



L-Università
ta' Malta

University of Malta Grants Week

Prof. Ing. Saviour Zammit
Pro-Rector Research and Knowledge Transfer

5th July 2021

L-Università ta' Malta



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Research at the UM

○ Mission

Our mission is to serve the aspirations of the people of these islands through the provision of quality higher education in the arts, sciences, social sciences, the humanities and other areas of knowledge as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development through the scholarship of critical inquiry, discovery, **research** and service to the community. The University will deliver these functions in a sustainable manner that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs.

UM Structures in Support of Research (1)

- Rectorate:
 - Strategy and direction
- Research Support Services Directorate (RSSD):
 - One stop shop for grant support
 - Horizontal Lab support function
- Project Support Office (PSO):
 - Support for pre-award and post-award
- Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer Office (CR & KTO):
 - Support for IP protection and exploitation
 - Industry Academia Collaboration

UM Structures in Support of Research (2)

- FDICS:
 - Academics and PhD students, Space and Labs
- Doctoral School:
 - Professional Development
- UREC:
 - Research Ethics
- Directorates:
 - Finance Office, HR Office, Procurement Office, Legal Office, International Office, Estate and Works

UM Funding 2019-2020

○ **UM Budget:**

- UM (excl. JC): € 101 million
- Of which RA HR costs: € 43 million
- Contributing to Research: € 14.3 million (1/3 RA Time)
- Direct Research Salaries € 4.7 million

○ **External Research Funds expended for the year:**

- Local: € 3.8 million
- International: € 4.4 million

○ **Internal Funds**

- Research Seed Funds: € 500 K
- Research Excellence Funds: € 60 K x 4
- Special line item: € 600 K (added to REF projects)

Local Funds

- UM
 - Research Seed Funds € 0.50 million
 - Research Excellence Funds € 0.15 million
 - Cluster Funding € 1.20 million

- MCST
 - FUSION: CVP/TDP
 - Prima
 - Space Fund
 - Sino/Malta Fund
 - Internationalisation Fund, etc.
 - Research Excellence Funds

- ERDF
 - TRAKE € 36 million
 - SLC € 48 million
 - Interreg Europe

International Sources of Funds

- Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe
- MSCA
- ERC
- COST
- Erasmus+

Strategic Plan 2020–2025

*Serving students, scholarship
and society, sustainably*

www.um.edu.mt/strategy



STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES

University wide implementation across 174 units in 12 administrative directorates, 14 faculties, 114 academic departments, 35 institutes, centres, schools and academies.



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University wide implementation across 174 units in 12 administrative directorates, 14 faculties, 114 academic departments, 35 institutes, centres, schools and academies.



2. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

University wide implementation across 174 units in 12 administrative directorates, 14 faculties, 114 academic departments, 35 institutes, centres, schools and academies.

Promote World Class Research

High-level researchers, research environment, doctoral school, international collaboration, respond to local and global needs, emerging areas, smart specialisations, research niches or UM

Conduct Research that Supports Rankings

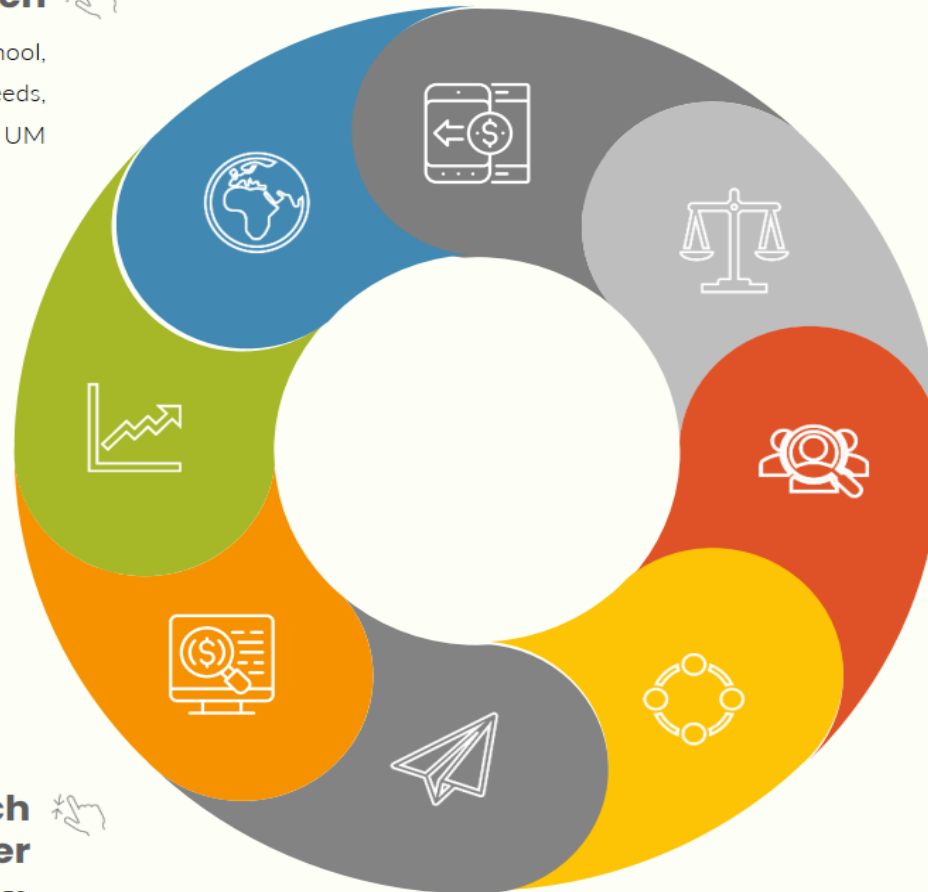
Benchmark best-in-class, peer-reviewed publications and citations, doctoral-researcher-to-staff ratio

Secure Sustainable Funding for R&D

Funds in line with GERD, infrastructure, auditing for use of resources, funding from RIDT, strengthening RSSD and PSO, procurement and recruitment

Expand Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer

Intellectual property, research consultancy, IP and knowledge transfer, CR&KTO unit, partnerships and industry collaboration, proof-of-concept and start-up funding



Improve Communication and Research Outreach

Social and traditional media, Malta-centric publication, research as a pillar in Malta's economic development, postgraduate research, engage STEAHM communicators, internal and external communication.

Undertake Responsible Research, Integrity and Ethics

Set up Committee for Research Engagement and a Research Integrity Office, Strengthen and streamline UREC

Design an HR Strategy for Researchers

Studentships, HRS4R charter, mentoring, take-up of the research stream, status of researchers, support and conditions, gender balance, mobility, training on emerging technologies

Apply the Research Clusters Concept

Multidisciplinary research, funding from national and international sources, business plans detailing expected outputs in diverse research areas

Research Clusters


- As of 2020/2021 Government has added a separate budgetary line item for research at the UM
 - € 1.2 million per annum
- Government promised:
 - This line item is sustainable, i.e. per annum
 - Will increase if we show good results
- UM proposed to set up Research Clusters:
 - In areas of national, regional and global interest
 - Initially disbursing circa € 100k per cluster per annum
 - Non-performing clusters will be wound down and replaced


Challenges


- Funding
 - MRIC, ME, GoM
 - Research Clusters
 - MCST funding increasing
 - Malta Enterprise and Industry Academia Collaboration
 - New calls for Structural Funds
- HR
 - Research Project Managers
 - Project Support Officers
 - Research Support Officers
 - Impact of COVID
- Space
 - TRAKE / SLC / Blue Building / Campus Hub / Sports Complex

Thank you for your attention.

Questions?

 Saviour Zammit
Pro-Rector
Research and
Knowledge Transfer

 (+356) 2340 2553

 Saviour.zammit@um.edu.mt

Guidelines: Setting up of Research Clusters

- Three or more Depts (from Faculties or Schools), Institutes & Centres form a Research Cluster
- They produce a 3 to 5 year business plan detailing the work of the Research Cluster
- Rector appoints Evaluation Committee:
 - Chaired by Rector
 - Assisted by Pro-Rector Research and Knowledge Transfer
 - Three Deans and/or Directors from participating FICS
 - Three Deans and/or Directors from non-participating FICS
- Evaluation Committee
 - Recommends changes **OR**
 - Proposes acceptance to Senate
- Senate recommends the Research Cluster to Council
- Council has final say on setting up of Research Cluster

Guidelines: Monitoring and dissolution of a Research Cluster

- An evaluation committee (EC) shall be nominated by Rector
 - Chaired by Pro-Rector Research and Knowledge Transfer
- Every year
 - The Research Cluster (RC) shall submit a report to the EC detailing progress against the business plan
 - The EC may recommend changes to the RC
- Every three years
 - The EC shall evaluate the performance of the RC based on
 - The past plan and a new 3-5 year business plan for the RC
 - The EC may
 - Allow the RC to continue operation, **OR**
 - Propose to Senate that the RC is wound down
 - Senate shall recommend to Council that the RC should be wound down
 - Council shall have the final say on whether the RC is dissolved or not