The University of Malta: It's origins
• Traces its origin to the founding of the Collegium Melitense (run by the Jesuits) which was set up through direct papal intervention on 12 November 1592.

The University of Malta
• Highest teaching institution in Malta.
• Publicly funded, it is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications.
• Has reviewed its structures to be in line with the Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area and many of the courses offered run on the modular or credit system.
• The University strives to create courses which are relevant and timely in response to the needs of the country.
• The supreme governing bodies of the University are the Council and the Senate.
• There are some 10,000 students including over 600 foreign/exchange students from nearly 60 different countries, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses.

The Department of Psychology:
• Established in 1988, The Department of Psychology is presently hosted in the Faculty of Education.
• A strong and stimulating department with 11 full-time members of staff and numerous permanent part-time offering high level quality lecturing and research.
• Students appreciate the lecturers' skills of linking theory with their practical experience.
• Students feel respected and supported.
• Ethical issues are constantly held in high regard at all levels.
• Graduates state that they feel extremely prepared for their post graduate studies.
• Offers undergraduate and post graduate courses.
• Services other departments and faculties.
• Also hosts the Programme for Inclusive Education.

Psychology Courses:
• Bachelor in Psychology (Honours) (+10 students)
• Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (+10 students)
• Master in Psychology (Educational, Clinical and Counselling) (18 students)

Other courses:
• Dip in Counselling in Inclusive Education (+180 students)
• Bachelor of Education (Personal and Social Development) (23 students)
• Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Personal and Social Development) (15 students)
• Master in Counselling (22 students)
• Master in Inclusive Education and Communities (16 Students)

Entry Requirements:
For B.Psyc. (Honours): Matriculation certificate with at least a C for Biology Intermediate level.
For B.A. in Psychology: Matriculation certificate.
For M.Psyc.: B.Psyc. (Honours) at least Second Class Upper Division, or an equivalent qualification from this or another university and a minimum of 2400 of work experience in the field.

Accreditation:
• Courses are evaluated on a yearly basis by an external examiner held in high regard in academia.
• B.Psyc. (Honours) students are granted GIBR by The British Psychological Society on application.
• Psychologists are governed by The Malta Psychology Professsion Board which functions under the Professional Psychology Act (2004).
• January 22, 2007, saw the first warranting ceremony for psychologists in Malta.

Taught subjects:
• Bachelor’s level: Students read a total read of 180 study units in:
  - Research methods in psychology
  - Developmental psychology
  - Clinical, counselling and health
  - Social and organizational psychology
  - Cognitive neuroscience

  • Dissertation: 10 ECTS (end of year III)

Practicum:
• A 100 hour practicum in research, adult, child, health or organizational psychology is offered as an optional study unit in the third year.

Masters’ Level:
• Students following for the professional masters degree in each area of specialization (clinical, counseling and educational) shall follow study units to which a total of 120 credits are assigned. 90 credits are assigned to taught study units and 30 credits assigned to the dissertation study unit. It is calculated that 40% of the course involves practical experience.

Difficulties encountered.
• Reading psychology is extremely popular in Malta, as is every other country. The numbers of students keep on increasing and we have had to forfeit small group teaching and supervised practicums for all under graduate levels. The university should be providing assistants for correcting assignments and exams.
• Teaching methods and techniques used:
  - Inclusive practices are used as much as possible.
  - Frontal lectures with space for discussion.
  - Tutorials are offered for some subjects.
  - Seminars and presentations by groups of students are popular.
  - Video conferencing especially with foreign lecturers are held.
  - Students receive strong one to one tutoring especially for their dissertation.
  - All lecturers are available to students at stipulated student times.

Use of technology:
• For research: The members of the department have amongst the first to use various software applications for research purposes.
• For teaching: nearly all members of staff use power point presentations, DVDs and the internet to enhance their teaching.

Quality assurance:
• All study units need to be approved by the respective Board of Studies, Faculty Board, The Academic Programmes Quality and Resources Unit (APQRU), which is the administrative arm of the Programme Validation Committee (PVC), and finally by Senate. APQRU may also ask foreign experts for an external evaluation. This was carried out for the M.Psyc. course.
• External examiner’s report includes recommendations.
• Student anonymous feedback.
• University Ombudsman

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Teaching Psychology in Malta

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