



MALTA

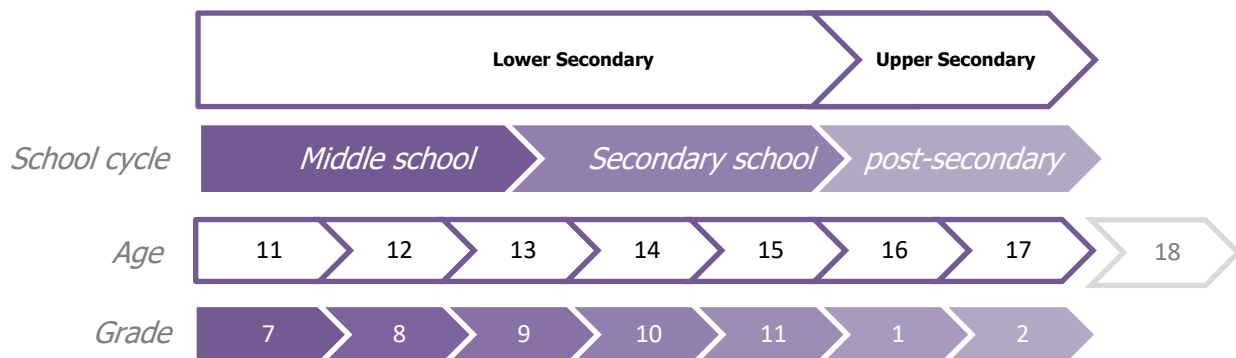
INFOPACK - RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD IN GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

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The information below gives an overview of procedures¹ for the recognition of learning periods abroad in general secondary school. It can be consulted by pupils, as well as their families and teachers, who are or plan to be involved in long-term individual pupil mobility programmes abroad. Please note that this general overview does not include details on different programme types (which may be run by governmental agencies, civil society organisations, private companies or schools themselves) and such information can be obtained directly with the provider of the respective mobility programme.

GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM



¹ Based on data gathered in February 2021.

Education is compulsory² up to 16 years of age, and is followed by a two-year non-compulsory programme of upper secondary education. Pupils attending upper secondary school receive a maintenance grant.

The institutions providing general upper secondary courses are³:

- Two State institutions falling within the remit of the Education Directorates (G. Curmi Higher Secondary School and Sir M.A. Refalo Sixth Form);
- The Junior College, which falls under the remit of the University of Malta and is specifically designed for prospective University of Malta entrants. Pupils are prepared to sit for the Matriculation Certificate which conforms with the prevailing university admission requirements;
- A number of non-State upper secondary schools (Sixth Forms).
- The GEM 16+ school, under the Directorate of Education, where pupils who do not have high enough marks to enrol in one of the above upper secondary schools follow a one-year, second-chance course to achieve the required marks;

Within these institutions, pupils can choose any subject combination. When selecting the subjects, pupils consider the specific course requirements for admission to higher education. For example, at Junior College pupils study two subjects at advanced level to qualify for the university entrance exams, three at intermediate level and Systems of Knowledge (SOK)⁴.

Graduation and Certification

At the end of upper secondary education pupils take the matriculation exams which are administered by the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC) Board of the University of Malta. Successful pupils receive Secondary School Certificate and Profile, together with a single overall score which may be A, B or C in descending order of merit⁵.

The SOK project accounts for 40% of the final MATSEC examination mark. It is based on an experience chosen by the pupil, ranging from voluntary work to creating a piece of music: the experience is recorded in journals and is accompanied by research and evidence. Each pupil is guided by a tutor who monitors the progress, corrects the work and gives regular feedback.

Entrance to university is based on the results of the State graduation exam, school marks, and should certain faculties require it, an entrance exam.

For more information on the structure and features of the different national education systems in Europe please see the Eurydice overview: National Education Systems | Eurydice (europa.eu).

² Compulsory Education is regulated by the Education Act of 1998 and subsequent amendments and is provided by the Directorate for Educational Services (DES) and is regulated by the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education (DQSE).

³ Eurydice, National Education Systems, Malta, Secondary and Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary Education, https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/secondary-and-post-secondary-non-tertiary-education-33_en

⁴ Systems of Knowledge (SOK) is meant to provide pupils with skills and knowledge that are required in the 21st century. It is an interdisciplinary programme which links separate fields of knowledge. The course of study is divided into four modules: Democratic values and Responsible and Active Citizenship, Culture, Art and Aesthetic Values in Western Civilisation, The Environment and Sustainable Development, Scientific Values and Technology.

⁵ Eurydice, National Education systems, Malta, Assessment in general upper secondary education, https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/assessment-general-upper-secondary-education-34_en

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INFORMATION FOR PUPILS GOING ABROAD FROM MALTA

Age and grade

There are no organisations offering long-term pupil mobility programmes, and this type of experience is not encouraged by the school. In fact, there are some cases of pupils studying abroad during upper secondary school between 16 and 18 years old, but they are very sporadic and happen as an initiative of the pupils/families themselves.

Registration in the sending schools

Interruptions of the school year to go on a learning period abroad are allowed under certain conditions at the discretion of the school principal. Usually, pupils go on mobility for one or two years depending on the course and are not enrolled in a Maltese upper secondary school.

RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD

There is no legislation regulating the mobility of pupils.

For the few pupils who go abroad out of private initiative, it is up to them to ensure that they are able to catch up with the local instructions and pass the annual exams.

There is no information on whether a learning agreement between sending and host school has ever been used as a tool for recognition.

INFORMATION FOR PUPILS HOSTED IN MALTA

Registration in the host school

The phenomenon of hosting exchange pupils in post-secondary institutions in Malta is almost non-existent. Some English language schools such as NSTS offer programmes for exchange pupils coming to Malta⁶.

Possibility of graduating in the host country during the exchange

English language schools offer programmes for exchange pupils coming to Malta with the option of studying in Malta for the 2 years of upper secondary education and taking the final exam to enter university. However, this is a rare practice.

⁶ <https://www.nstsmalta.org/high-school-programme/>

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