

ISSUE 62

27
Students
tell us about their
MCAST experience

MCAST LINK

Success Stories





contents

MCASTlink is produced by the
MCAST Communications Office.

Produced and Edited

Caroline Balzan
Communications and PR Manager

Design

Fullphat Media

Print

PrintIt

Proofreading

Joyce Hili

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

+356 2398 7200 | +356 9988 4914
mcast.edu.mt

Follow us



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL & CEO	3
AMNAH KHAN	5
CHRISTINE FARRUGIA	7
MATTHEW DALLI	9
AIDEN CATANIA BORG	11
MAJA THEUMA	13
JANICE VELLA	15
ANDREW ZARB	17
FRANCESCA CREMONA	19
KELLY GALEA	21
OWEN LEE CALLEJA	23
NINA CAMILLERI	25
JONATHAN ATTARD	27
WAYNE CUTAJAR	29
ALISON GRECH	31
MATTHEW LASPINA	33
CARMEN DEBATTISTA	35
CHRISTINE GATT	37
JOSEF SPITERI	39
MARIA PIA SALIBA	41
VALERIE CUTAJAR	43
ZVETLANA BAJADA	45
JORDAN DEBONO	47
TESMARIE BUSUTTIL	49
JOCELYN CAMENZULI	51
LEANNE SAID	53
MARIA MERCIIECA	55
EMMA BORG	57



Message from the Principal & CEO

PROFESSOR JOACHIM JAMES CALLEJA

The MCAST Graduation Ceremonies 2022 celebrate the achievements of all those students whose dedication, commitment, and perseverance are summed up in this edition of their SUCCESS STORIES. The following testimonials shed light on the various vocational sectors that are offered through the full-time and part-time courses by the six MCAST Institutes and the Gozo Campus. The true significance of these narrations discloses the support which MCAST Administration, Lecturers, and all other staff provide our community members to achieve their goals in their career journey.

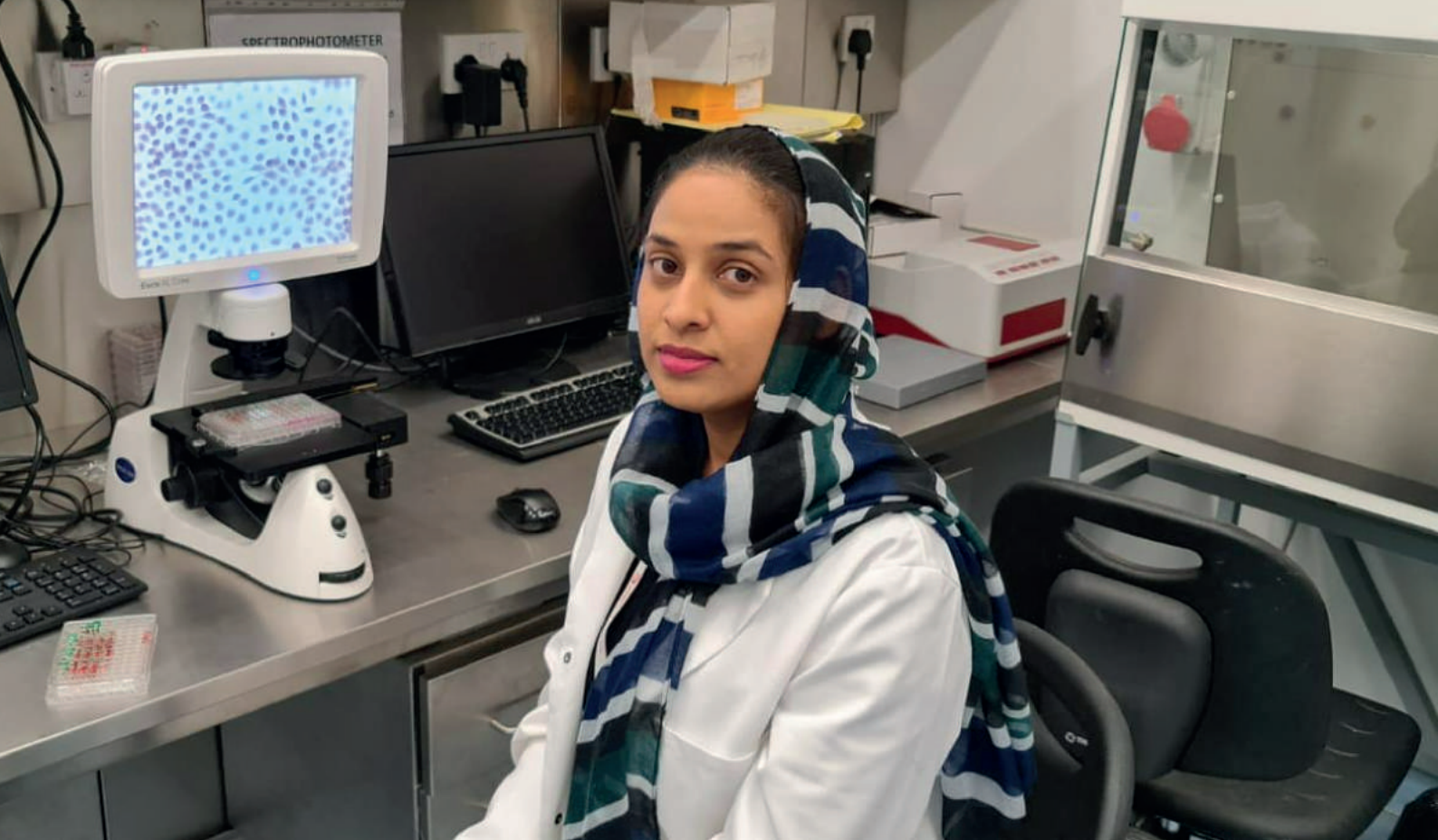
This publication captures success stories that reflect the looked-for transition of dreams to success stories. These became possible mainly due to the ongoing support systems at MCAST for all the student cohorts, where inclusion plays a major role in the provision of individual attention for students with different backgrounds from all sectors of society. One must highlight the overarching positive impact of these experiences on the local labour market.

More than ever before, MCAST strives to ensure that its curriculum across all its eight levels is made to fit its purpose, namely, to equip all learners with the skills required by industry in a rapidly changing technological environment. While the student is always kept at the center of the lecturing-learning dialogue taking place in our College lecture rooms, workshops, and laboratories, MCAST enhances such critical nurturing of the future local workforce through its invaluable contacts with industry. Employers retain

a central role in enhancing our students' successful participation in the labour market through their valid contribution in sharing with us their expertise, and their engagement in apprenticeships and work-based learning experiences of MCAST's learning community.

The subsequent pages of this publication manifest the worth and the great opportunities our students have succeeded to acquire as part of their stay at MCAST. Indeed, time proved that their determination and openness to the paths they have chosen in the vocational sector have yielded amazing results. My role as MCAST's Principal and CEO continues to be inspired by these SUCCESS STORIES, while acknowledging the great contribution of my administration colleagues and the MCAST staff engaged in our academic and training sectors across our six MCAST Institutes, as well as all the support staff.

The MCAST Prospectus 2022 further confirms our College commitment to enhance similar and better success stories for the years to come.



Amnah Khan

BONE CANCER RESEARCHER

I gained my higher education from MCAST and I am proud to be the first student to progress to the Master's Programme on Bone Cancer Research at the University of Malta.

I have always had a passion for learning and

my love for Science has fuelled this more and more. The Bachelor degree course I pursued at MCAST was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the subjects I enjoy so much. My lecturers interest in my progress as well as their helpful nature ensured that I remained focussed on my studies.

It promoted my learning, and as a result, I was able to successfully complete my Bachelor's Degree. In the course of my degree, I gained a variety of learning skills that helped me succeed in my studies. Key were communication skills such as active listening, writing, speaking, team work and empathy.

As a lover of Science and all things health-related, I have now obtained admission at the University of Malta to read for a MSC. Due to my interest in public health promotion and disease prevention, I have chose to pursue my studies in Bone Cancer Research. My professors at MCAST and the University of Malta have always focussed on continuous excellence in teaching and instruction. They convinced my cohort and helped us all to gain up-to-date knowledge in the field through professional development including involvement in professional organisations, meetings, conferences and workshops.

A co-operative learning atmosphere, comprising academic and social learning experiences within the classroom was a key to my success. I was taught to complete all important tasks working towards a common goal. This experience of co-operative learning promoted positive interpersonal relations and instilled a motivation to learn and enhance my confidence as a Researcher for Bone Cancer.

My lecturers always offered me effective feedback and reinforcement with positive encouragement. They acted as role models and motivated me to build my

skills and confidence levels. They were always supporting and helped me in learn good communication, effective listening, collaboration, adaptability, empathy and patience. My experience during my education was based on an engaging classroom presence, value in real-world learning, exchange of best practices and a lifelong love of learning. I was able to perform and fill various roles.

My lecturers have had a profound impact on my life as well as my education. I always felt motivated and encouraged to increase my confidence. They always inspired me and made me feel that everything I wanted was within reach. They not only provided a long-term vision but also helped fuel my short-term motivation.

My continuous growth and improvement was thanks to my talented and effective lecturers, as they played a crucial role in shaping my future and empowered me to pursue all my positive dreams and achieve my goals.

Being a Bone Cancer Researcher, I want to continue the proud tradition of contributing to global improvement in bone cancer outcomes and to explore other areas to increase my knowledge. Being a scientist, I can do amazing things for the sustainable development of society and the world. I owe my success to having listened and by paying attention to the very best advice of my lecturers at MCAST.

Christine Farrugia

CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGIST

I have always imagined myself working in a hospital environment. The feeling of helping those in need has always interested me and it is this feeling that motivated me to further my knowledge and read for a health-related degree.

I have studied Biology and Maltese at 'A' Level and Chemistry, Physics and Religion at Intermediate Level. These subjects have also paved my way towards my chosen degree and my career in healthcare.

In 2019, I came across the very attractive MCAST Prospectus. After considering all the possible options, with the help of the MCAST Guidance Services I opted for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Health Sciences (Physiological Measurements).

This course was spread over three years. MCAST works hand in hand with Mater Dei Hospital, which gives the student an opportunity to carry out several hours of practice in a clinical setting. Such experience gives the student a good hands-on approach and the ability to link theory to practice.



SPTAR

MATI

DEI



During this three-year course, I have learnt how to carry out the measurement and imaging of the human body's physiological activity. I was also able to team up with various other health professionals and provide the diagnostic information. This is vital to the medical profession in the treatment of several medical conditions. This strengthened my communication skills and provided me the opportunity to work more effectively in a multidisciplinary team. The course led me to a professional qualification required to work as a clinical physiologist in the area of Clinical Physiology. I had the opportunity to carry out around 260 hours of clinical practice at Mater Dei Hospital and Gozo General Hospital, along with several more hours of theoretical work.

I graduated with first class honours and I am currently working as a Clinical Physiologist at Mater Dei Hospital. I would like to continue my studies by reading for a Master of Science degree in Professional Health Practice.

My time at MCAST was truly an enriching experience through which I developed both personally and professionally. I will cherish those three years spent at this College and I am forever grateful to the MCAST staff for all their guidance and support.



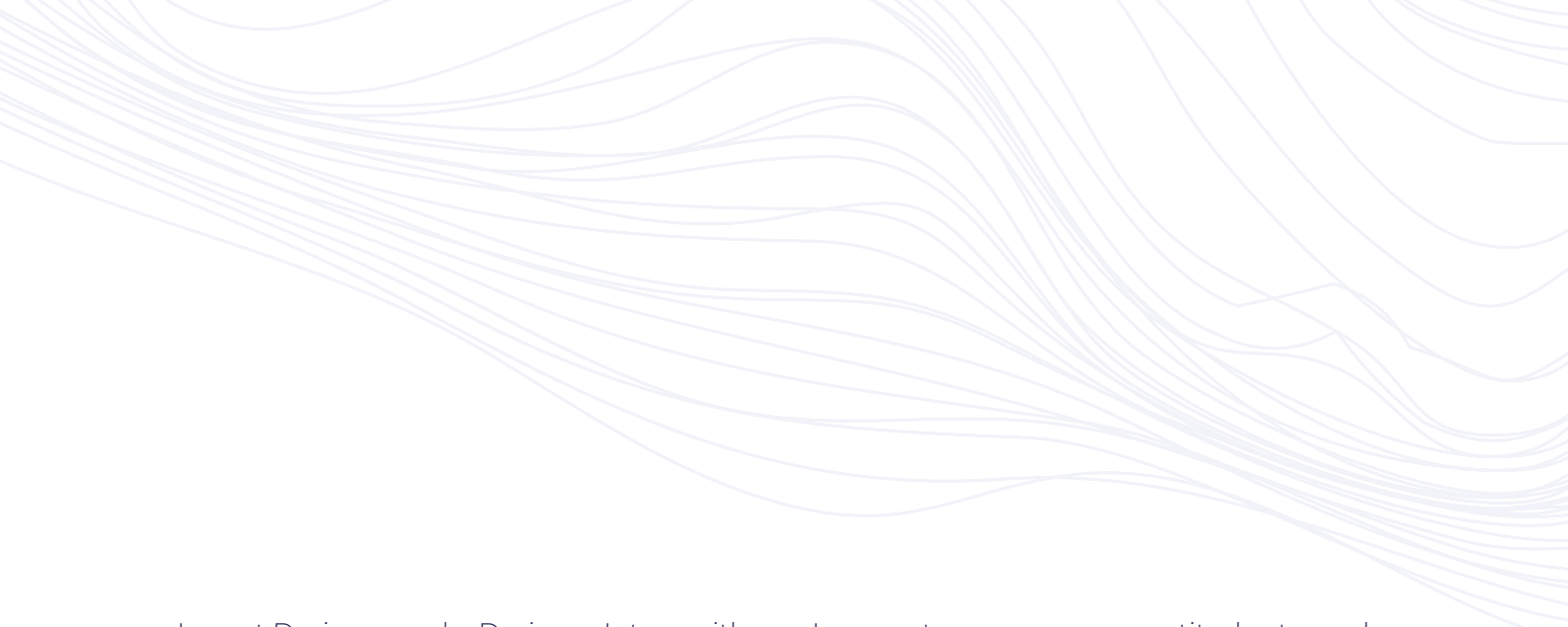
Matthew Dalli

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER

I am a 22-year-old Industrial Designer working at Hetronic Malta, within Methode Electronics. I specialise in the ergonomic and stylistic development of industrial electronics such as radio remote controls. I am now responsible for the design, prototyping and A-surface modelling of new products.

I commenced my journey at MCAST in 2016 reading for a one-year course namely the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. At that time, my aim was to graduate as an Aviation Mechanic. However, I lacked motivation and I realised that this career path would not satisfy my need to create, design and develop ideas. I felt that I craved something more and wanted to achieve my childhood dream of ultimately becoming an Automotive Designer.

Once I had successfully completed the course in Mechanical Engineering, I shifted to the Institute for the Creative Arts to pursue a career in Product Design. I first read for the Advanced Diploma in Art and Design which introduced me to the very basic design concepts. While studying I had the opportunity of working in design-related environments. These included Concept Designer for light aircrafts, Kitchen



Layout Designer and a Designer Intern with Toly Products. These experiences were very fruitful and helped me a lot in my course especially when carrying out the Product Design unit.

In 2018 I started a new job as a Design Intern. The experience of putting into practice what is learnt in class was, and still is, phenomenal. It is a self-igniting flame of continuous motivation and fulfilment.

During the course, the design process was taught in detail from conceptualisation, till production and testing. Ideas were birthed through research, expressed through sketching, developed in CAD, materialised and tested with technologies like 3D printing. The design concepts are perfected through different opinions and criticism.

I cannot express my gratitude towards those who have guided me over the past six years. Becoming the designer I am today, producing works of quality and international standard, cannot be achieved alone.

My advice to any budding student pursuing a career in the design industry is to stay motivated, meet people and expand your vocational network. Never stop asking why and how, do not settle for your current abilities, and always strive for perfection.

Being a designer is so much more than making things pretty and comfortable. A designer has the power and responsibility of changing tomorrow.



Aiden Catania Borg

HR EXECUTIVE

Just like most students, after attaining my 'O' Levels, I was uncertain on whether to proceed with my studies at Junior College or MCAST.

Being an ambitious person who wanted to quickly progress into the world of business, I enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Business Administration. Throughout the two years, I gained basic knowledge of different business sectors including Human Resources, Marketing, Accounts, Business Communication and Entrepreneurship to mention a few.

The course allowed me to carry out an apprenticeship placement with STMicroelectronics Kirkop as an HR Assistant. This position gave me the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in a business sector which I am so passionate about.

MCAST provided me with the opportunity to work abroad. As part of the Erasmus+ programme, I was chosen to travel to France and work at STMicroelectronics Rousset, where I had the opportunity to benchmark both manufacturing sites and present my findings to the management of STMicroelectronics in Kirkop.

Such an experience allowed me to enhance my knowledge in the recruitment and selection sector by observing different perspectives and ideas from both manufacturing sites.

I further advanced my studies and enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Enterprise. This course provided me with a deeper understanding of the previously mentioned business sectors and others including Strategic Management,

Operations Management, Statistics and Business Data, and International Business to mention a few.

Following the internship at STMicroelectronics, I took the initiative to find a part-time job to continue gaining work experience. Although such exposure was crucial for me, I had to find an employer that would allow me to work flexibly to be able to dedicate the necessary time to school-related matters, and eventually, I was hired by KPMG as a Business Unit Administrator.

Following the completion of the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Enterprise, I was given the opportunity to work as an HR Executive at KPMG, which served as a huge stepping stone towards my career objective. This would not have been possible to achieve without a strong will to complete MCAST's challenging, yet informative course. The course allows one to identify one's strengths and weaknesses, especially when conducting group assignments. In fact, I developed traits which I previously was unaware of including leadership and teamwork traits. While working on group assignments, I used to automatically take a leadership role by identifying my team's skills, organizing, and delegating accordingly.

I was awarded the highest overall mark in the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Enterprise 2019-2022. This course is not for the faint-hearted as one must be ready to invest a substantial amount of time to do well. In doing so, one would be rewarded personally, academically and professionally. Ultimately, MCAST offers an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to pursue a career in management and develop one's professional skills.

Maja Theuma

SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR AND NATIONAL PARALYMPIC SWIMMER

My interest in business, design and sport started at a very young age. I used to spend long hours playing as a pretend shop owner and designing houses, which led to my career path in Marketing and Business.

After obtaining my 'A' Levels, I was drawn to MCAST's Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Enterprise. This degree is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of business-related information, ranging from business start-up do's and don'ts to Managing Business Operations, Finance, Marketing, and Human Resources.

Today, I am the Sales and Marketing Coordinator of a firm where I create, design, and manage all the material related to marketing and sales. The wide range of subjects studied whilst reading for my degree has helped me at work as I am now applying what I have studied.

I am also a National Paralympic Swimmer and a Para-Athletes Representative with the Maltese Paralympic Committee. Swimming has provided me with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as representing Malta at the World Para Swimming Championships and competing against the best athletes in the world.

Fortunately, MCAST lecturers and staff have always been very supportive of my aims and dreams and provided me with the necessary support especially during the examination period. This has greatly aided me in pursuing my swimming and academic education simultaneously, making the competitive and academic stress more manageable. With the right balance, sports and studies can be a winning combination.





Janice Vella

LEARNING SUPPORT EDUCATOR

As I have progressed through life, I have understood that a story has the power to change a person. I am a former MCAST student with a degree in Inclusive Education. I hope my story can also inspire you. My adventure at MCAST began in 2015, following the completion of my secondary education studies.

After completing secondary school, I had a difficult time since I did not perform well in my 'O' Levels. I felt like I had failed myself. I had always wanted to work in education and thankfully I had the support of my family, which helped me find my way. MCAST was there for me, providing me with the future I had always wanted and the finest times of my life as a student for seven years.

I have read for a number of courses for me to get to where I am now. The first course I completed at MCAST was the Foundation in Health and Social Care, after which I went on to complete the Diploma in Health and Social Care. I later read for the Advanced Diploma in Children's Learning, Care and Development, followed by the Degree in Inclusive Education. The lecturers and my Institute Director at MCAST have always



been supportive and encouraging. They gave me the confidence I needed and made me feel like I was in a second home.

My grades at MCAST improved dramatically and I completed all of my classes satisfactorily. At MCAST the lecturers identified my difficulties and transformed them into opportunities. I was never alone, and if I needed extra assistance, I could get it from the Learning Support Unit. MCAST also prepared me to do my best at work by providing work placements in a variety of schools, childcare facilities, hospitals and health centres. Every placement was significant since the College provided me with the chance to improve my abilities and as a result I now feel more experienced and confident.

The College also cared for my well-being, which is where success begins. I shall be eternally thankful to this College for bringing me so much joy, success, satisfaction and career fulfilment.

Now that I am qualified, I am delighted to be working at MCAST in the Learning Support Unit. I chose MCAST as I would like to give back what I received and ensure that my students go through the same positive journey that I have experienced. Working at MCAST has always been a dream of mine and I am so happy this became a reality.

I will end my article by saying: Never give up, no matter how long you take, and believe in yourself!

Andrew Zarb

TECHNICAL SALES OFFICER

I always showed a great interest in Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Electronic Controls and Microprocessor Systems. Driven by this passion, I applied for the Advanced Diploma in Electrical Systems at the MCAST Gozo Campus, with the intent of subsequently progressing to the Bachelor in Engineering degree in Electronics Control.

My experience at the MCAST Gozo Campus was a very positive one. The course was apprentice-based and during my first year I had the opportunity to join Merit Malta Ltd. Through this apprenticeship, I learnt a variety of skills such as machine troubleshooting, control panel design, PLC programming as well as many soft skills.

On the successful completion of the course, I was offered a full-time post as an Electrical Maintenance Technician within the company. After one year in this position I was then offered a position of higher responsibility working as a Production Overseer. I was responsible for ensuring the smooth, continuous running of the production line and to immediately tackle and solve any issues that would crop up.

After some time I was promoted to the company's Sales Department. This role is very different yet very important and still within the company's core business. I now deal with large clients such as Daimler Porsche and Bosch, where I discuss their technical requirements and make sure that the products meet their requirements. I am proud to say that I have climbed the company ladder in a relatively short time since completing my studies at MCAST.

I have been able to adapt, learn and overcome challenges in the working world. This is thanks to MCAST, where training not only focused on the technical aspects of Electrical Engineering Technology, but was complemented by study units that focus on soft skills.

The ability of acquiring information, understanding it, analysing it and taking decisions is something that I believe to be essential. MCAST helped me in honing these skills and in doing so, it has opened many windows of opportunity for me to progress in my professional career.



Francesca Cremona

SECURITIES OFFICER



In 2017, I decided to enrol for the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services. I was attracted to MCAST due to the Apprenticeship Scheme and the great opportunity to work while studying.

I was given the chance to join Sparkasse Bank Malta as an apprentice. Due to this system I could better understand the concepts learnt in class and easily apply them at my workplace.

I cannot fail to mention the Erasmus+ Programme which I had the privilege to participate in on two occasions. These international experiences helped me become more independent and provided me with work exposure outside of Malta. They were both very enriching experiences that I will cherish forever.

My MCAST lecturers also guided me to further my studies and encouraged me to read for a degree in Financial Services. I continued to learn in greater depth what the world of finance entails. Throughout those three years I carried out further work placements at Sparkasse Bank Malta within the Account Administration and Records Department. I executed more challenging tasks in order to enhance my knowledge further. After completing the degree, I was offered a full-time job as a Securities Officer within the bank.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our learning experience especially when we had to shift to remote learning MCAST adjusted with immediate effect. Well done to MCAST for this.

My experience at MCAST was a gratifying one. I would be lying if I said that it was always plain sailing as there were moments that I personally found quite challenging. Yet one of my proudest moments was receiving the award for 'Best Dissertation' and also placing second overall in the course. An important lesson I learnt along the way was to always try and surround oneself with people who are encouraging and also proud of your successes.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank MCAST for guiding me towards the right direction especially during challenging moments and also for presenting me with wonderful opportunities throughout these five years. I would never have imagined that I would be able to get to where I am today, but with constant perseverance, dedication and sacrifice I succeeded.

A last point I would like to make is that no one prepares you for the transition between student life and professional life, but I believe that MCAST definitely gave me a good headstart due to the many opportunities I was given. The College also helped me build better soft skills and become more confident in what I do and for that I am forever grateful.



Kelly Galea

HEALTH INSPECTOR

My journey at MCAST began after completing my secondary education, when I was still undecided about what to do next. I decided to have a look at the MCAST Prospectus for full-time courses and came across the Advanced Diploma in Food Technology which intrigued me the most.

I opted for this course due to my inclination towards the food industry and food hygiene. MCAST was ideal as it does not only provide its students with a theoretical background in their studies, but also ensures that they are ready for the place of work. During the two-year course I gained industrial knowledge and insights into different relevant tools and skills through several work placements coordinated by MCAST. I have also learnt about the safety and quality standards required during and after manufacturing consumables.

After completing my Diploma, I was very eager to further my studies in this field. Thus, I decided to enrol in the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Environmental Health.

Thanks to MCAST, I now have the tools required to pursue my dream career and become an Environmental Health Officer. My journey at MCAST was a successful one from the very beginning. Even though I was studying during the COVID-19 pandemic, I still successfully completed my course thanks to the dedication of the highly talented lecturers and the use of e-learning. It was not an easy journey, yet with a lot of hard work and dedication, it was a fruitful experience.

I would like to sincerely thank the lecturing and administrative staff at the MCAST Institute of Applied Sciences for providing me with valuable knowledge and skills to achieve my goals.

Owen Lee Calleja

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

The earth sciences, Physics and Biology have always intrigued me. After finishing my secondary education, I enrolled in the MCAST Advanced Diploma in Environmental Sustainability and afterwards progressed and read for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Environmental Engineering.

Other higher educational institutions offered similar courses, however not quite like this bachelor's degree, which amalgamated the earth sciences with Physics, Chemistry and Biology and other subjects such as Project Management, Entrepreneurship and Programming, amongst other academic subjects. This broad range of subjects, coupled with the knowledge, experience and expertise of the lecturers has equipped me with the required skills, competences and knowledge to seek employment and/or further my studies both locally and abroad.

My journey at MCAST has been enjoyable, fulfilling and memorable, living up to and in some cases exceeding my expectations. Several networking opportunities including conferences held at the Institute of Applied Sciences, the yearly work placements and the opportunity to study abroad through the ERASMUS+ Programme, have also improved my prospects for employability. These experiences have also given me

insight into the working environment within the environmental sector, as well as the experience of a different academic environment in a foreign university, which had both similar and different environmental issues and concerns.

Albeit a challenging and demanding course, all lecturers and staff at the Institute of Applied Sciences have been impeccable in conveying their decades of combined knowledge and experiences to us students, ensuring the best possible method of delivery in the most interactive, inclusive and down-to-earth way to help us achieve our goals.

This course has equipped me with and improved my multidisciplinary skills in critical thinking, academic and report writing, presenting and research. I have achieved an MQF Level 6 qualification, which will undoubtedly increase my competitive edge and prospects for employability in the future.





Nina Camilleri

PROCESS SUPPORT ASSOCIATE

A number of family members have worked in various science-related fields and this enticed me to also work in this exciting industry. I wanted to follow in their footsteps so I chose Chemistry and Biology at an 'A' Level.

When looking at post-secondary study options, I came across the MCAST Prospectus and quickly realised that MCAST offered a wide variety of courses which could open different doors within the science field. I first opted for the Advanced Diploma in Applied Sciences, which then led me to the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chemical Technology.

While studying at MCAST I had the opportunity to work within the science industry, firstly as an apprentice for two years whilst reading for my Advanced Diploma and later on during my Degree. The apprenticeships and the placements were both carried out at Foster Clark Products Ltd. This experience has not only broadened my academic knowledge but also aided my personal growth. Working in industry while also carrying out my studies helped me apply what I was being taught at College to what was actually being carried out in the work environment.

Now that I have completed my Bachelor in Science (Hons) in Chemical Technology, I have signed a full-time contract with Foster Clark Products Ltd as a Process Support Associate.

My journey started with the Advanced Diploma and today I have grown not only within the company but also on a personal level.

Jonathan Attard

SUPPORT ENGINEER

From a young age I was already very intrigued about Engineering. I used to watch a lot of documentaries and television programmes about extreme engineering projects built all around the world, whilst hoping that one day I would participate in similar projects as an engineer.

Growing up, I was very curious about how things worked. I was always disassembling different objects and toys in order to inspect their inner working parts and study the way they functioned.

I had all the entry requirements for both MCAST and the Junior College, however, being a hands-on person, I decided to enrol in the Advanced Diploma in Manufacturing at MCAST. I carried out my apprenticeship with Seifert System Ltd as part of my Advanced Diploma and was assigned within the Maintenance Department followed by the Toolroom. Thanks to the apprenticeship I was able to enrich the knowledge I gained through the theory learnt in the classroom.

During this experience I learnt more about the different equipment found in industry and how they can be maintained and fixed. I also learnt how to work with different machinery including machine components and jigs. Thanks to the apprenticeship I was also exposed to an engineering environment and was able to gain a lot of knowledge in this sector.

As soon as I finished my Advanced Diploma I applied for the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing). The degree was more demanding and required a greater commitment. However, thanks to the great support and guidance received from the dedicated lecturers, I was able to successfully complete the course.

My course is one of the first engineering courses provided by MCAST that are eligible for the Engineering Warrant. I am currently working with Seifert System Ltd as a Support Engineer within the company's Toolroom and Plastic Injection Departments. My roles



include the design of new tools, parts and jigs, reverse engineering of existing parts and design modifications and repairs.

It is an interesting job which brings a lot of different challenges every day together with great satisfaction knowing that parts designed from scratch will be used to make or facilitate the production or fix equipment.

I highly recommend MCAST to any prospective students who are aiming for a career in Engineering. The College provided a great learning environment. One of the greatest advantages of MCAST is that the students progress gradually in their career. They are able to gain fundamental engineering knowledge both while at College and during their apprenticeship exposure at an early stage.



Wayne Cutajar

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER AND CURRICULUM MANAGER

I always enjoyed learning about technological and simple engineering concepts. It was back in 2008 when a friend of mine suggested that I should join MCAST and follow a technical route at the Institute of Engineering and Transport.

In 2008, I decided to join MCAST and entered at Foundation Level. Upon starting my studies, I immediately realized that a brighter future lay ahead. Thanks to the professional approach to teaching and the

support provided by this College, I managed to progress from one level to another and obtain a Higher National Diploma in Electronics and Electrical Engineering back in 2015.

Thanks to the excellent nationwide reputation of the MCAST courses and thanks to the apprentice opportunities, I was immediately employed at a local engineering company, Seifert Systems Limited, as a Research and Development

(R&D) Technician. I was entrusted with production line support in day-to-day technical issues and with production test jigs design.

Thanks to the part-time courses offered by MG2i within MCAST, I was able to continue my studies and obtain a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) degree in Electronics and Control Engineering, whilst maintaining my full-time job.

Upon successful completion of my degree, I was immediately promoted to the role of R&D Engineer, where I was responsible for electronic boards and electrical systems design, several testing procedures, and internal/external approvals of industrial equipment which was distributed and installed internationally.

I recently enrolled for a Master Degree programme specializing in the field of Entrepreneurship.

After seven years of industrial experience, in January 2022, I joined MCAST in the role of Manager 1, Curriculum. I am responsible for the accreditation of new study programmes in the fields of Engineering, Applied Science and Information and Communication Technology. I am also responsible for building and maintaining a good relationship with the industry through several initiatives.

I wish to recommend MCAST to all prospective students. MCAST is Malta's leader in vocational education and training and enjoys international recognition around the entire world.





Alison Grech

BRANCH SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Upon completing my secondary education, I was very unsure about the career I wanted to pursue. I decided to take the traditional academic studies route however, after a year, I realised that it was not the path for me.

I decided to read for the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services at the MCAST Gozo Campus. The programme provided students with work-oriented skills such as communication and time management which are crucial in the work environment. These skills helped me grow personally as well as professionally.

The course also gave me the opportunity to work as an apprentice at Lombard Bank, Gozo branch. Here I gained knowledge and insight into the financial services world. I was able to implement what I learnt at College and put it into practice.

Upon successfully completing my two-year full-time course, I was employed by Lombard Bank as a Branch Service Representative. My role involves identifying and evaluating the customer needs and providing the best products according to their specific needs.

The two years I spent at MCAST were challenging yet rewarding and I cannot express how grateful I will always be for the support I received from my lecturers. MCAST was a crucial step towards my career and I strongly believe that enrolling at MCAST was the best decision I could have ever made.

Matthew Laspina

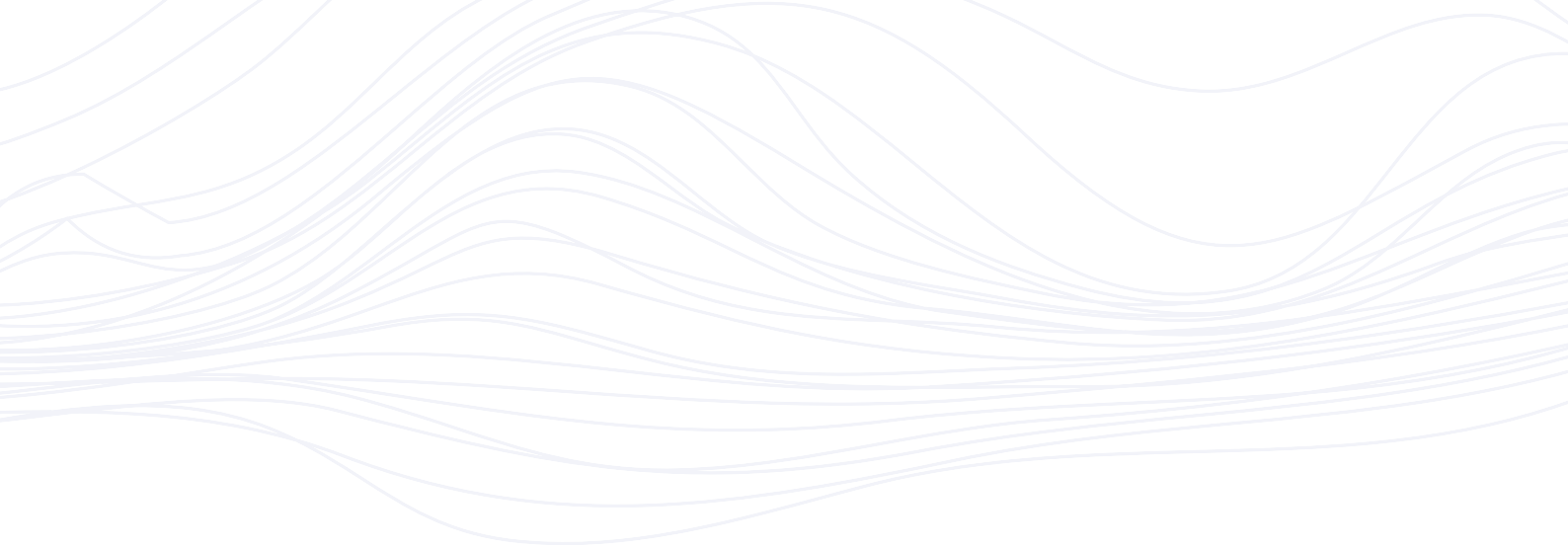
PROJECT MANAGER AND PART-TIME LECTURER

The path that brought me to where I am today has been long and winding. At a young age, I always wanted to work in the health sector and enrolled for a Bachelor of Science at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Malta.

Due to unforeseen circumstances I discontinued my studies at the University of Malta and looked for other options. I took an interest in a degree course which my brother was following at the MCAST Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences, namely the Bachelor of Science in Fish Management.

I was always interested in Biology so I decided to take the risk and enrol in this course. The support I received from the staff at MCAST was overwhelming. I started attending the lectures and my passion for the subject continued to blossom further. The variety of work placements piqued my interest, and I tried my best to change the work placement location every semester. I attended work placements at the Malta National Aquarium, the Malta Aquaculture Research Centre, the Control Section and the Fisheries Research Unit at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.





I managed to pull through for the three years of the course, until I finally achieved a First Class Degree in the Bachelor of Science in Fish Management. Together with my classmate, I applied for a post at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and I started working as an Assistant Manager in the Office of the Director (Fisheries). I was involved in several projects along the way.

In the meantime I applied for a Master of Science in International Marine Science at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and I am currently finalizing my second year. Later in 2021, I applied for the post of Manager I at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and I am currently the Project Leader of a number of projects including those related to interactions between Cetaceans and Small-Scale Fisheries, Co-Management and the Imrejkba Pilot Project.

I also had the opportunity to take up part-time lecturing at the MCAST Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences,

where I am currently teaching a Fisheries Management course to a number of Fisheries Trainee Officers.

The skills, values and work ethic I obtained throughout my years at MCAST have made me the person I am today. I have always found great support and inspiration from my lecturers even after I graduated. All I can do is thank them for their help throughout these years and for pushing me further in my career and aiding me in overcoming the obstacles in my long and winding career path. I can honestly say that MCAST provides students with several opportunities and new career options that may not be offered elsewhere.

Carmen Debattista

COORDINATOR DAY SERVICES

From a tender age, I aspired to be employed within the care sector in order to be able to empower the vulnerable and those who are in need.

Back in 2005, while I was looking at the courses available within this sector, I discovered that MCAST was offering the BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care programme. On completion of my secondary education, I decided to continue my studies at MCAST Gozo and enrol in the Foundation in Care course.

This course was my first step in a journey that trained me and developed me for a successful career in Social Care. At MCAST, I embarked on a four-year vocational education and training journey ending in the successful completion of the BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care.

During these four years, MCAST provided me with significant hands-on learning opportunities through different vocational work placements in various care settings. Thanks to one of those placement opportunities, on completion of my studies in 2009, I was immediately selected for my first full-time employment as a Care Worker in the Social Work Department at Mount

Carmel Hospital. There I gained meaningful and invaluable experience. With time, I started looking for opportunities for career advancement. In 2013, I moved to Aġenzija Support as a full-time support worker. This new role gave me invaluable experience in working with people with disabilities.

Year after year, my interest in the sector continued to grow and I undertook several related on-the-job training programmes for my professional development.

In 2020 I was promoted to Senior Support Worker. From there, I continued working hard and continued participating in more training programmes that the Agency offered. Commitment, dedication and hard work always pay and earlier this year, I was promoted to Coordinator at the Aġenzija Support Day Centre in Gozo.

Different experiences provided by lectures and vocational placements that are part and parcel of MCAST courses were pivotal in my formation to work in the care sector. Looking back, I also recognize that my learning experience at MCAST also helped me to develop leadership skills that are so important in my current role of Coordinator at the Agency.

At MCAST I used to receive ample support from all the lecturers. I am forever grateful for their formal and non-formal teaching. I have nothing but gratitude towards them. All my lecturers were highly experienced and professional. I am also very grateful to MCAST for providing a VET training

pathway, all the way up to a professional career, to students like me who finished their compulsory education with few or no formal qualifications. Without MCAST I would not be where I am today!



GĦAL PERSUNI
B'DIŻABILITÀ





Christine Gatt

FARMER AND OWNER, KIKI FARM

I am a 24-year-old young farmer working on my family's farm as a third generation farmer. I have now established my own farm. I was always drawn to this line of work as I am fascinated by all the processes involved in producing a food item from farm to table. I love animals and so it has been an easy decision for me to continue in my forefathers' footprints.

I started studying at the MCAST Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences as I always wanted to work in the agricultural industry. This was a natural step for me as I always believed that MCAST was the best educational option for this industry because, apart from theoretical sessions, one also gets a hands-on approach which is crucial in this line of work. Most of the subjects I studied during the course were critical for starting my own business. These included Business Management, Food Tasting, Food Handling and Animal Husbandry. I also acquired several soft skills such as leadership, time management and entrepreneurship which are also essential in this line of work. A fond memory that will always remain in my mind and heart was the Erasmus+ experience, where I had the chance to go abroad and work in a horse stable.

Last January I got the necessary permits to open my own farm and business - Kiki Farm. My mission is to rear sheep and cows and produce dairy products from their milk, which I then sell directly from the farm. It was a long and hard journey that I worked tirelessly for, but very satisfying once I got my first herd and opened my doors to customers. Some of the products I produce include ricotta, ġbejniet, our famous cannoli, which are the most sought-after product, ricotta balls and others.

I am very happy and proud of my business because, in my view, there is no better job than spending my time cooking the fresh products that I produced from my herd. There is no better way to start the day than getting the good morning call from my sheep which are always very happy to see me. I am also grateful for what I have accomplished in the short period of time since I left MCAST.

Josef Spiteri

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

I was always curious about how computer applications work so, when I finished secondary school, I decided to pursue this interest further and study IT. After hearing positive comments about MCAST, and after informing myself about the College's course provision and their methods of teaching and learning, I was certain that I wanted to continue my educational journey at this institution. Therefore, in 2014, I enrolled in the Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology at the Gozo Campus. The first couple of years at MCAST were fundamental as they helped me understand all the different career pathways within the IT industry.

I decided to go for the Multimedia Software Development course. This course set a foundation for tools that I still use to this day especially within game development and UX design. On completing my Level 4 qualifications at the Gozo Campus, I continued my studies at degree level at the MCAST Main Campus in Paola, where I enrolled in the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Multimedia Software Development.

During the last 2 years of the degree programme, I had the opportunity to work with Betsson Group as a part-time intern

while continuing my studies. This was no easy task as it was hard to juggle both work and College. However, the lecturers supported me and I managed to work on my assignments while still being able to work. At the end, the sacrifices paid off.

In 2020, after graduating with first class honours, I continued my journey with Betsson Group as a full-time Software Engineer. Betsson Group has been operating as an established online gaming operator for decades and gave me the opportunity to grow professionally, gaining significant experience. I am currently working in a customer-driven area called Onboarding, which allows me to develop features that impact user experience positively.

Furthermore, I have been given the opportunity to become a Team Captain. This role consists of facilitating daily meetings, trying to find ways to optimize the team's efficiency and supporting the team in any shape or form.

Looking back at my time at MCAST, apart from helping me to develop my technical skills, MCAST also helped me develop my soft skills. These skills were essential when it came to job interviews, as well as in my



employment, as they have bettered my verbal and written communication skills particularly when working in a team to solve problems and achieve common goals. This wide set of skills were fundamental in my ability to land jobs within companies like RS2 and Betsson Group.

I would like to thank all my lecturers at MCAST who taught me throughout the years. I would not be where I am today without them.

Maria Pia Saliba

OFFICE ASSISTANT

My educational journey at the MCAST Gozo Campus was a very positive one, apart from helping me socially, it also equipped me with the necessary skills to become a more complete individual and improved my chances of gaining and maintaining employment.

I am grateful to all the staff members for the opportunities and support given to me throughout the years. Upon successfully completing the Certificate in Vocational Skills course, I subsequently enrolled in the MCAST Foundation in Care course.

My favourite study unit in the Certificate in Vocational Skills programme was IT. This has helped me obtain skills that are very much needed for employment.

The most important part of this course were the vocational work placements. I conducted my first job placement experience at McDonald's in Victoria. Here I carried out light cleaning services and assisted customers. In the following months, I also carried out a work placement at the ECO Gozo Directorate within the Gozo Ministry. Here, I carried out basic office duties such as photocopying and other clerical work. I also had a very good rapport with my co-workers in all vocational work placements.



Whilst studying at Foundation Level, my favourite unit was Developing Care Relationships. At the end of a fruitful academic experience at MCAST, I applied for a job with BOV and was accepted to work in one of their offices in Victoria. I have been working there for the past four years and the company is very happy with the contribution I am giving. My main duties here are photocopying, scanning documents, shredding of documents that require disposal and other basic office duties such as filing. I work on a five-day week schedule from 9:00-13:00 and sometimes, I also use public transport to attend work.

My free time is devoted to my several hobbies. I am very keen on art. I discovered this passion when I was younger. I am also a very good swimmer. My love for swimming also started from a very young age. A foreign person who saw me swimming at Dwejra, encouraged my mother to involve me in Special Olympics Malta (Swimming Section). It was at that time that we got in contact with Ms Anna Calleja. I am now part of the Special Olympics Malta Team. I take the swimming discipline quite seriously and I go to the National Pool in Malta twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, right after work. I train under the guidance of coaches Leanne Xuereb Ungaro and Joyce Orland. On other days, I keep active at the gym.

Over the past years, swimming has given me a lot of satisfaction and I managed to win several medals for my country. In fact, in the Special Olympics edition held in 2019 in Abu Dhabi, I won the Gold Medal in the 25m Butterfly Swimming and the Bronze Medal in the 50m Backstroke Swimming competitions. It was a great experience and I got to know many athletes from different countries, some of whom I am still in contact with on social media.

Recently, I participated in the Special Olympics Invitational Games held in Malta. Here I also managed to obtain great results winning the Gold Medal in the 50m Backstroke Swimming and the Bronze Medal in the 50m Butterfly Swimming competitions. I am willing to work harder to hopefully be selected for the Special Olympics World Games to be held in Berlin in 2023.



Valerie Cutajar

HAIR STYLIST

I have been working as a Hairstylist for more than 20 years. Before I joined MCAST I had worked with various stakeholders in the hairdressing industry.

I started out as a Hairdressing Assistant by washing clients' hair and helping out in salons. Throughout these years I grew personally and professionally, but never really had the opportunity to study and formalise my experience and passion to become a qualified hairdresser.

After years of working in the industry, I felt I needed to invest in myself by taking the leap and resume studying to be able to open my own salon and start flourishing as an independent hairdresser. Even though I was 40 years old at the time, I plucked up the courage to enrol as a mature student in the Hairdressing for Women course. Being the eldest among my peers made me feel a bit uncomfortable initially. Yet despite the age gap, I quickly blended in the group. As time went by my peers welcomed me and made me feel comfortable and I made lifelong friendships along the way.

Working and studying full-time simultaneously was no walk in the park. I worked hard and believed in myself, thus overcoming my fears and uncertainties and achieving the ultimate goal of getting the necessary qualifications. My previous experience in the industry served as an asset as I could relate the knowledge and experience I already had to the theory learnt at MCAST and excel throughout my course and apprenticeship.

MCAST opened the door to my future, since my time at the College helped me to learn new skills and build my self-confidence. On obtaining my diploma, I felt confident and capable of starting and eventually running my own business.

A few years down the line, I can say that I finally made it. I have successfully achieved my dream of gaining the qualifications and I am now a salon owner.

I would highly recommend anyone willing to study Hairdressing at MCAST. Ever since I finished the course, I never stopped learning and attending training opportunities to keep myself abreast with developments in the hairdressing and fashion industry. I enjoy learning about newly introduced techniques, recent technology developments and the latest fashion trends.

Without the support of MCAST lecturers and administration this surely would not have been possible. I look forward to what the future has in store for me.

Zvetlana Bajada

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

From a young age I have always found technology interesting. Growing up I was fascinated by it and was eager to learn more about it.

During my years in secondary school, I understood ICT topics without difficulty and always obtained good marks during assessments, when compared to business studies, which I found to be very challenging and not a right fit for me. In 2013, as a result of not obtaining the required 'O' Levels, I decided to apply for the Foundation Level at MCAST.

During this time, I started to learn my first programming language C# and from then onwards I fell in love with programming. Apart from C#, I learnt and explored other related topics such as Web Development, Game Development, SQL Database as well as media-related tools such as Photoshop. Whilst I was learning and developing my programming skills, I was also enjoying developing software.

Although I was learning the fundamentals of programming, I also got my hands dirty while implementing software. This benefitted me as it made me understand theoretical concepts even better.

Later on I proceeded towards the final years as a degree student which brought along multiple opportunities. These included delivering a programming introductory course to a group of people during Code Week. This was possible due to the knowledge I gained throughout my years at MCAST, and following very positive feedback once I started to deliver ECDL lectures.

I had the opportunity to attend the PingFin event. Whilst learning more about PL/SQL, I was observed by multiple recruiters and was one of the students that was chosen to start working as a trainee at RS2.

Through my time there, I gained experience with the Quality Assurance and Web Development teams. After a year of working at RS2, I resigned as I wanted to focus on my dissertation without having to shift my attention to work and other distractions.

I started to familiarize myself with Augmented Reality (AR) which nowadays has become a very popular topic in mobile development. I started to experiment with AR which led me to develop an idea for my dissertation project. The idea would revolve around assisting agribusiness students with a more effective approach to learning rather

than through PowerPoint presentations.

After my dissertation, I was approached by a Maltese TV programme 'Gadgets' to showcase my prototype and discuss my approach to developing my application. Other people started to approach me for my dissertation paper which meant a lot to me after all the hard work I had done. The last two years at MCAST were hectic due to the COVID-19 pandemic as we had to shift to online lectures, and although this approach did not affect me academically, I did struggle mentally as I was no longer in a classroom with my classmates but instead was on my own at home.

After years of hard work and determination, with the assistance of many dedicated lecturers at MCAST, I graduated as a Software Developer. After my graduation I was employed as a full-time junior programmer at KPMG. The knowledge I gained from MCAST and the hands-on approach was beneficial for my successful career in Software Development.





Jordan Debono

MARINE ENGINEER

From a young age I developed an interest in Engineering. I used to spend time observing my father's work and coming across engineering-related projects which eventually led me to pursue a professional career in Marine Engineering.

Later on in secondary school, my interest grew and therefore I opted for subjects which assisted me in absorbing more knowledge. I decided to choose MCAST and read for the Advanced Diploma in Marine Engineering. MCAST's excellent reputation in preparing students at both an academic and vocational level helped me in the decision-making process.

During the two years of reading for the Advanced Diploma I focused on Mathematics and Physics. This was due to the complex problems and scenarios we were presented with and had to solve. Furthermore, during this period I had the opportunity to work as an apprentice. This opportunity taught me fundamental things such as working on different types of engines (inboard and outboard) which essentially initiated my work experience in Marine Engineering.

After successfully achieving my Advanced Diploma, I continued my studies and applied for the Bachelor of Science (Hons)

in Marine Engineering. During those three memorable years I continued to increase my knowledge as an engineer, more specifically during the hands-on work in subjects such as Marine Diesel Propulsion and Power Systems Engines, Ship Propulsion and Manoeuvre Ability, and Maintenance and Fault Diagnostics. In the meantime, MCAST provided us with external courses for instance STCW courses which are required in the marine industry in order to be a fully-qualified engineer.

As my final year approached the COVID-19 pandemic took over. This made my dissertation process harder. However, with hard work and sacrifice, I successfully achieved my Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Marine Engineering (Hons.).

The annual projects with assigned mentors helped me a lot throughout my years of study at MCAST. They gave me more visibility into different areas in Marine Engineering and I am appreciative of such experiences and knowledge provided by MCAST.



Tesmarie Busutil

MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR

I set foot at MCAST six years ago, unsure of what to expect. Once I had completed my 'A' Levels I knew that I wanted to pursue an aviation-related course. I then discovered the courses offered by MCAST and decided to enrol in the Advanced Diploma in Aviation Operations.

This was the first step in my career. The Advanced Diploma in Aviation Operations incorporated the apprenticeship so I was able to work in the industry I enjoy despite having no prior experience and only theoretical knowledge.

Through my apprenticeship I was able to apply what I was learning in class to the place of work. I had the opportunity to meet professionals in the industry and as the two years of the course progressed, I advanced to higher levels within the company. I started off as a co-ordinator and ended up as the person nominated for crew training. But my journey did not end there.

A lecturer who works in the industry encouraged me to continue my studies, so I enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Enterprise. This was a slightly more intense course as it was of a more academic nature. Yet it also included an internship and I was given the opportunity

to join another aviation company, this time working on logistics and administration work rather than operations.

During the second year of the course, the pandemic hit and we had to shift to online platforms. It was not easy but with perseverance and dedication I made it. When we found ourselves back in class, the bond between the classmates was much stronger. In fact, it encouraged us to plan events at the Institute including Ugly Festive Sweater during Christmas, Ftira Day in aid of animal shelters, Book Swap in aid of Dr Clown and even an end of year BBQ for both students and lecturers. The organization and planning of these events helped me develop my soft skills which have helped me at my place of work.

I honestly recommend MCAST as the institution to further one's studies. Without MCAST I would not have the knowledge, skills, work experience and connections and the career I have!

Jocelyn Camenzuli

GRADUATE ASSOCIATE

MCAST has been truly the gateway to my career.

Before joining MCAST, I studied Biology and Chemistry at 'A' Level. I started my journey at MCAST by reading for the Advanced Diploma in Applied Sciences and then progressed to the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chemical Technology. Both courses focused a lot on Chemistry besides other subjects and this increased my curiosity in and my passion for the Sciences.

Through MCAST I had various opportunities to work in industry while studying. One of these opportunities included a work placement at Foster Clark Ltd. I started out as an apprentice five years ago and

went through a learning curve that led me to where I am today. I am currently employed as a Graduate Associate, a position that will enable me to explore different departments and widen my knowledge and educational horizon within the company.

I cannot say it has been easy, especially during the final year of the degree and the dissertation, but this shows that hard work, determination and ambition pay off. Through MCAST, and especially through the work placements, the assignments and the dissertation I have developed on both a professional and personal level.





Leanne Said

ASSISTANT TO THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Following the completion of my 'A' Levels, I decided that the subject I was planning to study at the University of Malta was not the one for me. I came across the MCAST Prospectus and was attracted to the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services as it appeared to be very intriguing.

When the lectures commenced in my first year, I realised I had made the right decision since the course content was interesting and provided great detail. Once I began my apprenticeship I could draw parallels between what I was learning at College and my workplace.

After completing the Advanced Diploma in Financial Services, I decided to further my studies and read for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Financial Services. The Bachelor's degree also included 200 hours of internship. The same company where I completed my apprenticeship provided me with the opportunity to do an internship. In addition, the same company offered me a full-time position as Assistant to the Financial Controller once I completed my studies.

I feel that MCAST's vocational approach whereby students are provided with work-based learning experiences, adds value to its courses. MCAST offered me the right training programme since it combined theory with practical learning experience.

In addition, the lecturers at MCAST are passionate about helping students progress in their professional academic development.

I feel that enrolling in this MCAST programme was the best decision I could have made for my future. I strongly advise prospective students to enrol in this course as it will enable them to realise their full potential.

Maria Mercieca

SOCIAL WELFARE PROFESSIONAL

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today – Malcolm X

I still cannot believe how three years at College have passed so quickly and have come to an end. I now carry these beautiful memories with me forever.

I clearly remember the day when I received my A' Level results. I was so happy that I had the opportunity to further my professional and vocational studies anywhere I wanted. I chose MCAST an applied for the Degree in Health and Social Care Management.

The three-year course covered a vast area of subjects. Due to the variety in the subjects I was able to develop my professional skills, be more of a critical thinker, more open-minded and more of a team player. It also provided me with the professional skills and knowledge to enable me to assist different individual and social groups in fast-changing social environments.

Throughout my studies I was presented with various case studies that have provided me with necessary insight to evaluated issues and problems from various angles and perspectives, thus adopting different

approaches. This has imbued me with self-confidence, as I now feel well-prepared to start my full-time vocational and professional employment applying all that I have learnt to real-life situations in different social sectors.

Throughout my degree course, MCAST has given me the opportunity to carry out different work placements in different areas in Malta. These placements have widened my understanding of the many realities that I would face at my future workplace. I had the opportunity to be exposed to different challenges and different social scenarios and realities. During these work placements I would implement the theories I had studied and learnt during the course. At MCAST I also had the opportunity to participate in various extra-curriculum activities which included debating with other students. This participation has enhanced my personal and professional skills and encouraged the growth of my capabilities and self-confidence.

While at College I also had the opportunity to carry out an Erasmus+ placement in Prague. This was truly a unique, fruitful and unforgettable experience. It provided me with endless opportunities which included

meeting new people and being exposed to different cultures and backgrounds. This experience helped me to grow both personally and professionally.

I am now employed and am eager to continue and further my studies at a post-graduate level, leaving all opportunities open so as to be able to further myself professionally and personally in order to be able to provide the best to those that I will encounter in my profession.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all my lecturers at the Institute of Community Services that provided me with all the necessary support and guidance throughout these past three years.

The College has been an eye-opener, a key that opened and continues to open those doors to the future of its students by encouraging and motivating them to further their studies.





Emma Borg

ASSISTANT MANAGER/ VISUAL MERCHANDISER

The fashion industry has never been a stranger to me as from a very young age I was always surrounded by people working within this industry. After secondary school I attended various colleges trying to find the right subjects and career for me. I found my path and passion at MCAST.

I had enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Art and Design at the Institute for the Creative Arts. Throughout these two years I was exposed to different techniques, mediums and areas related to Art and Design. I had the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss concepts during the classes

and engage in several projects. During the last year of the course I was given a choice between Fine Arts and 3D and Fashion. I chose 3D and Fashion and I feel that this was the best choice I have ever done. During the course I gained a lot of experience and skills working on both 3D and Fashion projects.

Once I graduated from the Advanced Diploma in Art and Design I enrolled in the Degree in Spatial Design. Yet I did not feel this was the course for me so I took a gap year and waited for the Degree in Fashion and Retail to open up. During that gap year, I worked in the retail industry as a shop supervisor. The following year I applied for the Bachelor of Arts in Fashion.

The Bachelor of Arts in Fashion provided me with insight into every sector of this fascinating industry. I learnt fashion drawing, sewing techniques, the history of fashion, drafting patterns as well as retail and merchandising. During the first year, I was also exposed to sustainability in fashion by creating new pieces from re-used items. I had the opportunity to create our own works from recycled pieces. Print and patterns play an important role in fashion and I also had the opportunity to create my own print, where I used techniques of lino printing and stencilling.

The units during the second year were much harder and detailed as I had to learn how to look at the bigger picture of the fashion industry. Whilst studying I keep my job and was promoted to Assistant Manager /Visual Merchandiser. During my employment I was able to understand the concepts better and apply what I had studied at MCAST to my place of work.

The last year of the course was definitely the best as we integrated all that we had learnt during the past five years to create our own unique creation. In the beginning it was very hard for me to come up with a concept for my final collection, but the help of all the lecturers I managed and till this day I feel proud that I have managed to complete all the process of fashion design from being to end. It is here that I started believing in myself that nothing is impossible.

Thanks to MCAST I am the person who I am today where I challenge everything which comes in my way. MCAST also helped me make the right decisions in my role as an Assistant Manager/ Visual Merchandiser where I put into practice what I have learnt at College.

NOTES



A series of 15 horizontal lines for taking notes, evenly spaced and spanning the width of the page.

NOTES



A series of 15 horizontal lines for taking notes, evenly spaced and spanning the width of the page.

NOTES



A series of 15 horizontal lines for taking notes, evenly spaced and spanning the width of the page.





MCAST

ALWAYS YOUR LINK

mcast.edu.mt

