PhD Programmes

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
**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 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; Etruscology 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

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

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 and Klagenfurt (only for the
International PhD Programme)

**Duration**
3 years

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**PhD in Philosophy and Educational Sciences**
in partnership with Université Paris 1
Panthéon – Sorbonne, France
(Inter-University PhD Programme)
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
(Inter-University PhD Programme)
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.
**Politics and Its functioning:** Civil and
ecclesiastical institutions; The history of
communication and of public opinion;
Military history; Colonialism and post-
colonialism.
**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)
and Venice

**Duration**
4 years
PhD in Economics
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Eurizon Capital SGR S.p.A. (Collaborative PhD 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

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 and Astrakhan (only for the International PhD Programme)

Duration
3 years

PhD in Management
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with SKEMA Business School, France (International PhD 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 and Sophia Antipolis (only for the International PhD Programme)

Duration
4 years
PhD in Science and Management of Climate Change
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change - CMCC
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 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

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

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

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.

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, Paris and Koper (only for the International PhD Programme)

Duration
3 years

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; Albanese, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Greek, Polish, Russian, Serbian and Slovenian.

PhD in Computer Science
(English-taught programme)
in partnership with Masarykova Univerzita, Czech Republic (International PhD Programme) in partnership with Cimolai S.p.A. and with Explora Biotech S.r.l. (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.

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

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. and with Explora Biotech S.r.l. (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.

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**  
(English-taught programme)  
in partnership with Tech Universal  
(Collaborative PhD Programme)  
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

**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; Paleoclimate; Paleoenvironment; Polar Climate; Remote Sensing; Polar Geography and Geopolitics; Spectral Methods for Climatic Time Series; Data Mining.

**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  
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.

**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 Kyoto Institute of Technology – KIT, Japan (International PhD 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 Biotech 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 nano-medicine.

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 implant 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.

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

Duration
3 years

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

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Dorsoduro 1686,
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