



Medical Maltese

A course leading to the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate

Applicable for the course commencing in June 2024

1. Raison d'être

In 2013, the Faculty Board of Medicine and Surgery and the University Senate decided that overseas applicants wishing to join the course leading to the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery degree should sit for and obtain a pass in an examination in conversational Medical Maltese. By developing the necessary skills to communicate effectively with patients in a medical environment, this course caters for those candidates who wish to be instructed in conversational Medical Maltese before sitting for this examination.

An extract from the MD regulations which refers to the applicability of the Medical Maltese.

“2 (c) (i) Maltese applicants who, in terms of paragraph (5) of regulation 12 of the Admissions Regulations, 2016 are exempted from possessing a pass in Secondary Education Certificate in Maltese are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta prior to the commencement of the course; and

(ii) non-Maltese applicants are required to present the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate awarded by the University of Malta, or a pass in the study-unit in Medical Maltese as part of the Certificate in Medical Foundation Studies course, prior to the commencement of the course, provided that applicants presenting overseas qualifications and a pass in the Secondary Education Certificate examination in Maltese shall be exempted from presenting the Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate.

The Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate is required for admission to both Year 1 and Year 3 of the Course.”

2. Course Description:

This course introduces students to conversational medical Maltese focusing on the areas of basic anatomical terminology, doctor/patient communication, understanding patients' symptoms and interacting in a Maltese medical setting. Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to extend their communication skills through case studies, role-play and following medical conversations.

3. Course Aims

The aim of the course is to introduce students to basic Maltese grammar and vocabulary and to enable them to understand the language and communicate verbally in basic Maltese in the healthcare setting.

4. Learning Outcomes

a. Knowledge & Understanding:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Converse in Maltese in a medical setting, using basic healthcare vocabulary; and,
- Understand patients' general symptoms as expressed in Maltese. b.

Skills:

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Acquire a fair command of elementary Maltese, be familiar with the basic medical vocabulary, and be able to apply these skills in simple conversation with patients and medical colleagues.

5. Main Text/s and any supplementary readings

- Cachia, Robert. 2013. *Medical Language Translator. Traduttur tal-Lingwaġġ Mediku*. Malta Medical Students Association.
- Bonnici, Ruth, Miran Sapiano, Eliza Vella. 2014. *An English-Maltese dictionary of medical and pharmaceutical terms*. Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta.

- In addition to the above, students will be assigned notes and readings which will be made available throughout the course free of charge.

6. Course schedule

The course will run from Monday, 10th June 2024 until Friday, 6th September 2024, a total of 12 weeks: 6 weeks online, 6 weeks on site at the campus of the University of Malta, with a one-week break between 22nd and 26th July 2024. Lectures will be held from Monday to Friday according to the following schedule:

- Online Sessions: 10 June - 19 July 2024
10:00 - 14:00 (Central European Timezone)
- Break: 22 - 26 July 2024
- Onsite Sessions: 29 July - 6 September 2024
- Oral exam on-site: 13 September 2024

7. Topics

Maltese terminology related to:

- Basic human anatomy;
- Central functions of main body parts;
- Medical problems and symptoms Assessment Criteria;
- Correct use of Maltese medical vocabulary;
- Understanding and using basic grammatical structures;
- Clear pronunciation of the language Assessment Scheme;
- General questions on body parts, their functions and related symptoms;
- Listening Comprehension - An unseen text about medical situations will be read out to the candidates, who will then be asked to answer a number of related questions;
- Participation in a role-play task based on a medical situation; and,
- Visual Prompt - the examiners will prompt candidates to answer a number of questions related to Medical Maltese, using visual aids.

8. Examination

Examination Format: Onsite oral examination.

Duration: 30 minutes.

Date of the Examination: 13 September 2024.

Marking Scheme: Pass Mark 45%.

Supplementary Session: No.

Cost of the Examination: EUR 500 (Non-Refundable)

The Certificate is only valid if presented within two years of its award. The online registration form will be forwarded to applicants at a later stage.

9. Tuition Fees

Cost of the Course: EUR 3,500

Minimum number of students: 6

The online registration form will be forwarded to applicants at a later stage.

10. Contacts

Department of Maltese

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