Private: Students in Post-secondary and Tertiary Education: 2024-2025

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Salient Points

- A total of 35,533 students were enrolled at post-secondary and tertiary levels of education.
- The majority of students enrolled at post-secondary and tertiary levels were females (52.4 per cent).
- Foreign students accounted for 35.3 per cent of the total students enrolled at post-secondary and tertiary levels.
- Slightly more than half of the students in post-secondary levels were enrolled in courses or programmes of vocational study orientation (55.4 per cent).
- The largest share of tertiary enrolments was composed of students aged between 20 and 24 years (38.9 per cent).

Commentary

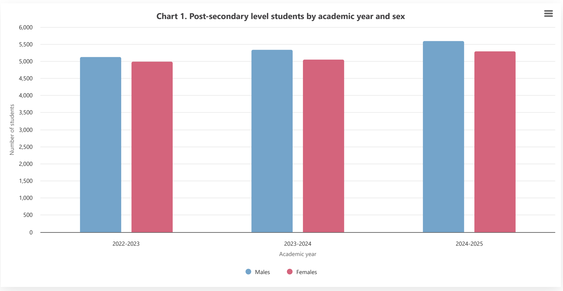
Student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary institutions during academic year 2024-2025 increased by 8.7 per cent over the preceding academic year, totalling 35,533.

This news release includes students enrolled in formal education with a minimum duration of one semester of full-time study (or the equivalent in part-time) and that are delivered from Malta. Students are included irrespective of whether they are residing in Malta or abroad. The population of educational institutions considered include institutions delivering formal education programmes from Malta, whether online or face-to-face, at post-secondary and tertiary level.

The number of students enrolled in post-secondary levels stood at 10,886, whilst 24,647 students were enrolled in tertiary education. Males outnumbered females in post-secondary education by 2.7 percentage points, whilst there were more females enrolled in tertiary education than males by 8.3 percentage points (Table 1).

Post-secondary students

Post-secondary students enrolled in sixth forms and other post-secondary institutions totalled 10,886 during academic year 2024-2025, an increase of 4.7 per cent over the previous academic year (Table 1). This reference year saw more males than females enrolled at post-secondary level, as was seen in the previous academic year (Chart 1).



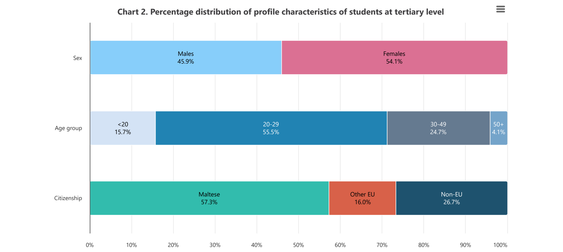
Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 5.

The largest proportion of post-secondary students were aged under 20 years (85.7 per cent) (Table 2). Foreign students enrolled in post-secondary institutions amounted to 2,028, accounting for 18.6 per cent of the total students enrolled at post-secondary level (Tables 3 and 4).

The vast majority of students at post-secondary level were enrolled in state-run institutions (84.5 per cent). Slightly more than half of the students were enrolled in courses or programmes of vocational study orientation (55.4 per cent) (Table 5).

Tertiary students

Students enrolled in tertiary level courses totalled 24,647 during academic year 2024-2025, an increase of 10.6 per cent when compared to academic year 2023-2024 (Table 6). An increase was also reflected in the total number of educational institutions offering tertiary education during this academic year (refer to methodological note 7). Female students comprised 54.1 per cent of the total students enrolled at the tertiary level (Chart 2).



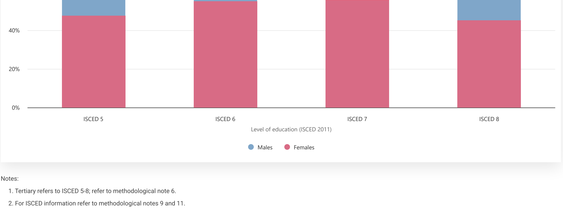
Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

The number of students at tertiary level who were studying on a full-time basis amounted to 18,484, or 75.0 per cent of the total. Part-time enrolments showed an increase of 3.0 per cent over the previous academic year (Table 6). The largest proportion of students in tertiary education were aged between 20 and 24 years old (38.9 per cent) (Table 7).

During academic year 2024-2025, foreign students enrolled at the tertiary level totalled 10,513, equivalent to 42.7 per cent of all tertiary enrolments, where 26.7 per cent were non-EU nationals and 16.0 per cent were other EU nationals (Chart 2). This resulted in an increase of 27.4 per cent of foreign students over the previous academic year (Table 8).

The largest proportion of tertiary students were engaged in courses at ISCED level 6 (Bachelor's or equivalent) (49.7 per cent), followed by ISCED level 7 (Master's or equivalent) at 32.7 per cent. Maltese students made up the majority of enrolments in ISCED levels 6 (Bachelor's or equivalent) and 7 (Master's or equivalent), whilst in ISCED levels 5 (Short-cycle tertiary education) and 8 (Doctoral or equivalent), the majority of students were foreign nationals (57.5 per cent and 72.9 per cent, respectively) (Table 9). Female students outnumbered their male counterparts at ISCED levels 6 and 7, whilst male students outnumbered females in ISCED levels 5 and 8 (Chart 3).

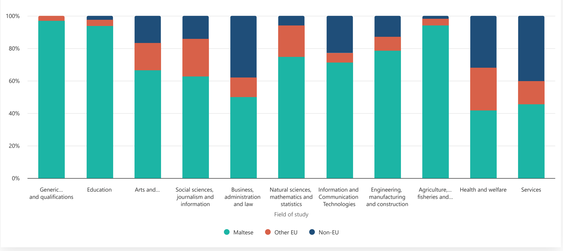


Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11..

At tertiary level, the most popular field of study was 'Business, administration and law' with 7,885 students, or 32.0 per cent of the total number of students. This was followed by the 'Health and welfare' field with 5,917 students, or 24.0 per cent of the total. The least popular field of study at tertiary level was "Generic programmes and qualifications" scoring an uptake of only 0.1 per cent (Table 10).

The majority of students enrolled at ISCED level 6 and ISCED level 7 were mainly enrolled in state-run institutions (67.4 per cent and 55.0 per cent, respectively), whilst those in ISCED level 5 and ISCED level 8 were mainly enrolled in independently run institutions (78.5 per cent and 69.3 per cent, respectively) (Table 11). The fields of study "Generic programmes and qualifications", "Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary" and "Education" were mainly composed of Maltese students (96.9, 94.1 per cent and 93.8 per cent, respectively) (Table 12 and Chart 4).



Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For Fields of Study information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.
3. Percentages may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Table 1. Post-secondary and tertiary[1] level students by academic year and sex

Education level	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
	Males				
Post-secondary	5,126	5,344	5,592	248	4.6
Tertiary	8,832	9,953	11,305	1,352	13.6
Total	**13,958**	**15,297**	**16,897**	**1,600**	**10.5**
	Females				
Post-secondary	4,988	5,055	5,294	239	4.7
Tertiary	12,288	12,323	13,342	1,019	8.3
Total	**17,276**	**17,378**	**18,636**	**1,258**	**7.2**
	Total				
Post-secondary	10,114	10,399	10,886	487	4.7
Tertiary	21,120	22,276	24,647	2,371	10.6
Total	**31,234**	**32,675**	**35,533**	**2,858**	**8.7**

[1] For more information on post-secondary and tertiary education levels refer to methodological notes 5 and 6.

Table 2. Post-secondary level students by academic year, sex and age group

Age group	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
			Males		
<20	4,504	4,613	4,836	223	4.8
20-24	431	475	546	71	14.9
25-29	86	97	81	-16	-16.5
30-34	42	50	31	-19	-38.0
35-39	25	47	34	-13	-27.7
40-44	14	27	20	-7	-25.9
≥45	24	35	44	9	25.7
Total	**5,126**	**5,344**	**5,592**	**248**	**4.6**
			Females		
<20	4,314	4,329	4,494	165	3.8
20-24	310	336	383	47	14.0
25-29	82	116	104	-12	-10.3
30-34	89	91	104	13	14.3
35-39	61	54	65	11	20.4
40-44	60	58	57	-1	-1.7
≥45	72	71	87	16	22.5
Total	**4,988**	**5,055**	**5,294**	**239**	**4.7**
			Total		
<20	8,818	8,942	9,330	388	4.3
20-24	741	811	929	118	14.5
25-29	168	213	185	-28	-13.1
30-34	131	141	135	-6	-4.3
35-39	86	101	99	-2	-2.0
40-44	74	85	77	-8	-9.4
≥45	96	106	131	25	23.6
Total	**10,114**	**10,399**	**10,886**	**487**	**4.7**

Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 5.

Table 3. Post-secondary level students by academic year and citizenship

Citizenship	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
Maltese	**8,641**	**8,591**	**8,858**	**267**	**3.1**
Non-Maltese	**1,472**	**1,808**	**2,028**	**220**	**12.2**
Other EU	**443**	**530**	**569**	**39**	**7.4**
of which:					
Italian	136	167	181	14	8.4
Bulgarian	70	80	72	-8	-10.0
Hungarian	35	46	44	-2	-4.3
German	28	29	39	10	34.5
Romanian	30	26	33	7	26.9
Non-EU	**1,029**	**1,278**	**1,459**	**181**	**14.2**
of which:					
Chinese	89	150	189	39	26.0
Filipino	78	136	157	21	15.4
Serbian	96	94	106	12	12.8
Indian	102	118	104	-14	-11.9
Libyan	85	68	78	10	14.7
Unspecified	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total	**10,114**	**10,399**	**10,886**	**487**	**4.7**

Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 5.

Table 4. Post-secondary level students by academic year, course type and citizenship

Citizenship	Academic year								
	2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025		
	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total
	No.								
Maltese	3,963	4,678	**8,641**	3,802	4,789	**8,591**	3,932	4,926	**8,858**
Other EU	237	206	**443**	295	235	**530**	305	264	**569**
Non-EU	434	595	**1,029**	507	771	**1,278**	615	844	**1,459**
Unspecified	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
Total	**4,635**	**5,479**	**10,114**	**4,604**	**5,795**	**10,399**	**4,852**	**6,034**	**10,886**
	% (column)								
Maltese	85.5	85.4	**85.4**	82.6	82.6	**82.6**	81.0	81.6	**81.4**
Other EU	5.1	3.8	**4.4**	6.4	4.1	**5.1**	6.3	4.4	**5.2**
Non-EU	9.4	10.9	**10.2**	11.0	13.3	**12.3**	12.7	14.0	**13.4**
Unspecified	0	-	**0**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	% (row)								
Maltese	45.9	54.1	**100.0**	44.3	55.7	**100.0**	44.4	55.6	**100.0**
Other EU	53.5	46.5	**100.0**	55.7	44.3	**100.0**	53.6	46.4	**100.0**
Non-EU	42.2	57.8	**100.0**	39.7	60.3	**100.0**	42.2	57.8	**100.0**
Unspecified	100	-	**100**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**
Total	**45.8**	**54.2**	**100.0**	**44.3**	**55.7**	**100.0**	**44.6**	**55.4**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For definitions of General and Vocational education refer to methodological note 9.

Table 5. Post-secondary level students by academic year, course type and type of institution

Type of Institution	Academic year								
	2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025		
	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total
	No.								
State	3,379	5,165	**8,544**	3,322	5,435	**8,757**	3,530	5,674	**9,204**
Church	797	-	**797**	809	-	**809**	806	-	**806**
Independent	459	314	**773**	473	360	**833**	516	360	**876**
Total	**4,635**	**5,479**	**10,114**	**4,604**	**5,795**	**10,399**	**4,852**	**6,034**	**10,886**
	% (column)								
State	72.9	94.3	**84.5**	72.2	93.8	**84.2**	72.8	94.0	**84.5**
Church	17.2	-	**7.9**	17.6	-	**7.8**	16.6	-	**7.4**
Independent	9.9	5.7	**7.6**	10.3	6.2	**8.0**	10.6	6.0	**8.0**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	% (row)								
State	39.5	60.5	**100.0**	37.9	62.1	**100.0**	38.4	61.6	**100.0**
Church	100.0	-	**100.0**	100.0	-	**100.0**	100.0	-	**100.0**
Independent	59.4	40.6	**100.0**	56.8	43.2	**100.0**	58.9	41.1	**100.0**
Total	**45.8**	**54.2**	**100.0**	**44.3**	**55.7**	**100.0**	**44.6**	**55.4**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For definitions of General and Vocational education refer to methodological note 9.

Table 6. Profile of students enrolled in tertiary level courses by academic year

Characteristics	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
Sex					
Males	8,832	9,953	11,305	1,352	13.6
Females	12,288	12,323	13,342	1,019	8.3
Age group					
<20	3,386	3,546	3,864	318	9.0
20 to 29	11,130	12,390	13,675	1,285	10.4
30 to 49	5,682	5,474	6,087	613	11.2
≥50	922	866	1,021	155	17.9
Citizenship					
Maltese	14,623	14,024	14,134	110	0.8
Other EU	3,232	3,370	3,943	573	17.0
Non-EU	3,265	4,882	6,570	1,688	34.6
District of residence					
Southern Harbour	2,638	2,939	3,218	279	9.5
Northern Harbour	5,473	5,726	6,394	668	11.7
South Eastern	2,870	3,033	3,278	245	8.1
Western	2,642	2,663	2,754	91	3.4
Northern	2,960	3,106	3,579	473	15.2
Gozo and Comino	1,532	1,551	1,568	17	1.1
Foreign residence/Unspecified	3,005	3,258	3,856	598	18.4
Economic Sector					
State	13,531	13,330	13,687	357	2.7
Independent	7,589	8,946	10,960	2,014	22.5
Education Level (ISCED 2011)					
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	2,446	3,125	3,593	468	15.0
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	10,941	11,185	12,238	1,053	9.4
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	6,938	7,230	8,063	833	11.5
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	795	736	753	17	2.3
Intensity of participation					
Full-time	14,568	16,293	18,484	2,191	13.4
Part-time[1]	6,552	5,983	6,163	180	3.0
Total tertiary students	**21,120**	**22,276**	**24,647**	**2,371**	**10.6**

[1] Excludes short courses. Refer to methodological note 3.

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

Table 7. Tertiary level students by academic year, sex and age group

Age group	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
	Males				
<20	1,391	1,554	1,740	186	12.0
20-24	3,414	4,056	4,513	457	11.3
25-29	1,383	1,736	2,015	279	16.1
30-34	896	888	1,026	138	15.5
35-39	605	620	732	112	18.1
40-44	427	427	478	51	11.9
45-49	303	285	339	54	18.9
50-54	203	189	234	45	23.8
55-59	120	112	120	8	7.1
60-64	48	40	62	22	55.0
≥65	42	46	46	-	0.0
Total	**8,832**	**9,953**	**11,305**	**1,352**	**13.6**
	Females				
<20	1,995	1,992	2,124	132	6.6
20-24	4,364	4,665	5,075	410	8.8
25-29	1,969	1,933	2,072	139	7.2
30-34	1,253	1,162	1,273	111	9.6
35-39	966	951	1,004	53	5.6
40-44	685	660	749	89	13.5
45-49	547	481	486	5	1.0
50-54	304	291	338	47	16.2
55-59	127	121	143	22	18.2
60-64	52	46	50	4	8.7
≥65	26	21	28	7	33.3
Total	**12,288**	**12,323**	**13,342**	**1,019**	**8.3**
	Total				
<20	3,386	3,546	3,864	318	9.0
20-24	7,778	8,721	9,588	867	9.9
25-29	3,352	3,669	4,087	418	11.4
30-34	2,149	2,050	2,299	249	12.1
35-39	1,571	1,571	1,736	165	10.5
40-44	1,112	1,087	1,227	140	12.9
45-49	850	766	825	59	7.7
50-54	507	480	572	92	19.2
55-59	247	233	263	30	12.9
60-64	100	86	112	26	30.2
≥65	68	67	74	7	10.4
Total	**21,120**	**22,276**	**24,647**	**2,371**	**10.6**

Note: Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.

Table 8. Tertiary level students by academic year and citizenship

Citizenship	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
Maltese	**14,623**	**14,024**	**14,134**	**110**	**0.8**
Non-Maltese	**6,497**	**8,252**	**10,513**	**2,261**	**27.4**
Other EU	**3,232**	**3,370**	**3,943**	**573**	**17.0**
of which:					
Italian	1,433	1,475	1,747	272	18.4
German	734	669	728	59	8.8
French	235	350	445	95	27.1
Polish	78	95	152	57	60.0
Austrian	126	140	123	-17	-12.1
Non-EU	**3,265**	**4,882**	**6,570**	**1,688**	**34.6**
of which:					
Indian	1,033	2,378	2,742	364	15.3
Nigerian	73	144	524	380	263.9
Bangladeshi	16	74	254	180	243.2
British	233	223	236	13	5.8
Nepalese	22	84	229	145	172.6
Total	**21,120**	**22,276**	**24,647**	**2,371**	**10.6**

Note: Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.

Table 9. Tertiary level students by citizenship and education level

Education Level (ISCED 2011)	Citizenship			Total
	Maltese	Other EU	Non-EU	
	No.			
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	1,527	97	1,969	3,593
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	7,787	2,614	1,837	12,238
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	4,616	866	2,581	8,063
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	204	366	183	753
Total	**14,134**	**3,943**	**6,570**	**24,647**
	% (column)			
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	10.8	2.5	30.0	14.6
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	55.1	66.3	28.0	49.7
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	32.7	22.0	39.3	32.7
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	1.4	9.3	2.8	3.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	% (row)			
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	42.5	2.7	54.8	100.0
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	63.6	21.4	15.0	100.0
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	57.2	10.7	32.0	100.0
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	27.1	48.6	24.3	100.0
Total	**57.3**	**16.0**	**26.7**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

Table 10. Tertiary level students by academic year, sex and field of study

Field of study	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 / 2023-2024	
			Males		
Generic programmes and qualifications	-	9	21	12	133.3
Education	310	299	297	-2	-0.7
Arts and humanities	737	766	761	-5	-0.7
Social sciences, journalism and information	653	611	658	47	7.7
Business, administration and law	2,840	3,548	4,120	572	16.1
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	314	299	313	14	4.7
Information and Communication Technologies	882	914	1,076	162	17.7
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	822	813	869	56	6.9
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	34	34	33	-1	-2.9
Health and welfare	1,732	1,915	2,356	441	23.0
Services	508	745	801	56	7.5
Total	**8,832**	**9,953**	**11,305**	**1,352**	**13.6**
			Females		
Generic programmes and qualifications	-	6	11	5	83.3
Education	2,175	1,929	1,846	-83	-4.3
Arts and humanities	1,070	1,063	1,085	22	2.1
Social sciences, journalism and information	1,604	1,576	1,697	121	7.7
Business, administration and law	3,183	3,259	3,765	506	15.5
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	425	435	439	4	0.9
Information and Communication Technologies	186	188	206	18	9.6
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	306	296	317	21	7.1
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	42	41	68	27	65.9
Health and welfare	2,930	3,135	3,561	426	13.6
Services	367	395	347	-48	-12.2
Total	**12,288**	**12,323**	**13,342**	**1,019**	**8.3**
			Totals		
Generic programmes and qualifications	-	15	32	17	113.3
Education	2,485	2,228	2,143	-85	-3.8
Arts and humanities	1,807	1,829	1,846	17	0.9
Social sciences, journalism and information	2,257	2,187	2,355	168	7.7
Business, administration and law	6,023	6,807	7,885	1,078	15.8
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	739	734	752	18	2.5
Information and Communication Technologies	1,068	1,102	1,282	180	16.3
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,128	1,109	1,186	77	6.9
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	76	75	101	26	34.7
Health and welfare	4,662	5,050	5,917	867	17.2
Services	875	1,140	1,148	8	0.7
Total	**21,120**	**22,276**	**24,647**	**2,371**	**10.6**

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For Fields of study information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

Table 11. Tertiary level students by economic sector, education level and field of study

Programme of study	State	Independent	Total	State	Independent	Total
	No.			%		
Education Level (ISCED 2011)						
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	771	2,822	3,593	5.6	25.7	14.6
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	8,252	3,986	12,238	60.3	36.4	49.7
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	4,433	3,630	8,063	32.4	33.1	32.7
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	231	522	753	1.7	4.8	3.1
Field of study						
Generic programmes and qualifications	32	-	32	0.2	-	0.1
Education	1,143	1,000	2,143	8.4	9.1	8.7
Arts and humanities	1,500	346	1,846	11.0	3.2	7.5
Social sciences, journalism and information	1,712	643	2,355	12.5	5.9	9.6
Business, administration and law	2,872	5,013	7,885	21.0	45.7	32.0
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	641	111	752	4.7	1.0	3.1
Information and Communication Technologies	871	411	1,282	6.4	3.8	5.2
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,079	107	1,186	7.9	1.0	4.8
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	101	-	101	0.7	-	0.4
Health and welfare	3,110	2,807	5,917	22.7	25.6	24.0
Services	626	522	1,148	4.6	4.8	4.7
Total	**13,687**	**10,960**	**24,647**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For information on ISCED and Fields of study refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

Table 12. Tertiary level students by academic year, citizenship, and field of study

Field of study	Citizenship			Total
	Maltese	Other EU	Non-EU	
	No.			
Generic programmes and qualifications	31	1	-	32
Education	2,010	81	52	2,143
Arts and humanities	1,224	313	309	1,846
Social sciences, journalism and information	1,471	543	341	2,355
Business, administration and law	3,928	946	3,011	7,885
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	560	146	46	752
Information and Communication Technologies	910	80	292	1,282
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	931	101	154	1,186
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	95	4	2	101
Health and welfare	2,454	1,562	1,901	5,917
Services	520	166	462	1,148
Total	**14,134**	**3,943**	**6,570**	**24,647**
	% (column)			
Generic programmes and qualifications	0.2	0.0	-	0.1
Education	14.2	2.1	0.8	8.7
Arts and humanities	8.7	7.9	4.7	7.5
Social sciences, journalism and information	10.4	13.8	5.2	9.6
Business, administration and law	27.8	24.0	45.8	32.0
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	4.0	3.7	0.7	3.1
Information and Communication Technologies	6.4	2.0	4.4	5.2
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	6.6	2.6	2.3	4.8
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.4
Health and welfare	17.4	39.6	28.9	24.0
Services	3.7	4.2	7.0	4.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	% (row)			
Generic programmes and qualifications	96.9	3.1	-	100.0
Education	93.8	3.8	2.4	100.0
Arts and humanities	66.3	17.0	16.7	100.0
Social sciences, journalism and information	62.5	23.1	14.5	100.0
Business, administration and law	49.8	12.0	38.2	100.0
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	74.5	19.4	6.1	100.0
Information and Communication Technologies	71.0	6.2	22.8	100.0
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	78.5	8.5	13.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	94.1	4.0	2.0	100.0
Health and welfare	41.5	26.4	32.1	100.0
Services	45.3	14.5	40.2	100.0
Total	**57.3**	**16.0**	**26.7**	**100.0**

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 6.
2. For Fields of study information refer to methodological notes 9 and 11.

Methodological Notes

1. Education statistics presented in this news release are processed by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on an annual basis in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013. These regulations establish the basis of information to be collected from educational institutions at all levels of education and all economic sectors. By adhering to these regulations, all education statistics collected and processed by the NSO are comparable to other European countries following the same regulatory standards.

2. Figures presented in this news release are based on data available as at the cut-off date of 31st July 2026. Statistics published in this release may be subject to revisions.

3. This news release includes students enrolled in formal education with a minimum duration of one semester of full-time study (or the equivalent in part-time) and that are delivered from Malta. Students are included irrespective of whether they are residing in Malta or abroad.

4. Data collection covers all students enrolled in the respective institutions as at 31st March of the reference academic year.

5. For the purpose of this news release, post-secondary level refers to students enrolled in Sixth Forms, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), University of Malta (UM), and other public and private institutions offering courses at ISCED levels 2 to 4 (also refer to note 9).

6. For the purpose of this news release, tertiary level refers to students enrolled at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), University of Malta (UM), and other public and private institutions offering courses at ISCED levels 5 to 8 (also refer to note 9).

7. The population of educational institutions considered for the purpose of this news release includes institutions delivering formal education programmes from Malta at post-secondary and tertiary level:

	Academic Year		
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total number of institutions offering courses at post-secondary and tertiary education	66	71	80
of which:			
Offering courses at post-secondary education (ISCED 2-4)	29	30	36
Offering courses at tertiary education (ISCED 5-8)	47	52	58

Note: Institutions offering courses at both post-secondary and tertiary are counted in each category. Therefore, the total refers to the unique number of institutions and does not tally with the summation of the sub-categories.

8. Education Statistics data is provided by NSO to Eurostat on an annual basis in a dedicated questionnaire as established by Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013.

9. Definitions:

● **Age** is calculated as at 1st January of the reference academic year. For example, for academic year 2024-2025, age is calculated as at 1st January 2025.

● **Citizenship:** Students' citizenship is determined according to the data provided by the data sources. Where possible, these records are cross-checked against available administrative records.

● **Education** means organised and sustained communication designed to bring about learning (vide Regulation (EC) No. 452/2008).

● **Fields of study (ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013):** The ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 classifies educational 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. For more information refer to the International Standard Classification of Education – Fields of education and training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013).

● **Formal education** is an institutionalised, intentional and planned type of education which is provided by public organisations and recognised private bodies. It consists primarily of initial education designed for children and young people before their first entry to the labour market. It also includes other types of education such as vocational, special needs and adult education provided they are recognised as part of the formal education system by the relevant national education authorities.

● **General education** is defined as educational programmes that are designed to develop learners' general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare participants for more advanced education programmes at the same or a higher ISCED level and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning. These programmes are typically school-based or college-based. General education includes education programmes that are designed to prepare participants for entry into vocational education but do not prepare for employment in a particular occupation, trade or class of occupations or trades, nor lead directly to a labour market-relevant qualification.

● **International Standard Classification of Education – ISCED 2011** is a framework for assembling, compiling, and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on education. ISCED belongs to the United Nations International Family of Economic and Social Classifications and is the reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by levels and fields of education. ISCED is designed to serve as a framework to classify educational activities as defined in programmes and the resulting qualifications into internationally agreed categories. For more information refer to the ISCED 2011 manual.

ISCED levels are based on ISCED 2011 classification:

ISCED 0 – Early childhood and pre-primary education
ISCED 1 – Primary education
ISCED 2 – Lower secondary education
ISCED 3 – Upper secondary education
ISCED 4 – Post-secondary non-tertiary education
ISCED 5 – Short-cycle tertiary education
ISCED 6 – Bachelor's or equivalent level
ISCED 7 – Master's or equivalent level
ISCED 8 – Doctoral or equivalent level

● **Locality of residence:** The locality of residence is the locality where students are residing during the academic year, as registered by the institution. Students registering a foreign address of residence are reported as 'foreign residence', whilst students having missing information relating to the locality of residence are reported as students with an unspecified locality.

● **Vocational education** is defined as educational programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade, or class of occupations or trades. Such programmes may have work-based components (e.g. apprenticeships, dual-system education programmes). Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour market-relevant, vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market.

10. Totals/percentages may not add up due to rounding.

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

Sources and Methods
ISCED 2011 Classification
ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013
LAU Classification

12. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our dedicated webpage.

13. European statistics related to students are available here.

14. For further assistance send your request through our online request form.

15. A detailed news release calendar is available online.