

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Selection of 30 students for the Winter School in Interdisciplinary Biodiversity

Art. 1 – Presentation

The Winter School, sponsored by the National Biodiversity Future Center (NBFC), is organised by Ca' Foscari University's School for International Education (CFSIE) in collaboration with the Italian National Research Council's Istituto di Scienze Marine (CNR-ISMAR) so as to provide definitions and tools for the understanding and management of the different components of the biodiversity as observed by the biologist, the climatologist, the social scientist, the economist and others. The programme takes a widely interdisciplinary approach, will investigate the following questions:

- What is biodiversity?
- How can it be measured nowadays, and its changes determined with respect to the "natural" state of the environment?
- What are the ecosystem services provided by the biota and their effects on human health, food production and energy supply?
- How is biodiversity conservation regulated by law?

The Program coordinator is Assistant Professor Corinna Guerra (Historian of Science, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari University).

Art. 2 – Winter School contents and structure

1. A total of 30 students will be accepted.
2. Courses are held in English.
3. The programme is open to students with any academic background.
4. Students are not required to have previously studied any specific topics. The course contents are designed so as to be able to offer learning opportunities for students at all levels.
5. The programme runs from Monday January 27th to Saturday February 1st. Classes will be held on campus in classrooms at Ca' Foscari University and CNR-Ismar in the Venice city centre. One day will also be dedicated to field work.
6. Accommodation is included for the highest-ranked students (see art. 7.2)

Art. 3 – Admission Requirements

1. Applicants must have completed at least an undergraduate (Bachelor's) degree.
2. Applicants with a Bachelor's degree only must be regularly enrolled in a Master's degree at a Higher Education Institution.
3. Applicants must have a good working knowledge of English (a solid B2 is expected). Students are not required to produce certification but must be able to easily interact and engage with their peers and instructors.

Art. 4 –Applications

1. The [application form](#) is available on the programme's webpage:
2. Applicants must include the following documents in their application:
 - a. Curriculum vitae in English in Europass format with certifications and publications (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae>);
 - b. Current Transcript of records or study plan with exams (if relevant)
 - c. Final degree certificate/diploma with transcript of records
 - d. Motivation letter: max 800 words

3. Applications may be rejected for any of the following reasons:
 - a. received after the deadline;
 - b. incomplete or incorrect;
 - c. missing documents;
 - d. false information;
4. Applicants must send all documents via email to summerschool.international@unive.it before the deadline.
5. The application deadline is **Thursday, November 7th, 2024**.

Art. 5 – Selection and overall ranking

1. The selection process will be carried out by a Selection Committee, hereby nominated:
 - Corinna Guerra, Ca' Foscari University
 - Amalia Rossi, Ca' Foscari University
 - Diego Fontaneto, CNR Ismar
 - Fantina Madricardo, CNR Ismar
 - Sabrina Tamburini, Ca' Foscari University (substitute)
2. All students will be ranked based on their overall score which will be structured in the following way:
 - a. **50% Academic profile**

The following criteria will be evaluated:

 - i. GPA for past University studies
 - ii. Academic publications
 - iii. Past and current research projects
 - iv. Study qualifications
 - v. Work or voluntary experiences in relevant fields
 - b. **50% Motivation**

The following criteria will be evaluated:

 - i. Why you chose to apply for the Winter School
 - ii. What you aim to do in the future
 - iii. Why it is so important for you to deepen your knowledge of biodiversity
 - iv. Clarity in communicating your ideas
 - v. Originality in communicating who you are and your ideas
3. The Selection Committee may request applicants sit an online interview to verify their academic profile, motivation, and communication skills.
4. Should two or more students attain an equal placing in the ranking, precedence will be given (in this order):
 - a. students applying from outside of the Europe Union
 - b. the younger student
5. The rankings will be available within 7 days of the end of the selection process.
6. Students who are ranked within the top 30 places in the ranking will be admitted on condition they accept their place within the specified time frame (see art. 6).
7. Students who are ranked lower than the number of places reserved for each programme will be placed on a waitlist.
8. Students on the waitlist will be contacted following the final admission deadline (see art. 6) should a place come available.

Art. 6 – Final admission and acceptance

1. Selected students must confirm their place within 10 days following the publication of the overall rankings (final admission deadline) by:
 - a. Filling out the online acceptance form
 - b. Paying the application fee of €50
2. Should a student not confirm their place by the final admission deadline (as per the publication of the final ranking), students on the waitlist will be contacted.
3. Payments are to be made online through PagoPA. Selected students will receive a link by which they can make the application fee payment. All further information will be sent to students by email once the rankings have been published.

Art. 7 – Tuition, Accommodation, and travel

1. Tuition costs including field visits are covered for all selected students.
2. Accommodation costs - which will be arranged at a student residence within the larger Venice area - will be covered for the 24 highest ranked students. Students who do not need accommodation can specify this in the application form.
3. All students are provided meals at the Cafeteria on the days of teaching for lunch and dinner.
4. Students will receive a public transport pass for travel within the city of Venice.
5. The six highest ranking students applying from outside of the European Union will be provided airfare.
6. The six highest ranking students applying from within the European Union (but outside of Italy) will be provided airfare.
7. For the purposes of this Call for Applications, the definition of where an applicant is applying from, will be his or her current location in terms of studies or employment.
8. Should any of the above twelve scholarships for travel costs remain available following final admission, these could be reassigned to students applying from within Italy.
9. Travel arrangements will be made by a Travel Agency, which will evaluate the most convenient flight from the specified departure point so as to arrive in Venice on Sunday January 26th.

Art. 8 – Policies

1. Participants who have reached the minimum attendance requirement of the 80% will be awarded an [Open Badge](#), which certifies the skills acquired in the Winter School.
2. Ca' Foscari students may also obtain university credits (CFU) by contacting the Head of Studies for their respective degree programmes ("Collegio didattico").
3. **Attendance is mandatory**. If a student is unable to attend any of the teaching activities, the programme Coordinator, and the CFSIE office must all be notified, and valid motivation must be provided.
4. Upon completion of the Winter School, students will receive a final certificate of participation provided they have attended at least 80% of all classes.
5. Classes are not expected to be held online in any circumstance. Should force majeure affect the program in any way, class instructors will evaluate how best to provide students with class materials (class recordings, online tutorials, homework through online learning platforms, additional readings, and so on).

Art. 9 – Information on Personal Data Processing

1. The data processor is Ca' Foscari University of Venice, with headquarters in Dorsoduro n. 3246, 30123 Venice (VE), in the person of the Rector Magnificent.

2. The University has appointed the “Data Protection Officer”, who can be contacted by writing to the e-mail address dpo@unive.it or to the following address: Ca’ Foscari University, Venice, Data Protection Manager, Dorsoduro n. 3246, 30123 Venice (VE).

3. Personal data categories, purposes and legal basis of data processing

The data processing in question involves the provision of personal data and data relating to previous study and professional experience. Unless the selection procedure is for protected categories, it is not necessary to provide data of a sensitive nature (for example, data concerning health status, sexual orientation or political or trade union opinions); candidates are therefore requested not to provide such data, unless deemed necessary for optimal evaluation of the position selection procedure. The processing of personal data is aimed solely at the completion of the selection procedure and will take place in a way and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purpose. The legal basis for this treatment is represented by art. 6.1.e) of the Regulations (“execution of a task of public interest or connected to the exercise of public powers”). The processing of personal data is based on the principles of correctness, lawfulness and transparency and the protection of the privacy and rights of the data subject, as well as the additional principles established by art. 5 of the Regulations. More information about the privacy policy can be found at this link: <https://www.unive.it/pag/36610/>.