

03 April 2020 | 1100 hrs | 054/2020

Student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary institutions during academic year 2017-2018 increased by 4.1 per cent over the preceding academic year, totalling 25,628.

## Post-secondary and Tertiary Student Enrolments: Academic year 2017-2018

### Post-secondary students

Post-secondary students enrolled in Sixth Forms and other post-secondary institutions totalled 10,408 during academic year 2017-2018, an increase of 2.1 per cent over the previous academic year (Table 1). The largest proportion of these students (85.4 per cent) were aged between 15 and 19 (Table 2). Foreign students enrolled in such institutions amounted to 1,050, accounting for 10.1 per cent of the total students enrolled at post-secondary level (Table 3). The vast majority of enrolments (85.3 per cent) at this level were in state-run institutions. Those enrolled in vocational institutions accounted for 50.7 per cent of total students at post-secondary level (Table 4).

The most popular field of study among vocational students was 'Services' (21.8 per cent), followed by 'Health and welfare' (18.7 per cent) and 'Engineering, manufacturing and construction' (16.1 per cent) (Chart 3).

### Tertiary students

Students enrolled in tertiary level courses numbered 15,220 during academic year 2017-2018, an increase of 5.5 per cent when compared to academic year 2016-2017. Female students comprised of 55.9 per cent of the total students enrolled in tertiary level courses (Table 1). The number of students at this level who were studying on a full-time basis amounted to 10,825, or 71.1 per cent of the total. Nevertheless, part-time enrolments showed an increase of 14.9 per cent over the previous academic year. The largest proportion of tertiary students (56.2 per cent) were engaged in courses at ISCED level 6 (Bachelor's or equivalent), followed by enrolments at ISCED level 7 (Master's or equivalent) with 29.3 per cent (Table 5).

Most tertiary students were aged between 20 and 24 (45.6 per cent), followed by those under 20 years (21.2 per cent) (Table 6). Female students outnumbered their male counterparts at almost all ISCED levels of tertiary education except at ISCED 8 (PhD equivalent) (Chart 5).

During academic year 2017-2018, foreign students totalled 1,623, accounting for 10.7 per cent of all tertiary level enrolments. This accounted to an increase of 2.3 percentage points over the previous academic year (Table 7).

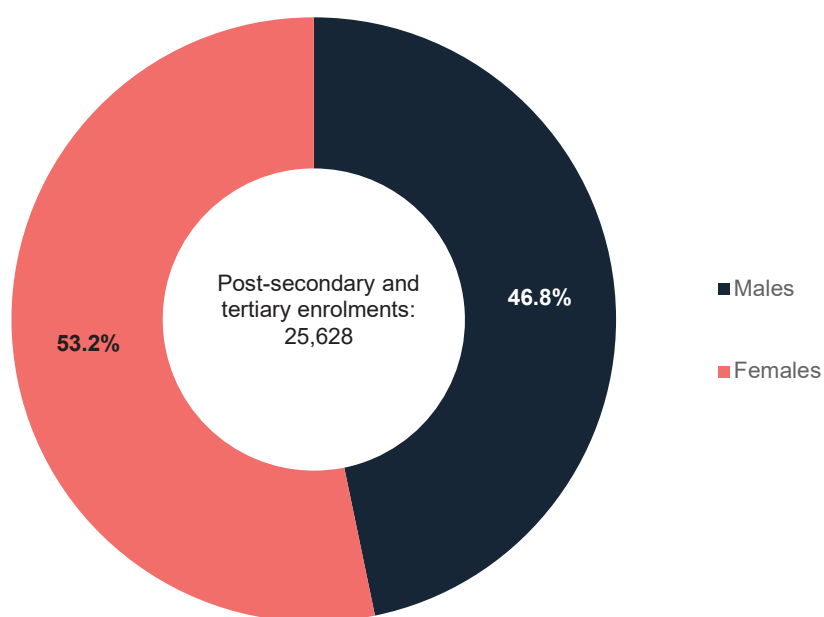
At tertiary level the 'Education' field was highly dominated by females (87.5 per cent), whereas the 'Information and Communication Technologies' had a very high (84.8 per cent) male participation (Table 8). The most popular fields of study were 'Business, administration and law' with 4,107 students or 27.0 per cent of the total, and 'Health and welfare' with 3,147 students or 20.7 per cent of the total. The least popular field of study at the tertiary level was 'Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary' scoring an uptake of only 0.4 per cent (Chart 6) ■

**Table 1. Students enrolled in post-secondary and tertiary courses by academic year and sex**

Level of education	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018		
	<b>Males</b>				
Post-secondary	5,600	5,221	5,278	57	1.1
Tertiary	6,259	6,364	6,707	343	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,859</b>	<b>11,585</b>	<b>11,985</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3.5</b>
	<b>Females</b>				
Post-secondary	5,358	4,973	5,130	157	3.2
Tertiary	7,505	8,061	8,513	452	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,863</b>	<b>13,034</b>	<b>13,643</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>4.7</b>
	<b>Total</b>				
Post-secondary	10,958	10,194	10,408	214	2.1
Tertiary	13,764	14,425	15,220	795	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,722</b>	<b>24,619</b>	<b>25,628</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>4.1</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological notes 4 and 5.

**Chart 1. Percentage distribution of post-secondary and tertiary students by sex: academic year 2017-2018**



**Table 2. Post-secondary level students by age group, academic year and sex**

Age group	Academic year		
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
	<b>Males</b>		
15-19	4,766	4,514	4,435
20-24	674	541	651
25-29	81	86	129
30-34	34	37	32
35-39	19	22	19
40-44	12	11	9
45-49	8	5	1
50+	6	5	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>5,278</b>
	<b>Females</b>		
15-19	4,703	4,542	4,458
20-24	446	329	395
25-29	78	37	92
30-34	44	18	67
35-39	43	27	50
40-44	22	12	36
45-49	8	3	20
50+	14	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>5,130</b>
	<b>Total</b>		
15-19	9,469	9,056	8,893
20-24	1,120	870	1,046
25-29	159	123	221
30-34	78	55	99
35-39	62	49	69
40-44	34	23	45
45-49	16	8	21
50+	20	10	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,958</b>	<b>10,194</b>	<b>10,408</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 4.

Chart 2. Post-secondary level students by academic year and sex

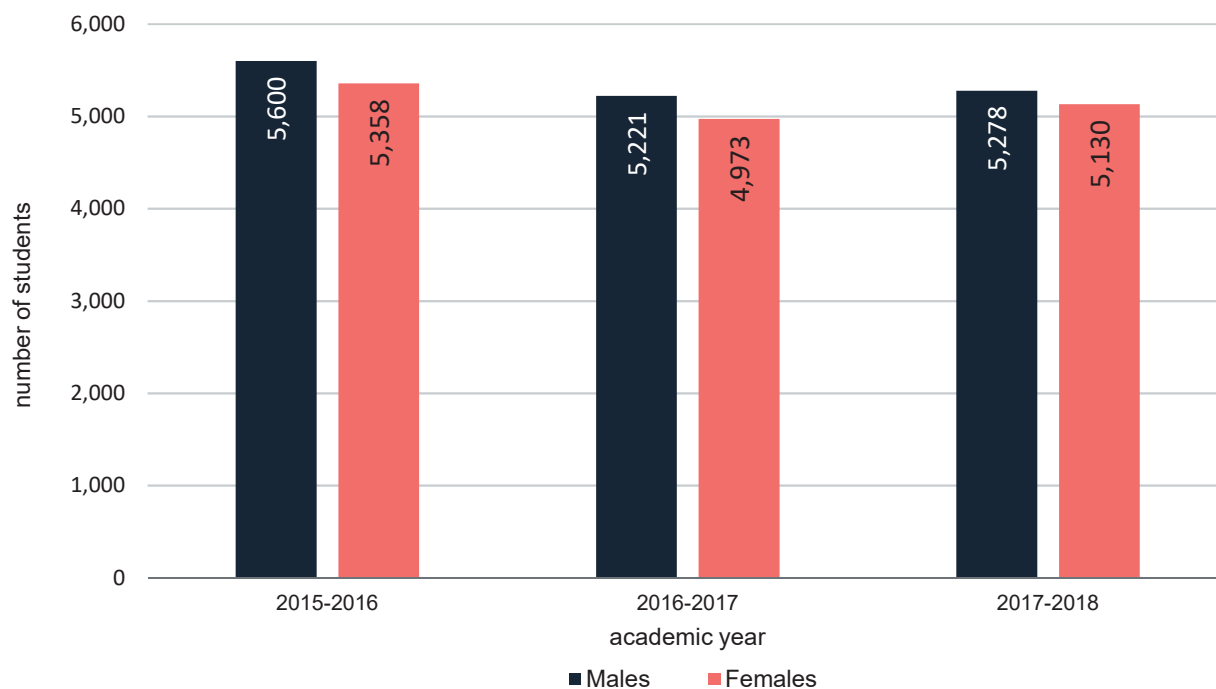


Table 3. Post-secondary level students by country of nationality and academic year

Country of nationality	Academic year		
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Malta</b>	<b>10,281</b>	<b>9,527</b>	<b>9,358</b>
<b>Other EU</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>356</b>
<i>of which:</i>			
Italy	46	52	86
Bulgaria	62	62	72
United Kingdom	59	51	64
Germany	22	23	29
Romania	16	16	15
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>694</b>
<i>of which:</i>			
Albania	1	18	101
Nepal	-	-	95
Libya	42	58	69
Russia	49	57	52
Serbia	25	27	43
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,958</b>	<b>10,194</b>	<b>10,408</b>

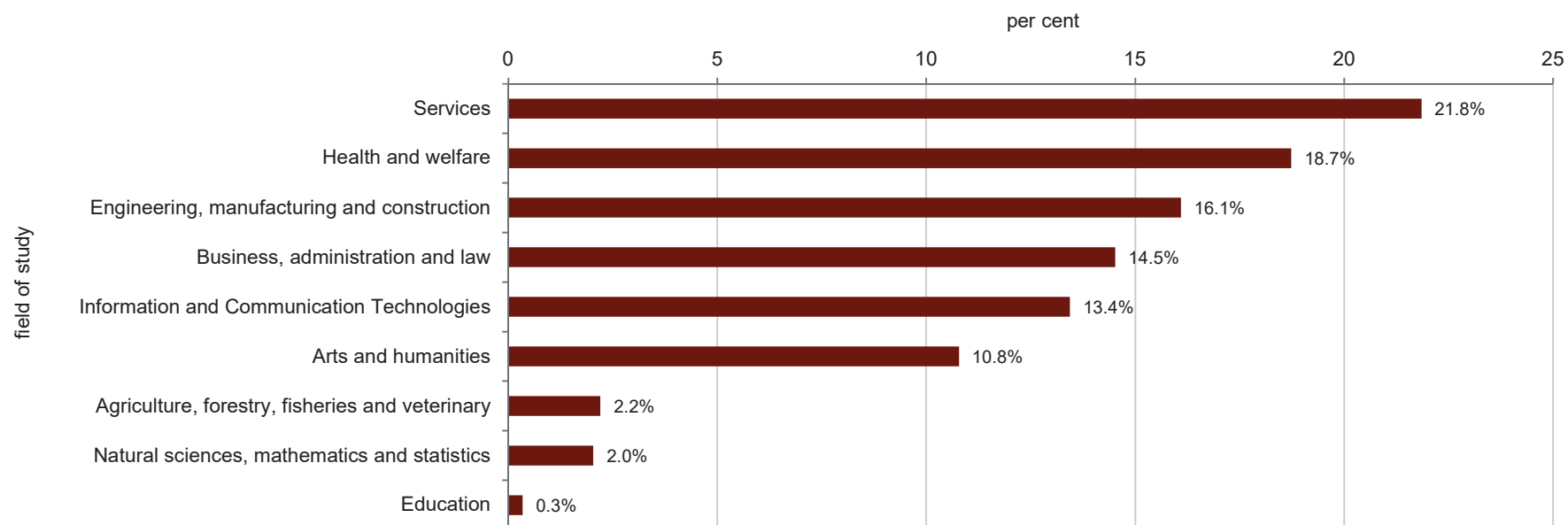
Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 4.

**Table 4. Students enrolled in post-secondary institutions by type of institution, academic year and course type**

Type of institution	Academic year								
	2015-2016			2016-2017			2017-2018		
	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total
State	4,468	5,221	<b>9,689</b>	4,221	4,810	<b>9,031</b>	3,818	5,061	<b>8,879</b>
Church	762	-	<b>762</b>	798	-	<b>798</b>	789	-	<b>789</b>
Independent	366	141	<b>507</b>	365	-	<b>365</b>	525	215	<b>740</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,596</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>10,958</b>	<b>5,384</b>	<b>4,810</b>	<b>10,194</b>	<b>5,132</b>	<b>5,276</b>	<b>10,408</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 4.

**Chart 3. Percentage distribution of vocational students by field of study: academic year 2017-2018**



Notes:

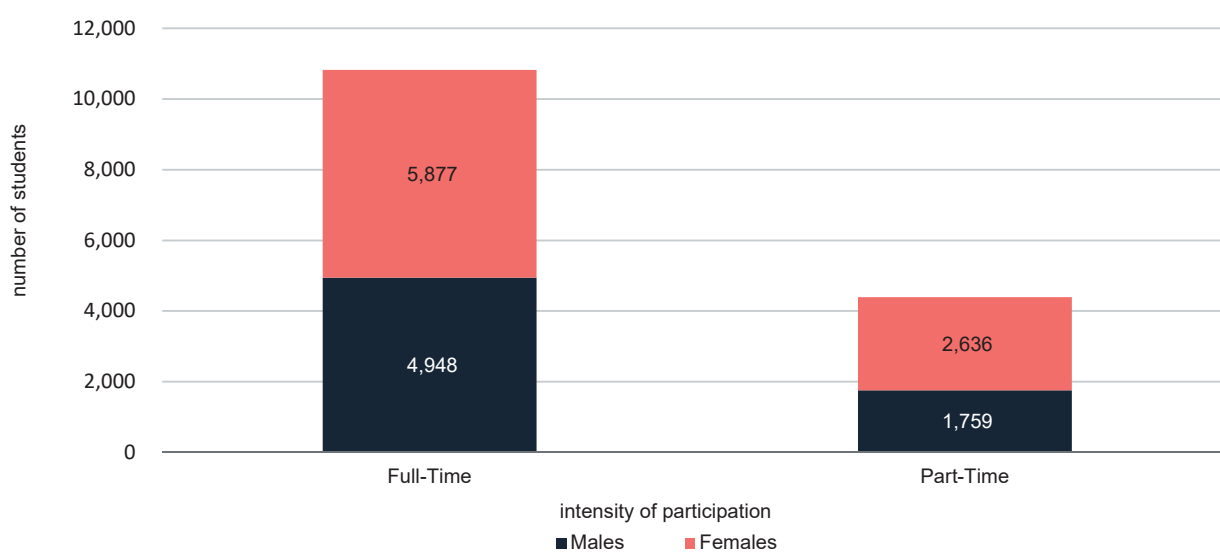
1. Includes Vocational ISCED 2 and 3; excludes field "unknown"
2. For more information on the breakdown of fields of study, please refer to methodological note 7.
3. Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 5. Profile of students enrolled in tertiary-level courses by academic year**

Characteristics	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2017-2018/2016-2017	
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	6,259	6,364	6,707	343	5.4
Females	7,505	8,061	8,513	452	5.6
<b>Age group</b>					
Under 20	3,123	3,118	3,232	114	3.7
20 to 29	8,287	8,679	9,082	403	4.6
30 to 49	2,042	2,298	2,547	249	10.8
50 and over	312	330	359	29	8.8
<b>Nationality</b>					
Maltese	12,732	13,221	13,597	376	2.8
Other EU	546	591	685	94	15.9
Non-EU	486	613	938	325	53.0
<b>District of residence</b>					
Southern Harbour	1,691	1,861	2,001	140	7.5
Northern Harbour	4,117	4,245	4,584	339	8.0
South Eastern	2,019	2,170	2,283	113	5.2
Western	2,324	2,424	2,410	-14	-0.6
Northern	2,367	2,482	2,624	142	5.7
Gozo and Comino	1,192	1,204	1,207	3	0.2
Foreign residence/Unspecified	54	39	111	72	184.6
<b>Level of education (ISCED 2011)</b>					
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	2,076	1,682	2,068	386	22.9
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	7,924	8,359	8,553	194	2.3
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	3,635	4,235	4,452	217	5.1
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	129	149	147	-2	-1.3
<b>Intensity of participation</b>					
Full-time	10,418	10,600	10,825	225	2.1
Part-time	3,346	3,825	4,395	570	14.9
<b>Total tertiary students</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>5.5</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

**Chart 4. Tertiary students by intensity of participation and sex: academic year 2017-2018**



**Table 6. Tertiary students by age group, academic year and sex**

Age group	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2017-2018/2016-2017	
<b>Males</b>					
Under 20	1,328	1,331	1,355	24	1.8
20-24	3,045	3,045	3,152	107	3.5
25-29	752	835	964	129	15.4
30-34	390	386	447	61	15.8
35-39	286	284	298	14	4.9
40-44	198	200	208	8	4.0
45-49	115	124	121	-3	-2.4
50-54	66	82	74	-8	-9.8
55-59	29	33	35	2	6.1
60-64	25	25	29	4	16.0
65+	25	19	24	5	26.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,259</b>	<b>6,364</b>	<b>6,707</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Females</b>					
Under 20	1,795	1,787	1,877	90	5.0
20-24	3,544	3,692	3,789	97	2.6
25-29	946	1,107	1,177	70	6.3
30-34	402	484	549	65	13.4
35-39	296	348	400	52	14.9
40-44	225	297	335	38	12.8
45-49	130	175	189	14	8.0
50-54	102	106	123	17	16.0
55-59	46	44	50	6	13.6
60-64	14	16	19	3	18.8
65+	5	5	5	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,505</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Total</b>					
Under 20	3,123	3,118	3,232	114	3.7
20-24	6,589	6,737	6,941	204	3.0
25-29	1,698	1,942	2,141	199	10.2
30-34	792	870	996	126	14.5
35-39	582	632	698	66	10.4
40-44	423	497	543	46	9.3
45-49	245	299	310	11	3.7
50-54	168	188	197	9	4.8
55-59	75	77	85	8	10.4
60-64	39	41	48	7	17.1
65+	30	24	29	5	20.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>5.5</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of tertiary students by ISCED level and sex: academic year 2017-2018

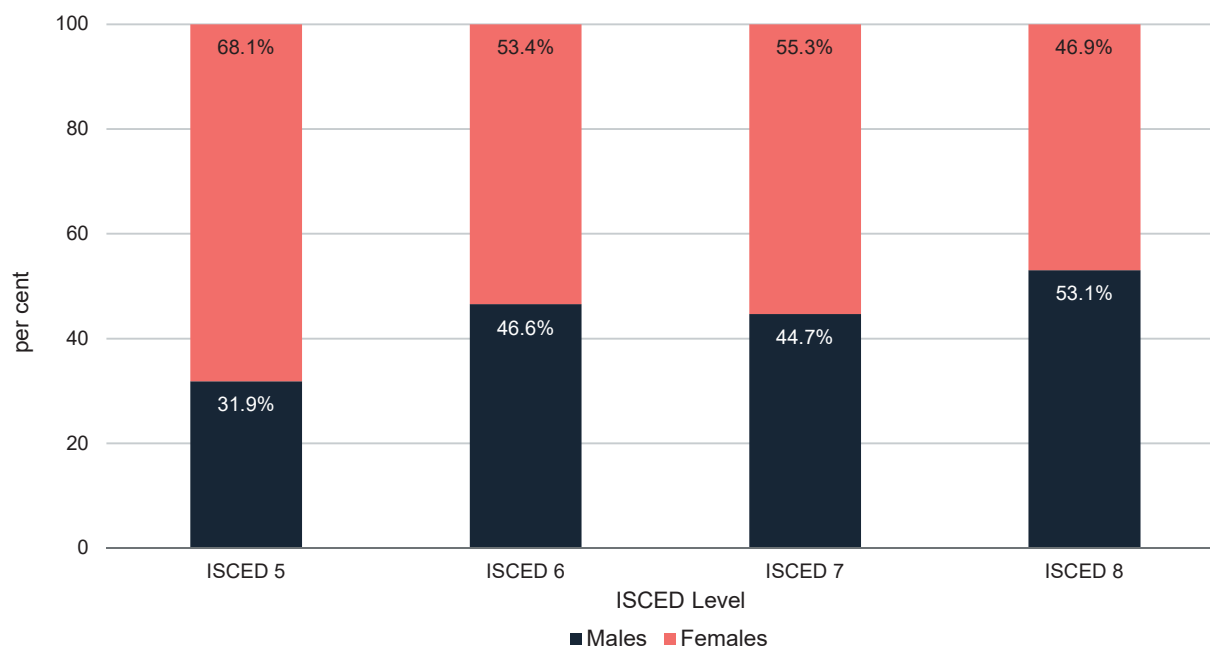


Table 7. Tertiary students by country of nationality and academic year

Country of nationality	Academic year		
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Malta</b>	<b>12,732</b>	<b>13,221</b>	<b>13,597</b>
<b>Other EU</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>685</b>
<i>of which:</i>			
United Kingdom	194	200	203
Italy	57	72	127
Germany	45	43	50
Bulgaria	45	47	47
Netherlands	21	22	29
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>938</b>
<i>of which:</i>			
Libya	51	66	115
India	7	10	113
Oman	46	49	54
Kuwait	76	60	52
United States of America	38	43	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>15,220</b>

Note: For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.



Table 8. Tertiary students by field of study, academic year and sex

Field of study	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2017-2018/2016-2017	
<b>Males</b>					
Education	199	198	151	-47	-23.7
Arts and humanities	708	729	690	-39	-5.3
Social sciences, journalism and information	493	499	537	38	7.6
Business, administration and law	1,748	1,763	1,919	156	8.8
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	331	309	317	8	2.6
Information and Communication Technologies	802	751	923	172	22.9
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	951	1,012	954	-58	-5.7
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	36	31	27	-4	-12.9
Health and welfare	839	890	937	47	5.3
Services	152	182	252	70	38.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,259</b>	<b>6,364</b>	<b>6,707</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Females</b>					
Education	914	1,057	1,053	-4	-0.4
Arts and humanities	995	996	999	3	0.3
Social sciences, journalism and information	829	879	977	98	11.1
Business, administration and law	1,995	2,094	2,188	94	4.5
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	359	414	338	-76	-18.4
Information and Communication Technologies	149	142	165	23	16.2
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	301	357	354	-3	-0.8
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	24	34	31	-3	-8.8
Health and welfare	1,798	1,912	2,210	298	15.6
Services	141	176	198	22	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,505</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Total</b>					
Education	1,113	1,255	1,204	-51	-4.1
Arts and humanities	1,703	1,725	1,689	-36	-2.1
Social sciences, journalism and information	1,322	1,378	1,514	136	9.9
Business, administration and law	3,743	3,857	4,107	250	6.5
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	690	723	655	-68	-9.4
Information and Communication Technologies	951	893	1,088	195	21.8
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,252	1,369	1,308	-61	-4.5
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	60	65	58	-7	-10.8
Health and welfare	2,637	2,802	3,147	345	12.3
Services	293	358	450	92	25.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>5.5</b>

Notes:

1. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.
2. For more information on the breakdown of fields of study, please refer to methodological note 7.

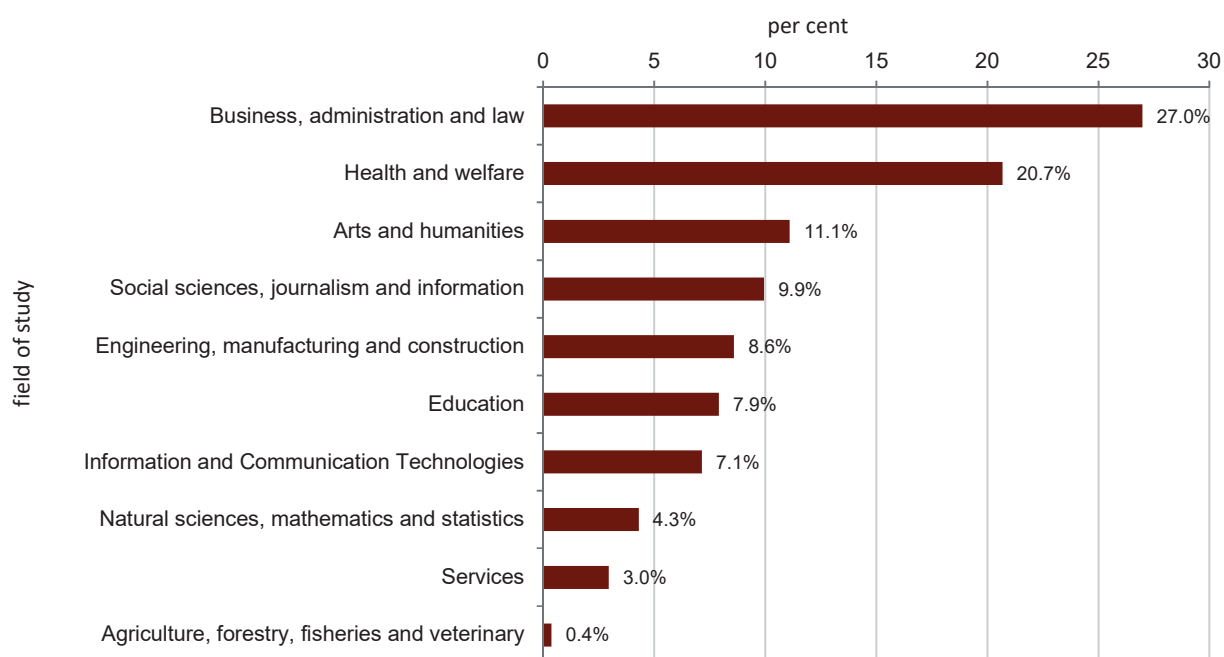
**Table 9. Tertiary students by field of study and ISCED level: 2017-2018**

Field of study	ISCED 5	ISCED 6	ISCED 7	ISCED 8	Total
Education	600	262	333	9	1,204
Arts and humanities	315	1,070	278	26	1,689
Social sciences, journalism and information	81	981	440	12	1,514
Business, administration and law	507	2,225	1,369	6	4,107
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	-	460	177	18	655
Information and Communication Technologies	125	794	165	4	1,088
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	25	982	283	18	1,308
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	1	57	-	-	58
Health and welfare	337	1,359	1,398	53	3,147
Services	77	363	9	1	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>8,553</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>15,220</b>

Notes:

1. For more information, please refer to methodological note 5.
2. For more information on the breakdown of fields of study, please refer to methodological note 7.

**Chart 6. Percentage distribution of tertiary students by field of study: academic year 2017-2018**



Note: For more information on the breakdown of fields of study, please refer to methodological note 7.

## Methodological Notes

1. Education statistics presented in this news release are processed by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on an annual basis in accordance with European Regulations (EC) 452/2008 and (EU) 912/2013. These regulations establish the basis of information to be collected from educational institutions at all levels of education and all economic sectors. By adhering to these regulations, all education statistics collected and processed by the NSO are comparable to other European countries following the same regulatory standards.
2. This news release includes students enrolled in formal education with a minimum duration of one semester of full-time study (or the equivalent in part-time) and that are delivered in Malta. This news release thus excludes short courses (duration of less than the equivalent of one full-time semester), preparatory programmes and courses not delivered in Malta.
3. Data collection covers all students enrolled in the respective institutions as at 31 March of the reference academic year.
4. For the purpose of this news release, post-secondary level refers to students enrolled in Sixth Forms, MCAST, ITS, University of Malta, and public and private institutions offering courses at ISCED levels 2 to 4.
5. For the purpose of this news release, tertiary level refers to students enrolled at MCAST, ITS, University of Malta, and public and private institutions offering courses at ISCED levels 5 to 8.

### 6. Definitions:

#### ● Formal education

Formal education is an institutionalised, intentional and planned type of education which is provided by public organisations and recognised private bodies. It consists primarily of initial education designed for children and young people before their first entry to the labour market. It also includes other types of education such as vocational, special needs and adult education provided they are recognised as part of the formal education system by the relevant national education authorities.

#### ● International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a framework for assembling, compiling, and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on education. ISCED belongs to the United Nations International Family of Economic and Social Classifications and is the reference classification for organizing education programmes and related qualifications by levels and fields of education. ISCED is designed to serve as a framework to classify educational activities as defined in programmes and the resulting qualifications into internationally agreed categories. For more information refer to the ISCED 2011 manual at <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/international-standard-classification-education-isced>

ISCED levels are based on ISCED 2011 classification:

ISCED 0 - Early childhood and pre-primary education

ISCED 1 - Primary education

ISCED 2 - Lower secondary education

ISCED 3 - Upper secondary education

ISCED 4 - Post-secondary non-tertiary education

ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education

ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent level

ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent level

ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent level

- **Age** is calculated as at 1st January of the reference academic year.

#### ● General education

General education is defined as educational programmes that are designed to develop learners' general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare participants for more advanced education programmes at the same or a higher ISCED level and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning. These programmes are typically school- or college-based. General education includes education programmes that are designed to prepare participants for entry into vocational education but do not prepare for employment in a particular occupation, trade or class of occupations or trades, nor lead directly to a labour market-relevant qualification.

#### ● Vocational education

Vocational education is defined as educational programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade, or class of occupations or trades. Such programmes may have work-based components (e.g. apprenticeships, dual-system education programmes). Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour market-relevant, vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally-oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market.

#### ● Fields of study

ISCED Fields of Education and Training classifies educational programmes and related qualifications by fields of study. A field is the broad domain, branch or area of content covered by an education programme or qualification.

7. More information relating to this release may be accessed at:

ISCED: [http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED\\_2011](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED_2011)

ISCED Fields of study: [https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED\\_Fields\\_of\\_Education\\_and\\_Training\\_2013](https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED_Fields_of_Education_and_Training_2013)

8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

**European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:**

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

Data Navigation Tree

Database by themes

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