

Endeavour Scholarship Scheme (Malta)

M. Ed. (Inclusion and Special Educational Needs) - Article

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Research has always been a passion of mine, and pursuing a Master's Degree in the area of Inclusion and Special Educational Needs was one of the items on my bucket list. Working in the area of special education, I thirsted for strategies and knowledge of how I can be a better educator for the students entrusted in my care. Unfortunately, the course which best met my requirements was not available locally and thus, I had no option but to pursue my studies in an overseas university.

At the same time, the second call for the Endeavour Scholarship Scheme which is funded out of National Funds was launched, and I did not hesitate to apply. Apart from funding my research, the scheme made me reflect critically its relevance to the country's strategic priorities and to Malta's holistic development. Bearing in mind the ever growing demand for support in relation to students with special educational needs in Maltese schools, reinforced my choice of pursuing a course in this area.

M Ed. Degree focused on the understanding of educational inclusion and associated policies and evaluation and policy analysis for Inclusive Education. Then, through online lectures and tutorials, assignments and long-distance teaching practice, I accomplished skills and knowledge on how to cater for the various learning disabilities encountered in schools. Ultimately, my dissertation focused on a comparative study between a dyslexia friendly school and a non-dyslexia friendly school in Malta. By generating a case study on both schools, I strived to find variances in the support given to students with dyslexia and the strategies taken in the way they present literacy to the students. In turn, I sought whether these measures are affecting the academic performance and the self-esteem of the dyslexic students in the respective schools. The research concluded that indeed the dyslexia friendly school has a more structured approach in the learning process and thus, the students feel more engaged.

All in all, one should say that the Endeavour Scholarship Scheme not only funded my research, but put it on the national perspective.

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