Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

PhD Programmes
PhD

Aim: each PhD programme provides the necessary skills for taking part in world-class quality research within private and public institutions as well as within freelancing, as such contributing to the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

Classification: third-level tertiary qualification.

Requirements: Masters degree or other study qualification which is recognised as being equivalent. For certain PhD programmes additional requirements may be called for – a degree qualification with a specific focus, for example; it is therefore necessary to read the application carefully.

Linguistic requisites: a B2 level of English (as per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR) is mandatory.

Admission: public selection process entailing the evaluation of all qualifications, as well as of oral and written exams, including internationally recognised assessment. The selection process can vary from one PhD programme to another; for further information please refer to the application details.

Duration: minimum of 3 years.

Academic Qualification: PhD.
Arts and Humanities

**PhD in Ancient Heritage Studies**
in partnership with University of Trieste and University of Udine (Inter-University PhD Programme)
Department of Humanities

**Educational Aims**
The PhD programme takes a united perspective of the antique world and is directed at utilizing specific methodologies and techniques in order to scrutinize the multiple themes and disciplines relevant to historical and interpretive difficulties proposed by monuments and texts. The programme has three main subject areas: 1) Philology and literature: communication of texts and textual criticism, intertextuality, translation, literary history, text exegesis, publishing of texts in the Medieval and papyrus traditions; 2) History: historical and philological historical research – Near Eastern, Aegean and Greek-Roman; 3) Archaeology: archaeological research – prehistoric, protohistoric, the Near Eastern, Aegean, classical, Medieval, and post-Medieval.

**Research Themes**
Ancient world literature and philology (Greek language and literature; Latin language and literature; classical philology; papyrology; Greek and Latin palaeography; early Christian literature; Medieval Latin literature); Archaeology (prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology; ancient Near Eastern history of art and archaeology; Egyptology; classical archaeology; Etruscoology and Italic archaeology; ancient topography; Medieval and Christian archaeology); Ancient history (Greek history and epigraphy; Roman history and Latin epigraphy; ancient Near Eastern history; Assyriology, numismatics; history of ancient historiography). Interdisciplinary topics: Linguistics; History of ancient philosophy; History of Medieval philosophy; Classical tradition; History of ancient Mediterranean religions; Digital humanities.

**Campus**
Venice (administrative headquarter), Trieste and Udine

**Duration**
3 years

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**PhD in History of Arts**
in partnership with State Institute for Art Studies, Russian Federation (International PhD Programme)
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

**Educational Aims**
The PhD programme is designed to provide a suitable scientific and professional qualification within the European panorama for research in art history in all of its accepted meanings, with particular attention paid to the appreciation of artistic-cultural, territorial and environmental heritage. Its objective is to train and prepare researchers capable of confronting the system of the arts as it is modernly intended, whereby the historical differences between major and minor arts no longer exists, and the visual and architectural arts are inextricably connected with those pertaining to performance, music, modern media, theory and museographic practices.

**Research Themes**
Analysis and history of buildings and their urban context, focussing in particular on their economic, construction and layout history, as well as their intended uses; System of the arts, collecting, exhibitions and museology in ancient, Medieval, modern and contemporary periods; Historic-cultural and environmental heritage studied through documentation, imagery and multimedia, analysis of materials and structures; Analysis and history of musical, theatrical and cinematographic artefacts; Multimedia applications for the promotion of local artistic heritage; Contemporary system of art works and performance art, and the transformation in practices, exhibition and consumption of artefacts.

**Campus**
Venice and Moscow (only for the International PhD Programme)

**Duration**
3 years

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**PhD in Italian Studies**
in partnership with Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria (International PhD Programme)
Department of Humanities

**Educational Aims**
The PhD programme is aimed at ensuring students gain complete proficiency in both the study of texts dating from the origins of the Italian language to the current day, and in parallel, the study of works in foreign languages which are produced in those same historical geographical and cultural contexts. At use are philological, linguistic, historical-critical, hermeneutic and comparative methodologies, which are applied to texts expressed in Italian produced by both Italian and foreign authors, as well as those written by Italian authors in Latin, Greek, Occitan, Antique French, or in the modern foreign languages, including dialects and slang.

**Research Themes**
Editing, analysis and interpretation of literary texts from the Middle Ages to the contemporary period, either in Italian or by Italian authors who have written in Latin, Greek, Provençal, Old French, as well as in modern languages or dialects or jargons; Relationship between the Italian language, literature and culture, and the ancient and modern cultures.
and literatures, which have come into contact with the former; Vulgar versions and translation of texts especially to and from Latin; Issues in historical linguistics and the history of Italian linguistics, of Medieval Latin-based languages and Italian dialects and the description of varieties of Italo-Romance languages of the past and the present; Literary civilisation of north-eastern Italy; Perspectives of Italian literary criticism.

**Campus**
Venice

**Duration**
3 years

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**PhD in Philosophy and Educational Sciences**
in partnership with Université Paris 1 Panthéon – Sorbonne, France
Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

**Educational Aims**
The PhD program’s core is philosophical reasoning intertwined with the social, psychological, cognitive and educational sciences. It is organized into two main subject areas:
1) Philosophy
2) Educational Sciences

The Philosophy curriculum is aimed at the learning of methods in historiography, text interpretation, the discussion of problems, and the development of original theoretical paradigms. It looks to promote originality, autonomy, clarity, skill in collaboration and reasoning, so as to formulate interpretative hypotheses and solutions to historical, theoretical and practical issues. The Educational Sciences curriculum is characterised by the focus on individuating paths toward innovation and the quality of higher education. It is aimed at the fine-tuning of theoretical models and intervention methodologies for research development, with reference in particular to pedagogical skills.

**Research Themes**

**Philosophy curriculum:** Theoretical philosophy; Philosophical hermeneutics; Moral philosophy; Bioethics; History of philosophy; History of ancient philosophy; History of philosophy of the Renaissance; History of modern philosophy; History of contemporary philosophy; Philosophy of religion; Political philosophy; Philosophy of language; Aesthetics; Philosophy of science; Philosophy of the social sciences; Logics.

**Educational Sciences curriculum:** General pedagogy; Cognitive sciences; Social pedagogy; Intercultural pedagogy; Labour pedagogy; Dynamic psychology; Methodology and general didactics; Technologies for education and didactics; Social psychology; Neuroscience; Special pedagogy; System assessment and educational research; Philosophy of education.

**Campus**
Venice and Paris (only for the International PhD Programme)

**Duration**
3 years

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**PhD in Historical, Geographical and Anthropological Studies**
in partnership with University of Padua and University of Verona
Department of Humanities and Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies

**Educational Aims**
The PhD Programme aims at enhancing and coordinate the skills and areas of research developed in the three Universities (Padua, Ca’ Foscari Venice and Verona), extending the territorial scope and increasing the opportunities for dialogue and scholarly debate among teachers and PhD students. The Course intends to be a landmark, at a national and international level, for the training of young researchers and of teachers in these disciplines. The presence, within the Course, of scientific areas such as history, physical and human geography and cultural anthropology aims at stimulating, in the research of PhD students, the learning and mastering of specific methodologies and the habit of posing open questions about the potential for cross-links both among the disciplines related to humanities research, and between the humanities and the hard-sciences. The Programme foresees the following areas of study: Historical Studies; Geographical Studies; Historical and Religious Studies and Anthropology.

**Research Themes**

**Historical Studies:** Society and cultural representations; The study of identity and identity construction (national and international, professional, religious, racial, kinship, intergenerational identities); Rules and law; Public and private sociability; Ritual and religious practices.

**Geographical Studies:** Analysis of spatial and territorial processes: Dynamics of the physical environment; The impact of man on physical environment, (climatic change, geomorphological processes, population); Development and sustainability projects; Landscape studies and representations; Place production; Historical, geographical and anthropological problems of globalisation; technology, politics, ethics.

**Historical-Religious and Anthropological Studies:** Social history and Anthropology of the material and immaterial heritage: Ethnographic museums; Understanding the natural environment; History and Anthropology of the landscape (natural and semi-natural); The history and anthropology of cities, of migration and of labour; History of spirituality; Cultural and religious transformations.

**Campus**
Padua (administrative headquarter),
Venice and Verona

**Duration**
3 years
PhD in Economics
(English-taught programme)
Department of Economics

Educational Aims
The PhD programme offers advanced training in the areas of economic and financial sciences, with a particular specialisation in quantitative and qualitative analysis of the numerous aspects and issues within financial-economic systems, at both a microeconomic level (how markets, economic organisations and businesses function, and predictions on their trends and prospects) and a macroeconomic level (issues regarding economic cycles and unemployment, and the impact of specific social and economic factors).

Research Themes
Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Economic theory; Public economics; Labour economics; Health economics; Economics of ageing; Experimental economics; Computational economics; Regional economics; Econometrics; Bayesian econometrics; Financial econometrics; Finance; Financial economics; Quantitative finance; Mathematical economics; Economic statistics.

Campus
Venice

Duration
4 years

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PhD in Law, Market and Person
in partnership with Astrakhan State University, Russian Federation
(International PhD Programme)
Department of Economics

Educational Aims
This PhD programme is focused on understanding the mechanisms involved in the formation of contemporary law, as determined by the interaction between European law and national rights, with a particular focus on: the institutional dimension and government profiles; the organisation of transnational markets; the contents and methodologies in regulating exchanges; the legal dimension of the individual and the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms in the context of a global society.

Research Themes
Private law; Person law; European contract law; Consumer law; Business and company law; European commercial contract law; Economic law and financial markets; Competition and market law; Sources of European law; Labour contracts; EU and comparative labour law; Public and constitutional law; Comparative, private and public law; EU law; International private and public law.

Campus
Venice

Duration
3 years

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PhD in Management
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with H-FARM S.p.A.
(Collaborative PhD Programme)
Department of Management

Educational Aims
The aim of this PhD programme is the acquisition of in-depth knowledge of the contents and methods within the fields of administration and finance, and public and private business governance. Such knowledge allows for the development of distinct skills in the comprehension and management of specific operational difficulties within the business economics environment.

Research Themes
Corporate and entrepreneurial theories: public, private and non profit company; Theories of credit and finance: financial function of companies and of bank and non-banking financial intermediaries; Accounting theories: national and international accounting principles; individual, group, civil and fiscal accounting, planning and control; Organization theories, organization design, human resource management and competence analysis; Organizational economics and game theory; Business strategy and policy, marketing and economics and management of industrial sectors; Sustainability; Corporate governance and financial markets; Theories of innovation and entrepreneurship; Economic history; Organization and strategic choices of actors in the transport industry; Management of cultural production; Behavioural economics.

Campus
Venice

Duration
4 years
PhD in Science and Management of Climate Change
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Euro-
Mediterranean Centre on Climate
Change - CMCC and National Institute
of Oceanography and Experimental
Geophysics – OGS (PhD programme
in cooperation with Research
Institutions)
Department of Economics and
Department of Environmental
Sciences, Informatics and
Statistics

Educational Aims
The main objective of this PhD
programme is to prepare experts
with a broad and thorough scientific
background in economics, in addition
to a solid base of original and innovative
research on themes regarding the
dynamics of climate change, and the
methodologies and techniques used
in their evaluation and management
in terms of mitigation and adaptation
measures and policy.
The PhD programme has two main
subject areas: Dynamic Climatology
at the CMCC in Bologna; Impact and
Management of Climate Change at the
Department of Economics at Ca’ Foscari.

Research Themes
Dynamics of climate variations and
change; Methods and techniques for the
management of climate change and its
impact; Assessment of economic impact
of climate change; Cost-benefit analysis
of mitigation and adaptation policies;
Other issues related to climate change
and management of climate-change-
related environmental and socio-
economic processes.

Campus
Venice and Bologna

Duration
4 years

Languages and Cultures

PhD in Asian and African Studies
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Universität
Heidelberg, Germany (International
PhD Programme)
Department of Asian and North
African Studies

Educational Aims
The aim of this PhD programme is
to provide advanced knowledge of
the field as well as advanced skills
in methodology and analysis. The
PhD graduate will thus be capable
of efficiently and innovatively
comprehending the differing phenomena
that occur in historical, geographical and
cultural dimensions, focusing principally
on primary sources within numerous
Asian and North African languages.
Indeed, the prominent emphasis on
linguistic competency guarantees
that the student acquires a rigorous
philological and literary approach, as well
as refined skills in using the language as
a tool for direct contact within the arts,
the sciences and the various historical-
social disciplines.

Research Themes
Languages, cultures, history, thought,
art, and legal and economic institutions
of Asian and North Africa (reference
languages: Arabic, Aramaic, Armenian,
Azerbaijani, Chinese, Georgian, Hebrew,
Japanese, Korean, Persian, Sanskrit,
Tibetan, Turkish – other languages of
interest: Hindi, Russian, Urdu, Yiddish).

Campus
Venice and Heidelberg (only for the
International PhD Programme)

Duration
3 years
PhD in Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies and Linguistics

in partnership with Sorbonne Université, France (International PhD Programme), in partnership with Univerza na Primorsken/University of Primorska, Slovenia (International PhD Programme)

in partnership with Fondazione San Camillo - Institute for Scientific Hospitalization and Care IRCCS (Collaborative PhD Programme)

Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies

Educational Aims
The PhD programme is organized into two main subject areas, which incorporate languages, language sciences, literature and culture within numerous scientific and cultural projects: 1) Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies, 2) Linguistics.

The Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies curriculum is aimed at the advanced study of languages and cultures of modern societies, based on the communication between complex cultural systems, and examined through the analysis and interpretation of literary and cultural texts in a foreign language. This essential tool in gaining a deep understanding of all cultures and traditions is applied from both a specific and a comparative angle.

The Linguistics curriculum is aimed at the development of theoretical critical thinking that is suitable for facing specialized research themes and issues in linguistic theory, language education, linguistics of various languages (including Sign Language), applied linguistics, computational linguistics, synchronic and diachronic language theory, and foreign language teaching.

Research Themes
Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies curriculum: Modern languages, literatures and cultures in the following areas - covering stylistic, rhetorical, philological, historical and epistemological aspects focusing on both the specific factors deriving from the differing contexts and the more broad comparative perspective regarding communication between complex cultural systems: Anglo-American literatures and cultures; English literature and culture; Postcolonial literatures and cultures in English; European French and Francophone literature and culture; Ibero-American literatures and cultures; Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese literatures and cultures from the Iberian Peninsula; Lusophone literatures and cultures from Latin America and Africa; German and Austrian literature and culture; Literatures and cultures from the Slavic and Balkan area and relative to the following language areas: Albanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Polish, Russian, Serbian and Slovenian; Culture and literature of the Slavic and Balkan areas: Albanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Polish, Russian, Serbian and Slovenian.

Linguistics Curriculum: Grammar theory; Generative grammar; Language education/educational linguistics; The teaching of foreign languages and of Italian as a foreign/second language.

Campus
Venice and Paris (only for the International PhD Programme)

Duration
3 years

Science and Technology

PhD in Computer Science
(English-taught programme) in partnership with Masarykova Univerzita, Czech Republic (International PhD Programme) in partnership with Cimolai S.p.A., Julia Srl and Microtec Srl (Collaborative PhD Programme)

Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

Educational Aims
The objective of the PhD programme is to prepare students with the formal tools necessary for rigorously implementing and developing research, allowing them to become experts in the methodologies for planning and evaluation of systems and computer systems.

The research is coordinated by three centers: Acadia (AdvanCes in Autonomous, Distributed and pervasive systems) specializes in distributed and pervasive systems, highly relevant subjects today given the diffusion of smartphones, tablets and other intelligent devices; Kiis (Knowledge, Interaction and Intelligent Systems) studies how the imposing quantity of information that is readily available in today’s age can be transformed into useful knowledge for the innovation and the improvement of products, services and productive processes; Dhv (Digital Humanities Venice), a collaboration between Ca’ Foscari, EPF de Lausanne and Telecom Italia, applies information technology to the humanities, providing innovative cultural tools to the digital cities of the future.

Research Themes
Bioinformatics; Artificial vision and pattern recognition; Evaluation methods of performance and system simulation; Data and web mining; Parallel and distributed systems and algorithms; Formal methods of computer science; Fundamentals of programming languages; System security; Multimedia and information systems; Man-machine interaction; Analysis and verification of programmes; Web technologies.

Campus
Venice and Brno (only for the International PhD Programme)

Duration
3 years
PhD in Environmental Sciences
Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

Educational Aims
The PhD programme is designed to research solutions to the various global issues (environment, ecology, social development) with the aim of promoting an interdisciplinary approach. The main objective is to examine and develop knowledge of the environmental system dynamics through improving the quality of the available data, refining the understanding of the processes in place (through the development of assessment techniques and adaptation of the security networks) and perfecting the information gathered (macroscale) from higher levels of modelisation.

Research Themes
Biology; Ecology; Environmental chemistry; Dynamics of environmental processes; Environmental reclamation and technologies; Earth science; Territorial and resource management; Microbiology; Environmental biotechnology and biochemistry; Environmental physics.

Campus
Venice

Duration
3 years

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PhD in Polar Sciences
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with National Research Council - CNR (PhD programme in cooperation with Research Institutions) and with University of Milano-Bicocca
Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

Educational Aims
The objective of this PhD programme is to prepare students with in-depth scientific competences and original and innovative research activities for becoming experts on topics related to recent and past environmental and climate changes of the polar regions and of the glaciated areas of high altitude/low latitudes sites. The state of the art of the scientific knowledge will be made available for the students for building a robust scientific understanding of the processes regulating the climate changes occurring in the polar regions with an interdisciplinary approach.

Research Themes
Glaciology; Ice core sciences; Ice sheet Modeling; Polar Biology; Polar Oceanography; Paleoclimates; Paleoenvironment; Polar Climate; Remote Sensing; Polar Geography and Geopolitics; Spectral Methods for Climatic Time Series; Data Mining.

Campus
Venice

Duration
4 years

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PhD in Science and Management of Climate Change
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change - CMCC and National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics – OGS (PhD programme in cooperation with Research Institutions)
Department of Economics and Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

Educational Aims
The main objective of this PhD programme is to prepare experts with a broad and thorough scientific background in economics, in addition to a solid base of original and innovative research on themes regarding the dynamics of climate change, and the methodologies and techniques used in their evaluation and management in terms of mitigation and adaptation measures and policy. The PhD programme has two main subject areas: Dynamic Climatology at the CMCC in Bologna; Impact and Management of Climate Change at the Department of Economics at Ca’ Foscari.

Research Themes
Dynamics of climate variations and change; Methods and techniques for the management of climate change and its impact; Assessment of economic impact of climate change; Cost-benefit analysis of mitigation and adaptation policies; Other issues related to climate change and management of climate-change-related environmental and socio-economic processes.

Campus
Venice and Bologna

Duration
4 years
PhD in Science and Technology of Bio and Nanomaterials
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with the National Cancer Institute (Centro di Riferimento Oncologico di Aviano - CRO) (PhD programme in cooperation with Research Institutions)
in partnership with EXPLORA S.r.l. (Collaborative PhD Programme)
Department of Molecular Sciences and Nanosystems

Educational Aims
The aim of this PhD programme is to acquire an in-depth knowledge in these fields; to develop the ability to collaborate and compete with specialists coming from different disciplines; to use specialized literature and reviews characterized by a multidisciplinary content; to use specialized knowledge in an interdisciplinary context when this is characterized by a strong applicative value; to learn how to communicate the research results to different target audiences, to manage the intellectual property rights and to exploit their possible industrial development; to manage interdisciplinary projects, together with experts from various disciplines, with the aim to develop materials and techniques in the frame of chemico-physico-biological analyses useful for the development of bio-nanotechnologies applied to nanomedicine.

Research Themes
Theranostics: synthesis of organic (polymeric and/or micelles) or inorganic (mesoporous) nanostructures suitable for drug delivery and as contrast medium for optical and/or magnetic imaging; study of the interaction of these nanostructures with the biological environment and their efficacy for in vivo and in vitro targeting; Development of advanced ceramic materials for medical applications (prostheses or prosthesis coatings); study of their interaction with biological systems, of degradation processes and the formation of biofilms; Simulation and numerical design of nanostructures obtained via self-assembly of anisotropic objects, or via folding of DNA and proteins; Development of electrochemical biosensors for the determination of contaminating ions in water and in foods and/or small molecules (e.g. drugs) in plasma. Study of the interphases between inorganic, organic and biological systems using Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy (SECM) and AFM with high spatial resolution; Development, production and application of targeted therapies in human diseases; Development of innovative in vitro evaluation systems of the interaction among nanosystems, tissues and organs to limit the use of in vivo tests (Organoids); Evaluation of the impact produced by new technologies; management of technology transfer from laboratory to industry.

PhD in Chemistry
in partnership with University of Trieste (Inter-University PhD Programme)
Department of Molecular Sciences and Nanosystems

Educational Aims
The PhD programme merges the cultural excellence of the two Universities with the aim of offering to students a broad range of expertise that covers all chemical disciplines and some areas of chemical engineering and of biology. The research topics span from classical organic synthesis to nanotechnologies, from green and sustainable chemistry to computational chemistry, just to cite a few. The graduate students will be given the opportunity to join a scientifically rich and stimulating environment, characterized by many national and international collaborations, and to be part of advanced research projects under the supervision of experienced and motivated scientists. The students will also attend specific courses (in English, upon request) and seminars on hot research topics. The graduated students will be trained with all experimental and theoretical tools necessary to manage general problems which will be encountered when developing new chemical compounds or processes, as well as their industrial implications, to carry on an independent and autonomous research activity.

Research Themes
Biocrystallography; Pharmaceutical biology; Inorganic, bio-inorganic and organometallic chemistry; Organic and bio-organic chemistry; Homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis and bio-catalysis; Supramolecular chemistry and catalysis; Theoretical and computational chemistry; Medicinal chemistry; Analytical and environmental chemistry; Chemistry for Cultural Heritage; Electrochemistry and sensors; Green and sustainable chemistry; Chemical engineering; Advanced materials and thin films; Nanosciences and nanotechnologies; Molecular spectroscopy; Pharmaceutical Technologies; Physical chemistry; Industrial chemistry.

Campus
Trieste (administrative headquarter) and Venice.

Duration
3 years
Research Area
PhD Office

San Sebastiano
Dorsoduro 1686,
30123 Venezia

phd.office@unive.it
www.unive.it/phd-degrees