# Expert insights: How industry ICT leaders are shaping education at UM



For the past eight years, the Department of Computer Science has been offering a selection of technical study-units within the Programme in the Liberal Arts and Sciences (PLAS).

The rationale behind these study-units is twofold:

1. They aim to meet the demand for ICT professionals seeking to enhance their academic background by providing specialised knowledge in current and emerging software technologies and tools.
2. Specific study-units are intentionally crafted to introduce non-ICT professionals to specific areas within the field of ICT.

The areas covered include single page application development, software testing, audio engineering, cybersecurity, programming in Java and Python, data science and blockchain. More units are in the pipeline for future years focusing on Kotlin and software test automation for complete beginners. The study-units demonstrated success, garnering widespread positive feedback from participants:

*"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your guidance throughout the course. The structure of the course and the assignments were well-organised, providing clear guidance and aiding in my understanding. The last few lessons, in particular, have been significantly enlightening for me."*

*"I had some experience in data analysis and visualisation. However, the concepts of machine learning and model building were new to me. Your teaching has provided me with a solid understanding and foundational knowledge of these concepts. This experience has profoundly impacted my interest in the field, so much so that I am now planning to pursue a Master's degree in Data Science."*

Such study-units **expand executive education** and **provide expertise to industry**, in line with the main commitments of the **Enterprise and Industry Impact** strategic theme of the University of Malta's Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Study-units on software testing and audio engineering will be available during semester two. **Applications are open** till **4 February 2024**.

*Do you have an example of good QA practice at your unit which you would like us to share? Get in touch with us at* **qac@um.edu.mt**

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