



L-Università
ta' Malta



OMBUDSMAN
Parliamentary Ombudsman - MALTA

Introducing the new postgraduate degree

MA in Ombudsman Law and Governance

5 semesters / Part-time / Hybrid (online and/or physical)
October 2025



Introduction

The Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta is teaming up with L-Università ta' Malta to launch a new and unique postgraduate course in Ombudsman studies in the wider context of good governance and the fundamental right of the individual to an effective public administration.

As one of the oldest universities in the Mediterranean with its origins dating back to 1592, L-Università ta' Malta is activating two of its largest faculties – Faculty of Laws and the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy – to introduce the new Master of Arts in Ombudsman Law and Governance.

The Office of the Maltese Ombudsman is championing this initiative that is intended to create a strong nucleus of graduates hailing mainly from European and Mediterranean countries specialising in Ombudsman Law, public administration, institutional design and public policy.

The objective of the Malta Ombudsman is to contribute towards the development of a public service culture characterised by fairness, dedication, commitment, openness, transparency and accountability. It is today widely recognised that these values, that the Ombudsman is bound to uphold, lie at the core of any organisation's commitment to render a service of excellence.



Purpose

The main purpose of this new international and transdisciplinary Master degree will be to serve as a regional platform wherein students from the Mediterranean, Europe and beyond will learn and research on a variety of interrelated themes, including investigation, mediation, legal systems and fundamental human rights. Moreover, students will also enhance and diversify their skills portfolio in comparative governance, social dialogue, regulation and compliance, as well as behavioural aspects in institutional settings.

Innovative

The Office of the Ombudsman in Malta is proud to be pioneering this exciting and innovative academic initiative that will ascertain an international recognition to the role of the Ombudsman within the academic community. Graduating with an MA in Ombudsman Law and Governance, graduands would be ideally placed to act as leaders and serve as advisors, in the setting up and maintaining of strong Ombudsman institutions, as well as in public administrations and consulting firms providing their expertise to relevant institutions.



Course Title	MA in Ombudsman Law and Governance
Leading Entities	Department of Public Law (Faculty of Laws) Department of Policy, Politics and Governance (Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy) The Office of the Ombudsman (Malta)
Duration	Five semesters
Type of course	Part-time, afternoon and evening.
Mode of Delivery	Hybrid (online and/or physical)
Target audience	The course is targeted at individuals who have an interest in the Office of the Ombudsman, Human Rights, Consultancy Firms, Public Administrations, and other integrity institutions, such as the National Audit Office and the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life.
Prerequisites	Students must have a first degree awarded by a recognised academic institution in law or public administration or public policy or politics or any other discipline related to the Humanities and the Social Sciences.
Course scope	The public sector ombudsman has become one of the most influential administrative justice institutions in Europe, the Mediterranean and beyond. Our international and interdisciplinary course brings together academics and practitioners from the legal, policy and governance disciplines to discuss the trajectory of ombudsman research and practices. The course looks both at the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of good governance and public administration and, in parallel, presents an diversified array of empirical scenarios encapsulating ombudsman's works.

Learning outcomes

- By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Master the legislation and practices related to Human Rights and Ombudsman Law;
 - Investigate and evaluate the quality of service rendered by public administration;
 - Detect abuse and devise action plans to remedy, mitigate and improve current administrative practices;
 - Identify and apply the virtues of good governance;
 - Devise and employ implementation strategies for stronger and effective management;
 - Improve their flexibility in leadership traits and competencies;
 - Understand the intricacies of complex institutional designs to bring about change and innovation;
 - Engage in social dialogue to disseminate the service of excellence culture among different societal and regulatory stakeholders;
 - Explore organisational behaviour and cultures and their impact on individual and collective performance;
 - Undertake comparative analysis to compare and contrast constitutional law;
 - Assess the implication of privacy and data protection law in relation to Public Service;
 - Acquire and apply the right skills in mediation and negotiation; and
 - Sharpen their scientific research skills portfolio to work on multidisciplinary projects.

Course structure

The course is segmented into two parts and will have the following study units:

PL5114	Researching Politics, Governance & Law (10 ECTS)
PL5012	Comparative Governance & Institutional Design (5 ECTS)
MCT5108	Advanced Privacy & Data Protection Law (5 ECTS)
PL5008	Good Governance & Leadership (5 ECTS)
PL5050	Comparative Constitutional Law (5 ECTS)
PBL5034	International Protection of Human Rights (5 ECTS)
MCT5003	Mediation and Negotiation (5 ECTS)
PBL5002	Ombudsman Law, Procedure and Implementation (5 ECTS)
PPL5114	Behavioural Public Policy (5 ECTS)
EMA5108	Governance, regulation & Social Dialogue (5 ECTS)
CVL5000	Mediterranean Legal Traditions (5 ECTS)

The second part of the programme focuses on research and involves the researching and writing of a dissertation (15,000 words). Students will be assigned individual tutors who will provide supervision and advice throughout all the stages of research.

Accreditation

University of Malta

Course Fees

€10,000