




UM

Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences
maksnews

L-Università ta' Malta

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An illustration by first year Bachelor of Fine Arts student Eleni Argyrea

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Department of Corporate Communications

New executive MA in Digital Marketing Communications

The Department of Corporate Communication is updating its original MA in Integrated Marketing Communications, which had previously been offered by the Faculty of MAKs and its predecessor CCT, for some 15 years. The objective is to address significant developments, opportunities and challenges in digital and social media marketing.



Applicants to masters courses may be less inclined to attend full-time courses because of work-related and other commitments. The new course introduces an unprecedented level of convenience to potential applicants since the executive format over eighteen months, requires only three full days of attendance, every month.

Course study-units will be delivered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta. Should it be necessary, this format will enable applicants to cover their attendance from their own annual leave entitlement, without having to ask their respective employers for special concessions. Potential applicants can now complete a degree on their own schedule, while observing family and work commitments.

Course content was developed after consulting senior officials at Malta Enterprise and following several intense meetings with senior

management, at some of the leading online gambling firms, in Malta. These meetings spanned over several months and both Prof. Albert Caruana and Prof. Saviour Chircop were instrumental in concluding these meetings successfully.

While the course is particularly suited for those interested in the online gambling industry, it is also relevant to most firms seeking a digital presence. In fact, course content is not exclusively theoretically oriented, but includes an applied element which is further reinforced by various contributions from industry, who agreed to provide input including guest speakers, for some of the study units.

This practical nature of the course is further reflected in three-month placements within the online gambling industry, which will be finalized in the coming months.

Applicants who for any reason would be unable to secure a placement, may be required to do a supervised project.

Department of Library Information & Archive Studies

A new way forward for the information professions in Malta

Information is a human right. How information is created, shared, communicated, selected or preserved is shaping and reshaping our societies, at the local and global level. Information is the core of most professions and it is the basis of public and private institutions and individuals' lives. How to manage information and provide proper access to knowledge in the actual changing scenario is the most pressing challenge and it is professionally required on a daily basis. Professionals in these fields, like archivists, librarians, curators, are rediscussing their role and responsibilities and the blurred boundaries of the information professions today. As part of this community and members of the Department of Library Information & Archive Sciences, we play an active role in this scenario and decided to improve our contribution.

Operating in Malta since 1992, the Department has played an essential role to train archivists and librarians on the island for 30 years. As our main responsibility, during the last academic year 2020-2021 we joined forces between resident academics and visiting staff for a full reorganisation of the academic offerings. Initially mainly focused on the professional training of librarians at the diploma level, the courses now offered have embraced technological innovation and encapsulate an extensive range of information-related work to additionally include archive and records management, knowledge management, and related studies leading to the formation of well-rounded information professionals.

The currently evolving international requirements of the information professions have been the guiding principles of the Department's reform. At the same time, our goal was also to meet the national and local needs of archives, libraries and other holding institutions of the Maltese archipelago. These changes are in line with fulfilling our duties as professionals and members of the community to create awareness, support professional recognition and shape national requirements. Meetings, discussions and work in the field with the national stakeholders have been done for a better understanding of challenges, issues and gaps in the sector and to provide new opportunities. Indeed, on an individual basis, the new courses and specializations allow freshers to become part of the information sector and professionals to improve their knowledge and career status.

Programmes are now also offered as bachelor's, master's, and doctoral level degrees. Primarily based on library and information science, the Bachelor in Knowledge and Information Management has been restructured to include more disciplines related to archival science and records management and to offer a solid overview on concepts, theories, and best practices for archivists, librarians, holding institutions and the whole information sector. As a 3-years full-time course, it is offered both as a honours degree or jointly with a subsidiary area.

Two brand-new masters were created to provide specialised training in these sectors: the Master of Arts in Archives and Records Management and the



Master of Arts in Library and Information Management. Designed as two-year part-time evening courses, each one of our masters is structured in a first year including compulsory courses and a second year to be chosen between Stream A (respectively, Information Governance and Library and Information Management) and Stream B (Ecclesiastical and Historical Archives and Rare Books and Manuscripts). This formula allows students to gain knowledge about all the main concepts, theories and practices in the field and, at the same time, specialise in a particular area. The courses include both theoretical knowledge and practical experience (labs, site-visits, workshops...) and offer both the traditional and digital approaches to the disciplines. In line with the mission of our University, the Department fosters research in the field and encourages multidisciplinary collaborations. As part of the academic programme, a Master by Research and a doctoral degree are also offered.

DLIAS students can work in the diverse information professions in an evolving labour market that ranges from the traditional to the digital domains. Our students are now well-positioned to provide expert knowledge, analysis, and insight for organizations aiming to maximise their information assets and potentials and to preserve and share the huge archival and library patrimony of the Maltese Archipelago.

DLIAS resident academics

- Dr Charles Farrugia, HoD
- Prof William Zammit
- Dr Marc Kosciejew
- Dr Valeria Vanesio

Department of Information Policy & Governance

Judicial Co-operation, Researching Migration, Introductory Course on Big Data, and 2 new ERASMUS Projects aimed at developing training programmes

During autumn 2021, the Department of Information Policy & Governance (IPG) won two new ERASMUS Projects (PREVEX and DOMINOES). In November 2021, IPG conducted a training session for legal practitioners as part of the EU-funded JP-COOPS project. In December, the Department organised a conference for the EU-funded MIRROR project, titled "Migration in Focus: Addressing Informational Challenges in Humanitarian Actions". In January 2022, IPG launched an introductory course on big data analytics.

IPG has been deeply involved with training students and practitioners on issues relating to technology and security. As experience has shown, this needs intensive work to create a research-based curriculum for our trainees as well as an extensive process of collaboration with partners from across the European Union and beyond. In addition, we have also kept a finger on the pulse of students and practitioners that gives us an insight into their specific training needs. This allows us to focus on projects with research and collaboration as priorities for our primary areas of interest (migration, security, privacy, data protection, technology policy & governance). We're glad to report about events for three of our existing projects and an addition of two projects to our portfolio.

Judicial Co-operation and radicalisation

On Friday 26th November, IPG conducted a full-day in-person training course for 20 Judges and Magistrates together with 7 lawyers from the Attorney General's Office and the State Advocate's Office. The course was conducted by Prof Joe Cannataci and Dr. Aitana Radu. Prof Cannataci led the sessions on Legal Aspects of Preventing Radicalization and cross-border Cooperation with particular emphasis on the European Arrest Warrant and the European Investigative Order. Dr. Aitana Radu led the session on Radicalisation as a Relational Phenomenon and Radicalization in Prison. The course was offered in the context of the EU-funded JP-COOPS project <https://jpcoopsproject.eu/> co-ordinated by IPG and the PRE-RIGHTS project <https://www.pre-rights.eu/>. The next session in this course will be open to over 60 participants from the Maltese Judiciary and AG/State Advocate' and will be conducted on-line on Monday 20th December.

Migration – an issue that hits close to home here in Malta

In our effort to tackle issues of great relevance to Malta, IPG has been involved with the EU-funded MIRROR Project (Migration-Related Risks Caused by

Misconceptions of Opportunities and Requirement) <https://h2020mirror.eu/> since 2019. Building on three years of research and development to reach out and collaborate with NGOs and academics from across the EU, a conference, entitled "Migration in Focus: Addressing Informational Challenges in Humanitarian Actions", was held on 15th-16th December 2021. A hybrid event held in the historic Fort St. Elmo in Valletta, it sought to act as an interactive platform fostering debate on the most challenging and novel issues in the field of migration. The main focus of the conference was identifying novel ways to fill "informational gaps" in formulating and deploying policies and humanitarian responses targeting migrants. **The 2-day event had an interactive structure comprising several panels, roundtables and technology demonstrations. It brought together stakeholders from the academic world, policy-makers, civil society and international organisations working in the field of migration.**

Big data analytics for students and staff at UM

In keeping with the theme of research and collaboration, the IPG Department also recently sent out a call for participation for an introductory course on big data analytics as part of the THESEUS project. For this particular project, we were in partnership with "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence University Romania, Scoala Națională de Studii Politice și Administrative (SNSPA) Romania, and Norway Technological University (NTNU). We recruited participants for a one week intensive, online course to enhance critical competencies and skills in big data understanding, organisation and analysis. This introductory course was designed at the intersection of security and social studies, on the one hand, and data science, on the other. Hence, it aimed to prepare participants in social and security studies to learn new concepts from multiple disciplines. It also helps them understand what it means to apply technological tools in processing and analysing complex data. While this was a course jointly developed by experts and practitioners across



the EU, it was aimed at undergraduates, graduates and professionals from any discipline. The purpose of this course was to help students understand the working principles and processes of big data so as to develop adaptive models of action, employing (not necessarily) big data, but the right (amount of) data, information and knowledge. This allows students to develop the ability to extract useful knowledge from data. Ultimately, students got a taste of what it means to analyse data and have the ability to pursue it further through advanced courses. The course was held in two successive iterations: January 10-14, 2022 and January 24-28, 2022.

Creating training programmes on sexual violence and fake news

Finally, focusing more on research and teaching, the Department is excited to announce two new ERASMUS projects – the PREVEX project and the DOMINOES project.

The PREVEX project tackles a major societal issue – that of the violent, criminal and social dimensions of sexual deviance. The department has partnered with academic and non-academic institutions from France, Italy, Portugal, Austria and Spain to develop a coherent training plan that creates new skills related to sexist and sexual violence prevention among teenagers. Furthermore, we will work with our

partner universities to look at the educational aspects and impacts of such training when it is adapted to academic situations. In concrete terms, the project will lead to training programmes for professionals in higher education that will allow them to detect and anticipate acts of sexual violence among peers or sexual harassment within universities. The project commenced in December and will last for 28 months (till March 2024).

The second project, DOMINOES, addresses yet another societal challenge, namely fake news and online disinformation. The IPG Department will collaborate in this project with academic partners from Romania and Spain. The project involves the training of staff and students in advanced digital skills that will be useful in detecting and countering propaganda, fake news and information manipulation. This will hopefully counteract social polarisation, extremism and discrimination in society. We also aim to use this project to create a network of experts across Romania, Malta and Spain, which would be able to detect and prevent propaganda and disinformation. This network will also help advance expertise and interact with the public to transfer the know-how in this field. The project commenced in January 2022 and is scheduled to last for 24 months (until the end of 2023).

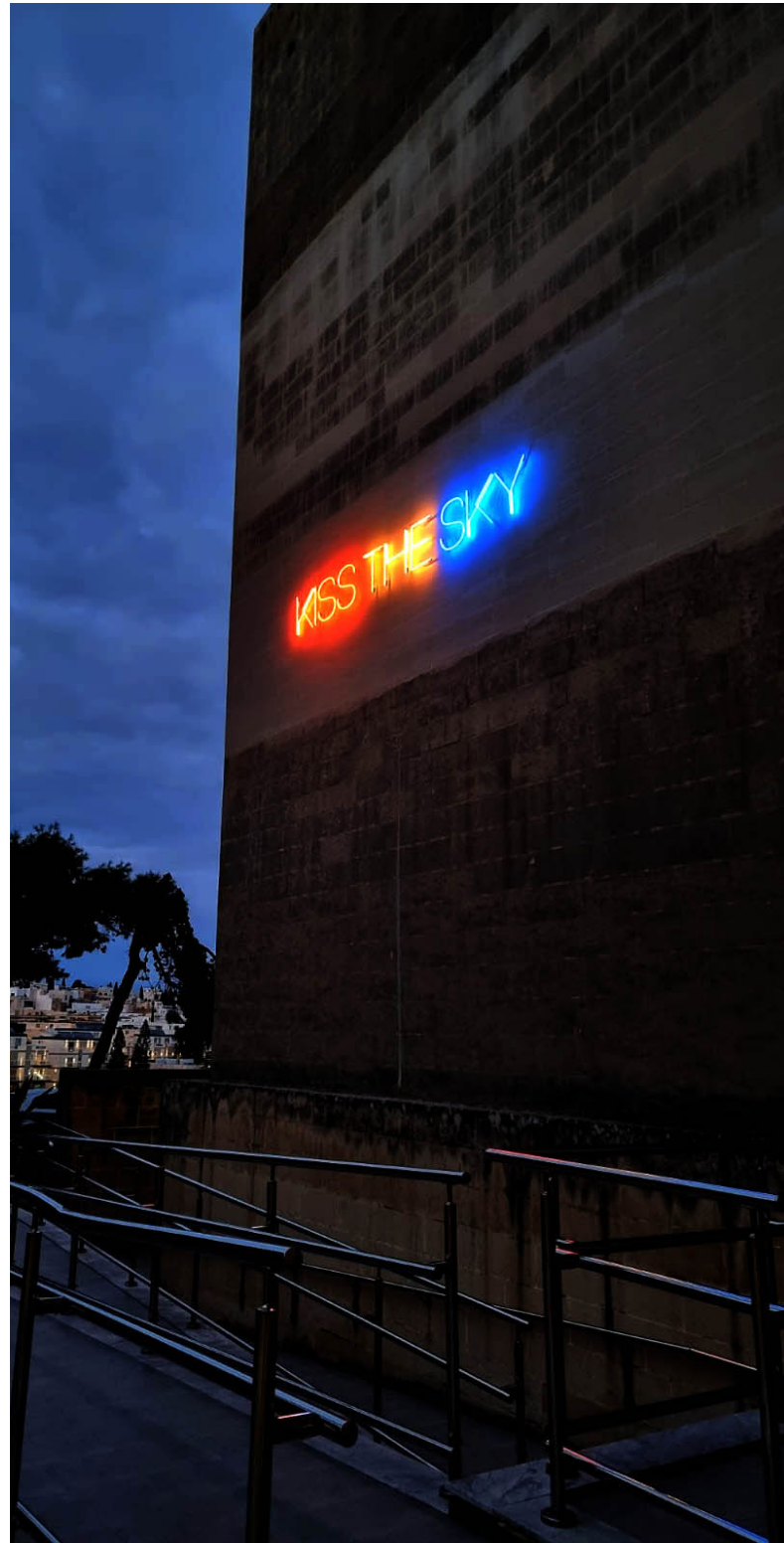
Faculty News

Neon Sculpture Donation to the Faculty

To commemorate ten years since its foundation, the Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences (MAKS) has installed the KISS THE SKY neon sculpture on the outside of its building. The sculpture was donated by its creator Professor Vince Briffa, an academic in the Department of Digital Arts in MAKS.

The work references the legendary Jimi Hendrix's quote from Purple Haze, "Excuse me while I kiss the sky". It was originally commissioned by the open air performance space Pjazza Teatru Rjal as a temporary sculpture in 2014 and was inspired by the nationwide public debate concerning the venue's suitability as a roofless performance space in the heart of Valletta. The donation of the work was warmly welcomed by the Rector of the University of Malta, Professor Alfred Vella, and the Dean of MAKS, Professor Noellie Brockdorff as it conveys a message that is especially fitting for the ethos embraced by MAKS. The work urges students and academics to creatively explore new perspectives without any limits, creating new knowledge for the benefit of all.

The work is one of a limited edition of three. The Markideio Theatre in Pafos, Cyprus, acquired an edition of the work in 2017 as part of the PAFOS2017 European Capital of Culture. It is installed on the facade of the theatre after forming part of an exhibition which concluded the Cultural Capital Festivities in 2017.



M.Sc. Graduate in Cognitive Science

Oration by Tram Nguyen

The oration at the March 15, 2022 graduation ceremony was given by a MAKS graduate, Tram Nguyen who graduated M.Sc. in Cognitive Science in 2020. A summary of Ms Nguyen’s oration is reproducing below.



A word to the graduates of class 2020,
The pandemic brought much of the world to a halt, and our graduation was no exception. Two years later, we can finally reflect on this achievement and look ahead to our next ones.

Learning is never without challenges. It is through testing the boundaries of our mind, that we grow. One of the marvels of the human brain is the way in which neurons change as we master new skills. As we learn, as we absorb knowledge through repetition and focus, our brain literally rewires itself. Scientists call this neuroplasticity. The work that brought us to this moment has not only changed the way we think. It has, in a way, changed us as living beings. I hope this fact would give you more encouragement, as we move on to new challenges that may feel insurmountable.

That growing process is made easier by the support of caring and knowledgeable people. Let us not forget the generous support from Faculty members and excellent academics throughout our learning journey here at the University of Malta. Those are the people and memories to cherish. Some of us who are graduating may have gone on to industry. Others continue to further our learning specialisation. Regardless, I wish you all success in every path you walk.

Congratulations to you all!

Faculty News

Malta Film Week

The Dean of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, Prof. Noellie Brockdorff and the Head of the Department of Media and Communications, Prof. Ġorġ Mallia, as well as Ms Rebecca Anastasi, who lectures in Film at the Department, attended a number of discussion sessions during the Malta Film Week, organised by the Malta Film Commission in January 2022.

All three made interventions about the Faculty’s contribution to film education in Malta, with Ms Anastasi, who is also a film producer, discussing the importance of funding for film production.

An offshoot of the participation was the start of an ongoing discussion about the future of film education in Malta, including meetings with award winning film director Roland Joffe and Prof. Bryan Sebok of the US based Lewis & Clark University.

University Rector Prof. Alfred Vella also mentioned the Faculty’s fundamental contribution to film education in Malta when he participated in one of the panels during Film Week.



Rebecca Anastasi intervening during a discussion

Student activity

Venice and Berlin Film Festivals

Second year Bachelor of Communications (Honours) student **JAMES BORG** writes about his experiences as a young film student at the Venice and Berlin Film festivals.

My adventures started in September 2020, with the oh-so-notorious University enrolment month. Steadfast on wanting to pursue a career in IT, I applied to join an Honours degree course in Software Development and, sure enough, found myself sitting in one of those huge auditoriums at the Faculty of ICT.

The lectures were immensely interesting, and the lecturers very welcoming ... but something felt off. The feeling is comparable to the angst you feel right as you depart from an airplane, and as you wait to spot your luggage on the baggage carousel: "Is this the right carousel to be waiting by, and... gosh, where is my luggage?"

As a result, I only spent the better part of 10 days as an aspiring software developer. The switch to the Bachelor of Communications course seemed only natural, given the vast range of units that it offers, I assumed that, at the very least, I could keep myself decently occupied for the next three years or so.

Luckily, I quickly grew very fond of the course's offerings. Attending lectures (virtually) about communication skills, sociology, journalism and graphic design became almost second-nature. Long gone was the aforementioned angst.

There was, however, one unit in particular which I am so incredibly fond of that I find it difficult to not over-romanticise it: 'Introduction to Film Studies' with Ms. Rebecca Anastasi. It is because of Ms. Anastasi,

and because of the highly-structured approach through which she taught our class the fundamentals of film, that I now am a self-ascribed 'film enthusiast' and an aspiring filmmaker (no matter how pretentious both might sound). To her, and all the other brilliant lecturers at the MAKS faculty, I also attribute my weekly film talks on 103FM, my publication focusing on the indigenous film industry, and most recently, my trips to the Venice and the Berlin Film Festivals.

The Venice Film Festival

In trying to describe my experience at the 2021 Venice Film Festival, words fail me. Last year, I had managed to jot down some words for a [Newsbook article](#), but at this point in time, the more I think about the days I spent in Venice, the more surreal they seem.

Indeed, I was not only lucky enough to be granted a 2-week all expenses paid trip to the festival, but to also have lengthy discussions with various film industry professionals, represent Malta as an official jury member in the *Giornate degli Autori* section of the festival ... and to appease the young child in me, get exclusive tickets to world premieres of films like *The Lost Daughter* and *Last Night in Soho*, with the cast and crew all in attendance. In truth, these experiences only constitute the proverbial 'tip of the iceberg'.

The Venice Film Festival, 2021





The Berlinale, 2022

I also had the privilege of attending master classes on [film criticism](#), social media content curation and film directing, record a short talk which is intermittently broadcast on [Fred Film Radio](#), and make good friends with film students from all across Europe.

We ex-27 Times Cinema participants developed such a strong friendship in our two weeks in Venice that only 5 months afterwards, most of us came together for a reunion at a different film festival; this time, in Berlin!

The Berlin Film Festival

The 2022 Berlin Film Festival, which was held in February of this year, was a similarly euphoric experience to the one we got in Venice, but in a slightly different way. I think this time around, I was much more fascinated by the city than I was by the festival itself: there seems to be such a strong appreciation for art and culture in Berlin, both by the

citizens and the government alike, and I think Malta could certainly learn a thing or two about this. In any case, with my European friends I got to share a hostel room, one-too-many pints of German beer and a total of eighteen film screenings, the most notable of which was a homage screening for French actress Isabelle Huppert: *The Piano Teacher*.

I'd like to thank Ms. Rebecca Anastasi one last time (I am truly forever indebted to her) and all the wonderful film lecturers at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, for being patient enough in keeping up with my endless torrent of questions.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Malcolm Bonello, who lectures in graphic design, for aiding me greatly in creating a publication on Malta's indigenous film industry, and naturally, Prof. Ġorġ Mallia for welcoming me so heartily two years ago to the Communications course.

Next stop from here? Hopefully, Cannes in May!

James, front row, third from left, with his 27 Times Cinema colleagues at the Venice Film Festival



Department of Media and Communications

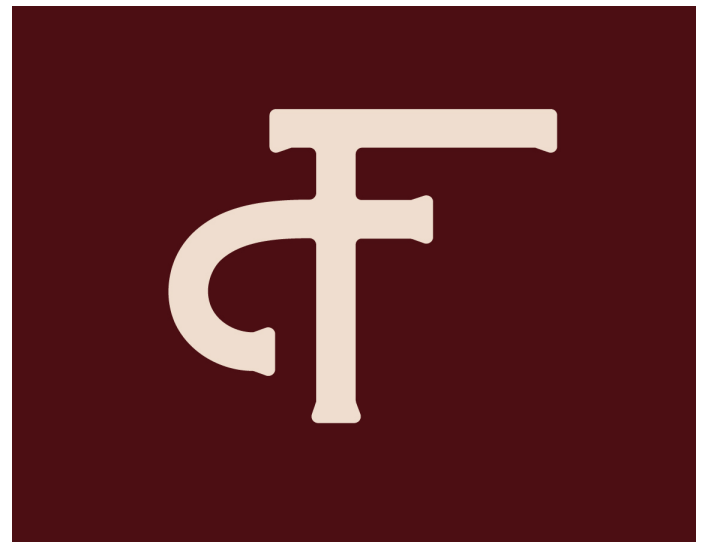
FRINGES: Celebrating the Authentic, the Flawed, the Human

A new project by the Communications students

Two third-year Bachelor of Communications (Hons) students, **Maya Pollacco** and **Simon Zammit**, write about the work being done to produce the annual Communications students' magazine.

Every year, students in the Bachelor of Communications course, come together to produce a magazine. This year, a group of 38 university students are working hard on a publication that showcases individuals who go beyond today's mainstream. The magazine is called *Fringes* and features a collection of nine unique stories from people who push the envelope creatively and professionally every day of their lives.

Fringes celebrates the beauty of imperfection and of going back to slow-living. In a world as fast-paced as this one, we tend to get caught up in the rush of things and forget to be authentic, eccentric, and to see the world through a different lens. *Fringes* is a journey back to our roots and an appreciation of the simpler things in life. Our publication is built on four brand values: **authenticity, eccentricity, passion and**





imperfection. There are so many stories worth telling and so many people that go unnoticed among the waves of pop culture. All of them have their own backgrounds, stories and struggles; and it is our mission to give them the spotlight they deserve.

Why would someone invest in vinyl records when streaming is just one tap away? What value is there in abandoning your career plans to safeguard your mental health? Why do different media capture different artists' imaginations?

Fringes will answer all of these questions and offer readers both a textual and visual pathway away from everyday norms and into the relaxing, creative, alternative and unpolished way of life. The magazine has a "less-modern" aesthetic, using a minimalist, refined style to let readers appreciate the beauty of imperfection. With a

design philosophy inspired by traditional Maltese signage and photography, playing off surrealist and expressionist themes, *Fringes* is a celebration of out-of-the-box thinking and a love letter to all things vintage.

The magazine will be launching in May, but until then be sure to visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram \(@fringespublication\)](#) pages to be the first to know of all the exciting projects we are producing alongside the publication. Podcasts delving deeper into the publication's central ideas, creative competitions judged by industry professionals, and thematic playlists are just some of the ways we're hoping to bring people into our auburn-tinted escape from everyday life.

For more information on *Fringes*, do not hesitate to email us at mdp.c@gmail.com, or message us on our socials!



Faculty News

MAKS's Enterprise and Industry Impact

The Rector's first Strategic Implementation Forum on "Enterprise and Industry Impact" took place on the 23 February 2022, hosting academic and commercial stakeholders. The Dean of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, Professor Noellie Brockdorff, was one of the speakers. She focused on the "Strategic Commitment: Enhance Learning through Enterprise Projects" showcasing the faculty's efforts to link assignments to stakeholder projects.



All MAKS undergraduate programmes in the faculty include a compulsory internship/placement/project with a relevant organization.

For example, in their final year, Bachelor of Communications (Hons) students carry out a 100-hour placement in one of the approved mentor institutions as part of a compulsory 4ECTS study-unit. They may also take an elective 8 ECTS study-unit in Magazine and Digital Publishing in which students deal directly with editorial, communications and advertising matters, raise funds and communicate the publication to their chosen audience.

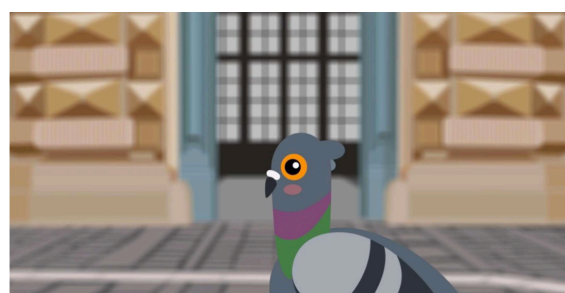
Bachelor in Knowledge & Information Management second year students carry out a 100-hour placement in one of the approved memory institutions.

In the case of Bachelor in Fine Arts in Digital Arts, a third year Professional Practice study-unit gives students the opportunity to work with industry practitioners on real life projects. Practitioners supply a project brief, and together with the lecturer give feedback on the students' work. In Semester 1 2021-22, the BFA 3rd Year cohort worked on a brief provided by the curator of Palazzo Falson. Tasks included:

- An animation for children
- depicting the life of the Gollcher couple
- an interactive map of the museum
- signage and collateral material
- a video about the pollinator project on the roof of the museum.

2020-21 BFA 3rd Year cohort worked on a brief provided by Festivals Malta to produce a new image for Carnival 2020. Tasks included producing:

- carnival programme
- posters
- print/TV/web promotional material
- banners



Greenroads Ltd TAKEOFF Business Incubator
 | Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure |
 SOS Malta | www.emilyfrancisbooks.com
 | Festivals Malta | Cloudigo Ltd | Souvenirs
 That Don't Suck | MPS Marketing
 Communications | The Concept Stadium |
 VSQUARED | Game Lounge | Epic
 Communications Ltd | Casumo Company |
 BRND WGN | Threls Ltd. | Public
 Broadcasting Services Ltd (PBS) | Merlin
 Publishers Ltd | DNA Creative Studio Ltd | FBS
 (Marketing) Ltd - St Venera | Switch - Digital
 & Brand | Art Council Malta | Science in the
 City | THINK Magazine | 89.7 Bay | Malta
 Today | Erasmus Student Network Malta | 67
 Kapitali | Archbishop's Curia Communications
 Office Floriana | XXXLutz Marken GmbH
 | Michele Peresso Group | Helix Advisory Ltd
 | Keen Limited | Allied Newspapers Limited |
 The Grand Hotel Excelsior | Italy Jiu-Jitsu
 Association | Cornerhouse Studios | Mood |
 Gain Changer Ltd | Foundation for the
 Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiative – FPEI
 | Systemato | World Pro Racing

National Library of Malta, Valletta |
 University of Malta Library, Msida | MCAST
 Library, Paola | Central Public Library,
 Floriana | Gozo Public Library, Rabat |
 Central Bank of Malta Library, Valletta |
 Palazzo Falson Library, Mdina | Cathedral
 Library, Mdina | Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna,
 Cottonera | Seminary Library Tal-Virtu' | NSO
 Library, Valletta | Heritage Malta Library
 system | Ganado & Sammut Advocates
 library, Valletta | Capuchin Library, Floriana |
 Carmelite Friary Library, Mdina | National
 Archives of Malta, Rabat & Mdina |
 National Archives Gozo Section | National
 Library of Malta, Valletta | Cathedral
 Archives, Mdina | Dept of Information
 Archive/Library, OPM Valletta | Ellis Family
 photographic Archive, Ta'Paris | Notarial
 Archive, Valletta | Planning Authority
 library/archive, Floriana

Partnership building & PR, content writing & interviews | Social media marketing |
 Visual media and short videography clips preparation | Marketing and organising
 the launch of a product | Writing, publishing, marketing and promotion of a book |
 Analyse & improve customer journey | Integrate shop POS to online ecommerce,
 populate data & images related to web content, testing, email marketing and
 editorial design | Development & creation of social media videos | Writing of copy
 to accompany videos created | Assisting production staff in developing relevant
 stories for television, film, online streaming & other platforms | Assist writers,
 directors, manager & other members of staff | Research topics using a variety of
 sources, including video archives, the internet and library archives | Assisting with
 UI/UX design projects | Audit of marketing appearance of brands, share of shelf
 analysis and competition analysis | Digitalisation & proofreading of Brand Manuals
 | Strategic & ongoing planning for projects, research in market entry/penetration
 and exploitation

Above left: B.Comms (Hons) student places of internship for 2021-2022.

Above right: Bachelor in Knowledge and Information Management student places of internship.

Left: the different tasks B. Comms (Hons) students carry out.

Below: Institutions that BFA students have collaborated with during the last academic year.



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Heritage Malta



Our Graduates

MAKS graduates

Because of the COVID pandemic, the 2020 graduation ceremonies were delayed. Undergraduate graduation ceremonies for both 2020 and 2021 were held at the end of last year and post-graduate ceremonies were held in March 2022. Here are some photos from both sessions. Congratulations to all graduates.



Dr Marthese Borg, receiving her Ph.D in Cognitive Science during one of the March ceremonies



The 2021 Master of Fine Arts in Digital Arts graduates with the Dean and Dr Trevor Borg



The 2021 Library Information and Archive Sciences Masters graduates with the Dean and members of the academic staff of the department



The B.Comms (Hons) and BFA 2021 cohorts in a group photo with the Dean and members of the academic staff of both departments



Above: Two cohorts of B.Comms (Hons) students from the 2020 cohort with the Dean and HOD Prof. Gorg Mallia



Right: The 2020 BFA cohort with Prof. Vince Briffa and Dr Trevor Borg

Department of Digital Arts

BFA first year illustrations

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Arts students are often called upon to produce practical work, and this happens as of their first year in the course. Here is a sample of first year BFA students' re-imagining of one scene from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The students were given free rein with regards to media use and content resetting.



Laura Zammit



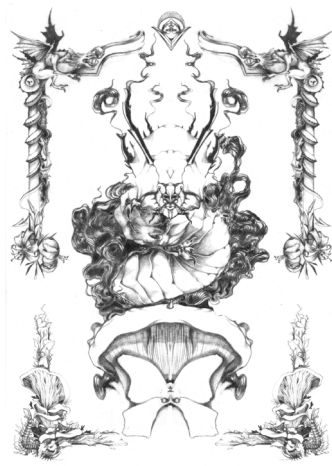
Anna Pessia



Chantal Galea



Nassim Dardouri



Gabriel Chetcuti



Neeve Cauchi



Noemi Calisto



Dorianne Attard



Renata Stoyanovska



Lana Spiteri



Mandy Galea

Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences

The Dean's Awards

The Dean's Award of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences recognises academic excellence in both taught and research programmes offered by the faculty.



An image from the Dean's Award Ceremony held in 2019

The Dean's Award recognises academic excellence in Bachelor and Master taught programmes and outstanding dissertations at every level: undergraduate; Master; and PhD.

For taught programmes, the purpose of the award is not to replicate the final degree classification but rather to reward academic excellence in the academic years prior to the final year.

Students who satisfy the eligibility criteria are nominated by their departments. The awards are given to the top ranking student in each category across the whole faculty.

Due to the pandemic, the award ceremonies for the Dean's Awards were not held since 2019.

Ceremonies will be held later this year to present the awards for three academic years: 2018-2019; 2019-2020; and 2020-2021.

2018-2019

Academic Excellence in Bachelor Programme

- 1st Year - Ms Megan Mallia
- 2nd Year - Ms Amber Seychell
- 3rd Year - Ms Michaela Cutajar

Outstanding Dissertation presented as part of a Bachelor Programme

Ms Maria Fenech

Academic Excellence in the taught components of a Master Programme

Ms Thi Ngoc Tram Nguyen

2019-2020

Academic Excellence in a Bachelor Programme

- 1st Year - Ms Eneh Veronika Lang
- 2nd Year - Ms Megan Mallia

Outstanding Dissertation presented as part of a Bachelor Programme

Ms Sera Galea

Academic Excellence in the taught components of a Master Programme

Ms Nicole Pace

Outstanding Dissertation presented as part of a taught Master Programme

Ms Thi Ngoc Tram Nguyen

Academic Excellence in a Ph.D. Programme

Mr Halefom Abraha

2020-2021

Academic Excellence in Bachelor Programme

- 1st Year - Mr James Borg
- 2nd Year - Ms Ana Crnjak

Outstanding Dissertation presented as part of a Bachelor Programme

Mr Samwel Borg

Outstanding Dissertation presented as part of a taught Master Programme

Ms Nicole Pace