



University of Malta  
EUROPEAN CENTRE OF GERONTOLOGY  
AND GERIATRICS



Post Graduate Diploma (Dip.Ger.)  
and  
Master's Degree (M.Ger.)  
in  
Gerontology and Geriatrics

**The University of Malta**

The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the *Collegium Melitense* in 1592.

During the British period, the University's statutes and regulations were brought into line with universities in the United Kingdom.

In 1968, the new Medical School was built near St Luke's Hospital and, at the same time, the new campus at Msida was inaugurated.

**There are some 9810 students including 903 foreign students, following full or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of them run on the modular or credit system. In 2003, some 2,300 students graduated in various disciplines.**

**The University consists of **nine faculties** namely:**

- **Faculty of Arts,**
- **Faculty of Dental Surgery,**
- **Faculty of Economics,**
- **Faculty of Education,**
- **Faculty of Engineering,**
- **Faculty of Laws,**
- **Faculty of Management and Accountancy,**
- **Faculty of Medicine and Surgery,**
- **Faculty of Science,**
- **Faculty of Theology,**
- **plus a number of autonomous Centres and Institutes.**

# The European Centre of Gerontology

**The European Centre of Gerontology, formerly known as the Institute of Gerontology, is an academic institution which was set up in 1989 to develop inter-disciplinary teaching, education and research in a wide range of areas in the field of ageing.**

**Its international academic reputation can be witnessed by the high number of applications from foreign students received annually. During the years 1990-2003, 113 foreign students hailing from 45 countries and 93 Maltese have successfully read for the Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics.**



<b>Albania (4)</b>	<b>Greece (2)</b>	<b>Philippines (6)</b>
<b>Argentina (2)</b>	<b>India (8)</b>	<b>Czech Republic (2)</b>
<b>Bahamas (1)</b>	<b>Indonesia (1)</b>	<b>Romania (3)</b>
<b>Bangladesh (1)</b>	<b>Ivory Coast (1)</b>	<b>Seychelles (2)</b>
<b>Barbados (2)</b>	<b>Jamaica (2)</b>	<b>Singapore (1)</b>
<b>Bolivia (1)</b>	<b>Jordan (3)</b>	<b>South Africa (1)</b>
<b>Brazil (6)</b>	<b>Lebanon (2)</b>	<b>Sri Lanka (2)</b>
<b>Canada (1)</b>	<b>Libya (1)</b>	<b>Tanzania (1)</b>
<b>China (4)</b>	<b>Lithuania (1)</b>	<b>Thailand (1)</b>
<b>Colombia (3)</b>	<b>Malaysia (1)</b>	<b>Turkey (4)</b>
<b>Cyprus (3)</b>	<b>Malawi (1)</b>	<b>Uganda (1)</b>
<b>Egypt (9)</b>	<b>Mexico (3)</b>	<b>Ukraine (1)</b>
<b>Ethiopia (4)</b>	<b>Nigeria (4)</b>	<b>USA (3)</b>
<b>Georgia (1)</b>	<b>Panama (1)</b>	<b>Uruguay (1)</b>
<b>Ghana (6)</b>	<b>Peru (2)</b>	<b>Yugoslavia (3)</b>

**The postgraduate courses offered, present a unique opportunity for a systematic multi-disciplinary training in the areas of Gerontology and Geriatrics.**

**Through the variety of its courses, the Centre provides high academic opportunities for correlation of theory and practice, and experience in innovative practices, service planning and delivery.**

**The Centre is also responsible for the running of:**

- **a University of the Third Age,**
- **pre-retirement programmes,**
- **seminars,**
- **and fora at the national and international levels.**

# Areas of Research

- **Class analysis**
- **Education for older persons**
- **Gender differences**
- **Social Policy issues**
- **Retirement**
- **Social change**
- **Social networks**

**Post Graduate Diploma in  
Gerontology and Geriatrics  
(Dip.Ger.)**

**The one year Postgraduate Course was designed by an international group of experts during a meeting convened in 1989 by the International Institute on Ageing, United Nations - Malta, and with the participation of representatives from ILO, WHO, and UNESCO.**

**The Course consists of 13 study-units, 2 practice placements, and a dissertation on an approved area of study chosen in consultation with a supervisor.**

**Each study unit requires about 50 hours of study, normally including 14 lectures, a number of tutorials and course assignments.**



**Two Practice Placements** each of three (3) weeks' duration of both observational and hands on type.

**These enable the students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical solutions**

The **dissertation** of between 10,000-15000 words is seen as a piece of work which will place qualitatively different demands on the candidate from those arising during the Course.

It requires a sustained effort over a long period first in defining the chosen area of investigation in researching the background, in integrating the empirical data collected into a wider context of the subject and finally in drawing conclusions and recommendations on the subject.

**Assessments** will be held at the end of each module. A final **Comprehensive Examination** consisting of three written papers will also be held.

The **final marks** will be awarded as follows:

- **Course Work and Practical Placements 40%,**
- **Comprehensive Examination 40%**
- **Dissertation 20%.**

# Course Catalogue

## **Module 1**

**GER 4001: POPULATION AGEING: A  
SOCIAL OVERVIEW**

**GER 4002: SOCIOLOGY OF AGEING**

**GER 4003: HEALTH PROMOTION  
IN THE ELDERLY**

**GER 4004: BIOLOGY AND  
PHYSIOLOGY OF AGEING**

**GER 4005: PSYCHOLOGY OF AGEING**

**GER 4006: RESEARCH AND  
EVALUATION**

**GER 4007: CLINICAL ASPECTS OF OLD  
AGE**

**GER 4008: MEDICAL AND SOCIAL  
REHABILITATION**

**GER 4009: PRACTICE PLACEMENT I**

## Module 2

**GER 5001 : SOCIAL POLICIES AND  
STRATEGIES**

**GER 5002: MEDICAL PROBLEMS IN  
OLD AGE**

**GER 5003: PROGRAMMES AND  
SERVICES INTERNATIONAL  
COMPARISON**

**GER 5004: PSYCHOGERIATRICS**

**GER 5005: GERIATRIC SUPPORTIVE  
SERVICES**

**GER 5006: DRUGS IN THE ELDERLY**

**GER 5007: SOCIAL WELFARE WITH  
OLDER PERSONS**

**GER 5008: EPIDEMIOLOGY**

**GER 5009: STATISTICS**

**GER 5010: INCOME SECURITY FOR  
OLDER PERSONS**



**GER 5011: FOOD AND NUTRITION IN  
OLDER PERSONS**

**GER 5012: PRACTICE PLACEMENT II**

**GER 5020: DISSERTATION**

**GER 5021: SYNOPTIC STUDY UNIT I**

**GER 5022: SYNOPTIC STUDY UNIT II**

**GER 5023: SYNOPTIC STUDY UNIT II**

# Admission Requirements

**A candidate is eligible to apply for registration to the Postgraduate Diploma Course if he/she has one of the following qualifications:**

- 1. A degree or professional qualification pertaining to one of the caring professions obtained from a University or Institute or from another appropriate authority recognised by the University of Malta.**

**2. Any other professional qualification deemed acceptable by the University of Malta, if it is accompanied by adequate working experience in the care of older persons.**

**A candidate without the above qualifications may be admitted to the Course as a mature student if he/she shows an exceptional degree of experience in the field of ageing or the care of older persons, and has the necessary background to follow the Course with profit. It is essential that candidates are fluent in the English Language.**

# Master's Degree in Gerontology and Geriatrics (M.Ger.)

1. **A candidate who obtains an overall grade "A" or "B" in the Postgraduate Diploma Course (Dip.Ger.), is eligible to register for a Master's degree in Gerontology and Geriatrics (M.Ger.).**

**2. In such a case, the student shall be required to register not later than five years from the publication of the final results of the Postgraduate Diploma Course.**

**3. To be able to register for the Master's degree, a candidate must submit a dissertation proposal which must include: the proposed title of his/her thesis, an outline of the research to be carried out including, among others, hypothesis, methodology, time frame, bibliography.**



**4. The Board shall nominate a supervisor for every candidate. In the case of a candidate who is not residing in Malta and who opts to perform his/her research project in his/her respective country, the Board will nominate two supervisors, one from the candidate's own country and one from the University of Malta. The names of the proposed supervisors will be submitted for the approval of Senate.**

**5. The dissertation, shall contain the results of the research carried out, a critical review of the relevant literature and a critical discussion of the results.**

**6. The dissertation shall not exceed 50,000 words.**

**7. The Board may allow a candidate to perform or complete the research project and writing of the dissertation in his/her respective country, provided that the Board is satisfied that adequate supervision is available and that regular contact is kept with the supervisors appointed by the University of Malta .**

**8. A candidate must submit his/her dissertation not later than eighteen (18) months (in the case of full-time) or thirty-six (36) months (in the case of part-time) from the date of acceptance of its title by the Board.**

**9. The dissertation shall be examined by an examining board, appointed by Senate, consisting of at least three examiners, one of whom shall normally be an external examiner from another University.**

# European Masters in Gerontology (EuM aG)

**This is one of eight initiatives within the European continent linking postgraduate candidates and universities. It enables students to take different parts of the study in different European countries and thus attain a first-hand experience of different setting in the field of ageing.**

# International Links

**The Centre collaborates very closely with a number of University Institutes and Centres in the field of ageing, throughout the world.**

**Its international reputation can be witnessed by the high number of applications from foreign students received annually. During the years 1990-2003, the Centre has attracted 206 students from 46 different countries (including Malta) to read for the Postgraduate Diploma. A number of foreign and Maltese students have also successfully completed the Master's degree .**

**The Centre co-operates very closely with the**  
**International Institute on Aging, United Nations -**  
**Malta.**



In 1995, the World Health Organisation designated the Centre as a **WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Aging.**

In 1997, the Centre became the **centre of the Mediterranean and Middle East Gerontological and Geriatric Association.**

In 2001, the Centre started forming part of a **European consortium aimed at running the European Master's Programme in Gerontology (EuMaG).**

# Master's Degree Dissertations

**Dr. Joseph Dimech** : Application for admission to a residential complex for older persons.

**Mr. Vincent Tonna** : Problems faced by community : Carers of the elderly.

**Ms. Marisa Scerri** : A Critical Analysis of the Demand for Residential Care : The Case of the Elderly in Malta.

**Mr. Victor Scerri** : Older Maltese persons and their contribution in economic and social life.

**Ms. Sheila Bonito** : Relationship between Activities of Daily Living and Quality of Life among the Philippino Elderly.

**Ms. Maria Fenech** : The Abused and the Abuser Within Long Term Care Residences: Fact or Fiction.

**Dr. Ronald Fiorentino** : Depression Amongst Elderly Persons Living in Long-Stay and Residential Homes.

**Ms. Nathalia Foigt** : Problems and Perspectives of Retirement in a Post-Communist Country: The Ukranian Pattern.

**Ms. Maryanne Gauci** : Issues Facing Elderly Maltese Returned Migrants.

**Ms. Therese Micallef** : Caring for Dependent Elderly in the Community after Rehabilitation: The Difficulties.

**Ms. Cynthia Scerri** : The Effectiveness Of Occupational Therapy With Elderly Hip Fracture Patients Following Surgery.

**Dr. Alexander Schembri** : The provision and utilisation of domiciliary dental for elderly people

**Ms. Marcette Cassar** : An analysis of functional outcome for older lower limb amputees after in-patient hospitalization.

**Dr.Zaid Y Teebi**: Respiratory Problems in the Elderly Admitted into a Long Stay Institution.

**Mr. Anthony Scerri** : Urinary Incontinence in the Elderly admitted in a geriatric hospital.

**Dr. Rajeshwar Peddi**: The Epidemiology of Falls among the Elderly at the St.Michael Geriatric Hospital, Barbados.

# European Centre of Gerontology and Geriatrics

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