# Delivering higher education sustainably and within a digital context

L-UNIVERSITÀ TA' MALTA

❖ Established 253 years ago by Grandmaster Pinto de Fonseca to replace a predecessor institution (Collegium Melitense) that was then 177 y old

❖ 12 000+ students of whom about 11% international

❖ 980 full time + 740 part time academic staff not counting adjunct ('casual') teachers + about 1000 administrative and technical staff

❖ Main campus at Msida + Valletta historic campus + three other campuses (Junior College; Marsaxlokk; Gozo)

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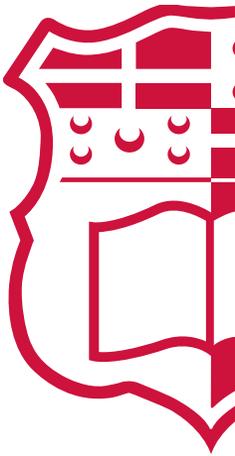
❖ Comprehensive university with over 850 programmes delivered by 14 faculties and 34 institutes, schools and centres in subjects ranging from arts to science, law, engineering, IT, social wellbeing, medicine, theology, education, etc.

❖Forms part of **SEA-EU**, the European University of the Seas, a European University Alliance comprising Cadiz (lead), Split Keel, Western Brittany, Gdansk, Parthenope; Algarve; Nord and Malta.
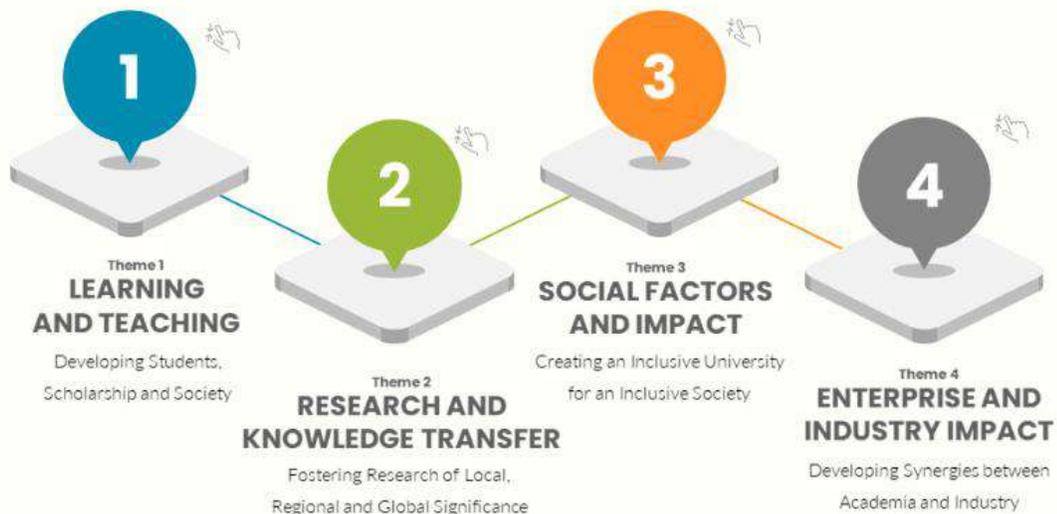
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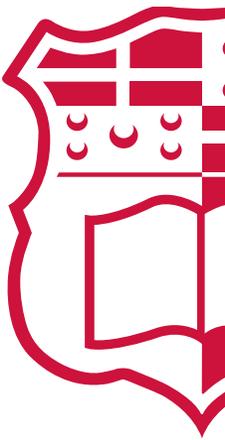
Strategic plan

2020 - 2025

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Why embrace the principles of sustainability?

❖ These principles are necessary, indeed essential, for all humanity on the planet and as educators and researchers we owe it to future generations to infuse our teaching, direct our research and act institutionally with sustainability in mind

❖ Existentially (and selfishly) speaking, universities themselves need to be sustained safely going forward

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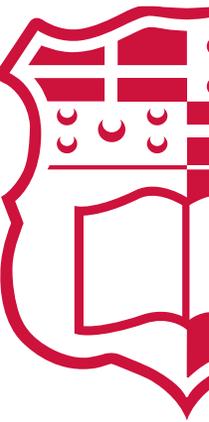
How to sustain the university?

❖ Being **student-centric (**and **civic minded)** is the

best guarantee for sustainability

❖ Keeping an eye on increasing enrolment; ensuring the

best completion rates; delivering relevant education

that is fit for purpose and meets the demands of the

job market and the aspiration of students
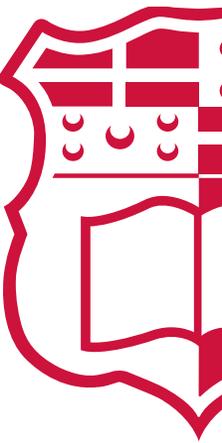
How do we make UM more sustainable?

❖ By rendering our information-rich work easier and more manageable through digitilization of several systems (process ongoing for a few decades):

o   student record: SIMS and eSIMS;
o   library services;
o   payroll;
o   procurement;
o   HR management.

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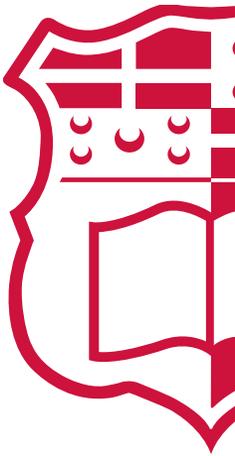
❖ Fighting plagiarism – vitally important to protect integrity of assessment (and our degrees)

• Require all student assignments (essays, dissertations) to be submitted digitally and screened through *Turnitin* for plagiarism detection
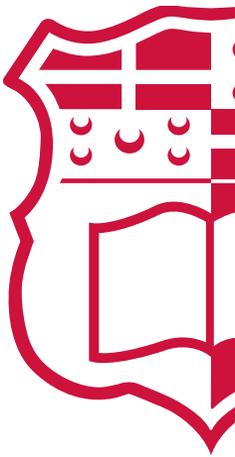
❖ More recent developments along the way towards the digital transformation of UM

○ European Digital Credentials

- In collaboration with SEA-EU and Europass

- Digital version of degree scroll signed with an electronic seal

- Easily authenticate, validate and recognize the credentials

- Provided free to all graduands as from 2021

o MyUM app for enhanced communication

- Access to eSIMS to view assignment/exam results

- Immediate notification of published assignment/exam results

- Access to VLE forum posts and messages, e.g. assignment deadlines

- Enrolment on a course

- Library services - view books on loan, renew books, search the catalogue and reserve books

- Provides key information about University services, including campus map

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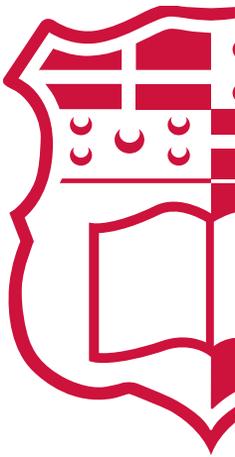
o **Student and Staff Digital Card**

- Digital Card on MyUM app

- Digital identification as UM students

- Use of services on and off campus

- Portability of digital card - eg. during Erasmus+ mobility abroad

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o **Examinations on a Digital Platform**

Allows the creation of items such as:

- multiple-choice
- short-answer
- true/false
- other interactive exams
- essay type exams

Benefits of digital platform: **WISEflow**

- Marking of examinations online
- Reduce use of printed paper
- Increased efficiency in marking process
- Increased efficiency in publishing of results

o **Timetabling and scheduling software**

- Enables efficient production of timetable

- Integrated with SIMS and MyUM app

- Creates ad-hoc activities more efficiently

- Enables efficient use of space resources

- Provides digital personalized timetable to students and lecturers

- Synchronized with various online calendars

Scientia.

o Adoption of online teaching where more convenient for students

- Introduced blended learning especially for adult learners following our numerous evening or part time programmes

- Equipped technology-enhanced "ZOOM rooms" from which to deliver synchronous online classes

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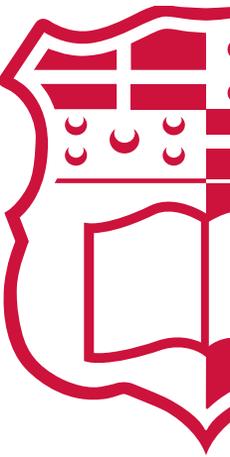
o Enhance visibility of UM research production

• Uploaded all university research publications into our Open Access Repository (OAR@UM) to increase impact in rankings so as to attract more students, especially international, and researchers
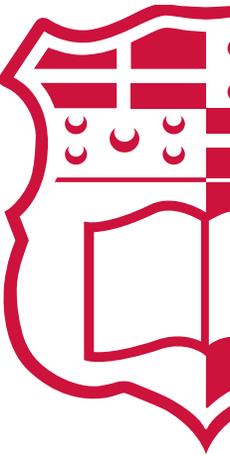
7 . SUSTAINABILITY

University wide implementation in administrative directorates,
faculties, academic departments, institutes, centres, schools and academies.

Develop Sustainable Land and Buildings

Extend Energy Efficient Measures, Conserve Water and Reduce Consumption

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Waste

Deliver Training and Research on Sustainability

Encourage Sustainable Transport Measures

Promote Healthy Living Practices on Campus

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Committee for Sustainability at UM (C-SUM) - *championing sustainability actions within and beyond digitalization*

- Eight-member group which oversees the implementation of Strategic Theme 7

- Develops the sustainability vision, strategy and objectives for UM

- Identifies sustainability areas in line with the SDGs that can be implemented at UM and establishes targets and indicators to oversee and monitor implementation.

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- Collects information in support of monitoring and reporting functions across all entities within UM and reports performance using international metrics.

- Supports or undertakes necessary research on various aspects of implementing and maintaining sustainability practices at UM and participates in local, national and international fora to present results and achievements.

- Establishes effective communication with the University community on sustainability issues arising from time to time on and around campus, and recommend proposals for improvement.

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How C-SUM works

Using cross-cutting strategies thus:

Regular meetings with the Rector

Regular Committee meetings (every two months)

Regular Notifications

Data collation for sustainability ranking

Stimulation of work in partnership with other entities

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Communicating sustainability actions

August, 2021 Notification 13: [Use of Air Conditioners in high temperatures](#)

July, 2021 Notification 12: [Sustainable Development Goals and Education](#)

April, 2021 Notification 11: [Sharing best practices and virtual internship opportunities](#)

February, 2021 Notification 10: [C-SUM Website Links](#)

December, 2020 Notification 9: [The Sustainable Development Goals and Your Work at UM](#)

September, 2020 Notification 8: [UM featured in new publication urging staff and students to adopt greener lifestyles](#)

May, 2020 Notification 7: [UM sustainability ranking](#)

February, 2020 Notification 6: [Waste separation and collection at UM](#)

June, 2019 Notification 5: [Energy and water recommendations](#)

February, 2019 Notification 4: [Non-plastic alternatives for food and drink](#)

C-SUM Notification No. 5

Newspoint > Notices > University > 2019 > June > C-SUM Notification No. 5

In **Notifications**   📅 11:22, 10 Jun 2019

Share:

Energy and Water Recommendations

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1. Turn off air conditioners and lighting when a room is vacant unless it will be reoccupied within the next few minutes.

2. Block direct sunlight on hot days and keep windows and doors closed, otherwise air conditioners need to consume much more energy to maintain a comfortable temperature.

3. Keep the AC to an appropriate temperature setting, typically not below 23 degrees C for cooling. Set the fan to automatic and the flaps directed towards you. Consider that every additional degree of cooling requires some 6% higher energy consumption.

4. When there are multiple AC units in the same space avoid setting the AC mode of any of the units to Auto and ensure that all ACs within the same room are set to the same mode (cooling or heating).

5. Close water taps completely after use.

6. Use the appropriate half or full flush buttons in the toilets.

7. Set the power options of the PCs to save energy. For example set turn off monitor after 20 minutes, sleep after 1 hour, hibernate after 2 hours. Note that as most PCs on Campus are powered through the University UPSs, the resultant power consumption is even higher due to losses within the UPS systems.

8. Minimise the use of printers by using soft copies of documents when possible. This conserves energy, saves paper, reduces ink/toner consumption and any associated ultrafine particle emissions.

Malta has limited rainfall, with rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions. The University of Malta has continually invested over the years in energy and water saving initiatives. We now have efficient AC systems, LED lighting with presence sensors, PV systems, self-closing water taps and dual flush toilet systems. Even so, the sustained contribution of students and staff is important in helping to reduce energy and water consumption further.

C-SUM thanks you for your response and wishes you a happy summer.

Promotes development of sustainable land and buildings

o   Green Procurement measures integrated in public tender construction, finishes and services.

o   Use of reservoir rainwater to irrigate the landscaped area on campus.

o   Use reservoir rain water for flushing of toilets, wherever possible.

o   Planting of new trees over main campus grounds.

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o   Installation of sensors to monitor indoor Air Quality in ICT building, Lecture Centres, Administration, Chemistry, etc.

o   Sustainable Building Assessment tool developed and adapted for the Mediterranean Region, addressing both the building scale and the urban scale and spaces. The tool is based on Key Performance Indicators covering environmental, social and economic impact categories.

Extension of energy efficiency measures

o 1 MWp PV farm on our campuses

o Electrical and water sub meters in various buildings to monitor usage, gauge consumption and identify leakages

o BMS systems in buildings for closer control of services.

o Double glazing (with solar coating) apertures.

o Insulation of roof slabs in new buildings.

o Changeover to LED tubes/panels (internal) and LED floodlights (external).

o etc

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Champions reduction, reuse, recycling of waste

o Installed dedicated and labelled bins for separated waste: organic, plastic, paper, metal, glass and mixed waste.

o Different streams are weighed by collector and data is recorded at University for monitoring.

o Encouraging separate collection of other special wastes: electronic, bulky and construction – work in progress.


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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Waste

o Launched promotional video to guide visitors to dispose of waste generated on campus properly.

o Students and staff were informed directly by C-SUM of developments relating to waste collection.

o Food operators and event organizers on campus advised to eliminate single-use plastics in catering.

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Training and Research on Sustainability

o Initiated a university wide initiative to formally relate study units and/or academic programmes to the SDGs

o Launched a workshop about "*Aligning your research to the Sustainable Development Goals*" as part of the Courses for Doctoral Students

o Organized forum on *Teaching with SDGs* in Cadiz, Spain for our SEA-EU partners

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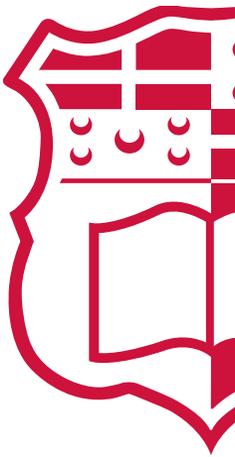
Encourage sustainable transport and active travel

❖ Stands for bicycles to encourage use, including electric bicycles

❖ Parking areas reserved for car pooling

❖ Poster campaigns to encourage walking, bus use and car pooling

❖ Walking and cycling routes promoted via information totem poles and messages on social media

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Thank you