

CIRCULAR TO ALL GTA MEMBERS 14/24

Re: Skills Pass Launch

27th March, 2024

Dear GTA Member,

Kindly note that last Monday, 25th March, 2024, the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) launched the Skills Pass for the Tourism and Hospitality Industry. This is a verification process that allows skilled individuals in the Tourism and Hospitality sector to gain recognition for their skills and be able to work in Malta in this industry.

The Skills Pass verification process is split into two phases:

Phase 1

Online Training and Assessment - candidates undergo a series of assessments after registration, including English proficiency, basic customer care, and specific courses related to Maltese tourism products and hospitality. Following successful completion of these assessments, candidates choose an occupation from a selection of job families. The online courses and assessments will be available from 8th April, 2024. Malta Enterprise will launch a scheme later on in April 2024, to assist local enterprises in paying for the courses through tax credits.

Phase 2

Involves an online interview via video conferencing, with candidates verified through personal identification documents and previous Phase 1 completion. Recorded interviews are reviewed weekly to maintain standards, with protocols in place to address any issues. Upon successful completion of Phase 2, candidates receive the permanent Skills Pass, enabling them to work in Malta's hospitality and tourism sector. The online verification interviews will be accessible from 6th May, 2024. In May 2024, the Skills Pass requirement becomes mandatory after a two-month standstill period following the legal notice's publication, as per the Small Business Act.

Starting from January 2025, non-EU or European Economic Area employees seeking work permit renewal must undergo the Skills Pass verification. Additionally, from January 2026, all EU, European Economic Area, and Maltese workers in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry will need the Skills Pass certificate for employment within the sector.

The fee for the Non-EU/EEA individuals living abroad and intending to work in Malta's tourism and hospitality industry will incur a fee of €475, while those residing in Malta for less than a year will pay €455, and those residing for over a year will pay €375.

Non-EU/EEA ELT students will be charged €335, and sector skilled workers registered by an MTA licensed establishment will pay a fee of €280. However, it's important to note that non-EU/EEA internship students, EU/EEA/Maltese employees working within the tourism and hospitality industry, and students undertaking full-time courses with licensed local education institutions are exempt from these fees.

For more information, please visit the Skills Pass website on skillspass.org.mt

Thanks and best regards

Joe Muscat
Chief Executive Officer
Gozo Tourism Association