

University of Malta Library

SWISS INTERNSHIP MOBILITY I+D

Zoe & Marine



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Application process

Marine and Zoe both got to know about the internship through their teachers at their respective apprenticeship schools. We had the opportunity to apply for the internship through the Mobility ID Website and send our applications to the Mobility ID organisers. This was of course in English, and we used the Europass website to make a resume.

Funnily enough, Marine didn't know much about the internship before she met Nina and Melissa, the Swiss organisers, and Zoe, the other intern, for the first time in an online meeting. Marine had only been in contact with Nina and Melissa for the application via email, whereas Zoe already knew Nina and Melissa from her apprenticeship. At this meeting we decided to share a flat in Malta as we both researched accommodation and learnt that it is quite expensive for one person to rent a flat. We were given a lot of helpful and detailed information about Malta and our internship there, including how the previous interns had prepared for it.

About a week later we met up for an online meeting to look for accommodation in Malta together and book flight tickets. We thought it was better to book our flight early enough so that it wasn't too expensive and so that we could fly when we wanted. We also took Nina and Melissa's advice to travel to Malta a few days to a week earlier to acclimatise.

Preparations for the internship

After we decided that we would live together these three months, we thought about what we would need in accommodation and the surrounding area. One of the things we prioritized was internet access during our stay. Most flats in Malta do have internet, but you shouldn't forget to buy some data for your mobile phone so that you don't suddenly find yourself stranded in the middle of nowhere. There are several restaurants, cafés and other public places such as buses with public internet access, but the access is not that reliable.

It also should be noted that a power adapter is required in Malta due to the use of British sockets. Without one, you will be unable to charge your phone or laptop. But do not worry, in the worst case you can buy one here if you forget it!

We were asked to bring our laptops to work at the university. Therefore, it is advisable to have your laptop checked prior to your departure, especially if it is not the latest model, rather than addressing any issues once you arrive in Malta. Dealing with complications caused by electronic devices can be complicated and that especially in a different country (Zoe speaks from experience...).

Furthermore, we both made packing lists, so we had an overview of what we needed to pack and wanted to take with us. You should also not forget to research some excursions or day trips so the anticipation can grow. 😊

Other things you should think about when looking for accommodation are:

- Is it close to the university or to a bus station?
- Are there some grocery stores nearby?
- Is the kitchen equipped with everything you need? (oven, stove, freezer etc.)
- Does it have a washing machine?
- Has it an AC? (for heating also)
- Is the apartment in a quiet or loud area?
- With what is the accommodation already equipped? (bedsheets, towels, cleaning equipment etc.)

We found an apartment in Msida close to the University, only 15 minutes by foot.

Induction Week

On our first day at the University library of Malta, the 30.09.24, Marine and I were warmly welcomed by Silvio Cortis and Josianne Camilleri Vella, they are a part of the library management. They gave us an overview of the library, its services, its collections (with today's preference for electronic books over paper versions), as well as its ongoing projects. We were also introduced to all the various people in the different departments that work at the library. The different departments are Acquisitions, Archives and Rare Books, Cataloguing, Circulation Desk and Short Loans, Melitensia, Open Science, Outreach, Periodicals, Reference and Digitisation.

Our program for the next weeks was detailed. The first week we were to get an introduction to all the different departments and the work they do. Then we would spend one week each at the Outreach Department and at the Digitisation Department to get a more in-depth insight into their processes. Once we would have been able to get to know the different departments, we would choose one or two which we would like to be at for the second part of our internship.

After going over the program we received a tour of the campus, during it we learned about the different buildings, as well as the placements of the other libraries on site (Faculty of Arts library and Faculty of Laws and Theology library). We went to the Campus Hub, which is very different from those in Switzerland as it offers a wide range of restaurants and services catered to students. During the tour we also learned about the ongoing Fresher's Week, a welcoming event for new students at the university. The campus was vibrant with large tents featuring stands from various student faculties and commercial vendors promoting their products. A campus radio station was broadcasting live commentary on the event, and there were numerous fun games with small prizes, along with complimentary food available. This experience was entirely new to us, we both had never seen something like this before, we found it fascinating and enjoyable! 😊

Because we started at the time of the fresher's week, we finished our first day earlier and could walk around a little bit between the different stands, enjoy the atmosphere of it and try some Maltese snacks.

Second day – 01.10.2024

Outreach Department

We started the second day with a library tour and an overview of the outreach department which Agata Scicluna Derkowska gave us. We got to know briefly about the different floors and the workspaces for the students.

The main tasks at the Outreach Department are promoting the library services, aiding users with their queries and improving the communication flow between the students and the library. Depending on the request they offer their support in person, verbally or by email and have also workshops for the users, for example on how to use the library's online catalogue Hydi. All three people that work in the Outreach Department give workshops or library tours to patrons and we could attend one about the search engine Hydi.



The Outreach Department is also the department in charge of the library's social media presence on various platforms, like Facebook or Instagram. They promote the different events and exhibitions at the library or from people that want their event/exhibition to happen at the library but also provide updates about the opening hours of the library or about services at the library. At the time we were there they were promoting the upcoming event «borrow a librarian» where a student can «rent» a librarian who will talk with them about one of their subjects of expertise.

Since it was fresher's week, the department was busy at the front door, promoting the library and possible future collaborations with students' associations (such as the chess club who had their stand in front of the library.)

Reference Department

The Reference Department is situated in a silent study area and the tour gave us Cyril Coppini. They have daily shelf reading and patron queries, cataloguing and classification with BLISS of newly acquired items, collection management, statistics they need to

update, inter-library loans and many more tasks they need to do. The collection contains dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, atlases, publisher's catalogues, reference works online databases and books donated by the US Embassy (Education USA).

Open Science Department

After our short break Kaja Lochman gave us a brief insight into their department, and she also showed us how the Repository OAR@UM works and to use it. The Repository OAR@UM has the materials of the different faculties of the university, and they are sorted accordingly.

The main tasks of the team are uploading materials, providing support regarding everything with open science and maintaining the Repository OAR@UM platform. Not only can the Open Science Department upload material on to the platform, also professors can upload their articles, but only in guided access. The team checks the uploads of the professors and corrects them if needed.

There are different levels of accessibility for the uploaded materials. "Open access" means everybody can have access to the information, "restricted" means the information is only accessible with a login of the university and some information is "closed" that means almost no one can access it. But for most of the uploaded materials there is an email address linked, so that one can directly request access from the author.

Acquisition Department

The next Department was the Acquisition Department which Jessica Parnis explained to us. In this department all the media, print media as well as electronic media, from the library must pass through before they are searchable in the online catalogue.

The department receives book suggestions from patrons which need to fill out an online form and then the acquisition team must check the request and if it is approved by their conditions they buy it. They prefer a digital version to a print version, because then the book is available and accessible everywhere and it even can be used sometimes by several patrons at the same time. If the digital version is not available, they buy the print version. Donations are also something the department must manage.

Cataloguing Department

The Cataloguing Department was the last department before lunch on this day and Stefania Galea welcomed us warmly. She explained to us that they are responsible for cataloguing the main library and others are responsible for other locations.

They catalogue in the system ALMA and use the ACCR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules) rules and the Library of Congress for classification. For law, religion and theology they are using different classifications. For example, they use Moys classification for media related to law and the Lynn classification is used for religion and theology. These classifications cover more precisely the subjects than the Library of Congress classification and so they decided that it was the best approach.

Reading Halls

After our lunchbreak we met Cynthia Farrugia on the first floor, the first Reading Hall. She explained the Reading Halls, the work and the services she and her team do with a power point presentation to us. They are responsible for monthly statistics, helping the users with their needs, taking care of missing books, doing the shelving, stocktaking, weeding, clearing unwanted books and much more.

There are two information desks on the first floor and another two on the second floor where the staff has their workplace and are there to help the patrons with their queries. There are a couple of computer stations for people who need to search for something on Hydi and there are also printers and a scanner available for use. On the second floor is a silent study space so the students preparing for exams can study in silence without interruptions. They also have a beautiful Fine Arts Collection on the second floor which is protected behind glass doors but the patrons can ask for access to this section at one of the information desks.

Standard Operating Procedures

We spent the last hour of our second day with Silvio in the seminar room where he showed us the Standard Operating Procedures of the University Library of Malta, where we can find them and discussed a little about the importance of these SOP's. We then needed a little help from the IT Department so that we could connect to the Internet on the University Campus.

Third Day – 02.10.2024

Periodicals Department

The third day began in the Periodicals Department with Mona Lisa Coppini. Mona Lisa showed us around their department first and told us about the work they do. They have around 150 print periodicals and over 60'000 electronic periodicals across various fields available. The print editions of the periodicals get bound when they collected all issues of one volume, so that they are more durable and can be still used in the future.

The department is subscribed to both local and foreign newspapers, which are retained for one year. They hold various license agreements with different publishers, providing access to around 120 databases. We find that great, the students and other patrons can benefit so much from these services!

Fresher's week Stand with Outreach Department



After a short break we went outside the library to the Stand of the Outreach Department for Fresher's week. There we were greeted by Ryan Scicluna, Agata Scicluna Derkowska and Martin Lochman, which were promoting the library and its various services.

For two hours Marine and I helped at the Outreach Department stand, we got the task to promote the social media websites of the library and to ask student faculties to think about collaborating with the library social media if they have an event or anything else they want to promote. We also had time to look around the whole fresher's week event and enjoy the joyful atmosphere and the free food! 😊

Circulation Desk and Short Loans

When we returned from our lunch break, we had an hour to learn more about the circulation desk and short loans from Josette Vassallo. She told us about the different work she and her team must do and about the regulations of the library.

At the circulation desk the media can be lend, renewed and returned. But they also help students with queries about different topics, for example freshmen with their new student accounts and where everything is. Undergraduate students can borrow up to six books for three weeks and Graduate students can borrow up to ten books for 3 months.

The Short Loans Collection section is behind the circulation desk and professors can deposit books for their classes from their courses there. Because of that the books are popular and to prevent only one person borrowing a book for months they are in this Short Loan Collection. The students need to ask for the short loan books at the circulation desk.

Fourth Day (morning) – 03.10.2024

Melitensia Department

On the morning of the fourth day, we first visited the Melitensia Department where Maria Azzopardi gave us a tour of the department. Melitensia means it is a collection of media about the topic Malta, from Maltese authors and Maltese publishers. Therefore, this whole collection contains valuable information about the history of Malta, its culture and people.

The Melitensia Department has its own room where there is silent study for the patrons that work with the Melitensia media or other students. Because most of the Melitensia Media can only be used in the designated room and users need to make an online request through one of the computers to receive the media, but some media can be borrowed normally.

Archive and Rare Books

Later we were given an insight into the Archives and Rare Books Department by Matthew Cuschieri. Because this department contains unique and rare items, they catalogue them by themselves and store them in cabinets with locks on the doors on the second floor.

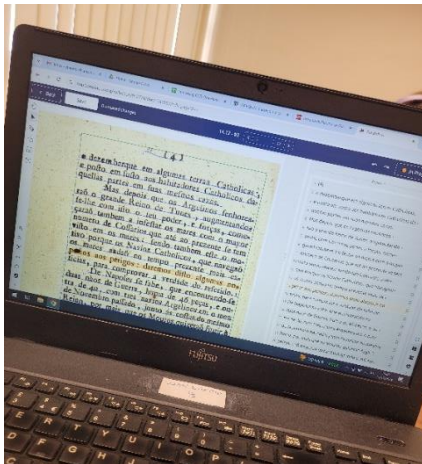
The books are only accessible with a request beforehand, that is because of conservation reasons. They also have a separate room for the other archive items, where the temperature is colder due to conservation reasons. There they store some amazing materials and collections, some of them we could see thanks to Matthew.

They sometimes get whole collections of manuscripts from books that were later published and donations from important people, like politicians or other historic figures.



We found it fascinating that they had a collection from one of the knights of Malta from around the 1500 century which was found abandoned in a building!

Digitisation Department



Before our break this morning we got an introduction to the Digitisation Department from Luke Brincat. The main mission of this department is to preserve and enhance access to the University's valuable collections by converting the physical materials into digital formats, supporting research and more through comprehensive digitization projects. The department uses a scanner to digitise documents.

They work closely with the departments of Archives, Melitensia and Open Science for content selection and digitization projects. The Department carries out various projects, some of which are on-demand projects for research documents.

Unfortunately, the OCR/Transkribus transcription tool was down for maintenance, but Luke explained that AI is used to transcribe printed and handwritten texts. Once the work has been done and corrected, the file is uploaded to OAR@UM. It was very interesting to see AI used as a tool, we both never worked in an institution that uses this new type of technology.

Fourth and Fifth Day – 04.10.2024: The different Branches

On the last two day of our first week at the University Library of Malta we visited the other branches of the University library Malta.

Faculty of Arts Library



With Silvio we visited the Arts Library where Kenneth Caruana gave us a short overview of the smaller library and its media. The library caters foremost to the faculties of art and its students. It is a quiet study place and a reference collection.

In this Library are books about Anthropology, Archaeology, Geography, History, History of Arts, International Relations, Literature (English, French, Italian, German, Maltese, and Spanish), Philosophy, Religion and Social Studies. The Arts library has also a valuable collection of the artist Caravaggio, which is rather popular.

Faculty of Laws and Theology Library

After the Arts Library we visited Bertha Gritx at the Faculty of Laws and Theology Library and got introduced to the library. She showed us around the silent room with many workplaces and a great atmosphere.

The Library branch provides scholarly information resources in law and theology, both in print and electronic formats to academics, students and staff of the respective faculties. The primary goal of this library is to support the curriculum and research needs of both Faculties, also to provide reference and other assistance to registered and outside users.



Junior College Library



The Junior College Library is located outside the University Campus, so we went there by car on the fifth day. There we were warmly welcomed by Katja Zahra Camilleri and half of the team. She gave us a tour of the whole library and explained to us what services and media they provide.

The main task of this library is to help students transition as smoothly as possible to university life.

They have all the media the students need for their preparation courses and non-academic media. The Junior College Library organizes activities such as information literacy sessions, seasonal book displays, book clubs, and art/photography exhibitions.

Not all the media can be borrowed, for example textbooks, because they are in high demand, therefore they are only for reference.

Valletta Campus Library

After the Junior College Library, we drove to Valletta to visit the Valletta Campus Library.

There Kristine Saliba told us all about the library and the different tasks she and her co-worker do. This branch was the main library before the University Library in Msida was declared the main library.

The library holds a unique and rich collection of anthropological and social science works mostly from Sir Jack Goody. In addition, there are other smaller collections from other donors, which are still being catalogued and classified.



Since there are almost no more courses on this campus, there are also almost no students that use the library to study. As there are many conferences in the building, however, people also like to go to the library to prepare or simply enjoy a moment of peace and quiet.

Two different Departments

After our Induction week at the Library, we had to decide at which department we wanted to stay for the rest of the internship. We decided after these two weeks that we wanted to stay at the Outreach Department for the first month and for the second one, Zoe wanted to stay at the Digitisation Department while Marine wanted to go to Cataloguing. Unfortunately, the Cataloguing Department did not have space left for Marine, so she asked for the Archive Department, which she could do. Because the Archive Office is quite small, Marine worked from the Digitisation office for them, where she also worked with Zoe sometimes.

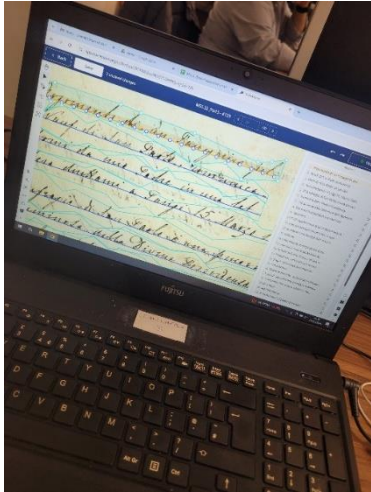
Outreach Department

At the Outreach Department our main task was working on some ideas for the social media accounts of the Library Malta and hopefully publish them in the end. Before we could work independently, Ryan showed us their previous posts and videos they posted and were successful. He explained what is important when making content and how to change some aspects to make the content work for the library guidelines. We worked with him on many social media ideas, and he showed us the complete process until something gets uploaded. We brainstormed, scripted, filmed and edited a lot of social media content together and with time we worked alone on some content from beginning to posting!

We both had not worked that closely with social media before, so it was an intriguing experience with many new things we got to learn! Apart from creating social media content we also researched some interesting topics and wrote a few papers about them. One research paper we wrote together with Ryan, which even got published in the University Magazin THINK.

Digitisation Department

In the Digitisation Department Zoe had the opportunity to work on controlling the transcribed documents from the transcribing tool Transkribus, which the Library was



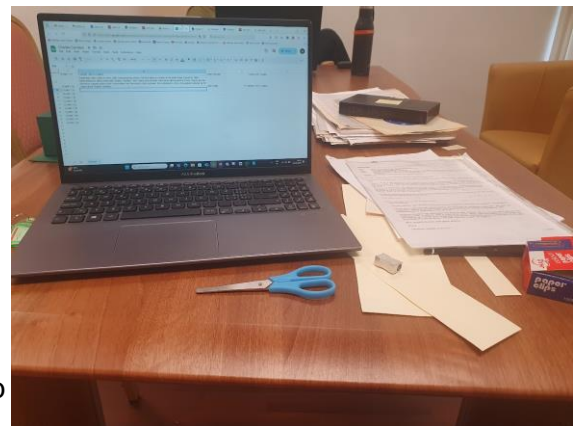
testing for their print and handwritten manuscripts. The platform was having some trouble recognizing words and sentences, so Zoe and other co-workers had to check that Transkribus recognized all the words and if not, they had to manually correct it. If the transcribed documents have some bigger errors, the OCR function will not work correctly and so it will not be searchable.

Zoe had never worked in a Digitisation Department before, so it was a new experience for her. She also was really fascinated with Transkribus and how an AI software is helping transcribing different documents in different languages to use for research and much more!

Archives Department

In the Archives department, Marine was able to work on the inventory of a fund about

Charles Camilleri, a Maltese conductor she didn't know. Marine started by taking care of loose documents that she put together by category (correspondence, photos, concert programmes, etc.), then she created an Excel sheet in which she described the content, the date, the creator of the document etc. She also had to translate several documents from Maltese into English using google translate to understand their content.



Subsequently, she gave them identity numbers before starting conservation by removing the plastic sleeves, the staples and paper clips and storing them in a non-acid box.

During her time in the Archives department, Marine had time to make an inventory of all the documents she had been given, except for the books received with the Charles Camilleri collection, which will be handled by the Cataloguing Department.

Leisure time and excursion tips

Before you go to Malta it is a good idea to research some places, activities or excursions you want to visit. When you plan some of them before your in Malta or at least research a little about them, it will be much easier and relaxing to visit them or do them, because some of the activities are seasonal or happen only when certain weather conditions are met.

During our three months in Malta, we were able to visit many cultural sites, take part in events and enjoy the many beaches that Malta and the neighboring islands of Comino and Gozo have to offer. Here is a summary of our visits:

Valletta



Valletta is the capital of Malta, less frantic than St. Julian's or St. Paul's, but nonetheless very lively with many bars, restaurants, museums and events.

We enjoyed relaxing at the weekend or in the evening in the 16th-century architecture, whether for a cocktail or a bubble tea and we were also able to explore many facets of the capital. We also visited several of the monuments and museums that the city has to offer, we will list a few examples:

St John's Co-Cathedral

St John's Co-Cathedral offers live shows retracing the history of Malta and its knights. Tickets entitle the holder to a 30-minute tour of the cathedral in the evening, before being led in the The Oratory of The Decollato to a show featuring an actor, an opera singer and a musician playing underneath two works by Caravaggio including *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*. You also can visit it normally during the daytime.



Arschaelogy Museum



The Malta Museum of Archaeology displays various items from the prehistoric ruins of the Maltese temples, as well as the finds from the Phoenician ship that ran aground in Maltese waters. The centrepiece is the famous sleeping lady. We were very interested in the first part of the museum, but found it more difficult to understand the museography of the second, where, for example, you go from one room on numismatics to another on the evolution of human physiology. Admission costs just 5 euros.

MUŻA - The National Community Art Museum

The MUŻA - The National Museum of Community Art houses work by Maltese and European artists from various periods. The collections are thematically grouped but offer a broad vision of Maltese art and culture. The Museum is a must-see!

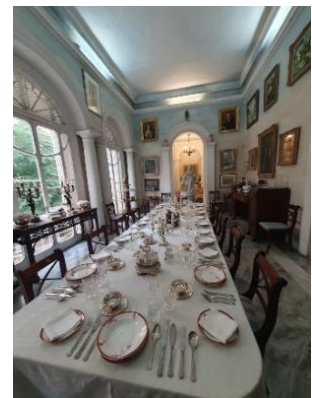


Valetta underground

You need to book in advance on the website to reserve a guided tour of almost 2 hours under the city of Valletta. This very interesting tour reveals the conditions in which the city's inhabitants had to shelter under the city, particularly in the cisterns, during the Second World War. It's best not to go if you suffer from claustrophobia.

Casa Rocca Picola

The 16th Century Palace of a Maltese Noble family can be visited in groups, with an audiobook on your phone or on your own terms. You can discover the family's history through a multitude of furniture and objects, as well as the family parrot sitting in a magnificent garden. The tour ends with the family's impressive Air Raid Shelter.



Grandmaster's Palace

During the fesitval Notte bianca, we visited for free the 450-year-old Grandmaster's Palace, a monumental building that is the official residence of the President of Malta.

After going through a major security check, we were able to discover the renovated armoury and the palace courtyard.

Mdina



It's marvelous to get lost in the streets of the fortified town of Mdina, also known as the Silent City, and we took advantage of our long stay to visit Malta's former capital several times. We tried out the 3D film about Malta, but we wouldn't recommend it as it was far too expensive, and the quality was mediocre at best. We also took

the opportunity to discover the magnificent *St Paul's Cathedral* and the *Natural History Museum*, which focuses on the local flora and fauna. We also visited the Mdina Dungeon and torture museum, which is very entertaining if you're not too sensitive about horror and gory stuff. Finally, we recommend going to *Fontanella*, a café that offers a rooftop view of the city's surroundings and a slice of awesome cake for less than 5 euros 😊.

Rabbat

Rabat is a neighbouring town to Mdina and is famous for the catacombs of St Paul. We were able to visit the museum and the 30 Roman hypogea dating from the 7th century free of charge, as it was the day of the town's festa. It's best not to be claustrophobic, as you're plunging into deep underground galleries. This is a very interesting visit, as it traces the history of Christianity in Malta.



Malta Aquarium



Overlooking the ocean in St-Paul Bay is the *Malta Aquarium*. It's a little too expensive in our opinion, 17 euro, considering its size (one-hour visit), but you'll find all the elements of an aquarium: colorful decorations, a small shark tunnel, a vivarium and some other attractions. The visit ends with an attraction of a room, that moves to imitate a submarine cabin that unhooks before ending in the depths of the sea.

Golden Bay

Golden Bay is one of Malta's only sandy beaches, known for the impressive cliffs that surround it. It also has the particularity of allowing you to touch the bottom of the sea for a long time. There is a charge for showers, but free toilets are available in the car park.



Three cities

With our Tallinja card we took the ferry to the Three Cities of Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, which are just a few minutes from Valletta. Unfortunately, it was raining very hard that day, but we still took the opportunity to wander the narrow streets and fortified ramparts linking the towns and to eat in a restaurant along the canal. Our advice: aim for a sunny day to make the most of your visit.

Gozo

To visit Malta's sister island, we took the ferry from Valletta. Once there, we took the bus as our Tallinja card also worked for Gozo. We started by visiting the prehistoric temple of *Ġgantija*, the archaeological tour of this complex of two megalithic temples, among the oldest in the world, was very interesting. We bought a ticket for the various Gozo



museums at 13 euros, but it's not compulsory as the museums we visited (*The old prison, Natural Sciences Museum, Citadel Museum*) are very outdated. Our advice is to take a free, leisurely stroll around the citadel and head for the golden-sand bay of Ramla.

Comino: blue lagoon

We took the ferry from Malta to the island of Comino to reach the natural pool of the blue lagoon. This heavenly spot gave us the chance to swim in the turquoise water and relax with a cocktail in a pineapple. You must be careful though, as there's only a little sand and the rest of the beach is rocky, so you'll need suitable footwear.



Popeye Village



Although we were unfamiliar with the 1980 musical film *Popeye* starring Robin Williams, we had a wonderful day at this theme park designed around the village of the set. As well as being very colorful and offering access to a turquoise sea (we were disappointed not to have come in September to take advantage of this private beach), the

park offers several activities: board games, a documentary film, a re-enactment of scenes from the film with actors and visitors, mini-golf and many more! We were also entitled to a small popcorn and a free postcard as part of the price. We highly recommend eating a spinach burger in the restaurant at the entrance to the park, one of our best gourmet memories of Malta.

Blue Grotto

We have a tip: if you're going to visit the sea cave at the Blue Grotto check online to see if the traditional Maltese boats are sailing that day. Unfortunately, due to the wind, the tours were cancelled when we were visiting. We were nevertheless able to walk along the coast to get a nice view of the blue grotto before stopping for lunch on the edge



of a cliff. Apart from the grotto, there's not much else in the area, so be sure to check the boats timetable on the day before setting off on your adventure.



Malta Contemporary Art Space

The MICAS was free on 8 January (the day of the Immaculate Conception). This contemporary art space consists of three floors for one artist's installation and an outdoor space for another. While the giant installations by Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos were impressive, the fact remains that without the guided tour of the indoor and outdoor spaces takes no more than an hour.

Notte Bianca

On 5 October 2024, we went to *Notte bianca*, an annual arts and culture festival in Valletta. The program includes performances by artists of different musical genres (rock, classical, traditional, alternative...), live shows, a giant karaoke, traditional dances and many more. Public monuments and museums are also free and open to the public during the evening.

Ġenna ta' Ġonna

On 20 October 2024, we headed to Floriana to enjoy the festa (religious and popular festival in Malta). We were able to visit, free of charge, the cisterns where the inhabitants had hidden during the war and an old railway station. The day ended with a craft market in the main square. We were lucky enough to find out about this event thanks to a recommendation from our colleagues at the library, so we strongly recommend asking at work if they know of any interesting upcoming events 😊.



Chocolate Festival

At the suggestion of another colleague, we went to the chocolate festival on 26 October. And what an adventure it was, because the bus we took didn't serve the festival neighborhood, we were stranded around an off-center bus stop under some outlets for an hour. After all that excitement, we were able to enjoy the festival by tasting cannelloni and buying delicious chocolates from a local chocolate confectioner. There were also chocolate sculptures of football players. As always, festivals in Malta are very lively, and this one ended with fireworks as we headed home.

Christmas markets



There are several Christmas markets in Malta, and we visited the two best known. *The Valletta Christmas market* consists of several stalls, some with handcrafted jewelry but mainly food (we won't mention the mulled wine, which wasn't very good...) but above all several events such as a meeting with Father Christmas, arcade games, an ice rink. We took a ride on the Ferris wheel, which gave us a beautiful view of Malta at night, for 5 euros.

In Rabat, we went to the *Natalis Notabilis* market, which is much bigger than the one in Valletta. This market, which is only open for two weeks, offers a multitude of stalls selling handicrafts (which enabled us to buy our Christmas presents) and local produce to taste. It's a very pretty Christmas market; the decorations are bright, and the Christmas music is omnipresent.



Movie theaters

Malta has two cinemas, a more intimate one in Valletta with newly refurbished screens and the famous *Eden Cinema* complex in Saint-Julian. For 9 euros a ticket, you can enjoy films in English, recent releases or sometimes reruns of classics, and above all there's an interval in the middle of the film!

English Cafe Malta

The *English Cafe Malta* organizes gatherings for the international community of Malta: interns, students, expatriates and other interested persons. Every day a different activity is organised, board games, rooftop parties, excursions and many more. We went to the Wednesday karaoke night and had a lot of fun meeting people of different nationalities and backgrounds!

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Zoe & Marine <3