



Executive Committee: President – Edwidge Borg (VIC). Secretary Patricia Grech (Qld), Treasurer - Alfred Flask (ACT). Vice President Miriam Friggieri (NSW), All Correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, FMLS INC. Email: patgrech@bigpond.com and cc to: The President: edwidgeborg@hotmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – ONLINE MALTESE FOR FOREIGNERS LANGUAGE CLASSES

The University of Malta is offering 2 study units to those wish to Study the Maltese Language and need to communicate Maltese in their study and prospective work environment.

The study-unit **EPE2013** - *It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 1*- Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 1 Elementary Level A1 costs €45 (10 lessons equiv. €4.5 per lesson) and **EPE2015** - *It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 2* - Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 2 Pre-Intermediate Level A2- costs €90 (14 lessons equiv. €6.4 per lesson). The classes will be held on Friday evenings around 7.00 pm (AEDT- Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Students who join in February for EPE 2013, if they wish to further their studies can enrol for EPE 2015 later in May. FMLS will also encourage teachers and aides to enrol in at least for one of the courses. If an applicant follows and successfully completes a fee-paying visiting study-unit, s/he will be issued a detailed transcript free of charge. The transcript is an official academic record which would be printed on University headed paper, and which would also be signed in pen by the University's Assistant/Registrar. The Zoom online lectures will be recorded so that students may revise and practise. **Unless otherwise indicated, the online application facility may remain open up to 31 January 2022.**

Course descriptions can be found: <https://www.um.edu.mt/educ/study/visitingstudents>

Apply using this link as a **New User**:

https://esims.um.edu.mt/esims/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app&code2=0007&code1=VISEDU

Please advertise these classes alongside your 2022 classes as a means to obtain a formal academic qualification.

VCE/HSC

The FMLS was highly involved in meetings with the Australian Education department to try and save the VCE/HSC. The MCCV and the MCC NSW as well as several organisations wrote several letters of support. Unfortunately the number of students wanting to undertake this exam fell short of the requirements and therefore from:-

2021 Maltese not offered at Year 11. This is was the last Year 12 enrolments and Year 12 examination for Maltese. One student from NSW applied for the HSC Maltese Language exam. Information received that this student did not sit for the exam.

2022 Maltese will not be available as a VCE/HSC study. Students will not be able to repeat Maltese Year 12. Unfortunately this makes the University of Malta transcript as the only academic qualification now available for students studying the Maltese Language in Australia.

MALTA GRANT

We are pleased to announce that the FMLS has been given a grant of €10,220 by the Maltese Education Department. This grant was long awaited as the last grant we received from the Maltese Government was in 2015. It has replenished our depleting funds which have been used every year mainly to subsidise schools costs and incentive scholarships to HSC/VCE students. This grant of €10,220.00 was obtained to be used as a subsidy for purchasing of teaching resources from Malta, Teacher stipend, website development, room hire, printing, stationery, and public liability, heating/cooling and other overheads to maintain and improve class attendance.

A special mention of thanks goes to H.E. the Maltese High Commissioner for Malta in Australia, Mr Mario Farrugia Borg who has supported and assisted the FMLS and expedited the granting and receipt of this grant.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP SUBSIDY GRANT

It is intended to give a Scholarship subsidy grant to teachers who enrol and attend the online Maltese for Foreigners classes being offered by the University of Malta. A detailed application form will be made available shortly. It is proposed that these grants will be offered only to FMLS financial affiliated schools and limited in numbers to not more than 3 teachers from major schools and 1 teacher from small schools.

AGM

The FMLS held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 November 2021. Present at the meeting were various representatives from the FMLS affiliated schools. The topics listed in this newsletter were discussed. No elections were due this year. Schools tabled their reports and it is heartening to see that the class attendances are increasing in the junior and adult levels. However attendance in years 7-12 are decreasing dramatically.



MALTESE LANGUAGE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Dr Ken Cruikshank Director of the Sydney Institute for Community Language Education was the guest speaker at the FMLS AGM. Dr Cruikshank stated the University was ready to provide some promotional video for the Maltese language, similar to the one they produced for the Turkish language. A sample of one

of the videos can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg_8waalrnA&t=1s Turkish language for older students. The Sydney Institute for Community Language Education has the funds to produce these videos for the Maltese Community Schools and all that is needed is for the schools to provide students who are willing to participate in the making of these videos. There will be no cost to the FMLS.



SBS SURVEY

SBS Radio are undertaking a survey of its Radio programs schedule. The Maltese program experienced drastic cuts to the schedule on the last survey. A campaign to publicise the survey to the Maltese Community was initiated. Discussions with various representatives of the Maltese Community are taking place and plans are in motion to meet with SBS management in late November.

MARIO DE CARLO

Maria has retired as teacher and co-ordinator of the Maltese Language School of NSW. Her interest in Maltese language teaching is still strong. She has been supporting the current administration and teachers quietly in the background the best way throughout this year. Maria has been teaching and co-ordinating the class for over 20 years and her active professional involvement in both the Maltese Language School of NSW and the support to the FMLS will be sorely missed.

CHARLES GALEA

At the end of this scholastic year, we say farewell to Charles Galea who is officially retiring from teaching. Charles has not only been an active committee member of Akkademja Maltija ta' New South Wales Inc. but held the office of President of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc., from 2007 - 2019. Charles has been an invaluable mentor and inspiration to many teachers, students, and families, ensuring their success and encouraging their full potential. Teaching Maltese for over 20 years with the Saturday School of Community Languages is testament to his steadfastness. We wish Charles all the best in the next chapter of his life. Charles was also a founding member of the FMLS. In 2008 together with various representatives of Maltese Language Schools the Federation was formed with the assistance of H.E. the High Commissioner for Malta Mr Francis Tabone who hosted the formation of the Federation. Charles contributed a lot to the Federation and is supports the work we do.

Edwidge Borg
President

FEDERATION OF MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS INC. (AUSTRALIA)