The Universities that form VIU represent fourteen countries across the globe: from Asia (China, Korea and Japan), passing through Europe and the Mediterranean (Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Slovenia, Italy, United Kingdom, Russia, Israel), to North America (USA) and since 2020 representing the Global South (South Africa).

VIU Members

1. Boston College, MA
2. Città Metropolitana di Venezia
3. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR
4. Duke University, NC
5. European University at St. Petersburg
6. Korea University, Seoul
7. KU Leuven
8. Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich
9. Stellenbosch University
10. Tel Aviv University
11. Tsinghua University, Beijing
12. Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
13. Università Iuav di Venezia
14. Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
15. Università degli Studi di Padova
16. Università Iuav di Venezia
17. Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”
18. Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”
19. Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”
20. Waseda University, Tokyo

Venice International University

Isola di San Servolo
30133 Venice, Italy
Tel. +39 041-2719511
Fax +39 041-2719510
viu@univiu.org
www.univiu.org
Almost thirty years ago, the first President of Venice International University (VIU), Carlo Aziolo Ciampi, with visionary intuition recognized the opportunity to found a center dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of contemporary global challenges on the Island of San Servolo in the heart of the Lagoon of Venice.

Venice International University began with five pioneering institutions in 1995, and today has twenty-one member institutions from across the globe whose students, professors, and staff constitute the vibrant, multicultural, global VIU community. At VIU, they experience an international, interdisciplinary and intercultural opportunity for learning, teaching and research cooperation.

VIU was founded with the purpose of developing joint academic, research and capacity-building programs, across disciplines, continents, languages and cultures. It is a flexible and adaptable organization, funded by the annual contributions of the member institutions.

VIU has become the ideal setting for experimenting innovative approaches to education and training, where students, researchers and professors come together to exchange knowledge and ideas, while exploring interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives in their studies and research.

VIU, together with its constituents, seeks to contribute to the creation of knowledge, understanding, and skills, and to respond 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 the Global Challenges.

VIU is committed to a critical exploration of what it means to envision a sustainable future, and the programs acknowledge the interconnected and intertwined relationships between human and natural systems. The activities 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.

Focus Areas & Specialization Tracks

The following topics are addressed by assorted VIU programs:

- **Sustainability**
  - Environmental Management & Security;
  - Green & Circular Economy
- **Innovation**
  - Creativity, Innovation and Design, Transport, Logistics and Planning
- **Globalization & Global Challenges**
  - Cities and Global Change; Identity, Heritage, Ethics & Human Rights; Comparative Cultures
  - Science and Society
    - Science Communication; Ageing Societies; Ethics in Research and Medicine
- **Humanities**
  - Cultural Heritage Conservation & Management;
  - Visualizing Cities; Global Humanities;
  - History and Memory; Environmental Humanities;
  - Republics and Republicanism; Film Studies

Academic Programs

**Globalization Program**
- 2 semesters + summer sessions, for bachelor and master's students who gain credit towards their degree.

**PhD Academy**
- To develop transversal skills and promote research cooperation among advanced PhDs.

**Graduate Seminars**
- To support early-career PhDs beginning their research.

**Summer schools**
- Intensive taught programs for various target groups, from bachelor to PhD, and also professionals.

**Training and Capacity Building**
- Staff training; International capacity building; collaboration with the private sector.

**Research**
- European, international and national projects activating and merging competences of member universities.

**Dissemination**
- High level conferences, seminars and workshops, organized by members or brought by other international institutions.

**Thematic Programs**

Through its three Thematic Programs, VIU endeavors to promote a research triangle of stakeholders – industry, academia and government, developing solid networks of experts and institutions relevant to the focus areas.

More recently, the multi-stakeholder approach has been extended to include citizens and civil society. The engagement of citizens and civil society has the potential to inform both research and policy, and positively impact the investigation and tackling of today’s global challenges.

- **TeDIS Program on Innovation**
- **TEN Program on Sustainability**
- **Ageing Program**

VIU also participates in public debate on the issues through conferences and events, which include the Opening Ceremonies of the academic semesters which feature Lectiones Magistrales delivered by esteemed guests, and the VIULectures series in which interesting topical issues are put forth for debate.