

Studying in Malta

A guide for international students & families — how Malta's English-language higher education works, the long-stay visa and residence permit, tuition, and work in a Mediterranean EU island.

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AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING EU ISLAND

Malta is a rare thing: an **English-speaking EU (and Schengen, and Eurozone) country**, where **every university degree is taught in English**, at a fraction of UK or Irish costs. Non-EU students get a **National Long-Stay (D) visa** and a **residence permit via Identity Malta**. Strong sectors — iGaming, fintech, tourism — hire international graduates in English. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Maltese rules, tuition, and funds change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Maltese mission, Identity Malta (Identità), and your institution.**

Understand Why Students Choose Malta

WHAT TO KNOW

Malta offers **English-taught degrees (English is an official language)**, **EU-recognized qualifications**, **affordable tuition and living versus Western Europe**, a **sunny Mediterranean setting**, and **strong graduate sectors** (iGaming, fintech, tourism).

BY THE NUMBERS

English-speaking

EU country

Affordable

vs. UK/Ireland

Strong sectors

iGaming, fintech

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Malta's **English-language, EU-recognized study** against the trade-offs of small-island life — for English speakers wanting an EU degree affordably, it's a compelling choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Malta is one of the few **English-speaking EU countries**, so language is no barrier — a big draw for international students.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Malta's institutions include the **University of Malta** (the main, most renowned public university), **MCAST** (vocational/applied), the **American University of Malta (AUM)**, and licensed private colleges — all teaching **in English**. Verify your institution is **MFHEA-accredited**.

BY THE NUMBERS

University of Malta

the flagship

MCAST / AUM

+ private colleges

MFHEA

check accreditation

HOW TO HELP

Choose among the **University of Malta**, **MCAST**, **AUM**, and **accredited private colleges**, confirming your institution is **MFHEA-registered** — all teach in English.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm your institution is **MFHEA-accredited** — it determines whether your qualification is recognized.

Get the National Long-Stay (D) Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students need a **National Long-Stay (D) visa**, applied for at a Maltese embassy, consulate, or visa centre **before travel**. Your **acceptance/enrolment letter** from the University of Malta, MCAST, or AUM is the anchor document. (Online/distance programs don't qualify for the D visa.)

BY THE NUMBERS

National Long-Stay (D)

before travel

Acceptance letter

the anchor doc

Full-time

on-site only

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **National Long-Stay (D) visa** as soon as you accept your offer, with your enrolment letter, funds proof, accommodation, and insurance — start early, as processing takes weeks.

WATCH OUT

The D visa requires a **full-time, on-site** program — online/distance/hybrid courses don't qualify for it.

Get Your Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, you convert the D visa into a **student residence permit through Identity Malta (Identità)**. Apply as soon as you receive your offer/arrive; processing runs **4–8 weeks**. The permit also serves as a **Schengen visa** for travel within the EU.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence permit

via Identity Malta

4–8 weeks

processing

Schengen

travel included

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **residence permit via Identity Malta** promptly (processing 4–8 weeks), and enjoy that it doubles as a **Schengen visa** for EU travel.

GOOD TO KNOW

Start the residence-permit process **as soon as you have your offer** — it takes 4–8 weeks, so don't wait.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA students pay **no or low tuition**. Non-EU students pay roughly **€6,000–18,000/year** (University of Malta undergrad ~€10,800; postgrad up to ~€18,000; private colleges vary). **Malta Government Scholarships** and university bursaries can cut the bill.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU

no/low tuition

Non-EU

~€6,000–18,000/yr

Scholarships

Malta Govt & bursaries

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-EU tuition** plus living costs, and pursue **Malta Government Scholarships**, university bursaries, and (for eligible students) Commonwealth scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tuition and living in Malta are **far lower than the UK, Ireland, or Northern Europe** — a cost-effective English-language EU route.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You must prove you can support yourself — budget roughly **€700–1,100/month (~€8,400–13,200/year)** for living, plus confirmed accommodation and comprehensive health insurance. The University of Malta suggests around €550 accommodation + €450 food monthly.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€700–1,100/month

Accommodation

confirmed

+ insurance

comprehensive

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current level, **confirmed accommodation**, and **comprehensive health insurance** — all required for the visa and residence permit.

WATCH OUT

Weak financial or accommodation evidence causes delays — prepare clear, sufficient documents above the minimum.

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Since **English is an official language of Malta**, everything in higher education runs in English. You'll prove English proficiency (**IELTS/TOEFL** or prior English-medium education), which for many applicants is a low hurdle.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

official language

IELTS/TOEFL

or prior English study

Low barrier

for many

HOW TO HELP

Prove **English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL or prior English-medium study)** as your program requires — the English-language environment makes Malta especially accessible.

GOOD TO KNOW

With English an **official language**, Malta is unusually accessible for English-speaking students — no local-language study needed.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, **register and collect your residence permit (Identity Malta), open a bank account (BOV, HSBC Malta, APS), get a local SIM, register with a GP, and confirm health cover.** Housing clusters in Sliema and Msida. Summers are hot; the island is small but well-connected.

BY THE NUMBERS

Identity Malta

residence permit

Bank + SIM + GP

set up

Housing

Sliema, Msida

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence permit, banking, SIM, GP registration, insurance** — and sort housing early (Sliema/Msida are popular); prepare for a hot Mediterranean summer.

GOOD TO KNOW

You'll be asked for **certified document copies repeatedly** — bring multiple sets and passport photos.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students may work **up to 20 hours per week after the first 13 weeks** of study, once they obtain a **Jobsplus employment licence** (work permit). English-language sectors — iGaming, fintech, tourism, hospitality — offer real part-time opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

20 hrs/week after 13 weeks

Jobsplus licence

required

English sectors

iGaming, tourism

HOW TO HELP

Plan to work **after the first 13 weeks** (with a Jobsplus employment licence), up to 20 hours/week — Malta's English-language sectors make part-time work genuinely accessible.

GOOD TO KNOW

You need a **Jobsplus employment licence** to work, and only after the first 13 weeks — arrange it in good time.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, you can pursue a **Single Permit** to live and work in Malta. Its **iGaming, fintech, financial services, maritime, and tourism** sectors actively hire international graduates in English — a genuine post-study pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

Single Permit

post-study work

Hiring sectors

iGaming, fintech, tourism

In English

graduate jobs

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **Single Permit** after graduating, and target Malta's English-language sectors (iGaming, fintech, tourism) — which actively recruit international graduates.

GOOD TO KNOW

Malta's English-language economy (iGaming, fintech, tourism) offers **real graduate opportunities** — the Single Permit is the route to work there.

Studying in Malta: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Maltese mission, Identity Malta, and your institution.

The system

University of Malta (flagship), MCAST, the American University of Malta, and licensed private colleges; all degrees taught in English; verify MFHEA accreditation.

Visa & permit

Non-EU students need a National Long-Stay (D) visa (before travel; on-site full-time programs only), then a student residence permit via Identity Malta (which also serves as a Schengen visa).

Tuition

EU pay no/low tuition; non-EU ~€6,000–18,000/year (University of Malta undergrad ~€10,800, postgrad up to ~€18,000); Malta Government Scholarships and bursaries help.

Money & language

Prove ~€700–1,100/month plus accommodation and comprehensive insurance; English is an official language, so all study is in English (IELTS/TOEFL or prior English-medium).

Work & after

Work up to 20 hrs/week after the first 13 weeks (with a Jobsplus licence); a Single Permit supports post-study work in iGaming, fintech, and tourism.

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