

Alternative assessment method in Gender Studies, enhancing learning and promoting inclusivity



The [Master of Gender, Society and Culture](#) programme, offered by the [Faculty for Social Wellbeing](#), featured an alternative assessment method for the Gender and Social Justice study-unit ([GDS5007](#)) this year. Students were tasked with translating content relating to the [She Can exhibition](#) from English to Maltese, which was then uploaded on [Wikipedija](#) with the help of Dr Toni Sant and Ms Enrique Tabone. Concurrently, students contributed to listing the scientists who took part in this exhibition, ensuring their presence on [Wikipedija](#).

This alternative assessment method significantly contributed to students' learning and facilitated the achievement of the set learning outcomes in several ways. Firstly, it provided students with practical experience in translation, enhancing their language skills in both English and Maltese. This task required critical thinking and precision, as students had to ensure that the translated content accurately conveyed the original meaning while being accessible to Maltese-speaking audiences.

Moreover, by engaging with [Wikipedija](#), students learned valuable skills in digital literacy and online content management, which are increasingly important in the digital age. They gained first-hand experience in how information is shared and disseminated online, and the importance of accuracy and credibility in public knowledge resources.

This practical assessment component aligned with the department's objective of sharing learning with others. By making information about female scientists accessible in Maltese, students contributed to increasing the visibility of these scientists and promoting gender equity in STEM fields. This aligns with the broader social justice goals of the programme, as it addresses gender disparities and promotes inclusivity.

The use of Maltese in the translations broadened engagement with an audience that might not be conversant in English, thereby promoting cultural preservation and inclusivity. This aspect of the project underscored the importance of linguistic diversity and accessibility in education and public knowledge dissemination.

This initiative addresses strategic commitments under the [Societal Factors and Impact](#) and [National Impact](#) themes of the [University of Malta's Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#), namely by seeking to [promote public outreach](#), [advance and commit to gender rights](#), and [protect and preserve the Maltese language](#).

Through this [Quality Mailshot Initiative](#), the [QAC](#) aims to disseminate best practices at UM that align with both national and European standards for quality in higher education. If you have an example of good QA practice which you would like us to share, please get in touch with us at gac@um.edu.mt