

## SCHOLARSHIPS IN CLIMATE ACTION OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

### 1. The Purpose and Aim of this Initiative

The Scholarships are being offered as part of the Government of Malta's commitment under the Climate Finance Package to provide support for capacity building in developing States. Whilst capacity building is often associated with infrastructural projects, Malta believes that the formation of professionals within a community is the most essential step in this process of emancipation from an excessive and long-term dependence on external expertise. Consequently, the Government of Malta wishes to provide assistance to developing states on an equally fundamental aspect of capacity building, namely the empowerment of human resources in developing States through funding scholarships for academic learning and research at the post graduate level.

Three scholarships in post graduate studies are being offered for students seeking to enroll in Post-Graduate Studies at the University of Malta commencing in October 2017. Further scholarships will be offered over a span of three consecutive years. Each scholarship will focus on **one** of the three key areas recognized as essential pathways for ensuring effective climate action on a national level. It will also include aspects from the other two remaining pathways as related to focus area to ensure a multidisciplinary approach. These three pathways span across various disciplines and are essential for all States, irrespective of their geophysical realities or economic situation.

These pathways are:

- mitigation of climate change and the development of a low carbon economy,
- identifying risks and vulnerability to adapt to climate change and enhance resilience
- good governance of climate change.

The scholarships would offer students from developing States the opportunity to focus their studies and research according to their national needs and realities. A number of developing states are already exploring methodologies on how to build a better future in view of the impacts of climate change. The formation of young professionals in this field will directly support the growth and consolidation of these home-grown initiatives. The aim of these scholarships donated by the government of Malta will serve to complement other national climate action projects and provide the opportunity to educate academically and train professionally, young people from developing

States on how to manage mitigation, adaptation and governance of climate change. The scholarships will help to:

- address skills mismatches and gaps in local expertise
- empower local communities to build a tailor-made knowledge base
- identify the appropriate tools and options for the local scenario to address and adapt to climate change
- provide a powerful medium for the formation of a sense of national identity, economic stability and community regeneration.

## **2. Malta's Role in Promoting Climate Action**

Malta has always been on the forefront in advocating climate action. It was Malta that requested the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to discuss climate change at the highest international political level in 1988. At the same Assembly, Malta had, together with a group of like-minded States, piloted the formulation of the legendary Resolution UNGA 43/53 declaring Climate Change as a Common Concern of Humankind. The said Resolution was adopted unanimously at UNGA's 43rd session. It paved the way for the setting up of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change and eventually the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that drafted the UNFCCC. This legacy is proudly engrained in the history of our nation, as one of most salient contributions Malta has made to the International community of States and future generations.

Malta's initiative on climate change in 1988 was based on its conviction that the International community needed to address the warnings on human-induced climate change by the scientific and academic community. The government of Malta's decision to raise the political profile of the threat of climate change happened because of its close collaboration with the academics of the University of Malta.

Malta believed then, that our nation, despite its minute size, has to transform the circumstances that may work against us as leverage to build up our resilience against this threat facing humankind. Malta took action by primarily investing in the capacity of its human resources, who in turn influenced policy making for climate action. It was this investment in academic achievement that guided government in making the requisite infrastructural changes to address mitigation of and adaptation to climate change as well to set up the institutional networks required to facilitate good governance of climate action. Malta has had to overcome significant challenges to meet its greenhouse gas objectives, but we remain committed to forge ahead and to identify any possible

opportunities that aim for further reductions. Like other EU Member States we have experienced the decoupling of economic and emissions growth. Since 1990 to date, our GDP has grown by 260%, yet our GHG emissions per unit GDP have decreased by 55%.

Fifty years after achieving independence, Malta's role as a nation within the International community of States depends on what kind of "added-value" it can give to other States in this new geopolitical world order of the twenty first century. The aim of these scholarships is fulfill this vision by outreaching developing States and assist in empowering them in achieving an academic and hence professional knowledge base that would render beneficiaries of these scholarships, leaders in their own countries to promote climate action. The scholarship scheme will directly support the successful and sustainable delivery of these goals through capacity-building at a local level, in order to help develop a professional workforce on the ground that is capable of developing and maintaining an indigenous capacity building in climate action. Malta firmly believes that the specialised formation of professionals from developing States in these sectors is an investment in the future of these countries States that will assist them to achieve a more sustainable and better quality of life for their citizens.

### **3. Why Study in Malta?**

Malta is an ideal meeting point for the realization of this goal, not only because of the relevant academic expertise it has acquired in these sectors, but also because its size and other geophysical conditions render it a living laboratory. Although it is an Annex I Party under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Malta is not a major net emitter yet it is likely to be amongst the most vulnerable States that will be effected by climate change. Malta has taken salient preventive and precautionary measures to address this challenge by adopting policy and legal measures that promote a low carbon economy. It is steadily working to enhance resilience to the effects of climate change. It has a robust legal and policy framework that facilitate intersectoral governance of climate action. Malta has committed itself to ambitious climate action whilst continuing to develop its economy. Malta has in fact been successful in decoupling economic growth from its consumption of fossil fuels. It has managed to increase its GDP to 260% whilst decreasing its green house gas emissions by 55% since 1990 levels.

#### **4. The Role of the University of Malta in Climate Action**

The academics of the University of Malta have played a vital role in guiding the government of Malta to adopt the necessary measures for climate action. The University of Malta has acquired a wealth of experience in identifying policy, legal, administrative and institutional capacity building measures that serve to fulfill Malta's obligations in climate action as a small island nation in the Mediterranean and as a member of the European Union. On the one hand Malta's Mediterranean dimension highlights its need to address climate change urgently so as to ensure resilience in one of the zones predicted to be worst effected by climate change. On the other hand, as a member State of the European Union, Malta has implemented inter disciplinary climate action measures that form part of the most developed and researched regime on the subject.

## **5. The Scholarships**

### **5.1. Scholarship in Post Graduate Studies to study Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change**

#### **5.1.1. Background**

The international community's endeavours to address climate change include adapting to its effects. Adaptation entails reducing the local risks of climate change by identifying national vulnerabilities in order to secure resilience. In this manner, climate action that promotes resilience would enhance both the sustainable use of natural resources and national, regional as well as global peace and security. Resilience to climate change depends upon the empowerment of local communities with the infrastructure, skills and tools to manage their own natural resources. Furthermore, sustainable management includes the development of conservation and management techniques that are suited to local materials, traditions and skills, in order to ensure that they may be replicated and sustained with the least possible dependence on externally-devised solutions.

There are a number of distinct similarities between Malta and developing states requirements in addressing adaptation to climate change. For this reason the training and expertise offered by the University of Malta is highly relevant to the developing states' context. These common characteristics should also facilitate the creation of long-term synergies between the University of Malta and other universities in developing states.

#### **5.1.2. The Scholarship Proposal and Eligibility Details.**

**Master of Science by research – Faculty for the Built Environment**

**Proposed Title: Adapting and Building Resilience to Climate Change: Sustainable Water Management**

**Supervisors: Kevin Gatt**

#### **5.1.3. Brief Description**

The MSc by research programme is a three-semester full-time research programme comprising a taught study-unit to which 5 ECTS credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 85 ECTS credits are assigned. The taught study-unit will be chosen in consultation with the Faculty, to be relevant and complementary to the dissertation research.

Students may submit a research proposal in one or more of the following

1. The water and agriculture nexus under the influence of climate change
2. Building resilience to counteract water scarcity
3. Building the necessary capacity in water resources for good governance
4. Enhancing the adaptive capacity of river basins for sustainable water resources management
5. Developing water policy frameworks for developing regions

A more detailed description of the course structure may be viewed at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/ben/overview/PRMSCBENFTRO-2016-7-0>

The detailed course bye-laws may be viewed at:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/99805/MSc-BuiltEnv-BL-2010.pdf](http://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/99805/MSc-BuiltEnv-BL-2010.pdf)

#### **5.1.4. Admission Requirements**

The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree classified at least at Second Class Honours or Category II, in Built Environment, Civil or Mechanical Engineering, Water Studies, Sustainable Infrastructure, or related disciplines

Applicants are required to present an internationally recognized English Language proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information is available at:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements)

#### **5.1.5. Ideal Student Profile**

The ideal applicant, besides holding a first degree in Built Environment, Civil or Mechanical Engineering, Water Studies, Sustainable Infrastructure, or related disciplines would ideally have experience in the management or governance of water resources in his country

## **5.2. Scholarship in Post Graduate Studies to Develop a Low Carbon Economy**

### **5.2.1. Background**

As a member of the European Union, Malta is proud to be a legally committed at a multilateral, European and domestic level to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to mitigate climate change. Malta's determination to switch to a low carbon economy is characterised by a vision, based on the long-term, socio-economic, and environmental benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Academic studies to promote a low carbon economy however are not limited to energy generation issues alone. They must provide also a holistic perspective taking into account other sources of greenhouse gases from a variety of sectors such as transport, land use, agriculture, waste generation and industrial processes. National action plans and strategies to increase energy efficiency, particularly from an end-use perspective, and to promote renewable energy sources are an essential policy making tool without which States risk making the wrong choices and adopting fragmented and piecemeal approaches that are neither holistic nor cost effective.

### **5.2.2. The Scholarship Proposal and Eligibility Details**

**Master of Science by Research – Institute for Sustainable Energy**

**Title of the Proposal:** Decarbonising the energy mix while meeting development goals: A road map for XXX (the student's home country/region).

**Supervisors:** Prof. Manfred Weissenbacher

### **5.2.3. Brief Description:**

The student is to acquire a skill set that she or he can apply in their home country to make a real difference with respect to climate change mitigation, and without the need for equipment that may not be available upon return to the home country. The student will gain an understanding of the role that access to energy services plays for development and learn how the existing or targeted energy needs could be achieved through renewable and least-carbon-intensive energy regimes. The study will thus take its starting point at current regional or national situation, take expected economic and population growth into account, and test scenarios how future energy demand can be met as cost-effectively as possible, while minimizing the region's carbon footprint. The student will learn how to assess the potential of all relevant renewable energy sources from accessible data bases and how to proceed by relating to existing data in case exact data is missing for the region. The student will be

introduced to relevant software packages and use them to relate the studied region's renewable energy potential to the prevalent or expected energy demand by modelling the energy mix that provides for adequate energy security while keeping costs and energy-related greenhouse gas emissions at a minimum. At the end of the study the student will be able to adequately communicate with policy makers; explain and interpret the study's result and recommendations; point out which data would have to be acquired in better quality to improve the accuracy of the model results; and to adjust the study whenever circumstances should change in the future or a different region is to be investigated.

A detailed description of the course structure may be viewed at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/ise/overview/PMSCSSEFTT6-2016-7-0>

The detailed course bye-laws may be viewed at:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/191034/MSc-Sustainable-Energy-BL-2013.pdf](http://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/191034/MSc-Sustainable-Energy-BL-2013.pdf)

#### **5.2.4. Admission Requirements:**

The applicant shall be in possession of a first cycle degree with at least Second Class (Honours) in a discipline related to the proposed research, with a minimum of 240 ECTS credits, obtained in the ten years previous to registration for the Course.

Applicants are required to present an internationally recognised English Language proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information is available at:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements).

#### **5.2.5. Ideal Student Profile:**

The ideal applicant would show a strong interest in both technological aspects as well as economic, policy or development issues. Such candidate would likely have combined a first degree in science or engineering with work experience that requires analytical as well as communication skills and provided exposure to societal or economic topics that have familiarised the applicant with such key concepts as per capita GDP, economic growth, the Human Development Index, etc. Alternatively, an ideal applicant, while holding a first degree in policy, economics, or developmental studies, would have exhibited a keen interest in technology issues, demonstrated in relevant work experience that requires strong analytical skills. Positions that meet criteria described above could be found in the



public sector (in ministries, for instance), as well as NGOs and the private sector, where an engineer might be tasked with the evaluation of a target market and its growth potential, for instance.

### **5.3. Scholarship in Post Graduate Studies on Good Governance of Climate Action**

#### **5.3.1. Background**

The implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures referred to above cannot function well unless there is the required institutional capacity to promote sound policy making and adequate regulatory instruments. As climate action is essentially multidisciplinary, it requires coherence and mainstreaming across the board particularly within the public sector. National authorities should set in place the required institutional networking with a clear delineation of roles to ensure fair and equitable effort sharing for climate action in all sectors, the formulation of adequate regulatory instruments, streamlining administrative practices to ensure that private sector's involvement is not overburdened by unnecessary bureaucracy. Good governance aims to ensure that all sectors will be under pinned to set up:

- the required institutional capacity to monitor, review and verify green house gas emission reduction targets
- assess resilience according to national risks and vulnerabilities to formulate adequate adaptation measures,
- secure better implementation for climate action measures and ensure the necessary forward planning
- identify niche opportunities for business investment to counter climate action

#### **5.3.2. The Scholarship Proposal and Eligibility Details**

**Master of Science by Research - Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (ICCSA),**

**Proposed Title:** Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Climate Change Adaptation

**Principal Supervisor/s:** Professor Simone Borg

#### **5.3.3. Brief Description of Research Project**

Climate change has been one of the most dominant and contentious political issues over these last two decades. Assailed by skepticism on one side and hailed as the most serious threat facing humankind on the other side, the climate debate has generated a wealth of scientific research, landmark economic studies like the 2007 Stern Review as well as complex legal instruments both at the national and global level. As policy makers strive to understand the socio-economic implications of predicted scenarios, politicians are caught between the polarised views of skeptical or overly

concerned stakeholders who either accuse them of creating unnecessary burdens or of being too passive in dealing with human-induced climate change. Thankfully, there is a more plausible approach to climate politics, appropriately termed as “climate action”. Some governments have made the effort to push for climate governance from a holistic and realistic perspective that is not limited solely to environmental issues.

Climate action is linked first and foremost to low carbon development, sustainable resource management, capacity building opportunities and other aspects that strike at the very resilience and competitiveness of States in today's world. Decoupling economic growth from the increase in fossil fuel energy generation as part of a climate change mitigation strategy bears many advantages. Similarly, adapting to the predicted effects of climate change involves implementing sustainable natural resource management that is deemed already essential in present times. Furthermore, adaptation to climate change according to the different scenarios presented by the scientific experts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), is essentially a good governance exercise, which carries out risk and vulnerability assessments in order to ensure sustainable development, preparedness and therefore enhance resilience as well as present innovative, niche opportunities. Within this context, many governments have embarked on devising strategies and action plans to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nevertheless holistic governance of climate action and its linkages with sustainable development remains an area of research that is largely unexplored.

Good governance in this respect includes an assessment of the required institutional and legal framework to support mitigation and adaptation policy measures. This MSc by Research involves a horizontal as well as a sectoral assessment. Whilst the horizontal assessment would aim mainly at enhancing the interdisciplinary nature of an institutional set up to facilitate coherent governance and enhance civilian information, participation and right of review; the sectoral assessment undertakes a painstaking exercise to identify whether existing legislation governing resource management is lacking in securing resilience and sustainability and which amendments need to be adopted to facilitate adaptation.

The research would aim to identify how if endowed with the appropriate legal and institutional framework, climate change measures would also serve to identify the intrinsic value of natural resources and the vital role they play in the wealth, resilience, competitiveness and general well-being of States.

A more detailed description of the course structure may be viewed at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/iccsd/overview/PMSCSSDFERO-2016-7-O>

The detailed course bye-laws may be viewed at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/regulations/faculties/isd/msc-su-dev-bl-2010>

### **Admission Requirements**

The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a first cycle degree in a discipline related to Sustainable Development or in any other area of study which the Board considers as appropriate, obtained in the ten years previous to registration for the Course. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate competence in those skills required by the nature of the proposed research via an extended interview and the submission of appropriate documentation, provided that where deficiencies are identified applicants shall be required to take specific study-units intended to compensate for the deficit.

Applicants are required to present an internationally recognized English Language proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information is available at:

[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements)

### **Ideal Student Profile**

Applicants would ideally have experience in policy making and public sector management.

## 6. Funding for the Scholarship

Funding will cover

- Payment of the University of Malta Tuition Fees and/or Enrolment fee.
- Health Insurance to cover a premium up to a maximum of EUR 500 per year. Students will be guided on this and other arrangements upon arrival.
- Reimbursement for visa expenses amounting to 60 eur.
- A monthly subsistence allowance amounting to EUR 750 per month to be used towards accommodation, living, transport, academic expenses and any other expenses that may arise. Students will receive this monthly allowance for a maximum and continued duration of 16 months. The study programme must be completed on a full-time basis within the same time-frame.
- One return journey to the home country the cost of which is capped at 1000 euro. Any additional trips or travel costs higher than this amount will have to be covered by the student.

The scholarship holders will be requested to attend the Orientation Programme that is organised for all new international students joining the University of Malta. This will be held towards the end of September 2017.

## 7. Instructions to Applicants and Conditions of Selection

- In order to be considered eligible, applicants should be Nationals and current residents of one of the countries indicated in the following list:  
[http://unfccc.int/parties\\_and\\_observers/parties/non\\_annex\\_i/items/2833.php](http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/non_annex_i/items/2833.php)
- Applications should demonstrate a clear intention of returning to their home country at the end of their studies in Malta.
- Applicants need to have submitted their application online and provided copies of their academic qualifications and all other requested documentation to the University of Malta by the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Information is available at:  
<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/prospective/admissions>

- Applicants are requested to pay the application fee to the University of Malta in order for their application to be considered. The application fee is non-refundable. Details concerning the applicable fees are available at:  
<http://www.um.edu.mt/registrar/prospective/admissions>
- Applicants who wish to be considered for the scholarship are required to present a letter of motivation and three letters of reference. These are to be submitted as signed and scanned copies to the Director, International and EU office by email at: [stefania.agius-fabri@um.edu.mt](mailto:stefania.agius-fabri@um.edu.mt). The covering message is to include reference to the application code generated by the online application and should also be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Documents that are submitted after the deadline cannot be considered.
- Applicants for the above mentioned courses who intend to apply for the scholarship must meet the entry requirements set out by the University of Malta and the conditions for joining the specific programmes indicated above at the time of application.
- Applicants who are not yet in possession of an internationally recognized English Language proficiency certificate at the required level by the deadline for applications need to show proof that they have registered for an exam that will take place by the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Information concerning English language requirements is available at:  
[http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english\\_language\\_requirements](http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international/english_language_requirements)
- Applicants may be required to attend an online interview
- Applicants for other courses will not be considered for these scholarships. Students who are accepted for the scholarship will not be allowed to shift their research to a different area of study other than that specified in the current call.
- The scholarship holders will be requested to enter into an agreement with the University of Malta for the duration of their studies in Malta. The agreement will be binding in terms of the observation of rules and regulations of the host University and host country, to seriously engage in studies, register monthly progress with their academic tutor/coordinator and complete the set programme within the established time-frame.

**Further information is available through:**

The Director, International and EU Office, University of Malta – Ms Stefania Fabri: [stefania.agius-fabri@um.edu.mt](mailto:stefania.agius-fabri@um.edu.mt)

## APPENDIX

### More Information on the University of Malta

The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in Malta. It is publicly funded and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Over the past few years, the University has reviewed its structures in order to be in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area. Conscious of its public role, the University strives to create courses which are relevant and timely in response to the needs of the country. The supreme governing bodies of the University are the Council and the Senate. The present structure of the University was established by the 1988 Education Act.

There are some 11,000 students following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, all of which run on the modular / ECTS credit system.

The University is geared towards the infrastructural and industrial needs of the country so as to provide expertise in crucial fields. Over 3,000 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general.

The G.F. Abela Junior College situated in Msida is also part of the University of Malta. Close to 3,000 students follow a two-year course at the College leading to Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations which are pre-requisites for eventual admission to undergraduate programmes.

The University today has fourteen faculties: Arts; Built Environment; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Health Sciences; Information & Communication Technology; Laws; Media & Knowledge Sciences; Medicine & Surgery; Science; Social Wellbeing and Theology.

A number of interdisciplinary Institutes and Centres have been set up in various fields. The institutes include Aerospace Technologies; Anglo-Italian Studies; Baroque Studies; Climate Change & Sustainable Development; Confucius; Digital Games; Earth Systems; the Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking; European Studies; Islands & Small States; Linguistics; Maltese Studies; Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies; Mediterranean Institute; Physical Education & Sport; Space Sciences & Astronomy; Sustainable Energy; Tourism, Travel & Culture.

The centres comprise: Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics; Centre for English Language Proficiency; Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation; Centre for Environmental Education and Research; Centre for Labour Studies; Centre for the Liberal Arts & Sciences; Centre for Literacy; Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking; Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health; Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine; and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research.

The University of Malta has also set up a School of Performing Arts and an International School for Foundation Studies

The campus is home to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).

### **The University of Malta as a host for international students**

Lying at the cross-roads of the Mediterranean, the University of Malta has, over its 400-year history been the hub for international academic exchange on the island. This legacy has been carried on to the present day as the University hosts close to one thousand international students from 86 different countries, active collaborations with universities in Europe, Asia, the United States, Africa and Australia and a host of international visitors, experts and external examiners from different parts of the globe which have turned the University into an international campus which celebrates the diversity and cultural richness of all those who frequent it. With English as its language of instruction and wide-ranging support services to meet the needs of its local and international community, the University consistently seeks to embark on projects and initiatives in order to continue boosting its international student figures and extending its network to new partners in order to create sustainable collaborations in diverse fields of interest.

The University of Malta currently hosts over 11,000 students, of which 10% are international students from 98 different countries, following courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. For the academic year 2014/5, the University hosted 550 students on Erasmus (European) and other exchange programmes with the US, Japan, Australia, Canada and China whilst another 820 international students are currently reading for a full degree.

The principal contact point for prospective and registered international students/visitors is the International and EU Office: <http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/international>