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# Faculty of Arts graduates' tracer study published

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Malta has published a tracer study of its students who graduated during the past 10 years. The report, *Faculty of Arts Graduates 2003-2012: Tracer Study,* is authored by Manwel Debono, director of the University's Centre for Labour Studies, and the research was conducted with the help of administrative staff from the Faculty of Arts.

The study managed to obtain responses from 1,570 Faculty of Arts graduates, representing 66 per cent of the target population. This is considered a very high response. Data was collected between October and December 2012.

Overall, the results show a high employment rate for Faculty of Arts graduates. At the time the survey was taken, only 5.9 per cent of such graduates were unemployed and seeking employment, and these mostly had just finished their studies.

As for the rest, 76.7 per cent were in full-time employment and 10.8 per cent in part-time employment. The remainder were 'inactive', that is, not employed and not seeking employment.

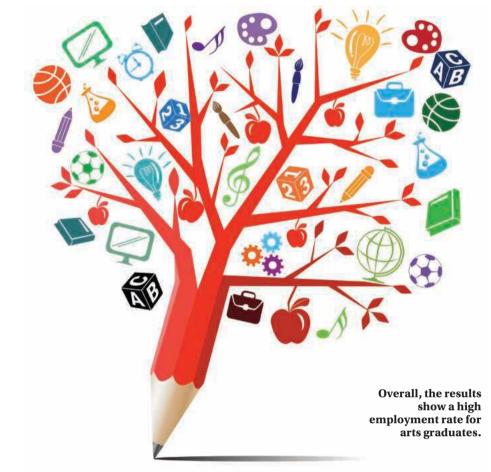
The study found only few significant differences in gender outcomes, with male and female graduates acquiring similar qualification levels, equally likely to be employed or seeking employment, or holding jobs that match their expectation.

A main difference was that men tended to be relatively better represented among senior officials or managers, while women tended to be better represented among professionals or clerks.

Levels of job satisfaction varied, but 62.9 per cent of all Faculty of Arts graduates felt that their jobs matched their expectations.

There appears to be a correlation between the number of years since a person's graduation and level of job satisfaction, suggesting that fresh graduates who do not find a job that matches their expectation immediately after graduating are likely to succeed later on.

Although by their nature, certain categories of jobs predominate among graduates of specific subjects, there is, overall, no significant difference in employability or job satisfaction between graduates of different subjects. There is, likewise, no significant difference in current labour status between language and nonlanguage graduates.



Whereas teaching and the public service remain predominant career paths for Faculty of Arts graduates, the range of jobs open to them has widened considerably both in the public sector and beyond. Many Faculty of Arts graduates work in established service industries, such as tourism, heritage, transport, communication and social and health care, while others are developing their careers in emerging sectors such as the environment, diplomacy and finance.

Certain jobs have a clear connection with the subjects studied; others do not. But employability and job satisfaction are not inevitably related to the degree of such a connection.

As expected, respondents holding postgraduate qualifications are more likely to work as professionals, hold jobs that meet their expectations and earn considerably more money than their peers with lower qualifications. Nearly three-quarters of respondents who obtained postgraduate qualifications appear to be settled in their work and feel their job matches their expectations.

The tracer study is available at www.um.edu.mt/alumni/tracerstudyarts200 3-12.pdf.

### Promoting e-diplomacy between Italy and Malta

Italian Ambassador Giovanni Umberto De Vito recently met Jovan Kurbalija and Alex Sceberras Trigona, the founding director and senior fellow/founder member of the Diplo Foundation respectively in the framework of the existing collaboration between the *Istituto Diplomatico* 

of the Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Diplo Foundation of Malta.

During the discussion, Italian support and appreciation was expressed for the training initiatives and projects organised by the Malta NGO active in developing diplomats' capacities in the area

of internet governance, ICT policy and e-diplomacy, which are increasingly becoming important policy issues at global level.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced the Diplo Foundation e-learning modules several years ago as part of a strategy aimed at promoting more modern means of communication among Italian diplomats and within the network of Italian Missions abroad.

At the end of the cordial meeting, Dr Kurbalija thanked Ambassador De Vito for the support and contribution provided by the Italian Government.

### ICT Solutions acquires ITS to become Sage partner in Malta

Systems integrator ICT Solutions recently announced the full acquisition of ITS (Information Technology Services) Ltd.

Set up in 1993, ITS is an IT-servicing company that focuses on servicing the accounting software requirements of a large number of local companies. It is a Sage Platinum Partner and also deploys Exchequer software in Malta.

ITS managing director Joseph Pullicino said: "This is another important milestone in the history of ITS. Together with Sage, over the last 20 years we have taken bookkeeping in Malta to a next level. Joining forces with ICT Solutions allows us to offer a more complete service to customers, stimulating the business to continue to grow."

"Joining forces with ICT allows us to offer a more complete service to customers, to continue to grow"

ICT Solutions managing director Keith Fearne said: "We have come a long way. We have been looking at how to take growth to the next level. ITS fitted our profile perfectly as it will continue to move us in the right direction.

"The company brings a best-of-breed product in Sage and a great team of professionals who will be servicing a customer base of close to 400 corporate customers."

Sage is the world's third largest supplier of enterprise resource planning software and the largest supplier of accounting software to small businesses worldwide.

More information may be found at www.ictsolu tions.com.mt.

## 1976 Apple computer up for sale

One of the first Apple computers ever built goes on the Christie's auction block in New York this week – and it could sell for half a million dollars (€377,000), or more.

The Apple 1 from 1976 is a forerunner of today's MacBooks, iPads and iPhones.

Ted Perry, a retired school psychologist from California who owns the old Apple, has kept it stashed away in a cardboard box. He says the green piece of plastic covered with memory chips is where the personal computer "revolution" started.

The board was produced by two college dropouts – Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. It first sold for \$666.66 (now €503.61).



An 'Apple 1' prototype computer, built in 1976, accompanied by an operation manual and schematic as well as a photo of its inventors, Steve Wozniak, left, and Steve Jobs. *Photo: PA* 

The Apple 1 will be offered online from tomorrow to July 9.

Another Apple 1 was sold last month for a record  $\$671,400 \ (\$506,376)$  by a German auction house. **(PA)** 

### Offices & Commercial Space

#### Office Space

Mosta Main Road - Office Block & Commercial Outlet

1,500 sq.m. & 30 free car spaces - On two roads - Lease at €50/sq.m. Annually

St.Julians - Corporate Office Block

100 - 4,000 sq .m. - Highest specs - Layout flexibility - A

Guardamangia - Office Space One Open Plan Floor - 500 sq.m. - Finished - Lease at €120/sq.m. Annually.

Valletta - Serviced Offices

10 -18 sq.m. per office - All inclusive - Reception - Boardroom (opt) - At €850/month San Gwann - Penthouse Office

520 sq.m. (Int) 200 sq.m. (Ext) - Finished - Open Plan - Lease at €130/sq .m. Annually.

Ta'Xbiex - Office Space 540 sq.m. - Ready to move in - Duplex - Lease at €110/sq.m. Annually.

540 sq.m. - Ready to move in - Duplex - Lease at €110/sq.m. Annually Zebbug - Office Block

### 150 - 500 sq.m. - Finished including air-conditioning - Lease at €105/sq.m. Annually. Catering Establishments

Snack Shop - 60 covers - Busy road - Equipped - Key money €60,000 + €35/day

Rabat - Townhouse – Ideal for restaurant or retail- Sale €220,000

Paceville - (infront of Baystreet) – Class 6 outlet - 60 sq.m. - €120/Day

Rabat - Wine Bar/cafeteria – Busy tourist area - Indoor/outdoor area - Sale €100,000 Waterfront - Class 6 outlet – Indoor/Outdoor area of 150 sq.m. - €92/Day

Vittoriosa Marina - Restaurant - Very prominent cafeteria/restaurant with vaulted ceilings and unobstructed views of Vittoriosa Marina. Internal area 300 sq.m. and open air terrace of 100 sq.m. in advanced finish . Lease €65,000 annually with the option to buy.

Commercial - Retail, Warehousing & Sites - Contact us for any enquiry.

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