



VIU SPRING SCHOOL equipping researchers WITH SKILLS, strategies and confidence For science communication

**Equipping Researchers with Skills,
Strategies and Confidence
for Science Communication**

March 23-27, 2026

**Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

VIU Spring School

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Venice International University

Scientific Coordinators:
Alessandra Fornetti
Ilda Mannino,

Venice International University

Communicating research to public and policy audiences is becoming a key element of researchers' work, but can be challenging when researchers lack the required skills and have little experience of engaging with audiences outside the academic arena.

It is essential to make researchers more aware of the importance of public science communication and engagement, especially since these activities are increasingly demanded by research funders and policymakers as a pathway towards societal impact of research. But, to be effective public communicators, researchers need training to equip them with the key competencies and the confidence to communicate strategically using a wide range of tools and channels, and evaluating impact along the way.

Faculty

Alessandra Fornetti, Venice International University

Ilda Mannino, Venice International University

Marina Joubert, Stellenbosch University

Lars Guenther, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Monica Déchène, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Julia Serong, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Eleonora Di Maria, University of Padua

Marco Bettiol, University of Padua

Other contributing faculty tbc

Who is it for?

The School is designed for researchers and graduate students from all research disciplines across natural and social sciences, engineering and humanities.

Methodology and structure

The School draws upon the state-of-the-art of science communication literature as well as on relevant best practices in the field, combining lectures, exercises, simulations, discussions, case studies, and site visits. All participants will also have an opportunity to present their own research.

Learning outcomes for participants

Participants will

- acquire practical skills for pro-active and strategic research communication
- deepen the knowledge on publics, media and strategies to effectively communicate research results
- deepen the knowledge on informal communication (e.g. museums, events, art, etc.)
- experience practices for research communication in different cultural and professional environments
- exploring multidimensional impacts of research
- learn about methods and tools for evaluating science communication
- exchange experiences

Credits

A Certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the course.

Number of ECTS credits allocated: **2**

The Programme will admit 20 participants.

Fees

Students and researchers of VIU member universities:

€ 300 incl. VAT.

Students and researchers of other universities:

€ 600 incl. VAT.

VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The fees cover tuition, course materials, lunches in the VIU cafeteria and social events.

Student participants will be responsible for covering their own travel expenses to and from Venice, accommodation and local transportation.

PhD candidates and post-docs from universities in EU may be eligible for Erasmus+ mobility grant support. Candidates should consult the International Offices in their own universities for information about the calls for applications for funding as well as for possible scholarships. VIU will provide any supporting documentation requested for such applications. Contact VIU Erasmus office: erasmus@univiu.org

Accommodation on campus

In shared rooms (triple/quadruple) with other participants: € 308 VAT included for 6 nights with breakfast (municipal tax included). Further information will be available in the Application form.

Applications

December 2, 2025 - January 15, 2026 via the VIU website

Students will be notified by January 22, and asked to pay the tuition fee and accommodation fee (if applied for) by January 31.

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

Venice International University is a consortium of 23 institutions, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and capacity-building programmes. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs.

The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions.

The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Location



Venice International University

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In collaboration with



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Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for
Science Communication

Funded by the EU

