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Last year, foreign students attending English language courses at local specialised schools numbered 81,911, an 18.2 per cent increase over 2011.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2012

Results showed that almost two-thirds of students came from Italy, Germany, Russia, France or Spain (Table 1). Italian students accounted for a 19.2 per cent share, while students from Germany, Russia, France and Spain came next with shares of 14.1, 13.9, 10.4 and 7.3 per cent respectively.

The largest proportion of language students fell within the 16-17 age groups and reached 21,791, or 26.6 per cent of the total. Students aged 50 and over were in a minority and counted 3,879. Female students outnumbered males, and accounted for 57.5 per cent of the entire student population.

As seen in Table 2, July was the busiest month for English language specialised schools, with 23,628 students or 28.8 per cent of the annual total. December was the least busy, with just over 1,000 students.

Table 3 indicates that the absolute majority of students were Europeans (88.5 per cent). Of these, 56,098 were EU citizens, while the remaining 16,377 were from other European countries. All continents experienced an increase over 2011, with the African market reporting the most significant change in percentage terms.

EFL Students' Share of Foreign Nationals

Persons studying English as a foreign language amounted to 5.7 per cent of total foreign nationals visiting Malta during 2012. Female students made up 6.8 per cent of total female tourists, while males made up 4.6 per cent. During July, 13.5 per cent of foreigners visiting Malta were foreign students attending English language specialised schools. Comparative information on foreign students and foreign arrivals can be found in Tables 4 and 5.

EFL Students' Weeks

The average length of stay of students for 2012 was estimated at 2.8 weeks. Increases in all calendar months were recorded when compared to 2011 (Tables 6). With an average of 7.9 weeks, students from South Korea had the highest average duration. These were followed by Turkey and Libya with averages of 5.6 and 5.3 weeks respectively (Table 8). The total number of weeks spent by foreign students in Malta amounted to 226,360, up from 182,347 in 2011 ■



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Table 1. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language, by country and age: 2012

Country	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
Italy	1,725	2,431	2,815	3,731	1,319	1,446	515	528	350	457	181	214	6,905	8,807	15,712
Germany	1,209	1,653	1,087	1,494	772	1,254	589	687	740	863	576	649	4,973	6,600	11,573
Russia	1,636	1,912	955	1,319	790	1,564	644	1,299	336	676	71	177	4,432	6,947	11,379
France	910	1,196	1,517	1,990	711	985	244	311	199	207	99	116	3,680	4,805	8,485
Spain	255	352	372	547	989	1,271	531	790	282	384	66	123	2,495	3,467	5,962
Austria	728	875	708	910	477	267	120	150	74	128	77	119	2,184	2,449	4,633
Turkey	105	96	124	94	690	517	414	332	156	149	51	55	1,540	1,243	2,783
Switzerland	145	210	195	234	216	337	105	141	114	171	98	150	873	1,243	2,116
Poland	150	227	192	218	151	252	94	188	85	151	40	52	712	1,088	1,800
Czech Republic	166	191	111	133	167	245	89	182	79	179	53	66	665	996	1,661
Libya	61	47	47	9	236	117	396	236	123	134	14	4	877	547	1,424
Ukraine	157	96	142	134	109	180	111	153	47	50	6	14	572	627	1,199
Republic of Korea	9	3	3	5	213	283	190	176	88	106	14	34	517	607	1,124
Netherlands	35	68	64	219	148	368	18	31	26	44	31	41	322	771	1,093
Sweden	75	242	145	400	13	23	6	16	8	30	10	20	257	731	988
Japan	15	19	10	10	201	312	36	150	20	53	17	41	299	585	884
Belgium	14	44	37	115	155	222	90	92	31	36	13	11	340	520	860
Brazil	0	3	11	13	128	217	148	201	32	54	19	34	338	522	860
Finland	43	256	67	259	10	23	14	17	24	71	29	46	187	672	859
Serbia	36	62	31	35	30	54	124	121	111	13	69	75	401	360	761
Other countries	332	632	464	825	597	868	492	616	257	368	108	196	2,250	3,505	5,755
Total	7,806	10,615	9,097	12,694	8,122	10,805	4,970	6,417	3,182	4,324	1,642	2,237	34,819	47,092	81,911

Table 2. Foreign students following courses in specialised schools for English language, by month and sex: 2012

Month	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
January	62	70	61	76	452	437	302	311	151	143	100	75	1,128	1,112	2,240
February	257	271	113	182	340	424	314	296	187	179	77	82	1,288	1,434	2,722
March	319	486	872	1,233	497	647	253	350	272	264	103	163	2,316	3,143	5,459
April	531	617	1,005	1,268	603	681	407	498	209	305	142	175	2,897	3,544	6,441
May	339	454	383	416	431	457	316	481	236	366	165	242	1,870	2,416	4,286
June	1,211	2,007	1,125	1,842	767	1,028	531	608	345	438	183	226	4,162	6,149	10,311
July	3,007	4,018	3,317	4,562	1,907	2,770	977	1,194	540	824	218	294	9,966	13,662	23,628
August	1,445	1,847	1,355	2,079	1,392	2,093	628	1,048	401	643	152	192	5,373	7,902	13,275
September	275	421	371	430	895	1,077	480	687	313	468	163	300	2,497	3,383	5,880
October	270	364	303	387	467	666	335	441	288	418	187	301	1,850	2,577	4,427
November	67	40	166	193	224	312	283	334	162	218	98	138	1,000	1,235	2,235
December	23	20	26	26	147	213	144	169	78	58	54	49	472	535	1,007
Total	7,806	10,615	9,097	12,694	8,122	10,805	4,970	6,417	3,182	4,324	1,642	2,237	34,819	47,092	81,911

Table 3. Student population classified by continent and sex

Continent	2012			2011			Annual % change		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Europe	30,186	42,289	72,475	26,891	37,420	64,311	12.3	13.0	12.7
EU27	23,671	32,427	56,098	21,475	29,529	51,004	10.2	9.8	10.0
Other European countries	6,515	9,862	16,377	5,416	7,891	13,307	20.3	25.0	23.1
Asia	2,528	2,680	5,208	663	1,301	1,964	281.3	106.0	165.2
America	648	934	1,582	389	688	1,077	66.6	35.8	46.9
Africa	1,008	616	1,624	357	198	555	182.4	211.1	192.6
Other countries	449	573	1,022	647	743	1,390	30.6	22.9	26.5
Total	34,819	47,092	81,911	28,947	40,350	69,297	20.3	16.7	18.2

Table 4. Foreign students as a percentage of incoming foreigners, by country: 2012

Country	Students			Foreigners			% of students per foreigner		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Italy	6,905	8,807	15,712	118,993	82,801	201,794	5.8	10.6	7.8
Germany	4,973	6,600	11,573	69,995	67,185	137,179	7.1	9.8	8.4
Russia	4,432	6,947	11,379	13,991	17,734	31,725	31.7	39.2	35.9
France	3,680	4,805	8,485	51,955	55,575	107,530	7.1	8.6	7.9
Spain	2,495	3,467	5,962	30,399	30,018	60,418	8.2	11.5	9.9
Austria	2,184	2,449	4,633	9,738	10,009	19,747	22.4	24.5	23.5
Turkey	1,540	1,243	2,783	3,381	2,242	5,623	45.6	55.4	49.5
Switzerland	873	1,243	2,116	13,152	12,621	25,773	6.6	9.8	8.2
Poland	712	1,088	1,800	11,550	8,475	20,025	6.2	12.8	9.0
Czech Republic	665	996	1,661	4,211	4,683	8,893	15.8	21.3	18.7
Libya	877	547	1,424	13,416	3,925	17,341	6.5	13.9	8.2
Ukraine	572	627	1,199	:	:	3,007	:	:	39.9
Republic of Korea	517	607	1,124	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	322	771	1,093	3,522	4,117	7,639	9.1	18.7	14.3
Sweden	257	731	988	:	:	2,899	:	:	34.1
Japan	299	585	884	22,765	18,647	41,411	1.3	3.1	2.1
Belgium	340	520	860	19,702	19,612	39,315	1.7	2.7	2.2
Brazil	338	522	860	13,830	13,517	27,347	2.4	3.9	3.1
Finland	187	672	859	:	:	2,446	:	:	35.1
Serbia	401	360	761	2,662	2,477	5,139	15.1	14.5	14.8
Other countries	2,250	3,505	5,755	345,983	332,810	678,793	0.7	1.1	0.8
Total	34,819	47,092	81,911	753,653	690,391	1,444,043	4.6	6.8	5.7

: under represented figures have been omitted

Table 5. Student population, by month and percentage of incoming foreigners: 2012

Month	Students			Foreigners			% of students per foreigner		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
January	1,128	1,112	2,240	32,164	29,188	61,352	3.5	3.8	3.7
February	1,288	1,434	2,722	35,123	26,665	61,788	3.7	5.4	4.4
March	2,316	3,143	5,459	43,567	36,505	80,071	5.3	8.6	6.8
April	2,897	3,544	6,441	62,978	60,002	122,979	4.6	5.9	5.2
May	1,870	2,416	4,286	69,608	64,052	133,659	2.7	3.8	3.2
June	4,162	6,149	10,311	73,271	74,091	147,361	5.7	8.3	7.0
July	9,966	13,662	23,628	88,407	86,308	174,715	11.3	15.8	13.5
August	5,373	7,902	13,275	101,429	98,001	199,430	5.3	8.1	6.7
September	2,497	3,383	5,880	84,263	78,987	163,251	3.0	4.3	3.6
October	1,850	2,577	4,427	80,296	72,276	152,572	2.3	3.6	2.9
November	1,000	1,235	2,235	47,049	38,442	85,491	2.1	3.2	2.6
December	472	535	1,007	35,498	25,875	61,373	1.3	2.1	1.6
Total	34,819	47,092	81,911	753,653	690,391	1,444,043	4.6	6.8	5.7

Table 6. Number of students and student weeks, by sex and month

Month	Number of students			Number of weeks			Average number of weeks per student		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2012									
January	1,128	1,112	2,240	5,290	5,045	10,335	4.7	4.5	4.6
February	1,288	1,434	2,722	4,413	4,657	9,070	3.4	3.2	3.3
March	2,316	3,143	5,459	5,937	7,121	13,058	2.6	2.3	2.4
April	2,897	3,544	6,441	6,659	7,798	14,457	2.3	2.2	2.2
May	1,870	2,416	4,286	5,561	6,296	11,857	3.0	2.6	2.8
June	4,162	6,149	10,311	10,677	14,972	25,649	2.6	2.4	2.5
July	9,966	13,662	23,628	23,658	32,871	56,529	2.4	2.4	2.4
August	5,373	7,902	13,275	15,460	19,963	35,423	2.9	2.5	2.7
September	2,497	3,383	5,880	8,751	10,992	19,743	3.5	3.2	3.4
October	1,850	2,577	4,427	6,632	7,933	14,565	3.6	3.1	3.3
November	1,000	1,235	2,235	4,870	5,192	10,062	4.9	4.2	4.5
December	472	535	1,007	2,784	2,828	5,612	5.9	5.3	5.6
Total	34,819	47,092	81,911	100,692	125,668	226,360	2.9	2.7	2.8
2011									
January	1,013	1,118	2,131	6,378	4,347	10,725	3.9	6.3	5.0
February	907	1,290	2,197	2,879	4,048	6,927	3.1	3.2	3.2
March	2,302	2,968	5,270	5,216	6,693	11,909	2.3	2.3	2.3
April	2,650	3,337	5,987	5,599	6,780	12,379	2.0	2.1	2.1
May	1,977	2,622	4,599	4,374	6,228	10,602	2.4	2.2	2.3
June	2,798	4,103	6,901	7,423	10,341	17,764	2.5	2.7	2.6
July	7,236	10,906	18,142	17,793	24,976	42,769	2.3	2.5	2.4
August	4,721	6,772	11,493	11,938	16,725	28,663	2.5	2.5	2.5
September	2,092	2,969	5,061	7,513	10,747	18,260	3.6	3.6	3.6
October	1,960	2,523	4,483	5,444	7,263	12,707	2.9	2.8	2.8
November	852	1,145	1,997	2,680	3,549	6,229	3.1	3.1	3.1
December	439	597	1,036	1,574	1,839	3,413	3.1	3.6	3.3
Total	28,947	40,350	69,297	78,811	103,536	182,347	2.6	2.7	2.6

Table 7. Total number of student weeks, by country and age: 2012

Country	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
Italy	2,712	3,743	4,449	5,708	3,120	3,233	1,374	1,204	738	1,146	310	383	12,703	15,417	28,120
Germany	2,014	2,931	2,252	3,236	2,002	3,156	1,199	1,448	1,264	1,722	868	1,075	9,599	13,568	23,167
Russia	3,668	4,483	2,813	3,188	2,920	5,242	2,171	3,912	1,086	1,760	210	464	12,868	19,049	31,917
France	1,688	2,259	3,440	3,994	2,003	2,762	774	785	504	404	215	201	8,624	10,405	19,029
Spain	572	882	988	1,449	3,513	4,393	2,069	2,787	1,002	1,143	225	332	8,369	10,986	19,355
Austria	859	1,124	830	1,127	657	472	332	238	159	188	146	155	2,983	3,304	6,287
Turkey	213	211	661	212	5,415	3,534	1,863	1,770	714	582	143	206	9,009	6,515	15,524
Switzerland	322	484	429	713	845	1,238	399	394	285	387	292	364	2,572	3,580	6,152
Poland	251	355	480	478	464	551	213	367	176	379	82	80	1,666	2,210	3,876
Czech Republic	305	371	253	328	510	729	304	536	206	481	103	128	1,681	2,573	4,254
Libya	233	156	214	45	1,853	885	1,770	853	811	616	103	12	4,984	2,567	7,551
Ukraine	265	168	316	211	496	484	299	587	441	273	19	69	1,836	1,792	3,628
Republic of Korea	113	83	6	5	2,105	3,275	998	1,179	324	740	36	37	3,582	5,319	8,901
Netherlands	80	154	190	465	1,013	2,043	29	63	28	46	33	45	1,373	2,816	4,189
Sweden	219	699	450	787	78	101	13	107	19	58	18	29	797	1,781	2,578
Japan	44	33	17	19	787	1,802	137	677	117	174	67	123	1,169	2,828	3,997
Belgium	32	89	97	268	635	1,037	395	275	230	80	74	18	1,463	1,767	3,230
Brazil	:	15	16	26	996	1,208	623	707	258	226	105	106	2,008	2,288	4,296
Finland	110	694	208	767	71	76	25	68	111	180	70	120	595	1,905	2,500
Serbia	63	125	68	80	80	144	591	577	267	31	71	331	1,140	1,288	2,428
Other countries	796	1,539	1,369	2,536	4,201	4,451	3,927	3,343	1,170	1,370	218	471	11,671	13,710	25,381
Total	14,559	20,598	19,546	25,642	33,764	40,816	19,505	21,877	9,910	11,986	3,408	4,749	100,692	125,668	226,360

Table 8. Average number of weeks per student, by country and age: 2012

Country	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
Italy	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Germany	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0
Russia	2.2	2.3	2.9	2.4	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.2	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.8
France	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.2	2.2
Spain	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.6	3.6	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.4	2.7	3.4	3.2	3.2
Austria	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.8	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Turkey	2.0	2.2	5.3	2.3	7.8	6.8	4.5	5.3	4.6	3.9	2.8	3.7	5.9	5.2	5.6
Switzerland	2.2	2.3	2.2	3.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	2.8	2.5	2.3	3.0	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.9
Poland	1.7	1.6	2.5	2.2	3.1	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.1	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.2
Czech Republic	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6
Libya	3.8	3.3	4.6	5.0	7.9	7.6	4.5	3.6	6.6	4.6	7.4	3.0	5.7	4.7	5.3
Ukraine	1.7	1.8	2.2	1.6	4.6	2.7	2.7	3.8	9.4	5.5	3.2	4.9	3.2	2.9	3.0
Republic of Korea	12.6	27.7	2.0	1.0	9.9	11.6	5.3	6.7	3.7	7.0	2.6	1.1	6.9	8.8	7.9
Netherlands	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.1	6.8	5.6	1.6	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	4.3	3.7	3.8
Sweden	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.0	6.0	4.4	2.2	6.7	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	3.1	2.4	2.6
Japan	2.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	3.9	5.8	3.8	4.5	5.9	3.3	3.9	3.0	3.9	4.8	4.5
Belgium	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.3	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.0	7.4	2.2	5.7	1.6	4.3	3.4	3.8
Brazil	:	5.0	1.5	2.0	7.8	5.6	4.2	3.5	8.1	4.2	5.5	3.1	5.9	4.4	5.0
Finland	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.0	7.1	3.3	1.8	4.0	4.6	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.2	2.8	2.9
Serbia	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.7	2.7	4.8	4.8	2.4	2.4	1.0	4.4	2.8	3.6	3.2
Other countries	2.4	2.4	3.0	3.1	7.0	5.1	8.0	5.4	4.6	3.7	2.0	2.4	5.2	3.9	4.4
Total	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.1	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.8

Table 9. Number of weeks per student, by age and month: 2012

Month	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
January	126	116	378	420	2,435	2,388	1,469	1,349	661	576	221	196	5,290	5,045	10,335
February	295	364	271	386	1,772	1,963	1,369	1,188	565	569	141	187	4,413	4,657	9,070
March	438	582	1,198	1,638	1,976	2,421	1,392	1,379	696	826	237	275	5,937	7,121	13,058
April	739	863	1,352	1,571	2,628	2,694	1,265	1,423	453	939	222	308	6,659	7,798	14,457
May	409	590	733	765	1,772	1,990	1,445	1,633	869	907	333	411	5,561	6,296	11,857
June	2,586	4,221	2,722	4,134	2,523	3,331	1,528	1,724	901	1,057	417	505	10,677	14,972	25,649
July	6,219	9,223	7,273	9,911	5,897	7,836	2,629	3,124	1,198	2,122	442	655	23,658	32,871	56,529
August	2,741	3,385	3,379	4,420	5,265	7,125	2,094	2,935	1,692	1,742	289	356	15,460	19,963	35,423
September	447	673	1,070	1,039	4,040	4,997	1,896	2,360	894	1,141	404	782	8,751	10,992	19,743
October	408	469	735	750	2,510	2,981	1,704	2,105	906	1,034	369	594	6,632	7,933	14,565
November	87	54	315	430	1,770	1,944	1,688	1,571	775	842	235	351	4,870	5,192	10,062
December	64	58	120	178	1,176	1,146	1,026	1,086	300	231	98	129	2,784	2,828	5,612
Total	14,559	20,598	19,546	25,642	33,764	40,816	19,505	21,877	9,910	11,986	3,408	4,749	100,692	125,668	226,360

Table 10. Average number of weeks per student, by age and month: 2012

Month	15 and under		16-17		18-25		26-35		36-49		50 and over		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
January	2.0	1.7	6.2	5.5	5.4	5.5	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.0	2.2	2.6	4.7	4.5	4.6
February	1.1	1.3	2.4	2.1	5.2	4.6	4.4	4.0	3.0	3.2	1.8	2.3	3.4	3.2	3.3
March	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	4.0	3.7	5.5	3.9	2.6	3.1	2.3	1.7	2.6	2.3	2.4
April	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	4.4	4.0	3.1	2.9	2.2	3.1	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.2
May	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.8	4.1	4.4	4.6	3.4	3.7	2.5	2.0	1.7	3.0	2.6	2.8
June	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.2	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.5
July	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4
August	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.1	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.8	4.2	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.9	2.5	2.7
September	1.6	1.6	2.9	2.4	4.5	4.6	4.0	3.4	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.5	3.2	3.4
October	1.5	1.3	2.4	1.9	5.4	4.5	5.1	4.8	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.0	3.6	3.1	3.3
November	1.3	1.4	1.9	2.2	7.9	6.2	6.0	4.7	4.8	3.9	2.4	2.5	4.9	4.2	4.5
December	2.8	2.9	4.6	6.8	8.0	5.4	7.1	6.4	3.8	4.0	1.8	2.6	5.9	5.3	5.6
Total	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.1	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.8

Methodological Notes:

1. Data used in this News Release were based on information collected by the Ministry for Education and Employment and subsequently analysed by NSO.
2. In 2012, 40 English Language Specialised Schools were operating in Malta. Feedback from all schools is included in this publication.
3. Following an administrative change, the age groups provided in this Release are different from the ones published previously. Thus past issues are not directly comparable to this Release.
4. Breakdowns by country are based on the students' nationality as provided by their passport.
5. For the purpose of this Release, the term "Country" refers to the Country of Citizenship of the students and foreigners visiting Malta. Thus figures for foreign citizens are not directly comparable to other tourism figures published by NSO.