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Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local specialised schools numbered 75,524, equivalent to a decrease of 2.6 per cent over 2014.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2015

The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (23.8 per cent), Germany (13.7 per cent) and France (10.1 per cent). Together these accounted for 47.6 per cent of total student (Table 1 and chart 1).

The largest amount of language students were aged 15 years or less, these students alone totalled 21,247, and accounted for 28.1 per cent of total student visits. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 4,486. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 58.0 per cent of the entire student population (Table 3).

July was the busiest month for English language specialised schools, with 15,812 arrivals, or 20.9 per cent of the annual total. This was followed by August and June with 16.5 and 11.3 per cent of total arrivals respectively. A similar pattern was also recorded in 2014 (Table 4). Chart 2 shows how the percentage of students aged 15 or less increases substantially during the months of July and June.

The most popular course offered by specialised schools for English language is General English. This course alone accounted for 53,811 students (71.3 per cent) attending during 2015. This was followed by the Intensive English course, with 15.2 per cent of total students (Table 5).

Foreign students attending English language courses amounted to 4.2 per cent of total incoming tourists during 2015. During the month of July, 206,626 foreigners visited Malta, out of these 7.7 per cent were English language students (Table 6).

The majority of students (29.8 per cent) resided with a host family, an increase of 2.5 per cent over last year. Accommodation in hotels was chosen by 14,530 students, and increased by 3.4 percent over 2014 (Table 7).

Collectively foreign students enrolled in specialised schools for English language spent 238,481 weeks in Malta. The average duration per student stood at 3.2 weeks, and remained at par with the previous year. With an average of 15.9 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration. These were followed by Libyan and Turkish students with an average of 11.9 and 7.8 weeks respectively (Tables 8 and 10).

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In 2015, teaching staff in English language specialised schools numbered 1,444, and in the majority were females. Of these, most (44.4 per cent) were aged between 18 and 24. Female teaching personnel comprised 69.3 per cent of the total teaching staff. Non-teaching staff amounted to 752 of which 52.8 per cent were employed on a full-time basis. (Tables 11 and 12) ■

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The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by sex and citizenship*

Citizenship	Male	Female	Total**	Male	Females	Total**
	2015			2014		
Italy	8,023	9,931	17,956	7,993	10,576	18,572
Germany	4,388	5,976	10,364	4,554	5,947	10,505
France	3,149	4,508	7,657	3,007	4,381	7,388
Russia	2,254	3,464	5,720	3,489	5,940	9,429
Austria	1,831	1,920	3,751	2,076	2,200	4,276
Spain	1,339	1,930	3,269	1,439	2,161	3,601
Czech Republic	922	2,228	3,151	557	901	1,458
Poland	1,020	1,729	2,749	776	1,269	2,045
Switzerland	1,044	1,376	2,420	968	1,402	2,370
Brazil	867	1,479	2,347	565	948	1,513
Turkey	1,399	891	2,290	1,215	727	1,947
Japan	362	1,231	1,593	351	1,148	1,499
Libya	812	357	1,170	1,555	483	2,052
Netherlands	307	779	1,086	392	824	1,216
Belgium	294	470	764	306	487	793
Colombia	281	458	739	234	366	600
Hungary	296	403	699	225	285	510
Slovakia	252	411	663	282	404	686
Ukraine	268	381	649	205	320	525
Other countries***	2,574	3,912	6,487	2,384	4,181	6,565
Total	31,682	43,834	75,524	32,573	44,950	77,550

* includes only students arriving in 2015/2014

** total includes students whose sex is unknown

*** includes students whose citizenship is unknown

Table 2. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by citizenship and age group - top six countries: 2015*

Age group	Country of citizenship					
	Italy	Germany	France	Russia	Austria	Spain
15 and under	5,877	2,980	3,116	2,492	1,458	642
16-17	5,698	1,714	1,985	622	1,250	434
18-25	2,517	1,818	1,619	918	651	870
26-35	1,537	1,019	349	895	84	645
36-49	1,373	1,519	299	574	156	485
50 and over	790	1,214	219	151	142	164
Age unknown	164	100	70	68	10	29
Total	17,956	10,364	7,657	5,720	3,751	3,269

* includes only students arriving in 2015

Chart 1. Percentage of foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by citizenship: 2015

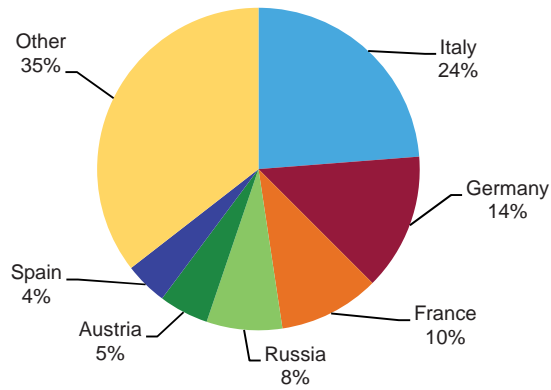


Table 3. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by sex and age group*

Age group	Males	Females	Total**
	2015		
15 and under	8,985	12,261	21,247
16-17	6,162	8,534	14,697
18-25	7,231	9,284	16,518
26-35	4,112	5,642	9,757
36-49	3,283	4,979	8,262
50+	1,693	2,793	4,486
Age unknown	216	341	557
Total	31,682	43,834	75,524
	2014		
15 and under	7,311	9,943	17,264
16-17	6,955	10,717	17,675
18-25	8,525	11,088	19,619
26-35	4,186	5,424	9,615
36-49	3,095	4,278	7,375
50+	1,652	2,598	4,252
Age unknown	848	901	1,750
Total	32,572	44,949	77,550
	Percentage change: 2015/2014		
15 and under	22.9	23.3	23.1
16-17	-11.4	-20.4	-16.8
18-25	-15.2	-16.3	-15.8
26-35	-1.8	4.0	1.5
36-49	6.1	16.4	12.0
50+	2.5	7.5	5.5
Age unknown	-74.5	-62.2	-68.2
Total	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6

* includes only students arriving in 2015

** total includes students whose sex is unknown

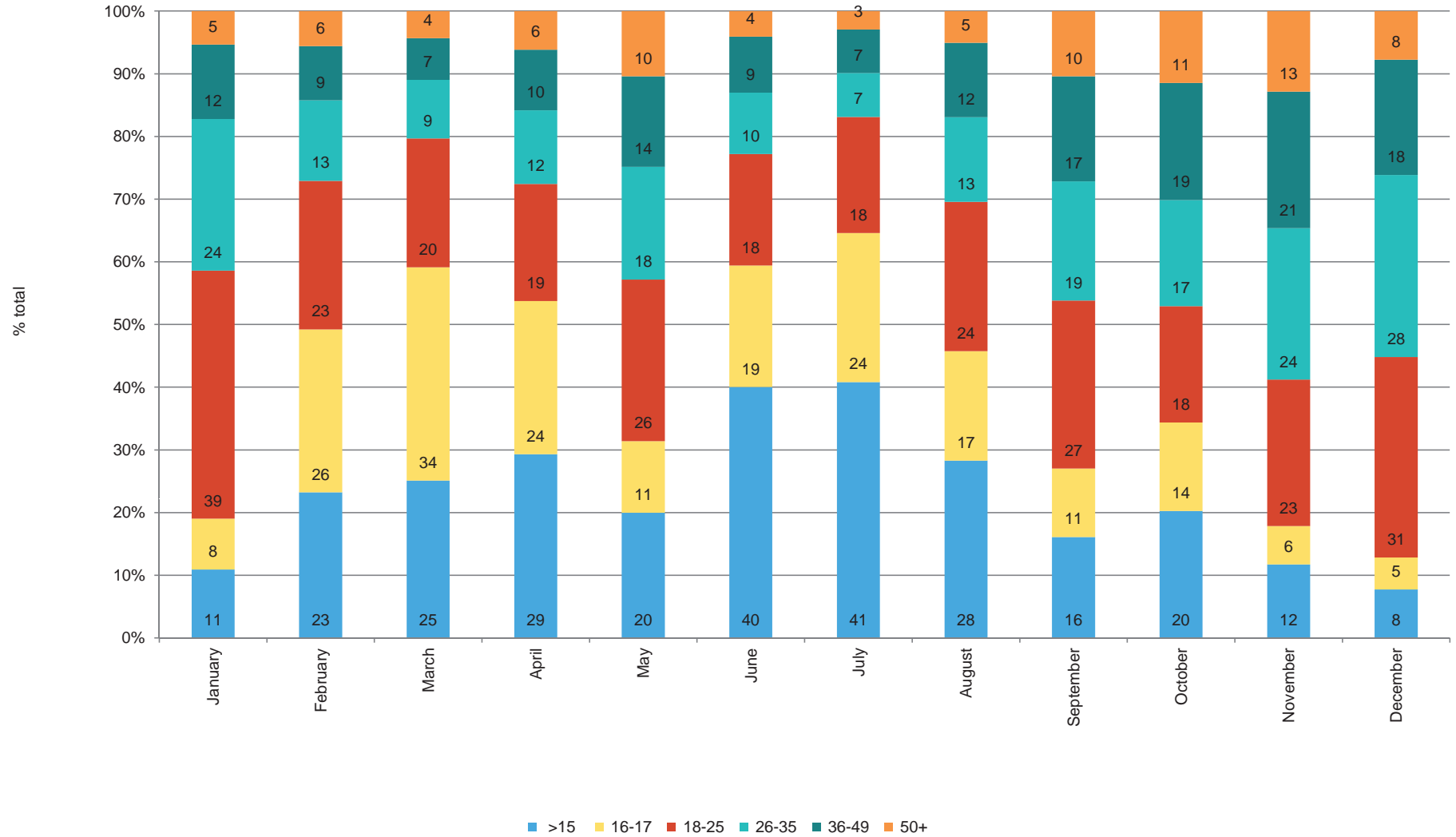
**Table 4. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language
by sex and month of arrival: 2015***

Month of arrival	Males	Females	Total**
	2015		
January	1,569	1,601	3,170
February	1,754	2,277	4,031
March	3,083	4,209	7,293
April	2,497	3,145	5,642
May	2,106	2,992	5,099
June	3,672	4,884	8,557
July	6,268	9,541	15,812
August	5,093	7,373	12,467
September	2,064	3,022	5,086
October	2,031	3,013	5,045
November	1,158	1,359	2,517
December	387	418	805
Total	31,682	43,834	75,524
	2014		
January	1,156	1,454	2,611
February	1,462	1,704	3,166
March	2,700	3,805	6,505
April	2,722	3,535	6,258
May	2,407	2,883	5,293
June	4,172	6,228	10,411
July	6,800	10,403	17,207
August	5,155	7,102	12,261
September	2,317	3,357	5,676
October	2,011	2,582	4,594
November	1,177	1,460	2,639
December	493	436	929
Total	32,572	44,949	77,550
	Percentage change: 2015/2014		
January	35.7	10.1	21.4
February	20.0	33.6	27.3
March	14.2	10.6	12.1
April	-8.3	-11.0	-9.8
May	-12.5	3.8	-3.7
June	-12.0	-21.6	-17.8
July	-7.8	-8.3	-8.1
August	-1.2	3.8	1.7
September	-10.9	-10.0	-10.4
October	1.0	16.7	9.8
November	-1.6	-6.9	-4.6
December	-21.5	-4.1	-13.3
Total	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6

* includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2014

** total includes students whose sex is unknown

Chart 2. Percentage of Student arrivals by month and age group: 2015



Note: Student percentages based on Table 4

Table 5. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by type of course followed and citizenship: 2015*

Citizenship	General English	Intensive English	English specific purposes **	Other ***	Total
Italy	12,662	1,644	2,714	936	17,956
Germany	6,546	2,126	508	1,184	10,364
France	6,493	813	111	240	7,657
Russia	4,381	738	77	524	5,720
Austria	3,209	192	51	299	3,751
Spain	2,394	596	71	208	3,269
Czech Republic	2,558	320	83	190	3,151
Poland	1,817	553	148	231	2,749
Switzerland	1,351	696	112	261	2,420
Brazil	1,645	548	19	135	2,347
Turkey	1,851	320	25	94	2,290
Japan	1,036	404	22	131	1,593
Libya	779	189	17	185	1,170
Netherlands	636	297	73	80	1,086
Belgium	432	220	83	29	764
Colombia	415	261	3	60	739
Hungary	445	171	30	53	699
Slovakia	453	132	20	58	663
Ukraine	416	113	22	98	649
Other countries****	4,292	1,121	377	697	6,487
Total	53,811	11,454	4,566	5,693	75,524

* includes only students arriving in 2015

** English Specific Purposes (ESP) includes Business English

*** other includes Exam Preparation Courses, One to One lessons and other courses

**** includes students whose citizenship is unknown

Chart 3. Number of student arrivals by nationality and course followed: 2015

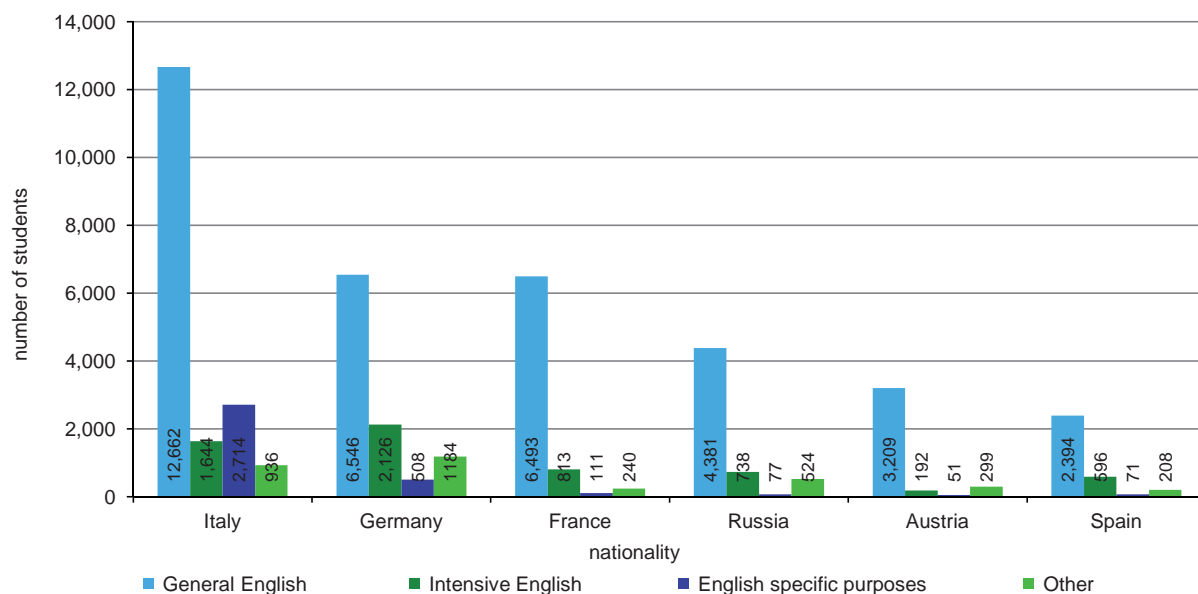


Table 6. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language and incoming tourist in 2015 by sex and month of arrival

Month of arrival	Students*			Incoming tourists			% of students per incoming tourists		
	Males	Females	Total**	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,569	1,601	3,170	41,414	32,867	74,280	3.8	4.9	4.3
February	1,754	2,277	4,031	39,545	34,644	74,189	4.4	6.6	5.4
March	3,083	4,209	7,293	53,482	48,287	101,769	5.8	8.7	7.2
April	2,497	3,145	5,642	80,069	71,855	151,924	3.1	4.4	3.7
May	2,106	2,992	5,099	89,646	87,557	177,203	2.3	3.4	2.9
June	3,672	4,884	8,557	93,120	90,645	183,765	3.9	5.4	4.7
July	6,268	9,541	15,812	104,770	101,856	206,626	6.0	9.4	7.7
August	5,093	7,373	12,467	125,966	120,519	246,485	4.0	6.1	5.1
September	2,064	3,022	5,086	98,288	94,262	192,550	2.1	3.2	2.6
October	2,031	3,013	5,045	99,392	97,300	196,692	2.0	3.1	2.6
November	1,158	1,359	2,517	58,500	54,542	113,042	2.0	2.5	2.2
December	387	418	805	39,656	32,912	72,568	1.0	1.3	1.1
Total	31,682	43,834	75,524	923,849	867,245	1,791,095	3.4	5.1	4.2

* includes only students arriving in 2015

** Total includes students who's sex is unknown

Table 7. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by sex and type of accommodation*

Type of accommodation	Males	Females	Total**
	2015		
Hotel	6,084	8,444	14,530
5 Star	133	146	279
4 Star	2,401	3,584	5,986
3 Star	3,550	4,714	8,265
Other collective accommodation ***	4,114	6,066	10,181
Host families	8,977	13,555	22,532
Self catering accommodation	4,209	5,556	9,765
Other****	8,298	10,213	18,516
Total	31,682	43,834	75,524
	2014		
Hotel	5,974	8,084	14,058
5 Star	56	88	144
4 Star	1,939	2,799	4,738
3 Star	3,979	5,197	9,176
Other collective accommodation ***	6,191	8,839	15,030
Host families	8,512	13,462	21,974
Self catering accommodation	3,251	3,723	6,978
Other****	8,644	10,841	19,510
Total	32,572	44,949	77,550
	Percentage change: 2015/2014		
Hotel	1.8	4.5	3.4
5 Star	137.5	65.9	93.8
4 Star	23.8	28.0	26.3
3 Star	-10.8	-9.3	-9.9
Other collective accommodation ***	-33.5	-31.4	-32.3
Host families	5.5	0.7	2.5
Self catering accommodation	29.5	49.2	39.9
Other****	-4.0	-5.8	-5.1
Total	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6

* includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2014

** Total includes students whose sex is unknown

*** includes residences, hostels and guest houses

**** includes accommodation not provided by the school

Table 8. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and month of arrival

Month of arrival	Number of weeks*			Average number of weeks per student		
	Males	Females	Total**	Males	Females	Total
	2015					
January	4,081	4,187	8,268	2.6	2.6	2.6
February	5,726	6,406	12,131	3.3	2.8	3.0
March	7,991	9,251	17,243	2.6	2.2	2.4
April	8,091	9,173	17,264	3.2	2.9	3.1
May	8,431	9,814	18,247	4.0	3.3	3.6
June	9,410	11,571	20,986	2.6	2.4	2.5
July	18,364	25,082	43,455	2.9	2.6	2.7
August	16,781	21,860	38,649	3.3	3.0	3.1
September	8,069	10,362	18,436	3.9	3.4	3.6
October	8,070	10,849	18,923	4.0	3.6	3.8
November	6,713	7,935	14,649	5.8	5.8	5.8
December	5,075	5,154	10,229	13.1	12.3	12.7
Total	106,802	131,645	238,481	3.4	3.0	3.2
2014						
January	4,915	4,793	9,712	4.3	3.3	3.7
February	6,074	5,969	12,043	4.2	3.5	3.8
March	8,263	8,810	17,073	3.1	2.3	2.6
April	8,801	9,259	18,063	3.2	2.6	2.9
May	8,834	9,369	18,212	3.7	3.2	3.4
June	13,365	17,021	30,410	3.2	2.7	2.9
July	20,233	27,200	47,473	3.0	2.6	2.8
August	15,481	18,315	33,831	3.0	2.6	2.8
September	8,019	9,751	17,781	3.5	2.9	3.1
October	7,856	9,086	16,953	3.9	3.5	3.7
November	7,023	7,391	14,424	6.0	5.1	5.5
December	5,159	4,444	9,612	10.5	10.2	10.3
Total	114,023	131,408	245,587	3.5	2.9	3.2

includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2014

* student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

** Total includes students who's sex is unknown

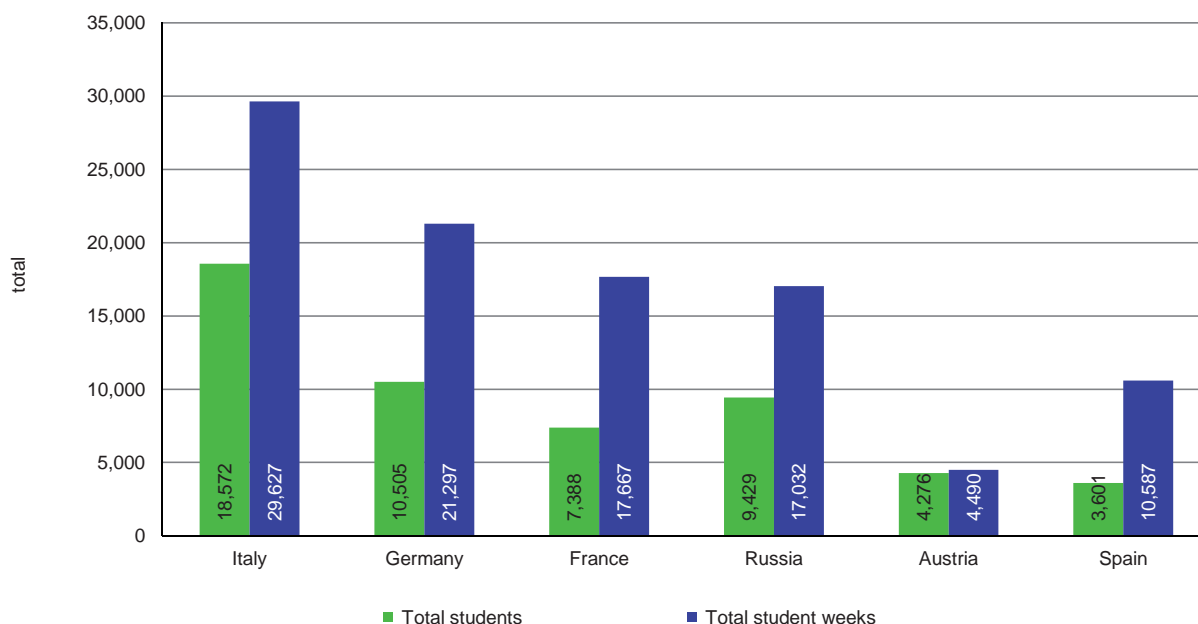
Based on student figures as presented in Table 2

Table 9. Total number of student weeks by age group and citizenship: 2015*

Citizenship	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	Age not available	Total
Italy	6,787	6,673	6,886	4,742	2,946	1,365	227	29,627
Germany	5,413	3,655	5,464	2,301	2,370	1,956	139	21,297
France	5,225	3,734	6,625	1,002	610	401	70	17,667
Russia	5,788	1,681	3,764	3,484	1,787	443	85	17,032
Austria	1,665	1,304	849	196	223	247	7	4,490
Spain	1,216	1,176	3,939	2,490	1,250	440	75	10,587
Czech Republic	899	629	1,006	1,193	1,886	745	56	6,413
Poland	1,356	790	608	788	1,059	350	11	4,963
Switzerland	822	1,272	3,582	699	680	896	19	7,969
Brazil	99	480	5,704	5,916	2,016	1,016	15	15,246
Turkey	861	742	11,984	3,078	973	294	19	17,951
Japan	327	322	4,994	2,358	1,035	320	3	9,360
Libya	944	885	4,364	4,647	2,725	178	236	13,979
Netherlands	276	784	1,792	80	77	85	1	3,095
Belgium	196	434	1,273	100	59	46	4	2,113
Colombia	70	531	6,696	3,849	571	56	8	11,782
Hungary	439	314	414	324	298	115	3	1,909
Slovakia	231	227	547	494	344	144	1	1,988
Ukraine	398	252	1,067	612	284	60	1	2,676
Other countries	3,600	2,400	18,400	9,786	3,336	775	39	38,337
Total	36,612	28,286	89,960	48,140	24,532	9,932	1,019	238,481

* student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

Chart 4. Number of students and students weeks by nationality: 2015



Note : Based on student figures as presented in Table 1

Table 10. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and citizenship: 2015*

Citizenship	Number of weeks			Average number of weeks per student		
	Males	Females	Total**	Males	Females	Total
Italy	13,810	15,816	29,627	1.7	1.6	1.6
Germany	8,989	12,308	21,297	2.0	2.1	2.1
France	7,298	10,369	17,667	2.3	2.3	2.3
Russia	6,795	10,232	17,032	3.0	3.0	3.0
Austria	2,116	2,375	4,490	1.2	1.2	1.2
Spain	4,687	5,900	10,587	3.5	3.1	3.2
Czech Republic	2,006	4,405	6,413	2.2	2.0	2.0
Poland	1,899	3,064	4,963	1.9	1.8	1.8
Switzerland	3,432	4,537	7,969	3.3	3.3	3.3
Brazil	5,868	9,375	15,246	6.8	6.3	6.5
Turkey	11,753	6,197	17,951	8.4	7.0	7.8
Japan	2,457	6,903	9,360	6.8	5.6	5.9
Libya	9,922	4,057	13,979	12.2	11.4	11.9
Netherlands	811	2,284	3,095	2.6	2.9	2.8
Belgium	812	1,301	2,113	2.8	2.8	2.8
Colombia	4,587	7,195	11,782	16.3	15.7	15.9
Hungary	790	1,119	1,909	2.7	2.8	2.7
Slovakia	816	1,172	1,988	3.2	2.9	3.0
Ukraine	1,241	1,434	2,676	4.6	3.8	4.1
Other countries	16,712	21,601	38,337	6.5	5.5	5.9
Total	106,801	131,645	238,481	3.4	4.2	3.2

* student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

** Total includes students whose sex is unknown

Table 11. Staff employed in specialised schools for English language by sex and age group: 2015

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching staff*		
18-24	182	459	641
25-34	77	170	247
35-44	52	93	145
45-54	46	121	167
55 and over	87	157	244
Total	444	1,000	1,444
Non-teaching staff			
16-24	143	153	296
25-34	73	124	197
35-44	49	63	112
45-54	33	47	80
55 and over	33	34	67
Total	331	421	752
Total			
16-24	325	612	937
25-34	150	294	444
35-44	101	156	257
45-54	79	168	247
55 and over	120	191	311
Total	775	1,421	2,196

Table 12. Staff in specialised schools for English language by sex and type of employment: 2015

Type of employment	Teaching staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Employee full-time	22	33	55	159	238	397	181	271	452
Employee part-time	157	417	574	102	117	219	259	534	793
Self-employed	27	63	90	3	4	7	30	67	97
Casual part-time	238	487	725	67	62	129	305	549	854
Total	444	1,000	1,444	331	421	752	775	1,421	2,196

Methodological Notes:

1. Data used in this News Release were based on information collected by the Ministry for Education and Employment which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. All schools operating in 2015 responded to this questionnaire.
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' nationality as provided in their passport. This corresponds to the students' citizenship.
4. Thus figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by NSO.
5. Persons employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once in this release.