

CIRCULAR TO ALL GTA MEMBERS 44/23

Re: Skills card public consultation

27th October 2023

Dear GTA Member,

Yesterday during a press briefing, the Minister for Tourism announced a plan that as from January 2024, all new third-country nationals (TCNs) applying to relocate to Malta for employment within the tourism and hospitality industry will now require a skills card, which can be obtained after the prospective employee sits for a number of courses before coming to Malta. The courses, which tackle English proficiency, basic customer care, and knowledge on the Maltese tourism product, will be conducted by the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS).

From the beginning of 2024, when an employer within the tourism industry requests to employ TCNs, the potential employees will be required to complete the relevant online courses. Upon passing the courses, the applicants can progress with their work permit registration with Identità. If the applicant's work permit is granted by Identità, the applicant must schedule an appointment with ITS three weeks prior to their arrival in Malta, in order to sit for in-person assessments. The assessments are to be held within three business days after an applicant's arrival in Malta.

Should an applicant fail their in-person assessment, ITS informs Identità in order for the third-country national (TCN) to be expatriated. Should they pass, Identità confirms the applicant's work permit. The employers in question must be registered by the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), which finally issues the skills cards.

By October 2024, all employees seeking renewal for their work permit will also be required to sit for these courses. Furthermore by 2025, all tourism and hospitality workers will require a skills card to work in the industry.

The announced plan is now open for public consultation until the 16th November 2023. More information on this plan including frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be found on the following link <https://its.edu.mt/consultation>.

Should you require further information and or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks and best regards,

Joe Muscat
Chief Executive Officer
Gozo Tourism Association