

DISCLAIMER!

This guide is provided for **informational purposes only** and does not constitute legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information at the time of publication, immigration laws and visa procedures are subject to change without prior notice. Readers are strongly advised to consult the **official government websites** or seek professional guidance from authorized immigration advisors before making any decisions or submitting applications. The use of this guide is at your own discretion and risk.

MALTA – NATIONAL LONG-STAY D VISA (STUDENT VISA) GUIDE

*(Malta is part of the Schengen Area. For courses longer than 90 days, non-EU students need a **National Visa (Type D)** to enter Malta for studies, and subsequently apply for a **residence permit** after arrival. Short courses under 90 days may only require a Schengen Visa. This guide focuses on long-term study visas for Master's/PhD programs.)*

Eligibility Requirements

- **Admission to a Maltese Institution:** You must have an **unconditional letter of acceptance** from a recognized institution in Malta for a course longer than 90 days. For university programs (MQF Level 7 for Master's, Level 8 for PhD), the acceptance letter should detail your course, duration, tuition, etc.. The institution must be licensed (e.g. University of Malta or other accredited institute).
- **Sufficient Financial Means:** You need to show you can **support yourself financially** during your stay. Malta requires proof of funds to cover tuition, living expenses, and return travel. The exact amount isn't specified on the visa form, but generally you should demonstrate enough money for at least one academic year. For example, having a minimum of **€750 per month** for living expenses is a common benchmark (though not officially stated, it's roughly €9,000/year). If you have paid tuition or have a scholarship, provide evidence.
- **Health Insurance:** You must have **comprehensive medical insurance** valid in Malta/Schengen with coverage of at least **€30,000** for emergency medical care and repatriation. This is a Schengen requirement. The insurance must cover your entire planned stay. You'll need to show an insurance certificate or policy letter meeting these criteria.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** While not explicitly mentioned in the visa checklist, you should not have a serious criminal background. The Maltese authorities may ask for a police conduct certificate for residence permit issuance. It's good practice to have a police clearance from your country for the visa or permit stage.
- **Genuine Student Intent:** You should intend to study and then depart Malta or switch to legal residence if eligible. Visa officers may assess your study purpose. (Malta may not have a formal "intent" interview for all, but the **consul can request an interview** if needed.)

- **Other:** You must not be considered a public security or public health threat. If you're a minor (unlikely for grad studies), you'd need parental consent and a guardian in Malta. For adult graduate students, ensure your passport is valid and you meet all document requirements.

Required Documents Checklist

- **National Visa Application Form:** Completed and signed **visa application form** for a long-stay (D) visa. Malta uses the **Schengen long-stay visa form**, to be filled online via the **e-Konsulat** system and then printed for submission. Make sure to choose the correct visa type (study).
- **Passport:** A valid passport issued in the last 10 years, with at least **two blank visa pages** and valid for at least **3 months after your planned departure from Malta**. If you have any other current passport or travel document, include that as well. Attach a **photocopy of the bio-data page** of your passport (and copies of any visas or stamps if relevant).
- **Passport Photos:** **One or two recent passport-size color photos** (3.5cm x 4.5cm) meeting Schengen photo requirements. The photo must be against a white background, clear and of good quality, showing your full face. No headwear or glasses that obscure the face (unless for religious reasons, but even then facial features must be fully visible). The photo should be taken within the last 6 months.
- **Acceptance/Evidence of Course:** An **original letter of acceptance** from the Maltese educational institution. This letter should confirm your enrollment, course details (title, duration, number of study hours per week), and ideally mention if accommodation is provided. If you've paid any tuition or fees, receipts or confirmation of fee payment from the school are highly recommended. For PhD students, if you have an invitation or supervisor letter, include that as well.
- **Proof of Accommodation:** Documentation of where you will stay in Malta: this could be a **confirmed campus housing reservation**, a rental agreement, a host family letter, or a hotel booking for at least initial weeks. The visa officer needs to see you have arranged lodging (or at least have a temporary place while you find one). The accommodation proof should have the address and contact info. If your school provides housing, the acceptance letter or a separate letter should state that.
- **Financial Proof: Proof of sufficient funds** to cover your stay. Accepted proofs include:
 - **Bank statements** (yours or your sponsor's) for the last 3-6 months, showing consistent balances and a sufficient final balance.
 - **Letter from bank** confirming your account and balance.
 - **Scholarship letter** if you have a scholarship, specifying amount and what costs it covers.
 - **Sponsor's affidavit** plus their financial documents if someone else (e.g. parent) is financing you. Include relationship evidence.

- **Tuition payment receipt** if you've paid for the first semester or year. Malta may not set a fixed amount, but as guidance, ensure funds cover tuition (if not already paid) + at least €750/month for living + travel costs. For example, if your tuition is €5,000 and living costs €9,000/year, show well above €14,000 (or equivalent in bank currency). If using a sponsor, their letter must explicitly state they will cover your tuition and living expenses.
- **Flight Travel Itinerary:** A **round-trip flight booking or travel itinerary** indicating your intended travel dates to Malta. You don't need to buy tickets before visa approval; a reservation or quote from an airline/travel agent is sufficient. If you are not returning to the country where you applied (e.g., going elsewhere after Malta), provide evidence of that onward journey. The itinerary helps show your planned entry and (at least a provisional) exit.
- **Health Insurance Policy:** Proof of **travel medical insurance** meeting Schengen requirements: minimum coverage €30,000, covering all Schengen states, for emergency medical, hospitalization, and repatriation. Provide the insurance certificate or letter stating coverage amounts and validity (covering your entire stay or at least initial 90 days with commitment to renew when you get your residence permit). Maltese authorities also accept health insurance from Maltese providers or an international plan – ensure it meets the law's criteria.
- **Academic Credentials:** Though not always required at visa stage, it's wise to include copies of your **previous diplomas, transcripts, or qualifications** (especially since you're a graduate student). This shows your academic background and why you qualify for the program. It also can help the consul see you're a genuine student.
- **Passport Copy and ID:** A **photocopy of your passport's bio page** (as mentioned). Also include copies of any visas (Schengen or others) you have had, as well as a copy of your national ID if applicable.
- **Evidence of Language Proficiency:** If your course is in English (as most in Malta are) and you're not a native English speaker, the school might require IELTS/TOEFL. While not a visa requirement, attaching your language test result or any preparatory language course enrollment can be helpful.
- **Additional Documents:** Maltese consulate might have a specific **checklist**. According to an official checklist, for students you should also include:
 - A "letter from the **home institution** on enrollment" – if you are part of an exchange or your current institution is involved, get a letter from your home university confirming your status (for independent students, this may not apply).
 - If applicable, an **Invitation or No-objection letter** if a Maltese authority or sponsor invited you.
 - Any **fee payment confirmations** from the Maltese institution (as noted).

- **Cover letter:** not mandatory, but you can write a brief cover letter summarizing your application (course, duration, financial means, attached documents) to help the consul review.
- If you're applying in a country where you are not a citizen, include proof of your legal residence in that country (e.g. residence permit or visa).

Application Process (Step-by-Step)

1. **Book a Visa Appointment:** Identify the Maltese embassy/consulate or authorized visa application center for your country. For Malta student visas, you typically **must apply in person at the Maltese embassy/consulate** covering your area. Use the **Identity Malta – Central Visa Unit's** system or contact the embassy to schedule an appointment. Some consulates use an online booking tool (like **"Visa Booking"** on Identità website) or **VFS Global** in some regions. Book well in advance, especially during summer.
2. **Prepare Your Application Pack:** Fill out the **e-Konsulat** online visa application form (or obtain the PDF form) and print it. Gather all required documents as per the checklist. Make photocopies of all documents (some consulates require one set of originals and one set of copies). Don't forget passport photos and to sign the application form.
3. **Attend the Appointment:** Arrive at the consulate or visa center on time with your documents. Submit your application **in person** – mailed applications are not accepted. At the counter, you will hand over your application form, passport, photos, and supporting documents. The officer will verify your papers. Pay the **visa fee** (usually in cash or as specified, since some places don't take cards). The fee for a long-stay D visa in Malta is **€70** (as per EU rules) – roughly **C\$202** when applying in Canada. (Note: Some regions report a €100 fee; confirm with the local consulate. In Canada it's C\$202 which corresponds to ~€140, possibly including service charges.) Keep the receipt.
4. **Biometrics:** As part of Schengen visa procedure, your **fingerprints and a digital photo** will be taken at the appointment (if you haven't given Schengen biometrics in the past 59 months). This biometric data collection is mandatory and done on the spot.
5. **Interview (if any):** In many cases, there is no formal interview beyond some questions when you submit your application. **However, the consul may invite you for an interview** or ask additional questions during submission. Be ready to briefly discuss your study plans: why Malta, details of your course, how you'll support yourself, etc. Answer confidently and honestly. If no interview occurs, that's normal – it means your documents sufficed.
6. **Application Processing:** After submission, the consulate will process your visa. **Processing time** is usually up to **15 calendar days** for a Schengen visa. For the National D visa, it can also take about 2–3 weeks; by law it could take up to 30 days in some cases. The officials in Malta might be consulted for student visas, which could extend the timeline a bit. In **busy months (July–Sept)**, expect towards the longer end of processing. It's recommended not to make non-refundable travel plans until you have the visa.

7. **Visa Decision:** Once a decision is made, you will be informed to collect your passport. If approved, a **D visa sticker** will be affixed in your passport. This visa will list validity dates (it might be valid for 90-365 days depending on your course, often they issue for 180 or 365 days and you later get a residence permit). If the decision is a refusal, you'll get a refusal letter with reasons and you have the right to appeal within 15 days.
8. **Travel to Malta:** With your visa, you can travel to Malta. A D visa allows multiple entries and also acts as a Schengen visa (you can travel in Schengen up to 90 days in 180 outside Malta). Upon arrival, you may be briefly checked by Immigration; show your passport with visa and the acceptance letter.
9. **Residence Permit in Malta:** Since your course is longer than a year (for Masters/PhD likely), you will need to apply for a **eResidence permit** in Malta after arrival (typically within your visa validity). The permit will allow you to legally reside for the duration of your studies beyond the visa's expiration. To get it, you'll visit Identity Malta (Expatriates Unit) with documents like your rental agreement, health insurance, medical clearance, etc. The student residence permit is usually granted for one year at a time and renewed annually upon proof of continued enrollment and academic progress. Your D visa gets you into Malta; the residence card lets you stay.

Visa Fees and Processing Times

- **Visa Application Fee:** ~**€70** for the national long-stay (D) visa for study (payable in local currency). For example, the fee in Canada is **202 CAD**, which includes local conversion and possibly service fees. In other regions it might be around \$100–\$120 USD equivalent. Always check the exact fee with the Maltese consulate as it can update (and note some nationalities might be exempt or have reduced fees by agreements). The fee is **non-refundable** regardless of outcome.
- **Other Costs:** If an external service provider (like VFS) is used, there will be an additional service charge (often around €15–€30). Also budget for insurance purchase, translations, etc. After arrival, the **residence permit fee** in Malta is separate (around €27.50 for the eResidence card as referenced by Identity Malta).
- **Processing Time:** The decision on a student visa is usually made within **15 calendar days** after you submit and pay. In some cases, it can be extended to **30 days** if more scrutiny is needed. It's rare but can go up to 60 days in exceptional cases of missing docs (so don't apply last minute). In practice, many students get a response in 2–3 weeks. It is advisable to apply at least **4–6 weeks before your intended travel** (and up to 3 months ahead is allowed). Early application gives time to appeal or fix issues if needed.

Tips for a Successful Visa Interview (if applicable)

Malta usually does not conduct a formal interview for every student visa. The **consular officer primarily relies on your documents**. However, they may ask you a few questions when you submit your application, or request an additional interview if something needs clarification. Here's how to ensure success:

- **Complete Documentation:** Double-check that you have **everything on the checklist**. Missing documents are a top reason for delays or refusals. Use the official checklist and provide every item. If a document is not in English, provide a certified translation. A complete file often means no interview needed.
- **Strong Financial Proof:** Make it obvious that you have *more than enough* funds. If your finances are borderline or unclear, a consul might doubt your ability to support yourself and either ask questions or refuse. Show funds well above the minimum and explain the source of those funds. Consuls appreciate seeing paid tuition receipts or a local sponsor in Malta (if any) as extra reassurance.
- **Demonstrate Study Purpose:** Be ready to articulate *why Malta* and *why this course*. Since Malta is a smaller destination, the officer might be curious. In your cover letter or if asked, mention the quality of the program, any unique features (professors, research, language environment), and how it fits your career. Showing genuine enthusiasm and knowledge can dispel doubts about your intentions.
- **Show Intent to Comply:** If asked about future plans, it's fine to say you hope to explore post-study opportunities (e.g., EU Blue Card or work in Malta), but emphasize you know you must **obtain legal status or leave** when studies end. Malta's rules allow students to work part-time (up to 20 hours/week after 3 months of study), so you can mention you intend to follow all regulations.
- **Be Polite and Clear:** Should an interview or dialogue occur, answer clearly and honestly. The visa officer may ask: "Who is financing your studies?", "Do you plan to work in Malta during or after your studies?", "Where will you live in Malta?" Respond with specifics (e.g., "My father is sponsoring me and I have a bank statement showing funds," or "I have accommodation arranged at XYZ residence in Msida, 10 minutes from campus."). Brief, factual answers are best.
- **Don't Volunteer Unasked Information:** Provide the information requested, but avoid lengthy tangents. Maltese consular staff typically go through a checklist. If you supplied a thorough set of documents, you likely won't be questioned much. If they do ask something, it's because they want that detail – answer and then stop.
- **Remain Calm:** If you've been truthful in your application, there's nothing to worry about. Malta, like other Schengen states, may have to occasionally refuse visas if not convinced, but you have the right to appeal quickly. That said, most genuine student applications succeed. Be confident in your preparation.

Useful Links and Official Resources

- **Identity Malta – Central Visa Unit (Student Visa):** Official site for Malta visa policy, with sections for courses exceeding 90 days and downloadable document checklists.
- **Malta D Visa Required Documents (PDF):** Checklist of documents for Student D Visa from Identity Malta. Ensures you prepare everything needed.

- **EU Immigration Portal – Malta (Students):** European Commission page summarizing Malta’s student visa conditions (fees, rights to work, etc.).
- **High Commission of Malta / Consulate Websites:** (e.g., Malta High Commission in your country) often have specific guidance. For instance, the “**Poland in Canada – D-Type national visa**” page includes Malta’s student visa info. Always check the Malta mission website for your region.
- **Contacting the Embassy:** If unsure, you can contact the Maltese consular office by email or phone – they can clarify doubts about the process or documents specific to your case.
- **After Arrival:** Identify Malta’s Expatriates Unit site for information on obtaining a residence permit (E-Residence card) after you arrive (important for staying beyond visa validity).

Reference Link: https://policies/migration-and-asylum/eu-immigration-portal/student-malta_en#:~:text=public%20health%3B