

NEWSLETTER

MALTA UNIVERSITY HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED

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FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

Mark Farrugia
Part-time Consultant

CEO'S CORNER



How time flies! We are once again in the midst of Summer, without doubt the most important period of the year for our hospitality and language tuition services. Although the nature of the business remains the same and, as in previous years, we continue to strive to produce better results from our traditional services, at the same time we have our eye on the eventual transfer to the new Residence.

Although on paper this move is still two years away, a lot of work has already been done in the past year on layouts and planned network services and how these will meet regulatory requirements. Moreover, we will soon have to start planning for early marketing of the new state-of-the-art scenario especially with regards to the Language School.

Nationality Mix

In the meantime business goes on as usual with the Residence and Hotel Kappara operating at almost full capacity and the language school teeming with foreign students. Apart from the healthy numbers per se the diverse nationality mix is a very important aspect since it means that we are reaching the scope of cultural mix and cross country friendships and networking. Moreover, language school students will benefit more from multicultural classes as they necessarily have to interact in English with people of other nationalities. In this sense the coloured table depicting the 2019 nationality mix at the school in this Newsletter is very telling. Gone are the days of the school depending almost completely on one or two markets.

This Newsletter also gives us an insight into the progress being made in the various EU funded international projects we are participating in and the training courses we have recently delivered and those still forthcoming.

Battle of the Brains (Edition 5)

In a lovely open air setting at Saracino's in Attard on Friday 26th July, 18 teams battled it out in a totally entertaining and enjoyable evening. We had a record attendance, a multitude of sponsors and a very efficient management of the event during the night by Johanna and her team.

I formed part of the Marvel team and we were nicely placed just one point behind the leaders with one round to go. Unfortunately the "Mystery Muffin" test proved a total disaster for our team as we could not make our taste buds agree on the ingredients. We fell away and ended up outside the first three places. I will not look at another muffin for some time. Still, it was fun, and we will certainly be back for more.

Comings and Goings

A fond farewell to Samuel Attard, Audio Technical Officer at Campus FM who after almost six years of sterling service will be pursuing his career elsewhere. Samuel will always be remembered for his professionalism and reliability. He will be missed.

A warm welcome to Eng Mark Farrugia who has joined our Consultancy team on a part-time basis. You can read all about Mark in the Personality Section of this Newsletter. He brings with him a wealth of managerial experience and I am sure he will prove to be a very valid addition to our team.

At the time of writing of this piece we also had the departure of Donald Micallef, Group Financial Controller, after nine years of service to the Group. Whilst thanking Donald for his excellent contribution to the Group's fortunes we wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Personally

I recently had the pleasure of reading the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Although I had already seen the movie, based on the same novel, about 12 years earlier, I was eager to do so again as I was completely captivated by the story. I found it on Youtube Channel and witnessed again a magnificent performance by Javier Bardem in the part of Fiorentino Ariza who experiences love at first sight when he meets Fermina Daza in their teenage years. Due to an unfortunate turn of events mostly brought about by her hostile father it is only 54 years later that an elderly Fiorentino can resume his courtship of the by now widowed Fermina. As the two aged lovers cling to each other there is a realisation that "it is life, more than death, that has no limits".

Some months back I had also read Marquez's other masterpiece "One Hundred Years of Solitude", the story of the rise and fall of the city of Macondo over seven generations of the Buendia family. It is a totally engrossing read and I will recommend it to anyone. This Colombian author adopts an unusual literary style known as ***magic realism*** and is widely acknowledged as one of the foremost South American writers of all time. I am certainly becoming hooked on his writing and will be looking to get my hand on more of his work.

My kids, and their parents, are finally relaxing and enjoying Summer after the stress of exams. They did well. I am also taking a break from football. How strange can this game be! You will remember from my last piece that I had great hope for Leeds United and a dismal outlook for Lazio (my two weaknesses). By a cruel twist of fate at almost exactly the same time (81st minute – both games started at 8.45pm) Lazio scored the first goal in the Coppa Italia final in a 2-0 win over Atalanta, whilst Leeds United were conceding the fourth goal in a 2-4 loss to Derby County in the Play-Off semi finals thus losing on aggregate 3-4 and are now facing another season in the Championship. Over the season Leeds had played some of the most scintillating football ever seen in the Championship and Lazio had laboured immensely and unconvincingly almost all season. But there it is. Do I despair or celebrate? I decided for the latter!

Cheers

Joe



Digital Marketing Training Course

Malta University Consulting organised a Digital Marketing Course during May and June 2019, with 8 sessions held twice a week. This time round the course was accredited at Level 5 (3ECTS) by the NCFHE. The course trainer, Dr. Franco Curmi used a hands-on and practical approach, allowing the attendees to use the methods and tips he was giving with immediate effect. Current methods used for online marketing – including websites, social media, content marketing and others were explored with discussion on their impact and effectiveness in different contexts.

The feedback from the attendees was very positive with the course considered well organised and very informative.

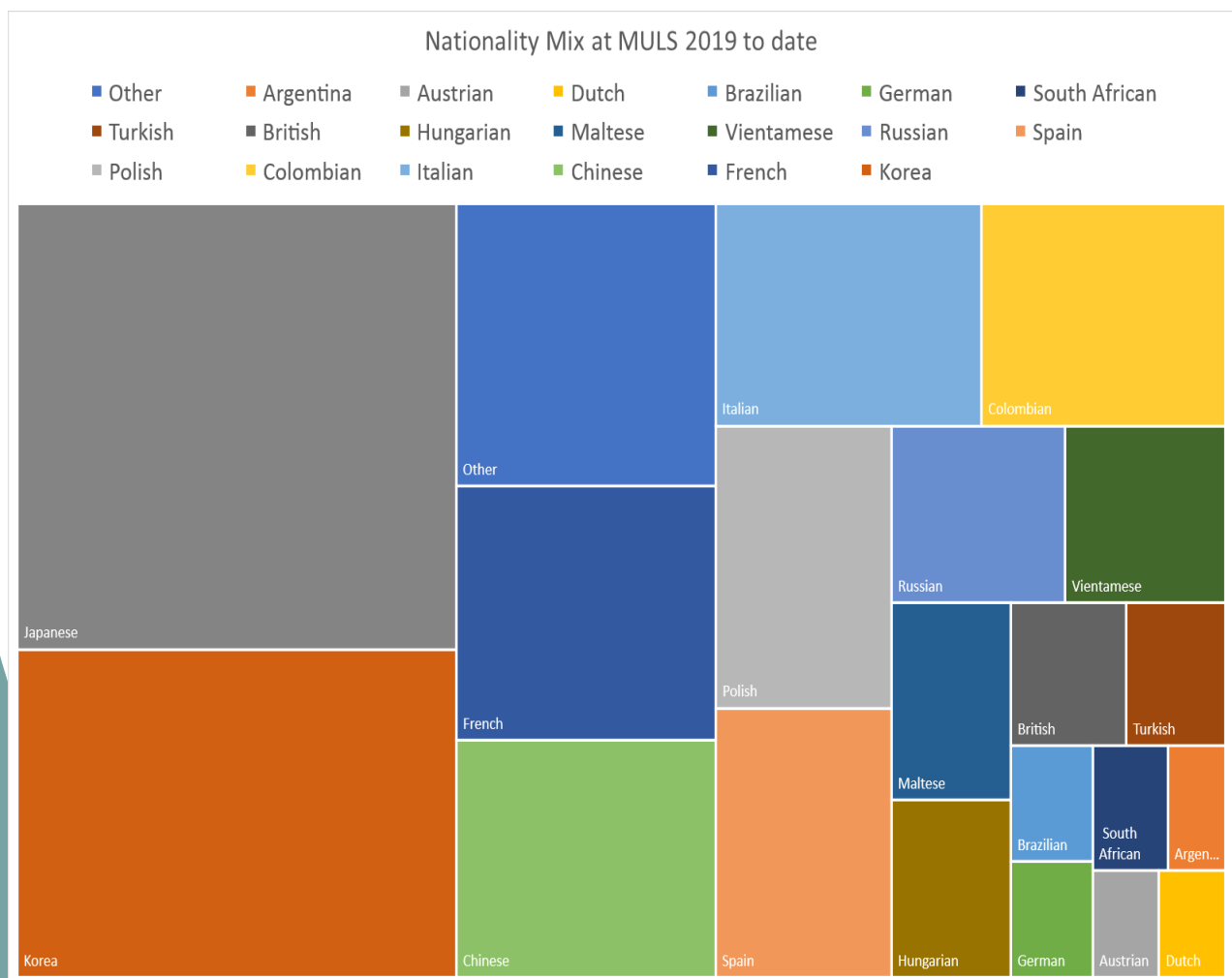
Overall: highly recommended!





Malta University Language School has seen another successful year in 2019 with an increase in individual bookings and a variety of group bookings from international universities. These include students from Colombia, China, Italy, Argentina and Spain, which has added to the rich nationality mix at our school. We are proud to say that several esteemed Universities in Korea and Japan are now sending regular twice-yearly groups to the school and the student numbers in these groups are increasing each year. There have also been groups from colleges in France and the French island of Martinique. The image below shows the nationality mix to date for 2019.

The Teen Summer Programme has also been very popular in 2019 with students visiting from Russia, Italy, Hungary, France, Estonia and Poland.



SME Internationalisation and Export Management Training Course

For the fifth consecutive year, Malta University Consulting in collaboration with TradeMalta has organised a Training Course on 'SME Internationalisation and Export Management' involving a number of academics from the University of Malta and speakers from industry.

The course kicked-off on 23rd January 2019 and nine training sessions were held once a week. On 27th and 29th March participants from each participating entity separately presented Individual Export Marketing Plans. Each presentation was followed by an export clinic from the panel evaluating the presentations. The training course was concluded on 24th April with a Panel Discussion with the participation of three experienced exporters.



The training course was again valued with very positive feedback as evidenced by a large number of encouraging testimonials such as:

"very well organized and informative course"

"Well structured course. Right selection of topics delivered by very knowledgeable lecturers. Thanks for the organiser."

"A practical hands-on training programme that provides very insightful information on those entities seeking to internationalise."

Highly recommended."

"Excellent organization and very engaging discussions. An emphasis is also placed on networking with the fellow students and the speakers. The fellow students are also very motivated. They come from different sectors and like to share their experiences."





MALTA UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING

**Wrestling with God
Literary Encounters with The Divine
from Jacob to T. S. Eliot**



Peter Vassallo

**Journal
of
Anglo-Italian
Studies**

2018

Volume 16



**A Journal published by the
Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies
University of Malta**

General Editor: **Peter Vassallo**
Volume Editor: **Gloria Lauri-Lucente**

**New
Publications**

Volume 27, Number 2, 2018



**Journal of
Mediterranean
Studies**

History, Culture and Society
in the Mediterranean World



Published twice yearly by the
Mediterranean Institute, University of Malta

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www.universitysportsandleisure.com/
shop/books/](https://www.universitysportsandleisure.com/shop/books/)



MALTA UNIVERSITY SPORTS AND LEISURE

Team building events

A number of team building events were held in the warm months before the heat really kicked in. The events proved very successful as all participants seemed to leave with a smile on their faces and feeling motivated and recharged. The photos are from an event held for the Faculty of Health Sciences held in April. We always look forward to these events and we enjoy them probably almost as much as the participants themselves do!



We were very excited to receive new merchandise items and it was decided that a photo shoot would be organised to promote this merchandise further.

We will soon be adding more new items to our range of merchandise – stay tuned!





MALTA UNIVERSITY SPORTS AND LEISURE

WE DON'T FORGET
WHAT YOU MIGHT FORGET

10 DIFFERENT ITEMS AVAILABLE

VENDING MACHINES NOW ON CAMPUS

📍 OLD HUMANITIES (NEAR THE LIFT)
 📍 SPORTS PAVILION (NEAR THE SHOWERS)

New vending machines containing common personal care items have been introduced. There are 2 such machines at Msida Campus and one at the University Residence

Battle of the Brains

26/07/19



**€830 RAISED FOR
RESEARCH IN ALS**



Battle of the Brains – 5th edition

On Friday 26th July, Malta University Sports & Leisure teamed up with Saracino's for the 5th edition of Battle of the Brains, an annual quiz night series which has built quite a reputation for itself.

Battle of the Brains was first set up in 2016 to help support research in ALS through the University of Malta Research, Innovation & Development Trust. There is currently no cure for ALS and this motivates the team to work hard to raise more funds each year.

The team strives to make the quiz bigger and better and it is no surprise that this year's event was once again a record-breaking evening with just over 100 participants teaming up to go head to head in a heated competition of the smartest. What makes Battle of the Brains such a success each year is that it is not your regular quiz night. In fact, the 5th edition saw the addition of the mystery muffin challenge where teams were asked to taste a muffin and decipher the ten ingredients used to make this.

The organisers are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support they received from external companies as well as the general public. It is thanks to these people that the amount of €660 was raised on the night which is being added to €170 recently collected by MUHC staff in lieu of presents, so a total of €830 is being donated to RIDT to help with research in ALS.

One of the enthusiastic organisers, Johanna Galea, said, "What we love about Battle of the Brains is that it combines good times and laughter with raising money for a cause and also with just the right dose of healthy competition. The evening finale was a nerve-wracking tie-breaker round, from which The Lawsters emerged victorious. But thanks to the huge amount of support from our sponsors, few people left empty-handed as we were able to give out some great raffle prizes. As always the biggest victor remains the cause itself and we look forward to holding more of these events to continue providing our support."



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Update on INCOME Tourism Project



[MUHC](#) and [MBB](#) hosted the 4th Steering Committee Partner Meeting in Malta between the 4th-6th June related to the [INCOME](#) Project for which 27 attendees were present from the 13 international partners. Joe Tanti from MBB presented the planned agenda for the 3-day meeting in Malta. He also expressed his enthusiasm to be collaborating with a great consortium. Joe Azzopardi from MUHC gave a welcome speech wherein he expressed his views on the importance of this project.

The 3rd day was dedicated to the World Café – Model Reflection Workshop which brought together over 50 attendees including academics from the 5 participating Universities (including the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture of the University of Malta and company representatives from the Tourism & Hospitality Industry from Germany, Italy, Portugal, Croatia and Malta). Representatives from Malta included [MTA](#), [MHCS Consulting](#) and [Eden Leisure Group](#).





Student Participation at the INCOME Tourism Project

Second year ITTC students were invited to participate in two briefing sessions on the INCOME Tourism project. The first session was held on the 2nd May. This was repeated on the 24th June. The scope of the first session was to highlight the key aspects of the project. In it, Dr. Ing. Alexia Pace Kiomall explained the core objective of the project which is for students to learn soft skills through collaboration between the university and the industry. The next phases of the project were exposed. These consist in:

1. Student selection via an interviewing process involving industry,
2. Participation in the local pilot project from October 2019 to February 2020,
3. Travelling to Ravensburg, Germany, for a week of activities in March 2020, wherein the Maltese students will study and work together with the other students selected from the other participating countries.

Alexia explained that interested students were to show their interest by sending an email to MUHC.

In the second briefing, held on the 24th June, students who had shown interest after the initial session, were given further details on the Pilot and Mobility phases of the project as well as the agreement they needed to enter with MUC. The local companies participating in the project were mentioned. These are:

1. Westin Dragonara Resort (Hotel)
2. Robert Arrigo & Sons Ltd. (Travel Specialists)
3. Grand Hotel Excelsior (Hotel)
4. Eden Leisure Group (Entertainment and Hospitality)
5. MHCS Ltd. (Consultancy, Training, Recruitment and Mystery Guest Services)
6. Malta University Holding Company (Accommodation and Leisure)

An indication was also given on the number of hours students are expected to spend shadowing a manager from the participating companies during the first semester of their third year. The key practical learning areas covered by the project were explained together with the soft skills to be acquired which fall under three pillars: conceptual and creative, leadership and interpersonal. It was explained that these were determined following extensive research. The reports that students had to prepare as part of the project were also mentioned.

The activities planned for the Mobility phase were explained. These will consist of lectures by DHBW staff, a guided tour and two field trips. Students are expected to present their findings on the final day of the Mobility phase. Dr. Pace Kiomall explained also the key points of the agreement that MUC and the students will be signing.

During the sessions the students were encouraged to give feedback on their expectations and concerns to participate in such a project. The feedback received will be shared with the other partners of the project to try to address these concerns.



UPCOMING COURSES



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Become a Better Condominium Administrator

September – October 2019

Time: 5.30pm—7.30pm



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Course for Residential & Day Care Workers

Starting 1st October Time: 5—8pm

Booking
now
open!



Accountancy CPE Seminars -

Business Valuations -

26th Sept 2019



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Introductory Course on Statistics: Data Visualization and Analysis (Using R software) (17.5 hours)

13 November – 11 December 2019

5.30pm—8.00pm

The Baroque Feminine Ideal

Dates: 13th January - 17th February 2020

Time: 18.00 - 20.00 (12 hour course)

Venue: Le Roi Soleil Resource Centre,
Room 307, Faculty for the Built
Environment, UM

Registration Fee: €95



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

Standard Statistical Modelling Techniques Using R (15 hours)

4th—20th February 2020

5.30pm—8.00pm



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

7 Oct—25 Nov

5.30pm—8pm

The Art of Public Speaking



More information on : <http://muhc.com.mt/category/consulting/current-courses/>



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING



Graduates Brenda Agius & Kristina Knezevic proudly showing off their certificates

Residential & Day Care Work course

The Certificate Giving Ceremony for the Residential & Day Care Work Course was held on Monday 17th June 2019 at the University Residence, Lija. Twenty-three students successfully completed this one year intensive course and were awarded the award in Residential & Day Care Work. This course is organized by Malta University Consulting Ltd. in collaboration with the Department of Social Policy & Social Work, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta.



Group photo of the graduates together with Prof Andrew Azzopardi, Dean Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, Mr Joe Azzopardi, Group CEO, Malta University Holding Company, Dr Natalie Kenely, Academic Advisor, Ms Frances Mallia, Course Co-ordinator, & Ms Maria Bugeja, Administrative Co-ordinator, Malta University Consulting Ltd

Portsmouth University

April 2019 – Annual visit by Environmental Science & Marine Environmental Science students from Portsmouth University.



Students ready to leave for a half-day boat trip as part of their marine environmental science programme. Leading the group is Mr Avertano Role, Geography, University of Malta.



MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

The Valletta Design Cluster Stakeholders' Meeting at the UM

Malta University Consulting (MUC) has been commissioned by the Valletta 2018 Foundation (project subsequently taken over by the Valletta Cultural Agency) to provide consultancy services for the Design Action Plan for the Valletta Design Cluster (VDC) for 2020 -2022. These services will lead to the development of the Design Action Plan and a Toolkit for future design policy work for VDC. The Design Action Plan will also serve as the basis for the main areas of activity that the Cluster will engage in during its first two years of operation, starting from January 2020, within the context of the Design4Innovation Project under the Interreg Europe programme of the EU.



As part of the consultation process on 2nd May a meeting was held at the Media and Knowledge Sciences Faculty Boardroom specifically with the UM stakeholders from the academia. The meeting was moderated jointly by Mr Caldon Mercieca, Manager, Valletta Design Cluster (Valletta Cultural Agency) and by Dr Ann Laenen, who is the MUC consultant in this project.



Participants included the Pro-Rector Research & Knowledge Transfer and academics from the Faculties of ICT, Education, Media and Knowledge Sciences, Engineering, Social Wellbeing and the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture.

The meeting presented the participants with the current state of play of the Valletta Design Cluster and of the draft Design Action Plan.

At the beginning of the meeting two definitions of design were presented. A discussion followed on the Design Eco System in Malta. The moderators also presented the Vision, Mission, Objectives and Action Points of the VDC. At the end of the meeting, a discussion ensued on the suggestions and ideas put forward by the participants for the integration in the VDC plan with a view to strengthening the potential future collaborations between the VDC and the UM.

FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

Mark Farrugia



Mark Farrugia is the new part-time Consultant working within the Training & Consultancy unit. He graduated in electrical engineering in 1988. Following his graduation, he started working in the telecommunications industry, first with Telemalta, then with Maltacom and finally with GO.

The first ten years were in operations and maintenance of international networks. The next ten years were in business development. These gave him the opportunity to travel extensively, meet many people from different cultures and backgrounds, and to increase his conviction that humanity would be much better if we all live by the adage of live and let live. During this period Mark read for a Masters in Business Administration which gave him the background needed to change career to one in marketing where he worked for eight years, spending the last two years in the telecoms industry doing internal audits.

After this 30-year span working in telecoms, he decided to take a break and for the first five months of this year worked exclusively on one very important personal project – a complete makeover of his home. This tested to the limit his project management skills. During this period he decided that on returning to work he needed to have a better work-life balance. Thus, when an opportunity arose to work on a part time basis with Malta University Consulting Limited he decided to take the challenge. He mentions that what attracted him to this new role in consultancy work is the fact that although MUC is a relatively small company it has clear objectives and targets of what it wants to achieve. Mark looks forward to contribute to attain these company goals together with his colleagues.

Mark is married to Jane and they have two children – Gabriel, who is graduating in Computer Science this year, and Christine who is nine years old.

His hobbies include travelling and following the main international sporting events, with a special interest in athletics (or track and field for the Americans). In fact he subscribes to *T&FN*, the self-proclaimed “bible of the sport”, and collects books and magazines on the subject.