

Research, Innovation & Knowledge Transfer at the University of Malta

Prof Ing Simon G. Fabri



VENTuRE National Networking Event
Wednesday, 18 May 2022
Admiral Hall, Fort St Angelo, Birgu
Waterfront



L-Università
ta' Malta

University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



NAS
NAVAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES



**This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon
2020 research and Innovation programme. Project No. 856887**

Mission and vision statement on research

- In line with its vision and mission, the University of Malta strives to engage in world-class research having local, regional, European and global significance.
- To achieve this, the University endeavours to strengthen the quality of its research output through high-calibre academics and the provision of an enhanced research infrastructure including innovation and knowledge transfer.



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2. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

University wide implementation across 174 units in 12 administrative directorates, 14 faculties, 114 academic departments, 35 institutes, centres, schools and academies.

Promote World Class Research

High-level researchers, research environment, doctoral school, international collaboration, respond to local and global needs, emerging areas, smart specialisations, research niches or UM

Conduct Research that Supports Rankings

Benchmark best-in-class, peer-reviewed publications and citations, doctoral-researcher-to-staff ratio

Secure Sustainable Funding for R&D

Funds in line with GERD, infrastructure, auditing for use of resources, funding from RIDT, strengthening RSSD and PSO, procurement and recruitment

Expand Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer

Intellectual property, research consultancy, IP and knowledge transfer, CR&KTO unit, partnerships and industry collaboration, proof-of-concept and start-up funding



Improve Communication and Research Outreach

Social and traditional media, Malta-centric publication, research as a pillar in Malta's economic development, postgraduate research, engage STEAHM communicators, internal and external communication.

Undertake Responsible Research, Integrity and Ethics

Set up Committee for Research Engagement and a Research Integrity Office, Strengthen and streamline UREC

Design an HR Strategy for Researchers

Studentships, HRS4R charter, mentoring, take-up of the research stream, status of researchers, support and conditions, gender balance, mobility, training on emerging technologies

Apply the Research Clusters Concept

Multidisciplinary research, funding from national and international sources, business plans detailing expected outputs in diverse research areas



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UM at a glance

- 2950+ employees among administrative directorates, 14 faculties, 18 institutes, 13 centres and 3 schools
- 11,100+ student body
- 750 FTE academics
- 350+ research support officers
- 450+ doctoral student candidates
- € 22M+ research funds in 2020
- € 85M+ structural funds in research infrastructural projects: TRAKE and SLC
- One partner of six in European University Alliance *SEA-EU – the European University of the Seas*
- Vast portfolio of research themes: natural & knowledge sciences, engineering, ICT, built environment, medical & health sciences, arts & humanities, social sciences and education



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Collaboration and research programmes

- UM emphasises collaboration across all stakeholders in research and knowledge transfer
- Encourages that the results of research and innovation are brought to good use outside campus and applied to society, industry and commercial enterprises
- We have a Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer office to support such initiatives
- These R&I and Knowledge Transfer activities and collaborations with industry and society require funding support
- Win-win situation that leads to economic growth and strengthening of a knowledge-based economy
- This also applies to UM's R&I in the maritime sector with several programmes benefiting from funding from HORIZON, the Maritime Seed Award (MarSA), MCST funding, Interreg Med Programme etc.



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Conclusion

- Today's event is an opportunity for to foster collaborations between UM and your organisations in the Maritime Sector, representing various stakeholders from academia, industry, business and economic operators
- We strongly believe that such collaborations and active participation are a crucial element to create knowledge, innovation and the transfer of results out to industry, society and economic operators
- This could leave a lasting difference on our maritime operations, the Blue Economy, standards of living and sustainable management of the Maritime Sector



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Role of Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)

Ing. Elisa Vella

Manager – Industry-Academia Collaboration



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Role of Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)

We liaise with academic members of staff and students to assist in:

- **Managing the University's IP portfolio**
- **Facilitating/Seeking to develop Industry-Academia collaboration**
- **Supporting business development**
- **Safeguarding the UM's interest whilst ensuring future collaborations with the same Party**



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Interaction with Industry

- Placements
- Donations through RIDT
- Collaborative Research
- Licensing new technologies
- Spin-out company formation



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Types of Collaboration

- Sponsorship of Master's/PhD students
- Internships of students as part of their programme of studies
- Paid PT work placements (outside students' programme of studies)
- Sponsorship of workshops/seminars
- Creation of tailor-made study-units/modules to carry out training of the organization's employees
- Funding of research pertaining to a particular issue in the organization's operations

The KTO also assists academics/members of staff to apply for/obtain funds for projects e.g.:

- TOSFA (<https://takeoff.org.mt/seedfundawards/tosfa-2022/>)
- MarSA (<https://takeoff.org.mt/seedfundawards/marsa-2021/>)
- R&D 2020 (<https://maltaenterprise.com/support/research-and-development-2020>)



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Commercialisation Route

The Technology Transfer team at the KTO support academics towards the most suitable route towards commercialisation. The following are the main activities:

- Assisting academics in confidentiality/IP issues when they apply for further funding to raise the TRL of their research
- IP check and patent application
- Licensing the technology to third parties
- Setting up IP/licensing agreements to ensure fair and reasonable conditions for all parties involved
- Spin-off formation



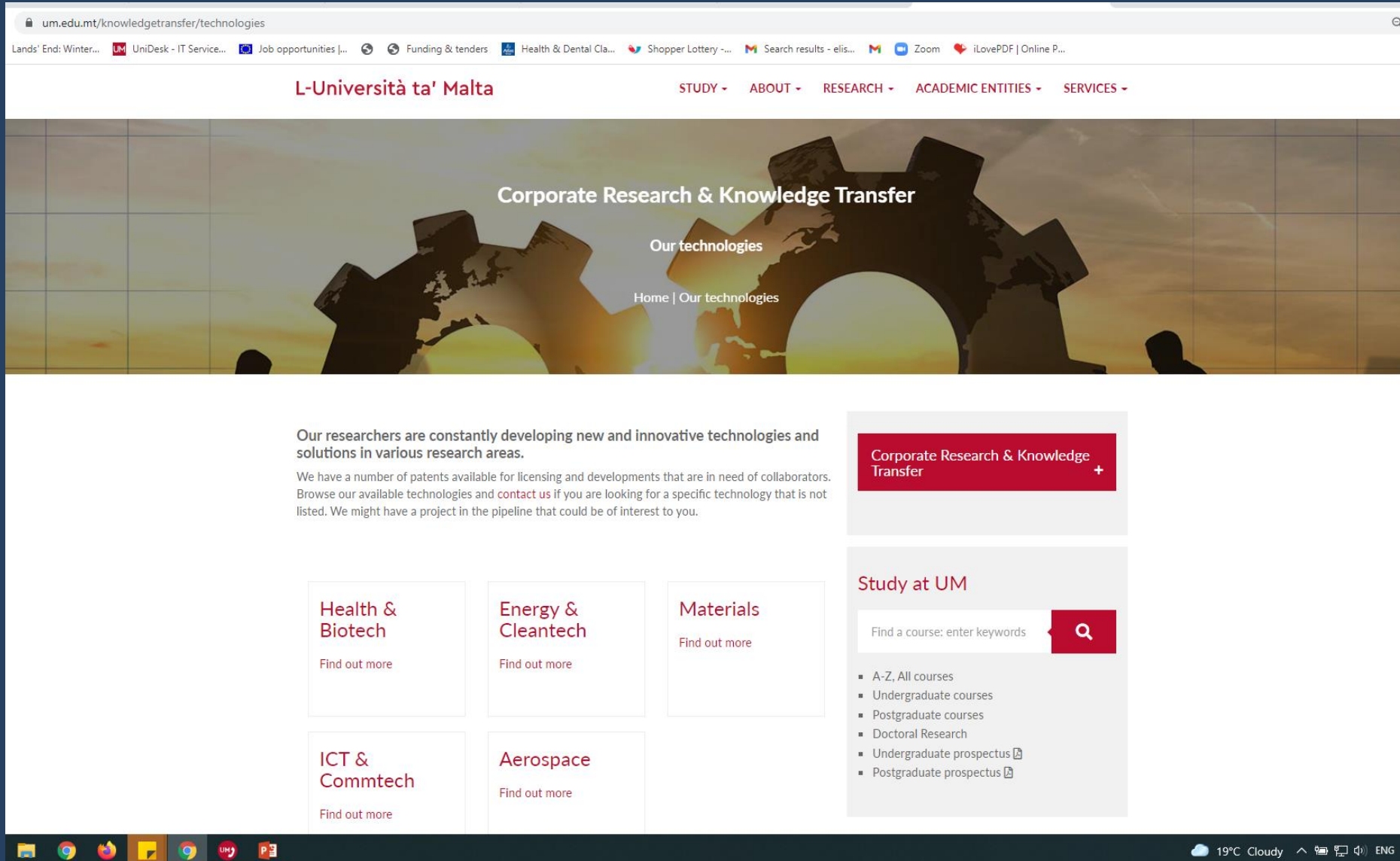
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Examples of the UM technologies

<https://www.um.edu.mt/knowledgetransfer/technologies>



um.edu.mt/knowledgetransfer/technologies

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Corporate Research & Knowledge Transfer

Our technologies

Home | Our technologies

Our researchers are constantly developing new and innovative technologies and solutions in various research areas.

We have a number of patents available for licensing and developments that are in need of collaborators. Browse our available technologies and [contact us](#) if you are looking for a specific technology that is not listed. We might have a project in the pipeline that could be of interest to you.

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Study at UM

Find a course: enter keywords

- A-Z, All courses
- Undergraduate courses
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- Undergraduate prospectus [📄](#)
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Thank You

Ing. Elisa Vella

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