



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

EUTOPIA

**EUTOPIA Connected Community
*Reverse Engineering and Digital Imaging:
Early Modern Venetian Lacquer From Cultural Heritage to
Material Culture***

CALL FOR STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR

***RE-MAKING EARLY MODERN LACQUER
(ON-CAMPUS WEEK)***

28 September - 2 October 2026

**Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Warwick Venice Centre,
Istituto Veneto per i Beni Culturali, Museo del Settecento Veneziano and
Museo di Arte Orientale**

(Preceded by a preparatory online activity on 25-26 May 2026)





1. OVERVIEW: ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The [*Reverse Engineering and Digital Imaging: Early Modern Venetian Lacquer From Cultural Heritage to Material Culture*](#) Connected Community (CC) is a Ca' Foscari University of Venice-coordinated pioneering platform dedicated to **experiential learning in material culture**. By employing state-of-the-art technologies such as high-resolution 3D imaging and re-making practices similar to reverse engineering, it aims to revitalise the conservation of cultural artefacts while fostering an inclusive educational atmosphere.

Its 2026 activities will focus on lacquering, a variety of procedures for varnishing wood and leather artifacts with resins. The study of lacquered artifacts reveals intense and enduring **processes of transfer and appropriation across Eurasia** (Japan, China, the Ottoman Empire, and Venice). By appropriation, we mean both the successful circulation and “domestication” of complex techniques before twentieth-century globalisation, and the present rediscovery of these processes as a form of **material culture that can be experienced, handed on through new media and questioned in its geopolitical implications and with respect to environmental and economic sustainability issues**.

The EUTOPIA *Re-making Early Modern Lacquer* On-Campus Week and its preparatory online meeting are the core activities of this Connected Community. During the On-Campus Week in Venice (28 September - 2 October 2026), the participants **will learn to lacquer alla veneziana** and familiarise themselves hands-on with this technique (re-making). They will also participate in activities such as **3D scanning and advanced measurement** of selected seventeenth-century lacquered pieces kept in Venice, and visit the lacquer sections of the **Museo di Arte Orientale and Museo del Settecento Veneziano of Venice** together with specialists with different backgrounds (stakeholders from museums, conservation professionals, chemists, historians of art and design, media archaeologists and specialists in advanced measurement systems and 3D visualisation). Finally, the media produced during the On-Campus Week will feed the Community's dissemination activities until December 2026.

2. THE EUTOPIA NETWORK AND THE ORGANISERS

EUTOPIA Connected Communities are integrated thematic networks where teachers, researchers, professionals and students cooperate in **cross-campus knowledge activities**. They aim to strengthen existing good practices in challenge-based learning and research by creating inter-university connectedness. The partners of this Connected Community are professors **Walter Cupperi (Lead, Ca' Foscari University)**, **Marta Ajmar (University of Warwick)**, **Miriam De Rosa (Ca' Foscari University)**, **Francesca Caterina Izzo (Ca' Foscari University)**, **Matej Klemenčič (University of Ljubljana)**, **Renata Novak Klemenčič (University of Ljubljana)**, **Sabrina Rastelli (Ca' Foscari University)**, **Giorgio Tagliaferro (University of Warwick)** and **Mark Williams (University of Warwick)**.

Established in 2019, EUTOPIA is **an alliance of ten European universities** and six Global partners committed to developing a new model for integrated higher education institutions through transnational cooperation. The EUTOPIA MORE project (2022-2026) is an initiative proposed by the EUTOPIA alliance, which aims to foster institutional transformation based on principles of openness, inclusivity, and innovation.





3. PURPOSE OF THE CALL AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. This call aims to select **5 students (BA, MA or PhD level)** from Ca' Foscari University, who will join 5 students from the University of Warwick and 5 students from the University of Ljubljana for the proposed activities. They will attend:
 - a. The **EUTOPIA Re-making Early Modern Lacquer On-Campus Week** in Venice on 28 September - 2 October 2026;
 - b. A **preparatory online activity** on 25-26 May 2026 (introduction to the technique of lacquering, the historiography on this topic and the methodologies of the Connected Community);
 - c. **Follow-up media activities** to disseminate the results of the On-Campus Week (October-November 2026).
 - d. **Curricular online open classes** (optional but recommended) delivered by the three EUTOPIA CC partner universities on the main topics. These classes will target BA and MA students, starting from February 2026.
2. **Recognition of the activities:** At the completion of the three compulsory activities (art. 3.1.a., 3.1.b., 3.1.c.), all students will receive a **EUTOPIA Micro-credential**, corresponding to a workload of 75 hours and 3 ECTS, and certified through an Open Badge issued by UNIVE. As stated on the [European Commission website](#), "micro-credentials certify the learning outcomes of short-term learning experiences, for example a short course or training. They offer a flexible, targeted way to help people **develop the knowledge, skills and competences** they need for their **personal and professional development**. [...] These opportunities are made available by a wide variety of public and private providers in response to the demand for more flexible, learner-centred forms of education and training."

Also, UNIVE students may request recognition of the Micro-credential (up to 3 ECTS/CFU) as part of their traineeship credits ("*attività sostitutiva di tirocinio*"). The recognition is subject to the formal approval of the Teaching Committee (*Collegio Didattico*) of the students' study programmes.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be students regularly enrolled at Ca' Foscari University of Venice for the 2025-2026 a.y. in one of the following undergraduate, postgraduate, or PhD programmes:
 - Conservazione e gestione dei beni e delle attività culturali [FT1]
 - Scienze e tecnologie per i beni culturali [CT60-20-21]
 - Lingue, culture e società dell'Asia e dell'Africa mediterranea [LTR40]
 - Lettere [FTR3]
 - Storia [FTR5]
 - Storia delle arti e conservazione dei beni artistici [FMR9]
 - Conservation Science and Technology for Cultural Heritage [CMR60]
 - Economia e gestione delle arti e delle attività culturali [EMR3]
 - Lingue e civiltà dell'Asia e dell'Africa mediterranea [LMR20]
 - Antropologia culturale, etnologia, etnolinguistica [FMR10]
 - Environmental Humanities [LMR10]





- Conservation Science and Technology for Cultural Heritage [CM60-18-24]
 - PhD Programme in History of Arts
2. The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status at the time of the submission of the application and until the end of all planned activities. The EUTOPIA Unit at Ca' Foscari University of Venice must be timely informed of any possible change in their status.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Applicants must submit their application by filling out the [Google Form at this link](#), using their institutional account. Personal data collected through the Google Form will be processed by Ca' Foscari University of Venice as described below in Section 8 – DATA PROTECTION.
2. The entire application **must be written in English**.
3. Applicants must submit a full application composed of the following **mandatory documents**:
 - a) Motivation letter (maximum 200 words). Applicants have to describe the reasons for their interest in participating in the initiative and expected connections with their academic career. Please specify in which university programme you are enrolled in and at which stage.
 - b) CV (ENG) not longer than two pages, with the average score and the English proficiency level.
 - c) Transcript of Records.
 - d) (if available) Certificate of English language. Any certificate can be accepted (i.e. IELTS, Cambridge).
4. Ineligibility: If, at any stage in the application procedure, it is established that the information provided by applicants has knowingly been falsified, candidates will be disqualified from the selection process.
5. Applications shall be submitted as a single PDF document (merging the required documents) and named as follows: Surname_Name_On-Campus Week Call.pdf
6. **Deadline: 30 October 2025, 23:59 (CET)**. Any application received after the deadline will not be considered.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

1. **Selection Committee:** A Selection Committee will be established to assess candidates' applications. As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee may decide to organise online interviews for a shortlist of eligible candidates. In such a case, further information regarding the schedule, procedure, scoring and final ranking will be published on the EUTOPIA webpage of Ca' Foscari website.
2. **Selection Criteria:** motivation letter, relevance and excellence of the CV.
3. **Publication of results:** The final ranking (including a waiting list) will be published on the EUTOPIA webpage of Ca' Foscari website. Selected students will be contacted via email by eutopia@unive.it to confirm their participation. Candidates who fail to confirm according





to the deadlines and procedures forfeit the right to participate. A repechage procedure shall be scheduled for any places still available.

4. **Timeline**

- Deadline for applications: **30 October 2025, 23:59 (CET)**
- Publication of selected candidates: **by 7 December 2025**
- Deadline for appeals: 3 working days after the publication of the selected candidates.
- Deadline for acceptance and confirmation of participation: 3 working days after the publication.

5. **Appeal Procedure**

Rejected applicants who feel that a mistake has been made in the process or that their application has not been fairly evaluated can file a complaint to the EUTOPIA Unit no later than 3 days after the publication of the final ranking on the university website, explaining their reasons.

Complaints from applicants who have failed to satisfy all the eligibility criteria (e.g. who have not produced the required documentation or do not meet the requirements, etc.) or have failed to satisfy them within the established timeframes will not be taken into consideration.

The appeal procedure can only come into play if a candidate feels that the Selection Committee has not handled their application in line with the principles and procedures described in the call. In other words, the appeal cannot concern the decision itself, but only an alleged error made in the process.

7. **OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED STUDENTS**

1. The selected students will have to actively attend both the preparatory online activity and the On-Campus Week and participate in the follow-up media activities. Where applicable, they will have to produce individual or collaborative pieces of work (videos, blog, artefacts, reports or other). No financial support will be available for the on-site activities for students from Ca' Foscari University.
2. The selected students must allow the material produced during the event to be used, when applicable, as an output of the event on the websites of EUTOPIA, the CC partner universities, as well as the Fondazione Musei Civici Veneziani.

8. **DATA PROTECTION**

Information relating to individuals (personal data) is collected and used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 of the European Commission, with regard to the processing of personal data by European institutions and organisations and the unrestricted circulation of such data.

Ca' Foscari University of Venice (protocollo@pec.unive.it, Dorsoduro n. 3246, 30123 Venice), in its capacity as data controller, provides the applicants with information on the processing of their personal data collected to carry out the selection procedures for the Call for student applications for *Re-making Early Modern Lacquer* On-Campus Week ("Event"). The University collects applicants' personal data, such as name, surname, contact details, academic experiences and other relevant information. Applicants' data will be stored for 5 years from the





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time of collection. Personal data is collected and processed to select the students who apply to take part in the event. Only personal data of selected candidates will be shared with the CC partner universities, as it is necessary for the organisation of the event: once the students have been selected, UNIVE will be responsible for managing both the data and image rights of all participants in the activity.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Responsible for the procedure

Dr. Mauro Cannone, Manager of Educational Programmes and Student Services Area (responsible for the procedure, according to Law n. 241/1990).

For any inquiries or additional information on this call, please contact eutopia@unive.it

For details on the EUTOPIA MORE project see <https://www.unive.it/pag/43401/>

Venice,

The Manager of the Educational
Programmes and Student Services Area

Dr. Mauro Cannone

