

ISSUE 73

S U C C E S S



M C A S T L I N K



S T O R I E S



MCAST



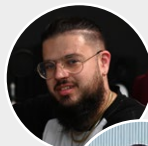
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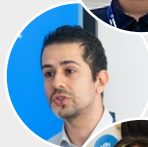
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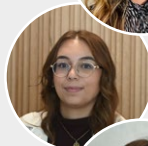
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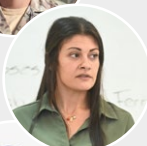
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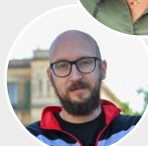
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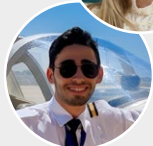
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Communications &amp; PR Manager

**EVERY STORY** begins with a dream and at MCAST, those dreams take shape in countless ways. Our students and graduates remind us every day that with passion, perseverance and the right guidance, ambitions can become fulfilling careers. Each story in this publication is a celebration of growth and the power of vocational education.

In this year's edition of MCAST Success Stories, we bring together a diverse and talented group of achievers whose journeys reflect the spirit and values of MCAST. Among them are a music producer and DJ shaping Malta's vibrant creative scene, an aircraft mechanic, software engineer, pilot and interior designer. We also meet lecturers and kindergarten educators nurturing future generations, marketing professionals driving innovation, members of the Armed Forces serving with dedication, and others excelling in fields as varied as engineering, banking, design, the arts and beyond.

Each of these stories is unique, yet they are united by a common thread, a belief in the power of education to unlock potential and create opportunity. These individuals remind us that success is not defined by where we start, but by the determination to keep learning, adapting and striving to make a difference.

This publication is a tribute to that shared effort and to the many voices that make MCAST what it is today, a community that believes in talent, encourages creativity, and values lifelong learning. Behind every success story featured here is a network of support, dedication, and belief, qualities that define MCAST's mission and vision.

May these pages inspire you to dream, to work passionately, and to believe in your ability to create your own success story. Because at MCAST, every achievement begins with one simple idea, that education can truly transform lives.



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# MESSAGE FROM THE **PRINCIPAL** & **CEO**





**AT MCAST**, we take pride in the achievements of our students and graduates who continue to demonstrate the true value of vocational education. Their success stories embody the College's mission, to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills and confidence to shape their futures and contribute to society.

Education is, at its heart, about transformation. It is about guiding individuals to discover their strengths, explore their passions and translate their learning into impact. The stories shared in this publication reflect that spirit, one of perseverance, purpose and progress. They remind us that when people are given the opportunity to learn, to grow and to be supported by a community that believes in them, remarkable things can happen.

As we approach MCAST's 25th anniversary, this milestone invites us to reflect on the journey that has brought us here, a journey defined by growth, innovation and a steadfast commitment to quality. Over the years, MCAST has evolved into a dynamic institution that excels in providing accessible, industry-relevant and future-oriented education. It is a place where ideas take shape, where people are encouraged to reach higher, and where excellence is both a goal and a shared responsibility.

Our success lies in our people. Behind every achievement stand our dedicated lecturers, committed staff, and trusted industry partners who work together to ensure that MCAST continues to respond to the evolving needs of our students and the world of work. Together, we are building pathways that lead to lifelong learning, employment and personal fulfilment.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the students and graduates featured in this edition. Your determination and achievements are an inspiration to us all and a reminder of why we do what we do.

**STEPHEN VELLA**  
**PRINCIPAL & CEO, MCAST**

# LUKE CAMILLERI

MUSIC PRODUCER

DJ

VISUAL STORYTELLER

FOUNDER OF 141 RECORDS



*I am Luke Camilleri, better known as Funky Monkey, and I have dedicated my life to Malta's independent music and creative scene. As a music producer, DJ, visual storyteller, and founder of 141 Records, my creative identity was shaped in no small part by my time at MCAST. I always knew I did not fit into a single genre, and MCAST gave me the space and the tools to experiment across sound, visuals and storytelling. That freedom made all the difference.*

**MY JOURNEY** with MCAST began in 2014 when I enrolled in the BTEC Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production. From there, I progressed to the Higher Diploma and later completed the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Creative Media Production. Over the course of five years, I explored not only the technical aspects of media but also its narrative power, learning to tell stories that challenge conventions, celebrate diversity, and provoke thought. From video editing and sound design to visual theory and collaborative projects, MCAST gave me a well-rounded creative education. The lecturers, equipment, and practical exposure all helped me bridge the gap between education and the real-world demands of the music and media industries.

In 2014, while still a student, I founded 141 Records, an independent label built on the principle that music should never be boxed in by genre. What began as a personal platform soon grew into a collective movement, offering support, production, and exposure for a wide range of Maltese artists. Today, 141 Records houses talent across electronic, pop, hip hop, punk, and experimental genres, becoming a hub for young creatives to collaborate, grow, and find their voice.

My identity as Funky Monkey extends far beyond DJing and production. I am also a beatboxer, drummer, performer, sound designer, and music video director, often combining these skills to create immersive performances and media projects. My single Robustus and collaborations with artists like REA, Sempliciment Tat-Triq, Lil-Jun, Myles, DEM, and Oxygyn reflect my commitment to pushing creative boundaries while staying rooted in community and culture. In 2017, I was selected for Artivisti, a national programme by Arts Council Malta and

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ that supports promising creatives. Through mentoring, a professional residency, and funding, I was able to expand my projects, further validating the foundation MCAST helped me build.

My story is not just about musical talent, but also about resilience, self-direction, and the courage to be original. From producing politically engaged tracks like Roulette to organizing underground events and supporting emerging artists, my career is a testament to how education, when aligned with passion, can transform lives. MCAST did not just teach me how to use software or equipment—it helped me find my voice as a creator. That experience continues to shape how I approach every project today.

To current and future students, my message is simple: do not be afraid to break the rules—creatively, not irresponsibly. Your uniqueness is your superpower. MCAST gives you the tools, but you must build the path. Be yourself, be creative, bir-relax u ejja minn hemm.

Today, I am the Founder and Creative Director of 141 Records, an independent producer and performer under the alias Funky Monkey, and I collaborate with some of Malta's leading indie and underground artists. I continue to host workshops, organize events, and produce music across a wide spectrum of genres. Alongside this, I also work in television and film productions as part of the sound and art departments. Through all of this, I remain committed to blending music, activism, and visual storytelling into bold creative statements that inspire the next generation of creatives.

# KAIJI MA

## JUNIOR AIRCRAFT MECHANIC

*My name is Kaiji Ma, and I studied the Aircraft Maintenance course at MCAST. I clearly remember the workshop sessions with Lecturer Carmelo Psaila, a former Malta Air Force air-sea rescue pilot and licensed aircraft maintenance engineer certified by EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency), with 25 years of aviation experience. His patience and professionalism left a deep impression on me.*

**BEFORE EVERY** session, we would check the 30 tools on the workbench one by one against the tool list—from steel rulers and vernier calipers to safety goggles and ear protection—to make sure nothing was missing. After the session, we repeated the process and signed off. That awareness of safety is something I still uphold in my work today.

At MCAST, each lecturer brought a unique professional background and could explain complex theories in an engaging and easy-to-understand way through vivid examples. For instance, in Lecturer Marjohn Demanuele's electronics sessions, we built circuits on breadboards (a tool used for quickly assembling and testing electronic circuits without soldering) according to diagrams and then measured waveforms using oscilloscopes (devices for displaying and analyzing electrical signals); in the workshop, we machined metal parts by hand. This hands-on approach is one of MCAST's hallmarks. Another defining feature is the apprenticeship system, which allowed us to quickly apply classroom knowledge to real work, deepen our understanding, and lay a solid foundation for future employment.

In our aerodynamics course, we met a special lecturer—Dr.

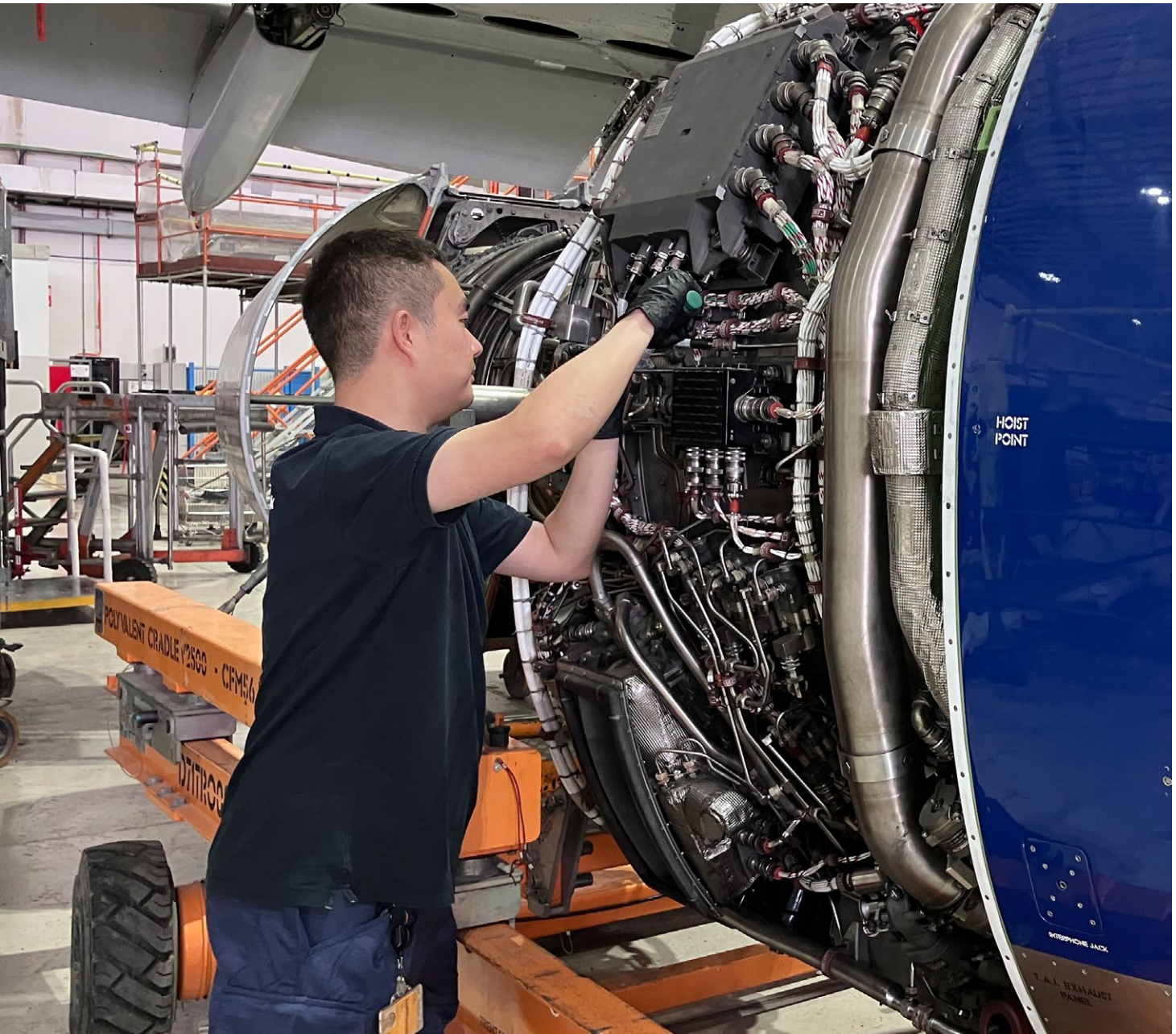
Leonardo Barilaro from Italy, known as “The Space Pianist.” He leads the ASTROBEAT project, funded by Xjenza Malta, which explores the use of cold welding technology to repair spacecraft exteriors damaged by high-speed micrometeoroids or debris in space.

In May 2024, I was fortunate to join my peers at the “Malta in Space” event, hosted by MCAST Institute of Engineering and Transport, which focused on space research and its aerospace applications. This occasion marked Malta's first-ever participation in a space mission, with both MCAST and the University of Malta among the institutions contributing to such projects.

Outside the lecture hall, MCAST also focused on developing our comprehensive skills. In the Employability and Entrepreneurial Skills course, our group created a video proposal for a “Malta Bus App,” using big data to optimize the bus system—improving efficiency while exploring environmental and commercial value.

In the Community Social Responsibility course, we took part in volunteer service, met new friends, experienced the value of contributing to society, and shared our experiences and lessons gained in class.









In April 2024, I joined fellow students from the MCAST Institute of Engineering and Transport in the Euroscola programme at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, where we debated, negotiated, amended, and voted on topics such as democracy with peers from EU member states and other regions. This experience strengthened my critical thinking and communication skills, and deepened my understanding of democratic decision-making.

Later that summer, I spent three weeks in Vilnius, Lithuania, on an Erasmus internship at an aircraft parts maintenance company. I worked on tasks such as disassembling and maintaining tyres and brake systems, inspecting bolts, nuts, and O-rings, and improving my locking wire skills. In my spare time, I explored cultural sites, enjoyed traditional foods, attended local festivals, and even stumbled upon a marathon, experiencing the charm of different cultures.

To me, MCAST is like a bridge connecting two shores—one is the lecture hall and campus life, the other is the workplace and the wider world. Regardless of background, every student can choose the courses and projects that suit them best. This openness, equality, and inclusiveness took me from scientific research (such as the MPOMS field survey) to the European Parliament, and then to an Erasmus internship—step by step bringing what I learned in the classroom into real industry scenarios.

After graduation, I began my full-time career at Lufthansa Technik Malta. At the start, the company provided safety training covering chemical handling, tool operation, and emergency response. The rigorous habits I developed at MCAST continued here—any item removed from an aircraft, no matter how small, must have a detailed tag indicating its name, source, date, destination, and a stamp for confirmation, just as precise as MCAST's tool checks.

Initially, I worked in the Cabin Department, performing tasks such as removing cabin components, conducting system inspections, corrosion prevention, and lubrication.

In May 2025, I was honoured to attend the annual engineering conference “Engineering the Skies | Breaking New Ground in Aerospace Innovation” organized by the Chamber of Engineers and held at the Hilton Hotel in St. Julian's. The conference

brought together engineers, industry representatives, and partners in the aviation and aerospace fields to discuss topics such as safety and reliability, space innovation, local development, and future opportunities.

That familiar sound of metal striking echoes once again in the hangars of Lufthansa Technik Malta, carrying forward the melody from my MCAST days. What has not changed is our commitment to quality and the responsibility for passengers' lives. When we see the aircraft we have maintained soaring into the blue sky, a sense of accomplishment swells in us—we are proud of our work.

I take this opportunity to extend my most sincere thanks to all the lecturers and colleagues who have helped me along the way. I will now continue to play my own notes on this journey.



# DAVID DEGUARA

*Studying at MCAST was a positive and enriching experience. The lecturers were skilled in their respective fields, particularly in grounded theory, which was the methodology emphasised during my Master's in Research Methods. Their expertise, combined with a practical approach to teaching, significantly enhanced my learning process.*

**THROUGHOUT THE** course, strong skills in both qualitative and quantitative research methods were acquired. The structured pathway, starting from the Postgraduate Certificate, progressing to the Postgraduate Diploma and culminating in the Master in Research Methods, provided a thorough and gradual development of research competence. This journey enabled a deep understanding of systematic data collection and analysis, grounded theory methodology and effective academic writing.

MCAST contributed significantly to professional success by offering well-managed courses that remain updated to reflect current research standards. As a lecturer mentoring undergraduate research, completing this programme enhanced mentoring practices, enabling a more critical and structured approach when guiding students in their dissertations and projects. Although there were occasional challenges, such as delays in the issuance of marks due to industrial directives, staff remained understanding and supportive throughout.

I highly recommend pursuing the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods at MCAST. The practical and methodological insights I gained were invaluable for my role as a lecturer and researcher. This programme truly helps develop deeper quantitative and qualitative research skills that are essential in academia and beyond.

MCAST LECTURER

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# VICTORIA GAUCI

## KINDERGARTEN EDUCATOR

*My name is Victoria Gauci, and I graduated from MCAST Gozo Campus in 2021 after completing the Level 5 Higher Diploma in Advanced Studies in the Early Years.*

**FROM A** very young age, I envisioned myself becoming an Early Years educator. The idea of teaching young children, supporting their development, and watching them grow, has always intrigued and inspired me. I have always wanted to be someone who helps others achieve their goals—and being a teacher allows me to do just that.

My journey at MCAST Gozo Campus began in 2019 when I enrolled in the Level 4 Advanced Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development. With a strong passion and determination to advance in the Early Years sector, I went on to complete the Level 5 Higher Diploma in Advanced Studies in the Early Years.

After completing my studies in 2021, I took the next step in my academic path by applying to the University of Malta to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care. At the time, MCAST Gozo Campus did not offer this degree course.

MCAST Gozo Campus played a pivotal role in shaping me into the educator I am today. The hands-on approach, practical experiences, and foundational knowledge I gained there were instrumental in my development. MCAST places strong emphasis on real-world learning opportunities, which greatly helped when it came to applying theory in practice.

Throughout my studies, I had the opportunity to participate in teaching practice placements, which allowed me to apply

classroom knowledge to real educational settings. These experiences were invaluable in helping me grow personally and professionally, and in reflecting on my future role as an educator. I learned a great deal from the experienced teachers who I worked alongside with during these placements.

The support and guidance I received from the lecturers at MCAST were outstanding. I am deeply grateful for their professionalism, dedication, and encouragement. Although my journey at MCAST presented its challenges, it was ultimately rewarding. The lecturers consistently went above and beyond to help students succeed, and without their ongoing support, achieving my Level 5 qualification would not have been possible.

Thanks to the solid foundation I received at MCAST Gozo Campus, I now work as a Kindergarten Teacher at St. Theresa Kercem Church School. The skills and knowledge I gained, especially in designing enriching activities and understanding child development, continue to shape the way I teach and support the children in my care.

I highly recommend this course to anyone who wishes to pursue a career in early childhood education. If you are passionate about teaching and want to make a real difference in the lives of young children, MCAST Gozo Campus is a great place to begin your journey.









# NICOLE CALLEJA

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

*My time at MCAST was more than just an academic experience: it was a journey of growth, adaptability and professional development. I pursued a Bachelor of Arts (Honopurs) in Business Enterprise, a programme that offered a comprehensive foundation across key business areas such as accountancy, business administration, marketing and purchasing. This broad-based approach gave me the versatility to understand how businesses function from multiple perspectives, and it equipped me with a solid toolkit for entering the workforce.*

**WHAT MADE** my experience particularly unique was that the majority of my degree took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the global uncertainty, MCAST adapted quickly to ensure that students could continue learning without losing momentum. Online learning platforms were introduced almost immediately, and lecturers worked hard to keep us engaged and motivated. While the shift to remote learning posed its challenges, it also helped us develop valuable skills like digital communication, time management and independent learning, all of which have proven extremely useful in my professional life.

Another standout aspect of my MCAST journey was its emphasis on real-world experience. The institution did not just prepare us with academic theory; it actively encouraged us to get involved in the industry early on. At just 18 years old, I began my first internship in the marketing field, a rare and valuable opportunity in such a competitive industry. MCAST's push for internships helped me gain hands-on experience while still studying, giving me an early advantage in understanding how the marketing world operates in practice, not just in textbooks.

The marketing industry places a high value on experience, and I am grateful that MCAST prioritised that from the start. Thanks to this practical focus, I graduated not only with knowledge, but with confidence, adaptability and relevant work experience that set me apart from other candidates.

Looking back, I can confidently say that MCAST went above and beyond, even during a global crisis, to ensure we received a full and enriching educational experience. It laid the groundwork for my professional success and gave me a head start in building the career I envisioned.

# KYAH FORMOSA

## LEARNING SUPPORT EDUCATOR

*My name is Kyah Formosa, and in November 2025 I will proudly graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Inclusive Education from MCAST's Institute of Community Services.*

**MY JOURNEY** at MCAST began in 2022, after spending several years working in jobs that, while stable, left me feeling professionally unfulfilled. I had always nurtured a passion for the education sector and a desire to work in a role that allowed me to make a meaningful difference. Eventually, I took the important step to pursue this calling and return to education.

Enrolling in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Inclusive Education was a transformative experience. The course offered a strong foundation in both academic theory and practical application, preparing me to work confidently with students from all backgrounds and abilities. I gained a deep understanding of individual learning needs and inclusive teaching strategies, and I learned how to create classroom environments where every learner feels seen, valued and supported.

A major highlight of my studies was the practical placement component. Over the duration of the programme, I had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in primary schools, secondary schools and a resource centre. At first, I was quite apprehensive, even a little intimidated by the idea of working across such different educational settings. However, this exposure proved to be incredibly valuable. It allowed me to grow both personally and professionally, and, most importantly, it helped me discover where I truly belong. I found myself drawn to the secondary school environment, where I felt particularly inspired by the energy and potential of adolescent learners. This preference is something I may

never have uncovered had MCAST not provided me with the chance to explore a variety of placements.

The combination of theory and practice offered by MCAST helped build my confidence and shaped my approach to inclusive education. The support of dedicated lecturers, the collaborative atmosphere among peers, and the emphasis on real-world application, all played a crucial role in my development. MCAST did not just teach me how to support learners; it gave me the tools, the mindset, and the belief that I could be a force for positive change in the lives of students.

Balancing full-time study with personal commitments was not always easy, but the supportive environment at MCAST made a big difference. Access to resources, mentorship, and academic guidance helped me navigate challenges and maintain focus throughout my studies.

Today, I am thrilled to share that I am now working as a full-time Learning Support Educator at St. Edward's College, a role that marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in my professional journey. I stepped into this position with confidence, gratitude, and a deep sense of purpose, knowing that my time at MCAST has thoroughly prepared me for what lies ahead.

Looking back, I am incredibly thankful to MCAST and their dedicated lecturers for empowering me to pursue my passion and guiding me every step of the way. This journey has not only changed my career, it has changed my life.





# FRANKLIN JOE GRIMA

LANCE BOMBARDIER, ARMED FORCES OF MALTA





*My journey with MCAST began nine years ago, following the completion of secondary school with a Secondary School Leaving Certificate, when I enrolled in the Foundation Course in Engineering Skills, Level 2, at the MCAST Gozo Campus. After successfully completing this one-year programme, I progressed to the Level 3 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, committing another year to my studies.*

**SHORTLY AFTER**, life took a new turn when I became a parent. I paused my academic journey to focus on raising my daughter, but thanks to the skills and knowledge I had gained at MCAST, I was able to secure employment as a full-time soldier in the Armed Forces of Malta. I was posted to the 3rd Regiment in Hal Safi, working within the Combat Engineering Squadron, specifically in the Electrical and Plumbing section. There, I was given the role of assistant electrician, an opportunity that built directly on what I had learned at MCAST. In 2021, my superiors gave me a great opportunity. They supported me to go back to MCAST Gozo and study the Advanced Diploma in Electrical Systems (Level 4). It was a three-year course, during which I continued working full-time as a soldier while studying.

During my time at MCAST Gozo, while working full-time as a soldier in Malta, I continued to learn more about my job and gain experience. Thanks to MCAST, I was able to do my apprenticeship with the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), which helped me apply what I was learning in class directly to real-life situations. The course helped me understand how electrical systems work, how to install them correctly, how to fix common faults, and how to follow safety rules. These skills are very important in my daily work with the AFM, especially when dealing with complex electrical systems in military buildings. The hands-on training I received both at MCAST and during my apprenticeship gave me more confidence and made me more independent. I started taking on more responsibility at work, and I felt more prepared to solve problems on my own. The support from my MCAST lecturers and my supervisors in the Army played a big part in my personal and professional growth.

Having completed the Level 4 Advanced Diploma in Electrical Systems, now I am better positioned to aim for higher positions in the Army, through eventual opportunities that will allow me to advance further in my career. MCAST gave me a golden, second opportunity after having completed secondary education with no formal qualifications. MCAST believed in me and helped me to believe in myself and in my own potential. Lecturers were helpful and supportive all along. They gave me the support I needed to balance work, study and family life. If you are thinking of studying at MCAST, do not hesitate ... go for it. Do not let your past and your previous educational failures hold you back. I started with almost nothing, and today I have a stable job, a family and a future. With hard work and support, anything is possible.



# JUSTINE ZAMMIT

## MCAST LECTURER

*Ever since I was a child, I was fascinated by how things worked. I spent hours solving puzzles and building with LEGO, unknowingly laying the foundation for what would become a lifelong passion for engineering. I have always been a hands-on learner, so when the time came to choose a college, MCAST was the natural choice. I wanted to be in an environment that blended theory with real workshop experience, and MCAST did not disappoint.*

**DURING MY** time as a mechanical engineering student, I was most at home in the workshop. I especially fell in love with lathe and milling machines. The hands-on sessions were what made the learning come alive for me. But what truly made my MCAST experience unforgettable was the bond between students and lecturers. The support, guidance and encouragement I received from my tutors helped me develop not only as a student, but also as a person.

After graduating in mechanical engineering, I obtained my electrical licences and later pursued a master's degree in Engineering Management at Brunel University London, where I graduated with distinction. The confidence and skills I developed at MCAST gave me the drive to continue challenging myself and growing professionally.

Following my studies, I returned to Malta and resumed my role as a Maintenance Engineer with Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Limited. My job involved working on various machine-related projects, from enhancements and retrofits to safety upgrades. Thanks to the solid workshop foundation I received at MCAST, I was able to design, manufacture, and install everything required for my projects. The practical training I received had proven to be invaluable in industry.



# RYAN FALZON



ARTIST

AUTHOR

ART EDUCATOR

*I am Ryan Falzon, an award-winning visual artist, published author, and art educator. My journey in the arts began in 2007 when I enrolled at MCAST's Institute for the Creative Arts in Mosta. The first two years were rooted in exploration: I worked across various workshops in jewellery, clay, wood and metal, while also receiving solid grounding in drawing and art history. The lecturers were more than just teachers; they were practitioners, all-rounders who nurtured our development from every angle.*





IN 2009, I became part of the first cohort to enrol in MCAST's newly launched Fine Art course, which later evolved into the first Fine Art degree offered at the institution in collaboration with the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft Institute. This period marked a turning point for me. We were mentored by academics and artists from the Bauhaus and the Mannheim University of Applied Sciences. Their guidance shaped my identity as an artist. I was exposed to applied research, the professional role of the artist, and the entrepreneurial mindset needed to survive in this field. It broadened my perspective and gave me the discipline to take seriously painting, which it quickly emerged as my core medium and creative outlet.

After MCAST, I spent time working in Berlin, while maintaining a studio practice in Malta. Inspired by the MCAST spirit of collaboration and community, I co-founded the Xarolla Windmill Project in Żurrieq, a multidisciplinary platform for emerging artists rooted in the idea of shared space, community engagement and artistic development. In 2014, I was selected by Absolut Vodka for their global "Transform Today" campaign, representing Malta among a group of international creatives. I continued to build on the body of work I had started at MCAST, taking part in numerous solo and collective exhibitions both locally and internationally. My work is now held in public and private collections.

From 2016 to 2019, I presented a series of solo exhibitions, Quick Fix: A Morality Tale (2016), We Lost the War (2017), and Culture is Past, Art is Future (2018), which have become reference points in contemporary Maltese political and socially engaged art. Since 2020, my focus has shifted towards painting plants and gardens in domestic settings, exploring themes of biophilia and post-pandemic living. My work has been exhibited internationally at events such as Ostrale Biennale (Dresden, 2019, 2023, 2025) and WATERGATE: From Water to Land, From Land to Water (Rijeka European Capital of Culture, 2020), as well as the first edition of maltabiennale.art (2024).

Today, I continue working as a practising visual artist while also teaching at both secondary and post-secondary levels within the private sector.

Looking back, MCAST was essential in shaping my path and professionalising my practice. It offered hands-on experience, diverse approaches, and the kind of one-to-one mentorship that helped me develop both personally and artistically. It gave me a clear sense of identity and direction. Thanks to my qualification from MCAST, I was also able to continue my academic journey and pursue a Master of Arts in Fine Arts at the University of Malta.

Art, for me, is not just a career, it is a way of life. And MCAST played a key role in helping me carve that life out.

# ANTHONY DEBATTISTA

## HEAD OF CORPORATE

*My educational journey at MCAST began when I enrolled in the Health and Social Care Management degree. This course was a turning point in my life, equipping me not only with the clinical knowledge needed for the healthcare sector but also with invaluable insight into the administrative and managerial aspects of the industry.*

**DURING MY** time at MCAST, I gained a solid grounding in leadership, teamwork, and strategic thinking skills that have been crucial throughout my career. One of the most significant aspects of the course was the placement opportunity. I completed my placement with Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem, which later paved the way for my professional journey with them.

Soon after graduating, I started working as Coordinator of a Community Mental Health Facility within Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem. Through dedication and the strong foundation built at MCAST, I steadily climbed the organisational ladder, eventually serving as General Manager for ten years.

The degree in Health and Social Care Management played a vital role in my success. It prepared me to navigate both the human and operational sides of the healthcare sector effectively.

While working as General Manager, I furthered my studies and obtained a master's degree in Business and Administration, strengthening my leadership capabilities even more.

Today, I am proud to hold the position of Head of Corporate within the Richmond Foundation, where I oversee several departments, including Human Resources, Quality Assurance, Marketing and Communication, the Richmond Training Institute and EU Projects. I am also finalising my master's degree in Social Work at the University of Malta, continuing my commitment to personal and professional growth.

Looking back, I am deeply grateful for my time at MCAST. The course in Health and Social Care Management laid the groundwork for the person I have become today, giving me the confidence, skills and opportunities to build a fulfilling career dedicated to mental health and social care.





# ANTOINE CAMILLERI

SOFTWARE ENGINEER IN TEST





*Back in 2015, at the end of my secondary education, I began a new journey at MCAST by enrolling in the Level 2 Foundation Course in ICT at the MCAST Gozo Campus. I spent four years there, progressing step by step, from the Foundation Level to the Level 3 Diploma in ICT, and then completing the two-year Level 4 Advanced Diploma in IT (Multimedia Software Development). These formative years were instrumental in preparing me for the next stage of my studies: a three-year undergraduate programme in Multimedia Software Development at MCAST Paola in Malta.*

**ALTHOUGH** I considered other options before choosing ICT, I was ultimately drawn to the field by its breadth and the vast opportunities it offers. Continuous learning is essential in this sector, and I have always embraced the mindset of never being afraid to step out of my comfort zone and explore new challenges. This approach has been instrumental in helping me grow both academically and professionally.

During my course, I had the opportunity to take part in an apprenticeship programme. For a whole year, one day of my academic schedule was dedicated to gaining hands-on experience in a workplace related to my field of study. My role involved developing online services that allowed citizens to access specific government services.

These services were designed as end-to-end, paperless workflows, covering everything from the initial application stage through to service provisioning. My responsibilities included gathering user requirements, designing and implementing the services in line with government policies, and conducting both technical and user acceptance testing. The skills I gained proved invaluable when transitioning to a full-time role, giving me a strong foundation and a problem-solving mindset for real-world challenges.

After successfully completing my undergraduate programme in 2022 and concluding my journey at MCAST, I joined a software company specialising in cloud-based cybersecurity solutions. For almost two years, I worked as a Software Developer in Test,

where I enhanced the testing process by implementing backend automated tests using the .NET framework and developing frontend testing processes with Cypress.

Last year, I moved to another software company that focuses on delivering digital solutions and enterprise-level software applications tailored to clients' needs. In my current role as a Software Engineer in Test, I work within the QA team on multiple projects, ensuring our products meet the highest quality standards.

None of this would have been possible without the knowledge, skills, and competencies I acquired at MCAST. The institution played a pivotal role in helping me build confidence and develop both technical expertise and professional skills needed to succeed in the ICT sector. The balance between theoretical learning and practical, hands-on experience was instrumental to my growth. Beyond technical skills, MCAST also helped me strengthen essential personal skills such as communication and teamwork, which are equally vital in today's fast-paced industry.

To conclude, my advice to current and prospective students is to never be afraid to expose yourself to new experiences. Make the most of what MCAST offers, especially the hands-on opportunities. Challenge yourself, ask questions, and get involved. The world of ICT is constantly evolving, and that is a good thing. Always be ready to step out of your comfort zone and embrace growth.



# BINCY BABU

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

*My journey at MCAST began in 2020, when I enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Tourism and Events Management.*

**ONE OF** the most valuable aspects of my studies was the opportunity to develop essential soft skills, such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork and cultural awareness. As an international student, these skills were especially important in helping me adapt, grow and thrive both academically and personally.

After graduating, I embarked on my professional journey by securing a full-time role as a Receptionist at Hugo's Hotel. This position provided me with an excellent introduction to the hospitality industry and the world of work. It allowed me to strengthen my communication and organizational skills while working in a fast-paced and customer-focused environment. Collaborating closely with guests and colleagues also gave me invaluable experience in customer service and problem-solving.

Eager to take on new challenges and continue growing professionally, I later accepted the position of Administration Officer at the Malta College of Arts, Science, and Technology (MCAST). This position marked a significant step forward in my career, giving me the opportunity to apply my skills in a more administrative and organisational capacity, while contributing to the same institution that played a key role in my academic journey.

This path has not been without its challenges, particularly due to the impact of COVID-19 during my studies. However, overcoming these obstacles taught me a powerful lesson: never give up on your dreams. Despite the disruptions and uncertainty, I remained determined to complete my education, advance my career and support my family.

One day, I hope to share my story with my son and show him that no matter how difficult life may get, with clear goals, perseverance, and dedication, anything is possible.

# PIOEN MALLIA

## HAIRDRESSER

*Since I was in kindergarten, I knew I wanted to become a hairdresser. It was never just a passing interest, it was a dream that grew stronger with time. At 16, I took the first step towards making that dream a reality by enrolling at MCAST in the Hairdressing and Beauty Certificate course. Shortly after, I progressed to the Level 3 course, laying a solid foundation for the career I was so passionate about.*

**THREE YEARS** later, after completing an intensive two-year Level 4 programme, I proudly graduated from MCAST as a fully qualified hairdresser. The journey required dedication, perseverance and a willingness to constantly challenge myself.

During my studies, I gained hands-on experience in key hairdressing techniques, including cutting, colouring, bleaching, perming, straightening, and upstyling. We also developed skills in client consultation and hair and scalp analysis. Beyond the practical aspects, the course included theoretical subjects such as Human Resources, basic Accounting, Maltese, English, and Mathematics, essential knowledge for anyone aiming to work in or manage a salon successfully.

Some of the most memorable aspects of my training were the upstyling lessons during Level 4. I would completely lose myself in those sessions, especially when working on a fantasy

hairstyle project inspired by marine conservation. My design, which featured a fishing net intricately woven into the hairstyle, gained attention on local social media through Gwida. This was incredibly rewarding.

The highlight of my journey, however, was the final-year Hair Show, where we showcased everything we had learned over the years. The theme was divided into Order and Chaos. My class represented Chaos, and I dedicated five months to perfecting every detail of my creation. I designed both the hairstyle and the outfit for my model, Edera, who was also a 2025 Love Island participant.

Seeing my vision come to life on stage, and witnessing the audience's reactions, was an unforgettable moment. It marked not just the culmination of my studies, but also the realisation of a dream I had been nurturing since childhood.







# MONICA ATTARD

## LEARNING SUPPORT EDUCATOR

*My name is Monica Attard, and in 2024 I was one of the students who graduated from MCAST with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Inclusive Education. It all started back in 2021 when I took the decision to apply, as a mature student, for a three-year full-time Bachelor's degree course in this field at the MCAST Gozo Campus. It was a well-pondered decision and it was quite challenging, as I am a mother with a family to take care of.*

**DURING THE** three-year programme, I was exposed to different modules related to child development, supporting teaching practices, theories, strategies and methodologies that are vital for a learning support educator in training. What I appreciated most about the degree programme was that it provided me with a solid grasp of inclusiveness as well as how to foster and celebrate diversity. I also learnt to contemplate and envision my future job as a result of the hands-on experience that MCAST provides students through practice placements in schools, at primary, secondary and post-secondary level.

Completing my studies at MCAST in June 2024 was one of my greatest yet unexpected professional achievements and a significant milestone in my educational journey. On completion of my studies, I was deployed within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) as a newly recruited Learning Support Educator in a primary school.

I am honoured that the MCAST Gozo Campus administration

believed in my capabilities and allowed me to work with lecturers because, in spite of every challenge, their persistent commitment and support helped me to endure and achieve. I can say that I found all the support that I required from the academic, student support and administrative staff members of the Gozo Campus throughout my programme of studies.

Time management was also crucial to my academic success as it helped me strike a correct balance between my academic workload and my family's needs. I look back and cherish my time at the MCAST Gozo Campus. Joining MCAST was indeed a life-changing decision and an investment in my personal and professional development. I recommend all interested prospective students, possibly mothers who have raised or are still raising children like me, to consider the opportunities offered by MCAST. Believe in yourself, it is never too late to learn irrespective of your status or age. MCAST will help you achieve your dreams.



# PETER AQUILINA

INTERIOR DESIGNER





*I began my journey at MCAST in 2012 by enrolling in a Foundation Level 2 course. At the time, I was not entirely sure what path I wanted to take, whether to continue studying or to start working. I decided to give it a try, and I immediately fell in love with the subjects, especially Design.*

**THE FIRST** two years were a period of exploration, experimenting with different mediums and subjects that gradually helped me find direction for my future career. Design became the area where I could truly express my ideas and vision. It was where I felt most comfortable and inspired, and it became clear that this was the field I wanted to pursue.

As I progressed to the Level 4 Diploma, MCAST provided me with the opportunity to dive deeper into design philosophy and to draw inspiration from my surroundings. This stage came with its fair share of challenges but these experiences taught me discipline and helped me develop strong organisational skills that have stayed with me to this day.

Over the past seven years, my studies have allowed me to explore a wide range of mediums and techniques, helping me discover the areas I am most passionate about. My work has always been closely connected to lifelong interests: cars, boats and interior design. These passions have shaped my creativity and the unique identity I bring to every project, giving my work both personal meaning and a clear vision.

Since my father owns a boat company, I have been fortunate to be able to dedicate myself to designing and building boats from scratch. The technical skills and software knowledge I gained at MCAST have become essential tools in my professional life. Working with clients has also reinforced the importance of structure and deadlines, something I learned to manage during my studies. Of course, projects do not always go as planned, and some take longer than expected, but each challenge has been an opportunity to grow.

Throughout my time at MCAST, many assignments involved

group work. I often found myself taking on the role of team leader, coordinating tasks and ensuring everyone could focus on their strengths. I have always believed in encouraging others to experiment and share ideas openly. Collaboration and discussion are, in my view, vital to unlocking the full potential of any project. One of the biggest challenges I faced was learning to trust my teammates, but by building shared values and motivation, I developed stronger determination and essential leadership skills.

My creative thinking also evolved significantly thanks to the incredible mentors I had at MCAST. They constantly challenged my ideas, pushing me to refine my concepts and make them more practical and achievable within tight deadlines. This helped me become much better at visualising and communicating my designs clearly, a skill that has been especially useful when working on boat and interior design projects, particularly when proposing solutions to clients.

To current and prospective MCAST students, I encourage you never to miss an opportunity. If you get the chance to take part in an Erasmus exchange, go for it, it is a life-changing experience that builds independence, broadens your cultural perspective, and may even lead to collaborations or job opportunities abroad.

Finally, consider creating an online portfolio. It's one of the most powerful tools you can have as a designer, giving you visibility and opening doors to opportunities you might not expect. The world is more connected than ever, and sharing your work online can lead to exciting collaborations. Be open to exploring new possibilities, you never know which one might lead to your next big breakthrough.

# ANDRÉ GRECH

## LEAD SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

*When I first joined MCAST, I was sceptical about the course I had chosen and even doubted my decision to enrol at the institution. However, during my five years of study, that perception completely changed. MCAST provided me not only with solid academic foundations but also with the skills, mindset, and opportunities that shaped my professional journey.*

**I STARTED** my studies at MCAST at Level 4 in Software Development. At this stage, I was introduced to the fundamental concepts of programming, databases, and problem-solving techniques. The hands-on approach allowed me to immediately apply theory to practice, which helped me understand the real-world use of software solutions.

One of MCAST's greatest strengths was its ability to keep courses relevant to the current industry. The institution constantly aligned its teaching with best industry practices, tools, and approaches, ensuring that students were well-prepared for the realities of the workplace.

As I progressed to higher levels, the learning experience became more challenging but also far more rewarding. During this time, I developed strong technical expertise across several key areas, including software development, where I gained hands-on experience in building, testing, and maintaining applications; database management, which involved designing and managing data-driven systems; and web development, where I focused on creating functional, user-friendly websites. Additionally, I strengthened my skills in project management and teamwork, learning how to plan effectively, collaborate with others, and deliver projects within strict deadlines.

Beyond technical skills, MCAST also contributed significantly to my personal and professional growth. I learned how to communicate effectively, manage time, and approach challenges with a problem-solving mindset. Group projects and presentations gave me confidence in expressing my ideas, while internships and practical assignments helped me connect academic learning with industry expectations.

After completing my studies, I proudly graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development. Today, I work at one of the leading companies in digital and software development, where I collaborate with a talented team of professionals. Over the past six years, I have grown within the industry and currently lead a software development team. This role allows me to put into practice both the technical expertise and leadership skills that MCAST helped me develop.

Looking back, what began with doubt has transformed into a journey of growth, achievement, and opportunity. MCAST was instrumental in shaping my career path, giving me the knowledge, tools, and confidence to succeed. My story is proof that with the right mindset, guidance, and education, uncertainty can be turned into success.







# CARLY BUTTIGIEG

## GENERAL BANKING SPECIALIST

*My educational journey at MCAST began with a strong interest in finance and a desire to build a career in the banking sector. Enrolling in the Advanced Diploma in Banking and Financial Services at the MCAST Gozo Campus, provided me with the opportunity to develop a solid grounding in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline. The programme combined academic knowledge with applied learning, allowing me to acquire key skills in financial management, banking operations, and banking practices, all of which remain relevant to my career today.*

**ONE OF** the most valuable aspects of my studies was the practical exposure throughout the course, where I landed an apprenticeship with APS Bank. This opportunity allowed me to put into practice what I was learning in the lecture room. I gained valuable insights into how banks operate on a daily basis, improved my communication and teamwork skills, and learned the importance of accuracy and responsibility in handling financial tasks. I was able to gain first-hand insight into the operations of the financial sector, strengthen my problem-solving abilities, and develop essential workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, and attention to detail.

Upon graduating from MCAST with my Advanced Diploma around four years ago, I transitioned seamlessly into full-time employment with APS Bank. Since then, I have continued to grow within the organisation, taking on increasing responsibilities and contributing to the success of the bank. Looking back, I can confidently say that MCAST played a key role in shaping my career by providing me with the right skills and connecting me with industry opportunities.

To current and future students, my advice is to make the most of every opportunity during your time at MCAST. Engage with your lecturers, participate actively in projects, and take your apprenticeship seriously—it could be the stepping stone to your future career. With dedication and the solid foundation provided by MCAST, you can confidently move into the world of work and continue to grow professionally.

# NEIL MANGION

TECHNICIAN



*My journey at MCAST began with a Foundation course in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. At just 16 years old, with no major responsibilities, I never imagined that one day I would successfully complete a Higher National Diploma (HND) in the same field. However, step by step, I progressed through the Foundation and First Diploma courses, eventually reaching the National Diploma level. This stage of my studies provided exciting opportunities, including my first real exposure to the working world through an apprenticeship. This experience was instrumental in shaping the way I think, helping me to set clear goals and understand what I truly wanted to achieve in life.*

**DURING MY** time at MCAST, two aspects stood out as the most significant. First and foremost were the hands-on learning experiences offered during lectures. From practical workshops and learning how to use specialized tools, to lab experiments and electrical testing, these sessions provided valuable, real-world skills. The second key factor was the apprenticeship itself, which opened doors to countless career opportunities and gave me a strong start in the industry. I must also acknowledge the dedication of the lecturers at MCAST, who were always ready to guide and support us, playing a crucial role in our success. Equally important were the friendships and connections I built during my studies, relationships that have continued to enrich my personal and professional journey long after graduation.

The skills and knowledge I gained at MCAST have proven invaluable in my career, and I continue to apply them daily. Thirteen years later, I have been fortunate to experience

different roles and opportunities, all stemming from the foundation I built at MCAST. Today, I work as a Technician at R3Vox, specialising in underwater sonar equipment. My responsibilities include assembling products, performing quality checks, conducting final equipment tests, and troubleshooting any issues encountered during the testing process. Much like MCAST, R3Vox invests heavily in its employees, providing continuous internal training and opportunities to further develop our expertise.

Looking back, I can confidently say that my experience at MCAST was instrumental in shaping both my career and my life. It not only fuelled my passion for my field but also gave me the vision and discipline needed to achieve high professional standards. Ultimately, it has allowed me to provide a good quality of life for myself and my family, something I am deeply grateful for.



# AALIYAH ZAHRA

KINDERGARTEN EDUCATOR





*My name is Aaliyah Zahra, I am 23 years old, and I have had a passion for teaching for as long as I can remember. From a very young age, I knew that I wanted to work with children and play a role in their learning and development journey.*

**IN 2020**, I took the first step towards turning that passion into a profession by enrolling in the Advanced Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development at MCAST. That decision marked the beginning of a meaningful and transformative journey.

After completing my Diploma, I continued my studies by enrolling in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Years at MCAST. In 2025, I proudly achieved one of my lifelong goals, graduating with my degree after years of hard work and dedication.

However, the final year of my studies was far from easy. Like many of my classmates, I faced unexpected challenges due to the industrial directives issued in late 2024, which caused much of our academic progress to come to a sudden standstill. Communication, feedback, examinations and assignment deadlines were all delayed, leaving us in a state of uncertainty. It was a frustrating and stressful time, as many of us were unsure how or when we would be able to complete our studies.

Thankfully, in February 2025, MCAST, in collaboration with the Student Council and the Malta Union of Teachers, issued a circular that brought much-needed clarity and relief. It addressed the delays caused by the directives and provided a clear plan for assignment submissions, teaching practice evaluations, and dissertation deadlines. Most importantly, it gave us the chance to still graduate in 2025, something I had worked tirelessly for and was not ready to give up on.

With renewed focus and the support of our lecturers, I pushed forward. Despite the challenges, we adapted. I remained committed to my goals, leaning on the resilience I had built throughout my journey.

One of the highlights of my time at MCAST was the teaching

practices carried out over all three years of the degree.

These placements were far more than just opportunities to apply what we learned in class. They were transformative experiences that allowed me to gain real, hands-on practice working with children in different early years settings. Each placement helped me grow, strengthened my confidence, and confirmed that this was exactly where I was meant to be.

Throughout my studies, I was fortunate to be surrounded by passionate and supportive lecturers whose guidance and dedication made a lasting impact on me. Even during uncertain times, they remained approachable and committed to seeing us succeed. They understood our struggles and worked tirelessly to give us the tools, feedback and encouragement we needed to reach the finishing line.

Early Years education is not just a career for me, it is my calling. I find genuine joy in working with young children, supporting their growth, and witnessing their development through play, creativity, and exploration. There is something incredibly rewarding about being part of a child's first steps into learning, a privilege I hold with great pride.

The friendships and collaborations I formed at MCAST were also an important part of my journey. Working on assignments together, brainstorming creative teaching strategies, and overcoming challenges as a group, made the experience even more meaningful. My classmates and I inspired each other, shared knowledge, and celebrated milestones side by side.

Now that I have completed my degree, I am excited to begin my career in a kindergarten setting. This next chapter is something I have looked forward to for years. I feel well-prepared and enthusiastic to put my knowledge into practice





and start making a difference in the classroom. I know there will be challenges ahead, but I am ready to face them with passion, dedication, and an open heart.

Looking to the future, I plan to continue my professional growth by pursuing a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. I strongly believe in lifelong learning and want to keep expanding my skills and expertise to give even more to the children I will work with in the years to come.

To anyone considering a career in Early Years education, my message is this: if you have the passion, follow it. This field

demands patience, creativity, and dedication, but the reward of seeing a child smile, learn, and feel safe because of your presence is truly priceless.

I am deeply grateful to MCAST for shaping me into the educator I am today. This institution provided me not only with academic knowledge but also with unforgettable experiences and lifelong memories. As I close this chapter, I do so with immense pride and gratitude—ready to embrace the journey ahead and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children.

# MATTIAS BORG

## STUDENT PILOT

*My journey with MCAST began when I enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance (Avionics) course. Aviation has always fascinated me, and I wanted to understand not only how to fly aircraft but also how they function at their core. In my second year, while continuing my studies at MCAST, I also began my pilot training course. I strongly believed that combining these two paths would help me become both a better pilot and a more well-rounded aviation professional.*

**ONE OF** the highlights of my time at MCAST was the opportunity to represent the College at two major international aviation conferences: MACE (Malta Aviation Conference & Expo) in Malta and EBACE (European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition) in Geneva. These experiences were transformative. They allowed me to meet and network with leading figures in the aviation industry and opened my eyes to the world of business aviation. It was during these opportunities that my passion for this dynamic sector truly grew.

After completing my avionics course, I continued my academic journey with a Level 5 Undergraduate Diploma in Foundations of Engineering at MCAST. At the same time, I began working with DC Aviation Malta while pursuing my Private Pilot Licence (PPL). Balancing studies, work, and flight training was challenging, but it pushed me to grow both personally and professionally.

Today, I am proud to be working with DC Aviation Malta while studying for my Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). What started as a student's dream has become a career path where passion and hard work go hand in hand. Looking ahead, my greatest ambition is to continue progressing as a pilot and one day fly in the business aviation sector, combining the skills I have gained with my passion for this industry.

Looking back, MCAST was not just a place where I studied—it was the launchpad that gave me the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to grow. I would like to give a special thanks to the MCAST Aviation Department for their guidance and support, and I hope my story inspires current and future students to dream big, embrace every opportunity, and never stop striving for their goals.









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