

## Intensive Graduate Activities at Venice International University

### Premise:



- The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas.
- Several of VIU's member institutions have expressed interest in developing joint activities on specific topics, outside of the existing Globalization Program, which hitherto has been the main joint activity of Venice International University.
- The development of the Summer Term since 2012 has been successful and has led to reflection on how to strengthen cooperation among the member universities.
- Two members of the VIU consortium are graduate-only institutions: EUSP and INRS. CNR is a research institution.
- A successful series of graduate activities is expected to result in the building and strengthening of networks on areas of shared interest within the consortium. The medium-term goal is to consolidate VIU's reputation as an authority on such areas.
- VIU launched a coordinated series of joint graduate activities in 2016.

### Categories of VIU Intensive Graduate Activities:

#### 1. VIU International PhD Academy

This is an intensive training program for advanced PhD candidates, post-docs and young researchers from the member institutions of VIU. The Academy is typically a 5-7 day event, which includes a scientific program and a parallel program of workshops that provides the participants with training in a range of transversal skills that will be useful in developing their research and academic careers.

#### 2. VIU Graduate Seminars

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines. They are suited to both Master's and PhD students and are open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions. The young researchers will receive support in defining their research proposal. Significant cooperation among departments in the member universities is expected.

#### 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 are offered each year. They may be addressed to students and young researchers of varying levels, as well as to professionals, depending on 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 and CNR 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 programs based on merit and established communication channels to reach students.
- The proposals will be evaluated and approved by the VIU Academic Council according to principles of quality, according to 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. Carlo Giupponi ([dean@univiu.org](mailto: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>)

## 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, has 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 is under consideration by the Academic Council, and their use will be encouraged in the future to boost engagement, collaboration and team-building among the participants, before, during, and after the graduate activities. Please consider therefore that VIU may provide coordinators with further guidelines in the coming months.

### Approval of proposals:

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

- The next deadline for Summer/Autumn/Winter Schools that will take place during 2022 is **March 15, 2021**.

Based on the decisions of the Academic Council, successful preliminary proposals should be developed and the advanced program submitted by **September 15, 2021**, for discussion and evaluation. The advanced program must include a budget that must follow VIU guidelines.



- **Following the meeting of the Academic Council on December 3, 2020, an extraordinary submission window has been opened for proposals for PhD Academies and Graduate Seminars that will take place during 2022: January 15- March 15, 2021.**

Based on the decisions of the Academic Council, successful preliminary proposals should be developed and the advanced program must be submitted for discussion and evaluation at a later meeting of the Academic Council.

Second deadline: **September 15, 2021** for activities in 2022. The advanced program must include a budget that must follow VIU guidelines.

The deadline for PhD Academies or Graduate Seminars that will take place during 2023 is **September 15, 2021**.

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, 2022** for activities in 2023. The advanced program must include a budget that must follow VIU guidelines 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, Graduate Seminars and Summer/Winter Schools. 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.

### 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 identify suitable partners among the VIU members. Please send an expression of interest via email as early as possible, and no later than one month before the deadline.

### For further information contact:

Orla McLaughlin: Executive Director of Academic Programs, VIU  
[orla.mclaughlin@univiu.org](mailto:orla.mclaughlin@univiu.org)

**Annex 1:**  
**VIU International PhD Academy**  
**Guidelines for proposals**

The VIU PhD Academy is an intensive training program for advanced PhD candidates (at least one year completed) and young researchers from the member institutions of VIU. The Academy is typically a 5-7 day event, which includes a scientific program and a parallel program of training and workshops that provide PhD candidates with training in a range of transversal skills that will be useful in developing their research and academic careers.

The scientific program must be sufficiently transversal so as to engage the interest of a broad cohort of the VIU community and the majority of VIU institutions.



- Professors of at least three member universities should be involved in each edition.
- There should be one scientific coordinator for each edition.
- The expected number of participants is 15 – 25.
- The PhD Academy is for students who have already completed at least one year of their PhD.
- Participants from member institutions do not pay fees.

The coordinator of the scientific program will be expected to cooperate and liaise with VIU on designing the parallel training program, which will be tailored to the needs of the group. The Academic Council had determined that **at least 30%** of the program should be on Transversal Skills.

The program of training and workshops on Transversal Skills will address universal themes in science, such as: Ethics in Science; Bibliometrics; Science and Money - Grant Funding and scholarships; Communicating your science; Peer-review process; Project management and financial management; The Value of Networking; Knowledge and Technology Transfer; Entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs; Soft skills.

Preliminary proposals submitted to the VIU Academic Council should include the following:

1. Title of PhD Academy
2. Name, Department and University of Scientific Coordinator
3. Name, Department and University of other professors contributing to the program.
4. Suitable fields of study of participants
5. Duration (and preferred dates, if already known)
6. A description of approximately 500 words
7. An additional paragraph describing: Why now? Why at VIU? What is the added value for VIU and for the universities?

Attachments:

Curriculum Vitae of Scientific Coordinator and other professors, in English. Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached. CVs should be dated and signed.

The Final program should also include:

8. Schedule of activities
9. Name, department affiliation and institution of all professors involved, CVs in English, Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached.
10. Brochure, drafted in cooperation with VIU coordinator.
11. Budget, drawn up in cooperation with VIU coordinator, according to VIU guidelines.

## **Annex 2:**

### **VIU Graduate Seminars**

#### **Guidelines for proposals**

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines. They will be suited to both Master's and PhD students who are still defining their research proposal and will be open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions.

Graduate seminar proposals may arise from:

- a) An existing seminar activity in a member institution where there is an interest in developing the seminar in an international context, by transferring it to VIU, and inviting other member institutions to contribute and participate in the program.
- b) A completely new idea that would be developed with the full participation of at least three VIU members.



Criteria for graduate seminar proposals:

- At least three member institutions must be involved in organizing and promoting the graduate seminar.
- There should be one scientific coordinator.
- The expected number of participants is 15 – 25.
- The seminar can be addressed to Master's students and/or PhD candidates.
- Participants from member institutions do not pay fees.

A graduate seminar may also accept applications from a limited number of candidates from non-member institutions, if invited by the scientific coordinator of the graduate seminar. Candidates from non-member institutions will not however be eligible for VIU funding.

Preliminary proposals submitted to the VIU Academic Council should include the following:

1. Title of the graduate seminar
2. Name, Department and University of Scientific Coordinator
3. Name, Department and University of other professors contributing to the program.
4. Level of students and suitable fields of study
5. Duration (and preferred dates, if already known)
6. A seminar description of approximately 500 words
7. An additional paragraph describing: Why now? Why at VIU? What is the added value for VIU and for the universities?
8. Learning outcomes for participants
9. Bibliography

Attachments: Curriculum Vitae of scientific coordinator and professors, in English.

Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached. CVs should be dated and signed.

The final program should also include:

10. Schedule of activities
11. Name, department affiliation and institution of all professors involved, CVs in English, Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached
12. Number of credits in ECTS system, if applicable
13. Evaluation methods, if envisaged.
14. Brochure, drafted in cooperation with VIU coordinator
15. Budget, drawn up in cooperation with VIU coordinator, according to VIU guidelines.

### **Annex 3:**

#### **VIU Summer Schools**

#### **Guidelines for proposals**

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



- Professors from at least three member universities should participate in the scientific coordination and promotion of the program, drawing up the program, inviting colleagues and suggesting funding opportunities, etc.
- Applications are accepted from students from any institution, also outside the VIU membership.
- Participants pay fees.

VIU consortium funds may be made available to support the launch of new summer schools for a maximum of three years, contributing to the running costs, travel and subsistence costs of participants and advertising. It is expected that after three years a summer school will become self-sufficient and capable of contributing an overhead to VIU.

Preliminary proposals submitted to the VIU Academic Council should include the following:

1. Title of summer/winter school
2. Name, Department and University of Scientific Coordinator(s)
3. Name, Department and University of other professors contributing to the program (if already known).
4. Level of students and suitable fields of study
5. Duration (preferred dates)
6. Number of students
7. A course description of approximately 500 words
8. An additional paragraph describing: Why now? Why at VIU? What is the added value for VIU and for the universities?
9. Learning outcomes for participants
10. Bibliography
11. Evaluation methods, if envisaged.

Attachments:

Curriculum Vitae of scientific coordinator(s) and professors, in English. Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached. CVs should be dated and signed.

The final program should also include:

12. Schedule of activities
13. Name, department affiliation and institution of all professors involved, CVs in English, Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached
14. Number of credits in ECTS system<sup>1</sup>, if applicable
15. Evaluation methods, if envisaged.
16. Brochure, drafted in cooperation with VIU coordinator
17. Budget, drawn up in cooperation with VIU coordinator, according to VIU guidelines.

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

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 can provide organizational and logistical support on site, and the universities may avail of the already established cooperative relationships between VIU and other cultural organizations and institutions in Venice, benefiting from VIU's experience and established procedures with regards the organization of such activities.



The Member Institutions using the VIU facilities for autonomous activities pay a fee, established by the Board of Directors. A detailed budget for each activity (conference, seminar, summer/winter school) must be drawn up and agreed by the proposing parties and VIU.

Proposals submitted to the VIU Academic Council should include the following:

1. Title of activity
2. Name, Department and University of Scientific Coordinator(s)
3. Level of students and suitable fields of study
4. Duration (preferred dates)
5. Number of students
6. A course description of approximately 500 words

Attachments:

Curriculum Vitae of scientific coordinator(s) and professors, in English. Max. 3 pages, with up to 4 pages of publications attached. CVs should be dated and signed.



---

<sup>i</sup> ECTS is the credit system for higher education used in the European Higher Education Area, involving is 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 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. One credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work. All summer programs coordinators must estimate the total number of hours in which the students will be engaged in preparation (before and during the program), in class, on field trips. If a final assignment is part of the program, the amount of time expected to complete the assignment must be included.

