

## ESF 02.053 - Developing Allied Health Capacity to Sustain Health Care Needs

The Ministry for Health in Malta has acquired European Structural Funds in order to sponsor Maltese Trainees to train overseas in one of the following courses:

- BSc in Orthoptics
- BSc in Optometry
- MSc in Genetic Counselling

### What is Orthoptics?

Orthoptists are Allied Health Professionals who are trained to diagnose and treat ocular motility (eye movement) and problems related to the development of vision such as:

- Amblyopia (lazy eye) - a reduction in vision arising from a defect present in infancy or early childhood.
- Defective binocular vision - the inability to use the two eyes together.
- Abnormal eye movements arising from injury or disease affecting the eye muscles or nerve supplying the muscles.
- Diplopia (double vision) resulting from abnormal eye movements or strabismus (squint).
- Orthoptists are the experts in childhood vision screening, and undertake primary screening of children aged four to five years. Orthoptists are skilled in performing and interpreting a variety of diagnostic procedures where an underlying ophthalmological condition exists.

### What is Optometry?

Optometrists are Allied Health Professionals trained in correcting vision in adults with the use of spectacles, lenses or special lenses, are responsible for the screening of eye disease and are the first point of reference before patients are referred to the Ophthalmologist. The Optometrist can work independently as well as part of a team specially when working within a hospital environment.

### What is Genetic Counselling?

- Genetic Counselling combines medical genetics and counselling to help people understand the genetic components of disease
- A genetic Counsellor can diagnose and provide support to persons with genetic conditions
- Genetic Counsellors provide information to persons at risk of developing disorders that are genetically inherited
- A Genetic Counsellor works within a multidisciplinary team

These professionals will be working with other specialists and health care workers in hospitals or in the community.



Operational Programme II – European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020  
*“Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society”*

Project part-financed by the European Social Fund  
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union Funds; 20% National Funds



This project provides full sponsorship to the successful applicants in the form of:

- All tuition fees for the duration of the course that will be held abroad and will be taught in the English Language
- Travel to the University abroad and back to Malta for Christmas and Easter Recess and summer holidays
- Subsistence allowance covering expenses related to accommodation and daily living
- Funding for any books and equipment required as part of the training
- Employment with the Government of Malta as a Trainee and salary whilst following the course
- Guaranteed employment with the Ministry for Health following successful completion of the course

***For more information:***

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