

HELPFUL INFORMATION
FOR STUDENTS VISITING
MALTA & GOZO
TO STUDY ENGLISH





INTRODUCTION

Welcome. This booklet will provide you with some practical advice and useful information when studying and living in Malta.

In preparation for your visit, we encourage you to familiarise yourself with this guide which suggests helpful checks you can make before travelling to Malta, and how best to take care of yourself and your belongings during your visit.



BEFORE TRAVELLING

Take some time to check that you have prepared all necessary documents:

- A valid I.D. (for EU nationals from the Schengen area) or passport, and visa if required, for the duration of your visit.
- Travel insurance to cover the duration of your trip.
- A photocopy of the data page of your passport which should be kept separate to the original document. This could be helpful in case you lose your passport.
- A valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if you are entitled to one. This will allow you to access state-provided health care should the need arise.
- An acceptance letter from the school you will be attending and their contact details.

If you suffer from any chronic medical condition or allergy or if you have special requirements it is advisable to notify your school before you arrive in Malta so that any special arrangements may be made in advance.

It is also useful to leave contact details of the school which you will be attending and your accommodation in Malta with family members or friends in your home country, in case they need to contact you in an emergency.

ON ARRIVAL IN MALTA

During your stay in Malta you should carry certain information with you at all times:

- The student card provided by your school as a form of identification.
- The contact details of your school and accommodation, in case you get lost.
- A list of important emergency telephone numbers.



HEALTH AND PERSONAL SAFETY

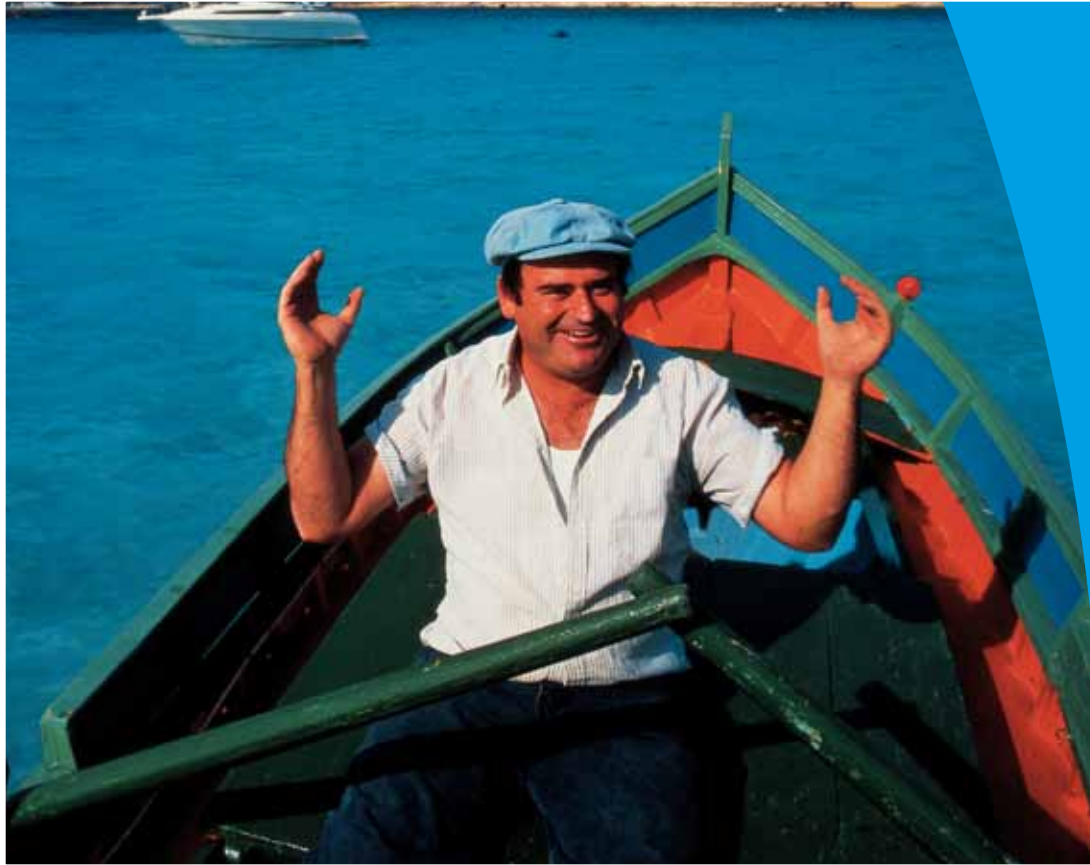
Malta is generally a very safe country. However we would like to make the following recommendations:

- Do not hitch hike. Use transport provided by your school, public transport or licensed taxis to travel around the Islands.
- Avoid walking around quiet unfamiliar areas at night unaccompanied.
- Avoid being alone on beaches at night.

In Malta, vehicles drive on the left side of the road as they do in the United Kingdom. For your personal safety please observe the same road safety rules you would at home.

- Always cross roads at zebra-crossings or pedestrian lights. Make sure that traffic has stopped before crossing the road.
- Always walk on the pavement and not in the road. Walking in the road may obstruct the flow of the traffic and also put your personal safety at risk.
- When waiting do not block access for other road users or pedestrians.

Emergency Phone Number: 112



LOCAL LAWS, PEOPLE AND CUSTOMS

Arriving in Malta can be the beginning of an exciting new experience; an opportunity to discover more about the way of life, culture, and customs and traditions of this small independent island. Malta is a typical southern Mediterranean Catholic country where the people are warm, friendly and helpful to visitors.

To reciprocate, visitors should:

- respect local customs and traditions
- wear appropriate clothing in churches and other holy places
- respect public and private property

Visiting the beach?

- Put on a top or t-shirt when you leave the beach. Swimwear should not be worn in the street.
- If you are female do not bathe topless anywhere.
- Please throw rubbish in the bins provided in various places and help us keep Malta as clean and tidy as possible.

Once your classes have finished for the day, take advantage of the activities your school organises for you. These have been carefully planned to provide you with a broad experience of what Malta has to offer. When you go out with other students remember that you may be part of a group and lack of attention can cause disruption and disturbance to others.

- Do not make noise in the streets or any public place at any time.
- Do not play music excessively loud especially in the afternoon (13.00-16.00) as some people have a siesta, and after 23.00 when families might want to settle down for the night.
- Do not rest on residents' property or lean against cars parked in the street to avoid accidental damage.
- It is quite easy to relax in our warm climate and to feel safe but as in any other tourist destination you need to look after your personal belongings.
- Do not leave your valuables (wallets, purses, mobile phones, MP3 players etc) unattended at any time.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of money on your person.

HOW TO AVOID GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE – REMEMBER:

- Smoking is not allowed in any public place.
- If you are found in possession of any illegal drugs/substances (eg. cannabis, ecstasy, LSD, amphetamines etc) during your stay in Malta, you will face possible legal action and/or deportation.
- You may not buy or consume alcohol if you are younger than 17 years.
- If you are over 17 years, drink alcohol in moderation or not at all. Bars and restaurants offer a variety of non-alcoholic options.



- Do not drink alcohol in the streets.
- It is illegal to carry any sort of weapon, including knives.

AT SCHOOL

To ensure that your visit is successful as well as enjoyable it is important that you:

- Attend classes regularly.
- Speak to a group leader or the Director of Studies as soon as possible if you would like to make changes to your course. There are members of staff dedicated to making your visit an enjoyable and successful one.

ACCOMMODATION

- Make sure you understand the regulations of your accommodation.
- Do not disturb other residents.
- Keep your room clean and tidy.

We have become conscious of our need to protect the environment. Help by doing your bit:

- Do not leave taps running unnecessarily – much of Malta's water is produced by reverse osmosis, which uses a lot of electricity.
- Turn off lights, fans, heaters and air conditioners when not in use.

If a difficulty does arise between you and your accommodation provider, notify the accommodation co-ordinator at your school immediately so that a solution may be found to whatever the problem may be.



HOST FAMILIES

Living in Malta with a host family should be a time for you to truly experience Maltese family life. With a little communication, cleanliness and consideration, living with a host family will be an exceptional experience that you will never forget!

Clear communication is perhaps the most important ingredient to successfully living with a host family. It is important that when you arrive you understand the expectations of your host family and that they know your needs. Here are a few helpful tips that will help you integrate with your host family:

- Make sure you have read the information provided by your school so that you know what to expect.
- Be considerate of the habits and customs of your Maltese family. They are not on holiday and will probably go out to work each day. Do not disturb the family by making noise at night.
- If you are on a Junior programme, respect your curfew time.
- Give your host family information about what you will be doing and where you will be.
- Always ask permission from your family before bringing other people to the house.
- Let your host family know if you dislike certain foods at the start of your visit.
- Find out at what time the family will expect you for a meal and try not to be late.
- If you are going to be late for a meal or are making alternative arrangements, let your host family know in advance.



- If you need or would like to use anything which is not provided in your room, it is prudent to ask for permission first.
- Do not assume that you are entitled to use electrical appliances.
- Do not use the kitchen without permission.
- Be sure to leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy at all times.

While you are meant to feel part of your host family during your stay in Malta, leaving your dirty clothes all over the floor or a dirty untidy bathroom will not help you to make friends easily. Be sure to leave your room and bathroom clean and tidy at all times.

HOTELS

If you have chosen to stay in a hotel please read and observe hotel regulations and do not disturb other guests.

STUDENT RESIDENCES

Living in a student residence may be a new exciting experience. It is a chance to live with other students from different countries. Please remember that your student residence is often situated in a residential area where residents would like to go about their daily business in peace.

- Avoid making noise late at night.
- Do not throw things out of windows or across balconies, as you may cause an injury to someone below.
- Be careful not to cause damage to property.
- When waiting for friends or transport do not cause obstruction in the streets.



USEFUL SITES REGARDING YOUR STAY IN MALTA

Official Malta Tourism Website
www.visitmalta.com

The Federation of English Language Teaching Organisations Malta (FELTOM) Website
www.feltom.com

EFL Monitoring Board Website
http://www.education.gov.mt/ministry/perm_sec/efl.htm

MAP OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS



