

Official Name: Republic of Malta
Capital City: Valletta
Area: 316 sq. km
Flag:




Government Type: Parliamentary Democracy
Population: 410,290 (2007 figures)
Geography: Malta is situated right in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea between Europe and North Africa. It stands just right below Sicily. It comprises of an archipelago of nine islands, with the two main habitable islands Malta and Gozo. Ancient Greeks and Romans called the island Melita meaning the island of honey.

Population Density: 1,220 per sq. km
Currency: Euro as from 1st January 2008
Religion: 98% Roman Catholic
Official Languages: Maltese and English
International Calling Code: +356





EUPA – THE MALTESE NATIONAL AGENCY



The EUPA – European Union Programmes Agency was set up in the year 2000, as a Unit within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment. On the 4th of May of 2007, the Unit was established as a legal autonomous Agency. The aim of the EUPA has always been to support Maltese individuals and entities in availing themselves of funding under the various educational programmes provided by the European Commission. Yet the aim of the Agency is deeper than simply a financial contribution or sponsorship through which projects may be realised.

The general objective of the programmes is to contribute towards a holistic development of the community as an advanced knowledge society with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, while ensuring good protection of the environment for future generations. These aspects can be achieved through both Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes, which give an important contribution to the acquisition of competences, experiences and knowledge.

These programmes are a key instrument in providing a varied range of people coming from different age groups and backgrounds, with

opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension.

In particular, the Agency, through its programmes, aims to foster interchange, integration, co-operation and mobility between individuals and groups within the community so that they become a world quality reference, promoting and celebrating best practices.

The EUPA, on the guidelines set by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and the European Commission, presents its annual strategy regarding the emphasis to be placed on specific sectors. Some of the areas on which the strategy focuses on are lifelong education and vocational training, information technology, health, intercultural integration, small and medium sized enterprises and cultural heritage. We are committed to support projects which promote these opportunities, by providing the full support to beneficiaries in the quest to have the successful implementation of their project, maximising the use of the EU funds available.

Today the EUPA manages the new generation of educational programmes, that is, the Lifelong Learning Programme, with four main sectoral programmes, Comenius, Erasmus (including the Bologna Process), Grundtvig

and Leonardo da Vinci as well as the Transversal Programme. It also manages the Youth in Action Programme, Eurodesk, EuroMed Youth Platform, Citizens Programme and European Integration Fund for Third Country Nationals.

The EUPA mission statement is to reinforce and promote lifelong learning, linguistic and cultural diversity, mobility and the engagement of Maltese citizens within the European dimension, in particular the young.

Please make sure to log on our website and become a partner of the European Union Programmes Agency.

You may log on to the following websites for further information:
<http://www.eupa.org.mt>
<http://www.llp.eupa.org.mt>
<http://www.yia.eupa.org.mt>

Contact the EUPA:

36, Old Mint Street,
Valletta – VLT 1514, MALTA
Tel: +356 25586132
Fax: +356 25586139

E-mails:

eupa@gov.mt
llp.eupa@gov.mt
yia.eupa@gov.mt

STUDYING IN MALTA

BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN MALTA

Malta offers a healthy, welcoming and a stimulating environment for students. Our higher education institutions operate the Student Advisory Service (<http://www.um.edu.mt/sas/>; http://www.mcast.edu.mt/support_guidance.asp; http://www.its.edu.mt/internationaloffice_overseasstudents.asp) which aims to provide prospective and current students with the necessary information and advice in order to make informed and sensible choices. They may also assist international students to adjust to living in Malta. Furthermore, the Orientation programmes help to acquaint foreign students to their academic programmes, while assistance is also given by the International Offices of the three institutions and the student bodies, all year round.

The three institutions receives around 100 Erasmus and International Exchange students yearly. European Youth Programmes aim at a multi-dimensional increase in the educational level of individuals and society in general, towards better recognition and inter-cultural dialogue, mutual cooperation and personal collaboration between local and foreign students. These are some of the goals set by such European Programmes.

Within this context, students coming from different countries have the opportunity to work together and share cultures and ways of life, search solutions for problems together, and most importantly, to share original experiences – which find their roots in their countries of origin.

Assistance can also be obtained from the Euroguidance centre in Malta, which forms part of the Maltese National Agency within the European Union Programmes Agency. It collects, processes and disseminates

information on studying and training opportunities across participating countries. Euroguidance Malta offers individualised assistance and on-line services for local and foreign persons who are interested in transnational mobility.

The main objectives of Euroguidance Malta are:

- To provide Guidance and Counseling practitioners with information regarding the latest developments in the area of Career Guidance throughout Europe
- To promote Lifelong Guidance on a sectoral and national level among the major stakeholders and the general public
- To support the guidance community with mobility issues
- To provide the general public with information regarding studying and training in European countries.

For further information one can log on to <http://www.llp.eupa.org.mt/content.php?id=27>.

THE MALTESE Education SYSTEM

PRE-HIGHER Education

Duration of compulsory education (years): 11

Age of entry: 5

Age of exit: 16

Certificate/diploma awarded: Secondary Education Certificate

Primary education lasts for six years. There are two types of secondary education schools: Junior Lyceums and Area Secondary Schools. Studies last for five years divided into a two-year orientation cycle and a three-year cycle of specialization. At the end of this cycle, pupils sit for the Secondary Education Certificate. This leads to eligibility for the Sixth Form Matriculation Certificate course.

SIXTH FORM

Length of program (years): 2

Age level from: 16 to 18

Certificate/diploma awarded: Matriculation Certificate Examination

Upper Lyceums and Sixth Forms prepare pupils for the Matriculation Certificate which gives access to higher education.

HIGHER Education

Higher education is mainly provided by the University of Malta, MCAST and ITS but one can also find a number of private institutions who provide courses in higher education. The Education Act of 1988 is the principal legislation governing the provision of education.



HIGHER Education IN Malta

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The development of higher education over the last few decades has been a success for Malta as a nation. The University of Malta has ceased to be an institution for a select few and conversely opened its door to allow greater access to the country's aspiring graduates. The Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology has provided the opportunity for thousands of students to extend and expand their educational experience in the higher educational field. This will continue to ensure an increase in the quality of human capital of the Maltese people which is a determining factor for the prosperity and improved quality of life. On the other hand the Institute of Tourism Studies is a specific college for tourism studies.

Higher education (HE) refers to tertiary level education of a general or vocational type, whether these lead to partial or complete fulfilment of a programme leading to a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree. In a lifelong learning continuum it follows compulsory education and is supplemented by all forms of further and adult learning opportunities and programmes. There are several specialized training centres that offer vocational training in such fields as Industrial Electronics, Engineering, Hotel Management and Catering, Nursing and Health Care, and Art and Design. Each centre issues its own Certificate. Institutions in the HE sector include tertiary education and higher education institutions (some of which also offer vocational education):

- The University of Malta;
- The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST);
- The Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS); and
- Other private provision.

The University of Malta, MCAST and ITS are awarded with the Extended University Charter thus enabling them to participate in all Erasmus activities and this has been awarded for the period 2007 – 2013.

For more information one can log on to: <http://www.education.gov.mt/nchemalta.htm> for further information.

language of instruction

The official language of instruction is English and the same applies for any medium of instructions, any leaflets distributed to you, lectures and exam-writing. Kindly refer to the institutions' websites for further information.

Nevertheless to be able to get a better feel of the Maltese culture we highly advise to learn the Maltese language.



THE UNIVERSITY of Malta

Situated at Tal-Qroqq, the University of Malta is the highest teaching institution of the State by which it is mainly financed and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Over the past few years, the University has reviewed its structures in order to be in line with the Bologna process which envisages the establishment of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. Conscious of its public role, the University strives to create courses which are relevant and timely in response to the needs of the country. The supreme governing bodies of the University are the Council and the Senate. There are some 10,000 students including over 750 foreign/exchange students from nearly 80 different countries, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of them run on the modular or credit system. A basic Foundation Studies Course enables international high school students who have completed their secondary or high school education overseas but who do not have the necessary entry requirements, to qualify for admission to an undergraduate degree course at the University of Malta. The University is geared towards the infrastructural and industrial needs of the country so as to provide expertise in crucial fields. Over 2,500 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general. There are a further 3,000 pre-tertiary students at the Junior College which is also managed by the University.

University today has eleven faculties: Architecture & Civil Engineering; Arts; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Information & Communication Technology; Laws; Medicine & Surgery; Science and Theology.

A number of interdisciplinary institutes and centres have been set up in various fields. These include Agriculture, Anglo-Italian Studies, Baroque Studies, Energy Technology, International Environment, Forensic Studies, Health Care, Islands and Small States, Linguistics, Maltese Studies, Masonry & Construction Research, Public Administration & Management, Physical Education & Sport, Mediterranean Institute and Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking.

The Centres comprise: Centre for Communication Technology, European Centre for Gerontology, Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research, Centre for Environmental Education and Research, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics, Centre for Labour Studies, Centre for Literacy and the European Documentation & Research Centre which incorporates the European Documentation Centre established to serve as a repository of European Community documents as well as a resource centre for students and the general public.

The Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH), the teaching and research arm of Heritage Malta promotes and co-ordinates the pursuit of interdisciplinary training at professional, technical and craftsman levels in all aspects of conservation-restoration and management of cultural heritage. ICMCH makes use of Heritage Malta's Conservation Division's extensive facilities to provide courses including those leading to degrees conferred by the University of Malta.

A centre on Malta's sister-island, Gozo, is a venue for part-time evening degree courses in Arts and Commerce and facilitates short courses and seminars. Associated with the University is the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies which was established by special agreement with the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. The campus is also home to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the International Ocean Institute Malta Operational Centre (IOI-MOC). The public response to the University of the Third Age has been very encouraging with membership constantly on the increase and all activities being well attended.

There are a number of fields which the University has identified as priority areas. Chief among these, are relations with industry and the strengthening of the Engineering departments; the further development of information technology, computer science and artificial intelligence; the University's contribution to the improvement of primary and secondary education and the forging of inter-university links to stimulate international educational exchange.

You may log on to the website <http://www.um.edu.mt> for further information and courses descriptions.

Contact the International & EU Office:
University of Malta, Tal-Qroqq,
Msida - MSD 2080, MALTA
Tel: +356 2340 2224/5
Fax: +356 2131 6941
E-mail: intoff@um.edu.mt

uNivERsity of MALTA facilities

International & EU Office - The International & EU Office is responsible for developing, planning and implementing the University's internationalisation policy, particularly in the area of relations with other Institutions and in promoting the University overseas (<http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu>).

Office for Human Resources Management and Development

- The Office for Human Resources Management and Development leads the University's efforts to recruit, develop and maintain a workforce that meets the needs of a dynamic academic institution (<http://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd>).

Office of the Registrar - The Office of the Registrar is responsible for academic administration at the University including all matters related to courses and students from admissions, class and examinations scheduling, academic records, yearly progression to graduation. The Office also has responsibility for other student services such as the Students Advisory Services and Counselling Unit. As Secretary to Senate and all Faculty and Institute

Boards, the Registrar is responsible for seeing that all Senate decisions and all Regulations are correctly implemented (<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar>).

Campus FM - Campus FM's brief is to offer educational broadcasting by producing programmes of a formal and informal educational nature. Campus FM transmits twenty-four hours on 103.7 FM (<http://www.campusfm.um.edu.mt>).

The Communications & Alumni Relations Office

- The Communications Office enhances communications both within as well as outside the University and is responsible for building and maintaining mutually beneficial contact between the University and its former students by involving them in the University's life and development (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/infocom/comms>).

IT Services - University IT Services, originally established as the Computing Services Centre (CSC), is responsible for the University IT infrastructure and offers a range of facilities and services to assist





members of staff and students with their IT-related needs (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/infocom/itservices>).

University Library Services - The Library with its outlying branches comprises nearly a million monographs, extensive runs of journal literature, a wide range of electronic resources, and prestigious legacy collections of archival and rare book material. It is the hub for information retrieval and supports the teaching and research programmes of the University through services which include excellent reference facilities, library and information literacy instruction, bibliographical consultancy, online compilations of bibliographical guides, overseas document supply, online searching, and a dynamic web portal (<http://www.um.edu.mt/library>).

ACCESS – Disability Support Unit - The University of Malta is committed to the creation of a user-

friendly environment on campus with specially designed facilities for disabled persons (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/support/access>).

Chaplaincy - The Chaplaincy aims to assist the members of the University of Malta in their growth as individuals and as a Church community to celebrate and live the message of Christ (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/support/chaplaincy>).

Counselling Services - Personal Counselling is provided in order to allow students to make the most of their academic education by removing barriers to effective functioning (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/support/counselling>).

Kids Point - Kids Point hosts It-Tajra Child Care Facility and Kids on Campus. Both entities provide services for children of members of staff, students and the general public (<http://www.um.edu.mt/kidspoint>).

Students Advisory Services - The office integrates both public relations and an administrative function and operates in close liaison with the Counselling Services, the Admissions and Records Office and the other offices of the Registrar (<http://www.um.edu.mt/sas>).

Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja - KKU was founded in 1996 to provide an infrastructure to help students and others both from University and outside express their creativity in cost effective ways (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/culture/kku>).

University Sports Facilities - The University sports and recreational facilities are made available to all students on request. Outdoor facilities include a football pitch, an athletics track, two tennis courts, a basketball/volleyball court, and a Handball/5-a-side Football court, whilst a multi-purpose sports hall can be booked for various indoor sports including handball. University students also have the opportunity to take study units in sports. These include: running, swimming, fitness sessions, First Aid, outdoor pursuits and also organizational work in sport with the University. An Olympic-size swimming and diving pool in the University grounds was inaugurated for the 5th Games of the Small States of Europe in May, 1993. There is also a fitness centre next to the Olympic-size swimming pool. Students can benefit from special rates for the use of both facilities. The Malta University Sports Club Committee organizes inter-faculty competitions during the academic year. University teams in football, volleyball, table-tennis, handball, sailing and wrestling take part in national competitions (<http://www.um.edu.mt/about/services/culture/sports>).



THE MALTA COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MCAST)

This College situated in the southern part of Malta, was officially inaugurated in September 2001. MCAST was established by bringing together a number of separate institutes and creating new ones. The Maltese government has invested heavily in MCAST, making it the largest vocational education and training institution on the islands. The MCAST's mission statement clearly emphasizes the international dimension of the education and training to be provided to all its students. Moreover, the College gives its students the opportunity to pursue their studies up to higher education. The full-time student population now stands at approximately 4000 students. During each academic year MCAST also provides short courses and ESF courses for approximately 4,000 part-time students. MCAST employs approximately 300 teachers and 100 administrative staff.

The most important members at MCAST are the students. They are at the centre of initiatives and decisions taken by the administrative bodies.

MCAST is headed by the Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is made up of individuals coming from both the educational and the industrial sector in Malta. This mix of individuals allows the college to gear itself towards providing the necessary skills needed in the local industry. The Principal and CEO, together with the nine Institute Directors, Gozo Centre Manager, the Registrar, the Financial Controller and the Librarian make up the Council of Institutes. The role of the Council is to discuss, administer and implement decisions relating to academic and curriculum issues.

This unique institution on the Maltese Islands, is made up of nine Institutes and a Gozo Centre, mainly:- Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Maritime Institute, Business and Commerce Institute, Mechanical Engineering Institute, Electronics and Electrical Engineering Institute, Agribusiness Institute, Building and Construction Engineering Institute, Art and Design Institute and Institute of Community Services.

The College also has a part time/ ad hoc courses department, an International Programmes Department, a Sports Department, a Basic Skills Unit and a Vocational Teacher Training Unit.

MCAST delivers courses run by BTEC and has been titled by Edexcel as a Centre for Excellence. MCAST also offers course through a number of international awarding bodies. It is also working on the introduction of a common credit system mainly the ECTS/ECVET.

The College is working towards becoming a Community College and thus providing the community with a training institution that is flexible to meet the lifelong learning needs of its members.

You may log on to the website <http://www.mcast.edu.mt> for further information and courses descriptions.

Contact the International Programmes Office:

MCAST, Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola – PLA 9032, MALTA

Tel: +356 23987306

Fax: +356 23987316

E-mail: international@mcast.edu.mt



mcast facilities

A Main Campus can be found in Paola where one can find five institutes out of nine which are Business and Commerce, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Institute of ICT and the Community Services. The latter has two branches one in Sliema and one in Msida.. The Institute of Art and Design can be found in Mosta and the Institute of Building and Construction in Naxxar which are two close towns in Malta. And finally the Agribusiness Institute is found in Qormi whereas the Maritime Institute is found in Kalkara. MCAST centres can also be found in the sister island of Gozo in Xaghra and Xewkija. A campus map can be found at this link http://www.mcast.edu.mt/institutes_map.asp.

Library and Learning Resource

Centre – A main library can be found on the main campus in Paola and a specialized library can be found in all 9 institutes of MCAST (http://www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc_aboutus_generalinformation.asp).

International Office – the main aims being giving information to students, making available literature for students, host foreign students and delegations, and promote EU funded projects (http://www.mcast.edu.mt/about_internationaloffice.asp).

Sports Department – This department was introduced to encourage students to take on more sports activities where they can have fun, get fit, socialize and enjoy a healthy pastime. Various activities are organized over a span of an academic year where all institutes participate is games such as football, netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, aerobics/dance, weight-training, fitness-training, chess, table tennis and much more (http://www.mcast.edu.mt/about_sports.asp).

MCASTLINK – this is the main MCAST publication which aims to create and enhance a corporate identity for the college (http://www.mcast.edu.mt/about_mcastlink.asp).

Student Support Information

Centre – this can be found on Main Campus where one can get information about courses at MCAST, full-time or part-time. This section also provides learning support and guidance and counselling (http://www.mcast.edu.mt/support_informationcentre.asp).

Services by the Community

Institute – Students and the general public can make use of the services of hair and beauty care by making an appointment and having your hair or facial done by students from the Community Institute.

Wi-Fi services can be found in the Common Room near the Students' House on Main Campus.



THE INSTITUTE OF TOURISM STUDIES (ITS)

Situated in St. George's Bay, St. Julian's, the Institute of Tourism Studies is an institution of further and higher education aimed at meeting the changing needs of the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. ITS was established in 1987 and consolidated by the Education Act No. XIII of 2006 of the Laws of Malta. Since its opening, the building had to undergo substantial renovations in order to render the premises adequate for the new Institute of Tourism Studies. The setting up of various facilities was essential for the students to train in. These included the demonstration and individual kitchens, the bar training laboratory, the front office training laboratory, a computer training centre, the library and research facilities, training restaurants and a hotel room training centre. In addition the Institute also thought it essential to have a first class restaurant and bar which gives the students the opportunity to serve the public in a

professional environment under the supervision of their lecturers. The main responsibility of the Institute is to furnish the Hospitality Sector with professional personnel who can guarantee an excellent standard of products and services within the Industry.

In 1989 the Institute opened the ITS Gozo Training Centre, in order to cater for the needs of students in the sister island. This Institute has since then provided morning and evening courses for beginners and in-service personnel in Professional Food Preparation and Production and Food and Beverage Service.

The Institute of Tourism Studies aims to provide educational programmes in the field of Hospitality. It seeks to identify and monitor customer needs and satisfaction and is responsible for providing the Industry with personnel trained to international standards.

Students are encouraged to be flexible and innovative, develop an awareness of quality customer service and improve their I.T. and communication skills, all attributes which are in high demand by employers. They also develop their language skills, and improve their knowledge of international cuisine and culture. Our academic staff is constantly developing new methods of presenting information in ways which will motivate students and sustain their interest. The Institute offers a warm and friendly environment in which to study, with high quality teaching and excellent facilities. The Institute of Tourism Studies is firmly committed to provide an educational structure aimed at guaranteeing excellent standards of service within the Hospitality Industry. Students' progress is continuously monitored by tutors, review boards as well as internal and external examiners. The lecturing staff receives special training and guidance in methodology and assessment techniques.

"We are proud of the achievements of our past students, and their successes give us immense pride and satisfaction."

COURSES OFFERED AT THE INSTITUTE OF TOURISM STUDIES

The Hospitality Industry is made up of various enterprises and establishments. These include hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, leisure centres, fast food outlets, in-flight catering, hospitals, old peoples' homes, etc. Within these organisations, a wide choice of jobs is available.

The Institute offers programmes of study at Certificate, Diploma and Higher Diploma level for careers in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Hotel Operations, Accommodation Operations, Travel Agency Operations and Tour Guiding. Programmes of study are also offered at Craft and Technical levels in Food Preparation and Production and Food and Beverage Service, and the Extended Skill Training Scheme (ESTS) in hospitality trade. The ITS Certificates and Diplomas are recognized by the Malta Qualifications Council and they are included in Malta'

Qualification Framework and in the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. The ITS offers a number of part-time and day-release courses as well as tailor-made training modules designed to meet specific needs within the industry. These could range from one and two-day management seminars and refresher courses to specific skills training programmes. Specific single certification modules are also available at the Institute. These usually start in October or in February and are an excellent preparation for the City & Guilds certificate examinations.

You may log on to the website <http://www.its.edu.mt> for further information and courses descriptions.

Contact the International Internship Office:

Institute of Tourism Studies (Main Campus), Bajja San Gorg,
San Giljan – STJ 3300, MALTA
Tel: +356 23793268
Fax: +356 23793256
E-mail: help.its@gov.mt



ITS facilities

The Executive Chairman's Office – The Executive Chairman leads the Institute to develop and maintain a workforce that meets the needs of a dynamic academic institution.

The Head of Administration's Office – The Head of Administration integrates both public relations and an administrative function and operates in close liaison with the Chairman for the smooth running of the Institute.

The Deputy Director – The Deputy Director is responsible for the effective and efficient delivery of all programmes and courses in accordance with the ITS Rules & Regulations and Policies and to the established quality standards. Ensures that all programmes and course are supported by the necessary IT, Library and LRC resources.

International & Internship Office – The International Internship is responsible for ITS students who are sent to a 12 month practical experience in the hospitality industry which ITS students undertake in a foreign country during their third year of study. This office also is in charge of Erasmus and Leonardo projects (http://www.its.edu.mt/internationaloffice_intinternships.asp).

Office of the Registrar – The Office of the Registrar is responsible for academic administration at ITS including all matters related to courses and students from admissions, class and examinations scheduling, academic records, yearly progression to graduation.

Library Personnel – The personnel at the Library is ready to help and offer guidance and instruction

regarding the use of the library and the services it offers. To facilitate the use of the Library a computerised system was introduced whereby one may find all the book collections that are available at the library. One can search for the books himself or ask for assistance (<http://www.its.edu.mt/library.asp>).

Resource Centre Personnel - The primary aim of the Resource Centre at the Institute of Tourism Studies is to provide computer access to the students. The room consists of 12 computer stations all equipped with the latest technology to facilitate the students throughout the course of their studies. At the Resource Centre one may also find visual, audio and audio-visual educational resources (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_computerlabs.asp).

Guidance and Counselling - The Guidance and Counselling Unit at the ITS provides a professional, confidential service in personal counselling, and career / vocational guidance. The philosophy of the service is the overall well-being of the student attending the ITS (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_guidanceandcounselling.asp).

ITSELNET - The ITS eLearning site, ITSELNET, is being developed as part of the MEDFORIST Project funded by the European Commission under the EUMEDIS Initiative. The objective of the Project is to build a Mediterranean Network of teachers in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) applied to trade and industry. Through this site the Institute of Tourism Studies provides on-line

learning opportunities for its students, and will eventually include opportunities for on-line workers for external students.

The Centre for e-Learning Technologies (CELT) - ITS has set up the Centre for e-Learning Technologies (CELT). Computer based approaches to teaching and learning have been a feature of curriculum development for the past thirty years. Following a considerable investment in teacher and student workstations over the past few years, the Institute of Tourism Studies has now embarked upon the second natural phase in its strategy, with the established goal of increasing the awareness and application of information and communications technologies as educational tools (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_celt.asp).

Front Office / Reception Area – The main idea behind this is to create a reception desk where students get the opportunity to participate in role plays and to make them as realistic as possible (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_frontoffice.asp).

Housekeeping Lab – this lab is fully equipped to train students in housekeeping which is one of the main departments in the hotel industry (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_housekeepinglab.asp).

Training Kitchens & Restaurants – There are two main restaurants on the Main Campus, The Pembroke Suite and the Vaults Restaurant. Here students get the chance to practice silver service (http://www.its.edu.mt/facilities_trainingrestaurants.asp).

KUNsill ta' l-IstudENti UNivERSitaR ji (KSU)



The Kunsill ta' l-Istudenti Universitarji (University Students' Council) is the oldest national student union in Europe. KSU was founded by Sir Arturo Mercieca (later Chief Justice Sir Arturo Mercieca) in 1901, as the Comitato Permanente Universitario. The student union involved itself in student politics as well as national politics.

KSU represents all students attending the University of Malta, Junior College, the Institute of Health Care, Medical School and the Malta Centre of Restoration – both on a national and international level.

Although times have changed since the organization was founded, the aim of KSU remains unchanged. Although Malta has progressed greatly since 1901, this does not reduce the importance of the contribution that each and every student can give to University and society in general. Student life covers a wide range of aspects; from social and academic conditions to cultural aspects, as being a university student is not just about academic success but also about formation of character and development. By getting involved, you can better explore and enjoy your innate creativity and develop it in as many ways as

possible whilst instilling a sense of active citizenship. Representation in turn leads to a sense of belonging which gives way to commitment, determination, dedication and drive. Student representation is an ideal opportunity for some hands-on experience to back up theoretical knowledge.

PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Although in itself KSU is a dynamic organization and therefore it is open for change and debate, like other organizations, it finds its roots in a set of fundamental objectives on which the organization was founded. Over the past 106 years, KSU has been working:

- To represent students in whatever issues concern them, whether it is on a national or international level;
- To serve as an official link between students and the relevant authorities;
- To achieve the democratization of education in Malta;
- To coordinate activities with other organizations;
- To cultivate an interest in students in the fields of education, socio-political and cultural issues; and
- To pressure authorities into assuring the highest level of quality in Higher Education.

philosophy

The KSU's Executive Committee strives in pushing forth the renewed emphasis that University is not simply an academic domain where one specializes within a particular field or profession, but it is a forum for exchange of experiences between students as well as one of the ultimate steps which completes the student formation process.

Though fewer in number, young people are staying 'young' longer. Their concerns, demands and means of expression have also evolved whilst initiatives and career paths have become increasingly individualized. And yet, youths still have a real commitment and a will to participate. Write your own campus story and make the ride all the more worthwhile!! In 1901, KSU had its beginning and each year a significant loop comes to end, however, KSU's ending is nowhere near since its quest for representation persists through new teams for other students!!

KSU iNTERNAtional office

KSU's International Office works both to promote and facilitate the mobility of Maltese students and to assist foreign students studying in Malta. In addition to this the International Office represents the interests of Maltese students on an international level, particularly within ESU – The European Students Union in Europe and MedNet – The Mediterranean Network of Student Representatives.

If you are interested in participating in an international event, be it a traineeship, a semester in a foreign university, a stage in a foreign country or an international conference, you probably realized that there are so many opportunities you don't know where to start. Together with University's International Office and various Student Organisations, KSU aims at collecting the variety of opportunities and making them more comprehensible.

If you are a foreign student trying to come to grips with the maze that is the University of Malta - don't panic. Between the frustration of trying to look for accommodation, the confusion in trying to come to grips with the system, the question on how to get around the island and simply wondering what there is to do in one of the smallest countries in the world getting settled in may seem like a never ending task. KSU's International Office will always be at your service, and now we are also providing you with a welcome pack containing useful information for you to adjust to life in Malta.

In the area of International Representation, KSU participates in ESU (www.esu-online.org) and MedNet. ESU discusses student affairs and represents local students on a European level. It is recognized as a stakeholder in Higher Education. MedNet on the other hand is a recent initiative that aims at promoting a common Mediterranean policy based on social, pedagogical, economic, political and cultural interests of the Mediterranean students and the

equal access to higher education. Within these organizations KSU works on policies and the promotion of student interests on an international level.

KSU also joined the Erasmus Student Network (www.esn.org) earlier this year, and by doing so Malta became the 29th country to join this Network which is present in over 220 higher education institutions. ESN was founded in 1990 with the objective of supporting and developing student exchange. It works to improve the social and practical integration of exchange students, whilst representing their needs and expectations on the local, national and international level.

This year, KSU International Office has set for itself a number of goals to be achieved by the end of the term. This includes the International Stand during Freshers' Week, where international students can have their questions answered in their first week at University. KSU is also giving international students a welcome pack, consisting of the relevant information regarding their studies in Malta, the Living Out Guide – published by EUPA in collaboration with KSU, as well as a map of Malta to help students find their way around. KSU is for another term helping international students find accommodation in Malta. Information about available property can be found on the KSU website (www.ksu.org.mt). This year's KSU International Office is also introducing the Buddy system, which will surely help the foreign student familiarise himself with the way the University works. The KSU

International Benefit Card is another initiative by KSU's International Office. Students who intend to benefit from such card will get a number of benefits, including discounts when purchasing items from particular outlets, as well as when attending events organised by particular institutions.

Upcoming events include the Orientation Day, Welcome Party and One World Week, during which exhibitions, debates, an international cuisine night as well as World Cup Tournament are held. More information can be found at the International Stand during Freshers' Week and further on in this booklet.

So Participate and get involved!
Come to our events and make the most of this great experience in Malta!



MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL

At the MCAST Student Council our vision is clear, that of keeping firm to our values and in clear focus of our aims whilst making sure that our objectives are those of the students we seek to represent.

When keeping firm to our values we make sure that all stake-holders respect the principles of Good Governance, Inclusivity, Equal Opportunities and Community Ethics.

Whilst our objectives are constantly changing in order to represent the needs of the students, our aims of being the voice of the student body to independently represent the student body in its interactions with the remainder of MCAST, promote the welfare and academic excellence of students and the communication, cooperation and understanding among students and MCAST Institutes will always be at the forefront of what we do.

Since its formation the MCAST SC has been very keen in attracting fresh students towards the principle of representation, something that did not exist at MCAST before the MCAST Student Council was founded in November 2006. Since then, many opportunities have followed, from which the Council has learnt that interaction of over 5000 students without forgetting over 700 workers (lecturers, academic and non academic staff) is not an easy task. The MCAST Student Council is composed of 9 members each representing an MCAST Institute. The structure is made up of different posts each student member of the SC undertakes for the period of 2 years.

Various events are held and organized by MCAST SC during the year such as Freshers Day usually in the first week of October, Sport Festival usually before the Christmas recess, Environment Week in January, Multimedia Expo in February, Enterprise Week in March and One World @ MCAST in April.

ITS STUDENT COUNCIL

The ITS Students' Council was founded in the same year when the Institute of Tourism Studies became operational in 1988/1989. All full time students at ITS are automatically registered as members of this association.

The main objectives of the council are to focus on student interests both during their course of studies and during their international placement. The council ensures students' participation in several seminars regarding personal development, cultural and recreational events during each scholastic year.

The aims of the organization are to:

- Bring all full time students of ITS to a common understanding;
- Be the voice for all students;
- Help its members to develop their knowledge and skills;
- Interface between industry, education and government bodies;
- Collaborate with other entities, on a national and international basis in furtherance of such aims;
- The undertaking of projects and activities connected with the above aims.

The council is a member of the NHCE (National Commission for Higher Education).

DEGREE STRUCTURE

First Cycle

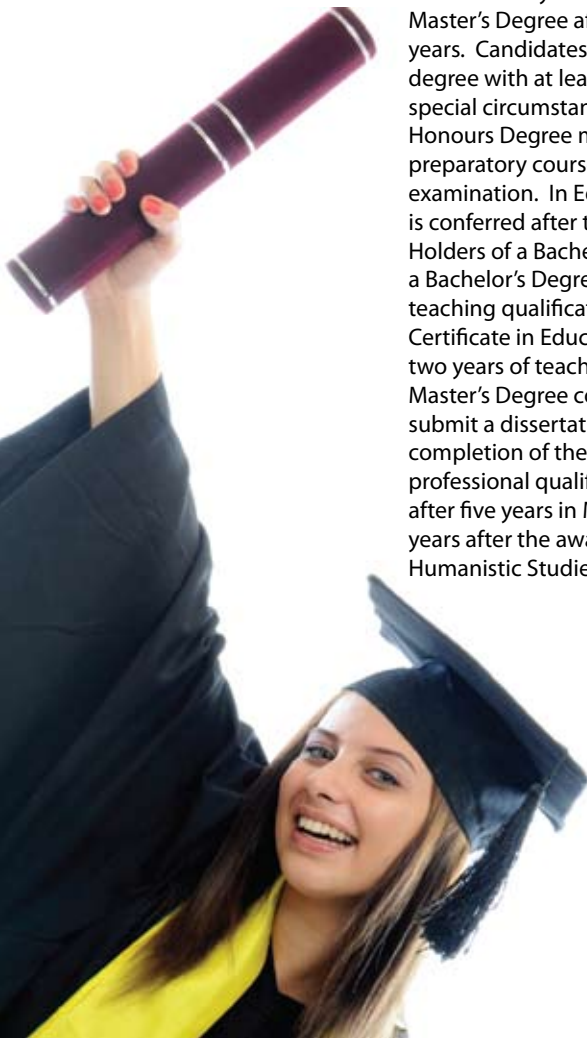
Diplomas and Certificates are awarded in such fields as Nursing, Diplomatic Studies, Management, Administration, Librarian Studies, Religious Studies and Political Science after studies lasting between one and three years. The Bachelor's (General) Degree is obtained in three years, the Bachelor's (Honours) Degree is awarded after four or five years, depending on the field of study.

Second Cycle

The second cycle leads to the award of a Master's Degree after a period of one to two years. Candidates must hold an appropriate first degree with at least second-class Honours. In special circumstances, candidates without an Honours Degree may be admitted after a one-year preparatory course and success in a qualifying examination. In Education, the Master's degree is conferred after two years part-time study. Holders of a Bachelor of Education (four years) or a Bachelor's Degree followed by a professional teaching qualification (PGCE: Postgraduate Certificate in Education) are eligible. In both cases, two years of teaching experience are required. Master's Degree courses require candidates to submit a dissertation in addition to the successful completion of the required courses. The professional qualification of Doctor is conferred after five years in Medicine and six in Law (three years after the award of a BA degree in Legal and Humanistic Studies).

Third Cycle

The third cycle leads, after at least three years of study following the award of a Master's Degree, to the Doctor's Degree (Doctor of Philosophy, PhD). Candidates are required to submit a thesis after a period of research on an approved topic.



public holidays

1st January
New Year's Day

10th February
Feast of St Paul's
Shipwreck

19th March
Feast of St Joseph

31st March
Freedom Day

10th April
Good Friday (for 2009)

1st May
Labour Day/Europe
Day

7th June
Sette Giugno

29th June
Feast of St Peter &
St Paul

15th August
Feast of the
Assumption

8th September
Victory Day

21st September
Independence Day

8th December
Immaculate Conception

13th December
Republic Day

25th December
Christmas Day

acadEMic
calENdar

1st Semester
Lectures:
September – mid-January

Examinations:
end January – beginning
February

Vacation:
2 weeks during
Christmas



2nd Semester

Lectures: mid
February – end May

Examinations: June
– July

Vacation: 2 weeks
during Easter

Summer vacation
July – August

living in Malta

Living in Malta is a unique experience. There is scarcely another place of its size that offers so many archaeological sites, cultural monuments, architecture, artifacts and other treasures spanning the entire history of mankind. For those who enjoy the night life, Malta offers many bars, restaurants, cafes, discotheques and Casinos while for the sportive visitor, many activities can be enjoyed throughout the year including tennis, golf, sailing, windsurfing, horse riding and paragliding. For lovers of music, theatre and the arts, Malta boasts an abundant calendar of cultural events that are staged throughout the year including operas, plays, exhibitions, classical performances and also rock concerts. One can also find a number of cinemas in Valletta, St. Julians, Marsaskala, Bugibba as well as in Gozo. These all feature the latest movies on the market and are all in English, therefore easily understandably by people in general.

Malta also offers culinary experiences to suit every palate. The food in Malta is mainly European and tends to be based primarily upon Italian tastes. Domestic menus are often set by the food currently in season, particularly in summer with its varieties of fish and fruit. However, one finds numerous restaurants in Malta providing a varied menu including the ever popular oriental and Asian cuisine.

Residents enjoy an exceptional standard of living whilst the island's very low crime rate means that Malta is a safe country to live in. Of course, the educational system is first rate offering numerous private, international and public schools, institutes and a university of the highest standards with compulsory education until the age of 16 years.

Malta also boasts first-class healthcare facilities available all over the island. One finds a new Mater Dei public hospital, which became operational in November 2007, as well as two private hospitals and a number of privately-owned clinics. The competence of the Maltese medical profession is well known and the island's hospitals are able to handle even the most complicated surgical interventions. Not without reason is Malta establishing itself as a centre for health, medical and dental tourism.





History

Ever since the archipelago was first colonised thousands of years ago, they have never been far from the centre of events and have often played a crucial role in the making of history. Their strategic situation in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea has attracted empires, whilst it nowadays links the Europe with Africa and the Middle East. Malta, the largest island, and her sister islands of Gozo, Comino, Filfla and other very small islands, are strategically placed in the narrow channel joining the eastern and the western basins of the Mediterranean. This had landed the Maltese Islands right in the middle of the most important historic events: the wars between Rome and Carthage, the rise of Islam, the Crusades, the wars between Christians and Moslems, the rise and fall of Napoleon, the rise and fall of the British Empire, the fight for democracy, the Cold War, the rise of a United Europe and the challenges of the Third Millennium.

The Phoenicians, the Romans, the Arabs, the Angevins, the Aragonese, the Knights of Saint John and the British were amongst the colonizers - all with just one goal: to control the middle of the Mediterranean. Traces of these cultures can still be found in Malta. Phoenician tombs are still quite numerous throughout the island. Dating back to 3600 BC are the megalithic temples, huge stone structures, built for the veneration of the Goddess of Fertility. These stone structures are considered to be the oldest free standing buildings in the world.

The Roman Villa and several Roman and early Christian catacombs in Rabat can be visited. The ancient city of Mdina bears traces of its Arab past. The capital city of Valletta is an open history book on the era of the Knights of St. John. And the British influence is obvious in every day life.



climate

Average weather: Malta's weather and climate, typically Mediterranean are very similar to the southern Italy or southern Greece ones. They are influenced mostly by the sea, consequently being very humid.

Winter: The average daytime temperatures not lower than 15°C (59°F).

Summer: Summers are hot with high temperatures usually above 30°C (86°F) quite often more in the 34°C - 35°C.

Cold months: December – March

Mild months: October – November & April – May

Hot months: June – September



Food & cuisine

Maltese cuisine and food is the result of various influences from the many civilizations Malta came in contact with during its history. The neighbouring island of Sicily had an especially strong influence over Maltese culinary tradition. Maltese cuisine is rich in fresh fruit, vegetables and a lot of fish. Also, very popular is rabbit meat and the local cheese is made of goat or sheep milk. Worth trying is Maltese bread, made from sour dough from the previous day's batch and cooked in stone ovens. Maltese desserts are rather sweet and a lot of dried fruit and almonds are used. A few examples of typical dishes are: Rabbit Stew, Lampuki Pie (fish pie), Braġioli (beef olives) and Widow's Soup, which includes a small round of ġbejniet (sheep or goat's cheese). Even though Malta is not renowned for its wine as other bigger Mediterranean countries, it

produces some good varieties of wine; the local varieties of grapes are called Gellewza and Ghirghentina. Maltese cuisine is the offspring of a long relationship between the indigenous people of the islands and the many foreign dominations over the centuries.

Maltese food is rustic and based on seasonal produce and the fisherman's catch. Pastry of all kinds is used to encase vegetables, cheese, fish, meat, rice and pasta, producing tasty and filling dishes such as 'timpana', an everyday concoction of pasta in a meat sauce topped with a layer of pastry. The most universally eaten Maltese pastry will hardly escape the notice of the visitor who explores the streets taking in the sounds, sights and scents of Malta. It is "pastizzi", probably Turkish in origin, a small boat shaped, delicacy of ricotta cheese and egg wrapped



with thin crisp pastry. One may prefer and also try “pastizzi” filled with peas, or a larger version with meat or anchovies. These are sold on street corners and in village bars everywhere, and eaten hot. Maltese normally take them as a snack with tea and coffee.

Pasta is a staple food of the Maltese family. Seasonal salads and vegetables are also an important feature of the Maltese kitchen. The best loved and most healthy dish is probably “minestra” (minestrone), a thick vegetable soup combining numerous fresh and dried vegetables, served with fresh or grated “ġbejniet” - sheep or goats cheese. “Qarabali” (baby marrows) similar though milder in taste to courgettes is the base of another delicious thick and creamy soup. When fish is in abundance you will find “aljotta” (fish soup) on the menu, a fish stock laced with plenty of garlic, tomatoes, fresh marjoram and rice. In late spring when the broad bean begins to coarsen, a hearty

soup, “kusksu” is very popular. The bean is left whole to simmer in a liquid containing onion and tomato puree to which a small type of cooked pasta grain and fresh cheese is added on serving.

One cannot miss mentioning another deliciously rustic component of the national staple diet; the “ħobż biż-żejt” (bread with oil). It comprises a large, thick round of crusty bread dipped in olive oil, onto which the pulp of a ripe sliced tomato is ribbed. Then this is topped with capers, olives, garlic, black pepper and salt. Sometimes tuna or anchovies are added with fresh mint or basil. Small toasted pieces are often served in restaurants as a pre-dinner appetiser. Try the deep-fried date-filled pastries, “imqaret”, which smell marvellous. Look for cake shops selling treacle rings, “qagħaq tal-ghasel” and almond macaroons, “biskuttini tal-lewz”. At Easter try cut out figurines of icing coated biscuits, “figolli” stuffed with a ground almond mixture.



accommodation

In Malta one can find various forms of accommodation, from hotels to hostels and also host families. Flats can also be rented especially for long lets of three months and more. The University of Malta recommends the University Residence as the ideal place for international students to reside during their stay in Malta. The residence provides direct transport to the university every hour, internet access, laundry and self catering facilities, all at affordable student prices. Even students at MCAST and ITS may reside at this residence since it is quite central to all the institutions. For more information you can visit www.universityresidence.com.

Some of you may prefer to share an apartment or stay with a host family and this is where the student councils can help as well as the international offices. You could check the notice boards for accommodation adverts or you can check out the institutions or the student councils websites. Just asking could make your life much easier by disclosing all the properties available and requests made by people looking for flatmates.

It is important that if you find what you are looking for, you watch out before signing a contract. Check whether you have to pay a deposit, how much does it cost and whether it is returned in the end of your mobility period. Is there a curfew you have to respect, and who has a copy of the keys. What about electricity and water bills, who pays for them or are they included in the rent? Ask whether all the kitchen appliances work and whether you have basic things such as a washing machine which you can use.



TRANSPORTATION

While you're here, you'll obviously need to get from one place to another over the islands. There are various ways of doing so, including the public buses, taxi cabs, as well as car rentals if you wish to go all the way.

Public transport is probably the cheapest way to get around. The routes generally leave from Valletta terminus to the localities, and travel back to Valletta going the other way. There are also some direct routes that do not go through Valletta, as well as a limited night service. You can access a complete list of bus routes on the Public Transport Authority's website, <http://www.atp.com.mt>. If you'll be travelling late at night, it might be easier however to catch a taxi. There are a number of companies providing mini-bus and taxi services on the islands.

If you'd like to cross from one island to the other, there's the Gozo Channel Ferry which leaves periodically from Ċirkewwa (get bus 645 from Sliema or 45/145 from Valletta) in the north of Malta, and travels to Mgarr Harbour in Gozo, a trip that takes less than half an hour. The ferry timetable and applicable fares can be viewed on the company's website, www.gozochannel.com.

The only Maltese airport, Malta International Airport, is situated in Gudja which offers links to most European countries and the rest of the world.

cost of living / currency

The currency in Malta is the Euro. The cost of living in Malta is slightly lower than in Western Europe, but it all depends on one's lifestyle. Here is an indication of how much things cost in Malta:

Landline: 14 Euro cents a minute

Mobile phone call: 28 Euro cents a minute

An SMS to Malta: 5 Euro cents

An SMS sent abroad: 35 Euro cents

Alcoholic drink: 93 Euro cents (shooter) 2 Euros mixed

A soft drink: 93 Euro cents

A Cappuccino: 1.40 Euro cents

Bus Fare: from 47 Euro cents to 54 Euro cents

A meal, with drink, from canteen: 5 Euros

A cinema ticket: 7 Euros

HEALTH

The public health care system in Malta is funded through taxation and national insurance. It operates through public hospitals and health care centres. A number of private hospitals, clinics and other facilities provide private health care. Care in these private facilities is funded by private insurance or out of pocket payments.

Temporary visitors from EU member states have direct access to the health care from publicly funded health care services upon presentation of an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) together with an identification document. EU citizens are advised that an original EHIC will be required in case of document usage of public health

care facilities. If the relevant forms are not presented, health care bills must be paid in full prior to leaving the health care facility. Both cash payments and credit cards payments are possible.

For medical emergency care that requires admission to government hospitals for services, such as in-patient care, day care services, diagnostic services or out-patient visits, patients will not be charged if they present proof of EU nationality and a valid EHIC. The cost of all prosthesis and medication prescribed for follow-up care after hospital in-patient treatment or as part of day care or outpatient care shall be borne in full by the person concerned.

SHOPPING

Malta's two main shopping districts are Valletta and Sliema. Shops in Malta are generally open from Monday to Saturday and from 09.00hrs - 13.00hrs and from 17.00hrs - 19.00hrs. Some shops also open all day in summer and most shops accept payment by major credit cards. Shops generally remain closed on Sundays and public holidays, although certain businesses are open in the main tourist centers. There are open-air markets one day a week in most towns and villages as well as a daily street market in Valletta.

Fashion in Malta is closely linked to English and Italian brands. Jewellery shops selling gold and silver, Malta blown glass and handmade lace are also favourite purchases. Valletta now boasts its first true one-stop shopping and entertainment complex, the Embassy Shopping Complex. Ageless, in that it caters to the needs and tastes of both the teenager as well of that of the more mature person, supplying a myriad of retail outlets, ranging from beauty products, costume jewellery and accessories to mobile telephony as well as a multitude of exquisite fashion outlets to suit all sizes, both up-market and affordable. The Plaza Commercial Centre situated at the

heart of Sliema's commercial and shopping district comprises a mix of retail, catering and office suites spread over nine floors built around a central atrium. Changing consumer lifestyles had a direct influence on the shopping-centre experience as consumers search for quality, international brand names and value for money. Creating an enjoyable shopping environment has been one of the company's key objectives.

Markets are the heart of the Maltese week and a cultural tour of their own. Almost every town and village has its version. They are the time and place for socializing, catching up with neighbours and local news as much as for buying daily necessities. You'll find them a strange assortment of household goods, clothing, music and toys. For treasure hunting, search the bric-a-brac at the Sunday market, 'Il-Monti', just outside Valletta's City Gate. For more mainstream goods, try the daily market in Merchant Street, Valletta. A weekly market is held on Tuesdays on the outskirts of Cospicua, one of the Three Cities. Then there is "it-Tokk", the charming, daily market in the main square in Victoria, Gozo at which you'll find everything from fishing pots to beach towels.



SUN & SEA

The most popular beaches in Malta are Golden Bay and Mellieha Bay, both of which can be found in the North of the Island. There is also Ramla l-Hamra Bay in Gozo. These main beaches can easily be reached by direct public buses.

Golden Bay is surrounded by cliffs and has gold coloured sand. The sun sets on the horizon of this bay, and makes it the ideal picturesque beach for an evening visit. Mellieha Bay, which is also known as Għadira (pronounced Adira) lies on the other side of the island, so you can enjoy a sunrise if you wake up early. Both beaches host water sports centres so you can spice up your visit with a

paragliding experience, a jet ski ride or a relaxing paddle boat excursion. One must, however, be careful when venturing out in deeper waters in Golden Bay, since there are strong currents that can be dangerous, particularly when the sea is rough.

The Eastern coast of Malta features a long rocky beach which is easily accessible for bathers. There are also lidos in the Sliema area providing sun beds and umbrellas.

Towards the south of Malta, one can find deeper sea, and beautiful secluded bays which are excellent for snorkelling.

places of interest



valletta

Valletta, The Fortress City, Citta' Umilissima, 'a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen' is Malta's capital city: a living, working city, the administrative and commercial heart of the Islands. Valletta is named after its founder, the respected Grand Master of the Order of St John, Jean Parisot de la Valette. The city is busy by day, yet retains a timeless atmosphere. The grid of narrow streets boasts some of Europe's finest art works, churches and palaces.

Hosting a vast cultural programme, walking around Valletta you'll come across an intriguing historical site around every corner: votive statues, niches, fountains and coats of arms high up on parapets. Narrow side streets are full of tiny quaint shops and cafés, while Valletta's main streets are lined with larger international branded shops for fashion, music, jewellery and much more.



Mdina

The history of Mdina traces back more than 4000 years. According to tradition it was here in 60 AD that the Apostle St. Paul is said to have lived after being shipwrecked on the Islands. Lamp lit by night and referred to as 'the silent city', Mdina is fascinating to visit for its timeless atmosphere as well as its cultural and religious treasures.

It was home then, as now, to Malta's noble families; some are descendants of the Norman, Sicilian and Spanish overlords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. Impressive palaces line its narrow, shady streets. Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and Baroque architecture.



THE THREE CITIES

On the other side of the Grand Harbour from Valletta, are the historic fortified towns referred to as the three cities. Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, built by the Grandmasters Cottoner, have a unique charm and character that distinguish them from all other towns in Malta, including Mdina and Valletta.

Older than Valletta, the three cities were home to the first knights. Fort St. Angelo which was built around 12th century AD, was the headquarters of the Knights until Valletta was built. In Vittoriosa (better known as Birgu), you will find the residences of many of the well known knights. Here you will also find the Maritime Museum, housed in a former naval bakery, and the Folk Museum in the Inquisitors Palace, the former seat of the Inquisition in Malta.

In Cospicua (also known as Bormla) you will find a magnificent Parish Church, with its Oratory full of unique masterpieces, the Cottonera line and the St. Clements Retrenchment.

Senglea (Isla), named after the Grand Master Claude de la Sengle, was almost completely rebuilt after the Second World War due to bomb damage. It houses two interesting churches, St. Philips and Our Lady of Victories.



GoZO

Gozo also known as Ghawdex is Malta's sister island which can be reached from Malta by taking a ferry which lasts approximately 20 minutes. It is the second largest island after Malta within the archipelago. Compared to Malta, Gozo is more rural and known for its scenic hills, which feature on its coat of arms.

A popular nickname of Gozo is the Isle of Calypso, derived from the location of Ogygia in Greek mythological poem Homer's *Odyssey*. In the myth, the island was controlled by nymph Calypso who detained the hero of the story Odysseus there as prisoner of love for seven years; Gozo is thought to be modern day Ogygia.

Gozo is rich in historical locations such as the Ġgantija temples, which are the world's oldest free-standing structures, as well as the world's oldest religious structures. It is a place not to be missed for its special features when coming over to the Maltese Islands.

For further information you may visit www.visitmalta.com.



WORKING IN MALTA

WORK PERMIT FOR FOREIGNERS

On 1st May 2004, Malta became a member of the European Union which made it easier for persons coming from the member states to work here. But a safeguard on the right to work in Malta had to be put in place; in fact Malta retained its work permit system even to EU workers. This entitles Malta to withhold work permits in case of threats or disruption in the labour market which is of an urgent or exceptional nature.

If you want to work in Malta you first need to register with the Public Employment Services Agency of Malta at the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) in Hal Far or in one of its job centres around Malta and Gozo. The ETC also hosts the EURES services.

MAIN JOB REQUIREMENTS

To be able to work in Malta, the main language which is required is English. English is considered as the second language after Maltese but it is enough to work in the Maltese Islands.

All job applications should have a covering letter accompanied by the Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of certificates and references, where applicable. Applications for jobs can be either typewritten or handwritten. It is recommended that the standard European Curriculum Vitae format is used which can be downloaded from <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>.

WHO CAN WORK IN MALTA?

Only people over the age of 16 can enter employment. The most common employment contracts are full-time contracts with an indefinite period, sometimes called a permanent contract. However fixed term, temporary employment contracts are becoming more and more common in Malta. Latest trends in the employment market show that fixed term contracts are becoming more common in both higher managerial grades and in skilled labour for project contracts.

All EU nationals have the right to live in Malta through the 'right of residence'. This right is held whether the individual is working in Malta or not working but has sufficient financial support without relying on public funds. EU nationals do not require a visa to enter Malta. On arrival in Malta, the passport or the national identity card is checked for validity by the Immigration Office.

Nationals from practically all European and Mediterranean countries may remain in Malta for a period of three months from their date of entry under the 'no employment' condition. The permit is endorsed on their passport upon arrival in Malta.

EU nationals will automatically be allowed to remain indefinitely on proof of self sufficiency. If a person wishes to stay here for longer than three months, he or she is required to apply for an extension of stay to the Department of Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs. Normally, such requests are acceded to provided that the person concerned can show that he or she is self sufficient (amongst other conditions). Foreign nationals would have to follow this procedure each time they wish to extend the permission if they wish to continue to reside in Malta.

One can contact the Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs at 3, Castille Place, Valletta CMR02 or on telephone 21250868 / 21250569-73, fax 21237513 or E-mail citizenship@gov.mt.

job HUNT & GUIDE

If you are looking to work in Malta you can search on <http://www.etc.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=2008> which is the ETC Website. You can also check the EURES website which is the European job mobility portal, which makes it easier to find information on jobs and learning opportunities in European countries (<http://www.euresmalta.com>).

It is also highly advisable to read the document entitled 'Living and Working' which is produced by the EURES section at the ETC and which gives all the information about the rules on the free movement of workers in Malta. This can be found at <http://www.eures.com.mt/EuresMalta/Main/Page.aspx?pageid=LivingWorking>.

After all of this, we wish you many productive days at your workplace in Malta.

THE EUROPASS mobility document

The Europass Mobility document is a passbook style individual document at European level, that registers the training skills acquired abroad by a trainee of whatever age, educational level and occupational status.

It is a standardised document at European level, meaning that the procedure to be followed for each trainee is the same, no matter which European country he or she comes from. This document helps the holder to better communicate what he/she has gained through this experience.

Transparency of qualifications was adopted by the European

Commission on the 17th December 2003. The Decision outlined how 'a rationalisation of the existing tools and instruments supporting transparency of qualifications' could be organised at European and national level. It was at the end of 2004 that the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union finally adopted the 'Europass' Document. The Europass Mobility system is derived from Article 6 of the Europass Document. It is intended to provide a consistent framework for the recognition by employers and training providers of acquired skills, competencies and qualifications obtained by trainees, throughout the EU.

This develops closer European cooperation in vocational/higher education and training and supports the idea that citizens who obtain such qualifications can move freely between different jobs, regions, sectors and countries in Europe.

The Europass Mobility involves a partnership between the organisation sending the holder of the Mobility passbook, the sending partner, and the organisation hosting the holder of the passbook, the host partner.

The name of the person who makes use of the Europass Mobility system is the only compulsory piece of personal data showing on the

document. Other fields concerning personal data may only be filled by the organisations involved, if the person concerned agrees to it.

The passbook, is, therefore, an extension of the individual's C.V. There is no limit as to the number of learning experiences abroad, each time being covered by individual Europass Mobility documentation.

The National Contact Point for the issuing of a Europass Mobility document is the Employment & Training Corporation. The contact person through www.etc.gov.mt is Ms Michelle Aquilina, telephone 00356 22201303-7 or email training.etc@gov.mt

main contacts

Contact the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA):

36, Old Mint Street,
Valletta – VLT 1514, MALTA
Tel: +356 25586132
Fax: +356 25586139
E-mails:
eupa@gov.mt
llp.eupa@gov.mt
yia.eupa@gov.mt
Web: <http://www.eupa.org.mt>,
<http://www.llp.eupa.org.mt>, <http://www.yia.eupa.org.mt>

Contact the International & EU Office of the University of Malta:

University of Malta, Tal-Qroqq,
Msida - MSD 2080, MALTA
Tel: +356 2340 2224/5
Fax: +356 2131 6941
E-mail: intoff@um.edu.mt
Web: <http://www.um.edu.mt>

Contact the International Programmes Office at the MCAST:

MCAST, Main Campus, Corradino
Hill, Paola – PLA 9032, MALTA
Tel: +356 23987306
Fax: +356 23987316
E-mail: international@mcast.edu.mt
Web: <http://www.mcast.edu.mt>

Contact the International Internship Office at the ITS:

Institute of Tourism Studies (Main
Campus), Bajja San Gorg,
San Giljan – STJ 3300, MALTA
Tel: +356 23793268
Fax: +356 23793256
E-mail: help.its@gov.mt
Web: <http://www.its.edu.mt>

Contact the Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU):

Students' House, University of Malta,
Tal-Qroqq, Msida – MSD 2080,
MALTA
Tel: +356 21343085
Fax: +356 21337517
E-mail: info@ksu.org.mt
Web: <http://www.ksu.org.mt>

Contact the MCAST Student Council:

MCAST Student House, Corradino
Hill, Paola – PLA 9032, MALTA
Tel: +356 23987128
E-mail:
student.council@mcast.edu.mt
Web: <http://www.mcastsc.org.mt>

Contact the ITS Student Council:

St. George's Bay, St. Julian's –
STJ3300, MALTA
Tel: +356 23793100
E-mail:
its.students.council@gmail.com

Contact the Employment and Training Corporation (EURES Section):

Head Office: Hal Far BBG 06, MALTA
Tel: +356 22201201
Fax: +356 22201811
E-mail: eures@etc.org.mt
Web: <http://www.euresmalta.com>

FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATION OFFICES

australia

Australian High Commission
Ir-Rampa ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – XBX 1034
Tel: +356 21 338 201

austria

Consulate of Austria
143, Palazzo Marina, Triq San
Kristofru, Valletta – VLT 1465
Tel: +356 21 255 379

Embassy of Austria
Whitehall Mansions, 3rd Floor,
ix-Xatt ta' Xbiex, Ta' Xbiex – XBX 1034
Tel: +356 23 279 000

bangladesh

Consulate of Bangladesh
Delf Bldgs, Triq tas-Sliema,
Gzira – GZR 06
Tel: +356 21 343 270

belarus

Consulate of Belarus
A28H, Repro House, Qasam
Industrijali, Marsa – LQA 06
Tel: +356 21 224 546

belgium

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium
Europa Centre, Flat No. 8/9, Triq
John Lopez, Floriana – FRN 1400
Tel: +356 21 228 214
Fax: +356 21 243 246
E-mail: valletta@dipobel.be

brazil

Consulate of Brazil
Triq San Pawl,
San Pawl il-Bahar – SPB 09
Tel: +356 585 802

canada

Consulate of Canada
103, Triq l-Archisqof,
Valletta – VLT 1446
Tel: +356 25 523 233
Fax: +356 25 523 233
Website: www.canada.it

chile

Consulate of Chile
55, Kingsway Palace,
Triq ir-Repubblika,
Valletta – VLT 1110
Tel: +356 21 251 411

china

Embassy of The People's Republic
of China
Karmnu Court, Triq Lapsi,
San Giljan – STJ 09
Tel: +356 21 384 695

columbia

Consulate of Columbia
11, Triq Censu Borg,
Hamrun – HMR 06
Tel: +356 21 243 238

cyprus

Consulate of Cyprus
Regional Business Centre, Level 3,
University Heights, Msida – MSD 04
Tel: +356 21 341 848

CZECH REPUBLIC

Consulate of Czech Republic
7, Pjazza Celsi, Naxxar – NXR 03
Tel: +356 21 413 893

DENMARK

Consulate General of Denmark
19, Triq San Zakkarija,
Valletta – VLT 1133
Tel: +356 25 691 790

EGYPT

Embassy of The Arab Republic of
Egypt
10, Villa Mon Reve,
Vjal Sir Temi Zammit,
Ta' Xbiex – MSD 1013
Tel: +356 21 333 259

ESTONIA

Consulate of Estonia
Triq Amery,
Sliema – SLM 12
Tel: +356 21 378 888

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Commission
Representation Office in Malta
51, Villa The Vines, Ix-Xatt ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – XBX 1020
Tel: +356 21 345 111/21 344 891
Fax: +356 21 344 897
E-mail:
comm-rep-mt@ec.europa.eu
Web:
<http://www.ec.europa.eu/malta>

FINLAND

Consulate of Finland
63/64, Triq L Graham,
Sliema – SLM 1711
Tel: +356 21 343 790

FRANCE

Embassy of France
130, Triq Melita, Valletta – VLT 1123
Tel: +356 21 233 430
French Economic Department
Dolphin Court, Flat B, Triq
I-Ambaxxati, Ta' Xbiex – TXB 1071
Tel: +356 21 334 844

GERMANY

Embassy of the Federal Republic of
Germany
Il-Pjazzetta, Entrance B, 1st Floor,
Triq it-Torri, Sliema – SLM 08
Tel: +356 21 336 531

GREECE

Consulate General of Greece
48, Flat 3, Triq San Zakkarija,
Valletta – VLT 1130
Tel: +356 21 237 952

HONDURAS

Consulate of Honduras
98, Triq I-lfran,
Valletta – VLT 1458
Tel: +356 21 251 873

HUNGARY

Consulate of Hungary
Il-Pjazzetta, Flat 45, Triq it-Torri,
Sliema – SLM 08
Tel: +356 21 320 963

ICELAND

Consulate General of Iceland
Mizzi House, Triq Nazzjonali,
Blata l-Bajda, Hamrun – HMR 9010
Tel: +356 25 969 507

INDONESIA

Consulate of Indonesia
21/22, Sur Santa Barbara,
Valletta – VLT 1961
Tel: +356 21 226 873

IRELAND

Embassy of Ireland
Whitehall Mansions, Flat 3,
Ix-Xatt ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – MSD 11
Tel: +356 21 334 744

italy

Embassy of Italy
5, Triq Vilhena,
Floriana – FRN 1040
Tel: +356 21 233 157

japan

Consulate of Japan
38, Pjazza Sir Luigi Preziosi,
Floriana – FRN 1154
Tel: +356 21 236 703

jordan

Consulate of Jordan
389, Triq il-Kbira San Guzepp,
Santa Venera – SVR 1015
Tel: +356 21 441 021

KOREA

Honorary Consulate of Korea
Exchange Bldgs,
Triq ir-Repubblika,
Valletta – VLT 1117
Tel: +356 21 245 127

libya

The People's Bureau of The Great
Socialist People's Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya Libya
Dar il-Jamahariya,
Triq Notabile, Attard – BZN 9033
Tel: +356 21 486 347

lithuania

Consulate of Lithuania
Alpine House, Triq in-Naxxar,
San Gwann – SGN 9032
Tel: +356 25 752 576

luxembourg

Consulate of Luxembourg
90, Palazzo Pietro Stiges,
Triq id-Dejqa,
Valletta – VLT 1436
Tel: +356 21 232 271

MEXICO

Consulate of Mexico
150, Triq Santa Lucija,
Valletta – VLT 1185
Tel: +356 21 230 681

MONACO

Consulate of Monaco
Triq Notabile, Mriehel,
B'Kara – BKR 14
Tel: +356 21 488 466

MOROCCO

Consulate of Morocco
12, Triq San Kristofru,
Valletta – VLT 1468
Tel: +356 22 058 000

THE NETHERLANDS

Embassy of The Netherlands
Whitehall Mansions, 3rd Floor,
Ix-Xatt Ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – XBK 1036
Tel: +356 21 313 980

NEW ZEALAND

Consulate of New Zealand
Villa Hampstead, Triq Oliver Agius,
Attard – ATD 3102
Tel: +356 21 435 025

NORWAY

Consulate of Norway
Triq Notabile, Mriehel,
B'Kara – BKR 14
Tel: +356 21 448 466

Pakistan

Consulate of Pakistan
Cassar Ship Repair Ltd., Slipway 6,
Triq is-Salib tal-Marsa,
Marsa – MRS 1549
Tel: +356 21 244 500

Palestine

Embassy of Palestine
6, Tamarind Lodge, Triq in-Narcis,
Madliena – SWQ 1220
Tel: +356 21 382 355

Panama

Consulate of Panama
147, Flat 1, Triq Santa Lucija,
Valletta – VLT 1185
Tel: +356 21 244 784

Philippine

Philippine Honorary Consulate
General Malta
Asiana Bldg, Triq l-Imdina,
Qormi – QRM 08
Tel: +356 21 462 144

Poland

Consulate of Poland
60, Triq Nofs in-Nhar,
Valletta – VLT 1000
Tel: +356 21 244 306

Portugal

Consulate of Portugal
36, Triq l-Arcisof, Valletta – VLT 1774
Tel: +356 21 243 149

Romania

Consulate of Romania
60, Triq Nofs in-Nhar,
Valletta – VLT 1000
Tel: +356 21 232 111

Russia

Embassy of the Russian Federation
25, Ariel House, Triq Antonio
Schembri, Kappara,
San Gwann – SGN 4239
Tel: +356 21 371 905

San Marino

Consulate General of The Republic
of San Marino
Palazzo Testaferrata, Paola – PLA 02
Tel: +356 99 448 128

The Seychells

Consulate of The Seychells
Villa Venezia, Ir-Rampa Ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – XBX 1035
Tel: +356 21 324 100

Sierra Leone

Consulate of Sierra Leone
99, St. Anthony, Triq Lanzon,
Tarxien – TXN 1811
Tel: +356 21 663 208

Slovenia

Consulate of Slovenia
Villa Ika, Vjal il-Bon Pastur,
Balzan – BZN 07
Tel: +356 21 441 063

South Africa

Consulate of South Africa
The Palms, Triq il-Kosta,
Bahar ic-Caghaq – NXR 08
Tel: +356 21 380 832

Spain

Embassy of Spain
Whitehall Mansions,
Ix-Xatt Ta' Xbiex, Ta' Xbiex – MSD 11
Tel: +356 21 317 365

swEdEN

Consulate General of Sweden
19, Triq San Zakkarija, Valletta – VLT 1133
Tel: +356 25 691 790

switzERland

Consulate of Switzerland
6, Triq San Zakkarija, Valletta – VLT 1133
Tel: +356 21 244 159

tHailand

Consulate of Thailand
44, Regent House, Triq Bisazza,
Sliema – SLM 1641
Tel: +356 21 319 325

tunisia

Embassy of The Republic of Tunisia
Triq il-Belt Valletta, Attard – BZN 03
Tel: +356 417 171

turKEy

Consulate of Turkey
60, Triq Nofs in-Nhar, Valletta – VLT 1000
Tel: +356 21 244 306

ukRAiNE

Consulate of Ukraine
Monument Services Centre, Level 1,
Triq Nazzjonali, Blata l-Bajda,
Hamrun – HMR 03
Tel: +356 21 242 007

united Kingdom

British High Commission, United Kingdom
Whitehall Mansions, Ix-Xatt Ta' Xbiex,
Ta' Xbiex – XBX 1026
Tel: +356 23 230 000

united states of amERica

Embassy of United States of America
Development House, 3rd Floor, Triq Sant'
Anna, Floriana – FRN 9010
Tel: +356 25 614 000

MALTESE YOUTH NGOS

- **Alternattiva Demokratika Zghazagh**
www.alternattiva.org.mt
- **CMTU Youths**
info@cmtu.org.mt
- **Forum Zghazagh Laburisti**
president@labouryouth.org
- **Grupp Zghazagh Oasi**
www.oasi.org.mt
- **GWU Youths**
www.gwuyouths.org
- **Kummissjoni Djoesana Zghazagh (KDZ)**
www.kdz.org.mt
- **Malta Red Cross**
redcross@redcross.com.mt
- **Maltese Association of Youthworkers (MAY)**
www.maymalta.org
- **Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista (MZPN)**
www.mzpn.org
- **M.U.S.E.U.M. Subien**
www.sdcmuseum.org
- **Nature Trust Youths Committee**
www.naturetrustmalta.org
- **Scouts Association**
www.maltascout.org.mt
- **Third World Group**
www.thirdworldgroup.org
- **UHM Youths**
www.uhm.org.mt
- **Youth for Exchange and Understanding Malta**
info@yeumalta.com
- **Zghazagh Azzjoni Kattolika (ZAK)**
www.zakmalta.org
- **Zghazagh Haddiema Nsara (ZHN)**
www.zhnmalta.org
- **Zghazagh Hbieb in-Natura**
www.zhnmalta.com
- **Zminijietna Zghazagh tax-Xellug**
www.zminijietna.org/zzx

list of student ORGANISATIONS

Information about these student organisations can be found on the KSU website, which is, www.ksu.org.mt under Organisations Section:

- **AEGEE – Valletta – The European Students’ Forum**
www.aegEE-valletta.org
- **AI – Amnesty International Malta Group**
www.amnestymalta.org
- **AIESEC Malta**
www.mt.aiesec.org
- **Anthropology Society**
www.soc.um.edu.mt/anthropology
- **Betapsi – Psychology Students Association**
www.betapsimalta.com
- **ELSA Malta – The European Law Students’ Association**
www.elsamalta.org
- **GħMU – Maltese Language Association – University**
www.ghaqdataalmalti.org
- **GħSK – The Criminology Students’ Society**
- **GħSL – The Law Students’ Society**
www.ghsl.org
- **IAESTE – International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience**
www.iaeste.org.mt
- **INSITE**
www.insite.org.mt
- **ITSA – Information Technology Students’ Association**
www.itsamalta.net
- **JEF Malta – Young European Federalists Malta**
www.jefmalta.net
- **KSJC – Junior College Students’ Council**
- **MADS – The Maltese Association of Dental Students**
www.madsonline.org

- **MKSU – University Students’ Catholic Movement**
www.mksu.org
- **MMSA – Malta Medical Students’ Association**
www.mmsa.org.mt
- **Moviment Graffiti**
www.movimentgraffitti.org
- **MPSA – Malta Pharmaceutical Students’ Association**
- **MUSC – Malta University Sports Club**
www.musc.org.mt
- **PULSE – Social Democrat Students**
www.pulsemalta.org
- **S-CUBED – Science Students’ Society**
www.s3malta.org
- **SACES – Society of Architecture and Civil Engineering Students**
- **SDM – Maltese Christian Democrat Students**
www.sdm.org.mt
- **TSA – Tourism Students’ Association**
- **UESA – University Engineering Students’ Association**
www.uesa-mt.org
- **ULGBTS – University Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Society**
www.ulgbts.com
- **University Chaplaincy**
www.umchaplaincy.org
- **USTA – University Student Teachers’ Association**
www.ustamalta.org

EMERGENCY & USEFUL NUMBERS

Ambulance	112
Fire	112
Police	112
AFM (Air/Sea Rescue)	21 809 279
[After 16.00hrs and weekends - 21824220]	
Consumer & Consumer Division	80 074 400
Flight Enquiries	50 043 333
Government Information Services	153
Hospital Malta – Mater Dei	25 450 000
Hospital Malta – St. Luke's	21 241 251
Hospital Gozo	21 561 600
Lost Property	21 224 781
Overseas Operator	115 2
Passport Office – Malta	21 246 821
Passport Office – Gozo	21 560 770
Traffic Accident	21 320 202

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

This small island state has a language of its own, a language that has also been recognised as an official language of the European Union. Maltese (Malti) is a unique language, though many words have been adapted from the languages of the various nations that once occupied Malta. An easy example is *bongu* (pronounced 'bonju') from the French word *bonjour*.

Here are some words and phrases necessary for your survival. We've included some rough pronunciation guidelines, but we'll always recommend that you ask one of us for tips on how to get the accent right. Maltese people are proud of their language, and are always keen to get you acquainted.

Yes	Iva
No	Le
How are you	Kif int
Goodbye	Saħħa
Please	Jekk Jogħġbok (yeckyobjock)
Thank you	Grazzi
Sorry	Skuzani
Good morning	Bongu
Good night	Il-lejl it-tajjeb
My name is ...	Jien jisimni ...
What time is it?	X'hin hu?
How much does it cost	Kemm jiswa'?