

Intensive Graduate Activities at Venice International University

Call for Proposals 2024

For activities that will take place in 2025 and 2026.

Issued: January 22, 2024

Premise:



- The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas.
- VIU provides an international, interdisciplinary and Intercultural opportunity for learning, teaching and research cooperation.
- Through the Intensive Graduate Activities students and scholars can develop a forward-looking vision, experiment with interdisciplinary approaches, collaborate with peers from all over the world, tackle transversal topics, and undertake scientific challenges in innovative ways;
- Through the Intensive Graduate Activities VIU aims to build and strengthen networks of scholars on areas of shared interest within the consortium.
- Following the successful introduction of the VIU Summer Schools in 2012, VIU extended the range of graduate activities in 2016 to include PhD Academies and Graduate Seminars.

Categories of VIU Intensive Graduate Activities:

1. VIU PhD Academy

These are interdisciplinary intensive programs on major societal challenges, with a parallel training program on transversal skills to prepare advanced PhDs and junior researchers for careers in research either inside or outside of academia. Typically 5-7 days. For students at and advanced stage of their doctorate, post-docs and junior researchers.

2. VIU Graduate Seminars

These are thematic intensive seminars on a focused topic approached from an inter-/ multidisciplinary perspective. The aim is to support early-career PhDs who are beginning their research and to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation. Typically 5-7 days. For Master's and PhD students.

3. VIU Summer/Winter Schools

Since 2012, VIU has supported the development of a series of VIU Summer Schools, which are intensive taught programs that, when successful, are offered each year. They may be addressed to students and researchers of varying levels, as well as to professionals, depending on the focus of the program. The Schools are also open to applicants outside of the VIU membership.

4. Autonomous Activities of the Member Institutions

The Member Institutions may use the VIU facilities also for their own autonomous activities, such as: Academic and Scientific Conferences, Intensive seminars, Summer/Winter Schools, etc.

VIU Global Challenges Initiatives

The Academic Council would welcome proposals for Intensive Graduate Activities that could be included in the Global Challenges Initiatives as a means to promote the visibility and recognition of VIU as an institution playing a key role in some specific topics of global relevance.

Coherence with the mission of the Initiatives is not a prerequisite for the approval of new academic programs, but it will be considered only as a criterion of preference.



The **VIU Global Challenges Initiatives** are a coordinated stream of activities, inspired by ambitions to contribute to the creation of knowledge, understanding, and skills, responding to current and future major societal challenges faced by humankind today: environmental, social, cultural and technological phenomena and their local impacts.

Knowledge creation across the disciplines - the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences - can play a fundamental role in coping with these challenges. Within an evolving and unconstrained ensemble of topics addressed by VIU member institutions, the Initiatives identify core interests of global and local relevance with the aim to make VIU an innovator.

Through these Initiatives VIU is committed to a critical exploration of what it means to envision a sustainable future. The Initiatives acknowledge the interconnected and intertwined relationships between human and natural systems and aim to be multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary.

The Initiatives are a series of activities with a common purpose. These activities have different forms and targets, including PhD Academies for students at an advanced stage of their research, graduate seminars, and programs for master's students and a broader community.

The Initiatives also include international workshops, forums, and conferences, with participants drawn from academia, business, public institutions, civil society, NGO, and the art worlds. By encouraging the interconnection of these activities, VIU will disseminate the outcomes and extend the discussion to a wider audience.

The VIU Global Challenges Initiatives take advantage of the multicultural context and the unique setting of Venice as a special laboratory, as a location that foregrounds the extraordinary culture of the past, the problems of the present, and the possibility of the future.

Submitting proposals for graduate activities:

The member institutions are invited to submit proposals for VIU graduate activities.

- All university members, CNR and INAF can propose graduate activities at VIU.
- Each member institution may determine internal procedures for developing and selecting proposals to submit to VIU.
- The VIU Graduate Activities would benefit from local selection based on merit.
- It is important that the proposing professors should have a clear idea of which students in their own institution would benefit from the program proposed.
- The proposals will be evaluated and approved by the VIU Academic Council according to principles of quality, the selection criteria, and the strategic priorities determined by the Board of Directors.
- The Academic Council would welcome in particular proposals that adopt interdisciplinary approaches, that include contributive and collaborative teaching and participation, and that have an international group of professors and students involved.
- All proposals should address the questions: Why now? Why at VIU? What is the added value for VIU and for the universities?
- All proposals should follow the guidelines in the annexed documents.
- Proposals must be submitted via email to both the VIU Dean and Chair of the Academic Council, Prof. Carmelo Marabello (dean@univiu.org) and to the representative of the Academic Council of the applicant's home university. (<http://www.univiu.org/about-viu/governance/academic-council>)
- The professors submitting proposals are encouraged to engage with their representative on the Academic Council before submitting a proposal (both coordinating professors and participating professors).
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Selection Criteria for Intensive Graduate Activities in order of priority

1. Balance of disciplines across all VIU activities: ie. natural sciences/life sciences/social sciences/humanities
2. Balance of representation of member institutions across all VIU activities
3. New proposal: ie. topic not previously addressed in Intensive Graduate Activities, or if previously addressed engages a new team of scholars in scientific coordination
4. Degree of interdisciplinarity of the proposed activity
5. Calendar/Scheduling: logistical feasibility of activity eg. accommodation available in low season
6. Balance of representation of member universities across PhD Academies and Graduate Seminars
7. Geographic balance of representation of members in the proposed activity

Bonus: Global Challenges Initiatives (see page 2)

Virtual Tools for engagement, collaboration, and team-building

During the Covid-19 pandemic VIU, like the member institutions, had to adapt to the circumstances that impeded international travel and on-campus activities. The opportunity to consolidate the use of virtual tools in the graduate activities has been adopted by VIU as

use has succeeded in boosting engagement, collaboration and team-building among the participants, before, during, and after the graduate activities. Please consider also this opportunity. Guidelines are provided in the Annexes.

Approval of proposals:

Preliminary proposals will be discussed and evaluated at the meetings of the Academic Council.

- Summer/Autumn/Winter schools to take place in 2025.

Deadline: **March 15, 2024.**

Based on the decisions of the Academic Council, successful preliminary proposals should be developed and the advanced program submitted by **September 15, 2024**, for discussion and evaluation. The advanced program must include a budget that must follow VIU guidelines.



PhD Academies and Graduate Seminars to take place in 2025.

Deadline: **September 15, 2024.**

Based on the decisions of the Academic Council, successful preliminary proposals should be developed and the advanced program submitted for discussion and evaluation at a later meeting of the Academic Council. Second deadline: **March 15, 2025** for activities approved for 2025. The advanced program must include a budget that must follow VIU guidelines.

Funding for VIU Graduate Activities:

Each year the Board of Directors will determine the amount of consortium funds assigned to support the organization of PhD Academies and Graduate Seminars, up to a maximum of €25,000. The funds may be used for travel and subsistence costs of participants, including both students and professors; for accommodation for participants on campus, or in equivalent accommodations in the city of Venice; for catering. Classroom and office facilities, staff support, etc. will be provided in-kind by VIU.

Summer/Winter Schools must be self-sustained and participants pay fees. VIU can support applications for funding from other sources proposed by the coordinator. These may include, for example, foundations, public bodies, or private enterprise.

Approved activities that meet the criteria for *Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Activities* may be co-financed with this funding instrument in the context of the VIU Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium. See Annex 5.

VIU support for building institutional-scientific partnerships for proposals:

When submitting proposals to the Academic Council, there should already be scientific engagement from the minimum number of universities required (depending on the type of program). Before submission, VIU is available to provide support and advice regarding the feasibility of a proposal, and to facilitate the identification of suitable partners among the VIU members. To this purpose, please send an expression of interest via email as early as possible, and no later than one month before the deadline.

Annexes:

Annex 1: VIU PhD Academy: Guidelines for Proposals

Annex 2: VIU Graduate Seminars: Guidelines for Proposals

Annex 3: VIU Summer Schools: Guidelines for Proposals

Annex 4: Autonomous Activities of the Member Universities: Guidelines for proposals

Annex 5: Erasmus+: Blended Intensive Programmes

Annex 6: Introducing a Virtual Component in the Intensive Graduate Activities

For further information contact:

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