The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) has access to over 10,000 higher and further education students, and some 500 highly qualified academic staff. It hosts 10 specialist institutes, with half of these in technological areas such as engineering, sciences and ICT. The most recent institute to be launched is the Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), which has over 20 programmes that include water-related themes such as the Higher Diploma in Environment and Water Technology and the B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering. The IAS runs 12 advanced science labs and also hosts personnel that are experts in the water industry and have worked closely with the International Water Association (IWA) for many long years, with a range of research achievements and publications.

MCAST’s strategy for the implementation of its Water Research and Training Centre is one of close collaboration with various local and international stakeholders. Main contributors are the Maltese Water Services Corporation (WSC), the UK Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) and the International Water Association (IWA).

Malta has the lowest water resources index and highest water competition index in the whole of the Mediterranean basin. Given this, challenges are placed for the nation to be in the forefront of both water technology and in the skilling of water operations and management, whilst operating within challenging socio-economic conditions. It is within this setting that the Water Research and Training Centre holds strong potential. The centre focuses on water enterprise, as it aims to embody the application of creative ideas and innovations to practical situations in the water field, as well as solving the challenges that are encountered locally.

The Water Research and Training Centre is set to follow a number of aims which serve to outline the more immediate targets that have been set out. These aims focus on the three main themes which characterises the Centre.