

# Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

JOSEPH CALLEJA

## Rector's Delegate for Gozo

In October 2021, the Rector Prof Alfred J. Vella, has appointed Prof Philip von Brockdorff as the new Delegate for Gozo. Prof von Brockdorff is an applied economist and a Resident Academic at the Department of Economics, at the University of Malta. He holds an MSc in Economics (University of Wales) and a DPhil in Economics (University of York). He is filling in the shoes of outgoing Delegate for Gozo, Prof Louis F. Cassar. The University Gozo Campus would like to thank Prof Cassar for his valuable effort and his sterling job carried out during the past five years.



Professor Philip von Brockdorff, Rector's Delegate for Gozo

## Courses at the Gozo Campus

In October 2021, a number of courses commenced at the Gozo Campus. The Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy opened the two-year programme leading to the Diploma in Commerce.

The same faculty also opened the Bachelor of Commerce programme which was made available to all those who had successfully completed the Diploma in Commerce. The Bachelor of Commerce programme, which is offered on a part-time basis, is spread over three academic years and covers a range of topics in Economics and Management.

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing opened for the first time in Gozo a course leading to a Master in Counselling. This programme is intended to all those who intend to develop their knowledge, skills and competencies for professional practice in counselling.

Another course which started in October is the Postgraduate Certificate in the Teaching of Ethics in Schools. This programme, which is being delivered by the Faculty of Education, provides an overview of different ethical theories and the developmental stages of moral development, as well as the main theories of curriculum development. The whole course extends over a period of one year of part-time studies.

The other courses running at the Gozo Campus during academic year 2021-22 are the following:

- Pre-Tertiary Certificate in the Baroque Culture of the Maltese Islands (Yr 1)
- Diploma in Commerce (Yr 2)
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Theology (Yr 2)
- Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) (Yr 2)
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Criminology (Yr 4)

## Scholarship

A scholarship for the Bachelor of Commerce course, aimed at those students who wish to read for this degree offered by the University of Malta at the Gozo Campus, was launched by Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri on 3rd August 2021. This initiative was taken by the Gozo Regional Development

Authority, in collaboration with the University of Malta.

During a press conference held at the Gozo Campus, Minister Camilleri said that in a changing world that is becoming more globalised, it is important that as a country we are competitive and offer the best human talent by having a workforce that is academically qualified, creative, and open to change.



Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri addressing the press conference during the scholarship launching.

Mr Mario Borg, Chief Executive of the Gozo Regional Development Authority, explained how this initiative will be covering no less than 90% of the costs related to the course. He added that this is one of the first initiatives that the Authority is embarking on after earlier publishing a consultation document to draw up the strategy for Gozo for the coming years.

Professor Frank Bezzina, the University's Pro-Rector for International Development and Quality Assurance and Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, acknowledged the collaboration between the University of Malta and the Gozo Regional Development Authority for the development of this scheme which is intended to encourage more students to continue enhancing their academic qualifications. Professor Bezzina hoped that this collaboration would be further strengthened in the coming years.

### University of the Third Age

The University of the Third Age opened once again its academic year at the Gozo Campus. The opening ceremony, which was held on 15th

October, included an introductory speech by Ms Simone Ellul, administrator at the University of the Third Age, and a Holy mass celebrated by Rev. Dr Joseph Bezzina. The event was also attended by Minister for Gozo Hon. Clint Camilleri, who was accompanied by Ms Joyce Dimech, Director Gozo Services at the Ministry for Gozo.



Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri addressing the audience.

### Visit by the Minister for Education

On 22nd October, Minister for Education, Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana, paid a courtesy visit to the University Gozo Campus as part of a series of visits at various educational institutions across Malta and Gozo. During her visit the Minister had the opportunity to meet with the students following the U3A classes.



Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana with U3A participants.

In her speech she stated that her ministry's intention is to keep offering every possible opportunity to the people, in order not to only help them learn and improve their skills, but also to continue to improve



the quality of their lives in general. Minister Caruana reminded those present that a document treating lifelong learning policies was launched earlier this year. She expressed her appreciation at having met this group of mature students who are attending these courses in their continued quest to broaden their knowledge.

## Graduations

Following the absence of graduation ceremonies last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Malta held the undergraduate ceremonies for both 2020 and 2021 during November and December.

From the courses held at the Gozo Campus which came to an end in 2020, six students were awarded the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) after having successfully completed a five-year programme. The graduants are Carmen Bernardette Briffa, Alexis Samantha Falzon, Louise Annabel Sultana, Elena Grech, Hilda Grima and Jo-Martha Saliba. Five other

students obtained a Diploma in Lace Studies after successfully completing a two-year programme. They are Rita Agius, Miriam Azzopardi, Anna Brincat, Anna Gafa' and Jannette Magro. Sefora Camilleri was awarded a Higher Diploma in Commerce.

From the courses which came to an end in 2021, 38 students graduated in Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Facilitating Inclusive Education, after successfully completing a 3-year top-up course at the Gozo Campus. It is to be mentioned that one of the graduates, Karen Bugeja, classified first in class from both the Gozo and Malta cohorts. Four other students, namely Kurt Galea, David Muscat, Analise Refalo and Li Ana Said Dempsey were awarded the Diploma in Commerce.

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



The six graduates who successfully completed the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons.) at the Gozo Campus.





The graduates in the Diploma in Commerce. In photo: Kurt Galea, Analise Refalo, David Muscat. In absentia: Li Ana Said Dempsey.

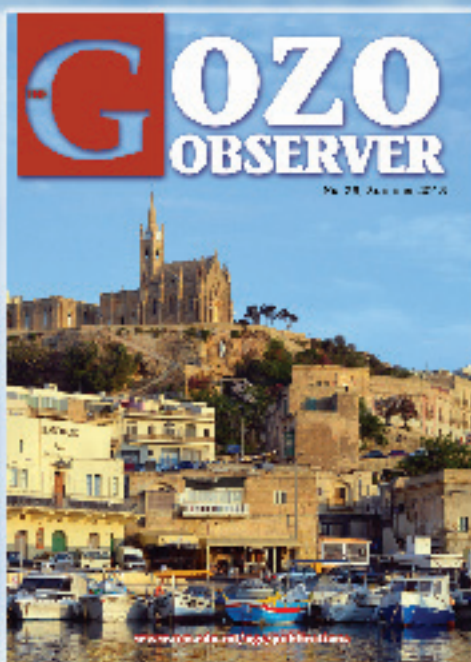


The graduates in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Facilitating Inclusive Education.



The graduates in the Diploma in Lace Studies. In photo: Rita Agius Testa, Anna Gafa, Prof Lino Briguglio, former director of the ISSI, Dr Consiglia Azzopardi Coordinator of the course, Anna Brincat. In absentia: Jannette Magro, Miriam Azzopardi.





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