

Encouraging critical thinking through self-directed learning



The [Master of Arts in Comparative Euro-Mediterranean Education Studies](#) offered by the University of Malta's [Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Education Research](#) (EMCER), places an emphasis on developing critical perspectives on education by comparing local policy and practice with international trends. Alumni praised the fact that while knowledge and skills developed during the programme are applicable to a range of educational contexts, they are not limited to specific occupational roles. The programme thus serves to open up horizons, providing students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of areas of interest.

The programme also puts students in the driving seat: they can choose essay titles that not only relate to the content of each study-unit, but also to the dissertation topic they intend to research. Essays thus serve as building blocks, enhancing motivation and interest. Linkage between taught and research components of the programme are further enhanced thanks to the opportunity to co-design one of the study-units, under the guidance of the programme coordinator and dissertation supervisor, thus encouraging self-directed and meaningful learning.

Such characteristics '**create dynamic frameworks which provide holistic learning**', as indicated in the main commitments of the '[Learning and Teaching](#)' theme of the University's [Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#).

*Do you have an example of good QA practice at your unit which you would like us to share?
Get in touch with us at qac@um.edu.mt*