



UniSR

Università Vita-Salute
San Raffaele

Academic Regulations
Joint Master's Degree in
Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication
(Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication)
relating to the Faculty of Psychology of Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in
Milan and Università della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano
In force for students enrolling in the academic year 2026-2027

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These Regulations use the masculine form in all circumstances, but this form should be understood as referring inclusively to all persons, irrespective of their gender.

General Part

ARTICLE 1 Admission to the Degree Programme

1.1 Knowledge Required for admission

To be admitted to the joint Master's Degree Programme in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication, applicants must hold a degree in one of the following classes:

- 1) pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree 270: Class L-24 Psychological Sciences and Techniques or pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree 509/99: Class 34 Psychological Sciences and Techniques, as well as previous five-year degree programmes in Psychology, or a Major in Psychology, or another qualification obtained abroad, issued by a University recognised as suitable or accredited in the country where it is based, or at least 88 ECTS-credits in various M-PSI Academic Disciplines.
- 2) Applicants must have an adequate level of language competence (English B2 CEFR) to be attached to the admission application or in any case by the deadline of the Call for Applications.
- 3) One should note that, for the purposes of enrolling in the qualifying Master's Degree Programme in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication – class LM-51, those who obtained a degree in Psychological Science and Techniques – class L-24 under the regulations in force prior to the reform and who have not completed the professional training activities corresponding to the 10 ECTS-credits referred to in Italian Ministerial Decree no. 654/2022, may request recognition of certified activities they performed during the Bachelor's Degree, relating to:
 - a) activities carried out individually or in small groups, aimed at learning methods, tools and procedures relating to the applied contexts of psychology;
 - b) practical experience, workshops, simulations, role-playing and drafting of projects, performed individually or in small groups, concerning tools, methods and procedures aimed at developing the knowledge required to operate in the contexts in which psychologists intervene.

If the ECTS-credits referred to in Article 2(6) of Italian Ministerial Decree no. 654/2022 fail to be recognised, in full or in part, Bachelor's Degree graduates shall acquire the missing internship ECTS-credits in addition to the 120 ECTS-credits of the Master's Degree Programme, in accordance with procedures set out in Article 5 of these Degree Programme Academic Regulations,

1.2 Admission Procedures

The joint Master's Degree Programme in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication has limited intake numbers. The Call for Applications issued annually governs the admission procedures for the Degree Programme.

Candidates are admitted on the basis of a student ranking drawn up in accordance with the criteria set out in the admission Call for Applications published annually.

ARTICLE 2 Study Plan

Teaching activity is organised in accordance with the Study Plan set out in the following section “Course Prospectus”.

Students may attend and follow the student-option activities from the second year of the programme.

Students may also complement their pathway with additional credits by submitting a request to the Authorising Committee, subject to approval by the Faculty Council.

2.1 Individual Study Plans

Students may submit an individual Study Plan that differs from the one provided for in these Academic Regulations by submitting the request to a Committee appointed by the Chair of the Authorising Committee, which shall assess it taking into account the Programme Specifications of the Master’s Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication.

ARTICLE 3 Mobility

The Degree Programme in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication, on the basis of inter-institutional agreements or within the framework of European and international programmes, may offer the possibility of carrying out educational activities at foreign Universities, providing support and guidance through its Administrative Offices and Academic Contacts, as provided for by Article 20 of the University Academic Regulations.

ARTICLE 4 Repeating student

A student who has not passed all the examinations of the degree programme and obtained the academic qualification by the last available session in the second year must enrol in the second year as a repeating student.

ARTICLE 5 Final Examination

The qualifying degree is awarded upon passing the Final Examination.

The Final Examination includes completion of the Practical Training and Assessment test (PPV) and the subsequent thesis defence.

The Practical Training and Assessment test (PPV) is assessed by a joint examination committee (pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree no. 654/2022) which, by means of a simple *pass/fail assessment*, verifies the professional competences acquired through the internship within the degree programmes (TPV) and ascertains the candidate’s level of technical preparation to receive the State Licensing Assessment qualifying them to practise the profession. This *pass/fail assessment* allows the student to access the defence of their degree dissertation.

To be admitted to the Practical Training and Assessment test (PPV), students must have passed all the examinations provided for in the study plan and have obtained at least 30 ECTS-credits corresponding to activities of Practical Training and Assessment, including the 10 ECTS-credits,

provided under Class L-24 of Italian Ministerial Decree no. 654/2022. Students who do not have the 10 ECTS-credits obtained through the above professional training activities or who have not obtained, or have obtained only in part, recognition of the 10 ECTS-credits, must acquire the missing ECTS-credits by carrying out professional training activities before admission to the Final Exam. One should note that the ECTS-credits to be made up, totalling a maximum of 10, are in addition to the 120 ECTS-credits of the Master's Degree.

The joint examination committee that assesses the PPV comprises at least four members: half are University lecturers, one of whom acts as Chair, appointed by the UniSR Faculty of Psychology, and the other half - appointed by the Order of Psychologists in Lombardy - are members who have been registered for at least 5 years in the relevant professional register.

To access the defence of the degree dissertation, students must have obtained the *pass/fail assessment* in the PPV and acquired all credits other than those relating to the defence of the dissertation (18 ECTS-credits).

The dissertation must be experimental in nature, originally prepared, demonstrating the achievement of the competences of the specific objectives of the degree programme, and must be written under the guidance of a member of the Degree Programme teaching staff, referred to as the "Supervisor", and, if appropriate, of a second member of teaching staff who supports the Supervisor, referred to as the "Assistant Supervisor".

At least one of the above-mentioned roles - supervisor and assistant supervisor - must be a tenured member of teaching staff of the UniSR/USI, a full or associate professor or a university researcher, and have expertise in the psychological field.

It is the responsibility of the graduating student to identify the Supervisor, agree the topic of the dissertation with them and submit the name of the Supervisor and the dissertation topic to the Authorising Committee for subsequent approval. The Supervisor is supported by a Co-examiner, appointed by the Authorising Committee, whose role is to provide an external critical assessment and contribute to the discussion and final assessment at the degree examination.

The dissertation must be written in English.

Each dissertation must include an abstract in Italian and in English.

The dissertation must be discussed in English, in a public session, before a dedicated Committee.

At the end of the educational pathway, graduates will obtain the joint qualification of Dottore Magistrale- Master of Science in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication.

The qualification awarded is equivalent to:

- Italy: UNISR Laurea magistrale in_PSICOLOGIA LM51_ DM 270/2004 that serves as a State Licensing Assessment to practise the profession pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree 654/2022;
- Switzerland: USI Master of Science in Psychology _Swiss Law on the Università della Svizzera Italiana of 3 October 1995, ARTICLE 5.

The degree certificate is issued only in English, stamped and signed by both Universities, pursuant to Annex 3 to the Second amendment to the agreement for the awarding of a joint qualification. The diploma supplement will also be issued.

5.1 Calculation of the degree mark

The degree mark results from the sum of two components.

The first component is derived from the weighted average of the mark obtained in all assessed examinations according to the formula: $\text{Average} \times 110/30$. In calculating the weighted average, the marks for any additional examinations included in the personalised study plan are also included in addition to the examination marks for the courses required to obtain the minimum number of credits to access the defence of the final examination. Any “honours” awarded to examinations are taken into account by assigning the value of one third of an additional point ($30/30$ with “honours” = 30.33).

During the dissertation discussion, this average is rounded up or down by assessing the first decimal place: it is rounded up if the decimal is between 5 and 9, or rounded down if the decimal is between 0 and 4.

The second component is the mark obtained in the Degree examination and is in turn the average of the marks awarded by the individual examiners on a scale from 0 to 7.

The dissertation examination is passed if the mark is at least 66/110 or 6/10 respectively.

By unanimous decision, the Examination Committee may award honours to candidates who obtain a final score of 110 or higher and have been awarded at least 1 “honours” in their course examinations.

The final mark must be expressed out of 10. Where necessary, the mark will be rounded down when the decimal is not greater than half of the reference unit and rounded up if it exceeds that threshold.

The final mark is approved by the Examination Committee by an absolute majority of its members.

5.2 Final Examination Committee

The committees are appointed by the Authorising Committee. They consist of least 7 members, including the Committee Chair, Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor and Co-examiner, of whom at least 5 are tenured lecturers and/or fixed-term or permanent researchers.

Those entitled to take part in the Final Examination Committees include full and associate Professors, contract Professors, permanent or fixed-term Researchers, permanent teaching staff also from other Faculties of the University or other universities and experts of proven competence in relation to the topics discussed in the submitted text. The Examination Committee must include at least one member of teaching staff from UniSR and one from USI.

ARTICLE 6 Recognition of credits

6.1 University and course transfers

The recognition of credits deriving from university or course transfers is the responsibility of the Authorising Committee, which, in the case of university transfers, uses a specifically appointed Committee that conducts an assessment on the basis of criteria (established annually) and in accordance with the relevant Call for Applications.

The Committee:

- a) assesses the possibility of full or partial recognition of the study career followed up to

that point, with validation of some or all of the examinations taken and any credits obtained;

- b) then recognises the ECTS-credits acquired up to the same number of credits for the same Academic Discipline(s) envisaged in the Academic Regulations of the Degree Programme.

In all cases where the student transfers between Master's Degree Programmes belonging to the same class, the number of ECTS-credits relating to the same Academic Discipline that has been directly recognised for the student may not be lower than the limit laid down by the University Academic Regulations and by the applicable legislation.

- c) recognises the credits by assessing the specific case on the basis of educational and cultural affinities;
- d) indicates the year of the degree programme in which the student is to be enrolled;
- e) determines any educational debt to be fulfilled.

Applications to transfer to the University from students from other Italian and foreign Universities, from Military Academies or other military higher-education institutions, as well as applications to transfer to a Master's Degree Programme, assessed by the special committee, are subject to approval by the Degree Programme Council.

6.2 Extracurricular activities

Recognition of credits resulting from the completion of extracurricular activities is the responsibility of the Authorising Committee, which assesses their consistency with the educational objectives of the Programme and in line with the provisions of Italian Ministerial Decree no. 931 of 4 July 2024.

The maximum limit of recognisable credits is 24 ECTS-credits.

ARTICLE 7 Attendance

Attendance is compulsory unless the student submits a justified written request for an exemption (in relation to one or more courses) to the Chair of the Degree Programme, who forwards the request to the Authorising Committee for approval. The attendance threshold for admission to the examination is 70%. The attendance threshold may be reduced at the most from 70% to 50% and may be requested solely and exclusively for Lecture-based and Interactive Teaching activities. The Practical Training and Assessment (TPV) is excluded from this request and attendance is compulsorily 100%.

Attendance is recorded through online systems and spot checks may be carried out to confirm the student's presence in the lecture room.

ARTICLE 8 Tutoring Model

Students may benefit from the educational tutoring service that the Faculty of Psychology has set up and manages in relation to all degree programmes based in it.

For this purpose, the Faculty Council appoints annually, from among its teaching staff, a faculty contact person and several academic tutors, at least one for each Degree Programme.

The academic tutor for the Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication gathers information, through individual and group meetings, on the progress of the degree programme and on any issues that may arise in its management, and then shares this information with the Chair and the Authorising Committee.

At the same time, the tutor monitors students' academic careers, paying particular attention to any problematic situations.

If necessary, academic tutors conduct ongoing guidance activities.

Clinical tutoring is provided by professionals/lecturer-tutors who have been registered with the professional body for at least three years and accredited by the Consiglio Nazionale dell'Ordine degli Psicologi.

Special Part

Description of the Educational Programme and of the educational activities

- 1) To obtain the qualification, a total of 120 ECTS-credits must be acquired.
- 2) Each ECTS-credit corresponds to 25 hours of teaching activity, including the individual study required to complete the educational activity. For each type of educational activity, details are provided below of the ratio between hours of teaching activity and ECTS-credits.
 - Core educational activities: each ECTS-credit corresponds to 8 hours of lecture-based teaching activity;
 - Similar or supplementary educational activities: each ECTS-credit corresponds to 9 hours of lecture-based teaching activity;
 - Student-option educational activities: each ECTS-credit corresponds to 8 hours of lecture-based and interactive teaching activity
 - Other educational activities: each ECTS-credit corresponds to 9 hours of lecture-based teaching activity
 - Practical Training and Assessment (TPV): each ECTS-credit corresponds to 25 hours of professional training activity
 - Final assessment: each ECTS-credit corresponds to 25 hours of individual study
- 3) The portion dedicated to individual study is provided in order to complete the 25 hours allocated to each credit.

In accordance with the applicable regulations, lessons may be delivered online.
- 4) As provided for by the Faculty Regulations, educational activities are delivered as follows:

Lecture-based teaching

Lecture

A lecture is a traditional teaching method in which the lecturer presents topics and content, guiding students' learning through explanations, examples and further insights. Lectures are mainly used to convey theoretical knowledge in a clear and organised way, making it possible to introduce new topics and provide students with a shared foundation.

Seminar

A seminar is a teaching activity delivered by one or more speakers, invited by the person responsible for the educational activity on the basis of specific expertise, which makes it possible to explore in greater depth aspects consistent with what is set out in the educational curriculum.

Interactive teaching

Workshop

Workshop activities are a form of teaching typically aimed at a small group of students. This teaching activity is coordinated by a tutor, whose task is to support students in acquiring knowledge, skills, behavioural models or competences useful for practising their profession. Learning takes place mainly through stimuli arising from problem analysis, through the use of the methodological competences required to solve them and to make decisions, as well as through

directly and personally carrying out gestures and relational actions in the context of practical workshop sessions.

Professional teaching

Practical Training and Assessment (TPV)

In compliance with Italian Interministerial Decrees no. 567 of 20 June 2022 and 654 of 5 July 2022, the study plan includes Professional Training activities in the form of 20 ECTS-credits of TPV carried out in operational settings. TPV activities aim to provide graduates with professional skills relating to cognitive psychology and applied neurosciences, in social and healthcare fields. These skills relate to the typical and reserved acts characterising the profession of psychologist, also pursuant to Article 1 of Italian Law no. 56 of 18 February 1989, and include:

- a) case assessment;
- b) appropriate use of psychological tools and techniques to collect information in order to conduct an analysis of the case and the context;
- c) preparation of a theoretically grounded, evidence-based professional intervention;
- d) process and outcome evaluation of the intervention;
- e) drafting of a report;
- f) feedback to patient/client/user/institution/organisation;
- g) establishing appropriate relationships with patients/clients/users/institutions/organisations;
- h) establishing appropriate relationships with colleagues;
- i) understanding the legal/ethical/deontological aspects of the profession, as well as any potential conflicts between them.

Training of students carrying out TPV activities, and the assessment of those activities are entrusted to professionals/lecturer-tutors who have been registered with the professional body for at least three years and accredited by the *Consiglio Nazionale dell'Ordine degli Psicologi*. By completing the record book, the tutor issues a formal certificate of attendance, together with the assessment of the skills demonstrated by the intern.

The TPV is successfully passed by obtaining a final assessment of suitability. Students who receive a negative assessment for their internship activities repeat the TPV, or part of it, and obtain the above-mentioned assessment of suitability in order to take the final examination that serves as a State Licensing Assessment.

In this case, it is without prejudice to the recognition of that part of the professional training activities performed during the L-24 class degree programme.

To ensure that each student can choose from different TPV options, agreements are signed with external bodies, in addition to the Clinical Services of IRCCS San Raffaele/San Raffaele Turro. Specifically, preference is given to agreements with public healthcare facilities (AST or hospital trusts), accredited private healthcare facilities contracted with the Italian National Health Service, scientific institutes for research, hospitalisation and healthcare (IRCCS) and public and private companies. Facilities eligible to make agreements must be included in the list of accredited facilities held by the *Ordine degli Psicologi della Lombardia* (OPL).

There is also the option of performing the TPV at partner Swiss organisations.

Specific provisions relating to academic planning

The teaching activity planned for the academic year is divided into two semesters, each lasting about 14 weeks.

The examination sessions are set out in the academic calendar approved by the Faculty Council, on the proposal of the Authorising Committee. The dates of the examination sittings are communicated by the Chair of the Authorising Committee, by agreement with the teaching staff and in view of academic planning requirements. The six scheduled examination sittings under Article 21(10) of the University Academic Regulations are divided into winter, summer and autumn sittings, in groups of two for each subject. Dates of assessments are scheduled annually and communicated to students.

Student assessment marks are expressed as a mark out of thirty for examinations, with the possibility of “honours” for UniSR examinations, and out of ten for USI examinations.

The grading scale for examinations (from the minimum value to the maximum value) is provided in 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

Where the mark out of ten corresponds to more than one mark out of thirty, the lecturer must also indicate the corresponding mark out of thirty. In the case of a course organised into modules, the examination board is always chaired by the Degree Programme Coordinator.

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.