



# EDUCATION IN MALTA

The Educational Ladder

# MALTESE SCHOOLS

- There are two types of schools in Malta: State and private schools.



- Due to Malta's past as a British colony, Maltese schools naturally draws its main inspiration from the British educational system.
- Exams are introduced to pupils at an early age.
- School uniform are a norm in Malta and each school has a different uniform with unique colours and logos.
- Some schools still enforce a separation between boys and girls while other schools are mixed.

# STATE & PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- State schools are free to all students including transport to and from school, books and other school materials. Parents will, however, need to buy their children's school uniform.
- Church schools belong to the Catholic Church and do not charge school fees, although an annual donation is welcome. Transport, school supplies and uniforms are paid by the parents.
- Private schools are paid for by the parents and they also need to buy school supplies, uniforms and pay for transport.
- There are also four specialist schools for children with learning difficulties. These have specialist teachers as well as equipment and other resources.

# CURRICULUM

- International schools cater to a variety of curricula, mostly following the British curriculum: children study a wide range of subjects and have mid-year and final exams.
- The educational system is structured in four compulsory stages:
  - Kindergarten
  - Primary School
  - Secondary School
  - Sixth Form
- After students finish sixth form and complete their A'Levels they are free to start at the University of Malta.

# KINDERGARTEN

- Children attend kindergarten from the ages 3-4 years.
- Kindergarten is completely free of charge.
- During this period learning is informal, through a lot of games and playing as well as through interaction with other children.

# PRIMARY SCHOOL

- At 5 years old children start **Primary School** which last for 6 years, until they are 10 years old.
- There is a school roughly in each town.
- Until 2010 streaming was practiced during the last two years of Primary School to determine which school the students would move on. However this is no longer practised for more inclusion. \***Streaming** refers to the grouping of students by ability.

# SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Secondary school last for 5 years, 11-16 years of age.
- These schools are larger schools where students from several primary schools join together.
- When completing secondary school, compulsory education is over, however students can opt to sit for their **O-levels** on their own which will help them get into high school and higher education.
- There are 5 compulsory O-levels to pass, English, Maltese, Maths, a science subject and a foreign Language.
- Approximately 60% of Maltese students continue education after completing compulsory studies.

# SIXTH FORM

- As students turn 16 years old they can opt to go to **Sixth Form** which lasts for two years until they are 18 years of age.
- Which school they go to depends on how well they did in their O-level exams
- There are three schools to choose from,
  - **MCAST** (skills school),
  - **Junior College and**
  - **Higher Secondary School** (which is for the students who did less well in their O-level)
- At Sixth Form the students study different topics and are being prepared to sit for their A-levels which is needed to get into University.

# UNIVERSITY

- After students pass their A-levels, (2 A-levels and 4 intermediate) they are free to start at the **University of Malta**.
- Usually students start when they are around 18 years old, and graduate accordingly with how long their courses are.
- The University of Malta is the **highest form of educational institution in Malta**, and it is also the oldest University in Europe being over 400 years old.
- The University of Malta offers undergraduate and post-graduate level degrees and it is entirely financed by the Government.
- Courses of studies last between one and six years, and then the possibility of doing a PhD program.