



# **VIU SPRING SCHOOL Equipping Researchers with skills, Strategies and Confidence for Science Communication**

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

**March 8-12, 2027**

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

# VIU Spring School

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

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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

\_Sara Garfield, University of Bordeaux

\_Florian Reche, University of Bordeaux

### 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 and case studies. Mentoring and group works are tools offered for diving into each participant's research practice related to its communication to the public. All participants will also have the opportunity to present their own research.

## Learning outcomes for participants

Participants will

- acquire and develop practical skills for pro-active and strategic research communication
- learn how to engage diverse audiences through appropriate , formats and communication strategies
- deepen science communication knowledge and skills while practicing specific tools (e.g. story telling, public speaking, etc.)
- experience practices of research communication across different cultural,professional, and digital contexts
- explore multidimensional impacts of research
- learn how to plan and evaluate science communication activities
- share experiences and best practices with an international and interdisciplinary community

## 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 to 30 participants.

## Fees

Students and researchers of VIU member universities:

€ 400 incl. VAT.

Students and researchers of other universities:

€ 800 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 the 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](mailto:erasmus@univiu.org)

## Accommodation on campus

In shared rooms (triple/quadruple) with other participants: € 368 VAT included for 6 nights with breakfast (municipal tax included). Further information will be available in the Application form.

## Applications

**September 15, 2026 - November 2, 2026 via the VIU website**

Students will be notified by the end of November 2026 and asked to pay the tuition fee and accommodation fee (if applied for) by December 20, 2026\*. 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.

*\*Flexibility on the payment deadline can be applied in case of students granted by their home university/ institutions or E+ funds grants, with a letter from their university/institution.*

**Venice International University** is a consortium of 23 institutions representing 14 countries worldwide.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas by developing, promoting, and organising 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 topics and by the international perspectives that participants bring to discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

### Location



### Venice International University

Isola di San Servolo

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In collaboration with



**COALESCE**

Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for  
Science Communication

Funded by the EU