

The Involvement of Students in VET Education

Malta

DESCRIPTION

The Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) and the **Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)** are the two main state-funded Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions in Malta. ITS is authorised to self-accredit qualifications up to MQF/EQF Level 5, while MCAST is authorised to self-accredit qualifications up to MQF Level 7.

MCAST involves students in the design of programmes through the establishment of Programme Advisory Committees. These committees include **representatives from industry, academia, and the student body, who work collaboratively to develop and update academic programmes.** Student representatives provide **valuable feedback on course content, programme structure, assessment methods, and other aspects of the curriculum that affect their learning experience.**

Moreover, MCAST regularly conducts **student surveys to assess the satisfaction with academic programmes, identify areas for improvement, and gather suggestions for new programmes.** These surveys are used to inform the programme review processes, ensuring that courses remain relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of both students and employers.

Finally, MCAST invites student representatives to participate in strategic planning and decision-making, for example by including them as **members of the College Council.** This involvement ensures that students have a **voice in shaping the overall direction and priorities of the institution,** including its academic progress.

Students are involved in the student council and represent the student body on two key institutional boards: the Board of Studies and the Programme Quality Validation Board. The **Board of Studies is responsible for the design and development of programmes,** while the **Programme Quality Validation Board handles the final validation of these programmes.** As a result, two different student representatives participate to voice the students' perspectives on programmes.

Additionally, students complete a **satisfaction questionnaire at the end of each semester,** where they indicate if they are satisfied with the programme and teaching. The results of these questionnaires are discussed at the top-level management and shared with students in the form of an infographic. Moreover, students can actively participate by submitting complaints.

As from 1st September 2023, MFHEA, the regulatory body of Further and Higher Education in Malta, **begins involving students in program accreditation.** A student studying at higher level in a different institution, shall be involved in the assessment process. This student evaluator will be provided with a report template, like that used by the expert assessors, to complete their evaluation.