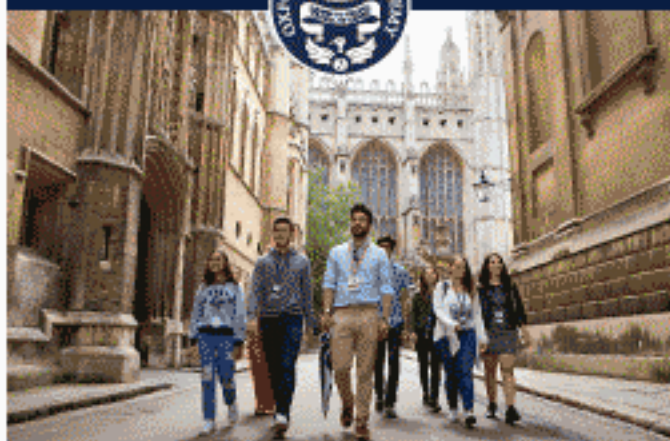


Bumper year for Malta's ELT sector in 2017



Go to bologna.ialc.org today!

Oxford Royale Academy's
CAMBRIDGE SUMMER SCHOOL



Bumper year for Malta's ELT sector in 2017

Published on 16/03/18

Malta's English language school industry welcomed 87,190 international students in 2017, a 13.6 per cent increase compared with the previous year and a record peak for the sector, according to the latest government statistics.

In the Teaching English as a Foreign Language: 2017 report, Malta's [National Statistics Office](#) (NSO) also said that student weeks reached 244,202, a 6.6 per cent rise compared with the previous year.

Welcoming the release, Dr Daniel Xerri, Chairperson of the [ELT Council](#) - the licensing body for the 39 private language schools captured in the data - said, "The growing strength of the country's ELT sector is due to the huge investment made by all the schools and the good reputation Malta has as a language learning destination. The efforts made by different stakeholders in the past few years to increase the quality of the services offered by schools are paying off."

Commenting on the positive data, Marisa Grixti, [am Language Studio](#) Sales and Operations Manager told *StudyTravel Magazine*, "2017 was a record year for am Language Studio. We have seen a good overall increase in our numbers all year round."

Karl Sammut at [Gateway School of English](#) (GSE) similarly advised that 2017 was best-ever 12 months. "More students are choosing Malta as their study travel destination every year, due to the beautiful weather that we boast of all year round, the welcoming people and the growing number of professionals in the industry."

The growth in student numbers was due in large part to a strong increase from the top source market Italy, which sent 25,599 students – 36 per cent growth.

Germany was the second-largest source country with 10,277 students, down slightly on the previous year. But the top five was completed by growing markets: France with 9,138 students, up 7.3 per cent; Russia - which posted its first increase for several years, rising 6.7 per cent to 4,818; and Brazil, which entered the top five for the first time with a hefty 72 per cent jump.

By the measure of student weeks, Brazil was actually the second-largest source market (22,067 weeks), after Italy (39,600).

There was also student growth from Poland, Japan and Switzerland among other top ten nations, although Spain and Austria decreased.

Fernando Aguilar, Global Sales Director at [EC English Centres](#), commented to *StudyTravel Magazine*, "At EC we experienced healthy growth overall and our leading markets remained quite stable (Brazil, Japan, Turkey, Korea and the European markets)."