saint martin's
institute of
higher education

STUDIED LOCALLY, VALUED GLOBALLY

COMPUTING
PROSPECTUS

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Message By The Principal

Thank you for showing interest in Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education. The Institute is a licensed higher education institution by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority of Malta, with awarding powers for the Malta Qualification Framework levels 5, 6 and 7 that correspond to Diploma, Degree and Master programmes.

This is indeed a very exciting time in a student's life which will undoubtedly shape a considerable part of a student's future, since it is the foundation of a career progression. We hope to be able to assist you in choosing wisely by investing your time and commitment carefully in order to maximise potential and shine in the various fields of study included in this prospectus.

We take our role very seriously at Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education. We have inculcated a nurturing culture, understanding that we need to be role models in our respective field of study that will act as a beacon to the students in our charge that will see them through their future. We follow the four principles of education in our pedagogy namely learn through knowledge assimilation, learn by participating in projects that allow students to practice what they learn together with others to build teamwork capabilities and build personality including soft-skills sought after by employers.

At Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education we do our utmost to ensure that students excel in their chosen paths, focusing on each student's needs in order to mentor and form them in readiness for their

subsequent career. The Institute has built its reputation on exceptionally high achievements of its students graduating from the world-renowned University of London. The Institute is a Recognised Teaching Centre for the University of London in Malta, offering Maltese and international students the possibility to read for degrees conferred by this prestigious University as from the year 2000. Our twenty year apprenticeship has meant that the Institute is built on solid foundations of quality assurance, as overseen by the University of London Directorate for Quality Assurance. Education is an intangible, and our policy to prepare students to be examined by an external examination body, illustrates our acumen in preparing students to unquestionable international standards.

The programmes included in this prospectus are crafted to ensure the right balance of academic content and industry appreciation enabling our students to not only enhance employability potential, but will also be in a position to contribute effectively to their organisation.

PRINCIPAL
Charles
Theuma

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE BEING THE ADVANCEMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH INTELLECTUAL, MORAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

STUDENT CENTRED LEARNING

Our Vision

Saint Martin's Institute is an educational establishment, with the primary objective being the advancement of student achievement through intellectual, moral and social education, unlocking the students' potential to develop academically and psychologically.

Academically we aim to provide quality tuition with individual attention to each student concurring with a student centred philosophy of comprehensive education. We aim to assist with our students' character development and behaviour. Ultimately we aim to teach through example by strict adherence to a professional attitude towards learning.
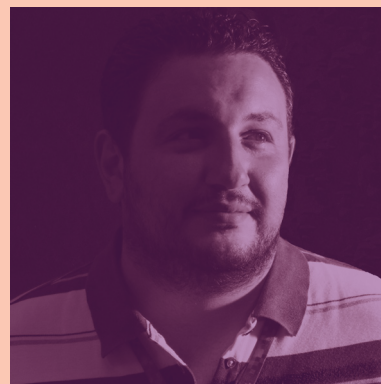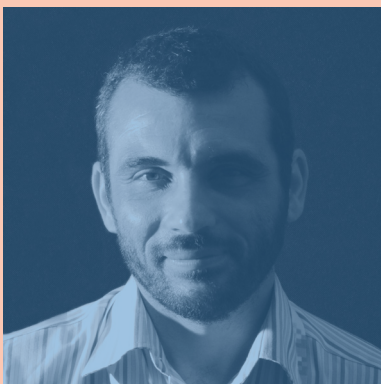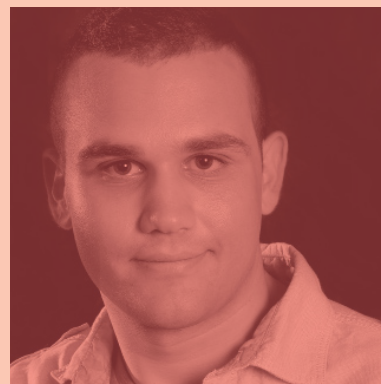
Department of Computing

Since the earliest inventions of machines, with the ability to perform basic computations, the world has experienced an exponential drive for systems that help us process information reliably and efficiently, thereby improving our lives. During the past decades, we have seen tremendous advances in technology which is shaping the future of all fields of study by the minute. Today, the use of computational devices is a core and an intrinsic part of practically every domain, industry or sector.

The Department of Computing at Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education has been offering courses in Computing for over three decades. Through its affiliation with the University of London, the Department offers a Bachelor of Science Degree Programme in computer science with a number of specialisations to select from. Under the academic direction of the world-renowned University of London, the Department was successful in developing individuals in their respective disciplines, with astounding results and degree classifications awarded.

During the past thirty years of offering computer science courses, Saint Martin's Institute has evolved and grown into an institution that studies the needs of the industry in Malta and overseas, and designs programmes tailored around such needs. The Institute is now offering a specialised portfolio of Level 5 Diplomas and Level 6 Degree programmes in Computing, designed to prepare and equip an individual, not only in the theoretical background and solid foundations required in the respective disciplines, but also with the essential practical skills much sought by the industry. Our portfolio of programmes in Computing include specialisations in Games Design & Development, Information Systems, Digital Marketing, User Experience, Web Development, Security & Cryptography and Finance. The Institute continuously monitors and assesses the programmes within this portfolio to ensure they are kept fresh and up-to-date, achieved by close contact with the respective industries.
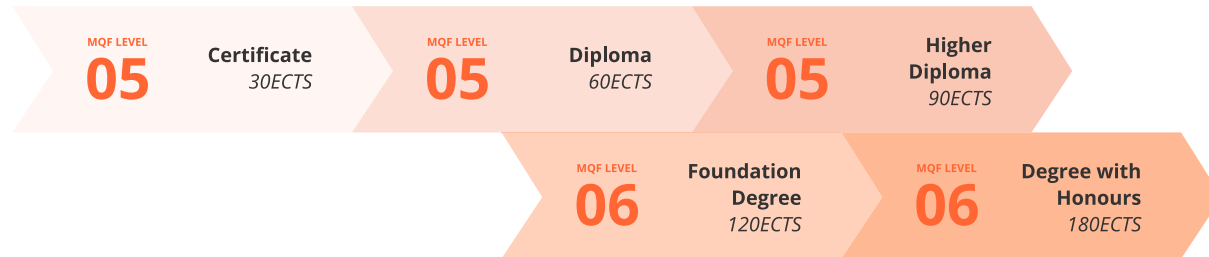
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Silvio
Mc Gurk

Bachelor of Science Double Degree Programme

Saint Martin's Institute offers a unique opportunity of a double-degree Bachelors of Science. The Institute has integrated its curriculum for students to qualify for the BSc (Hons) Computing conferred by Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education and after successfully sitting for separate examinations, will also graduate in a BSc (Hons) Computer Science by the University of London.

MQF LEVEL **05**	Certificate *30ECTS*	MQF LEVEL **05**	Diploma *60ECTS*	MQF LEVEL **05**	Higher Diploma *90ECTS*
		MQF LEVEL **06**	Foundation Degree *120ECTS*	MQF LEVEL **06**	Degree with Honours *180ECTS*

Degree Conferred by Saint Martin's Institute

Our Computing programmes involve a broad spectrum of subject areas in the field of ICT. It covers important aspects such as computer architecture, databases, software engineering, algorithmic design, programming in various languages, interaction design, artificial intelligence, computer security, compression and information systems. As a result of this, the programme is general enough and gives learners the required skills and competencies to be employable in different environments and occupations at the place of work.

Students who successfully complete the MQF Level 5 diplomas offered by SMI will achieve the required skills and competencies to be employable in different environments and occupations at the place of work and will be eligible to progress to advanced study units at MQF Level 6, that are normally read during the second and third year of the programme.

In order to qualify for the BSc (Hons) Computing, students are required to attend 80% of scheduled lectures throughout the academic year, submit assignments as set by the respective lecturers and successfully complete the internal trimester examinations scheduled by the institute.

Degree Conferred by University of London

Students may opt to read for a parallel degree conferred by the prestigious University of London by registering and sitting for the University of London examinations, which are normally scheduled in March and September of every academic year.

Following successful completion of an MQF Level 5 diploma conferred by Saint Martin's Institute, students will be able to read for the University of London degrees (starting from Level 2) in parallel with the BSc Computing (Hons) with the same majors.

AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST

Diplomas

MQF LEVEL 5

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING

Diploma in Computing
Diploma in Computing with Games Design & Development
Diploma in Computing with Information Systems

Diploma in Computing

MQF LEVEL `5`
QUALIFICATION

TOTAL CREDITS: 60ECTS

DURATION: Full time *minimum* **1 Year** *(9 Months)* / Part time **2 Years** *(18 Months)*

Conferred By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

This Diploma aims to provide learners with knowledge of the principles of computing and will improve their problem solving skills in addition to programming and mathematical skills.

As a graduate of this diploma, the learner will be able to:

- understand the principles of computing;
- analyse problems and devise a solution;
- interpret software design;
- implement a standard solution through programming.

* Successful graduates may progress to Level 2 of the University of London BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence) or may opt to read for a BSc (Hons) Computing conferred by Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education.

The Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta accepts the Diploma in Computing in addition to a pass in Maltese at SEC (ordinary level), as satisfying the entry requirements for the BSc (Hons) (Computing Science), BSc (Hons) IT (Software Development), BSc (Hons) IT (Artificial Intelligence) and the BSc (Hons) IT (Computing and Business).

Diploma in Computing with Games Design & Development

MQF LEVEL `5`
QUALIFICATION

TOTAL CREDITS: 60ECTS

DURATION: Full time *minimum* **1 Year** *(9 Months)* / Part time **2 Years** *(18 Months)*

Conferred By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

This Diploma aims to provide students with visual and aural representations of the game world, as well as the mathematics and internal game mechanics, developing the artistic and the programming aspects of game development.

As a graduate of this diploma, in addition to the learning outcomes achieved through the Diploma in Computing, the learner will be able to:

- understand and judge game design across its visual, aural, and gameplay dimensions;
- choose and follow a game design process for each of the visual, aural and gameplay dimensions;
- learn essential mathematics necessary for designing and programming 3D physics-based games;
- carry out and fully document a game design process.

* Successful graduates may progress to Level 2 of the University of London BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Games Development) or BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Virtual Reality) or may opt to read for a BSc (Hons) Computing with Games Design & Development degree conferred by Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education.

The Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta accepts the Diploma in Computing in addition to a pass in Maltese at SEC (ordinary level), as satisfying the entry requirements for the BSc (Hons) (Computing Science), BSc (Hons) IT (Software Development), BSc (Hons) IT (Artificial Intelligence) and the BSc (Hons) IT (Computing and Business).

Diploma in Computing with Information Systems

MQF LEVEL **5**
QUALIFICATION

TOTAL CREDITS: 60ECTS

DURATION: Full time / Part time
minimum **1 Year** **2 Years**
(9 Months) (18 Months)

Conferred By:

saint martin's
institute of
higher education

This Diploma aims to provide learners with the knowledge of the principles of computing particularly in their application in the field of Information Systems and improve their problem solving skills together with programming and mathematical skills.

As a graduate of this diploma, in addition to the learning outcomes achieved through the Diploma in Computing, the learner will be able to:

— define the fundamental concepts required for understanding information technology in organisations from information systems theory, organisation theory and economics perspectives;

— recognise fundamental concepts and evaluate approaches that may be taken when planning information systems;

— use knowledge and skills related to digital technologies to enhance business administration and decision making.

* Successful graduates may progress to Level 2 of the University of London BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence) or may opt to read for a BSc (Hons) Computing with Information Systems from level 2 conferred by Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education.

The Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta accepts the Diploma in Computing in addition to a pass in Maltese at SEC (ordinary level), as satisfying the entry requirements for the BSc (Hons) (Computing Science), BSc (Hons) IT (Software Development), BSc (Hons) IT (Artificial Intelligence) and the BSc (Hons) IT (Computing and Business).

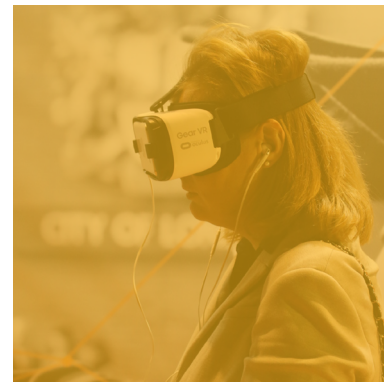# SUCCESS IS THE QUALITY OF YOUR JOURNEY

STUDIED LOCALLY, VALUED GLOBALLY
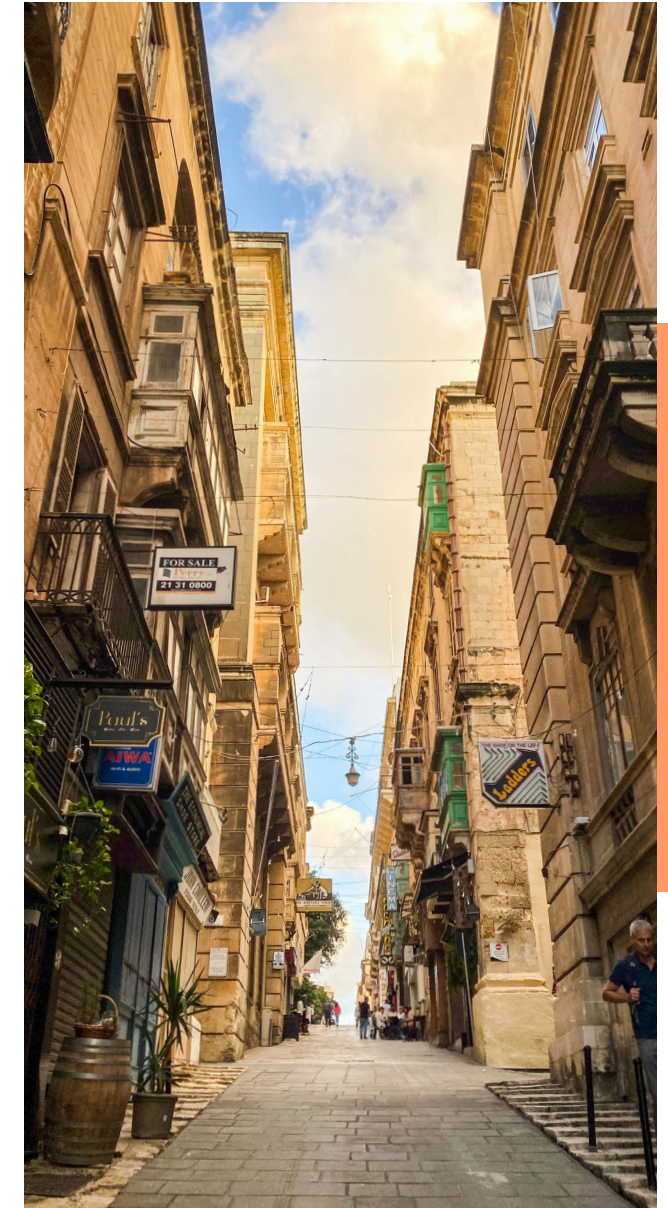
Degrees

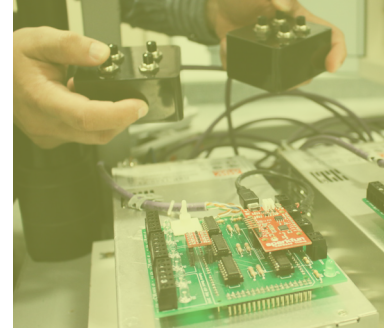## DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING

BSc (Hons) Computer Science
BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Games Development)
BSc (Hons) Computing with Information Systems
BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Virtual Reality)
BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Machine Learning & AI)

BSc (Hons) Computer Science

MQF LEVEL 6   **TOTAL CREDITS:** 180ECTS   **DURATION:** Full time *minimum* **2 Years** *(18 Months)* / Part time **3 Years** *(27 Months)*

Offered By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

Conferred By:

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Job Opportunities

Application Programmer

Software Engineer

Systems Analyst

The Computer Science degree will allow learners to develop a wide and practical skill-set in computing with strong programming and mathematics skills, as well as softer skills in project management, presentation and teamwork. Students will also have a portfolio of work that they can present to potential employers. With the BSc (Hons) Computer Science, learners will be qualified for a range of intensive computational and mathematical jobs in the computer industry.

As a graduate of this degree, the learner will be able to:

— understand computer systems in their entirety, hardware, software and communications infrastructure;

— analyse complex problems and devise a technology based solution;

— interpret the diverse software design frameworks and methodologies;

— implement effective system and application software solutions.

BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Games Development)

MQF LEVEL 6   **TOTAL CREDITS:** 180ECTS   **DURATION:** Full time *minimum* **2 Years** *(18 Months)* / Part time **3 Years** *(27 Months)*

Offered By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

Conferred By:

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Job Opportunities

Game Designer

Game Developer

Concept Artist

Video Game Tester

Video Game Developer

This degree is specifically designed for those who want to be at the forefront of the thriving gaming world, creating software tailored to games development. Video games are a critical application area for computer science, and the games industry forms a significant part of the creative economy. With the BSc Computer Science (Games Development), learners will be able to apply for a range of jobs in the creative industries, especially in the video games industry.

As a graduate of this degree, the learner will be able to:

— learn how to create software tailored to games development;

— produce high standard graphics, narratives and interaction design;

— equip yourself with the skills to develop virtual reality systems.

BSc (Hons) Computing with Information Systems

MQF LEVEL `6`
QUALIFICATION

TOTAL CREDITS: 180ECTS

DURATION: Full time *minimum* **2 Years** (18 Months) / Part time **3 Years** (27 Months)

Conferred By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

Job Opportunities

Software Engineer

Systems Administrator

Database Admin

IT Consultant

System Analyst

Applications Developer

This degree aims to provide learners with a holistic view of computer systems within organisations. It looks at the management of an information system, e-business, requirements engineering, as well as other aspects including software engineering, algorithmic design, databases, web programming and application programming.

As a graduate of this degree, the learner will be able to:

— plan the requirements, estimating duration and cost of a project;

— design a business model based on web-based revenue models;

— design algorithms and write code in a number of computer languages, understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each language;

— build dynamic, data-driven websites using databases, front-end frameworks and server-side programming;

— use a range of programming techniques to deal with unexpected events using defensive coding to check data before processing it;

— analyse a given system and provide suggestions for improvement.

BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Virtual Reality)

MQF LEVEL `6`

TOTAL CREDITS: 180ECTS

DURATION: Full time *minimum* **2 Years** (18 Months) / Part time **3 Years** (27 Months)

Offered By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

Conferred By:

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Job Opportunities

VR Developer

Environment Artist

VR Architect

Augmented Reality Engineer

Virtual reality (VR) involves the creation of immersive, simulated environments using computer systems. Recent technology advances have made it possible to create high fidelity, high immersion virtual realities which people can access with consumer hardware. VR has many application areas, including entertainment, education and military. Learners will learn the aspects of virtual reality and attain hands-on experience in building and testing mixed reality experiences for your portfolio.

As a graduate of this degree, the learner will be able to:

— understand the needs of an immersive simulated environment using computer systems;

— understand the role of VR in entertainment, education and military applications;

— gain skills in industry standard tools for game development;

— understand the game development process and the role of AI in games;

— write programs that generate animated 3D graphics;

— understand the interaction design process for both desktop and mobile platforms.

BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Machine Learning & AI)

MQF LEVEL `6`   **TOTAL CREDITS:** 180ECTS

DURATION: *minimum*

Full time **2 Years** (18 Months) / Part time **3 Years** (27 Months)

Offered By:

saint martin's
institute of higher education

Conferred By:

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Job Opportunities

Machine Learning Engineer

Artificial Learning Engineer

Neural Net Developer

Application Developer

Machine learning provides a means for computer systems to extract useful information out of data. These techniques are widely used in the technology industry for a variety of applications. This degree allows learners to apply a range of technical, problem-solving jobs in rapidly growing area.

As a graduate of this degree, the learner will be able to:

— have a broad view of machine learning and neural networks, including training neural networks and optimisation;

— gain the mathematical and engineering knowledge to construct working machine learning and AI systems;

— learn how machines make sense of the world through intelligent signal processing;

— carry out a substantial practical project involving the construction of an AI system and applying it to a problem.

A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP
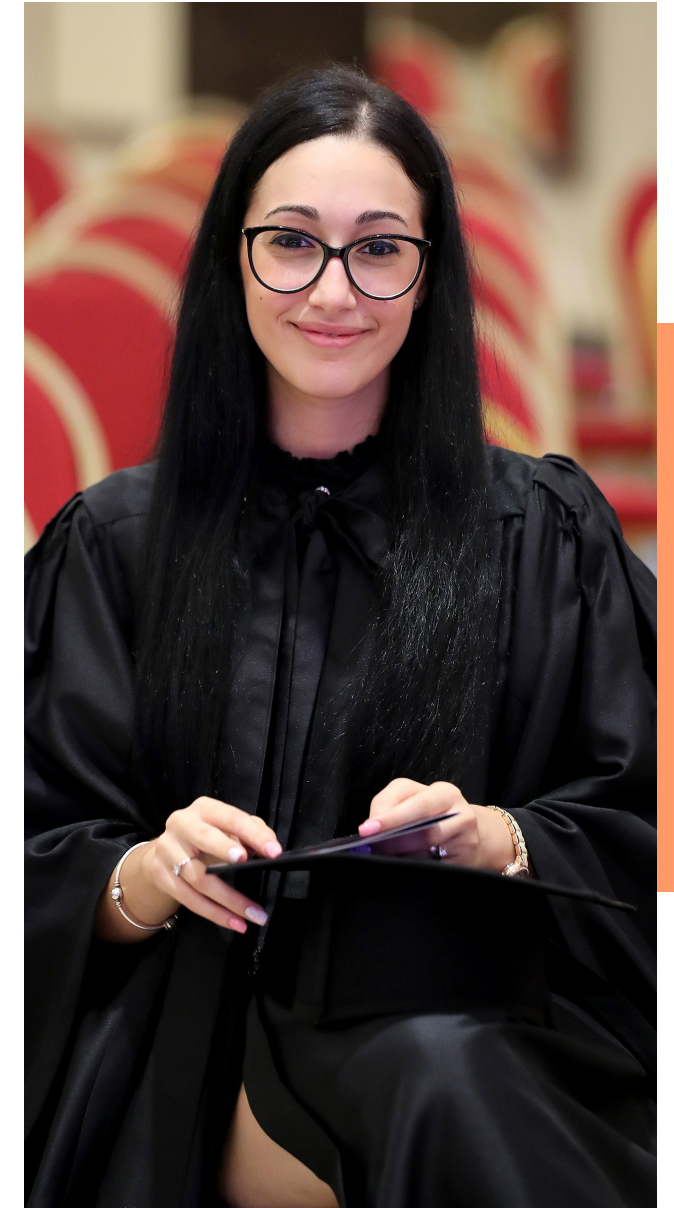
STUDIED LOCALLY, VALUED GLOBALLY

Learn how to learn

The Delors principles, learning to know, to do, to live together and to be, are the basis of the Saint Martin's Institute pedagogy. It is not enough that faculty oversees the development of a student through the programme that prepares for the exigencies of a job. It is imperative that graduates are prepared for their lifelong career to guarantee employability over the long term. Scheduled lectures and tutorials are the means by which academics transfer knowledge, supported through rich resources through the virtual learning environment. Yet the most important aspect of this programme are the assignments that students carry out during their course, many of which are done during class workshops to be continued at home.

GRADUATE
Dr Stephen Abela

A medical doctor by profession, I wished to gain computing expertise to help enrich my professional career. Six years ago I chose to follow the SMI programme and achieved a BSc Degree in Computing with Information Systems from the University of London after three years of study. It was a good choice since I could undertake the programme as a part-time evening course, and attend for lectures after work with great flexibility. The standards of tuition are very high and students are well prepared for their ongoing assessments, exams and final dissertation. The degree has opened many options in my career as I am now able to apply computing knowledge to my main medical expertise.

GRADUATE
Kluivert Bonello

During my time at St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education, I was given the opportunity to explore the vast world of Storytelling. To me, the most interesting part was always the creation. The early stages of creating your world has always fascinated me as one is only limited by his imagination. As an artist and a storyteller, St. Martin's Institute helped me to learn the craft of story writing and word building and incorporate that within my artwork. Whenever I start sketching, it is no longer simply about drawing, but creating and transferring that past, those untold stories, into the characters so that they seem believable.

Entrance Requirements

An applicant must normally be at least 16 years of age on or before the SMI Autumn Trimester examination session, which normally takes place in December, in the year of registration and must be in possession of:

- A minimum of four ordinary level passes, including Mathematics and English at SEC grades 1 to 5 or grades A to C in the case of GCE/GCSE. Students wishing to progress to University of Malta must be 18 years of age when registering and must possess an ordinary level in Maltese.

- International equivalents to the above requirements will be considered and the decision taken at the discretion SMI.

- All students are required to attend an interview set up by the Saint Martin's Admissions & Advisory Board (SAAB).

- Students, who do not hold an ordinary level qualification in English Language, must provide proof of competence in English, such as a recognised test of proficiency, which is acceptable to the Institute. We normally accept IELTS with an overall grade of 5.0.

Maturity Clause

Students who are 21 years and over and do not meet the minimum entry requirements, may apply for the MQF level 5 diploma subject to having passed a recognised MQF Level 3 qualification and have at least two years relevent uninterrupted full-time employment. In addition to this, students must successfully complete the Mathemetics Admission, with a minimum grade of 50%, during the Autumn Trimester Examinations in order to be eligible to continue their studies.

Automatic Recognition of Prior Learning

Automatic RPL means that you are not required to take a particular course(s) as part of your degree because in the University's opinion, you have already covered a similar syllabus as part of a previous qualification, at the same level, depth and breadth. This is also known as credit transfer. The Saint Martin's MQF Level 5 diplomas have been awarded automatic RPL by the University of London (UOL) and hence students who opt to read for a UOL MQF Level 6 degree will be able to progress to Level 2 of the respective degree. *RPL credits are not granted for any unit of the diplomas conferred by Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education and any requests will not be entertained.*

Target Group

The full-time programmes are ideal for students who have completed their ordinary or advanced level education (normally ages 16 to 20) and wish to progress to an MQF Level 6 programme, through a portfolio of MQF Level 5 homegrown qualifications. Our programmes are also offered in the evening (normally from 6pm to 8pm) for mature students who are in full-time employment (normally ages 21+) and would like to further their studies.

Programme Details

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

ECTS is intended to harmonise the further and higher education systems throughout the European Union. Each one ECTS is equivalent to 25 hours of learning, 5 hours of which are face to face with a tutor. In higher education, full-time students are expected to invest in 60 ECTS in one academic year, which means 1500 hours of learning, out of which 300 would be face to face classes. According to the Malta Qualification Framework (MQF), an MQF level 5 diploma consists of 60 ECTS and an MQF level 6 undergraduate degree consists of 180 ECTS.

Duration of Studies

Students may complete the MQF Level 5 diploma over a minimum period of one year on a full-time basis and a minimum period of two years as an evening student. Those who wish to continue with their studies, will require a further minimum duration of two years on a full-time basis and a further minimum duration of three years as an evening student.

Assessment

Every study-unit is assessed through a combination of courseworks and examinations. All examinations are normally scheduled in-person during office hours.

Progression to the Computer Science programme

Students wishing to progress to the BSc (Hons) Computer Science conferred by the University of London are required to follow two online courses during the Summer Trimester before being able to register with University of London. These are normally completed following successful completion of the MQF Level 5 diploma.

Inclusive Practice

Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education is committed to offering quality tertiary education to all students with their respective needs. SMI will make every reasonable effort to make sure that the experience of studying with us is rewarding. The Institute offers 5 fully accessible premises.

Fees

The below application & registration fees are payable by ALL students registered with Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education depending on the mode of study selected:

	Full-time	Part-time
Application Fee *(one time non-refundable)*	€125	€125
Registration Fee *(one time non-refundable)*	€950	€480
Diploma MQF level 5 *(Tuition & Examination Fees)*		
Course over 1 year	€6,284	/
Course over 2 years	€4,185/year	€1,566/year
Degree MQF level 6 *(Tuition & Examination Fees)*		
BSc Year 1	€6,284	€2,416
BSc Year 2	€6,284	€2,416
BSc Year 3	/	€2,416
Total including 1 year Diploma	€19,927	/
Total including 2 year Diploma	€22,013	€10,985

A non-EU administration charge of €1500 per annum will apply.

The Institute offers the opportunity to EU students to pay the annual tuition fees on a monthly basis, payable by the 10th of each month in advance. The fees quoted above are subject to annual review by the Institute. Students who resign following the start of the programme will incur a penalty of 25% of the EU tuition fee due for a single academic year, which will be decreased by the payments offered up to date of resignation. Students who default in two monthly payments will need to effect payment via direct debit and incur any additional administrative fees in doing so.

Non-EU students requesting a student visa are expected to settle the full fee before the start of the academic year due to visa requirements. No refunds are made following the start of the academic year should the student decide to resign or a VISA is refused by the Maltese Authorities because the student withholds critical information from the Institute.

Students opting to read for the University of London degree are required to settle the respective University of London registration and examination fees separately and directly with the University. These fees may be attained through the University's own website *http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/*.

Studies Plus⁺

The BOV Studies Plus⁺ loan offers students a maximum of 5 years interest and repayment free financing to meet institute fees, and other study-related costs. The loan is repayable after graduation.

Stipend & Maintenance Grant*

The Government of Malta offers full-time students monthly stipend and grants payable under the Malta Government Undergraduate Scheme (MGUS). This also applies to EU students who have been residents of Malta for the previous five years. Students are required to refer to the link provided for further details regarding eligibility and conditions related to the scheme: *https://www.servizz.gov.mt/en/Pages/Education_-Science-and-Technology/Education-Services/Scholarships/WEB573/default.aspx*

Get Qualified Scheme*

The Get Qualified Scheme will reimburse a maximum of 70% or the maximum amount which is capped per MQF Level, whichever the higher, of the total fees paid. The amount will be refunded over a period of ten years upon successful completion through income tax credit, applicable to both MQF Level 5 and MQF Level 6. The scheme applies to both EU and third country students and is conditional on the student being employed in Malta after graduation. Parents who are employed and pay income tax in Malta are able to benefit from this tax rebate scheme instead of their child if they are paying the tuition fees on behalf of their children.

Other Costs

In addition to the fees payable to the Institute, the student needs to budget for the cost of textbooks (SMI provides guidebooks but students are encouraged to purchase other reference textbooks) and a laptop/computer with internet access. Students registered in Level 2 & 3 of the degree programmes are required to bring their own laptop for lectures.

EXCELLENCE IS THE KEY THAT OPENS SUCCESSES' DOOR

STUDIED LOCALLY, VALUED GLOBALLY

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CONFIDENT FUTURES

Malta Further and Higher Education Authority

The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) was launched on the 8th January 2021 after the revised Education Act came into force on the 1st January 2021. The MFHEA is set up to foster the development and achievement of excellence in further and higher education in Malta through research, effective licensing, accreditation, quality assurance, and recognition of qualifications established under the Malta Qualifications Framework." (Source: Chapter 327, Education Act).

The Authority is an independent, transparent, and international authority focused on providing accreditation to further and higher educational institutions and their courses of study, assures quality standards are adhered to and provide recognition of obtained national and international qualifications.

Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education
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