

National

Half 'new Maltese' hail from Australia

Patrick Cooke

Australians were by far the largest national group acquiring Maltese nationality in 2011, the most recent year surveyed, according to a Eurostat study published this week.

Citizens from Down Under made up 46.9 per cent of the 1,100 total. They were followed by British nationals (10.3 per cent), Americans (6.5 per cent) and Canadians (4.7 per cent).

All four countries are home to significant numbers of people of Maltese heritage. Legally, people born and living overseas can claim citizenship if they have a Maltese parent born on the island.

In the EU as a whole, the largest national group that acquired citizenship of any member state was from Morocco (64,300 people, of whom 55 per cent acquired citizenship from France or Spain).

They were followed by Turks (48,900, including 58 per cent who acquired German citizenship), Ecuadorians (33,700, 95 per cent of whom acquired Spanish citizenship) and Indians (31,700, with 83 per cent acquiring British citizenship).

Romanians (26,000 people) formed the largest group of EU citizens acquiring citizenship of another EU member state followed by Poles (11,000), Italians (7,500) and Portuguese (6,900).

Flying the flag...Australians made up almost half of those granted Maltese citizenship in 2011. Photo: Shutterstock



In total, 783,100 people acquired citizenship of an EU member state in 2011, down by four per cent compared with 2010.

This decline, which occurred after three consecutive years of increase, was mainly due to the drops recorded in four of the five largest countries in terms of granted citizenships: the UK (177,600 people, down by nine per cent compared with 2010), France (114,600, down by 20 per cent), Spain (114,600, down by

seven per cent) and Italy (56,200, down by 15 per cent).

Only Germany (109,600, up five per cent) registered an increase.

The five countries together accounted for almost three quarters of all citizenships granted by EU states.

In 2011, Malta had the fourth highest rate of citizenships granted relative to the number of resident foreigners, with 5.3 per 100.

'Arts the soul of University'

The Faculty of Arts is the "soul" of the University of Malta, according to sociologist Michael Briguglio.

Speaking at his own graduation ceremony at the Jesuit church, in Valletta yesterday, the former *Alternattiva Demokratika* chairman said the faculty encouraged students to be reflective and think critically rather than follow orders.

Referring to a 2012 study by the University's Centre of Labour Studies, Dr Briguglio said the employment rate of arts graduates was remarkably high with only six per cent being out of work.

As for the rest of the university, almost 77 per cent were in full-time employment and almost 11 per cent part-time. The study also found very few significant differences with regard to gender and that some 63 per cent of arts graduates had a high level of job satisfaction.

In his academic address Martin Zammit, head of the Department of Oriental Studies, urged graduates to beware of distractions.

"Students have to negotiate the tortuous labyrinth of main areas of study, secondary areas of study, optional study units and elective study units," he said.

Prof. Zammit said it was important for students to recover the "prerequisite psychological serenity" to reach the highest levels of academic creativity.

Faculty of Arts Master of Arts

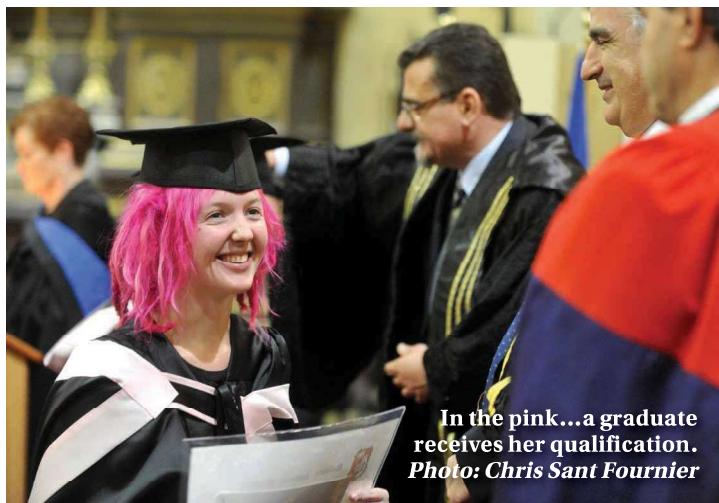
Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech

Arabic

Charelle Debattista.

Archaeology

Veronica Barbara, Ella Samut-Tagliaferro and Renata Zerafa.



In the pink...a graduate receives her qualification. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

English

Roberta Borg Parnis, Maria Roseanne Spiteri, Gabriella Stagno* and Irja Torvinen.

French

Anabel Marie Apap.

Geography

Alicia Maree Said.

German

Rita Anna Dalli and Michelle Vella Gobey.

History

Alison Scicluna and Bernardette Vella*.

History of Art

Janica Buhagiar, Marilyn Debono and Lawrence Pavia.

International Relations

Yves Cordina, Demelsa Grech, Lida Sherafatmand and Godwin Xuereb*.

Italian

Donatella Buttigieg, Sean Patrick Fenech, Annalisa Galea and Kristian Muscat.

Maltese

James Attard, Pauline Borg, Ylenia Carabott and Samantha Grima.

Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism

Aaron Aquilina, Daniela Brockdorff, Stefanie Cilia, Andrew Spencer Engwall, Julian Fleri Soler, Nagat Rajab Manson and Irene Scicluna.

Philosophy

Diana Caruana, John Nicholas Farrugia, Erika Mifsud and Joseph Saliba.

Sociology

Carmelina Caruana, Mariella Cortis, Vanessa Christine Demanuele, Nathalie Grima, Maria Mifsud, Maria Saliba Thorne and Zhanna Shtogryn.

Theatre Studies

Stefan Busuttill.

Master in Contemporary Diplomacy

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Ene Abah, Kai Sonda Brima*, Garry Cronan*, Catherine Farrugia, Markus Franz Koller, Roxie Mcleish-Hutchinson*, Benjamin Mukabire*, Mary Murphy, Virginia

Paque, Phakamisa Siyothula*, Ezra Zilla and Natasha Thomas*.

Master of Arts in Hospitaller Studies

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Louis Bellizzi.

Master in Interpreting

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Valerie Vella and Andrea Kathleen Zammit.

Master in Translation

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech

Audrey Aquilina, Christine Bajada, Rowna Baldacchino, Elaine Borg, Noelle Borg*, Roxanne Bugeja, Rebecca Cachia, Simon Cassar, Kirsty Chetcuti, Nicolette Ciscaldi, Rossana Cremona, Claudia Farrugia, Stephanie Formosa, Jana Galea, Nadia Galea, Janice Mifsud, Gordon Lee Spiteri, Vincent James Tabone, Brendon Vella and Marija Vella.

Doctor of Philosophy in English

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Joseph Mallia and Clare Helen Udras Ellis.

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Michael Briguglio and Mary Grace Vella.

Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre Studies

Sponsor: Professor Dominic Fenech
Nicole Bugeja.
* In absentia

Police set to probe illegal gas filling

The main gas supplier in Malta, Liquigas, has asked the police to investigate the illegal filling of cylinders at a third-party site and has suspended the supply of its cylinders to a number of distributors.

The decision was taken after the supplier received evidence, which it said was collected over a period of time, "showing a number of distributors filling cylinders in a way that infringes safety and industry practice".

In a statement, Liquigas said it had notified the distributors and forwarded the necessary evidence to the police and the authorities to investigate the matter further.

"We took this step because we cannot allow the safety of Liquigas customers, or the public for the matter, to be compromised in any way by such unregulated filling," a Liquigas spokesman explained.

"These serious irregularities, which took place repeatedly, are not only harmful to our business but to the industry as a whole. We believe this to be a matter of unfair commercial practice, as well as an attempt to fool consumers, and we are therefore closely following all developments."

Liquigas said it was taking "all necessary measures" to ensure supply of its cylinders continued smoothly and that service to customers was not affected.

It did not specify whether there are any unsafe gas cylinders on the market.

The Liquigas call centre is available around the clock on 2165 1661/5.

Case ruled out of time

Waylon Johnston

Two businessmen arraigned 17 years ago over bottling regulations were yesterday acquitted after a magistrate found the charges were time barred.

Brothers Andrew Ellul Sullivan, 46, of Naxxar, and Joseph Ellul Sullivan, 43, from Gharghur, were arraigned under arrest on November 19, 1996 and pleaded not guilty to failing to bottle non-alcoholic beverages in reusable glass bottles. The law has since been changed.

They also denied displaying a false trade description on the product.

Lawyer Jonathan Abela held that the charges against his clients were time barred as they had not been notified to appear between sittings for at least five years.

Recently-appointed Magistrate Natasha Galea Sciberras found that the accused had not been notified to attend any sittings between April 2003 and September 2010.