



UniSR

Università Vita-Salute  
San Raffaele

**Didactic Regulations**  
**Of the jointly awarded Master's Degree in**  
**Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication**  
**offered by the Faculty of Psychology of Vita-Salute San Raffaele University,**  
**Milan and the University of Italian Switzerland in Lugano**

*Applicable for students who enrol in academic year 2023-2024*

*Issued with Rector's Decree no. 8223 dated 05 June 2023*

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## **Art. 1 – Course Admission**

### **1.1 Knowledge required for admission**

Candidates for admission to the jointly awarded Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication must hold a Degree in one of the following classes:

1) under Italian Ministerial Decree 270: Class L-24 Psychological sciences and techniques or under Italian Ministerial Decree 509/99: Class

34 Psychological sciences and techniques, or a five-year degree in Psychology awarded under the previous Italian system, a Major in Psychology, or another academic qualification obtained abroad recognised in Italy, or at least 88 ECTS-credits in the M-PSI scientific disciplinary sectors.

2) Students must reach an adequate level of linguistic competence (CEF B2 in English), which is to be certified by the first exam session (mandatory for admission to exam dates).

3) For the purpose of enrolment in the qualifying Master's Degree in Psychology - class LM-51, those who have attained the Bachelor's Degree in Psychological sciences and techniques - class L-24 under the previous regulations and who have not completed the professional training activities amounting to 10 ECTS credits pursuant to para. 5, may apply for the acknowledgement of the activities carried out and certified during the Bachelor's Degree course, relating to:

a) activities carried out individually or in small groups aimed at acquiring knowledge of the methods, approaches and procedures of relevance to the applicational settings of psychology;

b) practical, workshop, simulation, role-playing and project-designing experiences, carried out individually or in small groups, regarding approaches, methods and procedures aimed at developing the knowledge required to operate in the settings in which psychologists work.

In the absence of all or some of the ECTS credits referred to para. 6, Bachelor's Degree graduates must acquire the lacking internship ECTS credits in addition to the 120 ECTS credits of the Master's Degree.

### **1.2 Admission procedure**

Candidates will be admitted to the course for the jointly awarded Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication on the basis of the following criteria and order of application submission:

- Average mark => 24/30;
- Motivational letter/interview in English;
- Reference letter from the dissertation supervisor (or degree dissertation for graduates).

## **Art. 2 – Study Plan**

The teaching activity is structured in accordance with the Study Plan specified in the appended Description of the training programme.

### **2.1 Individual Study Plans (where applicable)**

Students may select their choice of learning activities totalling 8 ECTS credits.

This study plan must in any case comply with the restrictions imposed by the Didactic Regulations of the Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication. To this end, students must present the Authorising Committee with a request for approval of their individual study plan.

Students are allowed to attend the learning activities of their choice in the second year of the course. Students may also supplement their programme with supernumerary credits that are provided for in the study plan and approved by the Faculty Council. Supernumerary credits are recognised based on attendance.

## **2.2 Practical Training and Assessment**

Internship activities are governed by the Italian and Swiss academic authorities, in accordance with the applicable national legislation.

The Practical Training and Assessment is carried out in operational settings or in qualified external institutions affiliated with the University. These activities are carried out in affiliated public and private healthcare facilities under contract with the NHS. If these facilities cannot ensure the adequate and effective internal availability of psychology services and the corresponding tutors, the Practical Training and Assessment must be entirely carried out in external institutions affiliated with the University.

During the Master's Degree, the Practical Training and Assessment must be carried out in the above-mentioned external institutions affiliated with the University for a total of 20 ECTS credits, equivalent to 500 hours. The time windows and conditions for the Practical Training and Assessment are non-negotiable and scheduled by the Training and Internship Service of the University, in compliance with the applicable regulations. Students are required to fill out the internship record book in which the tutor assigned to them will certify attendance. The attendance rate required for Practical Training and Assessment activities is 100%.

The specific activities of the Practical Training and Assessment are defined in the study plan of the Didactic System, considering the specialistic area of the psychological activities the Master's Degree refers to.

The procedures for Practical Training and Assessment activities and the selection and contracting of external institutions and tutors are planned by the Training and Internship Service of the University, in accordance with the procedures referred to in the applicable regulations.

The Practical Training and Assessment is passed by means of a pass mark, upon attainment of the 20 ECTS credits required to participate in the Practical Assessment, as provided for in article 5 of these Regulations.

Students who do not attain a pass must repeat all or part of the Practical Training and Assessment.

## **Art. 3 – Restrictions**

With reference to the provisions of Articles 14 and 15 of the University Didactic Regulations, General Section, the Authorising Committee has not identified mandatory exams required on an annual basis, or courses for which an annual certificate of attendance is necessary, or a minimum number of credits which students must acquire, as a requirement for passing to the next year of the course.

#### **Art. 4 – Assessment**

Students are awarded the credits provided for each learning activity when a passing grade is achieved on the relative exam. The exams are indicated by the lecturer, who provides information on the same at the beginning of the course.

The possibility of progressive checks is also provided for in order to facilitate learning and effective student participation in the learning process.

The UniSR exam committees are composed of at least 2 members and are generally presided over by the course supervisor. For all other aspects relating to the formation of the exam committees, refer to the provisions of Article 24 of the University Didactic Regulations, general section.

The assessment of the students' progress is expressed as a mark out of 30 for UniSR exams, with honours where applicable, and as a mark out of ten for USI exams.

The evaluation grid for the assessment exams (from minimum to maximum) is given by the following UniSR/USI CONVERSION TABLE:

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	6.5	6.5	7	7.5	7.5	8	8.5	8.5	9	9.5	9.5	10

Whenever the score out of ten corresponds to multiple possible scores out of thirty, the lecturer shall also indicate the corresponding score out of thirty.

Assessment of the individual learning activities of the student's choice is not expressed as a numerical grade, but as pass/fail.

In the event that a course is divided into multiple modules, the exam commission is always presided over by the course coordinator.

The dates of the award exams are communicated by the academic reference persons nominated according to the provisions of article 5 for the issuing of the jointly awarded qualification by UniSR and USI, subject to agreement with the lecturers and given the need for didactic scheduling. The dates of each group are communicated to the students with appropriate notice. Only students who are up to date with their enrolment and course fees may be admitted to the exams and other assessments.

#### **Article 5 Final exam**

For admission to the Final Exam for the Master's Degree in Psychology constituting the qualification required to practice the profession, students must acquire at least 30 ECTS for professional internship activities, including the 10 ECTS credits provided for Class L-24 pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree 654/2022.

Students not in possession of the above-mentioned 10 ECTS credits for professional training activities or who have obtained only partial recognition of the 10 ECTS credits, will be required to obtain the lacking internship ECTS credits, before they can be admitted to the Final Exam. These ECTS credits are in addition to the 120 ECTS credits of the Master's Degree.

In order to be admitted to the Final Exam, students must have obtained a pass mark for the Practical Training and Assessment (pursuant to article 2.2), and have acquired all the ECTS credits other than those for the Practical Training and Assessment (20 ECTS credits) and defence of the

degree dissertation, including the possible 10 ECTS credits for professional training activities provided for class L-24 (pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree 654/2022).

The Final Exam includes the successful completion of the Practical Assessment and the subsequent defence of the degree dissertation.

The Practical Assessment is assessed by a joint examination committee that, by means of a pass mark, certifies the professional skills acquired through the internship within the course, and certifies the candidate's level of preparation for qualification to practice the profession. This pass mark allows the student to be admitted to defend his/her degree dissertation.

The joint examination committee for the Practical Assessment consists of at least four members; half of the members must be university lecturers, of whom one acts as the President, appointed by the UniSR Faculty of Psychology and the other half must have been registered with the relevant Association of Psychologists for at least 5 years and are designated by the Lombardy Association of Psychologists.

The Degree Dissertation Examination Committee expresses its mark both out of one hundred and ten and out of 10. The exam is passed if the mark is equal to or higher than 66/110, or 6/10. The Degree Dissertation Committee may, unanimously, award the candidate the highest mark with honours.

At the completion of the degree course, graduates will be awarded the jointly awarded title of Dottore Magistrale - Master of Science in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication.

The qualification awarded is equivalent to:

Italy: UNISR Master's Degree in\_PSYCHOLOGY LM51\_ MINISTERIAL DECREE 270/2004 constituting qualification to practice the profession pursuant to Ministerial Decree 654/2022;

Switzerland: USI Master of Science in Psychology \_ Law on USI University of Lugano of 3 October 1995, ARTICLE 5.

The parchment shall be issued in English pursuant to Annex 3 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to the agreement for the award of joint qualifications. The diploma supplement shall also be awarded.

### **5.1 Definition of the roles associated with the Dissertation**

Dissertation Supervisors can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers, or permanent lecturers, including those from other Faculties of the University/USI and other Universities.

Dissertation Assistant Supervisors can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers, or permanent lecturers, including those from other Faculties of the University/USI and other universities, as well as experts with proven experience on the topics discussed in the text presented.

Dissertation Co-examiners can be full professors, associate professors, contract professors, researchers and permanent lecturers, including those from other Faculties of the University/USI and other universities.

At least one of the persons listed above: Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor, Co-examiner, must be a permanent professor of the University/USI, full and associate professor and university researcher and have expertise in the field of psychology.

### **5.2 Dissertation drafting**

Dissertations shall be drafted in English.

Each dissertation must contain an abstract in both Italian and English.

The final dissertation consists of preparing and defending an original experimental thesis which shows that the specific course skills and objectives have been acquired.

The dissertation is developed under the guidance of a Supervisor and, where applicable, a second, or Assistant, Supervisor.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to identify the Supervisor for their dissertation, decide on its subject-matter (by the time limits identified in good time by the Academic Secretariat), and submit the name of the Supervisor and the topic of the dissertation to the Authorising Committee for subsequent approval. Alongside the Supervisor is the Co-examiner nominated by the Authorising Committee, whose job is to perform a critical assessment of the dissertation.

### **5.3 The Degree Examination**

The dissertation must be publicly discussed in English during the sitting of a dedicated Committee.

### **5.4 Calculation of Degree marks/GPA**

The Degree marks/GPA is calculated by adding together two terms.

The first is obtained from the average mark obtained in all assessment exams, according to the following formula:  $\text{Average} \times 110/30$ ; when calculating this average, as well as the grades for exams for courses required to obtain the minimum number of credits for admission to the final dissertation, also those for any additional exams over and above the required total and included in the personal study plan are included.

The second term is the grade awarded in the degree exam, and is in turn the average of the grades assigned by the individual committee members, on a scale of 0 to 7.

The final grade must be listed as a mark out of ten. Where necessary, this shall be rounded down when the decimal portion is not greater than half of the unit of reference, and rounded up when it exceeds this threshold.

The final grade is decided by the Examination Committee with an absolute majority of its members.

### **5.5 Degree examination sessions calendar/ Time limits and obligations for candidates**

The final exams calendar must include at least three sessions, appropriately distributed across the academic year according to the provisions of the University Didactic Regulations. The calendar can be viewed on the dedicated noticeboards in the Academic Secretariat and on the student intranet.

For administrative requirements and the deadlines for presenting the required documents and the type thereof, see the provisions stated in the instructions from the Student Center.

It is possible to take the examination tests for the courses in the study plan by a deadline compatible with the start date of the graduation session; this deadline is communicated annually by the Student Center.

### **5.6 Degree Dissertation Committee**

Degree Dissertation Examination Committees are nominated by the Authorising Committee and are composed of at least 7 members, including the president of the committee, which shall include at least 5 permanent professors and/or researchers with a fixed-term contract.

Permanent professors, researchers and contract professors are entitled to participate as members of the commission. At least one lecturer from UniSR and from USI must be part of the oral assessment committee.

#### **Art. 6 – University and course transfers**

Requests for transfer to the University from students enrolled at other universities in Italy and abroad, military academies or other similar institutes and Master's Degree course transfers are subject to approval by the Authorising Committee, which shall:

- a) assesses the possibility of partially or fully recognising the student's academic career up to that point in time, approving some or all the exams taken and any credits awarded;
- b) recognises the credits acquired up to the number of credits of the same scientific disciplinary sector (or group of the same) provided for by the didactic regulations of the course; In all cases of student transfers between Master's Degree Courses belonging to the same class, the number of credits for the same scientific disciplinary sector directly awarded to the student may not be below the limit provided for by applicable legislation.
- c) recognises the credits by evaluating the actual case on the basis of the didactic and cultural similarities;
- d) indicates the year of the course in which the student shall be enrolled;
- e) establishes any educational debt to be overcome;

In relation to the number of credits recognised, the duration of the degree course may be abbreviated by the competent academic bodies. Any such shortening shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Art. 7 – Admission to individual courses**

The possibility to sign up to individual courses is governed as indicated below.

- 1) Students in possession of a five-year high-school diploma/secondary leaving certificate or other qualification issued abroad and considered acceptable, a university diploma, a bachelor's or master's degree, as well as holders of academic qualifications issued abroad, can enrol on individual courses, take the corresponding exams and receive the certification including indication of the credits, according to the methods defined by the Authorising Committee and the University in question.
- 2) Whenever these activities are within limited-admission courses, enrolment must be approved in advance by the competent Authorising Committee, on the basis of criteria previously identified by the same.

Applications must be made according to the conditions and deadlines published on an annual basis by the Student Center on the University website.

For all other aspects not covered herein, refer to the provisions of Article 32 of the University Didactic Regulations, general section.



## **Art. 8 – Protection of health and safety**

When carrying out internship or practical activities, with regard to health and safety regulations, students are considered equivalent to workers. Consequently, they are subject to the same protective measures and responsibilities and are therefore required to comply with the relevant legal requirements, with the restrictions and prohibitions enforced by occupational health and safety, radioprotection and accident prevention laws, and with any other regulations enforced by the Host Organisation with the same purposes.

The University has formalised and centralised a series of activities strictly related to the risk exposure profile of the individual study programme, with a view to implementing the applicable legal provisions.

In short, depending on the specific indications for each Course of study, students are under obligation to:

- participate in the initial information and educational initiatives and those included in the teaching activities calendar organised to ensure compliance with the provisions set forth in articles 36 and 37 of Legislative Decree 81/08 “Information and training of workers and their representatives” and in Legislative Decree no. 101/2020 on radioprotection;
- take part in the initial and periodic health monitoring activities for issuance of the compliance certification required before starting practical activities involving exposure to risks;
- use the collective and individual protective equipment provided in compliance with the instructions and training imparted;
- comply with the general safety measures and the safety specifications drawn up and made available from time to time.

Curricular and extracurricular activities involving exposure to a specific risk may therefore not be authorised to commence until the preliminary activities required to safeguard the health and safety of each student have been implemented.

Repeated failure to comply with the above obligations shall result in the suspension of the activities involving exposure to a specific risk until such time as the legal obligations have been fulfilled.

## **Art. 9 – Modifications**

Modifications to these Didactic Regulations approved by the Authorising Committee must be ratified by the corresponding academic bodies, subject to an opinion issued by the Lecturer-Student Joint Committee for those aspects for which it is responsible.

## **Annexes**

Description of the training programme and learning methods

## **Annex**

### ***Description of the training programme and learning methods***

The course activities provided for over the course of the academic year are divided into two semesters of around 14 weeks.

The didactic formats provided for may include lectures, seminars, workshops and/or library activities, internships and IT exercises, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the two universities.

A course may also be divided into multiple modules of different lengths, with the assignment of a different number of corresponding credits.

Courses of any type and duration may be single-subject or modular; in the latter case they will be held by multiple lecturers, under the responsibility of a course coordinator.

### ***Preparatory courses***

When specific preparatory courses are required for each teaching activity, they are indicated in the list of teaching activities appended to these Regulations.

### ***Attendance***

Attendance is regulated in accordance with the regulations of each university.

For details regarding the attendance of Practical Training and Assessment activities, see article 2.2 of these Regulations.

### ***Study Plan***

During the annual teaching planning phase, a different fraction of the total commitment may be assigned to individual study, which shall not, in any case, be less than 50% of the total hourly commitment. An exception is made for cases in which the educational activities have a high experimental or practical content.

*The Italian version of this Regulations is the only legal means of communication of the relative contents and in case of dispute, the Italian version shall prevail.*