-	5
Icelander	1	-	-	1
Irish	5	2	-	7
Italian	45	32	-	77
Latvian	2	-	-	2
Lithuanian	6	1	-	7
Luxembourger	2	-	-	2
Norwegian	1	1	-	2
Polish	10	2	-	12
Portuguese	3	2	-	5
Romanian	6	-	-	6
Slovakian	2	-	-	2
Spanish	23	11	-	34
Swedish	4	2	-	6
Swiss	4	1	-	5
<b>PG TOTAL</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>349</b>

## VISITING

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Austrian	10	2	-	12
Belgian	20	6	-	26
Bulgarian	1	-	-	1
Croatian	2	1	-	3
Czech	23	12	-	35
Danish	2	3	-	5
Dutch	16	6	-	22
Finnish	17	1	-	18
French	40	35	-	75
German	66	32	1	99
Greek	5	1	-	6
Hungarian	7	4	-	11
Irish	49	22	-	71
Italian	64	42	-	106
Latvian	17	2	-	19
Lithuanian	9	4	-	13
Luxembourger	-	4	-	4
Norwegian	6	1	-	7
Polish	46	19	1	66
Portuguese	1	5	-	6
Romanian	5	3	-	8
Slovakian	7	3	-	10
Slovenian	7	2	-	9
Spanish	25	15	-	40
Swedish	12	2	-	14
Swiss	6	-	-	6
<b>VISITING TOTAL</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>629</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1529</b>

# Non-EU Students

## UNDERGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Albanian	3	-	-	3
American	4	1	-	5
Belarusian	-	1	-	1
Brazilian	2	1	-	3
British	8	1	-	9
Cameroonian	-	1	-	1
Canadian	2	3	-	5
Chinese (HK)	-	2	-	2
Chinese (PR)	19	19	-	38
Colombian	1	1	-	2
Congolese	1	1	-	2
Costa Rican	1	1	-	2
Egyptian	3	1	-	4
Eritrean	-	2	-	2
Filipino	15	4	-	19
Georgian	1	1	-	2
Ghanaian	3	2	-	5
Indian	18	10	-	28
Iranian	1	1	-	2
Iraqi	1	-	-	1
Japanese	14	6	-	20
Kazakhstani	-	1	-	1
Kenyan	3	2	-	5
Korean (South Korea)	2	2	-	4
Kuwaiti	50	39	-	89
Libyan	31	10	-	41
Macedonian	4	2	-	6

## UNDERGRADUATE (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Malawian	-	1	-	1
Malaysian	-	1	-	1
Mauritian	-	1	-	1
Moroccan	-	1	-	1
Nepalese	2	-	-	2
Nigerian	3	11	-	14
Omani	13	16	-	29
Pakistani	13	4	-	17
Palestinian	1	2	-	3
Peruvian	-	1	-	1
Russian	15	4	-	19
Rwandan	1	-	-	1
Saudi	3	-	-	3
Serbian	9	5	-	14
Seychellois	1	-	-	1
South African	2	1	-	3
Sudanese	2	1	-	3
Syrian	3	1	-	4
Tunisian	1	-	-	1
Türkiye	-	4	-	4
Ugandan	2	-	-	2
Ukrainian	13	8	-	21
Vietnamese	6	3	-	9
Yemenis	1	-	-	1
Zimbabwean	-	2	-	2
<b>UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>460</b>

## POSTGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Afghan	1	1	-	2
Albanian	1	2	-	3
Algerian	1	-	-	1
American	41	24	-	65
Australian	3	1	-	4
Azeri	5	3	-	8
Bangladeshi	6	3	-	9
Barbadian	-	1	-	1
Belizean	1	1	-	2
Botswanan	1	1	-	2
Brazilian	12	2	-	14
British	14	5	-	19
Cameroonian	-	1	-	1
Canadian	11	3	-	14
Chilean	3	-	-	3
Chinese (HK)	1	-	-	1
Chinese (PR)	11	5	-	16
Colombian	4	2	-	6
Dutch (Net. Antilles)	1	-	-	1
Ecuadorian	1	1	-	2
Egyptian	2	3	-	5
Filipino	11	5	-	16
Georgian	3	3	-	6
Ghanaian	4	5	-	9
Grenadian	-	1	-	1
Guatemalan	2	1	-	3
Honduran	1	1	-	2
Indian	15	19	-	34
Indonesian	8	2	-	10
Iranian	1	1	-	2
Jamaican	1	2	-	3
Japanese	1	-	-	1
Jordanian	1	-	-	1
Kazakhstani	4	-	-	4
Kenyan	7	3	-	10
Korean (South Korea)	2	-	-	2
Kuwaiti	1	-	-	1
Lebanese	3	-	-	3
Libyan	1	5	-	6
Macedonian	2	-	-	2
Malawian	-	1	-	1
Malaysian	-	1	-	1
Maldivian	4	1	-	5

## POSTGRADUATE (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Mauritian	3	-	-	3
Mexican	8	-	-	8
Moldovan	2	-	-	2
Montenegrin	1	1	-	2
Moroccan	2	-	-	2
Namibian	2	-	-	2
Nepalese	3	1	-	4
New Zealander	1	-	-	1
Nicaraguan	1	-	-	1
Nigerian	15	20	-	35
Pakistani	4	7	-	11
Palestinian	5	2	-	7
Panamanian	1	-	-	1
Peruvian	3	-	-	3
Russian	8	3	-	11
Rwandan	1	-	-	1
Saint Vincentian	1	1	-	2
Serbian	6	3	-	9
Seychellois	3	2	-	5
Singaporean	-	1	-	1
Sri Lankan	1	-	-	1
Stateless	1	-	-	1
Sudanese	2	1	-	3
Surinamese	1	-	-	1
Syrian	-	1	-	1
Taiwanese	-	1	-	1
Thais	1	-	-	1
Togolese	-	1	-	1
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	1	2	-	3
Tunisian	3	2	-	5
Türkiye	1	4	-	5
Turkmen	1	-	-	1
Ukrainian	7	1	-	8
United States Minor Outlying Islands	-	1	-	1
Uruguayan	1	-	-	1
Venezuelan	-	1	-	1
Vietnamese	3	-	-	3
Yemeni	-	2	-	2
Zambian	-	1	-	1
Zimbabwean	1	2	-	3
<b>POSTGRADUATE TOTAL</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>457</b>

# Non-EU Students *(continued)*

## VISITING

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Afghan	-	1	-	1
Albanian	1	2	-	3
American	46	16	-	62
Argentinian	1	-	-	1
Australian	8	4	-	12
Belarusian	2	2	-	4
Brazilian	3	-	-	3
British	10	10	-	20
Cameroonian	1	-	-	1
Canadian	10	2	-	12
Chinese (HK)	-	1	-	1
Chinese (PR)	4	1	-	5
Colombian	2	1	-	3
Danish (Greenland)	1	-	-	1
Ecuadorian	2	-	-	2
Egyptian	2	3	-	5
Filipino	50	9	-	59
Gabonese	1	-	-	1
Georgian	3	-	-	3
Indian	79	33	-	112
Indonesian	1	-	-	1
Iranian	-	3	-	3
Iraqi	1	-	-	1
Japanese	13	7	1	21
Jordanian	-	4	-	4
Kazakhstani	1	-	-	1
Korean (South Korea)	5	-	-	5
Kosovar	1	-	-	1
Lebanese	-	1	-	1
Liberian	1	-	-	1

## VISITING (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	X	TOTAL
Libyan	1	1	-	2
Macedonian	1	-	-	1
Malaysian	3	-	-	3
Mexican	-	1	-	1
Moldovan	1	-	-	1
Mongolian	1	-	-	1
Moroccan	3	-	-	3
Nepalese	4	-	-	4
Nigerian	10	3	-	13
Pakistani	2	3	-	5
Palestinian	4	-	-	4
Russian	1	2	-	3
Saudi	-	1	-	1
Serbian	6	4	-	10
Sri Lankan	1	1	-	2
Sudanese	-	1	-	1
Syrian	1	-	-	1
Taiwanese	-	1	-	1
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	-	1	-	1
Tunisian	2	-	-	2
Türkiye	4	4	1	9
Turkmen	1	-	-	1
Ukrainian	12	4	-	16
Venezuelan	2	-	-	2
Zimbabwean	2	-	-	2
<b>VISITING TOTAL</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>NON-EU TOTAL</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1357</b>

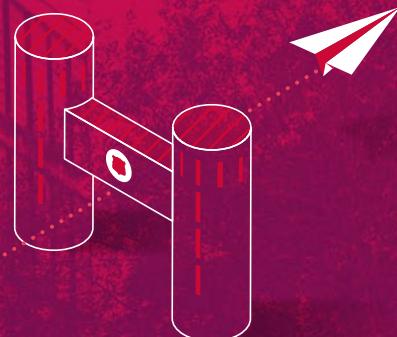


# Erasmus+ Outbound Blended Intensive Programme Students

(scheme started in 2022/2023)

	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL per country
Austria	-	4	4
Belgium	-	7	7
Croatia	1	5	6
Czech Republic	-	5	5
Estonia	-	5	5
Finland	-	6	6
France	1	5	6
Italy	-	14	14
Netherlands	-	7	7
Norway	6	8	14
Poland	10	-	10
Portugal	8	-	8
Slovenia	-	2	2
Spain	8	2	10
<b>TOTAL</b> per academic year	<b>34</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>104</b>

**+36**  
OUTBOUND STUDENTS  
IN 2023/24  
FROM 2022/23



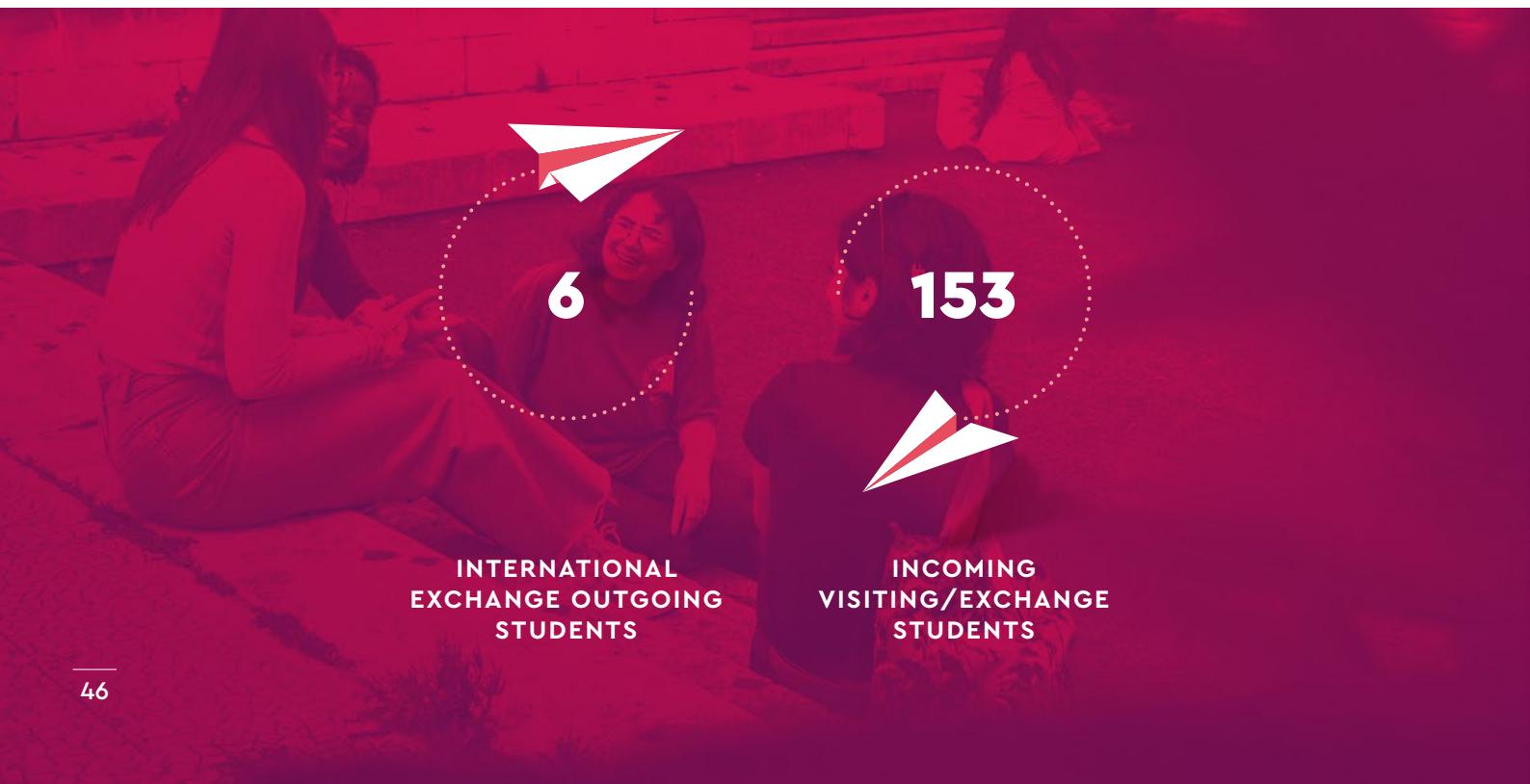
# Erasmus+ Inbound Students

	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL per country
Albania	-	-	-
Austria	4	13	17
Belgium	40	29	69
Bulgaria	4	-	4
Croatia	-	3	3
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	27	38	65
Denmark	18	10	28
Estonia	-	4	4
Finland	12	13	25
France	65	56	121
Germany	84	73	157
Greece	8	3	11
Hungary	4	7	11
Iceland	-	-	-
Ireland	62	90	152
Italy	106	85	191

	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL per country
Latvia	4	2	6
Lithuania	8	11	19
Luxembourg	3	4	7
Netherlands	35	29	64
Norway	2	4	6
Poland	64	109	173
Portugal	7	7	14
Romania	1	2	3
Slovakia	11	4	15
Slovenia	3	10	13
Spain	49	34	83
Sweden	7	11	18
Switzerland	4	4	8
Türkiye	7	13	20
United Kingdom	67	1	68
<b>TOTAL</b> per academic year	<b>706</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>1375</b>

# International Exchange Outgoing Students

	2022/2023	2023/2024
USA	7	-
Australia	2	4
Austria	1	-
Canada	-	-
China	-	2
Japan	1	-
Mexico	1	-
Morocco	1	-
South Korea	-	-
Spain	1	-
United Arab Emirates	-	-
United Kingdom	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>



# Incoming Visiting/ Exchange Students

	2022/2023	2023/2024
USA	36	46
Australia	3	7
Austria	-	-
Belgium	-	-
Brazil	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-
Canada	11	8
Chile	-	-
Chinese	-	-
Croatia	-	-
Czech Republic	-	1
Denmark	1	-
Dubai	1	-
Finland	-	-
Luxemburg	-	-
Netherlands	1	6
France	32	32
Germany	35	25
Greenland	1	-
Hungary	1	-
India	-	4
Italian	-	3
Japan	16	13
South Korea	6	5
Macedonia	-	-
Mexico	-	1
New Zealand	-	-
Norway	-	-
Portugal	-	-
San Marino	1	-
Spain	-	-
Sweden	-	-
Switzerland	3	2
Tunisia	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>153</b>

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