

In 2008, 83,288 foreign students followed courses at local English-language specialised schools. This shows a decrease of 0.8 per cent over 2007.

Teaching English to Foreigners: 2008

A total number of 39 schools operated in the business of English-language teaching during 2008, however, only 36 schools provided information on students following English-language courses. As Table 1 illustrates, 83,288 students followed EFL courses during 2008. This means that in 2008 there was a decrease of 664 students, or 0.8 per cent, over the figure registered in 2007.

As shown in Table 1, the younger age cohorts were highly represented in the student population, with the 16-17 age group having the highest frequency, at 22.3 per cent, followed by the '15 and under' age group, at 18.6 per cent. Female students were predominant in the student population, making up 57.1 per cent of total incoming students. Germany, Italy, France, Spain and the Russian Federation show the highest frequencies for student nationalities respectively. Collectively, students from these countries amounted to 72.3 per cent of the total. When comparing the number of students arriving from these countries in 2008 and 2007, one can observe a net increase of 3,485 students from Italy and a net decrease of 4,576 from Spain. In 2008 the '15 and under' and '30 and over' age groups registered increases over the previous year. The largest increase of 3,859 was registered for the '15 and under' age group, while the largest decrease of 3,146 was registered for the '21-25' age group.

Table 2 indicates that when analysing students with respect to their continent of origin, European students accounted for 95 per cent of total EFL students. Students coming from 'Other European' countries registered the greatest decrease over 2007: 1,294 students less. By contrast, students coming from EU countries registered an increase of 628 over 2007.

During 2008 students visiting Malta to study English amounted to 6.5 per cent of all incoming tourists, compared to 6.8 per cent for 2007. The majority of these students, 54.9 per cent, chose to follow a course during the summer months. On the other hand, 10.1 per cent of stays occurred during the winter months and 35 per cent during the shoulder months. When compared to 2007, the number of students as a percentage of total incoming tourists in summer decreased by 1 per cent, from 10.8 per cent to 9.8 per cent, amounting to a net decrease of 4,808 students. On the other hand, students studying during winter and shoulder months increased by 714 and 3,430 respectively over 2007.

The average length of stay for 2008 was 2.6 weeks, almost at par with the average stay for 2007, 2.5 weeks. Winter stays were on average 1 week longer than summer and shoulder month stays, with 3.5 weeks compared to 2.3 and 2.6 weeks. Longer stays were prevalent among students from Asia and America, with 9.8 and 6.7 weeks respectively. On the other hand, students from EU countries and 'Other European' countries tended to have shorter stays, of 2.1 and 2.3 weeks. The longest stay per student was 44 weeks, while the shortest stays were of one week. Students between 21-25 years have the longest average length of stay, of 3.9 weeks per student, while students aged 15 years and under have the shortest average length of stay, of 1.9 weeks.

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In 2008, 1,340 teachers were employed with English-language specialised schools. Of these, 91.4 per cent were working on a part-time basis. Female teaching personnel comprised 75.2 per cent of total teachers working in these schools ■

Table 1. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language classified by country, age group and sex: January-December 2008

Country	15 and under		16-17		18-20		21-25		26-30		30 and over		Total		
	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	t
Germany	1,696	1,309	1,632	1,253	1,023	788	1,118	866	979	795	2,537	2,586	8,985	7,597	16,582
Italy	2,066	1,807	2,746	2,078	1,643	1,316	675	659	471	590	1,199	861	8,800	7,311	16,111
France	1,214	925	2,057	1,736	843	722	590	616	378	295	448	376	5,530	4,670	10,200
Spain	202	126	454	372	1,301	848	2,194	1,537	595	562	397	301	5,143	3,746	8,889
Russian Federation	1,273	1,100	944	628	959	409	1,009	311	541	196	687	380	5,413	3,024	8,437
Austria	739	719	841	555	513	597	152	109	131	109	337	242	2,713	2,331	5,044
Switzerland	142	116	245	184	390	269	256	213	179	122	550	393	1,762	1,297	3,059
Czech Republic	195	131	263	165	194	129	151	74	124	72	309	235	1,236	806	2,042
Poland	176	108	233	115	106	59	80	48	96	40	209	137	900	507	1,407
Japan	21	19	39	29	84	24	219	89	197	53	237	69	797	283	1,080
Turkey	37	39	38	53	66	87	109	157	87	90	78	86	415	512	927
Slovakia	94	62	84	65	81	51	73	35	69	40	158	114	559	367	926
Netherlands	48	26	151	44	192	104	70	39	19	12	71	39	551	264	815
Hungary	66	45	70	52	54	34	50	28	62	16	138	91	440	266	706
Ukraine	95	69	45	32	70	27	71	40	79	34	52	34	412	236	648
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	5	2	11	15	44	8	213	166	86	51	31	14	390	256	646
Sweden	34	14	223	66	43	15	27	10	19	17	91	54	437	176	613
World not allocated geographically	49	67	52	48	31	16	64	42	82	32	69	46	347	251	598
Belgium	54	33	130	65	71	45	53	29	16	5	23	12	347	189	536
Portugal	84	52	49	22	32	12	23	16	34	8	23	16	245	126	371
Other countries	263	186	438	261	341	299	309	306	290	196	453	309	2,094	1,557	3,651
Total	8,553	6,955	10,745	7,838	8,081	5,859	7,506	5,390	4,534	3,335	8,097	6,395	47,516	35,772	83,288

Table 2. Student population classified by continent and age group: 2008

Continent	15 and under		16-17		18-20		21-25		26-30		31 and over		Total			%
	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	t			
Europe	8,381	6,750	10,551	7,632	7,714	5,583	6,798	4,826	4,038	3,089	7,601	6,129	45,083	34,009	79,092	95.0
<i>EU-27</i>	6,797	5,409	9,187	6,690	6,191	4,765	5,312	4,088	3,066	2,606	6,185	5,203	36,738	28,761	65,499	78.6
<i>Other European Countries</i>	1,584	1,341	1,364	942	1,523	818	1,486	738	972	483	1,416	926	8,345	5,248	13,593	16.3
Asia	98	83	90	89	190	86	539	358	348	139	334	119	1,599	874	2,473	3.0
America	3	3	28	9	36	24	54	57	53	28	74	49	248	170	418	0.5
Africa	22	52	24	60	110	150	51	107	13	47	18	52	238	468	706	0.9
Other countries	49	67	52	48	31	16	64	42	82	32	70	46	348	251	599	0.7
TOTAL	8,553	6,955	10,745	7,838	8,081	5,859	7,506	5,390	4,534	3,335	8,097	6,395	47,516	35,772	83,288	100.0

Table 3. Foreign students as a percentage of all incoming tourists classified by country and sex: 2008

Country of origin	2008								
	Students			Tourists			% of Students over tourists		
	Females	Males	Total Students	Females	Males	Total Tourists	Females	Males	Total
Austria	2,713	2,331	5,044	9,209	10,616	19,825	29.5	22.0	25.4
Belgium	347	189	536	15,006	14,613	29,619	2.3	1.3	1.8
Croatia	49	32	81	338	960	1,298	14.5	3.3	6.2
Czech Republic	1,236	806	2,042	3,560	3,822	7,381	34.7	21.1	27.7
Denmark	133	35	168	12,343	11,640	23,984	1.1	0.3	0.7
Finland	169	96	265	6,676	5,955	12,632	2.5	1.6	2.1
France	5,530	4,670	10,200	41,367	39,785	81,152	13.4	11.7	12.6
Germany	8,985	7,597	16,582	67,962	82,831	150,793	13.2	9.2	11.0
Hungary	440	266	706	4,715	3,611	8,327	9.3	7.4	8.5
Italy	8,800	7,311	16,111	58,815	85,641	144,456	15.0	8.5	11.2
Japan	797	283	1,080	6,406	3,534	9,940	12.4	8.0	10.9
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	58	230	288	2,225	7,178	9,403	2.6	3.2	3.1
Netherlands	551	264	815	16,028	20,892	36,920	3.4	1.3	2.2
Norway	132	62	194	7,777	8,712	16,488	1.7	0.7	1.2
Poland	900	507	1,407	4,230	2,850	7,080	21.3	17.8	19.9
Russian Federation	5,413	3,024	8,437	13,647	9,765	23,412	39.7	31.0	36.0
Slovakia	559	367	926	1,033	1,130	2,163	54.1	32.5	42.8
Slovenia	151	65	216	1,247	1,059	2,306	12.1	6.1	9.4
Spain	5,143	3,746	8,889	23,797	25,701	49,497	21.6	14.6	18.0
Sweden	437	176	613	16,310	16,101	32,411	2.7	1.1	1.9
Switzerland	1,762	1,297	3,059	11,494	10,500	21,994	15.3	12.4	13.9
Ukraine	412	236	648	1,693	1,471	3,164	24.3	16.0	20.5
Other countries	2,799	2,182	4,981	292,872	303,739	596,611	1.0	0.7	0.8
Total	47,516	35,772	83,288	618,750	672,106	1,290,856	7.7	5.3	6.5

Table 4. Student population classified by seasonal pattern, sex and percentage of all incoming tourists: 2008

	Winter	Shoulder	Summer	Total
Females	4,446	16,414	26,656	47,516
Males	3,930	12,753	19,089	35,772
Total Students	8,376	29,167	45,745	83,288
Females	108,813	278,721	231,216	618,750
Males	131,120	304,348	236,638	672,106
Total Tourists	239,933	583,069	467,854	1,290,856
Females	4.1	5.9	11.5	7.7
Males	3.0	4.2	8.1	5.3
% of students over tourists	3.5	5.0	9.8	6.5

Table 5. Student population classified by seasonal pattern and age group: 2008

Age	Winter		Shoulder		Summer		Total		
	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	t
17 and Under	907	791	6,598	5,458	11,793	8,544	19,298	14,793	34,091
18-25	1,568	1,231	4,534	3,438	9,485	6,580	15,587	11,249	26,836
26 and Over	1,971	1,908	5,282	3,857	5,378	3,965	12,631	9,730	22,361
Total	4,446	3,930	16,414	12,753	26,656	19,089	47,516	35,772	83,288

Table 6. Total number of weeks for students who followed an english language course in specialised schools for English language classified by country, age group and sex: January-December 2008

Country of Origin	Age												Total		
	15 and under		16-17		18-20		21-25		26-30		31 and over		f	m	t
	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m			
Germany	3,354	2,496	3,453	2,656	2,509	1,746	2,675	1,917	1,938	1,544	4,865	4,690	18,794	15,049	33,843
Italy	3,117	2,631	3,835	3,003	2,414	1,985	1,561	1,495	1,087	1,047	1,830	1,628	13,844	11,789	25,633
France	2,355	1,776	4,276	3,638	2,543	1,708	1,907	1,587	711	535	910	816	12,702	10,060	22,762
Spain	527	299	1,258	974	3,851	2,532	6,672	4,792	1,652	1,582	1,028	801	14,988	10,980	25,968
Russian Federation	3,252	2,929	2,763	1,892	2,925	1,254	3,651	1,391	1,976	794	2,420	1,094	16,987	9,354	26,341
Austria	925	840	1,133	755	686	727	308	197	228	170	508	406	3,788	3,095	6,883
Switzerland	289	241	744	583	1,683	1,013	1,069	901	527	335	1,498	1,114	5,810	4,187	9,997
Czech Republic	476	315	641	408	520	322	462	211	318	222	748	552	3,165	2,030	5,195
Poland	409	243	531	252	266	144	242	114	229	81	451	307	2,128	1,141	3,269
Japan	76	44	93	50	450	147	1,271	517	1,095	244	1,137	288	4,122	1,290	5,412
Turkey	111	124	97	203	257	670	823	1,358	705	790	312	530	2,305	3,675	5,980
Slovakia	228	162	203	193	227	135	229	114	181	112	380	305	1,448	1,021	2,469
Netherlands	96	53	457	167	640	343	207	129	58	33	160	100	1,618	825	2,443
Hungary	147	102	211	163	206	100	228	106	165	53	455	325	1,412	849	2,261
Ukraine	244	166	121	94	245	81	384	281	244	112	166	110	1,404	844	2,248
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	40	12	88	132	648	56	3,341	2,513	1,141	840	352	230	5,610	3,783	9,393
Sweden	53	23	685	190	325	102	280	83	98	40	239	127	1,680	565	2,245
World not allocated geographically	138	171	172	200	151	85	356	265	393	151	323	191	1,533	1,063	2,596
Belgium	110	74	274	139	311	173	261	147	21	14	42	33	1,019	580	1,599
Portugal	59	20	69	34	41	5	43	22	43	13	41	24	296	118	414
Other countries	605	633	1,347	834	2,072	1,452	2,740	3,379	3,101	994	1,578	1,036	11,443	8,328	19,771
Total	16,611	13,354	22,451	16,560	22,970	14,780	28,710	21,519	15,911	9,706	19,443	14,707	126,096	90,626	216,722

Table 7. Average number of weeks per student, classified by sex, age and nationality: 2008

Nationality	15 and under		16-17		18-20		21-25		26-30		31 and over		Total		
	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Total
Austria	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4
Belgium	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.4	3.8	4.9	5.1	1.3	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.0
Croatia	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	7.0	1.8	2.8	3.5	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.4
Czech Republic	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.5	3.1	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5
Denmark	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.7	2.5	2.4	3.8	1.3	3.0	-	3.2	1.8	3.0	2.8	2.9
Finland	-	-	3.5	3.1	5.6	2.6	2.8	2.2	4.6	3.3	2.0	2.0	3.1	2.3	2.8
France	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.6	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2
Germany	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0
Hungary	2.2	2.3	3.0	3.1	3.8	2.9	4.6	3.8	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.2
Italy	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6
Japan	3.6	2.3	2.4	1.7	5.4	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.6	4.6	4.8	4.2	5.2	4.6	5.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3.6	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.0	5.4	4.0	5.2	3.0	6.3	3.0	5.3	3.7	5.2	4.9
Netherlands	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.0
Norway	2.0	-	3.2	3.3	4.4	3.7	4.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.5	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.7
Poland	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3
Russian Federation	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.6	4.5	3.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1
Slovakia	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.3	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.7
Slovenia	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.3	1.6	-	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.1
Spain	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9
Sweden	1.6	1.6	3.1	2.9	7.6	6.8	10.4	8.3	5.2	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.8	3.2	3.7
Switzerland	2.0	2.1	3.0	3.2	4.3	3.8	4.2	4.2	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.3
Ukraine	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.5	3.0	5.4	7.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.5
Other countries	2.2	2.5	3.1	3.6	6.7	5.6	10.7	11.8	10.6	8.5	4.4	4.7	6.9	6.9	6.9
Total	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.8	2.5	3.8	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.6

Table 8. Average number of weeks per student classified by sex and seasonal pattern: 2008

	Student population			Number of student weeks			Average number of weeks per student		
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
Winter	4,446	3,930	8,376	16,042	13,371	29,413	3.6	3.4	3.5
Shoulder	16,414	12,753	29,167	39,333	29,126	68,459	2.4	2.3	2.3
Summer	26,656	19,089	45,745	70,721	48,129	118,850	2.7	2.5	2.6
Total	47,516	35,772	83,288	126,096	90,626	216,722	2.7	2.5	2.6

Table 9. Staff engaged in the teaching of English of foreign students classified by gender: 2008

Full-time			Part-time			Total			Total Institutes
Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	
77	38	115	931	294	1,225	1,008	332	1,340	36

Methodological Notes

1. The data contained in this release were obtained from a census among schools teaching English to foreign students in Malta.

2. Definitions:

- **Student:** Refers to a person who attended an English-language course

- **Seasonal pattern:**

Winter	January February	November December
Shoulder	March till June	October
Summer	July till September	

3. The World Geographical Classification is based on the International Organisation for Standardisation country codes (ISO codes).

4. The data in this release are to be considered as final and are not normally subject to revision.