



## ELT COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS – UNIVERSITY OF MALTA’S M.A. IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS & TESOL

The ELT Council is offering a number of scholarships to applicants (subject to funds available) who successfully enrol on the University of Malta’s (UM) M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme in 2026. Each scholarship covers the full tuition fees (€4,800) of the programme, which may be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

### 1. UM’S M.A. IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS & TESOL

UM’s taught M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL provides an opportunity for closely mentored postgraduate learning and research in the theoretical and practical aspects of Applied Linguistics and the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages. This programme aims to assist in the development of a better informed cadre of English language professionals who are well equipped to research and contribute to language policy, course design and delivery, training and professional development, and TESOL leadership and management. It enhances awareness of issues surrounding the learning of English by speakers of other languages in different contexts around the world, and it leads to a range of career paths in the international TESOL industry. It offers focused and scholarly engagement with current theory and practice in second language acquisition, the learning of language skills and systems, the evaluation of English language proficiency, leadership and management, and English for Specific Purposes. It also provides the opportunity to conduct corpus-based research in English as a second and foreign language. This programme benefits from the expertise of specialist tutors of international repute with knowledge and experience of the global TESOL sector. The M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL furnishes students with the knowledge and skills needed to occupy a variety of academic and managerial roles worldwide. Further information on the programme may be found [here](#).

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

In order to apply for an ELT Council M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL scholarship, an applicant shall by the closing date of the application:

- 1a)** Be a Maltese citizen who has been residing in Malta for the past two (2) years; or
- 1b)** Be a national of an EU/EEA state or a family member of such EU/EEA national (as defined in SL460.17 and in SL217.04 respectively for EU and EEA nationals), provided that such person has obtained permanent residence in Malta in accordance with SL460.17 and in SL217.04 respectively for EU and EEA nationals; or
- 1c)** Be a national of an EU/EEA state who is in Malta exercising his/her Treaty rights as a worker, self-employed person or person retaining such status in accordance with SL460.17; or
- 1d)** Be a third country national that has been granted long-term residence status under SL217.05

- 2) Be currently working on a full- or part-time basis in Malta's ELT industry and intend to continue doing so for at least two years after the completion of the M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme.
- 3) Meet UM's [M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL's admission requirements](#). Applications to enrol on the programme need to be submitted by 22nd July 2026.
- 4) Be applying to follow UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme within the timeframe 5th October 2026 and 30th September 2031. No extensions will be allowed after 30th September 2031. Final documentation confirming successful completion of the programme is expected to reach the ELT Council office by 30th September 2031. Failure to submit this documentation makes the scholarship awardee liable to refund the entire scholarship amount paid to them or on their behalf, and this without prejudice to any other legal action which may be taken in their regard.

Applicants who are already in possession of a Level 7 Master's qualification in Applied Linguistics, TESOL or ELT are not eligible to apply for an ELT Council M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL scholarship. However, applicants in possession of other Level 7 qualifications (e.g., DELTA, DipTESOL) are eligible.

Applicants shall start their course leading to UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL on **5th October 2026**.

Applicants who are already enrolled on UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme and who started the course prior to **15th July 2026** are not eligible to apply.

The complete application form shall be submitted by **31st July 2026 at 12.00 (CET)** to [info.eltcouncil@gov.mt](mailto:info.eltcouncil@gov.mt). The applicant shall hold by **30th November 2026 at 16.00 (CET)** an unconditional letter of acceptance from the University of Malta.

Applicants in possession of other national/EU (or a combination of both) public grants or national/EU/Commonwealth (or a combination) scholarships for UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme shall be deemed ineligible under the ELT Council M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL scholarship.

### 3. APPLICATION

The scholarship application shall consist of these documents:

1. A letter of application in which the applicant explains – in not more than 500 words – why they intend to read for UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL and why they should be considered for an ELT Council scholarship;
2. A detailed copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae;
3. A copy of the applicant's passport or identity card;
4. A copy of the applicant's qualification certificates;
5. A copy of a valid ELT permit issued by the ELT Council;
6. Proof that the applicant has submitted an application to read for UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL by 22nd July 2026;
7. An unconditional letter of acceptance from the University of Malta (if already available);
8. A copy of the applicant's permanent residence permit (where applicable);
9. A signed statement (template contained under Annex A) confirming that:
  - a. The applicant intends to successfully complete UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme by 30th September 2031;
  - b. by following UM's M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme the applicant intends to complete dissertation research that is of relevance to Malta's ELT industry;
  - c. the applicant agrees to refund the awarded scholarship amount if their scholarship is terminated by the ELT Council Scholarships Board due to any one of the criteria listed in section 6 of this document; and
  - d. if the applicant's scholarship application is successful, they guarantee that they shall work in Malta's ELT industry for a period of two years (24 months) from the publication of results.

## 4. SELECTION PROCESS

Eligible applicants shall be called for an interview. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure to be available on the date and time communicated to them for the interview. No alternative arrangements shall be made to change the date and time of the interview unless there are exceptional circumstances (supported by written proof) that warrant the change of such date and time. Exceptional circumstances shall be examined, and such alternative date and time may be agreed to by the ELT Council Scholarships Board, at the Board's discretion.

Applicants who do not turn up for their interview will be considered as no longer interested and thus they will be deemed ineligible by the Board, unless the applicant informs the ELT Council office that they cannot make it due to exceptional circumstances.

If an Applicant disagrees with the decision of the ELT Council Scholarships Board, only the applicant may present a petition by registered mail addressed to the ELT Council Scholarships Appeals Board or by email on email address [info.eltcouncil@gov.mt](mailto:info.eltcouncil@gov.mt) within six (6) working days from the date of the written correspondence sent by the ELT Council Scholarships Board communicating its decision to the applicant in writing through registered mail and/or via e-mail. In the petition, the applicant has to state clearly the reasons why they are contesting the decision taken by the ELT Council Scholarships Board.

The ELT Council Scholarships Appeals Board shall only address appeals arising from decisions taken by the ELT Council Scholarships Board on matters related to procedure or interpretation of the regulations in terms of eligibility and other decisions related to the granting of a scholarship. Under no circumstance shall the ELT Council Scholarships Appeals Board alter the regulations, the score of the applicants derived from interviews by the ELT Council Scholarships Board or change the ranking of an applicant as a result of such score. The decision of the Scholarships Appeals Board is final and conclusive.

## 5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholarship applications are considered on the basis of the following selection criteria:

1. Academic merit of the applicant (40%);
2. Applicant's interest in researching areas that are relevant to Malta's ELT industry (15%);
3. Applicant's continuing professional development (15%);
4. Applicant's work experience in the ELT industry (30%).

## 6. TERMINATION PRIOR TO PROGRAMME COMPLETION

Scholarship awardees who for any reason discontinue their studies shall inform the ELT Council Scholarships Board in writing immediately.

The ELT Council Scholarships Board shall on thirty (30) days written notice terminate the award if:

- the applicant's progress is deemed unsatisfactory by the University of Malta;
- the applicant discontinues their studies; and/or
- an applicant is in breach of any provision of these regulations and does not remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice requiring them to do so.

When an awardee has the scholarship award terminated, the ELT Council Scholarships Board shall determine the amount to be refunded. The refund has to be made by the stipulated deadline as communicated by the ELT Council office.

Awardees shall not be deemed to be in breach of these regulations ONLY in case of serious illness and demise of the awardee. In case of serious illness, the awardee needs to provide medical certificates and testimonials to the ELT Council Scholarships Board. Thus, awardees who cannot pursue further studies due to serious illness might be required to refund grants on a pro-rata basis as approved by and at the discretion of the ELT Council Scholarships Board.

In such situations, the scholarship awardee shall provide justifiable explanation as to why the course was not completed or why they failed to obtain the qualification. Documented evidence, medical certificates and testimonials must accompany each claim. The ELT Council Scholarships Board shall in no way be bound to waive all claims put forward. The ELT Council Scholarships Board reserves the right to appoint its own expert, be it medical or otherwise, to advise and assess the case of the claimant.

## ANNEX A

### STATEMENT OF UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE ELT COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA'S (UM) M.A. IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS & TESOL PROGRAMME

I, the undersigned, agree that in exchange for the scholarship granted to me by the ELT Council in order for me to cover the tuition fees relating to my enrollment within the University of Malta's (UM) M.A. in Applied Linguistics & TESOL programme (the "Programme") in 2026, I hereby agree to the following conditions and undertakings:

1. I shall commence the Programme in the upcoming 2026 intake, and I shall confirm that I shall successfully complete the same Programme by no later than 30th September 2031;
2. For the purposes of successfully obtaining the scholarship, I confirm my understanding that:
  - a. In completing the dissertation required in order to successfully complete the Programme, I am required to choose an area of research which bears direct relevance to a topic or topics that is/are of relevance to Malta's ELT industry; and
  - b. It shall be at the sole discretion of the ELT Council Scholarships Board (or any successor board or entity) and/or of the ELT Council in order to determine whether or not such relevance applies to my chosen area of study in this regard.

I confirm that should the above conditions not be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Board and/or Council, I shall be obliged to refund the awarded scholarship amount in full. In case of doubt, I confirm my understanding that I retain the right to seek the assistance of the ELT Council Scholarships Board prior to proceeding with my chosen area/s of research in order to ensure that the conditions contained in this statement may be fulfilled, based on the submissions made by myself in this regard, and that I shall also comply with this option in the case of any proposed changes to my area of research during the compilation of my dissertation.

3. I agree to refund the awarded scholarship amount in full, with immediate effect, should my scholarship be terminated by the ELT Council Scholarships Board on the basis of any one of the criteria listed in section 6.
4. Following successful completion of the scholarship Programme, I guarantee that I shall work within Malta's ELT industry for a continuous period of two years (24 months) from my official graduation date. For all intents and purposes, "Malta's ELT Industry" shall mean any person and/or institution that is officially and duly licensed to operate and provide any ELT service in terms of the English Language Teaching Council Regulations (S.L. 605.05). Should this condition not be proven to the satisfaction of the Board and/or Council, I confirm that I shall refund the scholarship amount in full immediately upon request by the Board and/or Council.

In order for the ELT Council Scholarships Board (or any successor board or entity) to confirm my compliance with any part of the undertakings mentioned above, I hereby guarantee and accept that I consent to the Board and/or Council processing any personal data relating to my education or employment and/or engagement in relation to the undertakings entered into by virtue of this document.

Any refusal to supply the Board and/or Council with any such data as may be requested shall be understood to be a failure on my part to fulfill the conditions contained in this document, resulting in the obligation to refund the scholarship amount in full upon request.

In signing this document, I hereby guarantee that I have read and understood the above undertakings, and guarantee that I shall comply in full.

Name:

Surname:

Signature:

Date: