

## Country Profile - Malta

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### Job market

Malta has a fairly low unemployment rate, so there is no great demand for foreign graduates. To gain a role, you must have a skill or training that is lacking in Malta. Alternatively, you could find employment with a company that has offices in Malta, such as with one of the numerous foreign-owned manufacturing companies on the island.

### What are my chances of getting a job?

- **Typical problems encountered:** high level of competition from home graduates.
- **How to improve your chances:** generally speaking, there are too many applicants for too few jobs, so you will improve your chances if you have experience and speak other languages.
- **Language requirements:** Maltese is the country's mother tongue and Maltese and English are the joint official languages. Italian is also widely spoken. It is easier to find work if you speak and write Maltese. Maltese language classes are widely available on the island, or, if you want to learn the language before you leave, a self-study course is available through [Eurotalk Interactive](#).

### Where can I work?

- **Major industries:** tourism and service industries, IT services, manufacturing (electronics, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods), merchant shipping, ship building and repair.
- **Recent growth areas:** tourism, film industry, IT.
- **Shortage occupations:** experienced IT professionals.
- **Search for more companies:** [Yellow Pages \(Malta\)](#), [Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry](#), [findit - Malta's Online Business Directory](#), [Malta Employers' Association \(MEA\)](#), [Malta Enterprise](#).
- **Major cities:** Valletta (capital), Birkirkara (largest), Sliema, Victoria (on Gozo).

### What's it like working in Malta?

- **Average working hours:** generally 40 hours per week, with a legal maximum of 48 hours, of which eight must be paid as overtime. Hours are often 8.30am to 5.30pm with a long break for lunch/siesta.
- **Holidays:** 192 hours plus 14 national and public holidays for full-time employees.
- **Tax rates:** rates for non-residents are 20%-35%, see [Government of Malta](#) for more details.

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### Applying for jobs

It can take quite a long time to find a job in Malta and it may be several months before you hear back about a job application or a speculative query. Sometimes you will not hear

back at all. It is easier to find opportunities if you are in the country but, generally speaking, it is extremely difficult for foreigners to find work.

As in the UK, work experience counts for a lot when an employer is recruiting a graduate so you are unlikely to impress if you do not have work experience listed on your CV.

Your CV should be up to two pages in length and should be similar to the standard European format, focusing on personal details, education, work experience, languages, computer skills, particularly areas of competence and hobbies. The covering letter should be no more than one page.

Interviews are the most important part of the application procedure in Malta and employers will want examples of achievements.

### **Will my UK qualifications be recognised?**

If you wish to compare your professional, vocational or technical qualifications with Maltese qualifications, you can consult [ENIC-NARIC](#). You may also want to check with the [UK National Europass Centre \(UK NEC\)](#) for information on how to make your skills and qualifications easily understood in Malta.

### **Do I still need to pay UK tax and National Insurance?**

If you are planning to live and work in Malta, check your UK tax and National Insurance position with [HM Revenue & Customs \(HMRC\)](#) to ensure that you are not losing any UK pension rights.

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## **Vacancy sources**

Be aware that the overwhelming majority of job vacancies in Malta are geared towards Maltese nationals.

### **Job websites**

- [Careerjet Malta](#)
- [ETC - Employment and Training Corporation](#) - Malta's state employment service.
- [EURES](#)
- [Muovo](#) - ICT and online gaming vacancies
- [Reed \(Malta\)](#)
- [Vacancy Centre](#)

## Recruitment agencies

- The [International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies \(CIETT\)](#) has details of agencies that may have contacts in Malta.
- Go to the [Yellow Pages \(Malta\)](#) for links to recruitment agencies, including specialist agencies for specific employment sectors.

## Newspapers

- [It-Torca](#) (Maltese)
- [L-Orrizont](#) (Maltese)
- [Malta Independent](#)
- [Malta Today](#)
- [Times of Malta](#) - good for graduate-level jobs.

See also the [Kidon Media-Link](#) for access to other Maltese newspapers.

## Hidden vacancies

Seasonal jobs in bars and restaurants are usually advertised in the venues themselves.

Acting as a tour rep or English teacher is a possibility, although most jobs in these areas go to Maltese citizens.

Many vacancies are filled by word-of-mouth. Most foreign workers in Malta spend a few weeks mixing with local people and then obtain jobs through their networking. Create a profile on [LinkedIn](#) and network online

There are plenty of organisations who do need qualified, hard-working staff. The job search in Malta is not as easy as other destinations, but persistence will pay off.

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## Work experience

### Work placements, internships and exchange programmes

[IAESTE \(The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience\)](#) provides a number of traineeships for overseas science, engineering and applied arts undergraduates. Students receive practical training experience relevant to their studies. Students can register their interest from the September prior to placement and potential placements are notified in February of each year.

[AIESEC \(Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales\)](#) offers graduates the opportunity to experience living and working in another country.

## Teaching schemes

Teaching English as a foreign language offers a lot of opportunities in Malta. Visit [Maltese Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language \(MATEFL\)](#) for information about what is available.

## Volunteering

A list of organisations offering opportunities for volunteers can be found through the [European Youth Portal](#).

## Casual work and short-term opportunities

You can try contacting the recruitment agencies listed in the [Yellow Pages \(Malta\)](#), but word-of-mouth is more likely to be effective.

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## Postgraduate study

### How does the higher education system work?

Malta has only one higher education establishment - the [University of Malta](#), which traces its origins back to 1592. There are around 11,000 students at the university with over 650 foreign and exchange students from 77 different countries.

Further information about education in Malta is available from [Government of Malta](#).

### What courses are available?

Research degrees are offered only in areas of study where expert supervision is available, including ICT, engineering and sustainable environmental resource management.

Postgraduate diplomas/certificates take one year, MA courses typically take 12-18 months, MSc courses 6-18 months, MPhil programmes 15 months, and PhD programmes three years. All MPhil and PhD degrees are by research.

All courses are taught in English.

### Where can I study?

There is only one university in Malta - the University of Malta. The academic year consists of two semesters: October to January; and February to July.

The [European Institute of Education \(EIE\)](#), based in Malta, offers a small range of programmes including MBAs in banking, business and tourism, as well as diplomas in management.

### **Applying for postgraduate study**

Check with the University of Malta or the EIE for details of the requirements, and application dates, for the programme of study you are interested in.

Application to the University of Malta can be done online and is subject to a fee. For the EIE, contact the institution.

### **Fees and scholarships**

There is an annual enrolment fee of €400 and tuition fees for Maltese and EU students can range from €400 per semester for a part-time research course to over €4,000 per semester for some full-time Masters courses. Fees for non-EU postgraduate students are around €10,000 - €13,000+ per semester. See the University of Malta website for more details.

For the EIE, contact the institution. Application forms can be faxed, in order to enrol as a student. The originals need to be sent in the post.

The University of Malta is not in a position to offer any scholarships to overseas students.

### **Are there any exchange programmes?**

UK students on undergraduate degree programmes or postgraduate Masters and some PhD programmes may be interested in spending time studying in Malta through the [Erasmus](#) scheme. This programme is open to all subject areas, but check with your institution's Erasmus coordinator first (usually based in the international office) to see which countries they have links with and in what subject areas.

### **Will my qualification be recognised in the UK?**

Malta is a member of [ENIC-NARIC](#), which is a network of national centres that aims to improve academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study in European Union (EU) member states, EEA countries and associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

[UK NARIC \(National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom\)](#) provides information and advice on vocational, academic and professional qualifications from countries worldwide, including Malta.

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## Visa and travel information

### Visa requirements and applications

Visas and work permits are not necessary for EEA nationals (except Romanians and Bulgarians). EEA nationals may remain in the Maltese Islands for a period of three months from their date of entry. After three months, you must apply for registration certificates and residence cards. For more detailed information, see the [Government of Malta](#) website.

If you are not an EEA citizen, contact your nearest Maltese embassy for information. Links to embassies around the world are available at [Embassies Worldwide](#).

### Permanent residency

EEA nationals can apply for permanent residency after five years' continuous residence in Malta. See the Government of Malta website for up-to-date information.

### Help in an emergency

If you are a UK citizen, the [British High Commission - Malta](#) can help if you are a victim of crime, if you need a local lawyer, if you need a doctor, if someone dies or if you are arrested, as well as with issues such as child abduction and missing persons. Check the High Commission website for details of the assistance available.

The emergency telephone number is 112 for all the emergency services.

### Travel advice

Find the latest travel advice and a traveller's checklist on the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#).

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## Country overview

### Geography

- **Full country name:** Republic of Malta.
- **Population:** 418,000 (UN, 2011).
- **Border countries:** the Maltese Islands are located in the Mediterranean Sea (95km from Sicily and 290km from Libya), and are made up of Malta, Gozo and Comino, plus the smaller uninhabited islands of Comminotto and Filfla.
- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate with warm, wet winters and hot, dry summers.
- **Terrain:** the total area of the islands is 320 square kilometres, consisting of an undulating limestone plateau with no mountains, woodland, rivers or lakes. Malta's islands and coastline make it an ideal location for water sports.

## Living in Malta

- **Cost of living:** it is cheaper to live in Malta than in most other parts of Western Europe. Food, clothing and leisure activities are all reasonably priced, and rented accommodation is cheaper than in the UK. But bear in mind that incomes are also relatively low.
- **Internet domain:** .mt
- **Health:** Malta has a high standard of healthcare, provided free to all registered residents, although medicines must be paid for.
- **Laws and customs:** penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs in Malta are strict and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines. Same-sex marriage and civil unions are not recognised.

## Economy and finance

- **Currency:** Euro €
- **Type of economy:** Western-style, capitalist economy.
- **Health of economy:** the economy is dependent on foreign trade, manufacturing and tourism. Malta imports about 80% of its food. In January 2012, the BBC reported that the IMF warned that the Maltese economy was at risk from contagion from the global financial crisis, and the country's Standard and Poor's credit rating was downgraded.
- **Unemployment rate:** 6.4% (2011 estimate).
- **Main exports:** semi-conductors, electronic products and components, machinery and transport equipment, pharmaceuticals.

## Culture

- **People:** Maltese, some from Italy and other parts of the Mediterranean.
- **Major religion:** Roman Catholicism.
- **History:** see [BBC Timeline: Malta](#).

## Politics

- **Type of government:** democratic republic.
- **Major political parties:** Nationalist Party, Labour Party, Malta Communist Party, Alliance for Social Justice.

## More information

- [Maltese High Commission](#)
- [BBC Country Profile: Malta](#)
- [The World Factbook](#)
- [XE Universal Currency Converter](#)

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