

# MCAST SUCCESS STORIES

ISSUE 66

## MCAST LINK

# 29

Students tell us about  
their MCAST experiences



MCAST

# CONTENTS

2	Principal's Foreword
4	Kurt Spiteri
6	Nico Conti
8	Jonathan Zammit
10	Rachela Gauci
12	Ravi Cutajar
14	Suzannah Merceica
16	Stephanie Borg Spagnol
18	Kelly Camileri
20	Fabian Muscat
22	Khala Pisani
24	Lorella Farrugia
26	Kurt Agius
28	Justin Formosa
30	Justine Zammit
32	Andy Brincat Mummery
34	Nesrin el Ghodi
36	Giuseppina Galea
38	Pauline Caruana
40	Matilde Farrugia
42	Bjorn Vella
44	Elvira Buttigieg
46	Justin Cassar
48	Whitney Bajada
50	Kerstin Axiaq
52	Tanja Jo De Marco
54	Cheryl Borg
56	Stephen Bartolo
58	Andre Spiteri
60	Kevin Magro



MCAST



# MCASTLINK ISSUE 66

In this special edition of MCASTlink – Success Stories, we showcase the journeys of outstanding graduates who have discovered their passion and embarked on successful careers across various domains, including Engineering, ICT, Community Services, Art, Applied Sciences, Business Management amongst others.

These individuals, with their diverse experiences and career paths, epitomize the effectiveness of MCAST's approach to vocational education. Besides providing a solid vocational and academic foundation focused on work-based learning, MCAST also instills a sense of dedication, resilience and a passion for growth and continuous learning. The College's commitment to education equips graduates with the skills and confidence necessary to grow in their respective fields.

As we celebrate the achievements of our graduates, we also pay tribute to the dedicated and hardworking staff at MCAST who have played a pivotal role in shaping these success stories. Their commitment to excellence and the nurturing environment they provide empower students to chase their dreams and leave a lasting impact in their chosen professions.

MCAST stands as a nurturing ground for aspiring individuals, offering them the tools, skills, knowledge and confidence to pursue their passions and build meaningful careers. The stories of these graduates serve as a reminder of the incredible potential that lies within each student, waiting to be unlocked through the right education and guidance.

# EDITORIAL



## Editor and Producer

MCASTlink is produced by the MCAST Communications Office.

Produced and Edited by Caroline Balzan  
Communications and PR Manager

## MCASTlink Editorial Team:

Daniela Blagojevic, Natalino Fenech, David Kenely, Nikita Pisani, Stephen Vella

## Design

2point3

## Print

UV Print

## Proofreading

Shirley Jobson

## Photography

Jonathan Borg

MCAST Communications Office,  
Main Campus, Corradino Street,  
Paola PLA 9032, Malta

+356 2398 7200 | [mcast.edu.mt](http://mcast.edu.mt)  
Follow us at [mcast.edu.mt](http://mcast.edu.mt)





# PRINCIPAL'S \_\_\_\_ FOREWORD

By Professor Joachim James Calleja, Principal/CEO



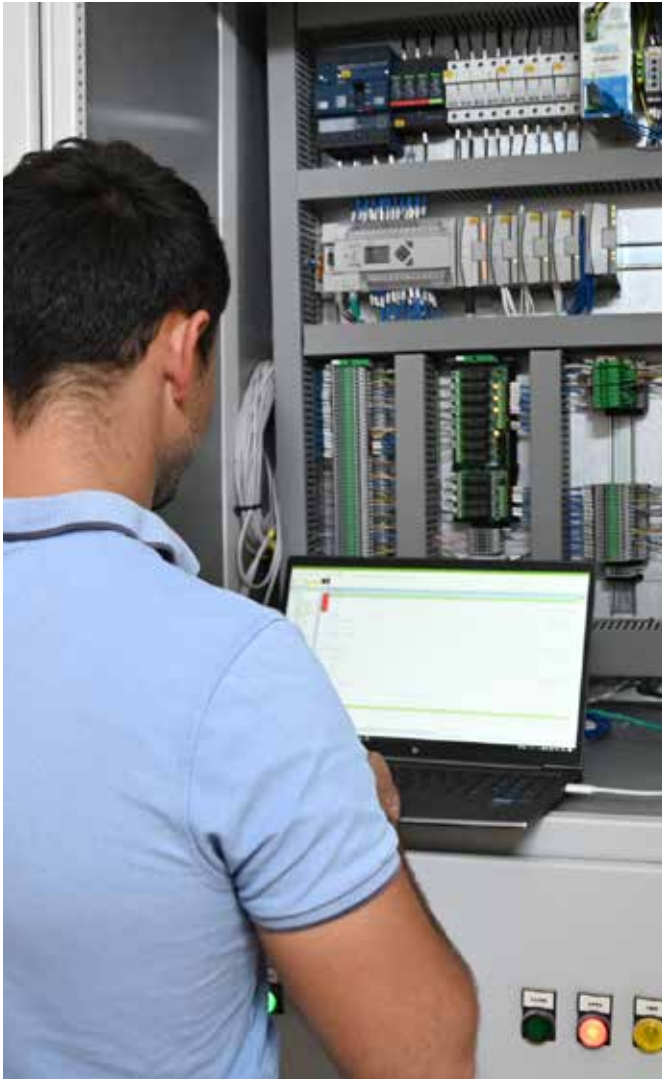
MCAST's pride lies in having an employability rate of over 96% in sectors that students have attained their qualification. This shows that the relevance of the College's education and training programmes is high and that our dialogue with industry is ongoing. With so many success stories in this booklet one appreciates how important it is to continue investing in vocational and professional education and training. Most of our students join the college with qualifications obtained from their years in compulsory education. Several others, however, join at lower levels of our national qualifications framework and make it to degree level. MCAST is an educational institution open to all students having finished secondary education and wish to embark on a new learning experience which will include for sure work experience.

As a matter of fact, the stories in this edition show that when our students leave the college with a qualification, they enter the world of employment faster than expected and with a high level of success most of whom in an entrepreneurial manner. The variety of the job our students manage to find vary from freelance creative producer to sport coaches, beauty therapists, software developers, aircraft engineers, teachers, and several other professions. This reflects the eclectic character that MCAST has taken upon as a role in Malta's economic growth. With over 8 000 full time students registered and an expected 4 000 part-time learners and workers joining our micro credentials (short courses), the College is fast becoming a first choice in post-secondary education and for upskilling and reskilling.

As a community college we aim at attracting larger cohorts of learners of all ages. In a society in lifelong which learning has become a necessity to sustain one's quality of life, MCAST continues to invest in better infrastructure, new programmes, the continuous professional development of its staff members and the empowerment of students to be active and responsible citizens of our country. Now that the College is the first post-secondary institution in Malta to have its own legislation, MCAST can continue to prosper and grow into a centre of excellence for education and training. Our key objective remains that of preparing students to succeed in finding the job of their choice. This however can only be possible through professional education and training on and off campus. Work-based learning is key to this successful formula that bears evidence in the success stories of this edition that marks the graduation days of thousands of students.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all our students featuring in this booklet and those graduating this year and very successful working life. MCAST's doors remain open throughout the whole year for our alumni and others for further education and training. I urge you to access our ongoing programmes online and to continue supporting the work of the College during your working life through the skills and competences that you have acquired.

# KURT SPITERI



---

## ELECTRICAL AND AUTOMATION ENGINEER

Since my formative years, I always felt a profound curiosity to comprehend the underlying mechanisms of objects around me. Apart from engaging with toys in the conventional manner, I enjoyed discovering their inner workings by deconstructing them. I was extremely lucky and owe a profound debt of gratitude to my parents who, with their patience and support, nurtured my curiosity that ultimately led me to pursue my current career.

After successfully attaining a satisfactory Secondary Education Certificate (SEC), having passed all my SEC exams with flying colours, I considered enrolling in both Junior College and MCAST. I was drawn to the latter by the

extensive laboratory equipment and hands-on approach of the courses offered at the institution. I also encountered an MCAST lecturer during a visit there who provided insight and invaluable guidance in selecting a course of study.

Given my interest in renewable energy, I chose to enrol in a Diploma in Green Energy Technologies. The course centred on renewable technologies, but also included fundamental principles of power, programming and analogue and digital electronics, which are fundamental for electrical and electronic engineering. It was through this course that I was introduced to microcontrollers through a practical approach, which, in turn, piqued my interest as a student in furthering my education in engineering.

Upon successful completion of the course, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree. As Fred DeVito said, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you". It was the challenges encountered throughout the course that solidified my belief in the ability of MCAST graduates to excel in their respective fields by being highly perceptive and adaptable to the daily technical challenges faced in their workplaces.

During the course, I began a part-time engagement with Methode Electronics Ltd. as an electrical health and safety (H&S) officer specialising in Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). Subsequently, I enrolled in the Methode Electronics Ltd. Academy for Engineers which was probably one of the smartest choices I ever made as a student.

I cannot put into words the knowledge I gained from MCAST and Methode Electronics Ltd. The Academy allows you to rotate on a monthly basis through every section and department within Methode Electronics Ltd., thoroughly giving you a first-hand perspective and understanding of a specialised field whilst being backed and assisted by competent lecturers at MCAST. This proved to be a golden opportunity for all students to identify their desired area of specialisation. It was during this period that I was exposed to and experienced the sector of automation for the first time.

Upon completion of my degree, it was only natural that I pursued my dream career in automation engineering at Methode Electronics Ltd. The technical knowledge and experience gained throughout my position as an Automation Engineer, working mainly on intricate assembly systems and end-of-line testing turntables, are beyond measure. Apart from technical knowledge, every project requires effective

communication with other divisions which furthered my interpersonal skills whilst fostering a network of competent individuals always willing to provide support.

After approximately two years of working at Methode Electronics Ltd. doing what I loved, I felt compelled to get out of my comfort zone and explore a new challenging branch of engineering. This opportunity led me to Tektraco Ltd., which offered me training and a role as a Telecommunications Engineer, focusing on fibre optic technologies, with a particular emphasis on Gigabyte Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology. The distinctive and interesting challenges faced during my time at Tektraco Ltd. were unique and engaging, and I found solace in the sense of unity, competence and professionalism exhibited by all the personnel there. Needless to say, Tektraco Ltd. not only enhanced my technical expertise but also instilled in me leadership and interpersonal skills, elevating my career to an increasingly professional level.

After another two years, I encountered an enthralling opportunity to join the Water Services Corporation (WSC) as an Electrical and Automation Engineer within the Technical Support Services (TSS) section. My current responsibilities include management of water and wastewater pumps, Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) and Motor Control Panels (MCPs) design and commissioning, all whilst co-leading a number of electricians who I am proud to call my team.

Through the diverse natures of workplaces I have worked at, I have consistently found that the strong foundation laid at MCAST has equipped me with the requisite fundamentals to confront and overcome challenges that consistently come my way. While I believe the academic rigor of the courses at MCAST is laudable, the highlight at MCAST for me lies in the approachability and collective knowledge-sharing ethos exhibited by lecturers, technicians and staff. Regardless of the circumstance, be it an academic query or a personal project, one can always count on a dedicated staff member to provide guidance and support which, for me, is commendable and encompasses the institute's commitment to foster academic excellence and personal growth. This characteristic persists even today, despite myself no longer being a direct student of the institution.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated staff at MCAST for the enduring culture of knowledge-sharing that has enriched my educational journey and continues to inspire me in my professional career.

# —NICO CONTI







---

## CERAMIC ARTIST AND LECTURER

Motivated by my love for art and a strong creative drive, I started reading for a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at MCAST. I wanted to learn and improve my artistic skills while building a strong academic foundation. Along the way, I faced challenges, but I had great classmates who are still my close friends after almost ten years. MCAST was the start of my dreams, and it led me to pursue a Master's degree abroad.

During my time at the Royal College of Art in London, I focused on ceramic 3D printing. My art revolves around experimenting, especially with clay 3D printing processes. This innovative approach let me break the limits of traditional clay, allowing me to create new shapes and explore new artistic possibilities.

After graduation, I spent several years working hard in my shared studio in London. Dealing with the challenges of the pandemic was tough, as many in-person exhibitions were cancelled. But I adapted and focused on showcasing my creations digitally. My art has been exhibited around the world and is part of important collections both globally

and locally. I recently moved my studio back to Malta after creating and learning in London for five years.

One of my proudest achievements was presenting my art to King Charles. More recently, I had the privilege of creating porcelain artworks for his coronation cake, adding a touch of elegance.

Teaching is also an important part of my journey. I have been a guest lecturer at respected institutions like the Royal Danish Academy—formerly KADK—and Staffordshire University. Connecting all these experiences, I have reconnected with MCAST, where my artistic journey as a student began. This opportunity means a lot to me and lets me give back to the institution that shaped my art.

Looking back, my time at MCAST was the foundation that shaped my artistic identity and prepared me for the journey that followed. With gratitude, I move forward, carrying the skills and knowledge I gained during those formative years.

# JONATHAN \_\_\_\_ ZAMMIT





---

## VETERINARY TECHNICAL OFFICER

I am 29 years old and currently work as a Principal Veterinary Technical Officer at the Veterinary Regulation Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Animal Rights. In the Safety of the Food Chain Unit, I conduct official checks to ensure compliance with agri-food chain legislation. This involves visiting farms where livestock is raised for meat and milk, as well as cheese manufacturing establishments that produce food for people. My inspections focus on maintaining hygiene standards and enforcing animal regulations.

I began my studies at the MCAST Centre of Agriculture, Aquatics, and Animal Science (CAAAS) in 2013. After six years of learning, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Animal Management and Veterinary Nursing.

This path felt natural to me due to my family's sheep farm, where I had hands-on involvement. The ability to learn and apply my knowledge while helping on the farm was truly inspiring.

MCAST proved to be the ideal educational institution for entering this industry. Beyond theoretical classes, they emphasize a practical approach, which is vital in our line of work. Through diverse placements, ranging from animal sanctuaries to clinics and farms, MCAST equips students with crucial skills and opens doors to various opportunities.

I take immense pride and joy in my achievements in this industry. The fulfilment of working with animals continues to motivate me to learn, setting new goals in this captivating sector.



# RACHELA — GAUCI







---

## READING ANIMATOR

I am a 27-year-old woman named Rachela Gauci, and my passion lies in fostering a holistic and inclusive approach to learning. I hold the role of a Reading Animator at the National Literacy Agency. In this capacity, I actively engage in multisensory methods to enhance storytelling sessions and cultivate a sense of enjoyment in the process. My journey toward a profession in education traces back to my formative years. Early on, I faced a series of learning and examination challenges that spurred me to adopt creative strategies for success. Despite educators doubting my capabilities, I remained steadfast in my commitment to conquer these obstacles.

During my time in Form 4, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, which only motivated me to further harness my creativity. Pursuing my studies, I earned the Rockschoo! Performing Arts Award with Grade 8 in Musical Theatre. I leveraged script writing and storytelling as tools to support my studies and memory organization, leading to impressive outcomes in both my SEC and Advanced Level examinations.

This momentum prompted me to take a proactive step in my educational journey by enrolling in a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care at MCAST. This diploma marked the initial stepping stone toward my future career. Through MCAST, I gained confidence, achieved academic

success, and honed my passion for education, propelling me to further invest in this path.

Building on this foundation, I pursued a Higher Diploma in Advanced Studies in the Early Years and, subsequently, continued my studies at the University of Malta, earning a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Early Childhood Education and Care. My commitment did not stop there—I challenged myself further by undertaking a Master's in Teaching and Learning, which I graduated from with a Merit. This Master's Degree not only fulfilled my aspirations but also deepened my knowledge and passion for education. My dissertation, titled "Listening to Professionals: Analysing the Effect of Animated Storytelling on Students with Dyslexia in Junior Classrooms," became a cornerstone of my career. Drawing from this research, I currently leverage my expertise to promote reading pleasure and instil confidence in young learners.

In essence, my journey has been one of growth and determination. From facing challenges to embracing creativity, I have forged a path that marries my love for learning with my commitment to education. Today, I am dedicated to using my knowledge and experience to inspire a love for reading and to provide support to young learners.

# RAVI \_\_\_\_\_ CUTAJAR



## OFFICE ASSISTANT

I am Ravi Cutajar, a 19-year-old currently working as an Office Assistant at Andrew Vassallo General Trading. My interest in office work began to grow during my time at MCAST. Back in 2019, I enrolled in the Award in Vocational Skills. During the initial phase of the course, I explored various vocational areas, aligning my interests with my skills. With guidance from the team of lecturers and LSEs (Learning Support Educators), I chose Office Work as my primary focus and have not looked back since.

After successfully completing the Award in Vocational Skills - Introductory A, I advanced to the Award in Vocational Skills - Introductory B. Unfortunately, the 2020/2021 academic year was still impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, making work placements impossible. MCAST provided us with a fully-equipped office workshop stocked with furniture, supplies, and equipment for practising basic office duties. Throughout this time, lecturers and LSEs offered invaluable support during vocational practical sessions and key skills development. Among my preferred study units were Maltese and Office Skills.

Following the successful completion of Introductory A and B, I was determined to further enhance my knowledge and skills in the realm of office work. Consequently, for the 2021/2022 academic year, I enrolled in an Award in Basic Office Skills. This decision gave me the chance to gain my first hands-on experience working in an office setting. Our vocational units adequately prepared us for this work experience. I had the privilege of undertaking a work placement with a local company, Malta Dairy Products Ltd. Guided by experienced individuals, I was exposed to a range of office tasks. The success of my work experience was owed to the support of MCAST staff and the respectful treatment I received from the company employees.

Even before completing my Award in Basic Office Skills, I initiated a job search with the help of a job coach. In November 2022, I embarked on my career journey as an Office Assistant at Andrew Vassallo General Trading, starting with part-time hours. My responsibilities are well-structured from Monday to Friday. With the assistance of my job coach, I contribute to the company by handling photocopies, managing quotations and invoices, labelling, performing basic data input, and shredding.

I am deeply grateful to MCAST for the unwavering support throughout my studies and for providing me with the opportunity to gain work experience, ultimately leading me to secure employment.







SUZANNAH  
— MERCIECA



## BEAUTY THERAPIST

In 2017, I embarked on a journey that has proven to be one of the most rewarding decisions of my life—enrolling in the Beauty Therapy course at MCAST. Guided by a passion for art and a deep appreciation for beauty therapy, this path has not only cultivated my academic and practical skills but also enriched me with invaluable life experiences that span beyond the classroom.

My time at MCAST has been a holistic experience, touching every facet of my growth. The academic and practical dimensions were undoubtedly crucial, but it was the tapestry of life lessons, newfound friendships, and the uniquely vibrant educational environment that truly set MCAST apart. A striking divergence from other institutions became apparent during my placements, where I witnessed a stark transformation in my beauty therapy abilities. The placements instilled a newfound confidence, empowering me to deliver exceptional client experiences with conviction.

The world of beauty therapy extended beyond the classroom as I engaged in real-world scenarios. I was fortunate to work with two prestigious spas in Malta between 2018 and 2019, each experience infusing me with industry insights and the nuances of client interaction. An apprenticeship with an independent beauty therapist further honed my skills, acquainting me with the intricacies of managing appointments, customer interactions, and the art of promoting beauty treatments and products.



Three years ago, the horizon expanded even further when I was granted the remarkable opportunity to participate in an Erasmus programme in Finland. Under the guidance of my mentor at the spa, I administered an array of treatments ranging from serene massages to meticulous manicures and pedicures. The experience not only enriched my skill set but also exposed me to different beauty trends and brands, infusing my repertoire with newfound techniques and product knowledge.

The experience was further enriched by my exposure to Finland's prevailing beauty practices, notably massage and eyelash extensions. Exploring a foreign land while immersing myself in my craft has been an indelible highlight of my journey.

Today, I stand at the brink of a thrilling endeavour—the launch of my own beauty salon. This dream-turned-reality is a testament to the transformative influence of MCAST. To students who may be contemplating a similar path, I wholeheartedly encourage you to seize the opportunity without hesitation. Embrace the journey, and trust in the robust foundation that MCAST provides.

My profound gratitude extends to the educators and staff who have been unwavering pillars of support throughout my MCAST years. Their guidance, encouragement, and dedication have been instrumental in shaping my professional trajectory. As I look ahead to the future with my own salon on the horizon, I am humbled by the profound impact MCAST has had on my journey.

# STEPHANIE \_\_\_\_ BORR SPAGNOL





---

## SENIOR LECTURER AND BEAUTY AND COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIST

I began my career as a Beauty and Complementary Therapist at 17, having graduated from the School of Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy. I gained experience working in both junior and senior roles at a well-known beauty salon. Later, I managed my own salon as a freelance therapist. However, driven by ambition, I decided to expand my qualifications beyond beauty therapy and pursue my dream of becoming an educator.

To achieve this, I pursued A Levels and obtained a qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. My desire to stay connected to the beauty therapy industry led me to join MCAST as a beauty therapy lecturer. Though the journey was long, I became a part-time lecturer at the Institute of Community Services in 2015, transitioning to full-time the following year. This move allowed me to share my experience and knowledge with students, guiding them toward their professional goals.

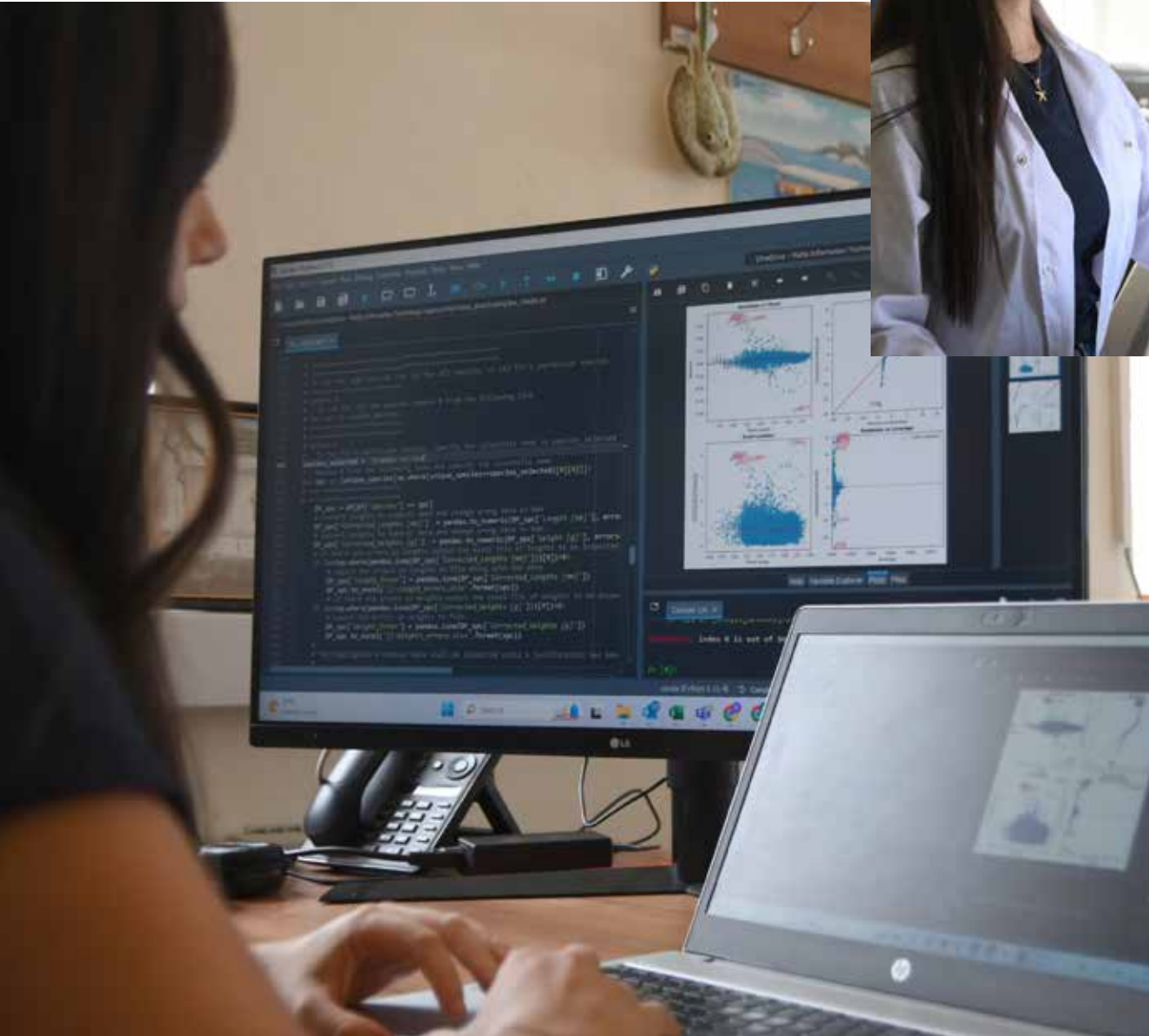
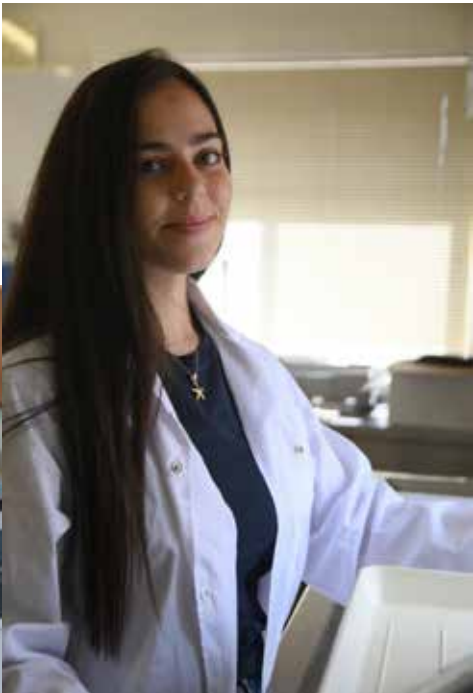
In 2019, the opportunity to enrol in the Master in Research Methods emerged. Despite the challenges—juggling a full-time job, family responsibilities, and coursework—the course

structure and engaging lectures were appealing. The course coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, adding to the complexity. Balancing my students' needs with assignments and preparing for my second child was demanding, but my dedicated tutor's support kept me motivated.

During the course, my dissertation's focus shifted due to pandemic restrictions. Although disappointed, my tutor's guidance helped me refocus. Ultimately, I graduated with distinction, marking a significant personal and professional accomplishment.

My experience as a Master in Research Methods student emphasized the importance of a strong student-tutor relationship for success. Being a student again enhanced my professional growth, strengthening my connection with my students and enabling me to better understand their challenges and aspirations. Today, I am better equipped to support their learning journeys, helping them pursue their dreams.

# KELLY CAMILLERI





---

## FISHERIES RESEARCHER

From a young age, I have always been captivated by the vastness of the sea and the incredible biodiversity it holds. The depths and the diverse range of marine life have constantly fascinated me, igniting a deep passion within me to explore and learn more about this ecosystem. While I was never particularly interested in continuing my formal education, the Fish Management course at MCAST caught my eye and sparked a newfound enthusiasm within me.

From the very first day of attending lectures, I knew that this course was my calling, and I was determined to expand my knowledge in this field. The opportunity to participate in an Erasmus+ programme was a turning point in my life, providing me with an unparalleled experience to learn from experts in the field. During this programme, I gained valuable insights into various aspects of marine life, including freediving techniques, fish identification, and even how to organize a macro-plastic survey. It was an eye-opening experience that solidified my dedication to pursuing a career in this field.

Aside from classroom lectures, the Fish Management course also offered practical work placements, which exposed me to a wide range of job opportunities within the industry. I had the privilege of working in diverse environments such as Aquaculture, dive centres, government entities, the Malta National Aquarium, and various aquarium shops. These hands-on experiences helped me discern my true passion and career aspirations.

Among all the job opportunities, it was my time spent at a government entity, specifically the Fisheries Research Unit, that provided me with the most fulfilment. Working there allowed me to acquire a multitude of valuable skills, including species identification, data preparation, and data analysis for stock assessments. I had the opportunity to attend events aimed at raising awareness about marine environments and to collect data on species biometrics from market samples and MEDITS (Mediterranean international trawl survey) samples. These experiences were invaluable in shaping my career goals and solidifying my desire to work in a similar capacity.

After I graduated with a First class in Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Fisheries and Aquaculture with a newfound clarity of purpose, I eagerly applied for a position at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in which I was assigned at the Fisheries Research Unit (FRU). I was fortunate enough to be accepted and given the opportunity to contribute to their important work. As part of my role, I am currently responsible for collecting biological data from market samples and MEDITS samples at the FRU laboratory. I also participate in scientific onboard observations on commercial fishing vessels, where I collect data and monitor fishing trips. Additionally, I am involved in data preparation and analysis for stock assessments under the auspices of the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and MedSudMed. My work extends to analysing fisheries data using various R packages and related software. I also engage in spatial data analysis using ArcGIS and QGIS, which allows me to gain insights into the intricate relationships between marine ecosystems and human activities. Furthermore, I actively contribute to the drafting of national and regional technical reports that encompass biological analysis, as well as research on fishing gears and their impact on the marine environment. Attending and organizing technical meetings both virtually and in person is also a significant part of my responsibilities, particularly those focused on vulnerable species, species identification, and stock assessments. Moreover, I participate in regional workshops that involve the analysis of biological data, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among professionals in the field.

My journey from a young admirer of the sea to a dedicated member of the Fisheries Research Unit has been an exciting and transformative one. The Fish Management course at MCAST and the invaluable experiences gained through the Erasmus+ programme and work placements have shaped my passion, knowledge, and skills in marine biology and fisheries management. I am honoured to contribute to important research and conservation efforts, and I am eager to continue expanding my expertise and making a positive impact in the field of marine science.

# FABIAN \_\_\_\_ MUSCAT





---

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I have always been fascinated and keen in learning anything that is related to technology. During my secondary school years, I made a choice to concentrate on Computer Studies and Information Technology as my primary subjects. Initially, my inclination leaned towards the hardware aspect, but as I progressed through my O' Levels, programming gradually captured my interest.

Upon completing my O' Levels, I faced a challenging decision regarding my choice of post-secondary school. I enrolled in Junior College, but it didn't take long for me to recognise that it was not the optimal path for my aspirations. Fortunately, I was still in time to apply at MCAST, and within a week, I secured a spot in the Advanced Diploma in Multimedia Software Development. Upon immersing myself in the programme, I was convinced that I had made the right decision. Before applying for second year, I opted to transition from Multimedia Software Development to Software Development, acknowledging programming as my true passion and fortunately being within the timeframe to facilitate this shift.

Concurrently pursuing my Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Software Development, I embarked on an

apprenticeship as a programmer at KPMG. Between my second and third years, I transitioned to the role of an apprentice Junior Software Developer at SHIELD Consultants, which provided me with invaluable opportunities to enhance my skills and actively engage in software development projects. At SHIELD, I had the privilege of collaborating with clients and contributing to diverse software solutions and website development. This experience proved immensely valuable, as it afforded me a head start in completing my academic assignments, having already gained practical exposure to several technologies covered in our coursework.

During the course of my educational endeavours, my passion for artificial intelligence flourished, ultimately driving me to choose Black and White Image Colourisation using Deep Learning Techniques as the subject of my dissertation. This project presented its fair share of challenges, but its completion contributed significantly to my growth as a software developer.

After years of unwavering dedication and perseverance, I successfully graduated and started working as a Software Developer at SHIELD Consultants.

# KHALA \_\_\_\_ PISANI







---

## LEARNING SUPPORT EDUCATOR

My experience at MCAST was positive, despite facing challenges along the way. Initially, I applied for the Advanced Diploma in Health and Social Care, planning to start my career afterwards. Encouraged by others, I enrolled in the BA (Honours) Inclusive Education course to become a Learning Support Educator. Looking back, this decision proved invaluable. Furthering my education opened doors and revealed my academic capabilities, thanks to my MCAST experience.

MCAST not only imparts knowledge but also readies students for employment through work placements. These placements affirmed my career path, boosting my self-confidence with positive feedback. The experience exposed me to professionals, fostering relationships I value. Work placement experiences guided my job search, leading me to both my previous and current positions. MCAST also facilitated a work experience abroad, equipping me not only with work skills but also with vital life and independence skills.

Lecturers were crucial, serving as mentors and providing unwavering encouragement. Their approachability fostered a comfortable environment for seeking assistance. MCAST's varied assessment methods, including presentations, groupwork, and assignments, honed different skills and avoided monotony. The dissertation was a challenging part of the course, and although it was daunting, my tutor's support helped me persevere.

Beyond qualifications, MCAST facilitated overall growth by fostering academic, social, and emotional development. Interactions and experiences shaped me into a well-rounded individual ready to tackle life's challenges. Juggling work, personal life, and studies was demanding, but the support from classmates and lecturers kept me going.

To those considering an MCAST course, I encourage you to take the leap. You will not only gain qualifications but also develop as a person, forge impactful connections, and uncover your potential.

# LORELLA \_\_\_\_\_ FARRUGIA





---

## HVAC TECHNICIAN

Embarking on my journey at the young age of 16, I delved into the world of mechanical engineering with unyielding enthusiasm. Through dedicated years of study and commitment, I earned my diploma by the time I turned 17. However, my aspirations reached beyond conventional boundaries, beckoning me to explore uncharted territories.

Guided by my ambition, I took a bold leap and joined the Armed Forces of Malta, a path that held its own allure. Yet, the persistent yearning for a technical vocation remained a constant flame within me. Fate took an intriguing turn when the army recognized my latent potential and offered me an opportunity to pursue my studies further, this time in the realm of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Over the course of the next four years, my journey was imbued with both trials and triumphs. Home was devoid of any technical inclination, and as a young woman, societal norms and expectations cast shadows on my pursuit. Nevertheless, I remained resolute in my determination to carve my path. The rigorous study of HVAC demanded dedication and a steep learning curve, but I embraced every challenge as a stepping stone toward my ambitions.

Navigating a predominantly male-dominated field proved to be a test of resilience. The scarcity of female representation and the preconceived notions surrounding gender roles

created formidable barriers. However, I staunchly refused to be daunted. The obstacles I encountered merely fuelled my determination, propelling me to shatter glass ceilings and redefine what was possible.

Today, with immense pride and unwavering persistence, I stand as a trailblazer—the first woman to hold the esteemed title of a technician in the HVAC industry. My journey stands not only as a personal triumph but as a testament to the power of perseverance and the ability to defy stereotypes.

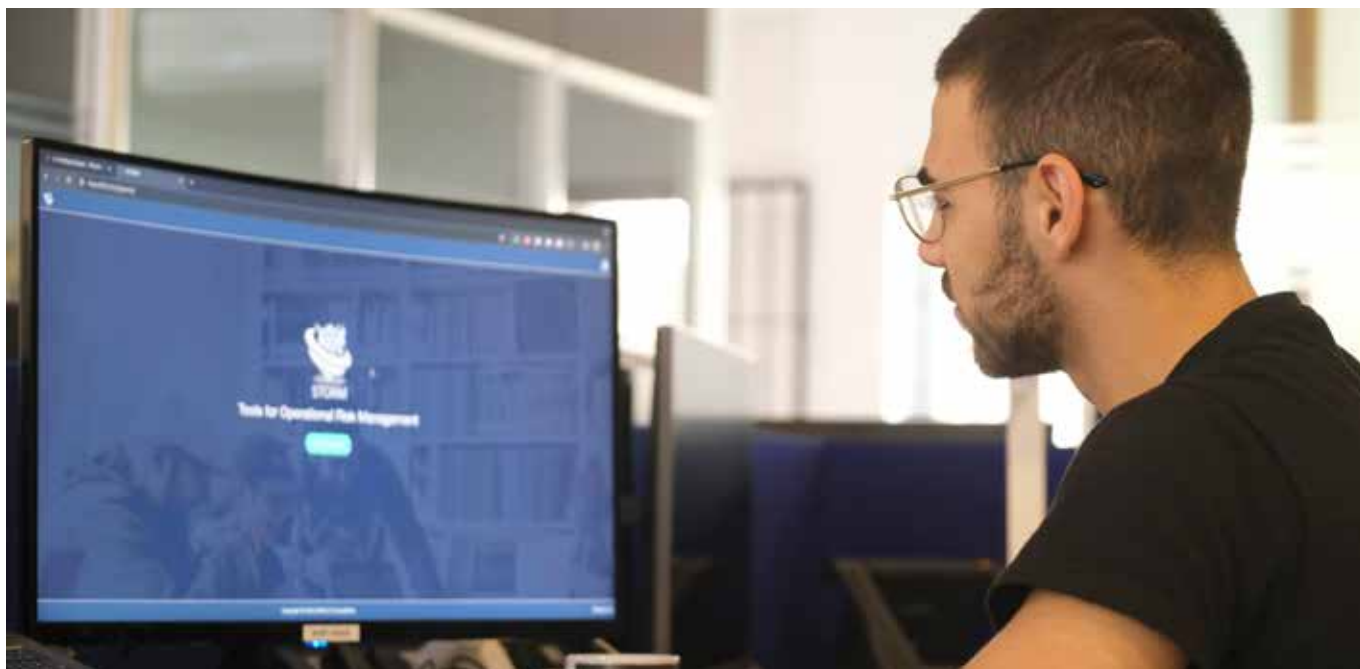
My narrative carries a larger message—an earnest call to action. I fervently hope that my story resonates with other aspiring females, igniting a spark of inspiration within them. It is imperative that we dismantle the prevailing notion that engineering is a male-exclusive domain. Our collective efforts can unravel the stereotypes that have restrained us for far too long. Together, we can rewrite the narrative and usher in an era where women are celebrated as accomplished engineers and professionals, capable of leaving an indelible mark on the engineering sector.

As I reflect on my tumultuous yet triumphant journey, I am reminded that each obstacle I overcame and every milestone I achieved has contributed to reshaping perceptions. My experience epitomizes the unwavering spirit of determination and the transformative power of education, defying the constraints of tradition and redefining the limits of possibility.

# KURT \_\_\_\_\_ AGIUS







---

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I have always been passionate about learning anything and everything related to technology. During secondary school, I focused on Computer Studies and Information Technology as my core subjects. After completing my O Levels, I developed an interest in computer hardware and considered applying for the Advanced Diploma in IT course. However, I was still unsure about my future career path, so I decided to attend Junior College, with an emphasis on Computing and Pure Maths.

During my time at Junior College, I had the opportunity to work as an intern at SHIELD Consultants. This hands-on experience, combined with my interest in programming, led me to pursue Software Development at MCAST after finishing my A Levels.

In late 2020, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development. Throughout my time at MCAST, I also worked as an apprentice Junior Software Developer at SHIELD, thanks to the MCAST Apprenticeship Scheme. This practical experience, alongside the coursework covered in

the Software Development programme, helped me grow and stay up to date with the latest industry practices.

At SHIELD, I had the chance to communicate with clients and build mobile applications and websites. This experience was extremely valuable, as it gave me a head start when it came to assignments, since I had already worked with some of the technologies we learned in class.

During my final year of studies, I developed a keen interest in low-level programming and chose to write my thesis on BadUSB Detection and Mitigation using the C programming language. Although I faced several challenges along the way, this endeavour taught me a lot and helped me grow as a developer.

After years of hard work and determination, I graduated and began working as a full-time Software Developer at SHIELD Consultants. The hands-on learning experience at MCAST played a crucial role in advancing my career to the next level.

# JUSTIN \_\_\_\_\_ FORMOSA





---

## PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

In 2017, I faced a deep sense of worthlessness because I kept getting rejected for jobs. Even though I had a lot of experience in different fields, employers cared more about formal education than what I had learned in practice. But I was determined to improve my skills and do well as an entrepreneur and intrapreneur.

When I turned 30, I made a big decision to quit my full-time job and go back to school full-time. I joined the MCAST Institute for the Creative Arts to study Performing Arts and earn an Advanced Diploma. This change was really hard, but I managed by doing side gigs, especially since Malta's arts and culture scene was growing.

Skipping ahead to 2019, I realized I wanted to understand how different parts of businesses work. So, I went back to MCAST, this time to the Institute of Business Management and Commerce. Even though I was older and ran into unexpected problems, I successfully got a first-class Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Enterprise.

I consider this business degree to be almost like an MBA but at a degree level because it covers everything about running a business. It is ideal for people who want to run their own businesses or become better at managing them.

My journey proves you can always learn, no matter your age. I am really thankful to the directors, teachers, staff, and mentors at MCAST who supported me throughout these five years of significant changes.

# JUSTINE \_\_\_\_ ZAMMIT







---

## MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

I am a mechanical engineering enthusiast who turned childhood curiosity into a successful career. With a passion for understanding how things work and a penchant for building, I embarked on an educational journey that started at MCAST. The decision to study at MCAST was driven by a desire for a hands-on experience, and it turned out to be the foundation of a remarkable success story.

Since childhood, I was fascinated with mechanics and construction. Puzzles and LEGO building were more than just hobbies; they were the first steps towards a lifelong love for engineering. These formative years set the stage for a bright future.

When it came time to select a college, I sought an institution that aligned with their hands-on approach to learning. MCAST was the perfect choice, offering a workshop experience that exceeded expectations. The College's commitment to providing practical skills and real-world knowledge was evident from day one.

One aspect that sets MCAST apart is the strong bond between lecturers and students. This connection created a supportive and engaging learning environment, where I felt encouraged and empowered to reach my full potential. This relationship with mentors would prove invaluable in the years to come.

Upon completing the mechanical engineering program at MCAST, I did not stop at a Bachelor's Degree. I obtained the electrical licenses, further broadening my skill set. This additional knowledge opened doors to exciting opportunities in the field.

With aspirations to rise higher in the engineering world, I pursued a Master's Degree in Engineering Management at Brunel University London. This decision would not have been possible without the strong foundation laid at MCAST and the unwavering support of my tutors.

After earning a degree at MCAST, I secured a full-time position as a Maintenance Engineer at Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Limited. This role demanded expertise in various machine-related projects, including enhancements, retrofits, safety improvements and more. Thanks to the hands-on approach learned at MCAST, I excelled at designing, manufacturing and installing the necessary components for each project.

My journey from a childhood filled with LEGO creations to a successful career as a Maintenance Engineer is a testament to the power of education and hands-on experience. MCAST provided the essential foundation for my professional growth and development, and it's where my remarkable success story truly began.

My story is one of inspiration, highlighting the importance of choosing the right educational institution and following one's passion. It proves that with determination, supportive mentors, and a strong educational foundation, anyone can turn their childhood dreams into a reality.



ANDY  
— BRINCAT  
MUMMERY

---

## ADVISORY ASSOCIATE

My educational journey at MCAST started when I was 22 years old. It has been a transformative odyssey that enriched my knowledge, honed my skills, and propelled me towards a rewarding career in cybersecurity. As I reflect upon my path—from pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Software Development, to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Business Analytics, and eventually, transitioning into the role of an Offensive Security consultant within PwC's esteemed cyber team—I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the experiences and opportunities that have shaped my growth. This is especially true because I am the first and only graduate in my family, which was an achievement that could have only been obtained through the power of education and perseverance. This in turn resulted in the beginning of a very satisfactory career in an industry that is in alignment with my passions.

My first steps into MCAST marked the beginning of a remarkable journey. Enrolling in the Foundation in IT course and, subsequently, a Diploma in ICT opened avenues for me which pushed me into enrolling into the Advanced Diploma in Software Development. After successfully completing my Foundational studies, I was eager to immerse myself in the world of programming and software engineering. The curriculum was meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of software development, blending theoretical concepts with hands-on practical exercises. The guidance of skilled instructors illuminated the beauty of coding practices, software architecture, and project management.

Simultaneously, my pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Analytics opened doors to the dynamic realm of data-driven decision-making. The programme delved into the science of transforming raw data into actionable insights, empowering me with the ability to analyse trends, forecast outcomes, and contribute meaningfully to business strategies. The exposure to statistical analysis, data visualization, and predictive modelling laid the groundwork for a holistic understanding of the intersection between technology and business.

Beyond the classroom, MCAST fostered a culture of collaboration and exploration. Engaging in group projects and participating in coding events provided me with opportunities to refine my teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. These experiences not only mirrored real-world scenarios but also nurtured a spirit of innovation and adaptability that would prove invaluable in my future endeavours.

Upon the culmination of my studies, the transition from academia to the professional realm was seamless, thanks to the holistic education I received at MCAST. Armed with a diverse skill set encompassing both technical prowess and business acumen, I embarked on a new chapter as an Offensive Security consultant within PwC's cyber team. This role, while challenging, was a perfect amalgamation of my passions for technology and cybersecurity.

As an Offensive Security consultant, I embrace the responsibility of safeguarding digital landscapes against evolving threats. My days are dedicated to identifying vulnerabilities, conducting penetration testing, and devising robust security strategies that fortify our clients' systems. The critical thinking and problem-solving skills cultivated during my time at MCAST serve as invaluable assets as I navigate intricate networks and analyse potential risks.

I am deeply appreciative of the unwavering support and mentorship provided by the MCAST community. Professors who ignited my curiosity, peers who shared their insights, and administrators who ensured a conducive learning environment – each have played an integral role in my academic and professional journey. The institution's commitment to excellence and holistic development has left an indelible mark on my approach to learning and growth.

Looking ahead, I am committed to a path of continuous learning, exploration, and innovation. The foundation laid at MCAST has not only empowered me with technical skills but has also instilled ethical values that guide my actions as a cybersecurity professional. I am determined to stay at the forefront of advancements in Offensive Security, contributing meaningfully to the ever-evolving landscape of digital defence.

# NESRIN EL GHODI





---

## TEACHER

In the orchestra of life, I am the unexpected note that soared above the crescendo, creating a melody uniquely my own. I am Nesrin El Ghodi, and my story is a testament to the harmonious interplay of resilience, passion, and the indomitable spirit of a single mother.

Three years ago, I found myself at the crossroads of responsibility and dreams. The sky had been my canvas as an air hostess, but destiny's brush led me onto an entirely new trajectory. Motherhood dawned upon me, and my world shifted to revolve around my precious Adam. The decision to step away from my career was as daunting as it was necessary – a sacrifice woven with threads of love for an adorable son.

Life's unexpected turns often carry with them the weight of unforeseen challenges. The safety net of a steady income was replaced by the tightrope walk of odd jobs and financial uncertainty. The symphony of motherhood played in tandem with my pursuit of a better future for my son and me.

The first delicate notes of inspiration began to drift towards me, whispering the possibility of transformation. I felt the pull of education, a desire to sculpt my future and build a foundation that would resonate with purpose. With the echo of Adam's laughter as my driving force, I embarked on an odyssey of self-discovery at MCAST.

The symphony of academia proved both challenging and exhilarating. Balancing the rigours of study with the responsibilities of motherhood demanded an oeuvre conductor's precision. Late nights were woven with study sessions and loads of assignments, interrupted by soothing lullabies to Adam. The sunrises witnessed my determination as I seized every moment to write assignments, fuelled by the promise of a brighter future.

The classroom became my stage, where I stood as a mature student among the vibrant cadence of youthful peers.

Their exuberance was infectious, but at times, I felt like an instrument out of tune. Yet, this cacophony of differences transformed into a harmonious melody as I embraced my unique timbre in the ensemble.

The symphony resonated with poignant moments of encouragement and camaraderie; my lecturers emerged as excellent cheerleaders. I am forever indebted to these and all other supportive staff at the ICS Institute. Their efforts in guiding me through intricate movements of knowledge cannot be overlooked. Their unwavering belief orchestrated an environment where my aspirations could crescendo freely. Their support breathed life into my symphony, weaving threads of mentorship into the fabric of my journey.

Amidst the cadence of studies, I faced some discordant notes – the challenges of negative perceptions and stereotypes, and financial constraints. Having quit my job, I had to rely only on government benefits and the housing authority, and I really appreciate their help. Yet, adversity transformed into a catalyst, igniting a fierce determination to prove that age was but a number and passion was my unwavering guide.

As my graduation approaches, I stand at the threshold of accomplishment, the final movement of this symphony. The countless hours of study, the sacrifices, the moments of doubt – they have all led me to this crescendo of triumph: a Degree in Sports Science and Exercise for Health.

We are the composers of our destiny, the creators of our melody. As I prepared to take my final bow on this stage of academia, I decided to continue forward and read for a Master's degree. As an older student, you will appreciate education more. Young students often feel anxious to learn. As a mature student, you are there because you want to be. To all the single mums out there, education is the only weapon that will resist the circumstances.

# GIUSEPPINA GALEA





---

## OFFICE ASSISTANT - GHARB LOCAL COUNCIL

I have successfully completed the Certificate in Vocational Skills course at the MCAST Gozo Campus, and I am thrilled with how it has facilitated my transition into the workforce. Throughout my time there, I developed strong bonds with both my classmates and teachers. These relationships significantly enhanced my social skills and fostered a sense of independence within me. I found the Hospitality and Office Skills subjects to be particularly engaging, and these subjects ultimately paved the way for my employment in related fields.

Within the duration of the course, I undertook a valuable internship at Magro Brothers Ltd (Xewkija). This experience exposed me to a diverse range of tasks, including product labelling and fundamental office duties. I am deeply grateful for the invaluable insights I gained from my co-workers during this period.

Subsequent to the completion of the course, I dedicated three years to my role as a receptionist at the Kercem Local Council. My responsibilities encompassed assisting

residents and engaging in cleaning duties. Building on this experience, since November 2021, I have been contributing my skills to the Gharb Local Council. Here, I continue to serve residents at the front desk while also undertaking basic office responsibilities, including some involvement with the library.

Outside of my professional commitments, I lead a dynamic and fulfilling life. My hobbies include knitting and engaging in various DIY projects. Additionally, I am passionate about sports. While I initially pursued running, the encouragement and guidance of Anna Calleja and coach Winston Pirotta led me to embrace cycling. I am an active member of the Mosta Cycling Club as well as a local gym in Gozo. Notably, my achievements in sports include securing a Gold Medal at the 2019 Abu Dhabi Special Olympics. More recently, I am proud to have attained two silver medals and a commendable fourth place at the 2023 World Special Olympics held in Berlin. Presently, I am enthusiastically training alongside my Special Olympics cycling team for upcoming races, with a particular focus on the eagerly anticipated Special Olympics World Games to be held in Australia.

# PAULINE — CARUANA







---

## CORPORATE AND COMPLIANCE EXECUTIVE

After completing my O Levels in 2017, I initially had plans to pursue my A Levels at a Junior College. However, my trajectory took an unexpected turn when I stumbled upon the MCAST Prospectus. The Advanced Diploma in Financial Services immediately captivated my interest, presenting itself as a uniquely intriguing course. This marked the beginning of my enriching journey at MCAST.

As part of the diploma curriculum, a pivotal component was an apprenticeship requirement. This led me to a valuable opportunity to join a local bank as an apprentice. This experience granted me my first immersive encounter with the financial world, allowing me to translate theoretical learning into tangible practice. It is worth noting that the Erasmus+ Programme also played a significant role. I was fortunate to be selected for an international experience in Lüneburg, Germany, collaborating with Sparkasse Bank. This exposure broadened my understanding of the global financial landscape and fostered my personal growth, promoting independence.

Upon successfully completing the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services, I made the decision to enrol in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Financial Services Management programme. This academic pursuit further

deepened my comprehension of the financial services sector. Subsequent to obtaining my degree, I received an offer for a full-time position as a Corporate and Compliance Executive at Fexserv Fund Services Limited.

I hold the belief that MCAST's vocational approach significantly enhances the educational experience. The integration of practical application in a real-world work environment is a defining feature that adds value to the courses. Challenges are an inherent part of any journey, yet the dedicated and passionate lecturers at MCAST played a pivotal role in guiding me through these hurdles. Their commitment enabled me to evolve both professionally and personally.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the lecturers at MCAST for their belief in me and their guidance towards my chosen career path. The opportunities presented to me during my five-year journey at MCAST have played an instrumental role in shaping my current position. I wholeheartedly endorse prospective students to consider MCAST as their educational platform. The institution's emphasis on motivation, varied opportunities, and self-directed growth enables each individual to forge their distinct path in life.



MATILDE \_\_\_\_\_  
FARRUGIA



## KINDERGARTEN EDUCATOR

In my childhood, I nurtured a dream of becoming a teacher, envisioning my own classroom and the opportunity to connect with young minds. As the years rolled on, this dream remained steadfast. However, during that period, I lacked the focus to continue my studies. I yearned to immerse myself in the learning process rather than fixate solely on theoretical concepts. It was during this juncture that I realized the extent of my possibilities. The MCAST Gozo Campus emerged as a beacon, offering a course perfectly tailored to equip me with the skills needed to fulfil my goal – that of becoming a Kindergarten Educator.

I embarked on the BTEC National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development, an MQF Level 4 programme. Over the course of two years, I engaged in four distinct teaching experiences. These encompassed two placements in Childcare settings, where I worked with infants and toddlers, as well as two placements in Primary School settings, specifically with kindergarten 1 and kindergarten 2 groups. These experiences significantly enriched my career path. They bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, allowing me to better relate to what I learned from the lectures. I had the privilege of putting my

theoretical knowledge into practice, supported and guided by resolute practitioners within the education sector.

Following the successful completion of this stage, I decided to continue my studies in Malta. Notably, advanced early childhood education courses were not available at the Gozo Campus at that time. Consequently, I pursued my educational journey at the MCAST Main Campus in Paola. Here, I first enrolled in the Higher Diploma in Advanced Studies in the Early Years (Level 5) and, subsequently, embarked on the top-up course for a BA (Honours) in Early Childhood, Education and Care at the University of Malta, ultimately earning my degree.

My gratitude towards the educators who supported me is boundless. Their mentorship, hands-on learning experiences, and profound knowledge within the field of education have been instrumental in my growth. Without their unwavering guidance, my journey would undoubtedly have taken a different trajectory.

Reflecting upon my path, the decision to choose MCAST has unequivocally been a pivotal one that has profoundly shaped the course of my future.



# BJORN \_\_\_\_VELLA







---

## HEAD OF MAINTENANCE

Applying for the Diploma in Electrical Installations programme at the MCAST Gozo Campus was driven by my passion for electrical engineering and the ambition to acquire practical skills for a fulfilling career. MCAST's reputation as an institution renowned for hands-on training and a holistic understanding of electrical systems solidified my decision to choose them for my studies and future career in this field.

After successfully completing the Diploma in Electrical Installations, I chose to further enhance my expertise by enrolling in the Advanced Diploma in Electrical Systems programme. Throughout the course, MCAST delivered a comprehensive blend of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in electrical installations. The dedicated lecturers and cutting-edge facilities contributed to my learning, enabling me to build practical skills and self-assurance in the domain. The apprenticeship opportunity during my Level 4 studies was particularly invaluable. It allowed me to

apply classroom theories to real-world scenarios, equipping me for professional life as I engaged with and learned from seasoned experts.

Following my graduation from MCAST, I embarked on a fulfilling journey as the Head of Maintenance for three esteemed hotels in Gozo: Cornucopia Hotel, Ta' Cenc Hotel, and St. Patrick's Hotel. The technical prowess I developed at MCAST empowered me to proficiently oversee and manage maintenance operations, ensuring the seamless functionality of electrical systems, equipment, and infrastructure within the hotels.

I am appreciative of the guidance, encouragement, and education that MCAST provided. The institution's commitment to excellence not only shaped my career but also nurtured a lifelong enthusiasm for continuous learning and innovation.

# ELVIRA — BUTTIGIEG





---

## PE TEACHER

I hold the position of a Supply PE Teacher at St Clare College Primary Sector. In addition, I dedicate my free time to coaching football and baseball, as well as providing personal training.

In 2018, a decision paved the way for my future. Opting to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Sport, Exercise and Health at MCAST stands as one of my most prudent choices. As a newcomer to the course, I initially approached it with a degree of uncertainty. However, both fellow students and committed lecturers welcomed me warmly, setting the tone for an enriching educational journey.

My time spanning three years at MCAST was transformative. The programme included theoretical knowledge with invaluable practical exposure through placements. These real-world opportunities proved instrumental in honing my skills and bolstering my confidence, priming me for my role as a personal trainer and coach. Stepping into these responsibilities, I found myself fortified with the insights and competencies cultivated during my tenure at MCAST.

What truly differentiates the MCAST experience is the chance to delve into a diverse array of sports and health dimensions, broadening my horizons and deepening my expertise. The support and guidance of lecturers played a central role in my growth, consistently motivating me to set higher aspirations and surpass my limits.

The lessons absorbed during my time at MCAST extend beyond the confines of textbooks and exams. The principle of 'never give up and always keep fighting' that resonates within me is a direct outcome of the challenges and triumphs witnessed in my educational voyage. Moreover, the wisdom of prompt assignment initiation has consistently proven its merit, a testament to the preparation instilled within me by MCAST.

Reflecting on my transition from a supply PE teacher to a dedicated personal trainer and coach, I remain deeply appreciative of the enriching journey MCAST afforded me. My narrative serves as a testament to the transformative potency of education, persistent diligence, and the unwavering support of mentors and peers.



# JUSTIN \_\_\_\_\_ CASSAR







---

## SENIOR SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

My journey at MCAST started around six years ago, when I enrolled in my first IT Diploma after completing my secondary education. Technology has intrigued me from a very young age, and I continue to believe that technology, combined with the right skills, can change the world to make it a better place.

Building my path to pursue my dream career was not an easy decision to make at a young age. With the help of MCAST, I could better understand what opportunities were out there to help me grow using the right soft and technical skills. From that day on, I never looked back.

After completing my first Diploma, I tried out Networking and found it very interesting. This experience encouraged me to pursue another two-year course to complete my Higher National Diploma. While reading for this diploma, we focused on the core aspects of routing, switching, and infrastructure design. Apart from the theoretical aspects, the hands-on experience and practical labs helped me to better understand the theory practice gap.

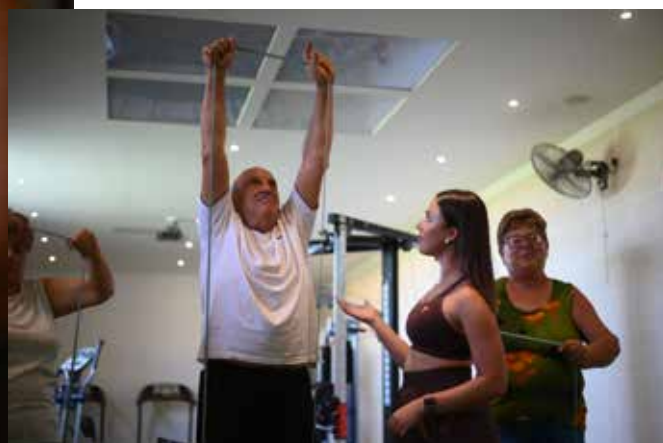
After three years of studying, I decided to further my education and read for the Bachelor of Science (Honours)

in Computer Systems and Networking—a very interesting yet challenging few years that helped me grow both professionally and personally. During that time, I also had the opportunity to apply for an internship with one of the biggest firms in Malta, PwC. I believe internships are fundamental, as they give you the opportunity to build a relationship with experienced professionals and help to further your growth in the real world.

The experience I gained throughout the studies and my internship landed me a full-time job with the same company. Today, I am a Senior System Administrator at PwC. The transition from school to a full-time job was surprisingly smooth. All that hard work from school paid off. I used my experience to accelerate at work with a little help from experienced colleagues. I also found no issues integrating and being involved in different projects.

Looking back, I feel that MCAST has helped me greatly to adapt to the real world. Being independent and able to challenge myself are skills that I learned through my years as a student, intern, and now, full-time worker. My gratitude goes to my mentor and all the lecturers for their dedication to help me be the person I am today.

# WHITNEY BAJADA



---

## COACH AT SPORTS MALTA

Sport has always been my guiding passion, and my journey as a football coach was the cornerstone of my professional life. However, my ambitions expanded beyond the field, leading me to wear multiple hats that define my multifaceted career.

In addition to my role as a football coach, I took on the esteemed position of a Sports Malta coach, where I had the privilege to contribute to the development of aspiring athletes. This role allowed me to impart not only technical skills but also invaluable life lessons through sportsmanship and teamwork. This experience served as a testament to the power of sports as a tool for character-building and personal growth.

Yet, my entrepreneurial spirit drove me to venture further. I embarked on a journey to establish 'Exercise For Health,' an endeavour deeply rooted in my commitment to make a meaningful impact on people's lives. Through this venture, I dedicated myself to aiding individuals afflicted by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in their pursuit of a healthier lifestyle. By offering tailored exercise regimens and nutritional guidance, I empower them to take control of their well-being and pave the way for a healthier future.

Within the same sphere, I assumed the role of a personal trainer, extending my influence to a broader demographic. Working with young and middle-aged individuals, my mission transcends the realms of fitness. I aspire to instil in them the belief in their own potential, nurturing their self-confidence and encouraging them to give their utmost dedication. Through personalized training programmes, I help them attain their goals—whether it is toning their bodies, building muscle, or shedding excess weight. This role is not just about physical transformation but about fostering a mindset of perseverance and resilience.

My philosophy is rooted in the unwavering belief in the transformative power of personal experiences. I advocate embracing new opportunities, even if they involve volunteering, recognizing that these experiences serve as the bedrock of success. They cultivate a diverse skill set, foster empathy, and broaden one's perspective, ultimately contributing to personal and professional growth.

Effective planning and time management are integral facets of my approach. I advocate diligently working on tasks well in advance, ensuring that each endeavour is meticulously planned and executed. This not only yields impeccable results but also provides the luxury of refining and enhancing work, resulting in a high standard of output.

The foundation of my journey and the principles I embody find their roots in my enriching learning experience at MCAST. The institution endowed me with practical insights that proved invaluable in navigating the complexities of my roles. The hands-on exposure provided me with the aptitude to make informed decisions, especially when confronted with challenging situations. The academic assignments—demanding rigorous research and learning—honed my analytical skills and thirst for knowledge. And perhaps, most importantly, the exceptional cadre of lecturers, whose mastery of teaching transcended traditional methods, guided me with their expertise and unwavering support.

In retrospect, MCAST not only fuelled my professional journey but also nurtured my independence. The education I received went beyond textbooks, moulding me into a confident and capable individual. Through a blend of practical experiences, academic rigour, and mentorship, MCAST equipped me with the tools to embrace challenges head-on, empower others, and ultimately, carve my own path in the dynamic world of sports, fitness, and well-being.

# KERSTIN — AXIAQ







---

## FULL STACK DEVELOPER

Choosing to enrol at the MCAST Gozo Campus was a significant decision that shaped my career path. As a woman entering a male-dominated field, I found a supportive and encouraging learning environment at MCAST, where I could pursue my passion freely.

What attracted me the most to MCAST was the College's practical approach to teaching. They believe that hands-on experience is crucial in the competitive programming field. This meant I got to work on real-world projects, collaborate with industries, and even go on an Erasmus internship for a month in the Netherlands. These experiences helped me gain valuable skills and boosted my confidence.

During my time at MCAST, I was inspired by the friendly and supportive community. The lecturers were not only knowledgeable but also motivated me to overcome challenges and achieve my goals. Their belief in me gave me the determination to keep going. After completing my Advanced Diploma in Software Development at the Gozo Campus, I decided to further my studies at degree level by

enrolling in the Bachelor of Science in the same field at the Main Campus in Paola.

On completion of my degree programme, I started working at Keen, where I have now been for almost two years. It is one of the companies we had visited during our Advanced Diploma studies in Gozo. I work with amazing colleagues, and together, we take on exciting projects that push the boundaries of our industry.

MCAST has not only prepared me for a successful career but also instilled in me a sense of joy and satisfaction in what I do.

In conclusion, enrolling at MCAST was a life-changing decision that set me on a path to a successful and fulfilling career in software development. The institution's practical teaching approach, supportive community, and industry connections empowered me to break stereotypes and pursue my passion. Today, I take pride in working for the company that once inspired me during my first years at MCAST, and I continue to love what I do every single day.

# TANYA JOY — DE'MARCO





---

## FREELANCE – CREATIVE MEDIA

My name is Tanya Joy De'Marco from Balzan, and I successfully completed a full-time three-year degree course from 2020 to 2023. Over the years, I have explored diverse fields, ranging from performing arts to sales and marketing. Along this journey, I pursued various interesting courses, including a nail technician course, a diving course, and a meditation course. The MCAST BA in Business Enterprise course emerged as the natural choice to unify these varied interests and forge a solid path ahead.

Throughout my Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Enterprise Degree programme, I was tasked with completing 20 hours of community service. This requirement struck me as a forward-looking approach, reflecting the evolving nature of business in today's world. Business is no longer just about crafting a product and selling it; it entails a holistic perspective. In fact, people increasingly seek insights into the inner workings of businesses. Organizations are tapping into the power of genuine community service through Community Social Responsibility (CSR) to appeal to clients. Therefore, I found this particular module of my course profoundly relevant within the contemporary business landscape.

Years ago, my nuclear family faced the diagnosis of cancer for two significant members. Through this experience, I grasped the critical importance of blood donations for oncology patients. Eager to contribute to the solution, I

became a regular blood donor. To extend my impact, I chose to engage in community service with the National Blood Transfusion Services. This allowed me to explore ways in which I could provide further value to them and the people they assist. I became acutely aware of how crucial vigilance is—during severe incidents like traffic accidents, the blood reserves deplete rapidly, leading to shortages for patients requiring regular transfusions. I also learned that many donors are male due to physiological reasons, whereas women often face difficulties in donating.

To understand the resistance to donate among MCAST students and women, I conducted research. This exploration delved into the reasons behind the lack of awareness about the consistent need and utilization of these donations. Analysing their social media platforms and website, I suggested enhancements to make their content more engaging and captivating. This research empowered me to develop concepts for diverse marketing campaigns and informative posts on social media. The overall experience was immensely enriching from both personal and business perspectives.

Reflecting on this journey brings to mind the Chinese proverb: “The flapping of the wings of a butterfly can be felt on the other side of the world.” It is a reminder that even a small, seemingly effortless action can trigger a ripple effect, touching the lives of many.

# CHERYL — BORG





---

## TAX MANAGER

My journey at MCAST started back in 2013, when I enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services course. At the time, I embarked on this journey with several uncertainties and doubts, but have since come to realize the transformative impact of education, particularly the hands-on learning I received at MCAST. Today, as a Manager in the Finance and Corporate Managed Services line of service at PwC, I am honoured to share my experience and offer advice to current students.

Back when I started my time at MCAST ten years ago, I was merely taking the first step towards a future that seemed both promising and daunting. The comprehensive curriculum and the emphasis on practical application of knowledge at MCAST were pivotal in shaping my understanding of the financial services industry and work ethic.

After successfully completing my Advanced Diploma, I decided to further my education by pursuing a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Financial Services and Management, also at MCAST. The interdisciplinary approach of my studies at MCAST allowed me to tackle complex problems from various angles, a skill that proved invaluable as I progressed in my academic and professional journey.

Upon graduating with honours, I pursued a Master of Science in Management with the University of Chester. This decision was another leap of faith, and doubt crept in at times. However, the resilience I developed during my MCAST years and the belief in myself drove me forward. The MSc programme broadened my horizons, sharpened my critical thinking abilities, and provided me with the tools and skills required in my day-to-day duties.

Joining PwC Malta marked a significant milestone and a new set of challenges. The hands-on education I had received at MCAST equipped me with a practical skill set that helped me in the professional environment. As I started as an Associate in the Finance and Corporate Managed Services line of

service, I realized that the ability to understand and address real-world challenges, sometimes even under pressure, was instrumental in driving successful client relationships.

I continued progressing in my career and have recently been promoted to Manager within the same line of service. During the five years I have spent working at PwC, I have met many MCAST alumni, who all agree that the College provided us with the necessary knowledge and skills to make our transition into the corporate world a smooth one, while providing us with the required skills to perform our duties to the highest standard.

Reflecting on my journey, I am grateful for all the challenges I encountered and the doubts I overcame. My advice to current MCAST students is to always believe in themselves and their abilities. The path may not always be clear, but with determination and self-assurance, any goal is attainable. Taking things one step at a time is also key to avoiding feeling overwhelmed by the magnitude of the journey ahead.

Furthermore, I urge current students to embrace their time at MCAST fully. The institution offers an environment rich in practical learning and a diverse community of peers and mentors. This helps in creating an unforgettable learning experience, which will stay with you for years to come.

To conclude, my journey from an MCAST student to a Manager at PwC Malta is a testament to the transformative power of education and self-belief. The education I received at MCAST played a pivotal role in shaping my success and prepared me for the challenges I would face in my career. To current and prospective students, I emphasize the importance of believing in oneself, taking challenges one step at a time, and cherishing the unique experiences that MCAST offers. Just as I conquered doubts and uncertainties, you too can achieve remarkable heights with determination and a strong foundation.

# STEPHEN — BARTOLO





---

## AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

The world of farming, especially growing plants, has always interested me. I entered this realm because my family is involved in farming, and that made me want to understand how it all works scientifically. I was aware that farming is always changing and needs many different kinds of knowledge—such as how to grow things, how to use technology, and how to manage a business. So, after finishing school, I chose to study Horticulture Science at MCAST's Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics, and Animal Sciences.

Looking back at my time at MCAST, I can see it has been really good for me. MCAST teaches you exactly what you need to know for the kind of job you want. Additionally, they help you connect with real workplaces, so you can use what you learn in the real world. This has helped me understand things better and obtain hands-on experience in an ever-changing field like farming.

Right now, I work as an Agricultural Officer at the Agriculture Research and Innovation Hub (AgriHub) in the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. My job is to help

with the farming side of things at the AgriHub, especially a technique for managing pests called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This means finding ways to deal with pests without using too many chemicals. I am also working on creating guides about IPM for local farmers. Furthermore, I am testing new farming technology—such as drones and robots—to see how they could work in Malta.

Apart from my work, I also help run my family's farm. We grow different types of plants on our farm, both in greenhouses and outside, and we also have fruit trees.

Farming changes quickly, so it is important for me to learn not just from Malta but from other countries where they farm in advanced ways. MCAST gave me opportunities to work on farms in other countries and study at foreign universities, which helped me learn even more.

In short, my journey in farming has been exciting, and MCAST has been a big part of it. They taught me what I needed to know and connected me with the real farming world. This journey is all about learning, getting real experience, and my love for farming.

# ANDRE' \_\_\_\_\_ SPITERI







---

## AIRCRAFT MECHANIC

At a very young age, I was fascinated in Engineering and Technology. After concluding my secondary education, I pursued the “EASA Part-66 Cat. B1.1 Aircraft Maintenance Licence” at MCAST, where I embarked on my journey into Aviation Engineering.

MCAST paved my career within the aviation industry by means of a three-year apprenticeship scheme and first-hand exposure at more than one maintenance repair organization within the sector. Through perseverance and commitment, it widened my employment boundaries until I was eventually employed as an Aircraft Mechanic with Lufthansa Technik Malta (LTM). LTM exposed me to a mix of Boeing and Airbus ‘narrow-body’ and ‘wide-body’ fleets.

This ever-evolving industry continues to intrigue my interest for technological advancement, innovation, and a level of engineering that surpasses expectations. Through perseverance, LTM helped me to develop an expertise and continue to progress further in attaining the Cat. B1.1 licence. Moreover, I was entrusted with engaging a small team through incessant leadership practices. The latter further entrusted me to become a line leader with a Cat. C role, responsible for a larger team and authorized to certify aircrafts back into service following base maintenance checks.

Pursuing aviation connects one to a network of professional engineers and constant collaboration with leading aircraft manufacturers; thus, enabling continuous growth and succeeding in different areas of the industry. Presently, Lufthansa Technik remains a leading aviation company that supports local career opportunities, and through MCAST’s level of expertise in the theoretical and practical field, the transition from academic to on-the-job was smooth.

Over the years, my career proceeded further to Line Operations Manager. This role enabled me to oversee and lead projects of an ever-demanding and complex nature in a strategic hangar.

In this managerial role, it is vital to actively contribute to the leaders’ development and customers’ satisfaction and have complete oversight of the aircraft maintenance execution. The latter is attained through thorough planning up till the aircraft’s delivery, together with a team that complies with the safest and highest craftsmanship in a sincere culture.

This journey of role levels, with different responsibilities and involvement, has succumbed to the leading role I exercise today. MCAST paved the way to exposure in employment, and with innate passion, courage, and belief, one can venture on his own route within today’s advanced technological industry.

# KEVIN — MAGRO





---

## FITNESS COACH

During my three-year journey at MCAST, I underwent a profound transformation, equipping myself with the essential skills and competences that have empowered me to excel in my role as a fitness coach. This professional endeavour requires not only an individual commitment but also effective collaboration and coordination with a diverse array of exercise and health experts. Among these professionals are physiotherapists, sports doctors, nutritionists, and even sport psychologists. Effective communication forms the bedrock of our interactions, as it allows me to harmoniously integrate their recommendations into my coaching sessions. This collaborative approach serves a dual purpose: mitigating the risk of injuries and optimizing the performance of the players I work with.

At the heart of my role lies the responsibility to adapt and tailor my coaching sessions to align with the insights and guidance provided by these specialists. This ensures that each player's unique needs and circumstances are addressed comprehensively, fostering an environment conducive to their holistic development. By embracing this multidisciplinary approach, I not only enhance the players' physical prowess but also contribute to their mental well-being and overall growth.

My journey through MCAST was characterized by an exciting voyage of self-discovery, punctuated by positive challenges and a profound sense of fulfilment. As I pursued my degree, I was able to crystallize my true calling in life. The effort and dedication I invested in my studies bore fruit, culminating in a remarkable realization of my passion. This newfound clarity propelled me forward, allowing me to define my path with unwavering resolve.

The culmination of my undergraduate journey marked not an end but a transition to new horizons. With my degree in hand, I embarked on a new chapter by pursuing a Master's Degree in Sports Science, once again within the nurturing embrace of MCAST. This decision epitomizes the faith I have in the institution's ability to mould and shape individuals into competent and accomplished professionals.

The lessons I garnered from this transformative experience reverberate beyond the confines of academia. They resonate as timeless mantras that I hold dear. The first among them is a steadfast belief in one's own capabilities. This self-assuredness has been instrumental in my growth, fuelling my determination to surmount obstacles and seize opportunities. I have also learned the value of exploration—venturing into uncharted territories, unafraid to embrace novel concepts and experiences. This willingness to explore has broadened my perspective and enriched my journey immeasurably.

An unceasing drive to challenge oneself has become the cornerstone of my philosophy. This philosophy has not only guided my academic pursuits but has also become a guiding light in my professional and personal life. It is a reminder that growth flourishes in the crucible of challenges, urging me to continuously push beyond my comfort zone and exceed my own expectations.

In retrospect, my time at MCAST was more than an educational chapter; it was a transformative odyssey that has propelled me toward a fulfilling career and personal fulfilment. It is a testament to the profound impact that quality education, coupled with unwavering determination, can have on shaping the trajectory of one's life.

## NOTES

[illegible]



## NOTES

[illegible]

## NOTES

[illegible]

Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology  
+356 2398 7200 | [mcast.edu.mt](http://mcast.edu.mt)  
Follow us at [mcast.edu.mt](http://mcast.edu.mt)



**mcast.edu.mt**

 MCASTmt

 MCASTmt

 MCAST Malta

 MCASTmt

 MCAST