



Venice International University (VIU) is a consortium of thirteen member universities and three institutional partners: Boston College (USA); Duke University (USA); European University at St. Petersburg (Russia); National Institute of Scientific Research (Canada); Ludwig Maximilians Universität (Germany); Tel Aviv University (Israel); Tongji University (China); Tsinghua University (China); Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy); Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy); Università Iuav di Venezia (Italy); University of Lausanne (Switzerland); Waseda University (Japan); Province of Venice (Italy), Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Italy); Italian National Research Council (Italy).

The mission of VIU is to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge through education, training and research programs in an international context.

Today's globalized world needs flexible minds, able to move across disciplines, capable of tackling contemporary challenges with innovative humanistic approaches while recognizing the importance of environmental and economic sustainability and natural and cultural heritage and understanding, while communicating and working with people from other cultures.

Globalization Program

VIU's Globalization Program promotes and facilitates academic cooperation among partner universities from around the world. The program provides students with an intense educational experience in Venice, in multicultural contexts, where global and comparative approaches are privileged, integrating the study of human heritage, creativity and imagination with the study of social relations and institutions.

The Program brings together talented, motivated students from the 12 member universities and encourages them to excel in an original and innovative program and achieve results through scholarship and experience.

Following the semester of courses at VIU the best students are selected for internships in host institutions in Italy and abroad. International mobility is supported by scholarships.

Each semester 120-140 students come to Venice to take part in VIU's Globalization Program.

Students choose from a course offering of 18-20 courses which are English-taught by visiting professors from the member universities and are recognized for credit.

The program is composed of three types of courses:

- Core courses on three themes offered every semester;
- Specialization track courses offered in alternate semesters;
- Additional courses taught by visiting faculty offered for one semester only.

CORE COURSES

A. ITALY - courses that showcase Venetian and Italian life, culture, art and history.

1. *History of Venice*
2. *Italian Contemporary History in Films*
3. *Art and Architecture in Renaissance Venice*
4. *Italian Fashion and Design*

B. CULTURES OF THE WORLD - courses that examine the cultures of the world; courses that make the most of the intercultural classroom.

5. *Intercultural Communication*
6. *Gender Studies*
7. *Comparing East and West*

C. GLOBAL CHALLENGES - courses that address current, global issues, preferably from an interdisciplinary perspective.

8. *Identity, Heritage and Globalization*
9. *Globalization, Ethics, Welfare and Human Rights*
10. *Global Governance for Peace and Security, Cooperation and Development*

D. SPECIALIZATION TRACK COURSES

D.1 ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE (Fall semesters)

The aim of this specialization track is to introduce to concepts such as Natural and Cultural Heritage, both tangible and intangible; to the challenges posed by their management, preservation and development, in relation to development policies and/or citizenship issues. This track may include 3-6 courses.

D.2 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Spring semesters)

The aim of this specialization track is to develop awareness of Sustainability concepts and issues, applied to the Environment and the Economy, learning about sustainable practices and management, adopting ethical and cultural approaches. Humanities courses on Sustainability or Environmental issues are also welcome. This track will include 3-6 courses

E. ADDITIONAL COURSES - Professors from non-Italian universities applying to teach core and/or specialization track courses can submit proposals also for additional courses. 4-6 courses each semester are taught by visiting professors from the non-Italian member universities.



Teaching at Venice International University:



VIU provides a truly multicultural, international and interdisciplinary environment for students and professors of the member universities. Both students and professors come from different cultural backgrounds (with up to 20 nationalities represented in a semester) and from different academic traditions (e.g. American students are accustomed to class discussions, Italian and Spanish students to lectures), and come from a range of disciplines (many come from Liberal Arts schools, others are studying for more discipline-oriented degrees such as economics, history, anthropology or environmental studies). Some students avail of the opportunity to study at VIU in order to take course courses that are not strictly in their field of study. Students in the program attend one or two semesters at Venice International University as part of their undergraduate or master's degree at one of the member universities.

The program provides a powerful learning experience in which students develop their capacity for critical thinking, and creative problem solving. Students exposed to interdisciplinary approaches can think analytically and can creatively embrace new ideas. In addition, the intercultural nature of the program, with each student bringing her/his own personal experience to discussions, means that students are exposed to perspectives different from their own, and consequently experience the benefits of embracing difference. Students of the Globalization Program are thus more prepared for graduate and professional study and for careers in new and emerging fields.

Courses should not require preliminary knowledge on the topic, as they are open to students from any discipline. They should, however, remain challenging for students of that specific field of study.

Further guidelines for course proposals:

Candidates should consider the following guidelines when drawing up course proposals:

Teaching methods

Professors are advised to adopt interactive forms of tuition (seminar papers, discussions, presentation etc.), to foster group work and to mix nationalities and students from different disciplines. The number of students per class may vary from 5 to 25.

Student work-load, credits and level of courses

Courses should not require preliminary knowledge on the topic, as they are open to students from any discipline. They should, however, remain challenging for students of that specific field of study.

The language proficiency of VIU students varies. Most students are not mother-tongue speakers and follow four or five courses per semester. 30 pages per week of essay reading for each course is the recommended workload.

VIU Globalization Program courses are worth 6 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS¹)

¹ ECTS is the credit system for higher education used in the European Higher Education Area, involving all countries engaged in the Bologna Process. It is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. ECTS credits are based on the workload

60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of an academic year. One credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work. VIU Globalization Program courses are worth 6 ECTS = 150-180 hours of work.

Since workload is an estimation of the average time spent by students to achieve the expected learning outcomes, the actual time spent by an individual student may differ from this estimate. Individual students differ: some progress more quickly, while others progress more slowly.

Typically the estimated workload will be the sum of:

- a) 40 class hours (36 contact hours + 4 hours co-curricular activities at discretion of professor)
- b) the time spent in individual or group work required to complete the educational component successfully i.e. preparation beforehand and finalizing of notes after attendance at a lecture, seminar or laboratory work; collection and selection of relevant material; required revision, study of that material; writing of papers/projects/dissertation; practical work; site visits)
- c) the time required to prepare for and undergo the assessment procedure (exams)



Course schedule

The semester is 15 weeks long: 12 weeks of classes, 1 orientation week, 1 week-long midterm break, 1 exam week. Courses consist of 2 classes of 1 hour 30 minutes *sine tempore* each, for a total of 36 hours. The remaining 4 hours can be scheduled at the professors' discretion (field trips, conferences, VIU Lecture, final seminar to allow students present their research papers etc.). Classes in one course are usually held on a Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday schedule. Site visits and field trips will be scheduled on Fridays.

Evaluation of students

Professors must submit mid-term and final grades to the SHSS office for each student based on the grade conversion scheme approved by the VIU Academic Council. The mid-term grade does not necessarily have to be the result of a single exam, but is rather the evaluation of the student's standing in the course at mid-term.

Attendance policy

The Globalization Program is a credit only program. Auditors are not admitted to the courses. Professors are expected to cooperate with VIU in monitoring attendance by distributing attendance sheets during each class and returning them to the SHSS office regularly. The attendance policy also applies to site visits and field trips, including those scheduled on Fridays.

Co-curricular activities

Professors are encouraged to propose co-curricular activities related to the content of the course. Co-curricular activities may include site visits, field trips and guest lectures. Site visits and field trips therefore are arranged on Fridays.

of students in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.

Participation of Professors in VIU activities:

During orientation week professors are expected to participate in the following activities:

- a) Welcome Coffee
- b) presentation of course
- c) faculty meeting
- d) Opening Ceremony, during which a *Lectio Magistralis* will be delivered by a distinguished speaker invited by VIU.

During the semester professors are expected to:

- a) be available to receive students for at least 2 designated hours per week (including orientation week)
- b) participate in four faculty meetings (including one during orientation week)
- c) participate in the VIUlectures series
- d) participate in the Closing Ceremony, which is usually held on the Thursday or Friday of Exam Week.
- e) to contribute to mixing students of different nationalities
- f) to contribute and take part in co-curricular activities



VIU undertakes to introduce visiting professors to colleagues in the Italian member universities (Ca' Foscari, Luav and Padova) during the semester so as to encourage and facilitate networking among professors and scholars of the member universities. Professors are invited to include Venice International University among their affiliations for the duration of the academic year and in any publications resulting in research conducted and developed during the semester at VIU.

For further information:

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