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Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools totalled 83,610, equivalent to a decrease of 4.0 per cent over 2018.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2019

The majority of students attending English language courses in Malta came from Italy (18,335), followed by Germany (9,764) and France (8,878). Together these accounted for 44.2 per cent of total students coming to Malta to learn English (Table 2).

The largest share of language students were aged 15 years or less, accounting for 33.3 per cent of the total students following ELT courses. Students aged 50 and over were in the minority and numbered 6,224. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 60.1 per cent of the entire ELT student population (Table 3).

July was the busiest month for local licensed ELT schools with 18,457 arrivals, or 22.1 per cent of the annual total. This was followed by June and August with 11.8 and 10.5 per cent of total students arrivals respectively (Table 4).

The most popular course offered by local licensed ELT schools was 'General English: Standard' which was attended by a total of 58,784 students (70.3 per cent) studying during 2019. This was followed by the 'Intensive English' course, with 15.9 per cent of total students (Table 5).

The share of foreign students attending English language courses in 2019 when compared to total inbound tourists for the same year, stood at 3.0 per cent. Of this share, 2.4 per cent were males and 3.6 per cent were females (Table 6).

Foreign students enrolled in local licensed ELT schools spent a total of 237,066 weeks in Malta. The average length of stay during the year under review stood at 2.8 weeks, an increase of 0.3 of a week when compared to 2018 (Table 8). With an average of 12.4 weeks, students from Colombia recorded the highest average duration. These were followed by South Korean and Chinese students with an average duration of 9.5 and 7.4 weeks respectively (Table 10).

In 2019, the number of staff in local licensed ELT schools stood at 1,796. The largest share of teaching staff (31.9 per cent) was aged between 18 and 24. Female teachers accounted for 72.6 per cent of the total teaching staff (Table 11). Non-teaching staff amounted to 766, of which 57.4 per cent were employed on a full-time basis (Tables 12) ■

**Table 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by country of citizenship and sex:
2018-2019**

Country of citizenship	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2018			2019		
Italy	9,880	13,602	23,482	8,165	10,170	18,335
Germany	4,014	5,977	9,991	4,126	5,638	9,764
France	3,450	5,394	8,844	3,404	5,474	8,878
Poland	1,497	3,004	4,501	1,545	3,011	4,556
Austria	2,002	2,361	4,363	1,998	1,956	3,954
Spain	1,454	2,517	3,971	1,474	2,286	3,760
Czech Republic	542	1,016	1,558	674	1,067	1,741
Netherlands	276	671	947	262	519	781
Slovakia	307	552	859	268	485	753
Hungary	256	406	662	291	462	753
Other EU countries	1,054	2,725	3,779	1,017	2,305	3,322
Total EU	24,732	38,225	62,957	23,224	33,373	56,597
Russia	2,006	3,390	5,396	2,301	3,696	5,997
Brazil	1,409	2,951	4,360	1,684	3,316	5,000
Japan	906	2,602	3,508	1,007	3,099	4,106
Switzerland	814	1,193	2,007	800	985	1,785
Colombia	514	783	1,297	735	1,011	1,746
Turkey	1,046	691	1,737	972	717	1,689
Ukraine	426	637	1,063	599	838	1,437
South Korea	287	717	1,004	312	844	1,156
China	181	211	392	230	309	539
Kazakhstan	66	115	181	113	203	316
Other Non-EU countries	1,361	1,849	3,210	1,396	1,846	3,242
Non-EU Total	9,016	15,139	24,155	10,149	16,864	27,013
Total	33,748	53,364	87,112	33,373	50,237	83,610

Chart 1. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by top 10 countries of citizenship: 2019

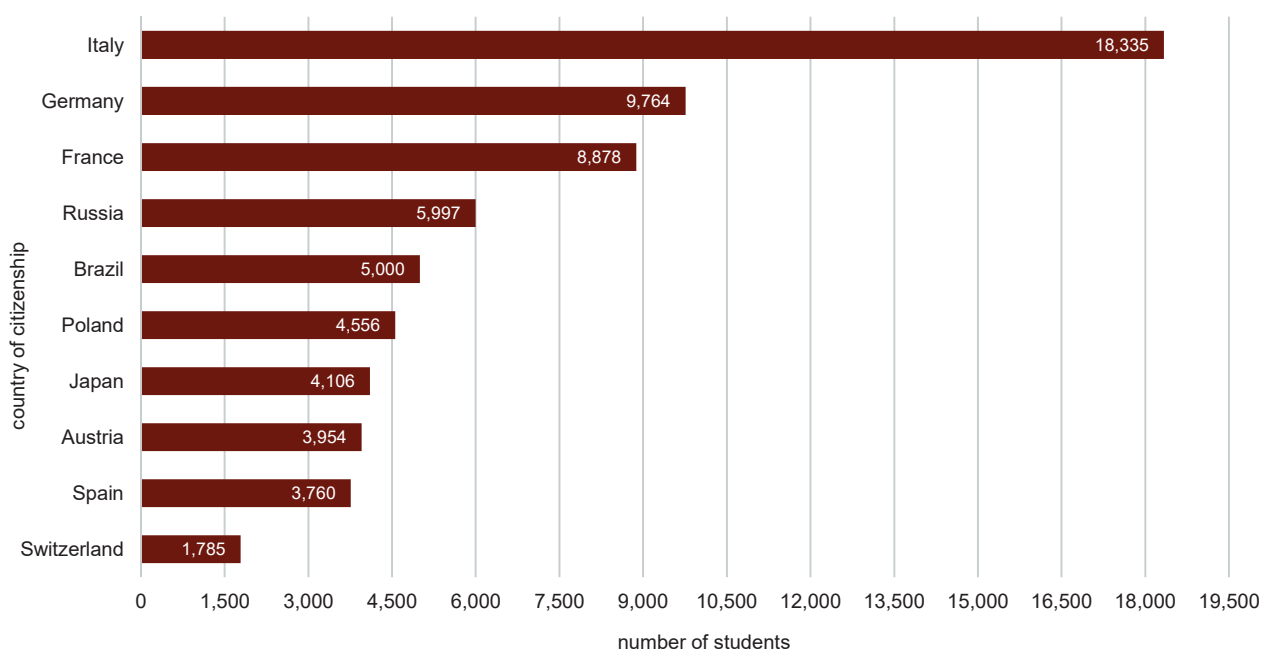
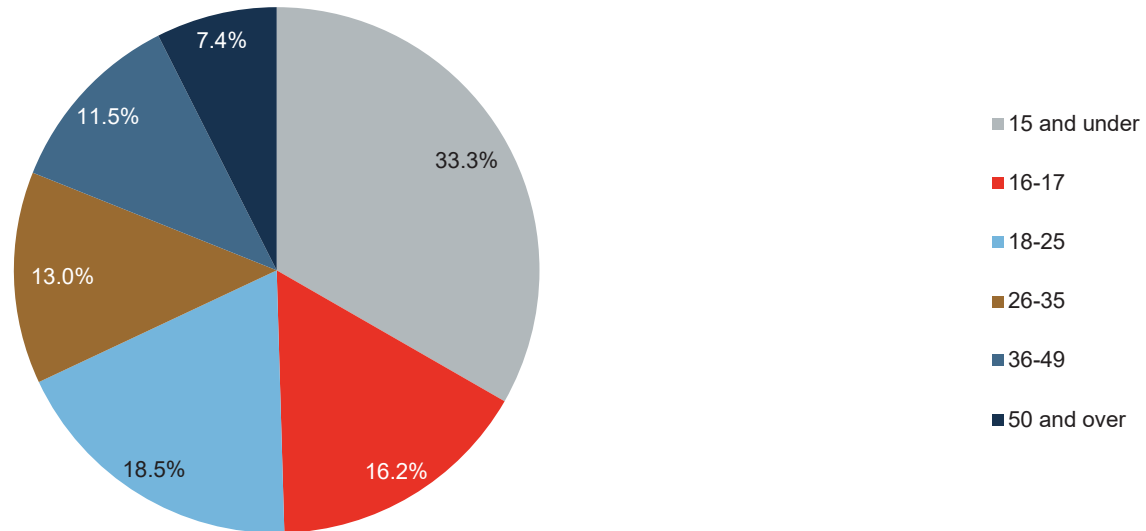


Table 2. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by country of citizenship and age group - top 10 countries: 2019

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	8,642	5,122	1,600	910	1,111	950	18,335
Germany	3,049	1,241	1,386	992	1,520	1,576	9,764
France	4,138	1,814	1,490	484	527	425	8,878
Russia	2,361	543	760	1,237	857	239	5,997
Brazil	102	117	1,618	1,909	776	478	5,000
Poland	1,598	744	312	413	1,041	448	4,556
Japan	383	243	2,002	855	369	254	4,106
Austria	1,848	1,187	591	61	100	167	3,954
Spain	1,303	515	674	552	473	243	3,760
Switzerland	330	286	427	143	253	346	1,785
Other countries	4,095	1,762	4,576	3,354	2,590	1,098	17,475
Total	27,849	13,574	15,436	10,910	9,617	6,224	83,610

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by age group: 2019



Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 3. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by age group and sex: 2018-2019

Age group	2018	2019	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
15 and under	12,134	11,503	-631	-5.2
16-17	6,507	5,775	-732	-11.2
18-25	6,164	6,353	189	3.1
26-35	3,656	3,974	318	8.7
36-49	3,225	3,541	316	9.8
50 and over	2,056	2,227	171	8.3
Unspecified	6	-	-	-
Total	33,748	33,373	-375	-1.1
	Females			
15 and under	17,678	16,346	-1,332	-7.5
16-17	9,568	7,799	-1,769	-18.5
18-25	9,086	9,083	-3	0.0
26-35	6,497	6,936	439	6.8
36-49	6,427	6,076	-351	-5.5
50 and over	4,103	3,997	-106	-2.6
Unspecified	5	-	-	-
Total	53,364	50,237	-3,127	-5.9
	Total			
15 and under	29,812	27,849	-1,963	-6.6
16-17	16,075	13,574	-2,501	-15.6
18-25	15,250	15,436	186	1.2
26-35	10,153	10,910	757	7.5
36-49	9,652	9,617	-35	-0.4
50 and over	6,159	6,224	65	1.1
Unspecified	11	-	-	-
Total	87,112	83,610	-3,502	-4.0

Chart 3. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by age group and sex: 2019

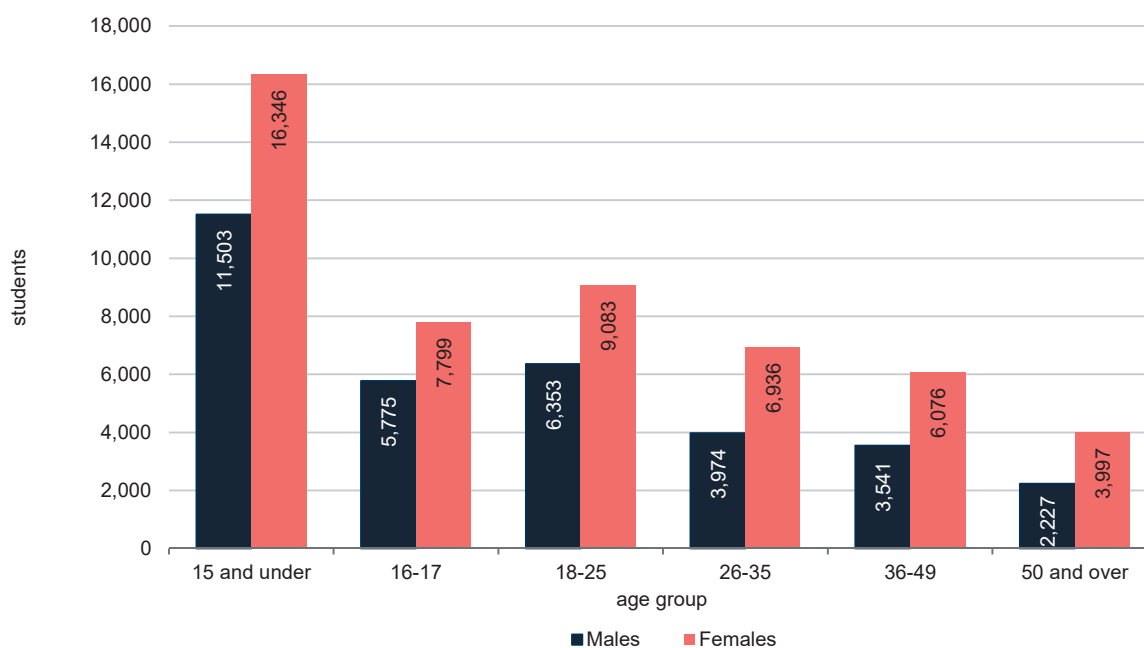


Table 4. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by month and sex: 2018-2019

Month of arrival	2018	2019	Change	Percentage change
	Males			
January	1,373	1,453	80	5.8
February	1,864	1,912	48	2.6
March	3,347	2,915	-432	-12.9
April	3,216	3,082	-134	-4.2
May	2,377	2,690	313	13.2
June	3,921	3,886	-35	-0.9
July	7,495	7,019	-476	-6.4
August	3,582	3,360	-222	-6.2
September	2,524	2,986	462	18.3
October	2,170	2,300	130	6.0
November	1,339	1,275	-64	-4.8
December	540	495	-45	-8.3
Total	33,748	33,373	-375	-1.1
	Females			
January	2,018	2,048	30	1.5
February	2,661	2,782	121	4.5
March	4,978	3,981	-997	-20.0
April	4,775	4,448	-327	-6.8
May	3,498	3,884	386	11.0
June	6,265	5,962	-303	-4.8
July	12,835	11,438	-1,397	-10.9
August	5,802	5,442	-360	-6.2
September	4,156	4,488	332	8.0
October	3,607	3,356	-251	-7.0
November	1,958	1,693	-265	-13.5
December	811	715	-96	-11.8
Total	53,364	50,237	-3,127	-5.9
	Total			
January	3,391	3,501	110	3.2
February	4,525	4,694	169	3.7
March	8,325	6,896	-1,429	-17.2
April	7,991	7,530	-461	-5.8
May	5,875	6,574	699	11.9
June	10,186	9,848	-338	-3.3
July	20,330	18,457	-1,873	-9.2
August	9,384	8,802	-582	-6.2
September	6,680	7,474	794	11.9
October	5,777	5,656	-121	-2.1
November	3,297	2,968	-329	-10.0
December	1,351	1,210	-141	-10.4
Total	87,112	83,610	-3,502	-4.0

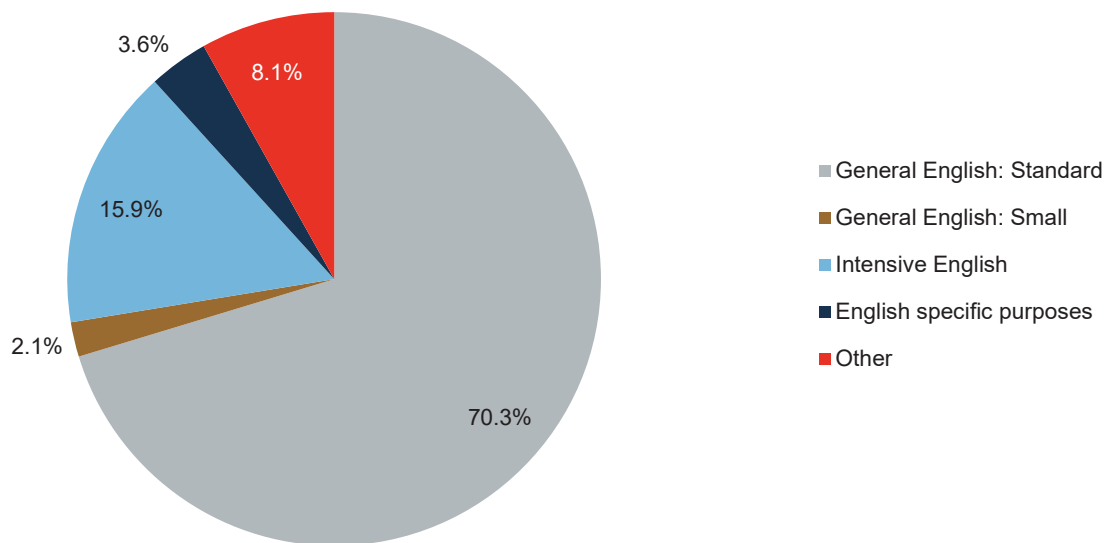
Table 5. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by country of citizenship and type of course followed: 2019

Country of citizenship	Type of course					Total
	General English: Standard	General English: Small	Intensive English	English specific purposes ¹	Other ²	
Italy	14,546	84	1,273	1,765	667	18,335
Germany	5,319	377	2,720	299	1,049	9,764
France	6,484	76	1,962	73	283	8,878
Russia	4,298	92	1,013	77	517	5,997
Brazil	4,066	29	620	27	258	5,000
Poland	3,255	77	619	120	485	4,556
Japan	2,768	113	804	31	390	4,106
Austria	3,432	100	121	58	243	3,954
Spain	2,735	64	522	40	399	3,760
Switzerland	905	156	474	10	240	1,785
Colombia	818	141	386	76	325	1,746
Czech Republic	1,205	42	337	29	128	1,741
Turkey	1,064	100	196	26	303	1,689
Ukraine	1,095	23	200	15	104	1,437
South Korea	741	62	162	21	170	1,156
Netherlands	470	21	142	7	141	781
Slovakia	489	11	131	11	111	753
Hungary	444	14	188	22	85	753
Sweden	592	3	28	7	15	645
Belgium	362	8	177	3	38	588
Other countries	3,696	156	1,182	313	839	6,186
Total	58,784	1,749	13,257	3,030	6,790	83,610

¹ includes Business English.

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

Chart 4. Percentage share of foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by type of course followed: 2019



Notes:

1. English specific purposes courses include Business English.

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

Table 6. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools and inbound tourists by month and sex: 2019

Month	Students ¹			Inbound tourists ²			% of students per inbound tourists		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,453	2,048	3,501	66,835	60,888	127,723	2.2	3.4	2.7
February	1,912	2,782	4,694	62,525	62,674	125,198	3.1	4.4	3.7
March	2,915	3,981	6,896	85,514	87,457	172,971	3.4	4.6	4.0
April	3,082	4,448	7,530	113,538	128,476	242,013	2.7	3.5	3.1
May	2,690	3,884	6,574	129,739	132,335	262,074	2.1	2.9	2.5
June	3,886	5,962	9,848	132,383	145,706	278,089	2.9	4.1	3.5
July	7,019	11,438	18,457	153,104	151,216	304,320	4.6	7.6	6.1
August	3,360	5,442	8,802	168,600	167,947	336,547	2.0	3.2	2.6
September	2,986	4,488	7,474	141,599	144,892	286,491	2.1	3.1	2.6
October	2,300	3,356	5,656	137,939	144,059	281,998	1.7	2.3	2.0
November	1,275	1,693	2,968	99,751	91,359	191,110	1.3	1.9	1.6
December	495	715	1,210	77,024	67,682	144,706	0.6	1.1	0.8
Total	33,373	50,237	83,610	1,368,550	1,384,689	2,753,239	2.4	3.6	3.0

¹ foreign students by month of arrival.

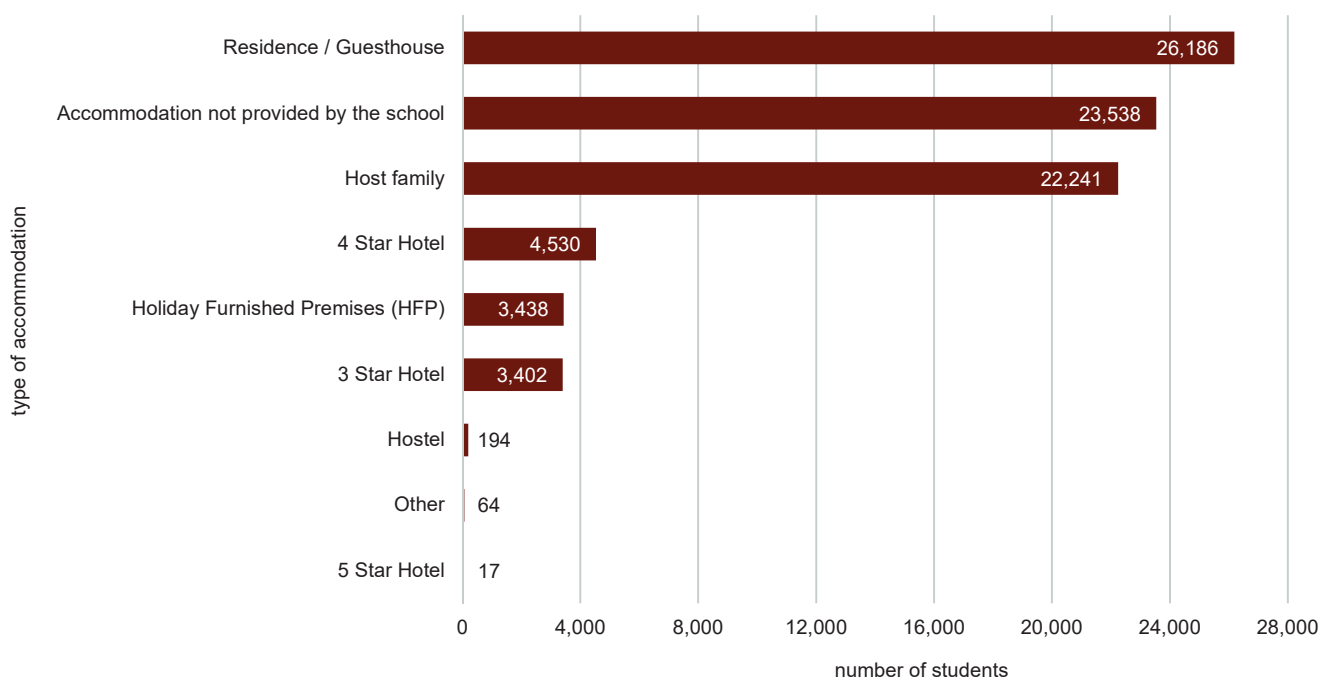
² inbound tourists by month of departure.

Table 7. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by type of accommodation and sex: 2019

Type of accommodation	Males	Females	Total
Hotel	3,424	4,525	7,949
5 Star	16	1	17
4 Star	1,893	2,637	4,530
3 Star	1,515	1,887	3,402
Residence / Guesthouse	9,878	16,308	26,186
Hostel	89	105	194
Host family	8,723	13,518	22,241
Holiday Furnished Premises (HFP)	1,276	2,162	3,438
Accommodation not provided by the school	9,961	13,577	23,538
Other ¹	22	42	64
Total	33,373	50,237	83,610

¹ includes unknown accommodation.

Chart 5. Foreign students following courses in local licensed ELT schools by type of accommodation: 2019



Note: Other includes unknown accommodation.

Table 8. Number of weeks spent by foreign students by month and sex: 2018-2019

Month	Number of weeks ¹			Average number of weeks per student ²		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	2019					
January	3,194	4,414	7,608	2.2	2.2	2.2
February	5,256	7,435	12,691	2.7	2.7	2.7
March	7,218	9,797	17,014	2.5	2.5	2.5
April	7,819	11,452	19,272	2.5	2.6	2.6
May	7,855	12,794	20,649	2.9	3.3	3.1
June	8,378	13,278	21,656	2.2	2.2	2.2
July	17,178	27,513	44,691	2.4	2.4	2.4
August	11,757	17,886	29,643	3.5	3.3	3.4
September	7,221	11,267	18,488	2.4	2.5	2.5
October	7,768	12,499	20,267	3.4	3.7	3.6
November	6,117	8,935	15,052	4.8	5.3	5.1
December	4,156	5,879	10,035	8.4	8.2	8.3
Total³	93,917	143,149	237,066	2.8	2.8	2.8
	2018					
January	2,492	3,588	6,079	1.8	1.8	1.8
February	4,202	5,955	10,157	2.3	2.2	2.2
March	6,464	9,455	15,919	1.9	1.9	1.9
April	6,589	9,633	16,222	2.0	2.0	2.0
May	6,689	10,212	16,901	2.8	2.9	2.9
June	8,048	12,240	20,288	2.1	2.0	2.0
July	16,774	28,079	44,854	2.2	2.2	2.2
August	11,850	17,848	29,698	3.3	3.1	3.2
September	6,088	9,265	15,353	2.4	2.2	2.3
October	6,583	10,615	17,198	3.0	2.9	3.0
November	5,573	7,813	13,385	4.2	4.0	4.1
December	4,004	5,194	9,198	7.4	6.4	6.8
Total⁴	85,356	129,897	215,252	2.5	2.4	2.5

¹ the number of weeks are distributed according to students' stay.

² based on student figures as presented in Table 4.

³ total **excludes 9,401 weeks** spent by foreign students during 2019 who arrived in Malta during the previous year.

⁴ total **excludes 9,705 weeks** spent by foreign students during 2018 who arrived in Malta during the previous year.

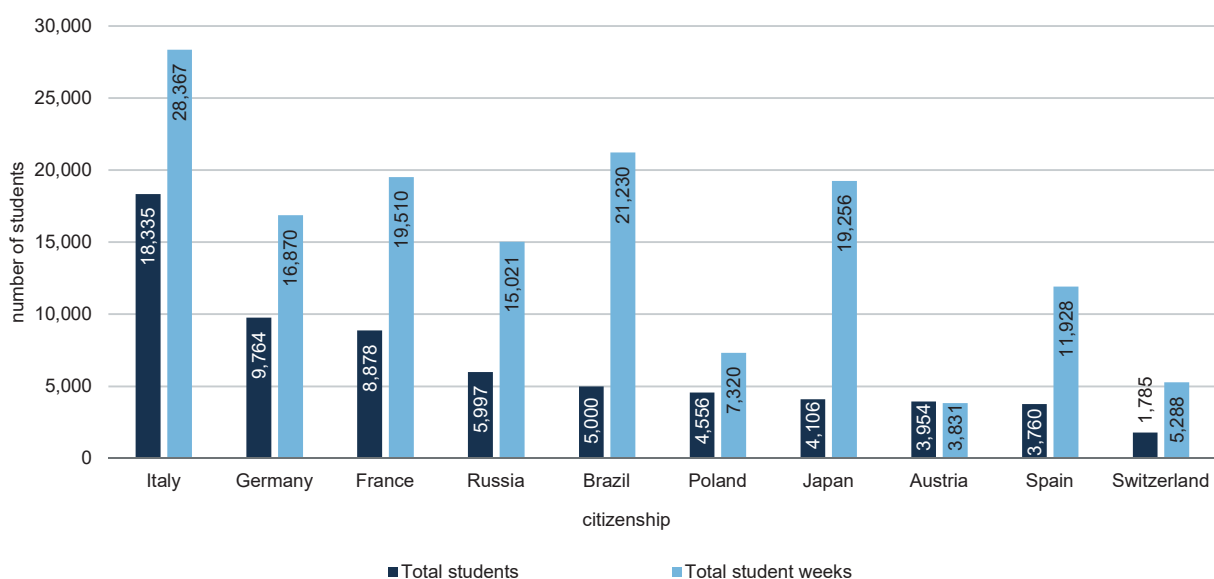
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 9. Number of weeks spent by foreign students by country of citizenship and age group: 2019

Country of citizenship	Age group						Total
	15 and under	16-17	18-25	26-35	36-49	50 and over	
Italy	10,084	6,654	4,781	3,088	2,221	1,539	28,367
Colombia	136	996	8,218	9,400	2,682	235	21,668
Brazil	283	522	6,881	8,470	3,293	1,781	21,230
France	7,069	3,546	5,777	1,373	1,083	663	19,510
Japan	676	644	11,162	4,763	1,335	676	19,256
Germany	4,543	2,254	3,810	1,769	2,104	2,390	16,870
Russia	4,673	1,184	2,443	4,151	1,969	601	15,021
Spain	2,295	1,147	3,442	3,067	1,380	597	11,928
South Korea	443	136	4,937	3,231	1,835	385	10,968
Turkey	376	193	6,544	2,766	895	192	10,965
Poland	2,076	1,108	851	787	1,821	676	7,320
Switzerland	626	783	1,802	489	658	929	5,288
Austria	1,801	968	566	101	154	240	3,831
Ukraine	1,092	225	768	802	630	168	3,686
Czech Republic	683	546	650	487	636	352	3,355
Netherlands	201	379	1,065	46	73	105	1,870
Slovakia	304	280	296	382	386	166	1,814
Hungary	314	239	341	280	392	211	1,777
Sweden	1,213	132	120	25	34	44	1,568
Belgium	211	299	628	154	139	37	1,468
Other countries	4,031	2,128	9,911	8,039	3,935	1,263	29,307
Total¹	43,130	24,363	74,993	53,672	27,657	13,251	237,066

¹ total excludes 9,401 weeks spent by foreign students during 2019 who arrived in Malta during the previous year.

Chart 6. Number of foreign students and student weeks top 10 countries of citizenship: 2019



Note: Top ten countries by number of students.

Table 10. Number of weeks spent by foreign students by country of citizenship and sex: 2019

Country of citizenship	Number of weeks ¹			Average number of weeks per student ²		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	13,024	15,343	28,367	1.6	1.5	1.5
Germany	7,133	9,737	16,870	1.7	1.7	1.7
France	7,571	11,939	19,510	2.2	2.2	2.2
Poland	2,603	4,717	7,320	1.7	1.6	1.6
Austria	1,758	2,072	3,831	0.9	1.1	1.0
Spain	4,927	7,001	11,928	3.3	3.1	3.2
Czech Republic	1,278	2,077	3,355	1.9	1.9	1.9
Netherlands	548	1,322	1,870	2.1	2.5	2.4
Slovakia	668	1,146	1,814	2.5	2.4	2.4
Hungary	702	1,075	1,777	2.4	2.3	2.4
Other EU countries	2,804	5,673	8,477	2.8	2.5	2.6
EU Total	43,017	62,102	105,119	1.9	1.9	1.9
Russia	5,821	9,200	15,021	2.5	2.5	2.5
Brazil	7,276	13,954	21,230	4.3	4.2	4.2
Japan	4,623	14,633	19,256	4.6	4.7	4.7
Switzerland	2,431	2,857	5,288	3.0	2.9	3.0
Colombia	8,935	12,733	21,668	12.2	12.6	12.4
Turkey	6,582	4,383	10,965	6.8	6.1	6.5
Ukraine	1,533	2,153	3,686	2.6	2.6	2.6
South Korea	2,930	8,037	10,968	9.4	9.5	9.5
China	1,672	2,298	3,969	7.3	7.4	7.4
Kazakhstan	494	862	1,356	4.4	4.2	4.3
Other Non-EU countries	8,602	9,938	18,540	6.2	5.4	5.7
Non-EU Total	50,900	81,047	131,947	5.0	4.8	4.9
Total³	93,917	143,149	237,066	2.8	2.8	2.8

¹ the number of weeks are distributed according to students' stay.

² based on student figures as presented in Table 1.

³ total excludes 9,401 weeks spent by foreign students during 2019 who arrived in Malta during the previous year.

Table 11. Staff employed in local licensed ELT schools by sex and age group: 2019

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	Teaching staff ¹		
16-17	-	-	-
18-24	78	251	329
25-34	72	154	226
35-44	36	91	127
45-54	39	82	121
55 and over	57	170	227
Total	282	748	1,030
	Non-teaching staff		
16-17	10	16	26
18-24	131	147	278
25-34	82	134	216
35-44	41	66	107
45-54	30	45	75
55 and over	35	29	64
Total	329	437	766
	Total		
16-17	10	16	26
18-24	209	398	607
25-34	154	288	442
35-44	77	157	234
45-54	69	127	196
55 and over	92	199	291
Total	611	1,185	1,796

¹ This category does not apply for persons aged 16-17 years.

Table 12. Staff in local licensed ELT schools by type of employment and sex: 2019

Type of employment	Teaching staff			Non-teaching staff			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	43	90	133	171	269	440	214	359	573
Part-time	115	281	396	63	76	139	178	357	535
Casual part-time	124	377	501	95	92	187	219	469	688
Total	282	748	1,030	329	437	766	611	1,185	1,796

Chart 7. Percentage distribution of teaching staff in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2019

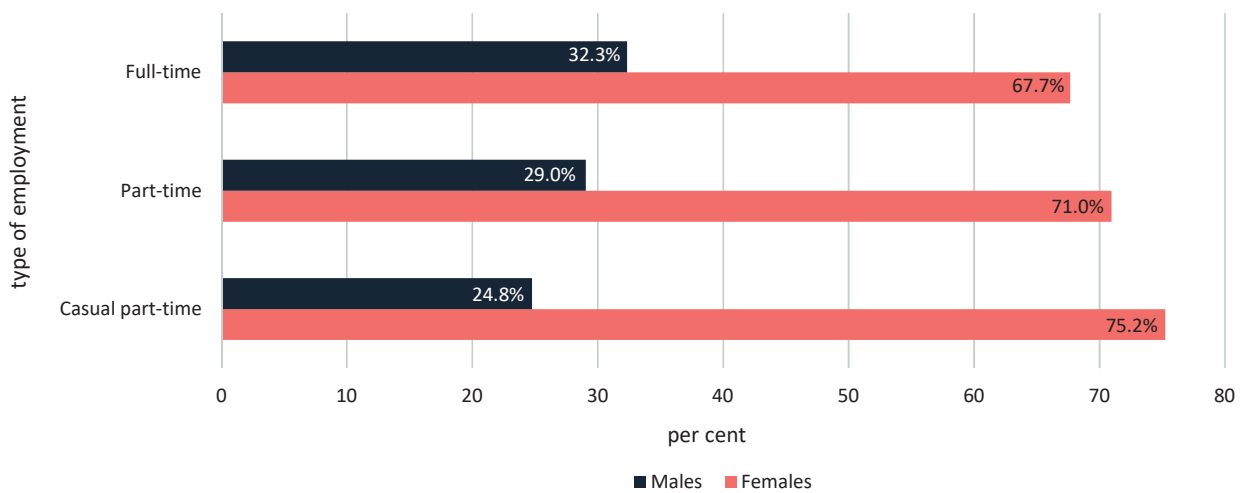
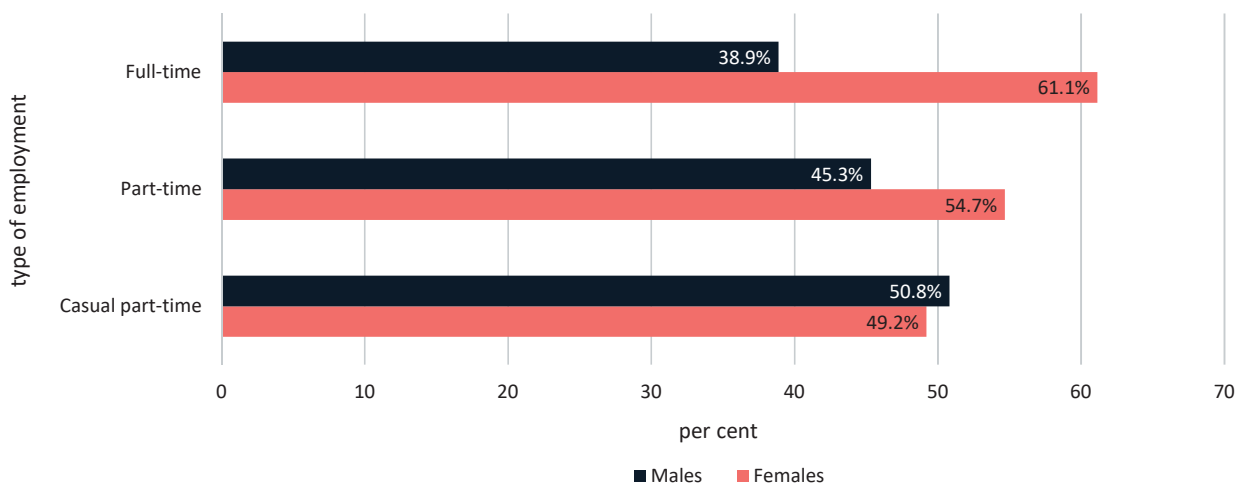


Chart 8. Percentage distribution of non-teaching staff in local licensed ELT schools by sex and type of employment: 2019



Methodological Notes:

1. Data used in this News Release is based on information collected by the Ministry for Education and Employment which was subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. All local licensed English Language Teaching (ELT) schools operating in 2019 responded to this questionnaire.
3. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' citizenship as provided by the student. Thus, figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by the NSO.
4. Only students arriving during the respective reference year are considered in this news release.
5. Persons employed with different schools carrying out the same role are counted once in this news release.
6. Figures on type of course followed and type of accommodation cannot be compared with data of previous years due to methodological enhancements held for the year 2019.
7. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
8. Number of weeks spent by foreign students is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\text{total number of days}}{7}$$
9. Average number of weeks per student is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\text{total number of weeks}}{\text{total number of students}}$$
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx
11. For further assistance send a request form:
<https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>