

**In 1868 the palazzo became the seat of the prestigious Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia,** established by the famous economist Luigi Luzzatti with the name "Regia Scuola Superiore di Commercio". As well as theoretical disciplines the college also focussed on economically oriented practical activities offering traders and teachers the opportunity to obtain specialist qualifications. From the outset the school offered Eastern and Western language studies reflecting the lagoon city's multicultural vocation.

**The University now comprises four macro-areas – economics, languages, humanities, and science – offering a wide range of courses and research fields. Every year 20,000 students study at the Ca' Foscari University and 3,000 of them graduate; there are 1,000 lecturers, researchers and technical - administrative staff.**

### **Università Ca' Foscari**

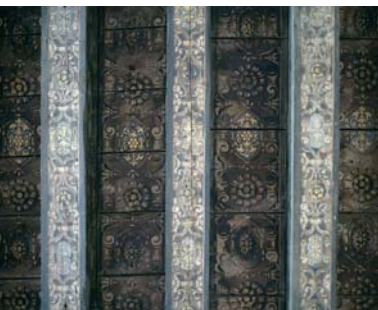
Dorsoduro 3246  
30123 Venezia  
T 041 2348111



# Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

## **The building and the university**

[www.unive.it](http://www.unive.it)



For centuries Ca' Foscari has delighted illustrious personages, celebrated artists and visitors from all over the world. Its strategic and scenic position "in volta del canal", on the bend of the canal, was one of the reasons that inspired **doge Francesco Foscari, the governor of the Serenissima who would give the palace its name, to purchase the building in 1452.** He had it rebuilt according to architectural and aesthetic canons that would transform his residence into an outstanding example of Venetian Gothic and a style icon for years to come. The building enjoys a unique view stretching from the Rialto Bridge to the Accademia galleries depicted by painters over the centuries in splendid vedute. Its position dominating the Canal Grande made Ca' Foscari the perfect site for the huge floating stage known as the machina which is set up during Venice's famous Regata Storica to host the judges and mark the starting line.

**The winners of the rowing contests have always received their prizes in front of Ca' Foscari.** The palace also offers lovely glimpses of the surroundings: the antique courtyard of the neighbouring Ca' Giustinian with its external staircase as well as the spacious inner courtyard of Ca' Foscari itself enclosed by an imposing perimeter wall, the well-heads with their finely carved decorations, the Gothic arches framing both the entrance and water-gate together with the rhythmic sequence of arches and windows characterising the splendid façade overlooking the Canal Grande.

**Between 2004 and 2006 the Ca' Foscari - Ca' Giustinian complex underwent a painstaking restoration programme.** The programme, which was awarded the prestigious Premio Torta in 2007, represented a major challenge for both architects and designers who were required to blend old and new while respecting the heritage left by Carlo Scarpa.

In the 1930s and 1960s the celebrated Venetian architect and designer was asked to restore the area now occupied by the Aula Magna Mario Baratto and neighbouring rooms. **Scarpa's innovative project underlines the 15<sup>th</sup> century structure of the palazzo,** creating plays of light, lines and volumes melding tradition and modernity.

The Aula Magna also contains two murals dating to the 1930s: "Venezia, l'Italia e gli studi" (Venice, Italy and Studies) by Mario Sironi and "La scuola" (The School) by Mario De Luigi. Both paintings clearly reflect the different meanings attributed by each artist to studies and learning. The main entrance doors, ground floor wall and the line of the hand rail running up the main staircase are all in Scarpa's signature style.

