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Tertiary level graduates (ISCED levels 5 to 8) numbered 3,953 during academic year 2014/2015, equivalent to an increase of 0.7 per cent over the previous academic year.

Graduate Students: 2014/2015

A total of 2,067 graduates achieved a first degree qualification (equivalent to ISCED level 6), during the reference academic year. Female graduates outnumbered males in all ISCED levels, with the exception of ISCED level 5 (Table 1).

During academic year 2014/2015, 81.5 per cent of graduates were enrolled on a full-time basis. More than half of full-time graduates obtained a Bachelor's degree or equivalent (ISCED level 6 qualification). Part-time graduates accounted for 18.5 per cent of total graduates. Of these, 55.3 per cent achieved a Master's degree or an equivalent qualification (ISCED level 7 qualification) (Table 2).

An increase was recorded in the average age of graduates in all education levels when compared to the previous academic year. Part-time graduates in all levels of education had an overall higher average age when compared to their full-time counterparts during 2014/2015 (Table 3).

The 'Business, administration and law' field of study was the most popular among student graduating in 2014/2015, amounting to 26.7 per cent of all graduates. This was followed by graduates in 'Arts and humanities' and in 'Health and welfare' (Table 4). 'Information and communication technologies' and 'Engineering, manufacturing and construction' fields of study were dominated by males, while females had a stronger presence in 'Services' and 'Education' fields of study (Chart 2).

Foreign graduates totalled to 198, equivalent to 5.0 per cent of total graduates with the majority of foreign graduates being non-EU nationals (Table 5). 'Social sciences, journalism and information' was the most popular field of study among foreign graduates (26.3 per cent of all foreigners) followed by 'Business, administration and law' (23.7 per cent of all foreigners) (Chart 3) ■

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Table 1. Graduates by academic year, sex and ISCED levels

| ISCED 2011 | 2013/2014 | 2014/2015 | Change | Percentage change |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Males | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 315 | 323 | 8 | 2.5 |
| ISCED 6 | 930 | 913 | -17 | -1.8 |
| ISCED 7 | 513 | 527 | 14 | 2.7 |
| ISCED 8 | 16 | 14 | -2 | -12.5 |
| Total | 1,774 | 1,777 | 3 | 0.2 |
| Females | | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 274 | 278 | 4 | 1.5 |
| ISCED 6 | 1,178 | 1,154 | -24 | -2.0 |
| ISCED 7 | 692 | 728 | 36 | 5.2 |
| ISCED 8 | 6 | 16 | 10 | 166.7 |
| Total | 2,150 | 2,176 | 26 | 1.2 |
| Total | | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 589 | 601 | 12 | 2.0 |
| ISCED 6 | 2,108 | 2,067 | -41 | -1.9 |
| ISCED 7 | 1,205 | 1,255 | 50 | 4.1 |
| ISCED 8 | 22 | 30 | 8 | 36.4 |
| Total | 3,924 | 3,953 | 29 | 0.7 |

Chart 1. Percentage distribution of graduates by sex and ISCED level: 2014/2015

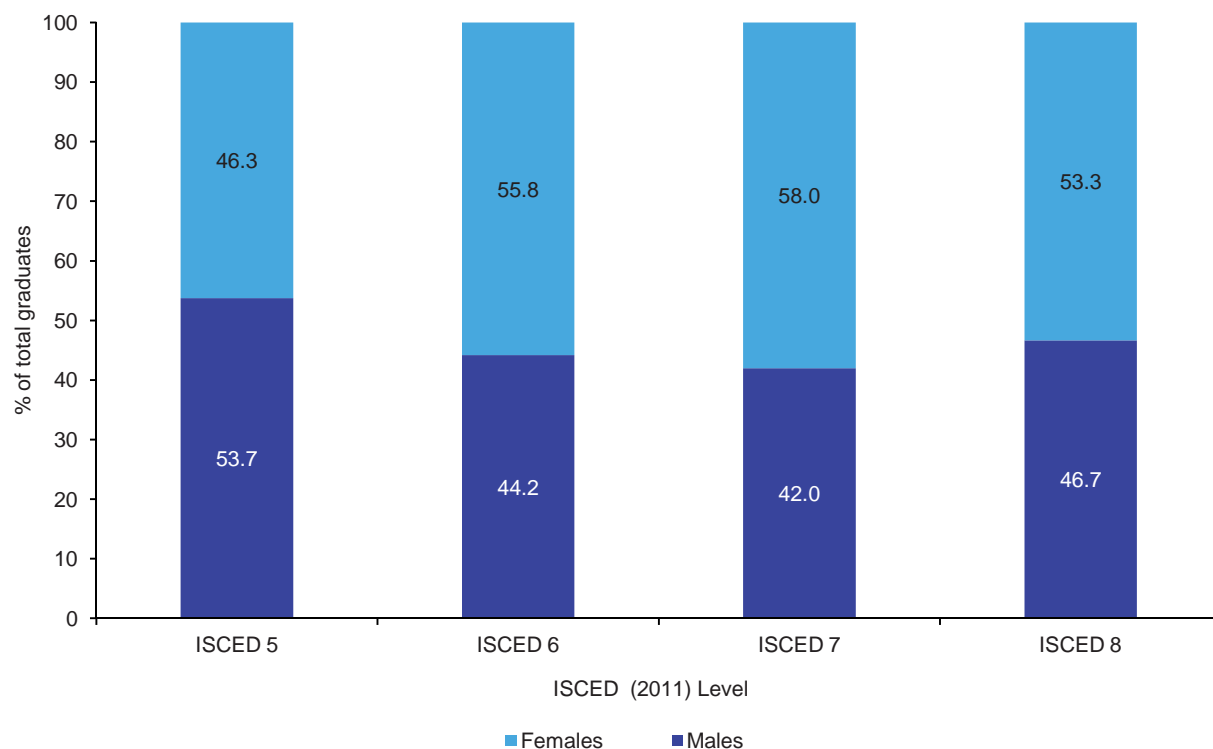


Table 2. Graduates by academic year, type of programme and ISCED levels

| ISCED 2011 | 2013/2014 | 2014/2015 | Change | Percentage change |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| | Full-time | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 482 | 484 | 2 | 0.4 |
| ISCED 6 | 1,940 | 1,872 | -68 | -3.5 |
| ISCED 7 | 860 | 850 | -10 | -1.2 |
| ISCED 8 | 11 | 14 | 3 | 27.3 |
| Total | 3,293 | 3,220 | -73 | -2.2 |
| Part-time | | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 107 | 117 | 10 | 9.3 |
| ISCED 6 | 168 | 195 | 27 | 16.1 |
| ISCED 7 | 345 | 405 | 60 | 17.4 |
| ISCED 8 | 11 | 16 | 5 | 45.5 |
| Total | 631 | 733 | 102 | 16.2 |
| Total | | | | |
| ISCED 5 | 589 | 601 | 12 | 2.0 |
| ISCED 6 | 2,108 | 2,067 | -41 | -1.9 |
| ISCED 7 | 1,205 | 1,255 | 50 | 4.1 |
| ISCED 8 | 22 | 30 | 8 | 36.4 |
| Total | 3,924 | 3,953 | 29 | 0.7 |

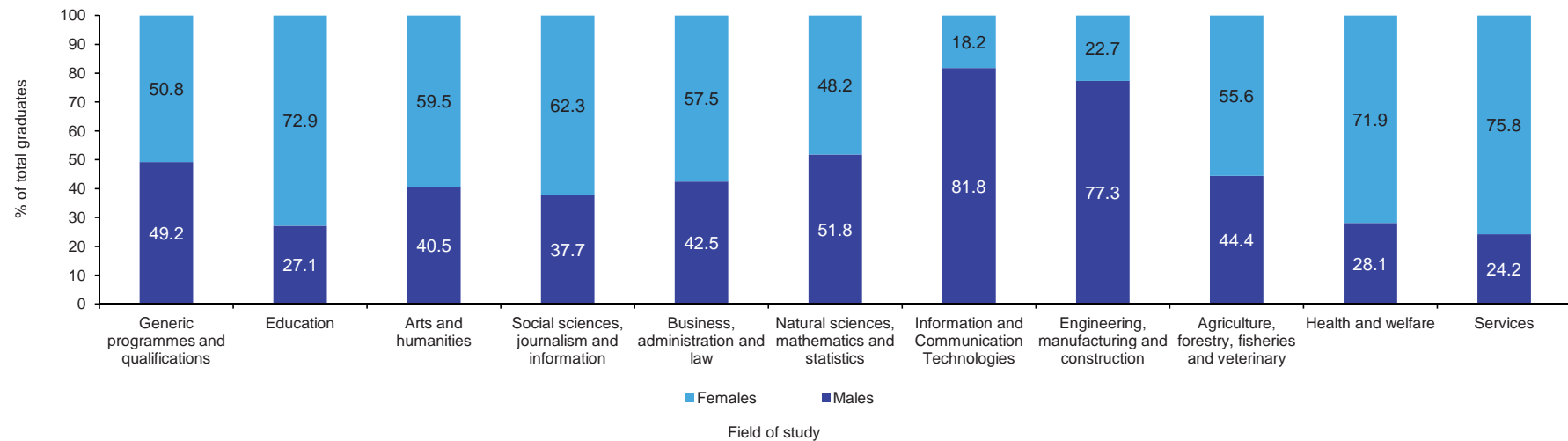
Table 3. Average age of graduates by academic year, type of programme and ISCED levels

| ISCED 2011 | 2013/2014 | 2014/2015 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Full-time | |
| ISCED 5 | 22.0 | 22.2 |
| ISCED 6 | 22.3 | 22.3 |
| ISCED 7 | 25.1 | 25.4 |
| ISCED 8 | 30.0 | 32.7 |
| Part-time | | |
| ISCED 5 | 32.4 | 31.5 |
| ISCED 6 | 33.0 | 34.3 |
| ISCED 7 | 32.0 | 33.2 |
| ISCED 8 | 37.2 | 41.7 |
| Total | | |
| ISCED 5 | 23.9 | 24.0 |
| ISCED 6 | 23.1 | 23.4 |
| ISCED 7 | 27.1 | 27.9 |
| ISCED 8 | 33.6 | 37.5 |

Table 4. Distribution of graduates by ISCED levels and field of study

| ISCED 2011 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Total | Percentage distribution |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Field of study | | | | | | |
| Generic programmes and qualifications | 52 | 9 | - | - | 61 | 1.5 |
| Education | - | 354 | 77 | 1 | 432 | 10.9 |
| Arts and humanities | 98 | 245 | 166 | 4 | 513 | 13.0 |
| Social sciences, journalism and information | 3 | 227 | 96 | 3 | 329 | 8.3 |
| Business, administration and law | 199 | 331 | 523 | 1 | 1,054 | 26.7 |
| Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics | 2 | 280 | 48 | 6 | 336 | 8.5 |
| Information and Communication Technologies | 93 | 212 | 30 | - | 335 | 8.5 |
| Engineering, manufacturing and construction | 91 | 127 | 85 | 6 | 309 | 7.8 |
| Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary | 7 | 2 | - | - | 9 | 0.2 |
| Health and welfare | 32 | 245 | 227 | 9 | 513 | 13.0 |
| Services | 24 | 35 | 3 | - | 62 | 1.6 |
| Total | 601 | 2,067 | 1,255 | 30 | 3,953 | 100.0 |

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of graduates* by sex and field of study: 2014/2015



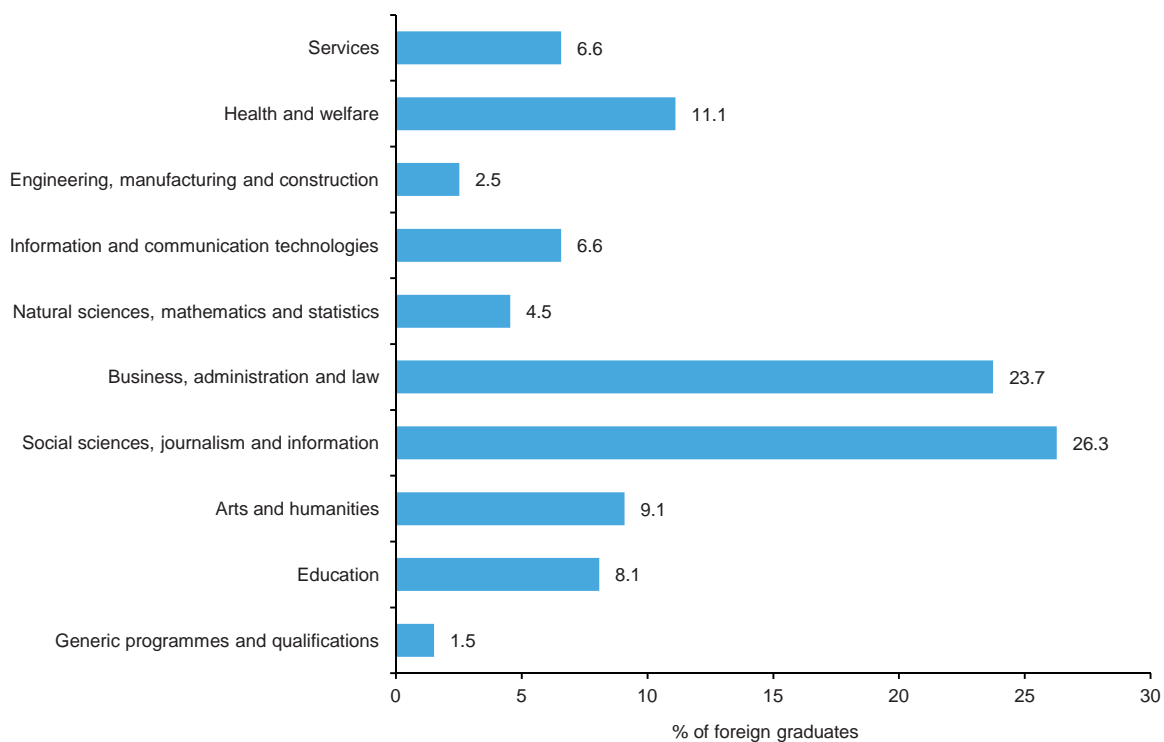
*graduates in tertiary education comprising ISCED (2011) levels 5 to 8

Table 5. Graduates at the tertiary* level by sex and country of origin: 2014/2015

| Country of origin | Males | Females | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Malta | 1,691 | 2,064 | 3,755 |
| United Kingdom | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Germany | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Kuwait | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| United States Of America | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Russia | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Italy | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Bulgaria | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Nigeria | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Other EU countries | 9 | 33 | 42 |
| Other non-EU countries | 30 | 35 | 65 |
| Total | 1,777 | 2,176 | 3,953 |
| % of foreigners of total graduates | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.0 |

*tertiary education comprises ISCED (2011) levels 5 to 8

Chart 3. Percentage distribution of foreign graduates by field of study: 2014/2015



Methodological Notes

1. All courses in formal education representing at least one semester of full-time study fall within the scope of this news release with the exception of courses that are not home-grown (distance learning).
2. This news release contains information on graduates at the tertiary level only. This corresponds to ISCED 2011 levels 5 to 8.

3. Definitions:

- **Graduates** refer to students who successfully complete an educational programme during the reference year and are awarded a qualification.

- **International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED**

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a statistical framework for organizing information on education maintained by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In this release ISCED levels are based on ISCED 2011 classification:

ISCED 5 - Short cycle tertiary education, e.g. Higher National Diploma

ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent level: tertiary education

ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent level: tertiary education

ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent level, e.g. PhD: tertiary education

Not available - ISCED level unknown

- **Average age** is calculated as at 1st January of the academic year.

- **Fields of study**

ISCED Fields of Education and Training classifies education programmes and related qualifications by fields of study. A field is the broad domain, branch or area of content covered by an education programme or qualification. Fields of education and training, and levels of education or educational attainment are cross-classification variables within ISCED and are therefore independent of each other. This classification has been designed principally to describe and categorise fields of education and training at the secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels of formal education as defined in ISCED 2011, though it may be used for classifying programmes and qualifications offered at other levels. The classification may also be used in other contexts, for example to classify the subject matter of non-formal education, initial and continuing vocational training, or informal learning.

The new ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 has been adopted in the classification of enrolled students by field of study as from academic year 2014/15. In view of this, and for figures to be comparable, all information pertaining to academic year 2013/14 has been recoded to reflect this new classification.

4. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=41>

Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED 2011>