

Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

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Island Tourism and Culture Study Week for SEA-EU

Island tourism and culture was the theme of an intensive study week and cultural event organised for the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) by the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture (ITTC) at the University of Malta, and supported by UM's Institute for Earth Systems and Heritage Malta.

The course consisted of morning lectures held at the University Gozo Campus, afternoon fieldwork and evening debriefing sessions, supported by guest lecturers from the University of Malta as well as Prof. Vinko Mustra from the Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism at the University of Split, Croatia, a SEA-EU partner university.

This course was attended by a diverse group of students who travelled to Malta for this course from the SEA-EU partner universities of Gdansk, Split, Kiel and Brest. The course included several fieldwork experiences around the island of Gozo: from the Xwejni salt pans to food sampling, from the Ġgantija Temples site to a treasure hunt in Xewkija, giving the opportunity to the visiting students to experience first hand what island tourism in Gozo offers. Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino, Rector's Delegate for SEA-EU, and Dr Marie Avellino, ITTC Director, were the resident UM academics for the complete study week.

Throughout the week, all lectures and fieldwork visits aimed to create an interdisciplinary approach in addressing island tourism economies and to discuss tourism in Gozo and how this impacts on island life and livelihoods.

This intensive course and cultural visit marks another successful collaboration between UM and SEA-EU universities in providing more opportunities for student and academic collaborations and exchanges.

Examinations

Gozitan students following courses at the Msida Campus, were again given the opportunity to sit for their end-of-semester exams in Gozo. Around 110 exams were organised at the Gozo Campus, during the January/February session of examinations, while during the May/June session, around 370 exams were held.

Award of Certificates

Thirteen participants completed with success the Pre-Tertiary Certificate Course in the Baroque Culture of the Maltese Islands, held at the Gozo Campus. The course was intended to improve the students' general knowledge of the historical context and traditions of Baroque culture. It aimed to equip





The participants who successfully completed the Pre-Tertiary Certificate in the Baroque Culture of the Maltese Islands, together with Prof. Dennis De Lucca, Director of the International Institute for Baroque Studies (front row: fourth from right), Ms Joyce Farrugia, Director Gozo Services at the Ministry for Gozo (front row: fifth from right), Dr Hermann Bonnici, course coordinator (front row: fourth from left) and Mr Giovanni Zammit, representing the Dwejra Opportunity Fund (front row: third from left).



Professor Denis De Lucca awarding the certificate to one of the participants.

the students with the necessary skills to observe, identify and analyse works of visual culture as well as with the critical tools required to understand the culture of preservation and conservation. The course was offered at the University Gozo Campus during 2021 and 2022, by the International Institute for Baroque Studies and was financially supported by the Ministry for Gozo.

Certificates were awarded to the successful participants on 30th May 2022. During the ceremony, Professor Denis De Lucca, Director of the International Institute for Baroque Studies, delivered a short speech during which he explained how the multi-disciplinary approach taken by this course is specifically designed to satisfy the knowledge requirements of the participants in order to enable them to disseminate this knowledge responsibly to third parties. Also present for the event were Dr Hermann Bonnici, coordinator of the course, and Ms Joyce Farrugia, Director Gozo Services at the Ministry for Gozo. Mr Giovanni Zammit, representing the Dwejra Opportunity Fund, also awarded the participants with a book entitled 'Treasures of Gozo' recently published by the same fund.



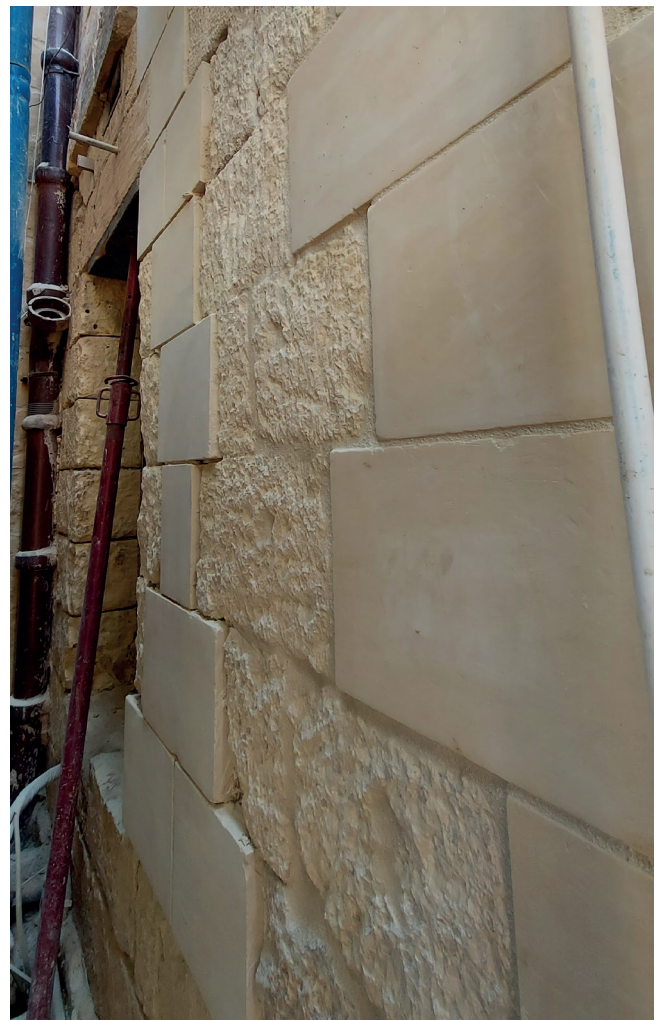
Professor Philip Von Brockdorff addressing the audience during the information session.

Information Session

An information session regarding courses on offer at the Gozo Campus was held on Friday 8th July. During the session various course-coordinators from a number of faculties at the University of Malta, provided information about the courses on offer at the Gozo Campus. Prof. Philip Von Brockdorff, Rector’s Delegate for Gozo, explained how the Gozo Campus is working with various faculties, institutes and centres at the University of Malta in order to increase the programmes and activities at the campus. One such example is the the arrangements made with the Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences, which will be extending its courses to Gozo as from October 2022. He also mentioned the agreement reached with the Gozo Regional and Development Authority to partially sponsor a number of courses offered at the campus. The event which was well attended, ended with a small reception in the main courtyard of the campus.

Restoration Works

In May, extensive restoration works commenced on the external facades of the old part of the Gozo Campus building. These works include the restoration and consolidation of the stone fabric, repointing, and the removal of cement, wires and iron objects, which have accumulated over the years. Restoration of all apertures will also be undertaken. This project was entrusted to Zappetti Restoration Ltd. and is being financed by the Ministry for Gozo.



Restoration works on one of the walls at the back of the campus in progress.

Joseph Calleja is Manager at the University of Malta – Gozo Campus.