

Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local specialised schools numbered 76,730, equivalent to an increase of 1.6 per cent over 2015.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2016

The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (24.5 per cent), Germany (14.2 per cent) and France (11.1 per cent). Together, these accounted for 49.8 per cent of total students (Table 1 and Chart 1).

The largest share of language students were aged 15 years or less, accounted for 31.3 per cent of total students. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 5,071. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 60.4 per cent of the entire student population (Table 3).

July was the busiest month for English language specialised schools with 19,334 arrivals, or 25.2 per cent of the annual total. This was followed by August and June with 12.9 and 11.0 per cent of total arrivals respectively. A similar pattern was also recorded in 2015 (Table 4).

The most popular course offered by specialised English language schools was General English. This course alone accounted for 53,304 students (69.5 per cent) attending during 2016. This was followed by the Intensive English course, with 17.2 per cent of total students (Table 5).

The share of foreign students attending English language courses in 2016 when compared to total inbound tourists for the same year, stood at 3.9 per cent. This share ranged from 3.0 per cent to 4.8 per cent among males and females respectively (Table 6).

Foreign students enrolled in specialised schools for English language spent a total of 229,005 weeks in Malta. The average length of stay during the year under review stood at 3.0 weeks, down by 0.2 weeks when compared to 2015. Students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration with an average of 13.5 weeks per student. These were followed by South Korean and Turkish students with an average duration of 10.2 and 6.2 weeks per student respectively (Tables 8 and 10).

In 2016, teaching staff in English language specialised schools numbered 1,221. The largest share of teaching staff (36.3 per cent) were aged between 18 and 24. Female teaching personnel made up for 72.1 per cent of the total teaching staff. Non-teaching staff amounted to 799, of which 61.3 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Tables 11 and 12) ■

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

Citizenship	2015			2016		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	8,024	9,932	17,956	7,931	10,867	18,798
Germany	4,388	5,976	10,364	4,517	6,400	10,917
France	3,149	4,508	7,657	3,426	5,091	8,517
Russia	2,255	3,465	5,720	1,431	2,725	4,156
Spain	1,339	1,930	3,269	1,383	2,594	3,977
Austria	1,831	1,920	3,751	1,569	1,965	3,534
Poland	1,020	1,729	2,749	1,034	2,097	3,131
Turkey	1,399	891	2,290	1,625	1,127	2,752
Brazil	868	1,479	2,347	881	1,740	2,621
Japan	362	1,231	1,593	584	1,810	2,394
Switzerland	1,044	1,376	2,420	819	1,146	1,965
Czech Republic	922	2,229	3,151	502	895	1,397
Sweden	134	494	628	427	874	1,301
Netherlands	307	779	1,086	305	831	1,136
Colombia	281	458	739	439	654	1,093
South Korea	127	183	310	255	571	826
Belgium	294	470	764	240	503	743
Hungary	296	403	699	305	361	666
Ukraine	268	381	649	277	379	656
Other countries ¹	3,377	4,005	7,382	2,416	3,734	6,150
Total	31,685	43,839	75,524	30,366	46,364	76,730

* includes only students arriving in 2015/2016

Note:

¹ 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: 2016*

Age group	Country of citizenship					
	Italy	Germany	France	Russia	Spain	Austria
15 and under	7,453	3,319	3,478	1,626	1,131	1,533
16-17	5,324	1,659	2,290	408	577	1,042
18-25	2,139	1,654	1,719	679	889	625
26-35	1,437	1,064	380	757	687	59
36-49	1,386	1,641	376	538	488	125
50 and over	957	1,563	273	145	201	150
Unspecified	102	17	1	3	4	-
Total	18,798	10,917	8,517	4,156	3,977	3,534

* includes only students arriving in 2016

Chart 1. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by citizenship: 2016

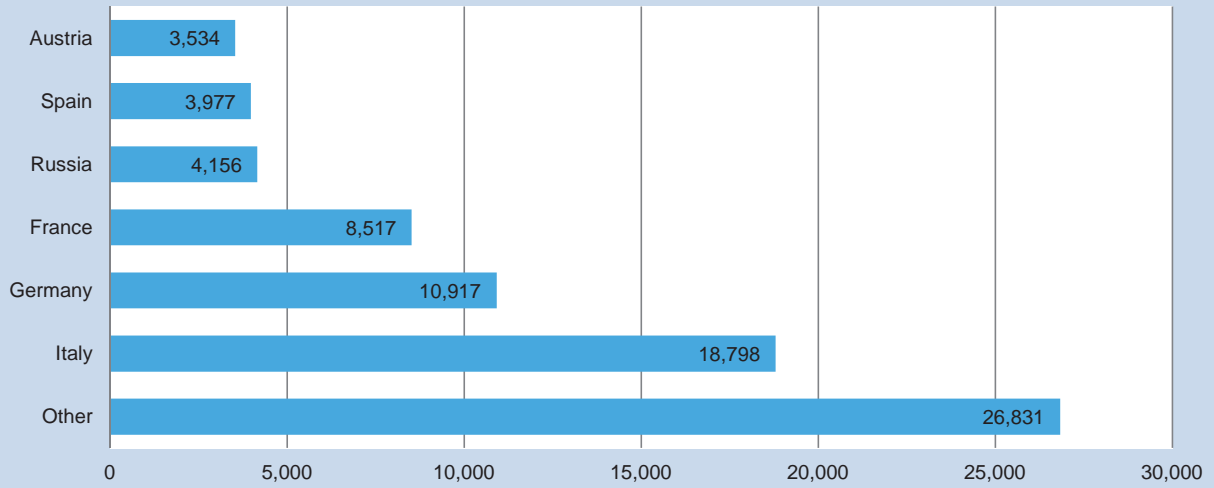


Table 3. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by sex and age group*

Age group	2015	2016	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
15 and under	8,986	9,728	742	8.3
16-17	6,162	5,932	-230	-3.7
18-25	7,233	6,178	-1,055	-14.6
26-35	4,112	3,528	-584	-14.2
36-49	3,283	3,108	-175	-5.3
50 and over	1,693	1,847	154	9.1
Unspecified	216	45	-171	-79.2
Total	31,685	30,366	-1,319	-4.2
Females				
15 and under	12,261	14,277	2,016	16.4
16-17	8,535	8,373	-162	-1.9
18-25	9,285	9,600	315	3.4
26-35	5,645	5,720	75	1.3
36-49	4,979	5,073	94	1.9
50 and over	2,793	3,224	431	15.4
Unspecified	341	97	-244	-71.6
Total	43,839	46,364	2,525	5.8
Total				
15 and under	21,247	24,005	2,758	13.0
16-17	14,697	14,305	-392	-2.7
18-25	16,518	15,778	-740	-4.5
26-35	9,757	9,248	-509	-5.2
36-49	8,262	8,181	-81	-1.0
50 and over	4,486	5,071	585	13.0
Unspecified	557	142	-415	-74.5
Total	75,524	76,730	1,206	1.6

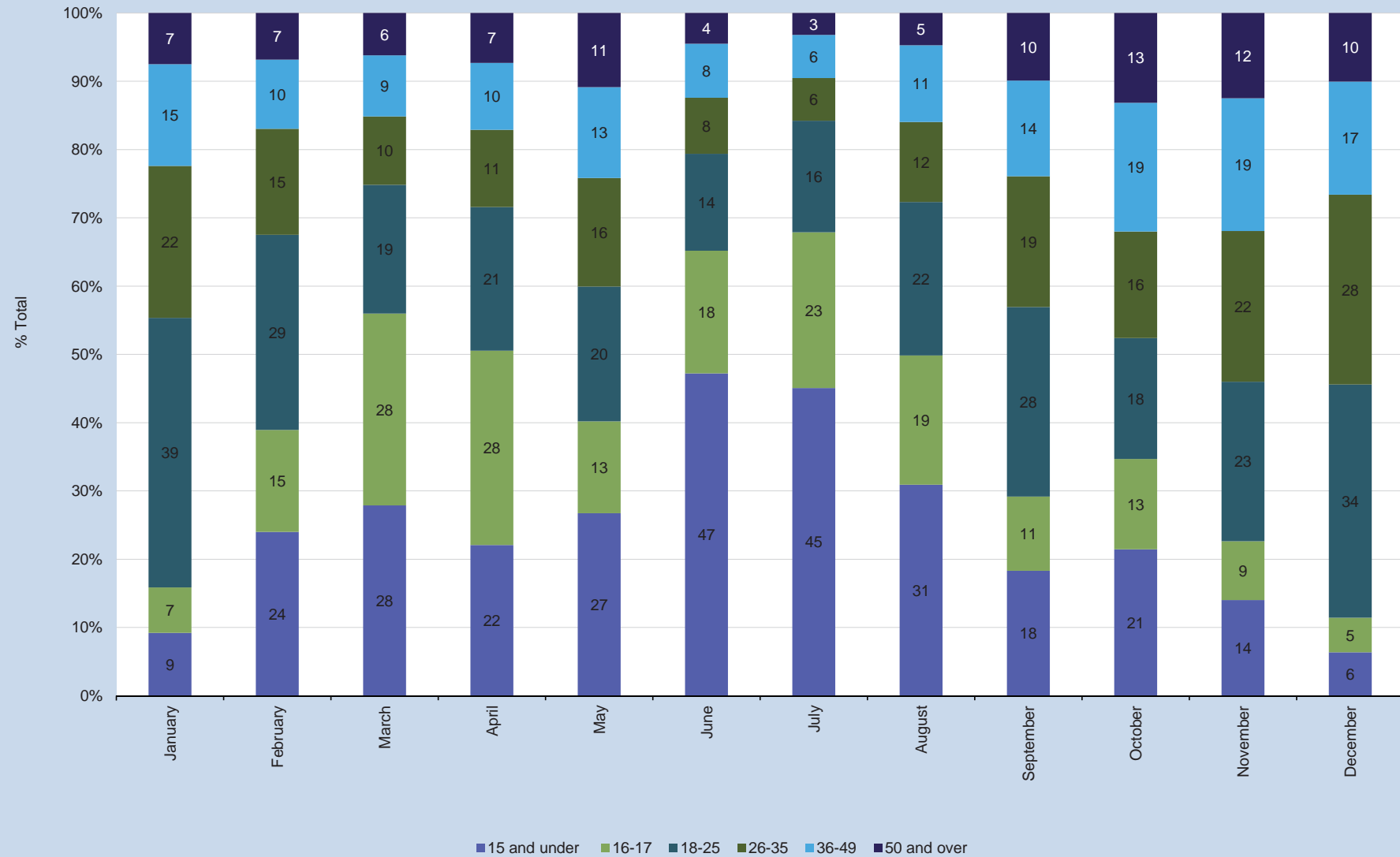
* includes only students arriving in 2016

Table 4. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language by sex and month of arrival: 2016*

Month of arrival	2015	2016	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
January	1,569	1,206	-363	-23.1
February	1,754	1,566	-188	-10.7
March	3,084	1,953	-1,131	-36.7
April	2,497	2,927	430	17.2
May	2,106	2,215	109	5.2
June	3,672	3,254	-418	-11.4
July	6,270	7,452	1,182	18.9
August	5,093	3,875	-1,218	-23.9
September	2,064	2,159	95	4.6
October	2,031	2,208	177	8.7
November	1,158	1,098	-60	-5.2
December	387	453	66	17.1
Total	31,685	30,366	-1,319	-4.2
	Females			
January	1,601	1,555	-46	-2.9
February	2,277	2,275	-2	-0.1
March	4,209	3,066	-1,143	-27.2
April	3,145	4,029	884	28.1
May	2,993	3,455	462	15.4
June	4,885	5,194	309	6.3
July	9,542	11,882	2,340	24.5
August	7,374	6,044	-1,330	-18.0
September	3,022	3,590	568	18.8
October	3,014	3,248	234	7.8
November	1,359	1,471	112	8.2
December	418	555	137	32.8
Total	43,839	46,364	2,525	5.8
	Total			
January	3,170	2,761	-409	-12.9
February	4,031	3,841	-190	-4.7
March	7,293	5,019	-2,274	-31.2
April	5,642	6,956	1,314	23.3
May	5,099	5,670	571	11.2
June	8,557	8,448	-109	-1.3
July	15,812	19,334	3,522	22.3
August	12,467	9,919	-2,548	-20.4
September	5,086	5,749	663	13.0
October	5,045	5,456	411	8.1
November	2,517	2,569	52	2.1
December	805	1,008	203	25.2
Total	75,524	76,730	1,206	1.6

* includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2016

Chart 2. Percentage of student arrivals by month and age-group: 2016



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: 2016*

Citizenship	General English	Intensive English	English specific purposes¹	Other²	Total
Italy	13,591	2,170	2,076	961	18,798
Germany	6,832	2,154	619	1,312	10,917
France	6,296	1,696	162	363	8,517
Russia	3,085	588	93	390	4,156
Spain	2,829	734	131	283	3,977
Austria	3,236	192	23	83	3,534
Poland	1,981	685	181	284	3,131
Turkey	2,001	402	202	147	2,752
Brazil	1,866	579	58	118	2,621
Japan	1,611	582	36	165	2,394
Switzerland	949	566	104	346	1,965
Czech Republic	1,032	217	40	108	1,397
Sweden	964	194	32	111	1,301
Netherlands	686	265	68	117	1,136
Colombia	652	350	21	70	1,093
South Korea	558	186	5	77	826
Belgium	400	238	28	77	743
Hungary	400	177	42	47	666
Ukraine	444	113	16	83	656
Other countries ³	3,891	1,138	481	640	6,150
Total	53,304	13,226	4,418	5,782	76,730

* includes only students arriving in 2016

Notes:

¹ includes Business English

² includes Exam Preparation Courses, One to One lessons and other courses

³ includes students whose citizenship is unknown

Chart 3. Students attending specialised schools for English language by nationality following the General English course: 2016

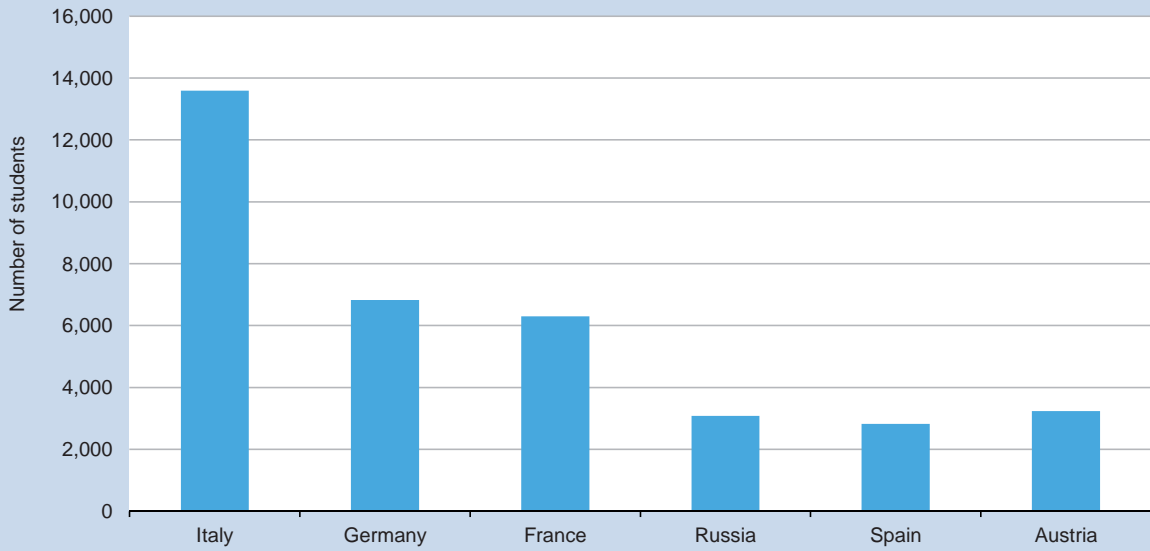


Chart 4. Students attending specialised schools for English language by nationality and course followed: 2016 (excluding General English)

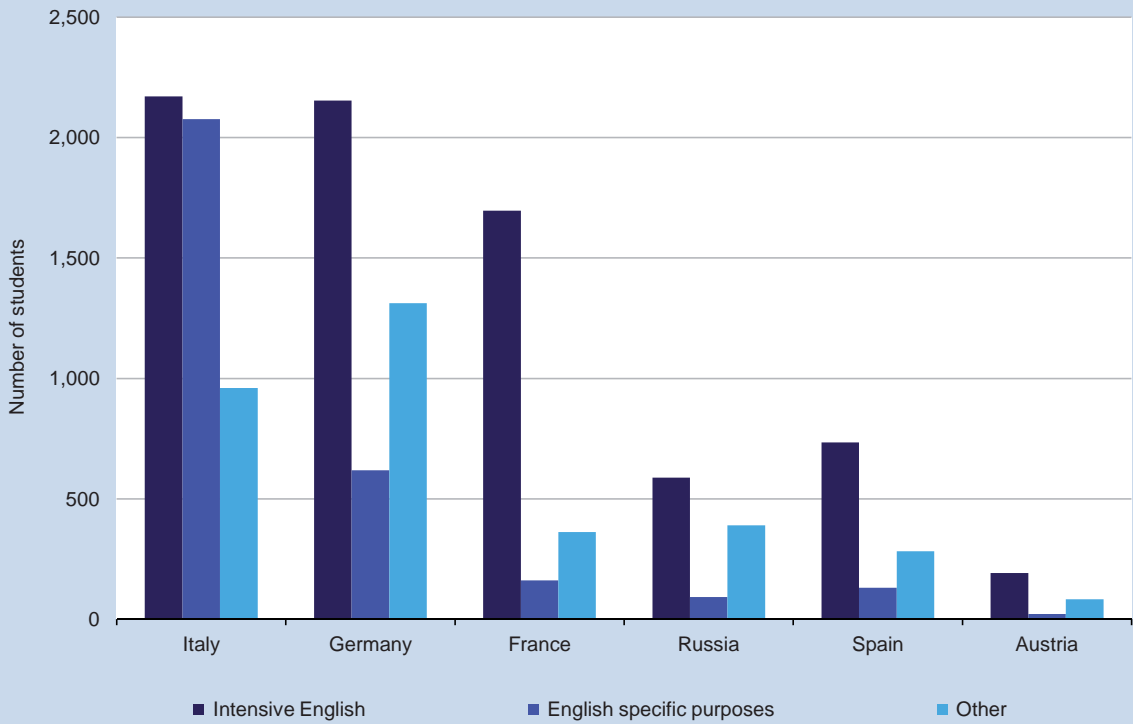


Table 6. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language and inbound tourist in 2016 by sex and month of arrival

Month of arrival	Students*			Inbound tourists			% of students per incoming tourists		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,206	1,555	2,761	48,106	36,711	84,817	2.5	4.2	3.3
February	1,566	2,275	3,841	43,847	37,158	81,005	3.6	6.1	4.7
March	1,953	3,066	5,019	58,858	56,660	115,519	3.3	5.4	4.3
April	2,927	4,029	6,956	79,866	85,019	164,885	3.7	4.7	4.2
May	2,215	3,455	5,670	94,485	96,102	190,586	2.3	3.6	3.0
June	3,254	5,194	8,448	98,288	94,751	193,038	3.3	5.5	4.4
July	7,452	11,882	19,334	108,126	117,213	225,339	6.9	10.1	8.6
August	3,875	6,044	9,919	126,765	126,565	253,330	3.1	4.8	3.9
September	2,159	3,590	5,749	108,900	98,020	206,920	2.0	3.7	2.8
October	2,208	3,248	5,456	110,505	104,613	215,119	2.0	3.1	2.5
November	1,098	1,471	2,569	73,057	67,347	140,404	1.5	2.2	1.8
December	453	555	1,008	52,966	42,000	94,966	0.9	1.3	1.1
Total	30,366	46,364	76,730	1,003,768	962,160	1,965,928	3.0	4.8	3.9

* includes only students arriving in 2016

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

Type of accommodation	2015	2016	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
Hotel	6,085	5,351	-734	-12.1
5 Star	133	22	-111	-83.5
4 Star	2,402	2,590	188	7.8
3 Star	3,550	2,739	-811	-22.8
Other collective accommodation ¹	4,114	7,372	3,258	79.2
Host families	8,977	8,061	-916	-10.2
Self catering accommodation	4,209	2,986	-1,223	-29.1
Other ²	8,300	6,596	-1,704	-20.5
Total	31,685	30,366	-1,319	-4.2
Females				
Hotel	8,445	7,548	-897	-10.6
5 Star	146	20	-126	-86.3
4 Star	3,584	3,346	-238	-6.6
3 Star	4,715	4,182	-533	-11.3
Other collective accommodation ¹	6,067	10,856	4,789	78.9
Host families	13,555	13,136	-419	-3.1
Self catering accommodation	5,556	4,536	-1,020	-18.4
Other ²	10,216	10,288	72	0.7
Total	43,839	46,364	2,525	5.8
Total				
Hotel	14,530	12,899	-1,631	-11.2
5 Star	279	42	-237	-84.9
4 Star	5,986	5,936	-50	-0.8
3 Star	8,265	6,921	-1,344	-16.3
Other collective accommodation ¹	10,181	18,228	8,047	79.0
Host families	22,532	21,197	-1,335	-5.9
Self catering accommodation	9,765	7,522	-2,243	-23.0
Other ²	18,516	16,884	-1,632	-8.8
Total	75,524	76,730	1,206	1.6

* includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2016

Notes:

¹ includes residences, hostels and guest houses

² 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 ¹			Average number of weeks per student ²		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2016						
January	2,307	3,080	5,386	1.9	2.0	2.0
February	4,247	5,970	10,217	2.7	2.6	2.7
March	6,122	8,821	14,942	3.1	2.9	3.0
April	7,034	9,698	16,732	2.4	2.4	2.4
May	7,385	10,741	18,126	3.3	3.1	3.2
June	8,354	12,791	21,145	2.6	2.5	2.5
July	18,437	28,527	46,964	2.5	2.4	2.4
August	14,036	20,000	34,036	3.6	3.3	3.4
September	7,364	10,892	18,255	3.4	3.0	3.2
October	7,501	10,760	18,261	3.4	3.3	3.3
November	6,204	8,323	14,527	5.6	5.7	5.7
December	4,748	5,665	10,414	10.5	10.2	10.3
Total	93,738	135,268	229,005	3.1	2.9	3.0
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	7,992	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	9,816	18,247	4.0	3.3	3.6
June	9,410	11,576	20,986	2.6	2.4	2.5
July	18,370	25,086	43,456	2.9	2.6	2.7
August	16,781	21,868	38,649	3.3	3.0	3.1
September	8,071	10,364	18,436	3.9	3.4	3.6
October	8,070	10,853	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	106,811	131,670	238,481	3.4	3.0	3.2

includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2016

Notes:

¹ student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

² based on student figures as presented in Table 4

Table 9. Total number of student weeks by age group and citizenship: 2016*

Citizenship	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	Unspecified	Total
Italy	11,248	7,550	6,085	4,397	2,684	1,520	80	33,564
Germany	5,573	3,214	4,950	2,315	2,555	2,350	24	20,981
France	7,234	5,177	6,541	1,189	735	578	3	21,455
Russia	3,535	1,012	2,245	2,633	1,498	358	4	11,284
Spain	2,402	1,448	3,761	2,779	1,356	532	13	12,292
Austria	2,189	1,594	1,072	97	201	284	-	5,437
Poland	2,096	805	600	727	1,351	374	3	5,957
Turkey	956	607	10,566	3,406	1,258	261	-	17,054
Brazil	77	207	5,583	5,563	2,143	945	2	14,519
Japan	349	553	7,644	2,741	869	571	2	12,728
Switzerland	698	783	1,799	382	650	827	1	5,142
Czech Republic	636	432	639	485	619	297	-	3,107
Sweden	1,600	643	1,252	194	205	234	-	4,127
Netherlands	338	614	1,527	85	89	86	-	2,739
Colombia	66	713	7,108	5,575	1,092	171	-	14,725
South Korea	106	28	5,193	2,351	603	141	8	8,430
Belgium	297	412	1,290	223	80	18	-	2,321
Hungary	334	282	356	390	343	123	-	1,827
Ukraine	472	118	691	534	232	77	3	2,126
Other countries ¹	3,935	2,482	10,207	7,912	3,699	920	36	29,190
Total	44,140	28,675	79,107	43,979	22,262	10,665	178	229,005

* student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

Note:

¹ includes students whose citizenship is unknown

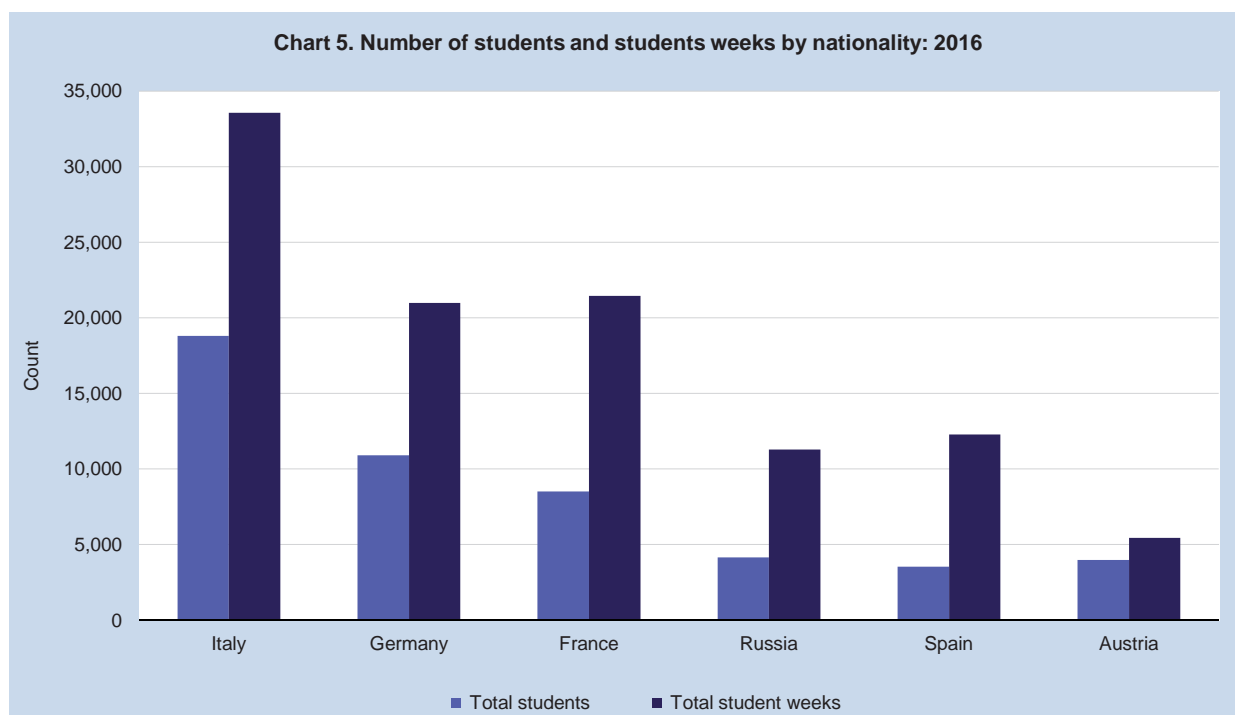


Table 10. Total number of foreign student weeks by sex and citizenship: 2016*

Citizenship	Number of weeks ¹			Average number of weeks per student ²		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	14,348	19,216	33,564	1.8	1.8	1.8
Germany	8,533	12,448	20,981	1.9	1.9	1.9
France	8,670	12,786	21,455	2.5	2.5	2.5
Russia	3,809	7,475	11,284	2.7	2.7	2.7
Spain	4,547	7,745	12,292	3.3	3.0	3.1
Austria	2,296	3,142	5,437	1.5	1.6	1.5
Poland	2,062	3,895	5,957	2.0	1.9	1.9
Turkey	10,722	6,332	17,054	6.6	5.6	6.2
Brazil	4,973	9,546	14,519	5.6	5.5	5.5
Japan	3,111	9,617	12,728	5.3	5.3	5.3
Switzerland	2,144	2,997	5,142	2.6	2.6	2.6
Czech Republic	1,144	1,963	3,107	2.3	2.2	2.2
Sweden	1,413	2,714	4,127	3.3	3.1	3.2
Netherlands	720	2,020	2,739	2.4	2.4	2.4
Colombia	5,875	8,850	14,725	13.4	13.5	13.5
South Korea	2,665	5,764	8,430	10.5	10.1	10.2
Belgium	832	1,489	2,321	3.5	3.0	3.1
Hungary	897	930	1,827	2.9	2.6	2.7
Ukraine	973	1,154	2,126	3.5	3.0	3.2
Other countries ³	14,004	15,186	29,190	5.8	4.1	4.7
Total	93,738	135,268	229,005	3.1	2.9	3.0

* includes only students arriving in 2015 / 2016

Notes:

¹ student duration is spread throughout the months when this occurs

² based on student figures as presented in Table 1

³ includes students whose citizenship is unknown

Table 11. Staff employed in specialised schools for English language by sex and age group: 2016

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching staff*		
18-24	103	340	443
25-34	90	192	282
35-44	42	79	121
45-54	36	98	134
55 and over	70	171	241
Total	341	880	1,221
	Non-teaching staff		
16-24	121	145	266
25-34	99	148	247
35-44	48	70	118
45-54	36	50	86
55 and over	38	44	82
Total	342	457	799
	Total		
16-24	224	485	709
25-34	189	340	529
35-44	90	149	239
45-54	72	148	220
55 and over	108	215	323
Total	683	1,337	2,020

* This category does not apply for persons aged 16-17 years

Table 12. Staff in specialised schools for English language by sex and type of employment: 2016

Type of employment	Teaching staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	19	33	52	194	296	490	213	329	542
Part-time	125	300	425	65	69	134	190	369	559
Casual part-time	197	547	744	83	92	175	280	639	919
Total	341	880	1,221	342	457	799	683	1,337	2,020

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 2016 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. Thus figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by NSO.
4. Only students enrolling during 2016 are considered in this release.
5. Persons employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once in this release.
6. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
7. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt