

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Call ID: 209/2025)****Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer II****Project** “Harnessing the potential of the reform process within the Maltese Health System”**Partially funded by the ESF+ 2021-2027 Programme (ESF+ 02.233)**

Department of Economics

1. Applications are invited for a full-time Research Support Officer (RSO) to work as an Early-Stage Researcher (PHD candidate) on the Project concerned with ‘Creating the required cost structure to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of DRGs across the public health service.’ This project is part of ESF+.02.233 titled “*Harnessing the potential of the reform process within the Maltese Health System*”, which is funded by the ESF+ 2021-2027 Programme.
2. Applicants must be in possession of a Master’s degree in Economics or in an equivalent area of study related to the proposed area of research. Applicants are required to be in possession of appropriate qualifications to demonstrate excellent skills in English, and excellent scientific writing skills.

**The University of Malta is an Equal Opportunity employer.**

3. **The selected candidate must be living in Malta for the period of employment.** The appointed candidate will be hosted by the Department of Economics (FEMA) at the University of Malta.
4. The post is for a period of up to 36 months. The successful candidate will be expected to start in January 2026 and the initial remuneration per annum (inclusive of any cost-of-living adjustments) shall be €30,327.
5. The successful candidate will be required to read for a PhD related to the project, in the area of Economics (with Health Economics as a major area of study) within the 36-month period.
6. Candidates must upload their covering letter, curriculum vitae, and certificates (certificates should be submitted in English) and contact details of at least two referees **through this form** <https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/workatum-projects> by not later than **Sunday, 4th January 2026**.

**Late applications will not be considered.**

7. Further information may be obtained from <http://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/recruitment> and should you have any queries, please send us an email on [projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt](mailto:projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt).

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Office of the University,  
Msida, 10th December 2025Co-funded by  
the European Union

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Call ID: 209/2025)**

**Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer II**

**Project** “Harnessing the potential of the reform process within the Maltese Health System – ESF+.02.233”

**Funded by the ESF+ 2021-2027 Programme**

Department of Economics

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**Further Background Information**

This project (ESF+.02.233) follows on the success of a previous ESF project i.e. ESF project (04.084 - Reform in the public health system to maximise efficiency gains and enhance governance) whereby the Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG) system was adapted from the German system. This system is still in its infancy and requires considerable testing, experience, and additional skills to ensure successful rollout. Reforms and similar other major changes in the health sector require significant effort, capacity building, training and, above all, time. Hence this project ensures the sustainability and durability of reforms that were initiated previously. This is essential to solicit a greater impact across the service and to garner greater support at strategic level to use the system for healthcare management. This is the first deliverable of the project and this aim should be incorporated as part of the PHD proposal.

This project also aims to roll out and pilot a costing and coding system utilising DRGs and to carry out a comparative analysis between current costing and financial systems and the newly developed DRG system. Depending upon the results of this first stage, one should explore how this could be extended to cover cross border patients and possibly contracts with private health care providers. This is the second deliverable of the project and this aim should be incorporated as part of the PHD research proposal.

This project will be exploring practical applications of the newly created DRG-MT within the Maltese healthcare system, with its specificities, particularly that of having a taxation based, free at point of care service. A DRG hospital-based system would encourage greater efficiency in the use of current available resources. Piloting such applications within the context of the cross-border health care service and within the Gozo General Hospital shall provide concrete evidence for non-technical senior stakeholders to appreciate better the value of healthcare activity data coded in this manner.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr Carl Camilleri, Head of Department (Economics) at [carl.camilleri@um.edu.mt](mailto:carl.camilleri@um.edu.mt).



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1. The appointee will be responsible for carrying out research with the main duties including:
  - a) Carry out research in accordance with the project objectives, under the supervision of the principal and co-Investigators;
  - b) Assistance in the management of the project and working closely with the project partner and the funding body throughout the duration of the project;
  - c) Producing project deliverables within the time frames specified in the project description;
  - d) Keep detailed progress reports and abide by all the conditions imposed by the project;
  - e) Participate in writing technical and scientific conference and journal papers;
  - f) Present research papers at international conferences, workshops and meetings, as required;
  - g) Follow courses offered by the University of Malta that are related to duties, including the possibility of training periods abroad;
  - h) Keep up to date with software and measurement hardware developments, particularly those related to the project;
  - i) Assist in the dissemination process via workshops, seminars and other events;
  - j) Take part in the submission of local and international research proposals to sustain related research beyond the funding period of the project; and
  - k) Perform any other tasks as instructed by the principal and co- Investigators at the University of Malta as well as other collaborating experts.
2. The appointee will be expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.
3. The selection procedure will involve:
  - a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
  - b. shortlisting; and
  - c. an interview and / or extended interview.
4. The post is for a period of up to 36 months, which will be subject to a probationary period and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

Office of the University,  
Msida, 10th December 2025



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