

National

Graduate backs links with overseas bodies

University students were yesterday encouraged to seek partnerships with foreign academic institutions to widen their experience.

Anne-Marie Bezzina, who got a double Ph.D. – one in linguistics from the University of Malta and a *Doctorat en Sciences du Langage* from the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, told a graduation ceremony at the Jesuits Church in Valletta: “I can make a very positive assessment of the benefits of studying for a double Ph.D. and I encourage graduates to explore the possibility of partnerships with universities abroad and any other research and training experiences that may broaden their horizons.”

Partnerships with foreign universities could also serve the university in continuing to “reaffirm its already solid presence in the network of salient academic institutions internationally,” she said.

She called for the university structures, departments and institutes to have a network releasing information to doctoral students about openings to contribute or publish in peer-reviewed journals. “This would stimulate more research and be very enriching for the academic development of the university’s Ph.D. students and graduates and give more visibility on the local and international research scene,” Dr Bezzina said.

Carmen Sammut, a senior lecturer at the university’s International Relations Department, also addressed the students.

Faculty of Arts
Master of Arts
Sponsor: Professor
Dominic Fenech
Anthropology
Abner Fabbro.

English
Noura Bashir Eltoroug, Stephanie Mifsud, Shaun K A Rawding, Lara Sammut and Nadya Zammit.

English and the Media
Giuliana Barbaro Sant, Giulia Bugeja and Marc Glenn Buhagiar.

English Language
Samar Ihmuda Mohamed, Serria Awad Mohamad Saied, Patrycja



Graduates at the ceremony at the Jesuits Church in Valletta yesterday. Photo: Jason Borg

Natalia Stronska, Christine Thake and Jeanette Theuma*.

French
Christine Bartolo.

Geography
Andrew Formosa.

German
Josette Buttigieg and Ritienne Galea.

History
Iona Caruana.

History of Art
Frederica Agius, Paul Cassar and Mariestelle Spiteri.

Humanitarian Action
Gisele Correia Da Silva, Joseph Matthew Debono and Kyle Vella.

International Relations
Alexander Raymond Bencini, Carmel Borg and Angelique Grech.

Italian
Catherine Aquilina, Abigail Camilleri and Olivia Debrincat.

Literary Tradition and Popular Culture
Keith Borg*, Rachel Brincat, Anna Marie Galea, Vincenzo Guastafierro, Meike Berrit Meier,

Francesca Pecci*, Matthew Saliba, Josette Schembri, Graziella Scicluna and Maria Roberta Vella.

Maltese
Mark Paul Amaira, Daniela Baldacchino, Lara Marie Cilia, Charlene Debattista, Charmaine Mercieca, Melanie Mercieca, Josette Portelli, Maria Simiana and Rachel Vella.

Modern and Contemporary Literature and Criticism
Clarie Ellul, James Farrugia, Elsa Fiott, Yana Mizzi* and Frank Psaila.

Philosophy
John Anthony Berry, Kurt Borg, Miguella Cassar, Maria Felice Sant Cassia, Madeleine Gera, George Douglas Saliba and Claire Vassallo.

Sociology
Angelle Azzopardi, Nadette Azzopardi, Vincent Buhagiar, Laura Mae Jones* and Nadia Taliana.

Theatre Studies
Stephanie Spiteri.

Master in Contemporary Diplomacy
Sponsor: Professor
Dominic Fenech
Veronica Cretu, Christopher Mark Anthony Darville, Christian Jean

Claude Faure, Reem Mustafa Jarrar, Fitina Patience Khonje, Lucy Mumbua Mulili and Szilvia Sommer.

Master of Arts in Hospitaller Studies
Sponsor: Professor
Dominic Fenech
Fleur Marie Brincat, Franco Antonio Davies and Ray Gatt.

Master in Translation
Sponsor: Professor
Dominic Fenech
Kirsten Apap, Cressida Attard, Angelique Bonello, Nadine Borg, Leanne Camilleri, Raissa Gatt, Alison Grech and Emanuela Vella.

Institute of Linguistics
Master of Arts in Linguistics
Sponsor: Dr Albert Gatt
Alison Jane Vere.

Faculty of Arts
Doctor of Philosophy
Sponsor: Professor
Dominic Fenech
Keith Buhagiar, Mark Sagona and Manuel Vella.

Institute of Linguistics
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics
Sponsor: Dr Albert Gatt
Anne Marie Bezzina and Maria Galea.

*In absentia

Seabank in the top 10

The Seabank Resort and Spa in Mellieha has made it to the top 10 list of all-inclusive resorts in Europe on the popular review site Trip Advisor.

The db Hotels + Resorts chain said it was honoured to receive recognition from the online site for its resort, which was ranked the eighth best all-inclusive.

The 2014 Travellers' Choice Trip Advisor award was the result of the hard work the management and staff put in to always put the clients first, according to chairman Silvio Debono.

“We knew the all-inclusive concept, a new one to Malta, would bring with it massive risks. We also knew that to implement the concept we needed to invest about €40 million in the middle of the global financial crisis,” Vincent Degiorgio, director of db Hotels + Resorts, added.

Last year, the resort welcomed more than 50,000 guests, who spent over 350,000 nights at the resort and were served with over 1.5 million meals.

Tourists up by 3.2%

Tourist arrivals increased by 3.2 per cent in September when compared to the same period last year.

A total of 156,526 tourists spent more than 927,400 nights in hotels, guesthouses, hostels and other tourist accommodation, the National Statistics Office said.

All hotel categories recorded increases, with the largest share reported in the four-star category.

Total arrivals during the first nine months surpassed 1.2 million, an increase of 7.7 per cent over the same period in 2013. Total nights spent went up by 3.5 per cent, to almost seven million.

Property News out

This week's issue of *The Sunday Times of Malta* will include *Property News*, the quarterly property magazine published by Frank Salt Real Estate.

The magazine will be packed with opportunities for those looking at purchasing or renting a property, including a focus on first-time buyers, luxury properties and buy-to-let investments.

Property News also includes a comprehensive listing of properties available.

Correction

The Mellieha Holiday Complex is planning to extend its resort by 30 units and not 150, as reported in the item titled ‘New units planned for Danes’ hideaway’ that was published in *Times of Malta* yesterday. The error is regretted.

Road-rage man stabbed driver

Matthew Xuereb

A man who stabbed a driver in a fit of rage while driving under the influence of alcohol was yesterday jailed for two years and banned from driving for five.

Frankie Falzon, 36, from Żebbuġ, had originally been charged with attempting to murder Philip Micallef but the prosecution later changed the charge to grievous injury.

The incident took place at 8.45pm on April 17, 2011, when Mr Falzon was driving through Main Street, Żebbuġ, with his wife and three children. Mr Micallef was coming in the opposite direction.

They met where the road narrowed but both refused to reverse. After a few minutes of deadlock, Mr Falzon was persuaded to back up by his daughter.

Mr Micallef testified that as the other car came alongside his, Mr Falzon started hitting his car with his hands. Mr Micallef got out to check for damage and note Mr Falzon's registration number.

According to Mr Micallef, Mr Falzon got out of his own car, moved next to him and touched him. He did not feel anything and it was only when he went back to his car that he realised he was bleeding, after his wife pointed it out.

Mr Falzon claimed it was Mr Micallef who hit his car, near where his children were seated. He claimed he feared for his life and the well-being of his family so he grabbed a knife that he kept in the car and used it to defend himself.

The court heard that Mr Falzon took a breathalyser test and was found to have a higher alcohol level than permitted.

Magistrate Doreen Clarke said a number of factors raised doubts about Mr Falzon's credibility.

The incident could also have had far more serious consequences – the victim suffered a minor lesion to his large intestine, she said.

She pointed out that Mr Falzon had not accepted help for his alcohol problem.

The accused was found guilty of possessing of a penknife during the commission of a crime, breaching the peace and driving under the influence of alcohol.

He was jailed for two years over the incident and a further five months for breaching a conditional discharge. Apart from fining him €116, the court also ordered him to pay almost €3,000 in court expenses and banned him from driving for five years.

Police Inspectors Joseph Agius and Kylie Borg prosecuted.