

16 February 2021 | 1100 hrs | 026/2021

Student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary education during academic year 2018-2019 increased by 0.9 per cent over the preceding academic year, totalling 25,863.

Students in Post-secondary and Tertiary Education: 2018-2019

Post-secondary students

Post-secondary students enrolled in sixth forms and other post-secondary institutions totalled 9,795 during academic year 2018-2019, a decrease of 5.9 per cent over the previous academic year (Table 1). The largest proportion of these students (85.7 per cent) were aged between 14 and 19 years (Table 2). Foreign students enrolled at the post-secondary level amounted to 872, accounting for 8.9 per cent of the total students enrolled at this level (Table 3). The highest percentage of post-secondary students were enrolled in state-run institutions, at 83.7 per cent. Those enrolled in the general stream constituted 50.3 per cent of total students at post-secondary level (Table 4).

The most popular field of study among vocational students was 'Services' (20.1 per cent), followed by 'Health and welfare' (18.3 per cent) and 'Engineering, manufacturing and construction' (16.2 per cent) (Chart 3).

Tertiary students

Students enrolled in tertiary level courses numbered 16,068 during academic year 2018-2019, an increase of 5.6 per cent when compared to academic year 2017-2018. Female students comprised 56.8 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 11,048, equivalent to 68.8 per cent of the total. Nevertheless, part-time enrolments increased by 14.2 per cent over the previous academic year. The largest proportion of tertiary students (54.8 per cent) were engaged in courses at ISCED level 6 (Bachelor's or equivalent), followed by enrolment at ISCED level 7 (Master's or equivalent) with 31.3 per cent (Table 5).

The largest share of tertiary students was composed of those aged between 20 and 24 years (43.3 per cent), followed by those students under 20 years of age (20.3 per cent) (Table 6). Female students outnumbered their male counterparts at almost all ISCED levels of tertiary education, except at ISCED level 8 (Doctoral or equivalent) (Chart 5). During academic year 2018-2019, foreign students totalled 1,986, corresponding to 12.4 per cent of all tertiary level enrolments. This accounted to an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the previous academic year (Table 7).

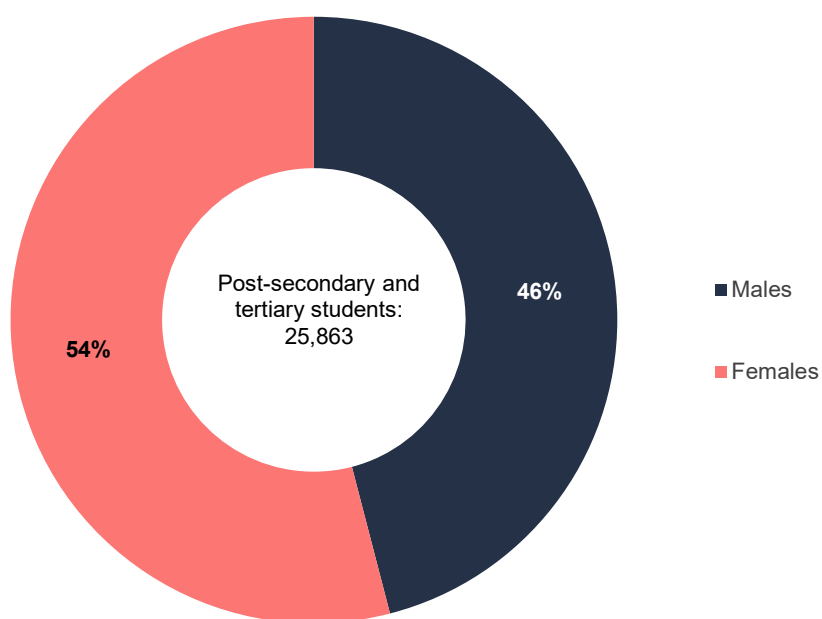
At the tertiary level, the 'Education' field of study was highly prevailed by females (88.3 per cent), whereas the 'Information and Communication Technologies' field of study had a very high male participation rate (84.5 per cent) (Table 8). The most popular fields of study at the tertiary level were 'Business, administration and law' with 4,430 students or 27.6 per cent, and 'Health and welfare' with 3,202 students or 19.9 per cent. The least popular field of study at this level was 'Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary' scoring an uptake of only 0.4 per cent (Chart 6) ■

Table 1. Post-secondary and tertiary level students by academic year and sex

Education level	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019		
	Males				
Post-secondary	5,221	5,278	4,949	-329	-6.2
Tertiary	6,364	6,707	6,939	232	3.5
Total	11,585	11,985	11,888	-97	-0.8
	Females				
Post-secondary	4,973	5,130	4,846	-284	-5.5
Tertiary	8,061	8,513	9,129	616	7.2
Total	13,034	13,643	13,975	332	2.4
	Total				
Post-secondary	10,194	10,408	9,795	-613	-5.9
Tertiary	14,425	15,220	16,068	848	5.6
Total	24,619	25,628	25,863	235	0.9

Note: For post-secondary and tertiary information refer to methodological notes 4 and 5.

Chart 1. Percentage distribution of post-secondary and tertiary level students by sex: academic year 2018-2019



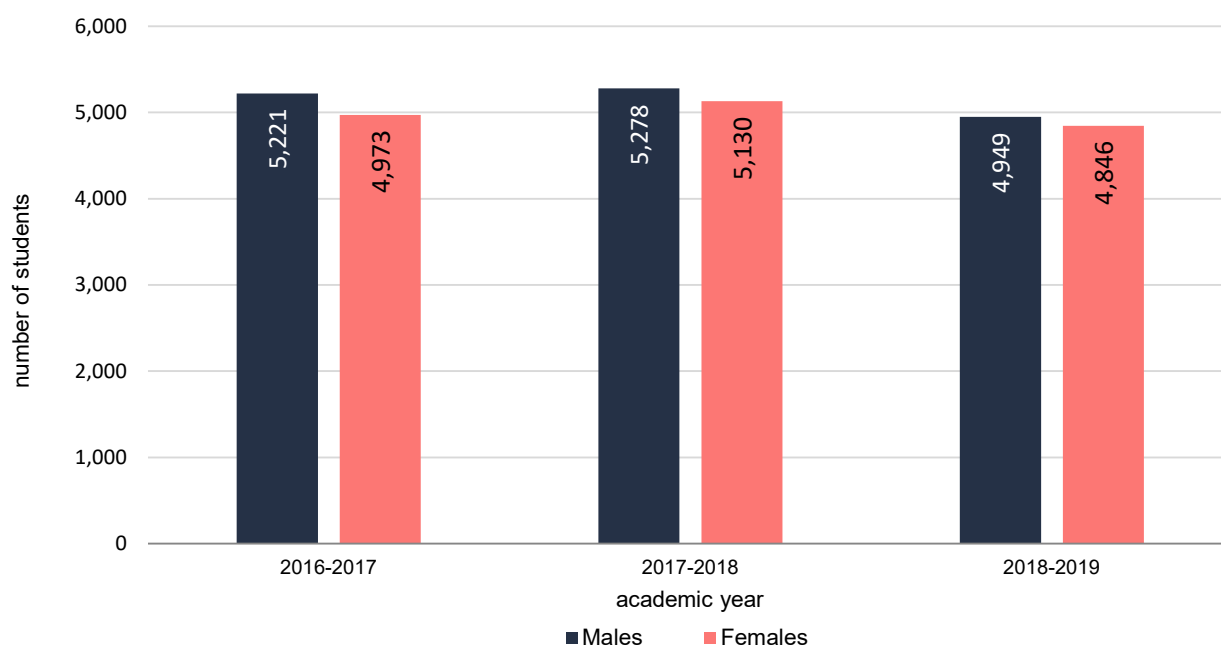
Note: For post-secondary and tertiary information refer to methodological notes 4 and 5.

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

Age group	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2018-2019/2017-2018	
Males					
14-19	4,514	4,435	4,268	-167	-3.8
20-24	541	651	553	-98	-15.1
25-29	86	129	81	-48	-37.2
30-34	37	32	22	-10	-31.3
35-39	22	19	12	-7	-36.8
40-44	11	9	7	-2	-22.2
45-49	5	1	2	1	100.0
50+	5	2	4	2	100.0
Total	5,221	5,278	4,949	-329	-6.2
Females					
14-19	4,542	4,458	4,126	-332	-7.4
20-24	329	395	373	-22	-5.6
25-29	37	92	107	15	16.3
30-34	18	67	69	2	3.0
35-39	27	50	68	18	36.0
40-44	12	36	44	8	22.2
45-49	3	20	37	17	85.0
50+	5	12	22	10	83.3
Total	4,973	5,130	4,846	-284	-5.5
Total					
14-19	9,056	8,893	8,394	-499	-5.6
20-24	870	1,046	926	-120	-11.5
25-29	123	221	188	-33	-14.9
30-34	55	99	91	-8	-8.1
35-39	49	69	80	11	15.9
40-44	23	45	51	6	13.3
45-49	8	21	39	18	85.7
50+	10	14	26	12	85.7
Total	10,194	10,408	9,795	-613	-5.9

Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 4.

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



Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 4.

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

Originating country	Academic year		
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Malta	9,527	9,358	8,923
Other EU	283	356	306
<i>of which:</i>			
Italy	52	86	73
Bulgaria	62	72	48
United Kingdom	51	64	47
Germany	23	29	23
Romania	16	15	19
Non-EU	384	694	566
<i>of which:</i>			
Libya	58	69	80
Russia	57	52	48
Serbia	27	43	46
China	17	18	41
Kazakhstan	2	2	34
Total	10,194	10,408	9,795
Percentage foreigners	6.5	10.1	8.9

Note: Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 4.

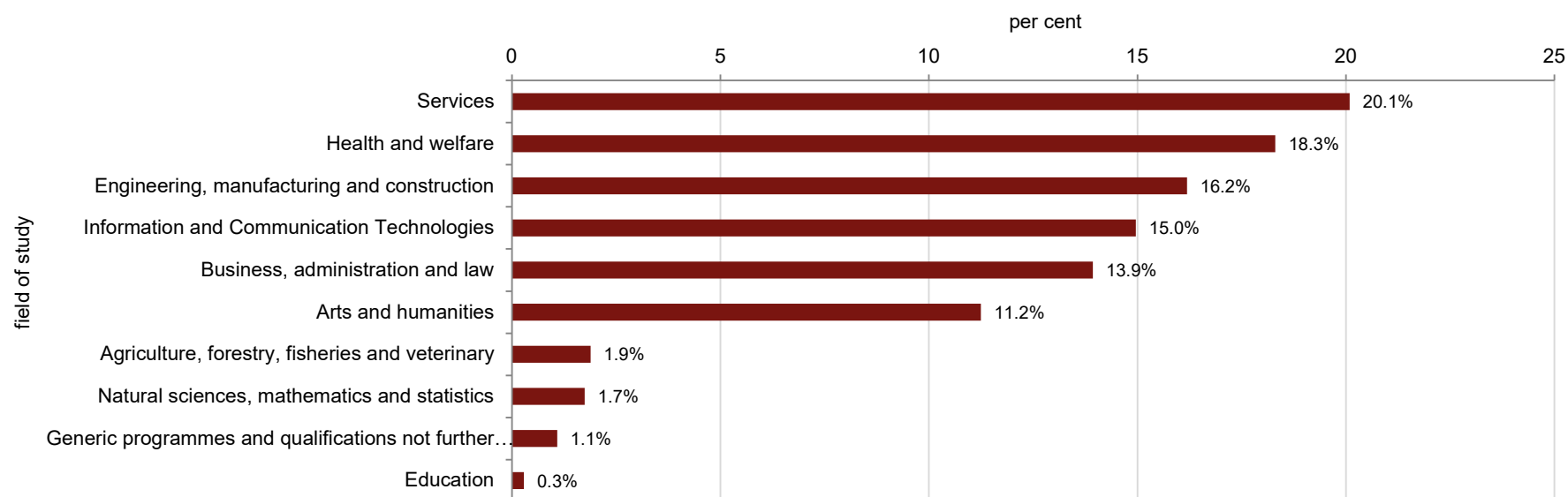
Table 4. Post-secondary level students by academic year, course type and type of institution

Type of institution	Academic year								
	2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019		
	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total	General	Vocational	Total
State	4,221	4,810	9,031	3,818	5,061	8,879	3,705	4,496	8,201
Church	798	-	798	789	-	789	778	-	778
Independent	365	-	365	525	215	740	439	377	816
Total	5,384	4,810	10,194	5,132	5,276	10,408	4,922	4,873	9,795

Notes:

1. Post-secondary refers to ISCED 2-4; refer to methodological note 4.
2. For information on General and Vocational education refer to methodological note 6.

Chart 3. Percentage distribution of vocational post-secondary level students by field of study: academic year 2018-2019



Notes:

1. Excludes 'Unspecified' fields.
2. Percentages may not add up due to rounding.
3. For Fields of study information refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

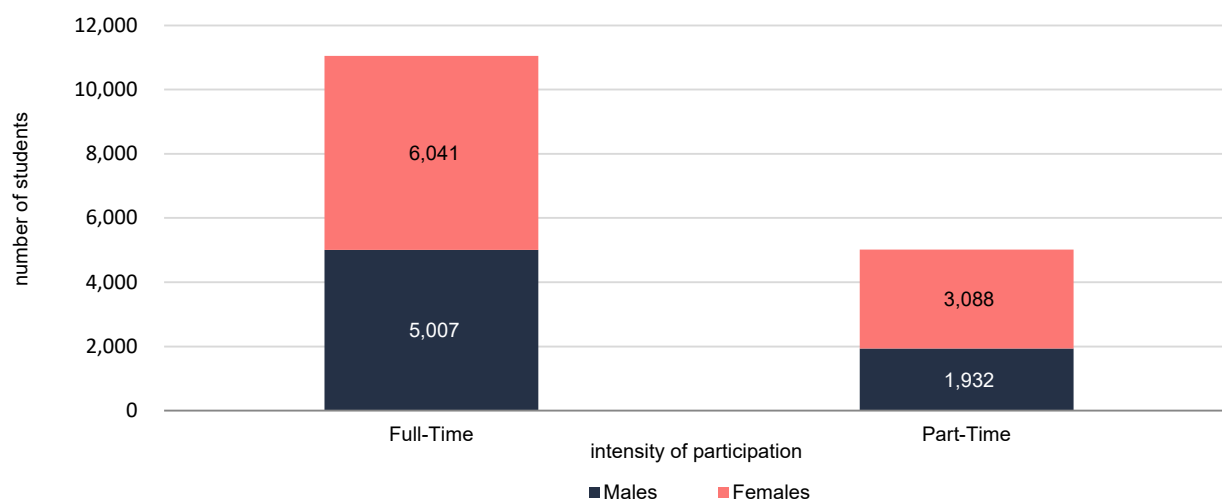
Table 5. Profile of tertiary level students by academic year

Characteristics	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2018-2019/2017-2018	
Sex					
Males	6,364	6,707	6,939	232	3.5
Females	8,061	8,513	9,129	616	7.2
Age group					
Under 20	3,118	3,232	3,257	25	0.8
20 to 29	8,679	9,082	9,295	213	2.3
30 to 49	2,298	2,547	3,074	527	20.7
50 and over	330	359	442	83	23.1
Nationality					
Maltese	13,221	13,597	14,082	485	3.6
Other EU	591	685	697	12	1.8
Non-EU	613	938	1,289	351	37.4
District of residence					
Southern Harbour	1,861	2,001	2,230	229	11.4
Northern Harbour	4,245	4,584	4,745	161	3.5
South Eastern	2,170	2,283	2,426	143	6.3
Western	2,424	2,410	2,506	96	4.0
Northern	2,482	2,624	2,668	44	1.7
Gozo and Comino	1,204	1,207	1,338	131	10.9
Foreign residence/Unspecified	39	111	155	44	39.6
Education Level (ISCED 2011)					
ISCED 5 - Short-cycle tertiary education	1,682	2,068	2,055	-13	-0.6
ISCED 6 - Bachelor's or equivalent	8,359	8,553	8,807	254	3.0
ISCED 7 - Master's or equivalent	4,235	4,452	5,029	577	13.0
ISCED 8 - Doctoral or equivalent	149	147	177	30	20.4
Intensity of participation					
Full-time	10,600	10,825	11,048	223	2.1
Part-time	3,825	4,395	5,020	625	14.2
Total tertiary students	14,425	15,220	16,068	848	5.6

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

Chart 4. Tertiary level students by intensity of participation and sex: academic year 2018-2019



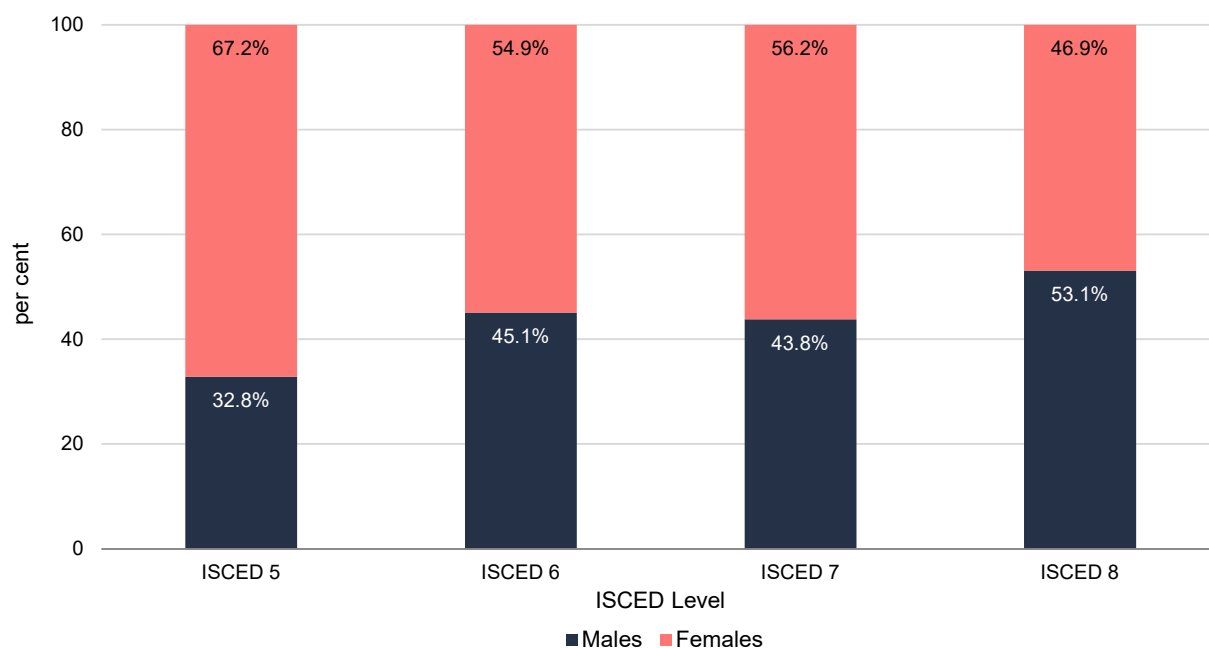
Note: Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.

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

Age group	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2018-2019/2017-2018	
Males					
Under 20	1,331	1,355	1,360	5	0.4
20-24	3,045	3,152	3,089	-63	-2.0
25-29	835	964	1,049	85	8.8
30-34	386	447	501	54	12.1
35-39	284	298	359	61	20.5
40-44	200	208	242	34	16.3
45-49	124	121	136	15	12.4
50-54	82	74	102	28	37.8
55-59	33	35	48	13	37.1
60-64	25	29	26	-3	-10.3
65+	19	24	27	3	12.5
Total	6,364	6,707	6,939	232	3.5
Females					
Under 20	1,787	1,877	1,897	20	1.1
20-24	3,692	3,789	3,869	80	2.1
25-29	1,107	1,177	1,288	111	9.4
30-34	484	549	719	170	31.0
35-39	348	400	495	95	23.8
40-44	297	335	376	41	12.2
45-49	175	189	246	57	30.2
50-54	106	123	146	23	18.7
55-59	44	50	59	9	18.0
60-64	16	19	21	2	10.5
65+	5	5	13	8	160.0
Total	8,061	8,513	9,129	616	7.2
Total					
Under 20	3,118	3,232	3,257	25	0.8
20-24	6,737	6,941	6,958	17	0.2
25-29	1,942	2,141	2,337	196	9.2
30-34	870	996	1,220	224	22.5
35-39	632	698	854	156	22.3
40-44	497	543	618	75	13.8
45-49	299	310	382	72	23.2
50-54	188	197	248	51	25.9
55-59	77	85	107	22	25.9
60-64	41	48	47	-1	-2.1
65+	24	29	40	11	37.9
Total	14,425	15,220	16,068	848	5.6

Note: Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of tertiary level students by ISCED level and sex: academic year 2018-2019



Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For ISCED information refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

Table 7. Tertiary level students by academic year and originating country

Originating country	Academic year		
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Malta	13,221	13,597	14,082
Other EU	591	685	697
<i>of which:</i>			
Italy	72	127	171
United Kingdom	200	203	161
Germany	43	50	64
Bulgaria	47	47	44
Netherlands	22	29	28
Non-EU	613	938	1,289
<i>of which:</i>			
India	10	113	268
Libya	66	115	120
Nigeria	21	37	72
Oman	49	54	59
Kuwait	60	52	58
Total	14,425	15,220	16,068
Percentage foreigners	8.3	10.7	12.4

Note: Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.

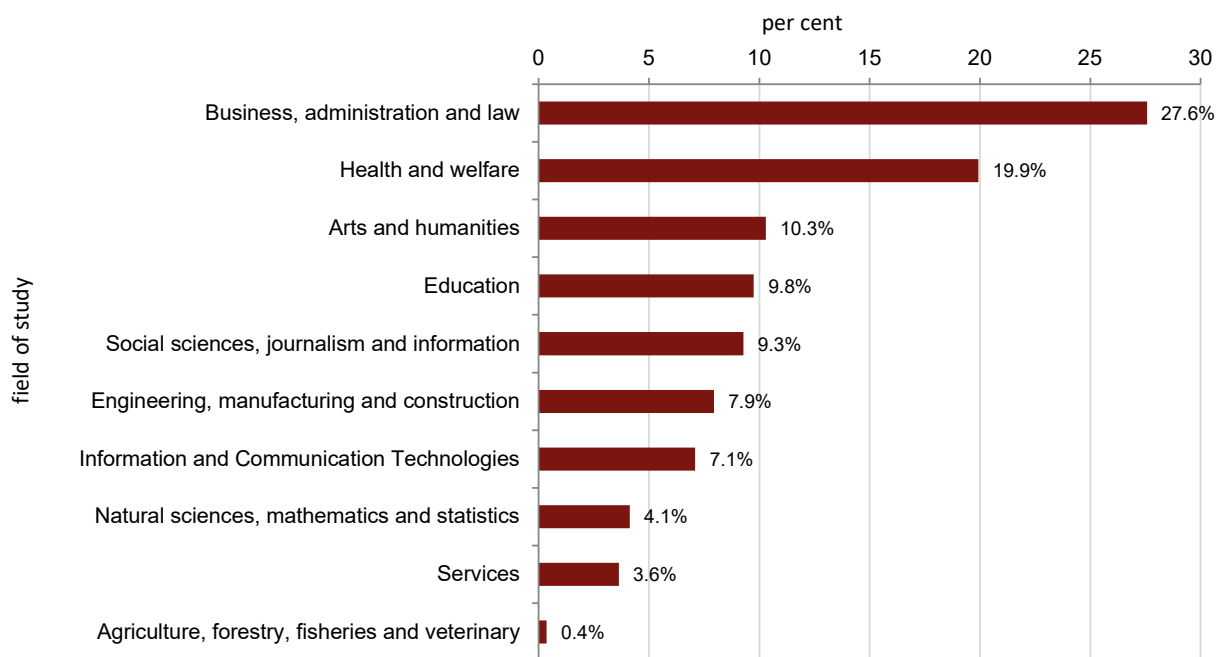
Table 8. Tertiary level students by academic year, sex and field of study

Field of study	Academic year			Change	Percentage change
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2018-2019/2017-2018	
Males					
Education	198	151	184	33	21.9
Arts and humanities	729	690	692	2	0.3
Social sciences, journalism and information	499	537	523	-14	-2.6
Business, administration and law	1,763	1,919	2,065	146	7.6
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	309	317	316	-1	-0.3
Information and Communication Technologies	751	923	963	40	4.3
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,012	954	930	-24	-2.5
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	31	27	21	-6	-22.2
Health and welfare	890	937	929	-8	-0.9
Services	182	252	316	64	25.4
Total	6,364	6,707	6,939	232	3.5
Females					
Education	1,057	1,053	1,383	330	31.3
Arts and humanities	996	999	962	-37	-3.7
Social sciences, journalism and information	879	977	969	-8	-0.8
Business, administration and law	2,094	2,188	2,365	177	8.1
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	414	338	347	9	2.7
Information and Communication Technologies	142	165	177	12	7.3
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	357	354	346	-8	-2.3
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	34	31	38	7	22.6
Health and welfare	1,912	2,210	2,273	63	2.9
Services	176	198	269	71	35.9
Total	8,061	8,513	9,129	616	7.2
Total					
Education	1,255	1,204	1,567	363	30.1
Arts and humanities	1,725	1,689	1,654	-35	-2.1
Social sciences, journalism and information	1,378	1,514	1,492	-22	-1.5
Business, administration and law	3,857	4,107	4,430	323	7.9
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	723	655	663	8	1.2
Information and Communication Technologies	893	1,088	1,140	52	4.8
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,369	1,308	1,276	-32	-2.4
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	65	58	59	1	1.7
Health and welfare	2,802	3,147	3,202	55	1.7
Services	358	450	585	135	30.0
Total	14,425	15,220	16,068	848	5.6

Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For Fields of study information refer to methodological notes 6 and 7.

Chart 6. Percentage distribution of tertiary level students by field of study: academic year 2018-2019



Notes:

1. Tertiary refers to ISCED 5-8; refer to methodological note 5.
2. For Fields of study information refer to methodological notes 6 and 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.
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 2011

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 organising 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/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-of-education-isced-2011-en.pdf>

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 2013

ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 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:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C4/Education_and_Information_Society_Statistics/Pages/Education-Statistics.aspx

ISCED 2011: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>

ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013:

<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%20Fields%20of%20Education%20and%20Training%202013>

LAU Classification:

[https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=Districts%20\(Local%20Administrative%20Unit\)](https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=Districts%20(Local%20Administrative%20Unit))

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

9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

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

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

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