



Advenio
eAcademy



Corporate Profile
2023/24





Blackley's Business Centre - 2022

Blackley's Bakery - 1905



The historic blackley's Building in Pieta, now re-furbished as the Blackley's Business Centre, where the administrative offices of Ad-venio eAcademy are now located.

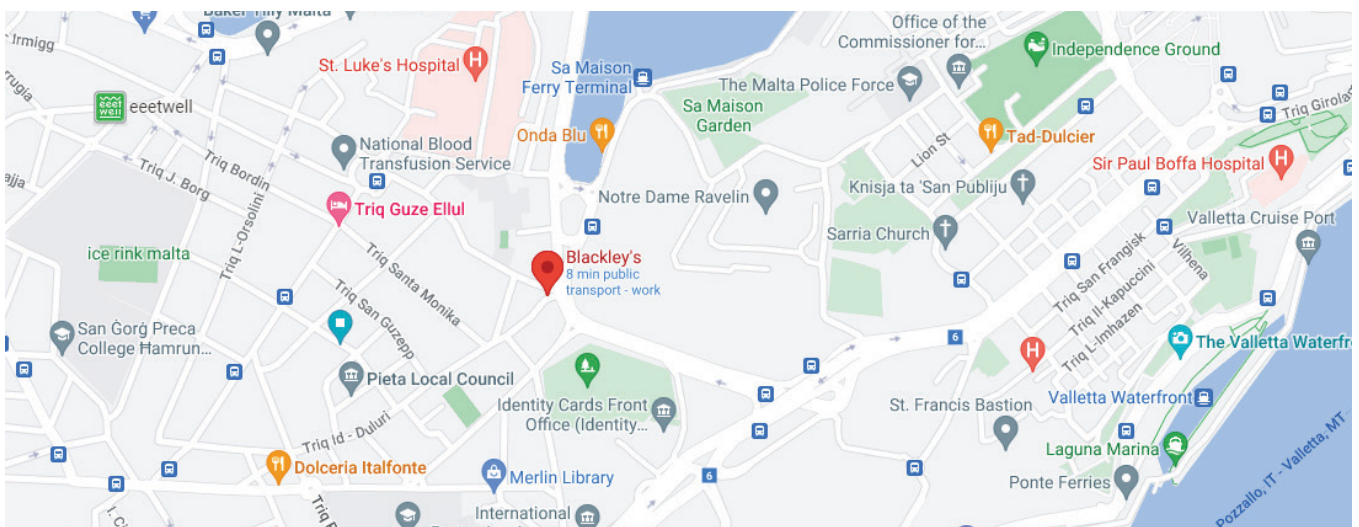


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Administration Details

Advenio eAcademy is operated by AeA Ltd., a Maltese registered limited liability company with Company registration number C-54887 and VAT registration number: MT20668930

Registered Offices:

Advenio eAcademy

Blackely's Business Centre, 222/S31, Triq id-Duluri, Pieta PTR 1420, Malta

Tuition Centre:

Advenio eAcademy

ESL, 21, St. Ursula Street, Valletta VLT 1230, Malta

About Advenio eAcademy

Established in 2013, Advenio eAcademy is a Further & Higher Education Institution (FHI) based in Malta, (MFHEA Licence number: 2013-FHI-006) which caters for an international clientele of discerning educational service providers and learners. It was the first higher educational institution (HEI) in Malta licensed by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta, MFHEA, to provide on-line certified courses.

The e-learning platform used by Advenio eAcademy is the award winning EB-Learn solution developed and maintained by E-Business Systems, the web solutions arm of AllSecure Ltd. eB-Learn provides, audio-visual and video presentations, forum and wiki capabilities, and integrates video conferencing facilities to allow for one-to-one or one-to-many coaching or tutorial sessions. It also allows for linking of third party on-line libraries and other additional resources.

The eB-Learn platform provides a virtual campus which allows for the development and deployment of state-of-the-art educational and training programmes that really add value to the students and the stakeholders.

Critical to the success of Advenio eAcademy is the student-centric approach adopted in all its operations. It is driven by a team of professionals determined to harness technology and partner networks to develop and deliver top quality programmes cost and time effectively, ensuring added value to students. Since its inception Advenio eAcademy has had a track record of international collaboration to seek best practices in elearning.

Mission Statement

“Advenio eAcademy is committed to the design, development and implementation of quality, certified and non-certified, on-line and blended learning in Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship and related fields. These initiatives are designed to support executives in the Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) sector and in the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector. They provide EU recognised qualifications and quality online programmes and courses to assist them in running their organisations and in demonstrating their competence and professionalism.

Advenio eAcademy develops local and international collaborations with Higher Education Institutions, professional bodies, NGOs and private sector firms, to develop customised elearning solutions to meet the requirements of specific market segments and user groups.”



The Chairman of the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta, Dr. Philip Von Brockdorff, presented the operating licence on the 16th May 2013 to Advenio eAcademy, represented by Stephen P. D'Alessandro as Managing Director and Mr. Clive Scerri, Course Co-ordinator of Advenio eAcademy.



Finalisation of elearning Collaboration Agreement between Advenio eAcademy and University of Nis -2014.

Principles of Marketing & Sales were delivered in the English Language and proved to be very useful for technical graduates who had no formal training in these fields and were seeking employment with international companies with operations in Serbia.

This programme was extended in 2017 to Hungary through a collaboration agreement for provision of short courses at Level 5 with Szent Istvan University. Late in 2015 Advenio eAcademy commenced its research for the development of a masters programme in Entrepreneurship and discussions were held with the partner organisations it already had collaboration agreements with.



University of Novi Sad Presentations Level 5 Short Courses, Faculty Presentation – 2014.

In the past couple of years, Advenio eAcademy has established strategic collaborations and partnerships with key stakeholders such as Malta Communications Authority, Malta Institute for Professional Photographers, SOS Malta and TradeMalta in developing and delivering high quality online education.

Advenio eAcademy continues to seek local and international partnerships for collaboration with higher educational institutes and commercial partners that seek to exploit and leverage the power of elearning to add value to the various adult student groups.

In 2013 it commenced with a series of short courses at Level 5 in Romania with the University of Bucharest as well as running these programmes in Malta in collaboration with the Malta Institute of Management. In 2014 Advenio eAcademy established collaboration in Serbia through collaboration agreements for elearning Level 5 short courses with the University of Nis and the University of Novi Sad. These short course courses in Principles of Management and

In recent years, Advenio eAcademy has developed a network of recruitment agencies and consultancies in various regions and countries to assist in the recruitment of foreign students for its blended learning programmes in Malta.



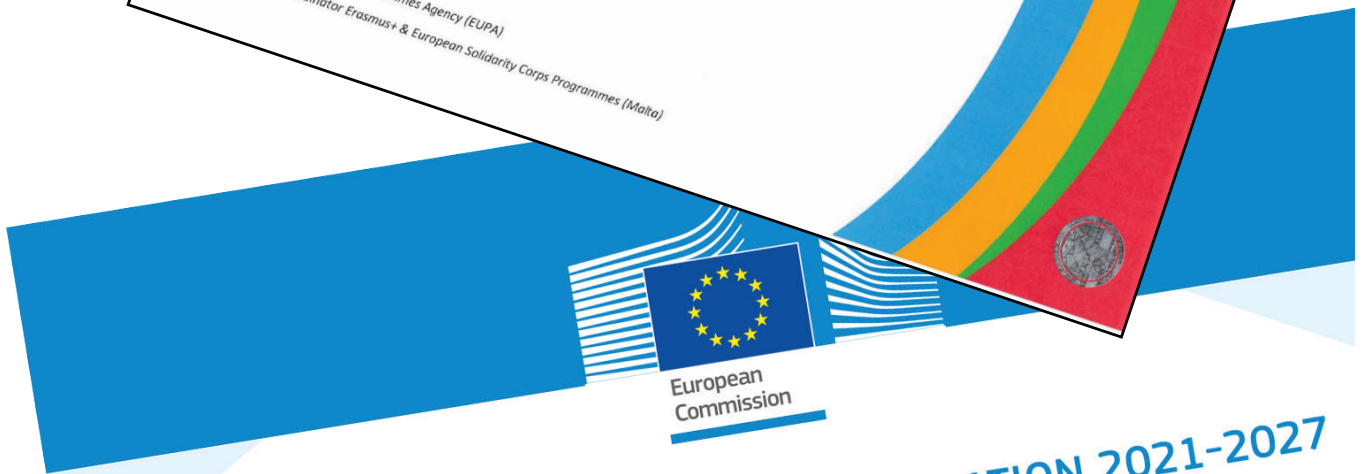
Advenio eAcademy representatives, Mr. Stephen P. D'Alessandro and Mr. Kurt Tabone, Executive Director and Courses Coordinator respectively, at the Advenio eAcademy exhibition stand explaining the programme structure to a potential candidate at the Commonwealth Local Governance Forum held in Malta in November 2017.

Erasmus+ Involvement

Advenio eAcademy launched its accredited online programmes in 2013 as part of its vision for improved remote learning to entrepreneurs and SMEs EU through elearning. This vision included a very open international perspective to online education. It called for sourcing of faculty internationally through collaboration agreements with various European universities and academics, and for the sourcing of students internationally. By 2016, the need to form part of a larger EU framework was recognised and an application was filed for membership of the Erasmus+ Charter. In 2017, Advenio eAcademy became a member for the Charter and started to participate in Erasmus+ programmes. Since then it has been project leader on four Erasmus+ projects involving partners from Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The successful application for EU funding enabled Advenio eAcademy to develop significantly. It developed its international network through collaboration agreements for Erasmus+ projects with leading European universities and other relevant organisations. It benefitted from a transfer of knowledge and best practices through such programmes.

Advenio eAcademy remains committed to international collaboration for the continued development of its programmes and plans to expand its Erasmus+ collaborations in the years ahead.



ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027
The European Commission hereby awards this Charter to:
AEA LTD - Advenio eAcademy

- Ensure the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation
- Support the application and implementation phases.
Programme: ...

MFHEA Accreditation & Certification

The accredited programmes provided by Advenio eAcademy are deemed by the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) to be equivalent to the Malta Qualifications Framework under the European Qualifications Framework. This accreditation confirms the quality assurance and recognition of programmes within the EU.

The Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) assists in making the Maltese qualifications system easier to understand and review, and more transparent at a national and international level. This is also a referencing tool that helps to describe and compare both national and foreign qualifications to promote quality, transparency and mobility of qualifications in all types of education.

It is mainly referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) as well as to other non-European qualifications frameworks. The reference levels make it easier to understand what a learner with a qualification related to the Malta Qualifications Framework knows, understands and is able to do.

MFHEA acts as a broker between the government and relevant Higher Education Institutions and has successfully established a structured dialogue, through a series of regular consultations with all stakeholders to take on suggestions, recommendations and address concerns for the sector. These would serve as input towards the development of national strategies.

ECTS credits act as a quality assurance policy which establishes a point of reference for recognition and esteem. The recognition of credits enables learners to obtain recognition of the learning outcomes achieved in different countries without the need of re-assessment.

ECTS is a credit system based on the learning achievements and workload of a course, students can transfer their ECTS credits from one university to another so they are added up to contribute to an individual's degree programme or training. Therefore upon presentation of the accredited certificate, employers will have a clearer picture of the student's achievements within the national and European framework of qualifications.

8	Doctoral Degree	
7	Master's Degree Post-graduate Diploma Post-graduate Certificate	
6	Bachelor's Degree	
5	Undergraduate Diploma Undergraduate Certificate	VET Higher Diploma Foundation Degree
4	Matriculation Certificate Advanced Level Intermediate Level	VET Diploma (iv)
3	General Education SEC Grade 1-5	VET Level 3 (iii)
2	General Education Level 2 SEC Grade 6-7	VET Level 2 (ii)
1	General Education Level 1 School Leaving Certificate	VET Level 1 (i)

Annotations

i. A full VET Level 1 qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as a full Secondary School Leaving Certificate and Profile Level 1.

ii. A full VET Level 2 qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as 4 Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) subjects at grade 6 and 7.

iii. A full VET Level 3 qualification should enjoy the same parity of esteem as 6 Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) subjects at grade 1 to 5.

iv. A VET Diploma should enjoy the same parity of esteem as the Matriculation Certificate.

E-Learning Platform – eB-Learn

Since 2003, E-Business Systems in Malta has been working on the development and enhancement of its e-learning platform, EBLearn. This platform provides a very user-friendly approach to blended learning. It allows for the seamless integration of the traditional classroom environments with the more modern on-line variations. eBLearn offers flexibility for student enrolment, which is particularly attractive for in-house learning environments. In this way students can enrol per programme, which would comprise a number of courses each with a number of modules in each course. Or they could choose to enrol for an individual course within a programme, or they could also choose to enrol for specific modules within individual courses of a programme.

EBLearn was the winner of the Malta Communications Authority national e-Biz Award 2011 for Best Use of Technology in Education and Training. EBLearn is different to most e-learning applications on the market, since it is highly customisable and includes extensive facilities for self-learning or group learning within the system, which can be set to best fit the learning style and learning methodology of the particular institution.

A core functionality of the eB-Learn platform is that it caters for both self-learning (asynchronous learning) and collaborative learning (synchronous) learning. In the former approach the learning objects can be followed independently by the user with little or no support from the Faculty.

The synchronous elements require collaboration and interaction with other participants and the Faculty, typically involving scheduled engagements.

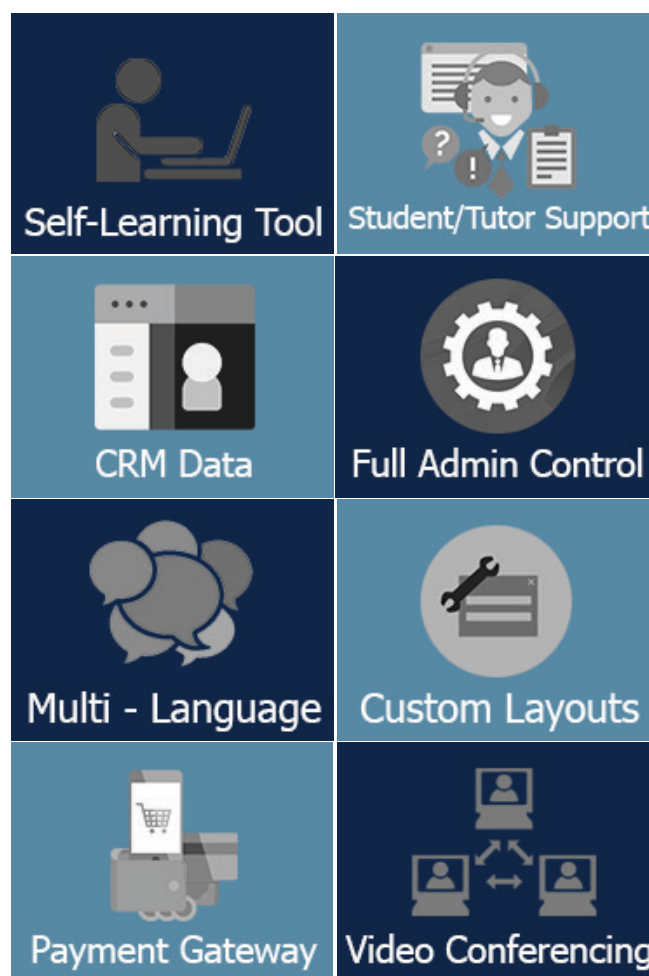
EBLearn is a turn-key solution to organisations that seek state-of-the-art solutions to enhance the learning experience of their participants. EBLearn is offered on a software-as-a-solution (SaaS) basis, which means that clients do not have to invest in hardware or in technical support teams to run the system. This ensures a tighter control on spend and a more cost efficient use of resources.

- The system allows flexibility in the design and development of content material for traditional classroom based courses, for blended learning courses (including a mix of on-line interactive or pre-recorded audio visual classes and traditional classroom classes)

or for on-line courses (which include only document and audio visual material that is available on-line).

- Flexibility in the operation of the system as it is provided on a SaaS basis allowing for quick scalability and strong business continuity and disaster recovery back-up solutions.
- Flexibility in the management of the programmes with powerful course management tools available to administrators to enable them to use EBLearn system data to act proactively to improve overall student course participation and completion rates.

EBLearn supports collaborative learning, online tutoring/mentoring, virtual assistance, online assessment and intelligent document handling. The EBLearn platform differs from most e-learning applications on the market, since it is highly customisable and includes extensive facilities for self-learning or group learning within the system. These can be set to best fit the learning style and learning methodology of the particular institution.



Internal Quality Assurance

The conceptual approach to quality is the recommended quality cycle referred to as a Quality Spiral where the objective is that for every cycle the various courses are stepped up in terms of quality.

The Internal Quality Assurance is built upon the Open ECBCheck Framework. Open ECBCheck is a quality improvement scheme for E-Learning programmes. It supports organisations to measure how successful their e-learning programmes are and allows for continuous improvement through peer collaboration and bench learning. Open ECBCheck forms a participative quality environment which allows its members to benefit in a variety of ways by having access to tools and guidelines for their own practice on the one hand, and being able to obtain a community based label on the other hand.



Adoption of the Open ECBCheck framework ensures that:

- All proposals for the design and approval of new courses, subjects and modules are rigorously scrutinised
- All proposals fit within the remit of the Academy's licence;
- Each course is designed to the highest academic standards;
- The educational experience provided to students is of the highest standard;

erience provided to students is of the highest standard;

- The eAcademy's teaching and learning resources are in compatibility with the Malta Qualifications Framework;
- There is compliance with all requirements of the relevant approved external validating body.

The ECBCheck framework provides clear and unambiguous procedures for the:

- Design, approval and validation of new courses;
- Reassessment of current courses and their continued development;
- On-going operations of the eAcademy in supporting students and growing its programmes.

The external evaluation by the MFHEA ensures that Advenio eAcademy has drafted courses at the required standard. The correspondence regarding the confirmation of a course is saved in the relevant file repository.

3 Current Rubrics in Assignment	L5*	L5**	L6	L7
	50%	50%/60%	60%	50%

Assignment components related to assignment brief	Marks
Part 1: (Executive Summary or Introduction)	20%
Part 2: (Problem definition / Methodology / Data Collection)	15%
Part 3: (Review & Analysis of Data collected / Overview to Issue #1)	15%
Part 3: (Project Plan / Action Plan / Overview to Issue #2)	20%
Part 5: (Conclusions & Recommendation / Constraints & limitations)	20%
Overall quality (report format, referencing, appends & layout)	10%
Total	100%



(Above) An online faculty CPD meeting in 2022 discussing the current scoring rubrics across all programmes.

(Left) A faculty meeting in 2019 discussing the MHEI-ME programme developments and upgrades.

e-Learning is about team effort. These certified programmes are the result of the efforts of a multi-disciplined team within Advenio eAcademy which includes course administrators, tutors, content writers, video editors and software developers. The provision of accredited programmes by Advenio eAcademy is the work of a dedicated team of professionals. The following outline profiles serve as a brief introduction to our professional experienced tutors.



Stephen P. D'Alessandro
M.A (Mrktg.), B.A.
(Hons.) Bus. Mang.,
F.I.M., M.C.I.M.,
M.loD,
Executive Director
and
Senior Lecturer

Mr. D'Alessandro is an experienced entrepreneur and management consultant who set up in 1984, and still runs, the consultancy firm D'Alessandro & Associates Ltd which is the parent company of AeA Ltd as operators of Advenio eAcademy. In more than thirty years of international project development, he has gained experience with management and marketing projects in areas that include aviation, health care, financial services and hospitality and tourism, in countries as diverse as Romania, Serbia, Italy, Suriname, Indonesia, China, and the Netherlands. Mr. D'Alessandro lectures on various L4- L7 programmes offered by Advenio eAcademy.

He was a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the Maastricht School of Management between 1999 and 2015, lecturing in Entrepreneurship on the international MBA and Executive MBA programmes. For the period 2012-15, he was appointed as a visiting senior lecturer at the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy at the University of Malta, lecturing in Marketing Simulation. In 2014-16 he was appointed as Senior Lecturer on the Adjunct Faculty of the London School of Commerce lecturing in entrepreneurship on their MBA programmes in London and other outreach destinations.

Mr. D'Alessandro holds a first degree in Business Management and a second degree in Marketing. His professional memberships reflect his broad area of involvements. He is an elected Fellow of the Malta Institute of Management, a member of the Institute of Financial Service Practitioners in Malta, a Chartered Marketer and member of the UK's Chartered Institute of Marketing, a member of the Institute of Directors in the UK.



Dr. György Iván Neszmélyi,
Ph.D., (Economic
Science), M.Sc
Agronomy, MBA,
B.A (Economics),
Academic Director
and Professor

György Iván Neszmélyi has over 20 years' academic background gained at various universities. Besides Advenio eAcademy, he is professor at Budapest Business School and private professor of Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), formerly Szent István University (SZIU) in Hungary. He has experiences in lecturing at other universities, like Shin Chien University in Taiwan. Dr. Neszmelyi lectures on L7 programmes offered by Advenio eAcademy.

He has been working with Advenio e-Academy since 2014 as senior consultant. He teaches marketing and sales, regional studies, economic policy, economic history, international studies and other subjects. The latter derives from his experiences as he visited many European, Asian and African countries. For a short period, he used to be head of department of market information at the Research and Information Institute of Agricultural Economy as well.

György earned his Ph. Degree (1997) at the predecessor of SZIU in Hungary in the field of Economic Sciences than his MBA degree (2004) also at SZIU he received postdoctoral title "Dr. habili" in Regional Sciences. He teaches regional economy, economic policy, economic history, marketing, and subjects related to international economy.



Ing. David J. Dingli
M.Phil.
(Maastricht);
MBA(Brunel);
B.Elec.Eng.
(Hons.)
Senior Lecturer

David manages his own consulting & training practice: Resource Productivity Consulting Services, (R.P.C.S.). (<http://www.rpcsmalta.com>). David is also an Assistant Professor with Maastricht University, MsM, School of Management, Maastricht, The Netherlands, (<http://www.msm.nl>) and lectures at MBA level in: Operations Management, Global Supply Chain Management, Strategic Management, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Strategic Human Resources. His international experience over 17 years working with MsM, includes 28 countries: Malta, The Netherlands, Romania, Poland, Germany, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, The P.R. of China, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Mongolia, Suriname and Peru. Ing. Dingli lectures on various L5, L6 and L7 programmes offered by Advenio eAcademy.

David graduated from the University of Malta as an electrical engineer (B.Elec.Eng.(Hons)) in 1986. In 1996 he graduated Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Henley Management College, UK. And in 2006 he graduated Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) from Maastricht School of Management. He is also a registered ISO9000 internal quality auditor. He has conducted various in-house training programs for corporate clients in areas such as: Strategic Management, Operations Management, Time Management, Work Study, Quality Management, Project Management, Inventory Management, Teambuilding, Customer Care (service Quality) , Communication skills, Executive Leadership and various other Management Skills.

He has also been involved in Innovation and Internationalization Management workshops. He has been a guest speaker at various conferences and seminars both locally and overseas and is a regular contributor to "The Executive" Business Journal, and "The Business Review".



Dr. Robert M. Suban
B.B.A.(Paris),
M.A.(Bruges),
Ph.D.(Alliance
M.B.S.), A.C.C.A.
Visiting Senior
Lecturer

Dr. Robert Suban is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Banking and Finance of the University of Malta. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration, a Masters Degree, and a Ph.D. in Accounting & Finance from the Alliance Manchester Business School.

He teaches finance related subjects at the undergraduate and post-graduate level. He is also approved by the Malta Financial Services Authority to sit as Director of Financial companies operating in Malta or on the Investments Committee.

His main speciality is teaching investment related topics, such as equity and bond markets, derivatives, and portfolio management. He also teaches corporate finance and banking topics together with research methods applied to finance. Dr. Suban lectures on various L5 and L7 programmes offered by Advenio eAcademy.

He regularly attends and presents his research at various internationally peer-reviewed academic conferences in the area of finance and international business. He has considerable experience as a practitioner having worked at the Central Bank of Malta, Jobsplus and a leading private travel organisation.

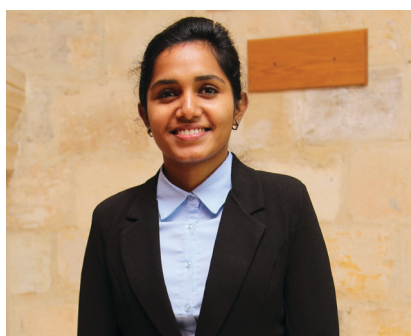
Currently, he is also a practitioner with a number of non-executive directorships on a number of investment companies. He is also a Director of Malita Investments p.l.c. (a company listed on the Malta Stock Exchange) and is the Chairman of its Investment Committee as well as a member of its Audit Committee.



Dr. Marceline Naudi
B.A., M.A.
(Bradford),
PH.D.
(Manchester)
Visiting Senior
Lecturer

Dr. Marceline Naudi, holds a first degree from University of Malta (1980), a Master's Degree in Women's Studies from University of Bradford (U.K.) (1990) and a Doctorate from Manchester University (2004). Dr. Naudi is a social worker by profession, her practice (in England, Ireland and Malta) included work with children and young people in care and their families, ex-offenders, homeless people, persons with mental health support needs and survivors of domestic violence.

She is Head of the Department of Gender Studies and contributes to teaching and supervision of student research within several other University Departments on gender issues, violence against women and other anti-oppressive issues (LGBTIQ, ethnicities, disabilities) at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She has contributed to research and reports for several EU projects and Institutions, such as FRA and EIGE, on the issues of gender and violence against women among others. She is Regional Editor of the Journal on Gender Based Violence, and is currently co-editing a special issue. Dr. Naudi lectures on a specialised L5 Programme offered by Advenio eAcademy.



Ms. Anaswara Chandran
MTech, (CSE), BE
(CSE)
Lecturer

Anaswara Chandran is a Lecturer in ICT with Advenio Academy. She earned her Level 7 Master of Technology Degree in Computer Science from the MG University, Kottayam, India. She read for her Level 6 Bachelor's degree in Computer Science

and Engineering from Anna University, Chennai, India. Her professional journey includes a couple of years of experience as an Assistant Professor in higher educational institutes in India. During that time she also gained valuable experience in software administration and software testing. At Advenio Academy, she is involved in the programme development team working on content preparation in the broad field of ICT. She is a tutor on a number of the ICT L4 and L5 courses. She is part of the Student Support team, assisting and mentoring students through registration and course completion



Mr. Wayne Bond
M.Sc, B.Com
(Hons.)
Visiting
Lecturer

Wayne Bond has a degree (MQF Level 7 or equivalent) level of education in management and a number of years of relevant work experience. Wayne acquired his Masters in Strategic Management & Marketing in 2018 at the University of Malta. At Advenio eAcademy he lectures on Marketing & Sales and eCommerce programmes at EQF/MQF Levels 4 and 5. Mr. Bond has been involved in the development and implementation of the Level 4 and Level 5 course modules related to marketing and digital practices.

The local Faculty is joined by an international Adjunct Faculty comprising of academic staff from the various partner HEIs with whom Advenio eAcademy collaborates in the design, development and implementation of its accredited programmes. This includes Faculty members from University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy; Vilnius University, Lithuania; University of Zilina, Slovakia; University of Ioannina, Greece; Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy; Boğaziçi University, Turkey;

International Projects



Higher Education Institution Partners

University of Ioannina, GREECE
Szent István University, HUNGARY
University of Bari Aldo Moro, ITALY
Advenio eAcademy, MALTA
University of Žilina, SLOVAKIA
Poltava University of Economics and Trade,
UKRAINE

In 2016 Advenio eAcademy led the formation of a consortium of European HEIs to focus on the development and implementation of best practices in graduate elearning and set-up of a framework for the development of an online Master's degree in Entrepreneurship. The initial work of this consortium led to the development of a proposal for Erasmus+ co-funding being submitted. Although the bid was positively received, it was not selected for funding in 2016. Further development was made on the bid an additional partner HEIs brought in for the bid to be re-submitted with various changes in 2017. This Level 7 programme is awarded by AeA in collaboration with partner HEIs from Greece (University of Ioannina), Hungary (Szent Istvan University), Italy (University of Bari Aldo Moro),



Photo of MHEI-ME Kick off Meeting in Malta, November 2017.

Slovakia (university of Zilina) and Ukraine (Poltava University of Economics and Trade). The first intake commenced in April 2018 as an Erasmus+ co-funded project. SMEs. The programme was in response to the market requirements for specialised

post graduate quality courses that meet the needs of existing entrepreneurs and small business managers. The focus of this programme is to provide entrepreneurs, or aspiring entrepreneurs, with a higher level of competence to enable them to successfully launch or grow their SME operation. The consortium developed the programme in 4 different stages:

Stage 1 – 5 Foundation modules

Stage 2 – 4 Specialist Modules;

Stage 3 – Internship

Stage 4 – Investor ready Business Plan Project.

The project reached its objectives as it was successfully accredited by the Malta education regulator, then known as the National Commission for Further and Higher Education NCFHE, now known as the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority, MFHEA. One of the key achievements of this project was the cooperation to develop and implement a Masters programme with a network of six Higher Education Institutes, each having different expertise within the Entrepreneurship field. This way the students had the opportunity to interact and learn from leading experts from an international faculty.

In addition, the student group also created a mix of nationalities and encouraged debates and cross-cultural interaction between the faculty and the students, with nine different nationalities being represented. A total number of 15 students enrolled for the full programme. In total 12 students graduated, 2 with an Award in Entrepreneurship, 2 with a Post-Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship and 8 with a Masters in Entrepreneurship.

This project was very successful and positive feedback was received by the students. The national agency, EUPA, also had positive feedback on how the project was managed and Advenio eAcademy was presented with a certificate for good practice for the MHEI-ME Masters in Entrepreneurship programme.



Higher Education Institution Partners

Advenio eAcademy, MALTA
 University of Bari Aldo Moro, ITALY
 University of Ioannina, GREECE
 University of Žilina, SLOVAKIA
 Vilnius University, LITHUANIA

Technical Partners

eBusiness Systems, MALTA
 EUCEN, BELGIUM

This project, Accreditation & Recognition of Prior Experience & Learning for Entrepreneurship (ARPEL4Entrep) was launched in September 2020 as an Erasmus+ co-funded project developed by a group of European Higher Educational Institutions and Technical Partners. The scope of the project is to leverage the infrastructure and competencies of the partners in e-learning and the collective expertise and resources of the partners in creating a programme which would encourage entrepreneurs to accredit and recognise their prior experience and learning as part of an online Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship.

This project is based on providing a framework for recognition of prior learning to enable seasoned entrepreneurs to continue with their studies :- Accreditation & Recognition of Prior & Experiential Learning (ARPEL) is the process where credit is sought for learning which has not previously been

assessed and formally accredited. This programme is based on EQF standards and the use of ECTS credits. It is learning which has taken place through a range of personal experiences often including unstructured informal and formal learning experiences. In many fields, the skills, knowledge and abilities that are acquired through this type of learning can be just as relevant as those gained by students following formal accredited educational programmes.

A major innovation of this programme is the EQF/MQF accreditation which ensures the quality of the programme and enables graduates to get automatic recognition of their qualifications throughout the EU and other countries which are signatories to the Bologna Process which establishes the validity of the EQF ECTS accreditation system. The Erasmus+ ARPEL Project includes:- research on market needs and course content; design, development and production of course content, customization of online evaluation engine, accreditation of programme, implementation of pilot programme and dissemination of project results.

The programme comprises three Stages:- Stage #1: ARPEL Component valid for up to 90ECTS credits at Level 6; Stage #2: 8 Subject Modules x 8 ECTS credits; valid for 64 ECTS credits; Stage #3: Research Project x 26 ECTS credits. Intake 1 commenced in October 2021 with the Stage #1 ARPEL Process, with Stage #2 commenced in January 2022 and Stage #3 scheduled to commence in Feb 2023 with completion by July 2023.



Representatives of the five Partner HEIs in the workshop session during the Transnational Meeting of the Erasmus+ co-Funded project, ARPEL4Entrep held between the 23-25th June 2022 in Bari, Italy.

Award in NGO Management

Project Partners

Advenio eAcademy, MALTA
SOS Malta - Solidarity Overseas Service, MALTA
CARDET, Cyprus & Friends of Korce, Albania

The Award in NGO Management is an online accredited programme designed to assist Voluntary Organisation officers and staff in meeting the challenges of managing a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). It seeks to provide in a concise format the knowledge and know how to assist them in strengthening their skills and competences. This programme will enable NGOs to upskill and develop their management capacity, to increase their social impact, achieve their goals, and be sustainable over time.

NGOs and NGO members all need some sort of training to be able to effectively implement the mission that their respective NGO is working towards. This programme will provide them and other potential new students with the opportunity to improve their skills, knowledge and competences and the capacity of their NGO whilst, getting an accredited certificate at EQF Level 5 with 10 ECTS credits. This award will be recognised through-out the EU and all signatories to the Bologna Process. The partners are targeting to at least recruit students from two EU countries, Malta and Cyprus. This will benefit the students as they will be able to network with other NGO members who operate locally but also in other EU countries.

This project includes a Higher Education Institute from Malta as the lead applicant and two NGOs from Malta and Cyprus. Thus, the HEI partner and NGOs are looking at this project to cater for different needs. Particularly, the HEI partner want to increase their programmes library to be in a position to offer a specific programme to this target market. Whilst the NGOs will also seek to increase their own capacity by encouraging their own employees to enrol in the pilot intake/s and thus improve their skills, knowledge and competences.

As at 22nd April 2022 Intake 1 of the programme was being implemented with 26 students from Malta and Cyprus.



Higher Education Institution Partners

Advenio eAcademy, MALTA
University of Ioannina, GREECE
Boğaziçi University, Turkey
Università Politecnica delle Marche, ITALY

NGO Partners

SOS Malta - Solidarity Overseas Service, MALTA
Academy of Entrepreneurship, GREECE
IMECE, TURKEY
AIC Forum, ITALY

The SocEntrep Erasmus+ co-funded project was launched in November 2021 to address the identified lack of research specifically to determine the challenges and the training needs by current and new social entrepreneurs. The project comprises three stages –

- (i) research & development of social entrepreneurial activity in the partner countries;
- (ii) design, development and production of accredited online educational programme in social entrepreneurship;
- (iii) implementation of pilot accredited online programme and feedback.

This project's scope seeks to improve the capacity of existing NGOs working within the third sector, current and future social entrepreneurs by providing them with a formal qualification directly related to Social Entrepreneurship. The proposed programme will be designed and developed based on the feedback that the project partners will receive from the participants in the research study to be carried out in this project. The project seeks to achieve the following objectives:-

1. Research current best practices in Social Entrepreneurship (SE) and SE programmes required to support NGOs. This will help in understanding the particular challenges met by current and future social entrepreneurs, employees working in NGOs and NGO volunteers.

(Continues on page 16)

Local Projects

Award in eCommerce Practices



In 2018 in collaboration with the Malta Communications Authority, Advenio eAcademy launched the Award in eCommerce Practices a Level 4 programme to encourage the take-up of ICT studies. The Malta Communications Authority was set up to regulate communications services, which include, fixed and mobile telephony, Internet and TV distribution services, the postal sector, eCommerce services and Malta's radio spectrum resources.

Under the banner eBiznify, this initiative of MCA in collaboration with Advenio eAcademy is part-financed by the Operational Programme II of the European Structural and Investment funds 20- 14-2020. eBiznify will provide state-of-the-art customised learning solutions to the Maltese market through a certified 4 ECTS credit Level 4 Course in eCommerce. It includes both self-learning and collaborative learning elements and will require participants to participate in various on-line and on-site workshop/tutorial sessions. In addition, they will also be required to participate in online forum discussions and to work on various assignment projects during the twelve week course. All of these elements are integral to the on-going evaluation process key to the certification of the programme by MFHEA. In 2020, the programme has been revised to add additional weight on the students time involved in carrying out the assessment elements and therefore, each module is now accredited with 1 ECTS credits.

(Continued from page 15)

2. Design and develop the proposed Social Entrepreneurship programme set for the level recommended by the research and including specialist content also confirmed through the research.
3. Accreditation by the national regulator in Malta, Malta Further & Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) of the new social entrepreneurship online programme. Accreditation ensures that students completing the programme earn a qualification that is recognised within the EU and within those countries that are signatories to the Bologna process.
4. Marketing of the new Social Entrepreneurship programme to recruit suitable social entrepreneurs for participation in the pilot programme Intake #1. An online campaign will be run in each of the four partner countries to promote the programme and recruit students.
5. Implement the 18-month online Social Entrepreneurship programme as a pilot programme and evaluate its effectiveness. Based on the Erasmus+ funding, circa 60 students will be offered a full scholarship in the programme.



Representatives of the four Partner HEI and four NGO organisations in the workshop session during the Malta Transnational Meeting of the Erasmus+ co-Funded project, SocEntrep held between the 23-25th June 2022.

Local Projects (Cont.)

Principles & Best Practices of Photography



In 2019, Advenio eAcademy and the Malta Institute of Professional Photographers (MIPP) entered into a strategic collaboration agreement for the provision of quality online and blended learning programmes in photography and videography. This collaboration will enable the MIPP to supplement its current range of on-site courses in photography for the local community of photography enthusiasts. This collaboration enables MIPP to provide a wider range of courses in photography and videography which can also be followed by an international audience.

The online programmes in photography are to be developed in collaboration with Advenio eAcademy and would be supplemented with a series of on-site week-end Master Class workshop/tutorial sessions. This project fitted in nicely with Advenio eAcademy's goal of providing top quality online courses in Entrepreneurship and related matters to aspiring and established entrepreneurs.

The first online photography course was developed in Q4 2019 and was launched in Q1 2020. The programme was launched as a self learning programme without any formal evaluation and coursework obligations normally required for accreditation.

Award in Gender Based Violence Support for HR Professionals



Violet Support Online is part of the GBVSO project, a partnership between Solidarity and Overseas Service Malta (SOS Malta), Victim Support Malta, CORE platform, Commission on Domestic Violence (CDV) and Advenio eAcademy as the training Partner.

As a project, GB-VSO aims to tackle the above issues and provide protection and support for Victims of Gender Based Violence. It follows the premise that providing comprehensive support structures, increasing the capacity to respond, together with awareness-raising will contribute to ensuring that

victims understand their situation, and feel empowered and supported to speak out. This project will specifically look at the workplace as a place where support structures could be strengthened.

'The Award in Gender-Based Violence Support for HR Professionals' is an online accredited programme by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education, with 2 ECTS credits at EQF/MQF Level 5.

This award includes various guests from the field of gender-based violence and human resources who impart their specialized knowledge and talk about their practical experiences.

Effective Management of an NGO



The Active Citizens Fund – ACF in Malta is established under the specific Programme Area for Civil Society part of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, financial contribution from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltic. ACF Malta shall also contribute to the achievement of the objective of the EEA and Norway Grants, to reduce economic and social disparities, and to strengthen bilateral relations between Malta and the donor states. ACF Malta reflects the firm recognition of the sector's role as a fundamental building block of democratic governance, human rights and social cohesion across Europe.

'The Effective Management of an NGO' is an online course designed to assist Voluntary Organisation executives and staff in meeting the challenges of managing an organisation. It aims at improving their capacity to increase their social impact, achieve their goals, and be sustainable over time. The course is free of charge, designed as a self-learn programme, where users can log in and follow the course at their own pace throughout the whole ACF Malta programming period.

The programme provides details of core concepts and theories that apply and most importantly, it offers a pragmatic perspective for their implementation within the NGO environment.

Level 5 Programmes

Title	Undergraduate Higher Diploma in SME Management
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF* Level 5
Accreditation	90 ECTS
Delivery	Online / Blended Learning**
Duration	Online - Part Time: 74 Weeks Blended - Full Time: 52 Weeks
Schedules	2024/25: 8 Intakes per annum

* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework

This 90 ECTS Level 5 accredited on-line/blended programme is developed and delivered in the English language. It includes different business subject core and specialist modules and a research project or embedded internship report.

Participation in the programme includes both self-learning and collaborative learning elements. The collaborative elements include weekly online tutorial sessions to provide ample scope for review and discussion of course work with members of Faculty.

This programme seeks to equip owner/senior managers, junior managers and SME executives, with the necessary management skills, tools and techniques to enable them to improve their effectiveness within the challenging SME environment.

The course will provide tools and necessary knowledge and the skill in applying SME management practices which would help grow and support a business. This course will also be offered to students across faculty or professionals in different sectors such as Engineering, ICT, Finance, etc. The programme will also include weekly on-site support classes extra to the online tutorials and not part of the study hours.

Level 5 Programmes

Title	Award in SME Management (CPD)
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF* Level 5
Accreditation	10 ECTS (1 ECTS per individual Module)
Delivery	Online
Duration	Online: 10-40 Weeks (1-4 weeks per individual Module)
Schedules	2024: Every Monday

* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework

The programme is delivered in the English language and is fully online, comprising a number of micro-credit courses, each accredited at 1 ECTS credit. Successful completion of ten of the micro-credential courses entitles the participant to the 10 ECTS credit Award in SME Management (CPD). The programme is delivered on a part-time basis typically requiring one week (up to four weeks) to complete each micro-credential course.

The full Award programme would thus typically be completed over a period of 10 weeks (up to 40 weeks). It is designed to cater for working professionals to improve their practical knowledge in different domains. The programme makes use of the recent technologies and tools which pave path for professional and personal development. The individual awards provided in the programme are

carefully selected in such a way to cover the principles of appropriate domains for the participants. Access to the content material is based on 20 hours per module, and no additional charges for participation in the online collaborative learning activities. Once each module is completed, registered users will receive a CPD certificate confirming completion of the relevant course module.

** Blended learning programmes are undertaken on a Full-time basis and take place in Malta

Level 5 Programmes

Title	Undergraduate Higher Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF* Level 5
Accreditation	90 ECTS
Delivery	Online / Blended Learning**
Duration	Online - Part Time: 74 Weeks Blended - Full Time: 52 Weeks
Schedules	2024/25: 8 Intakes per annum

* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework

This 90 ECTS Level 5 accredited on-line programme is developed and delivered in the English language. It includes different business subject core, specialist modules with special focus on the social aspect of entrepreneurship and a research project or embedded internship report.

Participation in the programme includes both self-learning and collaborative learning elements. The collaborative elements include weekly online tutorial sessions to provide ample scope for review and discussion of course work with members of Faculty.

The students can opt to go through the ARPEL (Accreditation and recognition of prior experiences) process to earn up-to 32 ECTS credits at EQF/MQF Level 5. The focus of this module is to encourage people without any formal qualifications, particularly, at EQF/MQF Level 5 but have a minimum of 4 years middle management experience to accredit their prior formal, informal, non-formal learning and work experience.

Level 5 Programmes

Title	Award in NGO Management
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF* Level 5
Accreditation	10 ECTS
Delivery	Online
Duration	Online: 14 Weeks
Schedules	2024: 18th March

* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework

The Award in NGO Management is an online programme designed to assist Voluntary Organisation officers and staff in meeting the challenges of managing an organisation. It aims at improving their capacity to increase their social impact, achieve their goals, and be sustainable over time. The programme provides details of core concepts and theories that apply and most importantly, it offers a pragmatic perspective for their implementation within the NGO environment.

This is designed to assist Voluntary Organisation officers and staff in meeting the challenges of managing a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). It seeks to provide in a concise format the knowledge and know-how to assist them in strengthening their skills and competencies. This programme will enable NGOs to upskill and develop

their management capacity, to increase their social impact, and be sustainable over time.

The programme includes five modules: Award in Meeting Key NGO Challenges; Award in Fundamentals of Management; Award in Fundamentals of Campaigning and Marketing; Award in Fundamentals of Human Resources Management; Award in Fundamentals of Financial Management

Level 6 Programme

Title	Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF* Level 6
Accreditation	180 ECTS
Delivery	Online / Blended Learning**
Duration	Online - Part Time: 84 Weeks Blended - Full Time: 64 Weeks
Schedule	2024/25: 8 Intakes per annum
* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework	

Following the successful launch of the programme in 2021, Advenio eAcademy as the awarding body, in collaboration with University of Bari, Aldo Moro, Italy; University of Ioannina, Greece; Vilnius University, Lithuania; and University of Žilina, Slovakia offer the ARPEL based Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship.

The online programme is delivered over a period of 84 weeks and the blended programme is delivered over a period of 64 weeks, where the research project run in parallel with the subject modules. The Stage 1 ARPEL process is primarily system based and will include one or more online interviews as part of the evaluation process. During Stages 2 and 3, in addition to the self-learning elements, students would be required to attend one weekly online tutorial/workshop.

The online Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship programme comprises :

Stage 1 – ARPEL process: 4 Step process including online interviewing and evaluation

Stage 2 – Subject course modules: a selection of 8 out of 10 subjects

Stage 3 – Final research project: practical research project to launch or grow the business

Level 7 Programme

Title	Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship
Qualification Level	MQF/EQF Level 7
Accreditation	90 ECTS Credits
Delivery	Online / Blended Learning**
Duration	Online - Part Time: 74 Weeks Blended - Full Time: 52 Weeks
Schedules	2024/25: 8 Intakes per annum
* European Qualification Framework, Malta Qualification Framework	

The MHEI – ME (Multiple Higher Educational Institution – Masters in Entrepreneurship) brings together multiple Higher Education Institutions to design, develop, implement and operate an online/blended Masters in Entrepreneurship.

This programme is designed to assist practicing entrepreneurs, current managers of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, or managers working within larger organisations who want to make the transition to the SME environment either as entrepreneurs or executives within SMEs. The programme is in response to the international market requirements for specialised post graduate quality online and blended learning courses that meet the needs of existing entrepreneurs and small business managers.

The course will provide students with the skills that enable them to demonstrate their specialised or multi-disciplinary knowledge of the challenges related to successful entrepreneurship. This includes their ability to reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements in their roles as entrepreneurs. The programme gives them the skills to perform critical evaluations and analysis with incomplete or limited information to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments.

** Blended learning programmes are undertaken on a Full-time basis and take place in Malta

Student Feedback

Some of the members of Faculty and students present at the 2022 Advenio eAcademy Graduation event.



Masters in Entrepreneurship & Undergraduate Higher Diploma in SME Management Graduation Event March 2022

‘I can guarantee that the amount of knowledge that I learnt from this course is incredible. The final business plan helped me to critically think and to apply all the knowledge that I have learnt over the months during this course ‘

Brian- Masters in Entrepreneurship, 2022

‘I would certainly recommend this course with Advenio. The course material and its delivery are well laid out and the teaching staff is very knowledgeable as well as very understanding with novice students. The support staff too was excellent and was always ready to answer any technical queries that needed asking.’

Louis- Essentials of Finance, 2020

‘I wish to praise the patience and capability of the faculty members since you had to deal with very different levels of understanding and experience amongst students. You always showed your most professional and patient selves whilst giving us great knowledge and support.’

Lucrecia- Award in eCommerce Practices, 2020



MHEI-ME November 2019 Graduation Event Graduands

Study in Malta

Situated at the middle of the Mediterranean, the Maltese Islands have long been considered as the lifeline between Africa and Europe. This has led to the Islands being ruled by a succession of sovereigns, leaving their imprints on many facets of Maltese culture, ranging from the warm and welcoming character of the Maltese people to the entrepreneurial spirit of the Maltese businessperson.

Malta is a small island but smallness has its advantages. The small geographic size makes it relatively cheap, quick and easy to get around the island, especially with the many direct bus routes to and from various bus termini. Malta's proximity to other Schengen and EU countries and the numerous direct flight connections make it very easy to explore the Mediterranean region.

Malta enjoys a temperate climate with mild winters and warm summers. With a Mediterranean climate similar to that of southern Italy or Greece, the weather in Malta is one reason for the country's popularity with tourists. During summer, daytime temperatures are typically above 30°C (86°F) and in winter not usually lower than 15°C (59°F).

Malta may be small, but it's also packed with things to see and do. The country's thriving tourism industry has spurred on the development of its lively nightlife and cultural scenes, as well as a wide range of outdoor activities, from tennis and golf to paragliding and diving.

With Mediterranean characteristics, Maltese food is similar to that of neighbouring island Sicily. Fresh fruit, vegetables, pasta and seafood are all key elements. Traditional dishes include rabbit stew, fish pie, bragioli (stuffed beef), and bigilla (a thick bean dip). Popular for snacking are pastizzi (savoury pastries) and ħobż biż-żejt (traditional bread with olive oil, tomatoes and a mix of other toppings). There are also lots of restaurants specializing in cuisines from around the world from Italian, British, Indian, Chinese and Arabic.

Options for accommodation in Malta include private apartment rental or staying with a local host family.

Students from within the EU, the US and a number of other countries do not require a visa to study in Malta for less than three months. If students plan

to stay for longer, check with your nearest Maltese embassy or consulate to find out whether you need a visa. If you do, the visa requirements for Malta ask you to provide:

- Completed visa application form
- Valid travel document (passport)
- Two passport-size photographs
- A valid return ticket or certificate of prepaid return journey
- Proof of access to sufficient funds to cover tuition fees and living expenses
- Letter of acceptance from a Maltese educational institute
- Proof of accommodation arrangements on arrival
- Proof of medical insurance for duration of your stay

All international students planning to study in Malta for more than three months must apply for an e-residence document, which is replacing the old identity card system. This requires many of the same documents and supporting materials listed above, and can be applied for after arrival in the country.



On-site Support Services

The dramatic COVID-19 pandemic which struck in 2020 has impacted travel arrangements between different countries for years to come. Malta has taken a very disciplined approach to combatting this pandemic. Travel restrictions were lifted for flights to and from a number of countries as from July 2020. On the basis of current guidelines by the relevant authorities, Advenio eAcademy plans to host students in Malta for the blended learning programmes as from October 2020. Advenio eAcademy's tuition centre is located within the Easy School of Language Centre in Valletta. On-site classes are held at the Centre in Malta. Applications for the blended learning programmes will be processed accordingly and the relevant offers of place issued would be for the blended learning programmes in Malta with the proviso that the students may commence their studies online should there be any travel restrictions in place to prevent the student attending classes in Malta.

The on-site support classes component is delivered at Advenio eAcademy's on-site location in Valletta, Malta. This is an accredited educational centre located within the popular Easy School of Language.

Opening Hours of Centre: Monday to Friday: 9:00 - 13:00 hrs

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 17.00 - 19.30 hrs



Google map showing the location of Advenio eAcademy Centre in St. Ursula Street



The charming façade of the ECS in Valletta, where Advenio eAcademy also organises classes, tutorials and workshops.



One of the well appointed lecture rooms in which the support classes are held.

“We need to move beyond the idea that an education is something provided for us, and toward the idea that an education is something that we create for ourselves”

Stephen Downes



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