



L-Università
ta' Malta



ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword by the Rector

PROFESSOR ALFRED J. VELLA

Rector

The year 2020 will long be remembered as the year that Covid-19 was let loose on the planet. Even now, it remains hard to imagine the amount of havoc, tragedy and turbulence that a virus, invisible to the naked eye, could unleash on the human race planetwide.

The first confirmed and imported case of Covid-19 was reported in Malta on March 7, 2020. As with other educational institutions in the country, the University of Malta was obliged to abandon face-to-face teaching and switched to almost fully on-line operations over the weekend of 13-15th March, 2020. The campus became a ghost village, with only essential workers to be seen, and only those students who needed access to laboratory or other campus facilities. These numbers rose and fell as the directives issued by the Maltese Government and the Superintendent of Health advised tighter or lighter restrictions as the year progressed. Sadly, the annual graduation ceremonies, held in November, had to be postponed, also with the consent of the University Student Union, hopefully to a not-too-distant future date when students and their loved ones can celebrate their achievements safely. Parts of our campus were also equipped with the necessary hospital equipment to serve as field stations, should the strained national health system require this. As things turned out, these spaces were deployed as vaccine inoculation sites, allowing UM to proudly support the national drive to inoculate the Maltese population, also with the support of its staff and students in health-related studies.

As far as educational provision is concerned, UM's proportion of study units delivered remotely (synchronously or asynchronously, on-line) rose from around 2% to around 90% campus-wide during 2020. Assessment methods also moved away from in-class to remote provision, using suitable, tested and validated software and electronic platforms. I must congratulate all members of our academic and administrative, technical and industrial staff for having managed this unprecedented transition rapidly and effectively. And for our

intrepid students to rise to the unique occasion. Data analysed by UM's Quality Assurance Committee confirms that the mean assessment scores of the latest academic year are not significantly different from those of the previous four years.

Meanwhile, life goes on. In spite of the pandemic and the health and safety restrictions that it involved, the University was able to continue or complete some important projects and milestones. The Campus Hub facility is rising next to the University's Main (West) entrance and getting closer to being ready to welcome its first occupants. The second set of deliverables identified in the UM's ambitious 2020-2025 *Strategic Plan* have been assiduously pursued. Waste separation at source was also introduced across the Msida campus, and one sixth of all energy needs are being met from heavy duty photovoltaic panels that now occupy practically all available roof space. More conscious attempts are being made, where feasible, to appoint equal numbers of suitably qualified men and women on university committees and boards. Quality assurance initiatives were extended beyond Faculties and now also commit the University's various Institutes, Centres and Schools to a 5-year quality assurance cycle. UM is also preparing for its second-ever External Quality Audit, which will unfold in 2022.

During 2020, the University of Malta also continued its involvement in *SEA-EU*, the European University of the Seas: an alliance of six universities from six European countries, working together to extend and deepen inter-university collaboration in teaching, research and outreach, with the support of the European Commission. I also expect European Governments to support the 'European Universities' initiative by championing those legal and administrative reforms that may prove necessary to allow such trans-national university cooperation to succeed.

This year also marks the end of my five-year term as Rector. I am privileged to have led this institution, even though some of its most testing times in its long history.



Vision

The University of Malta aims to be among the leading institutions in higher education in the region and to provide world-class research and education. The university community endeavours to strive for the benefit of the country in the context of social and economic well-being. Over the coming years we will continue to build on the university's long tradition of developing the knowledge required to help Malta flourish as a small island nation and a member state of the European Union.

Mission

The mission of the University of Malta is to serve the aspirations of the people of these islands through locally and globally significant research and the provision of quality higher education in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development, via the scholarship of discovery, teaching and service to the community. These functions shall be delivered in a sustainable manner that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs.

Values

The University of Malta is committed to the values of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, as a signatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum, the document that was signed by 388 rectors and heads of universities from Europe and beyond in 1988 in Bologna.

Furthermore, as a member of the European Higher Education Area and a proponent of the Bologna Process, the University of Malta upholds a set of values encompassing academic freedom and integrity, institutional autonomy and accountability, participation of students and staff in governance, and public responsibility.

Governance of the University

COUNCIL

The Council is the supreme governing body of the University. Its functions are defined in the Education Act, Article 77. Council consists of thirty-two members, including the President.

The members of Council are listed hereunder:

Pro-Chancellor President <i>(Ex Officio)</i>	Dr Michael Sciriha <i>(up to 27.05.2020)</i> Perit Karmenu Vella <i>(as from 28.05.2020)</i>
Rector Vice President <i>(Ex Officio)</i>	Professor Alfred J. Vella
Representatives of Senate	Professor Joseph Cacciottolo Professor Dominic Fenech Professor Emmanuel Sinagra Professor Alex Torpiano
Members elected by the academic staff	Professor Frank Camilleri Professor Matthew Montebello Professor David Mifsud
Members elected by the non-academic staff	Ms Stephanie Abood Mr Elton J Baldacchino Mr Noel Caruana
Student representatives	Ms Cristina Aquilina <i>(as from 15.11.2019)</i> Mr Omar Chircop Ms Carla Galea <i>(up to 09.11.2019)</i> Mr Nigel Micallef <i>(up to 09.11.2019)</i> Mr Daniel Vella <i>(as from 15.11.2019)</i>
Member appointed by the Minister for Education and Employment	Dr Francis Fabri
Member appointed by the Chairman of the Foundation for Theological Studies	Rev. Professor George Grima

Members appointed by the Prime Minister to represent the general interest of the country

Ms Sarah Albanozzo (*up to 19.10.2019*)
Mr Carmel Cachia
Mr Reno Calleja
Mr Joseph Cauchi
Mr Reginald Fava
Ms Josanne Ghirxi
Dr Michelle Gialanze (*up to 01.11.2019*)
Mr Mario Grech
Mr Godfrey Grima
Mr Albert Marshall (*as from 28.05.2020*)
Mr Charles Micallef
Ms Maria Micallef
Mr Philip Sammut
Ms Marika Tonna
Ms Joanne Zammit

Secretary to Council | Secretary of the University

Mr Simon Sammut

The Council has established a number of Committees with specific responsibilities as follows:

Student Affairs Committee (including Travel Grants, Bursaries, Scholarships)

Staff Scholarship and Bursaries Committee

Staff Affairs Committee

Academic Resources Funds Committee

Administrative, Technical & Industrial Staff Work Resources Committee

Audit & Risk Committee

Committee to consider extension of appointments of Academic Staff

Finance Committee

IT Services Committee

Safety Committee

Gender Equality and Sexual Diversity Committee

University House Liaison Committee

Board of Discipline (Administrative, Technical and Industrial Staff)

Medical Board for University (for University Staff)

SENATE

The University Senate is responsible for the general direction of the academic matters of the University and deals with any matter of an academic nature arising in the administration of the University. Senate regulates studies and research in the University; it establishes by regulations the conditions for admission into the University; makes regulations governing all courses leading to University awards, and approves programmes of study constituting such courses. It also advises the Council on matters of an academic nature.

The members of Senate are listed hereunder:

President (<i>Ex Officio</i>)	Professor Alfred J. Vella
Pro-Rectors	Professor Godfrey Baldacchino Professor Joseph Cacciottolo Professor Carmen Sammut Professor Tanya Sammut-Bonnici Professor Ing. Saviour Zammit
Deans	Professor Nikolai Attard Professor Andrew Azzopardi Rev. Dr John Anthony Berry Professor Frank Bezzina Professor Noellie Brockdorff Dr Colin Calleja Professor Ing. Carl J. Debono Professor Dominic Fenech Professor Godfrey Laferla Dr Ivan Mifsud Dr Ing. Andrew Sammut Dr Roberta Sammut Professor Emmanuel Sinagra Professor Alex Torpiano
Representatives from each of the faculties	Dr John Abela (<i>as from 08.10.2019</i>) Rev. Dr Stefan Attard Professor David Buhagiar (<i>as from 08.10.2019</i>) Professor Joseph A. Cannataci Professor Alexei Dingli (<i>up to 07.10.2019</i>) Dr Maria Luisa Gainza-Cirauqui Professor Raymond Galea Professor Adrian-Mario Gellel Dr Dione Mifsud Dr Jeanette Munoz Abela Dr Ing. Paul Refalo Dr Emanuel Said Dr Ivan Sammut Professor Keith Sciberras Dr Josef Trapani

Student representatives	Ms Lara Attard (<i>up to 09.11.2019</i>) Mr John Paul Buttigieg (<i>as from 13.03.2020</i>) Ms Elsa Cassar (<i>as from 15.11.2019</i>) Ms Yasmine Ellul Mr Beppe Galea Mr Michael Piccinino (<i>up to 01.03.2020</i>) Ms Chiara Vassallo
Representatives of the Minister for Education and Employment	Mr Stephen Cachia Dr Denise Mifsud
Representatives of the Institutes	Professor Maria Attard Dr Odette Vassallo
Librarian (<i>Ex Officio</i>)	Mr Kevin J. Ellul
Secretary Registrar	Ms Veronica Grech

The Senate has established a number of Committees with specific responsibilities as follows:

Animal Welfare Committee	Ph.D. & Master (by research) Degrees Scholarships Selection Board
Board to consider numerous Absences from Assessments	Plagiarism Committee
Committee for fitness to Train	Professional Development Committee
Committee for Students' Requests	Programme Validation Committee
Committee for Student Societies	Selection Committee for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings
Committee for the Implementation of the Students' Charter	Suitability to Practice Panel
Committee of Discipline (regarding Students' Misconduct)	Quality Assurance Committee
Committee when students/applicants present a Police Conduct	University Admissions Board
Distance and E-Learning Committee	University Assessment Disciplinary Board
Doctoral Academic Committee	University Research Ethics Committee
Editorial Board – Malta University Press	Web Editorial Board
Library Committee	

Operational Review

INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK

During the Academic year 2019/2020, the University continued with its programme of construction and refurbishment works, together with regular maintenance/ minor works and Facilities Management to provide the University with those facilities necessary to effectively achieve its objectives in teaching and research.

Work proceeded on maintenance and minor works, in their majority undertaken by the Estates, Facilities & Capital Development Directorate in house maintenance team, following various requests from Faculties and other University entities. These requests exceeded 3,500. This figure excludes verbal or telephone requests for odd jobs of maintenance as well as minor civil works undertaken by external contractors. Estates staff were actively involved in the temporary relocation of the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery staff, Health Sciences and Dental Faculty staff to the UM campus. The Medical School library was dismantled and relocated to the UM library. Estates continued to pursue IT Services to implement the help desk system as early as possible. Estates in house staff also worked on the services and finishes in preparation for the relocation of the printing unit and notably several works were undertaken in the Argotti Botanical Gardens.

Preventive Maintenance on plant, lifts, A/C's, and generators was to a large extent undertaken under the various maintenance agreement contracts with external contractors. Extensive works orders were obtained for the refurbishment of the A/C's in the Gateway Building.

An efficient level of Facilities management was maintained which included having to deal with parking and logistical issues that arose as a consequence of increased building sites on campus in 2020. Logistical issues related to the Covid-19 measures were tackled effectively and efficiently. This included an extensive ventilation audit of all lecture rooms and preparing the lecture rooms to be in line with Covid-19 guidelines. Tenders for the replacement of two lifts were also prepared.

Space Management remained an issue and to this extent, the SOP on space management was completed and finalised.

As regards Capital Development, further progress was achieved on a number of projects. These may be classified under:

- i) Construction works in progress,
- ii) Projects designs and PA applications and
- iii) Tenders preparation.

Under i), one may mention the completion in early 2020 of the Valletta Campus Aula Magna Refurbishment Project, the CREMA refurbishment completion, the Junior College Auditorium seating and flooring replacement, the refurbishment of the Library Melitensia project and the replacement of the flooring in the Engineering Faculty building.

The tender contract for the M&E/Finishes of the Maths & Physics building extension was awarded and work was initiated towards the end of 2020. The furniture tender of this project was prepared, published and has also been awarded.

The Finishes and M&E services in the Matlabs project progressed steadily and has reached an advanced stage. In the meantime, the tender for the furniture was prepared, published and should soon be awarded.

Regarding the TRAKE project, the construction works are progressing satisfactorily and the tender for the M&E/ Finishes was awarded and works on this tender contract have also been initiated. The furniture tenders both for Office furniture and for Lab furniture were prepared and forwarded to Procurement.

Construction works were initiated on site at the Gozo Campus Extension and have now been practically completed. The tender for the M&E/Finishes was forwarded to Procurement.

Excavation works on the SLC proceeded and the logistical issues related to this building site were handled by Estates. The M&E/Finishes tender of this project was prepared and coordinated by Estates Architects. The tender was published and has been awarded. The tender for the furniture is also being prepared by Estates. The sanitary facilities at the Gateway building were also refurbished.

Under ii) one may mention that extensive project designs were prepared for the new administration building internal layouts (the building outside the old UM entrance), the new premises for the Medicine & Surgery, Health Sciences and Dental Surgery Faculties in Block A of the Residences Project, Block X and for Block O in the Residences Project. The designs for these buildings included full internal layouts with furniture. The PA permit for the structural works and additional floor on the new administration building was also submitted and approved.

Further development design on the Sports Project and the underlying car park was carried out and the PA permit application for the car park is being pursued. The refurbishment designs of the main building of the Gozo Campus were also prepared. This also applies to the Gozo Dental Clinic, for which a PA permit was submitted and approved. Design layouts were prepared for the Printing Unit relocation.

Under iii) a number of tenders were prepared by the Estates professional team, some directly related to the above-mentioned projects and some for new initiatives. These included the Furniture tender for the Maths & Physics building extension, the Furniture tender for the Matlabs project, the Office and Lab furniture for the TRAKE project, as well as the tenders for the Generator, PV panels and external landscaping of same project.

The tender for the M&E/Finishes of both the Gozo Campus Extension as well as for the Gozo campus main building were prepared and forwarded to Procurement. A tender for the refurbishment of the Valletta Campus first floor was prepared and forwarded to Procurement. It was published and recommended for award.

Tenders related to the new administration building namely one for all the structural and construction works, and one for mechanical and electrical/finishes have been prepared

and forwarded to Procurement. The tender for the furniture has also been prepared. A tender for the furniture related to Block O was prepared. As regards the Gozo Dental Clinic, the tender for the refurbishment work was prepared, published, evaluated, and recommended for award. A tender for the refurbishment of the JC Biology Labs was prepared and sent to Procurement.

Tenders were also prepared and forwarded to Procurement for a Lightning protection system for the Old Humanities (OH) Building, the Valletta Campus, and Junior College, Fire escape staircases for the Old Humanities Building and the Maths & Physics building, moveable partitions for the Art unit and the Department of Classics & Archaeology and Platform lifts at the Chemistry and Maths Buildings. Tenders for a Gas suppression system and for drainage works were prepared and issued for the ISE at M'Xlokk. Tenders were also prepared for the Library periodicals and entrance project. The Estates architects are also working on the design layouts for those spaces that will be vacated once the new buildings are on board. These include primarily the Faculty for the Built Environment (BEN) building which will eventually house the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and part of the OH building which will house the Institute of Linguistics & Language Technology.

Although being a Public Private partnership project, work proceeded on the University Residences and Community Complex Project, known as the Campus Hub. The University continued discussions with the developer regarding two Blocks, namely Block O which will serve for University Lecture rooms and the MUHC offices and Language School, as well as Block A which is intended to house the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, the Faculty of Health Sciences and that of Dental Surgery.



THE COMPANIES

During 2019/20 the Companies collectively registered earnings before taxation equivalent to 69% of the 2018/19 results. This decent level of profitability emanated mostly from a very good first 5 months of the year before Covid-19 set in and the Government Wage Supplement benefits received following the virus outbreak.

From March 2020 onwards business gradually came to an almost complete halt on various fronts as occupancy levels of the Group's accommodation facilities plummeted, language school clients cut short their stay and Summer bookings were cancelled. Moreover, with the closure of the University of Malta for a number of months the Group's business activities on Campus were also curtailed significantly. The Summer months, which usually represent the peak season, were largely devoid of economic activity.

2019/20 did however provide the Companies with the opportunity to look at new ways of service provision with on-line delivery of language tuition and short-term training programmes being successfully adopted. This provides a platform from which outreach to much larger local and international market segments can be attempted in the future. The Group also used the slow business period to push forward the planning and implementation of much needed projects such as the introduction of a new accounting software, a significant technical upgrade at Campus FM and the resurfacing of the football pitches and other major refurbishment works, amongst others.

VALLETTA CAMPUS

Throughout the academic year 2019/2020, the Valletta Campus hosted various events, ranging from International conferences, to exhibitions, training sessions, workshops and press conferences among others.

The past academic year was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference and events unit had to cancel all events from mid-March 2020 till the beginning of June 2020.

During this period the team, with the professional assistance of the Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office and IT Services, worked on upgrading the website with new material and photos, and brainstormed on new ideas of how to reach customers and make new contacts. Various Marketing ideas and strategies were compiled and some also implemented.

The building was also equipped and prepared to welcome again customers, following the Covid-19 restrictions, including new protocol, signages, sanitizers and temperature measure.

The Campus had also undergoing works in the main hall of the building - The Aula Magna. The refurbishment was finished in March 2020.

Valletta Campus hosted around sixty-seven meetings, workshops and international conferences. These include the International Symposium on New Issues in Teacher Education (ISNITE 2019) held in September, the Health Systems and Policy Monitor (HSPM) Network Annual Meeting 2019 and the 1st Academic Conference of Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP) both held in October.



The Conference and Events unit assisted and supported the organisation of two international conferences which were held at the Corinthia San Gorg. The International Offshore Wind Technical Conference (IOWTC) was held in November 2019 and the ECQI 4th European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry was held in February 2020.

Also prominent in the Valletta Campus schedule were an extensive number of meetings, training sessions organised by government ministries and other entities. This included Malta Statistics Authority board meetings, Arts Council workshops, SAFE training by People and Stand Division OPM, Office of the Commissioner for Revenue team building sessions, and Think day by Agenzija Sapport. The Broadcasting Authority organised a training course for journalists over a number of weeks at the Valletta Campus.

The Valletta Campus hosted eight events and meetings organised by the International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law, and fourteen COST Action meetings. Spaces of the Valletta Campus hosted numerous official ceremonies and public events, this included the graduation ceremonies for the Masters and Doctoral students which take place here every year.

Throughout the academic year 2019/2020, the Valletta Campus hosted around fifty UM events from various faculties and departments. These included the MTL Seminar (Faculty of Education), Ancient Greek Words for an Ultra-Modern Europe Public lecture (Institute for European Studies), the annual school of performing arts conference, the H2020 Gender Action Mutual Learning Workshop (Faculty of Medicine and

Surgery), Medfest 2019 (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation) and the Annual Pharmacy Symposium (Department of Pharmacy).

The exhibition commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Foundation of the University of Malta (1769–2019), 'A Nation of Achievers', was inaugurated at the Valletta Campus in September. This exhibition was also open to the public during Notte Bianca.

During the Notte Bianca, a theatrical performance show namely Notte Improv - Notte Bianca Theatre Route was held at the Valletta Campus theatre, and different faculties displayed their work in some of the rooms in the campus.

In October 2019, the corridors of the Valletta Campus hosted another exhibition, named Hors Concours, acknowledging women and their influence during the years at the University. This was displayed for several weeks, including the graduations days.

The Valletta Campus Theatre was also extremely busy throughout the whole academic year, with not only performances and lectures of the School of Performing arts but also with around twenty-two performances and events organised by external clients. These included Under the Milk Wood produced by Moonlight theatre company, Threaded Fine performance by Żfin Malta, Žigu Žajg, Minn ġot-taġen ġħal ġon-nar by Centre Stage Malta, il-Hoss tal-Għabex by Nadine Axisa, and Diane Marie Attard Ballet Academy ensemble among others.





REGISTRAR

New Courses

During Academic Year 2019/20, the University of Malta launched a number of new courses, offered by various academic entities. At undergraduate level, the Faculty of Engineering introduced a Certificate programme in Engineering Sciences aimed at providing students with thorough theoretical knowledge, skills and competencies in Mathematics and Physics, thus bringing the student's knowledge and understanding in the subjects to the required level to be able to progress to the Bachelor courses it offers. This has improved accessibility to its programmes, in particular the B.Eng (Hons) programme. The Faculty for the Built Environment and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing offered two top-up programmes to graduates. The former offered a 120 ECTS Bachelor of Science (Honours) programme in Spatial Planning designed to respond to Malta's current and future spatial and developmental needs, while the Faculty for Social Wellbeing offered a part-time Bachelor's programme in Social Wellbeing that provides a great degree of flexibility to students, allowing them a free hand in "designing" their own programme by registering for a number of elective study-units (related to their academic interest and career plans) on offer by the various Departments within the Faculty.

An Inter-Faculty Bachelors programme in Physics, Medical and Radiation Protection was also launched by the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Science as an Inter-Faculty programme attracting 15 applicants who are furthering their studies in these areas of study. The course is future looking and multidisciplinary in nature and includes not only physics, mathematics, medical physics and radiation protection but also essential anatomy, physiology, ICT, ethics, management and legal issues.

A good number of postgraduate courses were launched for the first time during this academic year. The Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture launched three Master programmes: one in International Hospitality and Tourism Experience Management, another in Tourism, Development and Culture (which commenced with 24 accepted students), and a third in Strategic Management and Tourism, offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy. The latter also offered a Master of Science programme in Insurance and Risk Management aimed at equipping students with all-round applied knowledge, experience and the necessary skills to succeed in the volatile and constantly evolving fields of insurance and risk management and is designed to enable students to think and analyse critically and develop a pro-active, strategic attitude to decision-making.

An Inter-Faculty Master of Science in Addiction Studies offered by the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing was also launched in October 2019, attracting 20 students. The programme of study explores the phenomenon of addictive behaviour from a number of disciplinary positions. This programme of study engages significantly with advances in evidence-based policy prevention and intervention and examines both national and international legal provisions in the area.

Regulations, policies and procedures

The first day of Academic Year 2019/20 saw the coming into effect of the new General Regulations for University Undergraduate Awards, 2019. The Office of the Registrar was at the forefront in the implementation of these new regulations. During the course of the academic year this office guided academic, managerial, and administrative members of staff in implementing these new regulations and provided advice especially in relation to assessment procedures and the progression of students in the respective programmes they were following. Queries and decisions were recorded and then put together into a compendium of frequently asked questions (FAQ's) which are now available on the Office of the Registrar's website. Training sessions were also offered to Managers/Officers in Charge on progression procedures for undergraduate courses included in the new regulations.

A set of FAQ's for students and staff on the provisions included in the general regulations covering absences, progression, eligibility for the September assessment session and extraordinary extensions or suspension of studies owing to the pandemic were also drawn up.

During academic year 2019/0 the drafting process a new set of general regulations governing postgraduate awards was also undertaken by this office. Various meetings and internal discussions were held with the ad hoc committee appointed by Senate for the purpose.

The University Assessment Regulations were also updated, as were the University Guidelines on Plagiarism.

Discussions on the drawing up of a UM Fitness to Practice Policy also took place and a draft policy was drawn up. A committee convened and chaired by the Pro-Rector for Student & Staff Affairs and Outreach drew up a set of documents relating to the fitness of students following professional programmes to practice. A summary of the documents was presented to Senate at its meeting on 25 June 2020, which in turn appointed an ad hoc working group tasked with formulating a policy addressing fitness to practice for use across UM.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was drawn up to guide the proceedings for Faculty Assessment Disciplinary Boards and training was provided to Faculty Managers/ Officers in Charge of Institutes/Centres/Schools in connection with this SOP.

Information Technology based systems and applications

Throughout this period the Office of the Registrar sought to continue improving its operations as well as the academic administration of the UM through the introduction of new information-based systems and applications designed specially to assist not only this office but the respective Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools (F/I/C/S) of the University.

The International Admissions Office in collaboration with SIMS Office launched a new e-SIMS task related to the vetting process of overseas applications. The new task allows administrative staff to evaluate and process applications online, creating a paperless trail. The task keeps track of the dates of when applications were received, referred to the respective academic entity for consideration and when a recommendation is submitted by the entity. This application has not only facilitated and provided a much more efficient process, but also enabled this office to keep track of the progress of each respective application in real time.

The same offices also collaborated to launch an online application form through which academic entities could choose to offer a selection of study-units to auditing students against payment. This tool allows F/I/C/S to select study-units through a menu and submit the request for approval. Furthermore, an online application was launched to replace the traditional paper application for visiting study-units, thus allowing prospective applicants to apply online, while also effecting payment upfront.

During this period the Office of the Registrar, in conjunction with IT Services, continued the process leading to the procurement of a timetabling software aimed at assisting in the timetabling and scheduling exercises for teaching activities of the UM as a whole. (This purchase took place in late 2020, and the target of this office is to launch this software in time for academic year 2021/22).

This office also continued to look into the procurement of a curriculum management IT system. This will enable UM to have a working space that caters for the creation and amendments of course codes, study-units and programmes of study and eliminate paper trails which will be replaced with a seamless digital process.

Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on operations

The Covid-19 pandemic, and the quasi-lockdown imposed in view of the public health emergency declared by the Superintendent of Public Health between March and June 2020 necessitated many changes in the operations of the Office of the Registrar and the University as a whole, including a transition from physical to remote examinations.

For Semester 2 examinations, written examinations were in their vast majority (around 600) held using the UM's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) platform. In parallel, the UM launched a pilot project using WISEflow – a secure and scalable cloud-based assessment platform born out of the university sector. WISEflow helps institutions such as the UM transform the creation, management and delivery of exams and assessments. The pilot project initially involved some four Faculties, and a total of 140 examinations.

In the first instance, a team was created between members of staff from IT Services and the Registrar's Office so as to learn the WISEflow software, identify the way forward with recreating the processes required to hold exams remotely, and get organised in terms of training. Specifically, with WISEflow, a number of academic members of staff volunteered to experiment with the software, and to transfer the knowledge and insights attained to their peers as well as to members of the Assessment Support Team.

Training was organised in collaboration with the Office for Human Resources Management and Development for both academics and administrators of academic entities on the use of both platforms (VLE and WISEflow). Training for WISEflow was particularly extensive because three different roles were in place: Managers, Authors and Assessors. These training sessions were supplemented by FAQ sessions. Other FAQ's which dealt with Exam VLE and WISEflow were prepared by staff from this Office. In parallel, SIMS Office prepared technical manuals. SIMS Office staff were also required to create records for the updated methods of assessments approved by Senate for that examination session.

The Admissions and Records Office, together with the Students Advisory Services, conducted a series of webinars for prospective applicants to replace the physical meetings in view of the restrictions related to the pandemic. The response for these webinars was very positive and therefore it is being recommended that this practice should be retained in future years. The same office organised a number of online registration events to assist applicants for programmes offered by the International School for Foundation Studies, in applying to join an Undergraduate Course at UM. These online initiatives were very effective and facilitated the registration process. Such initiatives will therefore be repeated by this office in future years.

Student outreach

The UM is committed to providing a high-quality student experience within an academically inspiring and motivating environment, in the knowledge that this will lead to the enhancement of learning and performance of our graduate community. Experience has shown us that students who are provided academic and social support and who are engaged in campus life achieve more in their studies and career.

In order to continue to achieve this aim in this particular trialling period, Senate appointed a Social Support Team to further support students in problems experienced as a result of the pandemic. These could be related to examinations, the need for space within which to complete examinations (especially for students living in overcrowded homes), issues with the acquisition of technology and internet connectivity, financial problems and other matters related to assessment process. The team, in liaison with the ACCESS Disability Support Committee (ADSU), also helped with access issues for students with disabilities.

In continuing to deliver on its mission of serving students and society sustainably, the UM also launched its first ever Student Solidarity Fund, an initiative to aid part-time or full-time university students, who reside in Malta, who were in financial dire straits due to Covid-19.

These financial difficulties could have resulted from a loss of earnings because of business closures, self-isolation or illness. The Student Solidarity Fund has been maintained by regular or one-time donations from staff members, as well as contributions from outside the University community, and gave and will continue to give assistance to students even once the pandemic is over. A committee, chaired by Pro-Rector for Student & Staff Affairs and Outreach and

composed of academics and students has been tasked with evaluating requests in consultation with relevant professionals, including UM social workers. The fund is also supported by the Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU).

Audit exercise

During this period, the Scheduling Office underwent an extensive audit exercise. Following the auditor's report, the office reacted to the conclusions and recommendations raised, and a number of recommendations made were in fact implemented.

Doctoral School

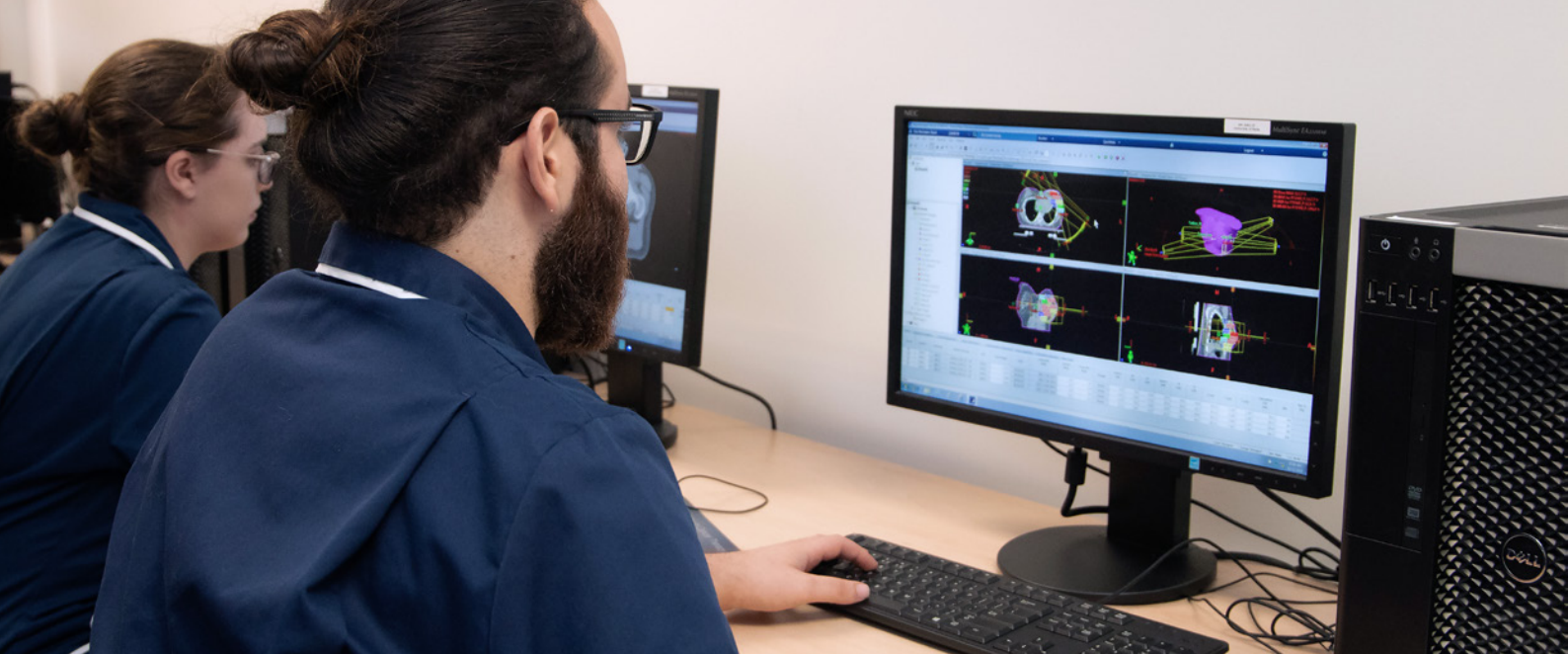
The Doctoral School in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar and the University's Doctoral Academic Committee were tasked with the revamp of the Ph.D. Regulations and a new set of procedures that are expected to be published in the year 2022.

In addition, the School continued to offer a professional development programme that focuses on transferable skills. This programme was offered over both semesters.

The annual Doctoral Symposium was organised on the 28 February 2020 at the Valletta campus. The objective of the Doctoral Symposium is to provide doctoral researchers with the opportunity to present and discuss their research with their peers. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Shosh Leshem from Oranim Academic College of Education and Kibbutzim Academic College, Israel, and discussed 'The Question of 'Doctorateness': Theory and Practice'.







THE RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (RIDT)

During 2020 the RIDT saw its operations coming to almost a standstill due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. All planned events, including those by third-party supporters, such as the ALIVE Charity Foundation, had to be cancelled. At the same time donations from traditional sources dried up, and it became almost impossible to pitch for new ones. By the end of the year the RIDT managed to raise around €300,000.

As a reaction to this the RIDT team embarked on a brainstorming exercise to identify alternative sources of funding and came up with a number of new campaigns. It is expected that these campaigns should be bearing fruit during 2021 and beyond.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND OUTREACH

During the 2019-2020 academic year the Knowledge Transfer Office consolidated its plan to organise its primary activities along two main tracks: Research Commercialisation and External Collaborations. Research Commercialisation focuses on working with researchers to identify and protect valuable intellectual property, and to commercialise it mainly through Licensing and Spin-off activity. External Collaborations focuses on the setting up of collaborative research agreements with external entities, including industry, government bodies and non-governmental organisation.

Research Commercialisation

The Knowledge Transfer Office continued expanding its technology transfer activities with a total of 40 ongoing projects, fifteen of which were very actively developing towards potential commercialisation. Some highlights include:

Re-Stone - This project involves a technology to reconstitute stone from pulverised waste or recycled limestone. It can be used to make paving, cladding, blocks or breeze blocks. There are ongoing collaborations between Hal Mann Vella Group and Blokrete Ltd to license the technology to them. There are also ongoing talks with INDIS Malta Ltd (formerly Malta Industrial Parks Ltd) to use the technology on one of their projects.

MaltaHIP - This is an innovative hip prosthesis designed from first principles by an interdisciplinary group at the University of Malta. A patent on the technology was filed in June 2019 and several prototypes of the implant were manufactured locally and tested at a specialist lab in Germany. The prosthesis showed excellent wear results. The Office is now in the process of contacting international companies such as Medtronic and Smith & Nephew to try to license the technology to them.

TOETVA - is a surgical tool designed specifically for minimally invasive surgery of the thyroid gland. The patent on the invention was filed in March 2020 and the team are currently approaching companies to license out the technology.

Aviation Patents - Researchers at the Institute of Aerospace Technologies have over the years filed a series of patents relating to aviation. In 2017 the UM signed a Marketing Licensing Agreement with Business Ventures Ltd to support with the marketing and licensing of these technologies. Since then, the technologies have been presented to large industrial players in the aviation field, and ongoing talks may result in a license agreement on Touchflight, a technology to improve the interaction between pilots and avionic systems based on the use of touch and speech technologies.

MicroCHP - A combined heat and power (CHP) system uses the heat produced by an electrical generator for water heating or to heat a living space. This increases the overall energy efficiency from about 40% to above 85%. A small CHP generator has been designed for domestic and small-scale use. The system has been optimised for use with photovoltaic systems and can continue operating through a power cut. The University is working closely with Abertax

Kemtronics Ltd to further develop the technology with the end goal of manufacturing and selling microCHPs as household appliances.

The Office has also been active in supporting University researchers with patent and design applications in a variety of fields including Engineering, Biotechnology, Natural Sciences, Medicine, ICT and Built Environment. Since 2014 more than 100 patent and design applications were filed, and of these a total of 25 patents and 11 designs were granted.

External Collaborations

With a new full-time Manager on board to support collaboration initiatives, the Knowledge Transfer Office was able to significantly increase the number of research collaboration agreements with third parties and in the funding received by the UM through these collaborations.

Some of the major collaborators include:

CityFALCON, who were successful in obtaining an R&D Grant from Malta Enterprise in collaboration with the UM. The UM received just over €100k to participate in this project involving data-science-based Natural Language Processing.

- ② Corel Malta Ltd, who were successful in obtaining another R&D Grant from Malta Enterprise in collaboration with the UM. The UM received close to €60k for its participation in the project relating to Artificial Intelligence within an Autonomous Diagnostic System. The UM also received a further €2,200 for the project through Malta Enterprise Skills Development Scheme.
- ② The Ministry for Education and Employment signed an agreement with the UM on a project to employ Artificial Intelligence in the classroom to support teaching. Through the agreement, the Ministry allocated €500k to support the project.
- ② The Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA) signed a number of collaboration agreements with the UM for the development of a text processing tool (€99,000), a speech processing tool (€30,800) and for an AI learning programme (€32,000). The MDIA also set up a Scholarship Fund of €100,000.
- ② The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society signed two agreements with the UM. The first is for research on a Wellbeing Index (€141,600) and the second on Blended Family Research (€44,720).

Seed and Proof-of-Concept Funds

The KTO was successful again in obtaining funding from the Ministry for the Economy and Industry and from Malta Marittima (now managed by Transport Malta) to set up funding programmes for proof-of-concept projects and start-ups. The TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award (TOSFA) allocated a total of €100k to 2 Proof-of-concept projects for researchers at the UM and 4 seed fund awards for start-up ventures. The Maritime Seed Award (MarSA), which is a specialised fund for the maritime sector, allocated a total of €100k to 4 Proof-of-concept projects and 1 start-up seed award. The KTO was responsible to coordinate the competitive award process and the overall management of these two funds. The Office also follows up and supports researchers who receive proof-of-concept funding.

Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd

In April 2019, the UM registered Malta University Investments Portfolio Ltd (MUIP), a limited liability company created to manage an investment fund to finance the setting up and growth of a portfolio of start-up companies emerging from commercialising University Intellectual Property. MUIP is wholly owned by the UM and functions as a private investment fund, with the goal of taking equity in UM spin-out companies and appointing suitably qualified and experienced professionals to their Board of Directors, to act as mentors and take on the role of business angels.

FLASC

The first spin-out that MUIP invested in was FLASC B.V., in December 2019. To maximise its chances of success, the University took the bold decision to create the new company in Delft, the Netherlands, one of the most active global centres for offshore renewable energy. FLASC is built around a technology for large-scale offshore energy storage, developed by the research group of Prof. Ing. Tonio Sant at the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Since inception, the start-up has progressed the technology significantly. In June 2020 it signed a cooperation agreement with Subsea 7, one of the leading global subsea oil and gas servicing companies.

Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells

In September 2020 MUIP agreed to invest in a second UM spin-out company that is based around a novel technology for the production of stem cells that was developed by the research group of Prof. Pierre Schembri Wismayer at the Department of Anatomy. Plans are currently underway to set up the company and start operations.

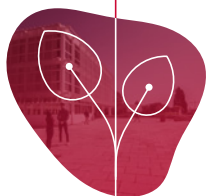
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research and Innovation are amongst two of the main pillars of the University of Malta's Vision and Mission statements. The growth in R&I, as measured by all KPIs including research funding, number of research projects, number of researchers and publications, continued to show a healthy increase, and contributed to the raise of the UM in University rankings.



Strategy

The UM continued to advocate for increased national and international research funding. This would help fund more research support officers and funding Ph.D. students, that would help improve the doctoral-researcher-to-staff ratio.



Research Funding

The funding of research at UM continues to come predominantly from the operational budget, which pays for the salaries of main researchers – academics at the UM. Indeed, the 900 academics at the UM with TR appointments are expected to dedicate at least one third of their time to research.

The UM then supports research projects conducted by its academics through two schemes: Research Seed Funds (RSF) and Research Excellence Funds (REF). In line with previous years, five hundred thousand euros were granted to some two hundred and fifty academics in RSF grants. Four REF projects were also granted sixty thousand Euros each, to be disbursed over a two-year period.

The UM continues to rely heavily on external funds to perform its research mission. During the period, 74 UM research projects were awarded local funds, whereas 63 received international funds. The amounts local and international research funds awarded was € 4.7 million and € 8.8 million respectively.



Researchers

The number of academics with TR appointments reached 810, 84% of whom have doctoral qualifications. This is significant since researchers are expected to spend one third of their time in research activities, including conducting research themselves, applying for research funds, managing research projects, and supervising postgraduate and doctoral students.

The number of Research Support Officers (RSOs) continued to increase in line with the increase in research projects and research grants during the period. RSOs are funded directly by research grants and perform all their duties related to research projects. The number of RSOs including post-docs (RSO III and IV) reached 243, an increase of 18% over the previous period.

Postgraduate students are also crucial to research at the UM. There were 375 Doctoral and Professional Doctorate students and 2,870 Masters students at the UM in the period, all contributing to research through their thesis, dissertations, and publications.



Structural Funds

The UM continued to manage two major research projects funded through ERDF funds; the Trans Research and Knowledge Engineering (TRAKE) project and the Sustainable Living Complex (SLC) that together amount to some € 86 million in European and national funds. The TRAKE project proceeded on schedule whereas the SLC project schedule was negatively impacted by developments in the construction industry in Malta, geotechnical challenges uncovered during excavation, and Covid-19 related HR issues. It is however expected that both projects will be completed on time to the benefit of research at the UM and in Malta.



Publications

UM researchers published 1030 articles in the period up from 910, 848 and 818 articles in the previous three periods. This reflects the continued research output of the UM. These articles were index by Scopus and the Web of Science and do not include other publications not targeted by these indexing engines.



Research Support Services

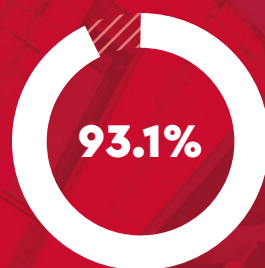
The UM supports academics to apply for research funds through the Research Support Services Directorate. During the period, the RSSD help academics submit 70 national research grant applications and 231 international ones. The total funds applied for amounts to € 7.4 million and € 54.3 million respectively. The number of national and international research grants won amounted to 28 and 31 respectively, earning the UM € 3.1 million and € 4.6 million respectively.

The Project Support Office provides both pre-award and post-award support services to researchers. The pre-award section helped the RSSD prepare the budgets of all the 301 research grant applications. The post-award section helps academics with the financial management of awarded research projects. At the beginning of period, the PSO was managing 260 projects, 141 locally funded and 119 internationally funded, whereas by the end of the period the number rose to 302 projects, 163 locally funded and 139 internationally funded. The total amount of research funds under management rose from € 28.7 million to € 58.9 million.

University Staff

	2018/2019		2019/2020	
	F	M	F	M
Resident Academic Staff	354	605	374	592
Visiting teaching staff	295	499	275	496
Post docs	4	5	2	2
Other research staff	93	104	116	123
Managerial, admin, technical, support staff	538	407	562	413
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF	1284	1620	1329	1626
% of resident academics with doctorates	68.9	84	72.5	84.6
% of resident academics who are associate & full professors	14.7	35.9	16.3	37.2

Percentage of resident academic staff with Ph.D.s by gender



FEMALE



MALE

Number of University Students

STUDENTS (full-time and part-time)	2019/2020		
	F	M	TOTAL
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	18	10	28
Certificates	163	101	264
Diplomas	279	228	507
Undergraduate Degrees	3989	2675	6664
Postgraduate Certificates	55	8	63
Postgraduate Diplomas	19	1	20
Master degrees	1748	1122	2870
Professional Doctorates	19	6	25
Doctoral degrees	160	192	352
Other	234	155	389
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	6684	4498	11182
Local Students	5962	4055	10017
International Students	722	443	1165

Total number of students

11,182



10,017

LOCAL STUDENTS

1,165

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Programme Offerings

CATEGORY	2019/2020
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	3
Certificates	18
Diplomas	23
Undergraduate Degrees	271
Postgraduate Certificates	5
Postgraduate Diplomas	2
Master degrees	353
Master of Philosophy	112
Professional Doctorates	2
Doctoral degrees	91
Other	24
TOTAL PROGRAMMES OFFERED	904

Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees Conferred

CATEGORY	2019/2020		
	F	M	TOTAL
Pre-Tertiary Certificates	9	4	13
Certificates	76	62	138
Diplomas	203	165	368
Undergraduate Degrees	1143	736	1879
Postgraduate Certificates	67	12	79
Postgraduate Diplomas	43	23	66
Master degrees	640	411	1051
Professional Doctorates	12	2	14
Doctoral degrees	19	21	40
TOTAL AWARDS	2212	1436	3648

STUDENT BODY

Students by Locality

LOCALITY MALTA	F	M	TOTAL
Attard	245	191	436
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq	15	14	29
Il-Baħrija	7	8	15
Hal-Balzan	63	62	125
Birżebbuġa	107	88	195
Il-Bidnija	3	2	5
Birkirkara	287	205	492
Il-Blata l-Bajda	1	0	1
Buġibba	25	16	41
Burmarrad	16	7	23
Cospicua	17	13	30
Had-Dingli	60	42	102
Il-Fgura	147	88	235
Fleur-de-Lys	7	7	14
Il-Floriana	11	8	19
Il-Għargħur	62	35	97
Hal-Għaxaq	71	49	120
Gwardamanġa	11	3	14
Il-Gudja	46	43	89
Il-Gżira	45	43	88
Il-Ħamrun	68	43	111
L-Ibraġġ	30	28	58
L-Iklin	56	47	103
Il-Kalkara	38	23	61
Il-Kappara	39	31	70
Hal-Kirkop	34	28	62
Hal-Lija	59	40	99
Hal-Luqa	65	40	105
Il-Madliena	24	14	38
Il-Manikata	8	4	12
Il-Marsa	21	11	32
L-Imdina	1	3	4
Il-Mellieħa	136	86	222
L-Imġarr	72	44	116
Il-Mosta	388	245	633
L-Imqabba	69	37	106
L-Imrieħel	4	0	4
Marsaskala	200	132	332
L-Imtida	56	44	100
L-Imtarfa	70	45	115
Marsaxlokk	59	34	93
In-Naxxar	227	172	399
Paola	68	39	107
Pembroke	77	69	146
Il-Pietà	32	14	46
Il-Qawra	36	32	68

LOCALITY MALTA	F	M	TOTAL
Hal Qormi	150	102	252
Il-Qrendi	43	27	70
Ir-Rabat	115	102	217
Hal Safi	30	29	59
Is-Salina	0	2	2
San Ġwann	145	93	238
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	17	10	27
Senglea	13	4	17
Is-Siġġiewi	174	97	271
Tas-Sliema	125	97	222
St Julian's	84	72	156
St Paul's Bay	85	57	142
Sta Lucia	33	20	53
Sta Venera	75	52	127
Is-Swatar	44	27	71
Is-Swieqi	113	98	211
Ta' Xbiex	12	10	22
Hal-Tarxien	122	82	204
Valletta	19	21	40
Vittoriosa	17	4	21
Ix-Xemxija	13	7	20
Ix-Xgħajra	18	13	31
Haż Żabbar	193	122	315
Iż-Żebbiegħ	5	2	7
Haż Żebbuġ	173	150	323
Iż-Żejtun	130	88	218
Iż-Żurrieq	216	129	345

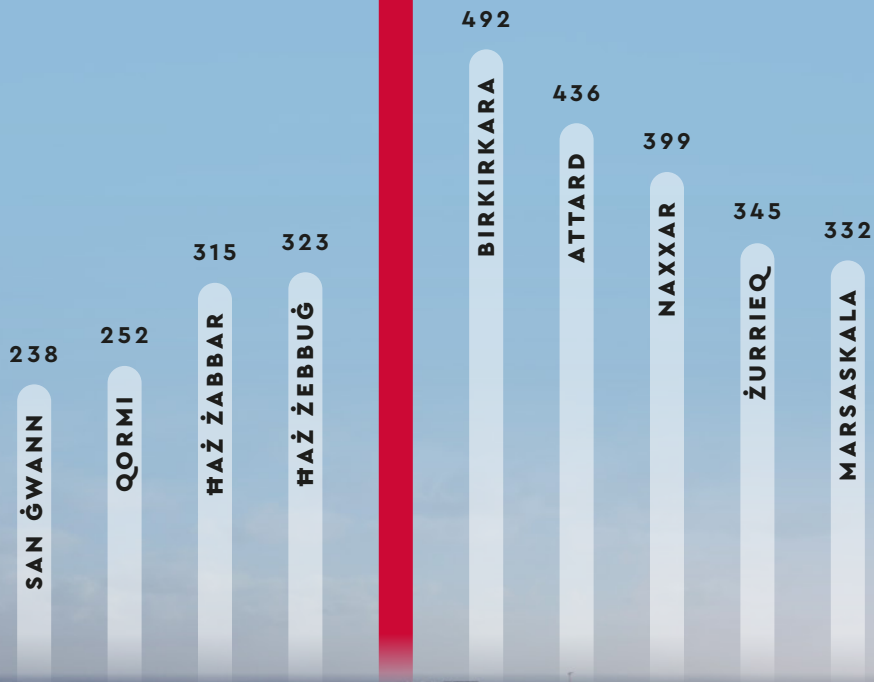
LOCALITY GOZO	F	M	TOTAL
Fontana	20	18	38
Għajnsielem	43	10	53
L-Għarb	28	10	38
L-Għasri	9	9	18
Kerċem	31	18	49
Il-Munxar	28	17	45
In-Nadur	75	32	107
Il-Qala	32	22	54
San Lawrenz	7	4	11
Is-Sannat	47	13	60
Sta Lucia (Gozo)	3	5	8
Victoria	124	72	196
Ix-Xagħra	88	37	125
Ix-Xewkija	50	26	76
Iż-Żebbuġ (Gozo)	30	16	46
TOTAL	5962	4055	10017



633

MOSTA

Locality with largest number of students enrolled



5,962
FEMALE



4,055
MALE

10,017

TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL STUDENTS

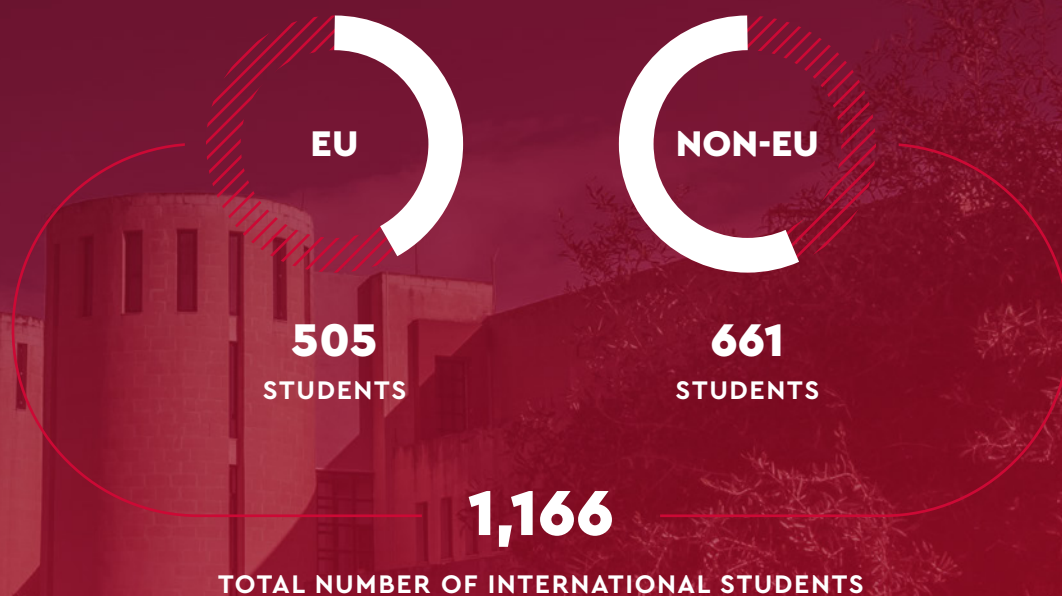
International Students

EU/NON-EU	NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
EU	Austrian	3	1	4
	British	54	35	89
	Bulgarian	9	9	18
	Croatian	6	0	6
	Cypriot	1	1	2
	Czech	1	1	2
	Danish	3	2	5
	Dutch	14	5	19
	Estonian	4	1	5
	Finnish	3	2	5
	French	17	8	25
	German	48	28	76
	Greek	12	16	28
	Hungarian	8	6	14
	Icelandic	1	1	2
	Irish	12	6	18
	Italian	59	41	100
	Latvian	4	1	5
	Lithuanian	3	1	4
	Luxembourger	1	0	1
	Norwegian	3	2	5
	Polish	10	0	10
	Portuguese	3	3	6
	Romanian	7	4	11
	Slovakian	3	0	3
	Slovenian	2	1	3
	Spanish	19	7	26
	Swedish	6	3	9
Swiss	3	1	4	
EU TOTAL		319	186	505

EU/NON-EU	NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
NON-EU	Afghan	0	1	1
	Albanian	0	1	1
	Algerian	1	0	1
	American	29	10	39
	Argentinian	1	0	1
	Australian	2	1	3
	Azeri	2	1	3
	Bahamian	0	1	1
	Bangladeshi	3	2	5
	Belizean	1	0	1
	Bosnian	0	2	2
	Botswanan	1	0	1
	Brazilian	5	3	8
	Cameroonian	1	1	2
	Canadian	4	2	6
	Chilean	1	1	2
	Chinese (PR)	24	14	38
	Colombian	4	1	5
	Costa Rican	2	0	2
	Dominican (Commonwealth)	1	0	1
	Dutch (Net. Antilles)	1	0	1
	Ecuadorian	1	0	1
	Egyptian	5	1	6
	Eritrean	0	1	1
	Ethiopian	1	4	5
	Gambian	1	0	1
	Georgian	5	3	8
	Ghanaian	8	6	14
	Grenadian	1	0	1
	Guatemalan	1	1	2
	Guernsey	1	0	1
	Guyanese	0	1	1
Honduran	1	1	2	
Indian	21	18	39	
Indonesian	3	3	6	
Iranian	2	5	7	
Iraqi	1	0	1	

EU/NON-EU	NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
NON-EU <i>(continued)</i>	Jamaican	2	0	2
	Japanese	7	2	9
	Jordanian	4	1	5
	Kazakhstani	2	1	3
	Kenyan	11	2	13
	Korean (South Korea)	3	1	4
	Kosovar	0	1	1
	Kuwaiti	33	31	64
	Kyrgyzstani	1	0	1
	Lebanese	1	0	1
	Liberian	0	1	1
	Libyan	21	20	41
	Macedonian	2	2	4
	Malawian	0	1	1
	Malaysian	2	2	4
	Mauritian	0	1	1
	Mexican	6	4	10
	Montenegrin	1	1	2
	Nepalese	1	0	1
	New Zealander	1	1	2
	Nigerian	4	10	14
	Nigerien (Niger)	1	0	1
	Omani	50	28	78
	Pakistani	9	5	14
	Palestinian	9	3	12
	Paraguayan	1	0	1
	Peruvian	2	1	3
	Filipino	18	10	28
	Russian	15	4	19
	Saint Lucian	1	0	1
	Salvadorian	1	0	1
	Saudi	6	8	14
	Serbian	10	6	16
Seychellois	2	2	4	
Singaporean	1	1	2	
South African	1	0	1	
Sudanese	2	1	3	

EU/NON-EU	NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
NON-EU <i>(continued)</i>	Surinamese	1	0	1
	Syrian	1	3	4
	Taiwanese	2	2	4
	Tanzanian	1	0	1
	Thais	4	0	4
	Trinidadian / Tobagonian	2	0	2
	Tunisian	4	1	5
	Turkish	2	0	2
	Ugandan	4	1	5
	Ukrainian	9	3	12
	Uzbek	0	1	1
	Venezuelan	1	1	2
	Vietnamese	5	2	7
	Yemenis	0	2	2
	Zambian	0	3	3
	Zimbabwean	1	3	4
NON-EU TOTAL		403	258	661
TOTAL		722	444	1166



EU Students

UNDERGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Austrian	1	0	1
British	33	23	56
Bulgarian	7	7	14
Croatian	4	0	4
Czech	1	0	1
Danish	2	1	3
Dutch	2	4	6
Estonian	2	0	2
Finnish	2	0	2
French	7	6	13
German	23	14	37
Greek	4	2	6
Hungarian	7	3	10
Irish	4	1	5
Italian	32	22	54
Latvian	3	0	3
Lithuanian	1	1	2
Luxembourger	1	0	1
Norwegian	2	1	3
Polish	7	0	7
Portuguese	1	2	3
Romanian	4	4	8
Slovakian	2	0	2
Slovenian	1	1	2
Spanish	9	3	12
Swedish	3	2	5
UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL	165	97	262

POSTGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Austrian	2	1	3
British	21	12	33
Bulgarian	2	2	4
Croatian	2	0	2
Cypriot	1	1	2
Czech	0	1	1
Danish	1	1	2
Dutch	12	1	13
Estonian	2	1	3
Finnish	1	2	3
French	10	2	12
German	25	14	39
Greek	8	14	22
Hungarian	1	3	4
Icelander	1	1	2
Irish	8	5	13
Italian	27	19	46
Latvian	1	1	2
Lithuanian	2	0	2
Norwegian	1	1	2
Polish	3	0	3
Portuguese	2	1	3
Romanian	3	0	3
Slovakian	1	0	1
Slovenian	1	0	1
Spanish	10	4	14
Swedish	3	1	4
Swiss	3	1	4
POSTGRADUATE TOTAL	154	89	243
TOTAL	319	186	505

Non-EU Students

UNDERGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Algerian	1	0	1
American	1	0	1
Bangladeshi	0	2	2
Bosnian	0	1	1
Brazilian	1	1	2
Cameroonian	1	0	1
Canadian	1	0	1
Chinese (PR)	13	10	23
Egyptian	2	0	2
Eritrean	0	1	1
Ethiopian	1	1	2
Georgian	2	0	2
Ghanaian	2	3	5
Guernsey	1	0	1
Indian	13	5	18
Indonesian	0	2	2
Iranian	0	4	4
Iraqi	1	0	1
Japanese	4	1	5
Jordanian	2	0	2
Kenyan	4	0	4
Korean (South Korea)	0	1	1
Kuwaiti	32	30	62
Libyan	12	15	27

UNDERGRADUATE (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Macedonian	1	0	1
Malaysian	0	1	1
Montenegrin	0	1	1
Nepalese	1	0	1
Nigerian	4	3	7
Nigerien	1	0	1
Omani	50	28	78
Pakistani	2	3	5
Palestinian	4	0	4
Peruvian	1	1	2
Filipino	4	3	7
Russian	12	4	16
Saudi	6	8	14
Serbian	8	2	10
Seychellois	0	1	1
Singaporean	0	1	1
Sudanese	0	1	1
Syrian	1	0	1
Tunisian	1	0	1
Ugandan	2	0	2
Ukrainian	5	2	7
Venezuelan	0	1	1
Vietnamese	0	1	1
Zimbabwean	1	1	2
UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL	198	139	337

POSTGRADUATE

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Afghan	0	1	1
Albanian	0	1	1
American	28	10	38
Argentinian	1	0	1
Australian	2	1	3
Azeri	2	1	3
Bahamian	0	1	1
Bangladeshi	3	0	3
Belizean	1	0	1
Bosnian	0	1	1
Botswanan	1	0	1
Brazilian	4	2	6
Cameroonian	0	1	1
Canadian	3	2	5
Chilean	1	1	2
Chinese (PR)	11	4	15
Colombian	4	1	5
Costa Rican	2	0	2
Dominican (Commonwealth)	1	0	1
Dutch (Net. Antilles)	1	0	1
Ecuadorian	1	0	1
Egyptian	3	1	4
Ethiopian	0	3	3
Gambian	1	0	1
Georgian	3	3	6
Ghanaian	6	3	9
Grenadian	1	0	1
Guatemalan	1	1	2
Guyanese	0	1	1
Honduran	1	1	2
Indian	8	13	21
Indonesian	3	1	4
Iranian	2	1	3
Jamaican	2	0	2
Japanese	3	1	4
Jordanian	2	1	3
Kazakhstani	2	1	3
Kenyan	7	2	9
Korean (South Korea)	3	0	3
Kosovar	0	1	1
Kuwaiti	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstani	1	0	1
Lebanese	1	0	1

POSTGRADUATE (continued)

NATIONALITY	F	M	TOTAL
Liberian	0	1	1
Libyan	9	5	14
Macedonian	1	2	3
Malawian	0	1	1
Malaysian	2	1	3
Mauritian	0	1	1
Mexican	6	4	10
Montenegrin	1	0	1
New Zealander	1	1	2
Nigerian	0	7	7
Pakistani	7	2	9
Palestinian	5	3	8
Paraguayan	1	0	1
Peruvian	1	0	1
Filipino	14	7	21
Russian	3	0	3
Saint Lucian	1	0	1
Salvadorian	1	0	1
Serbian	2	4	6
Seychellois	2	1	3
Singaporean	1	0	1
South African	1	0	1
Sudanese	2	0	2
Surinamese	1	0	1
Syrian	0	3	3
Taiwanese	2	2	4
Tanzanian	1	0	1
Thais	4	0	4
Trinidadian / Tobagonian	2	0	2
Tunisian	3	1	4
Turkish	2	0	2
Ugandan	2	1	3
Ukrainian	4	1	5
Uzbek	0	1	1
Venezuelan	1	0	1
Vietnamese	5	1	6
Yemenis	0	2	2
Zambian	0	3	3
Zimbabwean	0	2	2
POSTGRADUATE TOTAL	205	119	324
TOTAL	403	258	661

International Exchange Outgoing Students

	2018/2019	2019/2020
America	4	7
Australia	7	0
Canada	0	0
Japan	1	1
Morocco	1	0
S. Korea	1	0
UAE	0	1
UK	0	1
TOTAL	14	10

Incoming Visiting/ Exchange Students

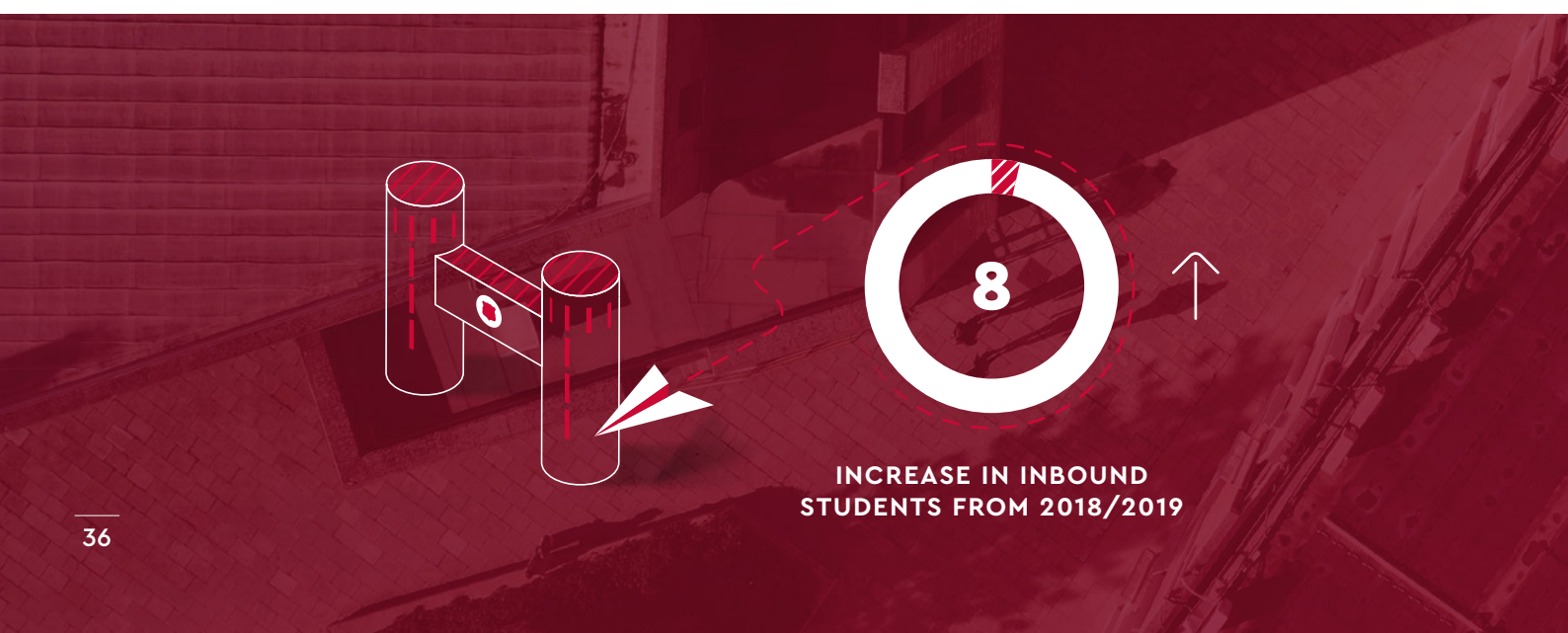
	2018/2019	2019/2020		2018/2019	2019/2020
America	35	36	Colombia	0	1
Australia	5	4	Netherlands	5	5
Belgium	0	1	France	21	40
Brazil	1	0	German	13	9
Bulgaria	0	1	India	4	3
Canada	5	4	Italian	0	2
Chile	0	0	Japan	7	13
Chinese	1	9	Switzerland	1	0
			TOTAL	98	128

Erasmus+ Inbound Students

	<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
Albania	0	1
Austria	7	5
Belgium	25	28
Bulgaria	1	5
Croatia	4	1
Cyprus	0	0
Czech Republic	18	19
Denmark	11	10
Estonia	0	1
Finland	16	14
France	50	30
Germany	44	53
Greece	2	3
Hungary	4	4
Iceland	0	0
Ireland	32	37
Italy	98	78
Latvia	1	4
Lithuania	11	13

	<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>
Luxembourg	2	2
Netherlands	13	17
Norway	3	2
Poland	20	21
Portugal	4	2
Romania	0	0
Slovakia	4	6
Slovenia	2	5
Spain	15	21
Sweden	5	10
Switzerland	2	2
Turkey	3	7
United Kingdom	63	65
Ukraine	2	2
Palestine	4	6
China	1	1
Russia	2	3
India	1	0

TOTAL	470	478
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INCREASE IN INBOUND STUDENTS FROM 2018/2019

Erasmus+ Outbound Students

	2018/2019	2019/2020
Austria	2	8
Belgium	24	15
Bulgaria	1	0
Croatia	0	2
Cyprus	3	0
Czech Republic	7	4
Denmark	12	14
Estonia	4	0
Finland	17	16
France	3	5
Germany	15	12
Greece	4	2
Hungary	2	4
Iceland	0	0
Ireland	29	29

	2018/2019	2019/2020
Italy	68	44
Latvia	1	0
Lithuania	10	10
Netherlands	11	11
Norway	2	0
Poland	20	25
Portugal	1	4
Romania	0	0
Slovakia	2	2
Slovenia	3	3
Spain	16	21
Sweden	7	11
Switzerland	1	2
Turkey	2	0
United Kingdom	121	86
TOTAL	388	330



DECREASE IN OUTBOUND STUDENTS FROM 2018/2019



Financial Review

Notwithstanding the Covid-19 situation, the UM and its Group still registered a surplus in line with previous years. Although income in general remained relatively the same over the last financial both at UM and Group level, (UM €118.4 million in 2020 as against €117.6 million in 2019; Group €120 million in both years), the figures show that this was more attributable to increased Government financing which offset a downward shift in own generated income of nearly €3 million at Group level and €2.5 million in the UM's income.

However, the pandemic has also impacted on the activities of the UM and the Group which resulted in lower expenditure and hence the relatively constant surplus before taxation at Group level and the resultant surplus of €89,708 of the UM. The positive working capital ratio (2020: 1.06; 2019: 1.07) has also been maintained showing that the UM and the Group have enough short-term assets to cover short-term debts.

Financial Report

Income and expenditure accounts

Year ended 30 September, 2020

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	€ 2020	€ 2019	€ 2020	€ 2019
Income	120,471,815	120,165,437	118,404,044	117,618,838
EXPENDITURE				
Staff costs	88,633,045	87,805,949	88,078,751	87,102,398
Other operating expenses	29,839,087	31,535,575	28,844,612	30,185,182
	118,472,132	119,341,524	116,923,363	117,287,580
Surplus before allocation to funds	1,999,683	823,913	1,480,681	331,258
Net Allocation to funds	(1,390,973)	(161,128)	(1,390,973)	(161,128)
Surplus before tax	608,710	662,785	89,708	170,130
Tax expense	(105,995)	(307,932)	-	-
Surplus for the year	502,715	354,853	89,708	170,130
Other comprehensive income				
<i>Item that will not be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss:</i>				
Decrease in fair value of financial assets at FVOCI	(8,004)	(5,056)	-	-
Disposal of financial asset at FVOCI	3,600	-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year	(4,404)	(5,056)	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	498,311	349,797	89,708	170,130

Statements of Financial Position

As at 30 September, 2020

	GROUP		UNIVERSITY	
	€ 2020	€ 2019	€ 2020	€ 2019
ASSETS NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Property, plant and equipment	96,122,547	81,886,941	94,776,918	80,484,102
Right-of-use assets	1,380,339	1,926,569	1,161,960	1,533,487
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	948,313	948,313
Deferred tax	154,597	64,649	-	-
Investments	1,095,834	1,107,738	266,569	266,569
Trade and other receivables	8,929,792	9,665,662	8,929,792	9,665,662
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	107,683,109	94,651,559	106,083,552	92,898,133
ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS				
Inventories	49,468	45,232	-	-
Capital projects funding	17,809,237	5,192,113	17,809,237	5,192,113
Trade and other receivables	31,655,575	29,681,711	32,012,608	30,312,937
Current tax assets	36,510	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	20,061,962	25,509,864	17,939,668	22,871,185
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	69,612,752	60,428,920	67,761,513	58,376,235
TOTAL ASSETS	177,295,861	155,080,479	173,845,065	151,274,368

FUNDS & LIABILITIES FUNDS & EQUITY

Specific endowment funds	328,982	328,982	328,982	328,982
OTHER FUNDS				
Capital fund	138,598	138,598	138,598	138,598
Special reserve	4,800,000	4,800,000	4,800,000	4,800,000
Other reserves	1,929,624	1,592,009	1,929,624	1,592,009
Investment revaluation reserve	(9,460)	(5,056)	-	-
Accumulated net surplus	5,545,039	5,042,324	2,911,000	2,821,292
	12,403,801	11,567,875	9,779,222	9,351,899
Deferred grants	89,013,753	75,596,932	89,013,753	75,596,932
TOTAL FUNDS	101,417,554	87,164,807	98,792,975	84,948,831
TOTAL FUNDS & EQUITY	101,746,536	87,493,789	99,121,957	85,277,813

FUNDS & LIABILITIES NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Lease liability	893,561	1,467,536	828,895	1,154,130
Deferred tax liability	26,819	37,468	-	-
Provision for liabilities and charges	8,929,792	9,665,662	8,929,792	9,665,662
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	9,850,172	11,170,666	9,758,687	10,819,792

FUNDS & LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES

Funds designated for specific purposes:

Academic	10,250,357	9,366,292	10,388,088	9,504,023
Operational resources	904,475	904,475	904,475	904,475
Other	1,852,861	1,818,073	1,852,861	1,818,073
Trade and other payables	45,438,713	37,140,160	44,991,187	36,019,777
Provision for liabilities and charges	6,403,343	6,451,913	6,403,343	6,451,913
Lease liability	673,208	687,469	424,467	478,502
Borrowings	3,079	-	-	-
Current tax liabilities	173,117	47,642	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	65,699,153	56,416,024	64,964,421	55,176,763
TOTAL LIABILITIES	75,549,325	67,586,690	74,723,108	65,996,555

TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	177,295,861	155,080,479	173,845,065	151,274,368
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