



UniSR

Università Vita-Salute
San Raffaele

Didactic Regulations

Master's Degree in Philosophy of the Contemporary World

Applicable for students who enrol in academic year 2025-2026

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Where these Regulations use the masculine form in an over-extended manner, it is intended to refer inclusively to all persons, irrespective of their gender.

Article 1 – Course Admission

1.1 Knowledge required for admission

Candidates for admission to the Master's Degree Course must hold a three-year Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree or a Degree obtained under the old system, or three-year university diploma or another academic qualification obtained abroad that is recognised in Italy pursuant to applicable legislation.

In accordance with Article 6 of Italian Ministerial Decree 270/2004, which requires verification of the abilities and academic records of students admitted to courses, the personal careers of students will be assessed on enrolment on the Master's Degree course.

Philosophy graduates in the Bachelor's Degree class (class L-5, formerly class 29) or in the Specialist/Master's classes or who have obtained a degree under the old system may be admitted to the Master's Degree.

Students in possession of other degrees or a three-year university degree (of any type) can enrol in the Master's Degree Programme provided they have acquired at least 45 credits in the areas specified in the class L-5 ministerial table and provided these include at least 24 ECTS in philosophy and history-philosophy subjects (from M-FIL/01 to M-FIL/08, M-STO/05, SPS/01 and IUS/20).

1.2 Admission procedure

The examination committee, composed of at least three permanent lecturers of the Faculty, appointed by the Course Council, taking into account the coverage requirements of the scientific disciplinary sectors, evaluates the adequacy of the candidates' personal preparation by assessing the educational programme they have followed, including the review of the syllabuses of the courses they have taken and of the final examination for the Bachelor's degree.

Knowledge, at least at B2 level (CEFR, Common European Framework of Reference for knowledge of languages), of a European Union language other than Italian will be verified within the first year of the course, or documented at registration for students with internationally recognised certifications.

Art. 2 – Study Plan

The teaching activity is structured according to the Study Plan specified in the attached Description of the training programme.

2.1 Individual Study Plans (where applicable)

Students must submit a request for the approval of their individual study plan, which must comply with the constraints imposed by the System and the annual educational offering of the Master's Degree in Philosophy of the Contemporary World (Class LM-78), as set out in the Description of the training programme in the Single Annual Document.

The study plans, proposed by students in compliance with the restrictions in terms of preparatory courses as per the appended Description of the Training Programme, are screened by a

dedicated committee nominated by the President of the Course Council and known as the Individual Study Plan Approval Committee and, once approved, are sent to the Student Center, which will archive them and check that they are followed by the student throughout the course of his/her studies.

Within two weeks of enrolment, students enrolled in the first year of the course must submit their first study plan.

Changes to study plans may only be submitted by 31 October of the second year of the course.

When preparing their study plan, students may choose whether to attend courses in the first or second year of the course, anticipating or postponing their attendance with respect to the year proposed by the Faculty.

Repeating students are not permitted to submit a study plan, nor may they change the one submitted previously.

For the learning activities of the student's choice, it is possible to choose courses of the Master's Degree not taken, or courses belonging to other courses run by the Faculty and/or University's including jointly-delivered courses.

With a view to preparing the Master's Degree dissertation, it is possible to do a second year's course for only one examination, choosing it from any course already taken.

2.2 Placements

The Faculty Council publishes the rules governing placements with public bodies and companies, in cooperation with the competent administrative office.

2.3 International mobility and recognition of periods of study and learning spent abroad

The University, on the basis of inter-institutional agreements or within the context of European and international programmes, supports, promotes and facilitates student exchanges with foreign universities, both within and outside Europe, granting support and guidance through its academic and administrative facilities. The University is committed to respecting the regulations relating to the principles and procedures for recognition of periods of study spent abroad, in accordance with the main European references (EU Erasmus Plus programme, undertakings signed by the Universities with the "Erasmus Charter for Higher Education" (ECHE) application, "ECTS Users Guide").

Students are guaranteed the possibility to carry out part of their studies at foreign universities. More specifically, they may attend learning activities and take the corresponding assessment exams for the awarding of credits; carry out other learning activities including internships/placements; prepare their Master's Degree dissertation; participate in international pathways within the framework of agreements for the award of double, multiple or joint degrees.

For the purposes of approval of the learning activities to be performed abroad, the Course Council appoints an academic supervisor for international mobility.

Students permitted to spend a period of study, internship or research abroad shall draw up a Learning Agreement with their academic supervisor using the format approved by the European Commission for mobility within the Erasmus+ programme, indicating the learning activities to be taken at the host university.

The recognition of credits awarded following the teaching activities performed must replace the credits provided for in the student's curriculum proportionally to the learning activities completed

successfully abroad. Credits inserted as “additional” with respect to those provided for by the student’s curriculum for the purposes of obtaining the qualification shall not be counted for the purposes of the resources. There is maximum flexibility in choosing the learning activities to be inserted in the Learning Agreement, while pursuing full agreement with the educational objectives of the relative Course.

At the end of the period spent abroad, the Course Councils will recognise the activities performed without making provision for supplementary learning.

Students spending a period of time abroad are guaranteed recognition of attendance (also obligatory) and the learning activities provided for during the same period at their home university.

The validation, recorded in the minutes of the Course Council, will be forwarded to the Student Center so that the recognised learning activities can be recorded. The Student Center will attend to the timely recording of learning activities carried out abroad in the University's career monitoring system, thereby ensuring their visibility.

Students who intend to write their Master's Degree dissertation abroad, during their Erasmus+ Programme Study or Traineeship stay, or during other international mobility projects, are required, in addition to the above, to submit a formal request for authorisation to the Course Council, containing explicit assumption of responsibility by the Faculty lecturer who is the dissertation supervisor and indicating the name of the foreign lecturer who will supervise the preparation of the dissertation (the foreign lecturer normally takes on the role of assistant supervisor). The Course Council will decide whether the request can be accepted.

At the end of their period abroad, in addition to the required documentation, students must produce a specific certificate from the foreign lecturer giving a detailed description of the work carried out and proposing the number of credits to be awarded for the preparation of the dissertation. The Degree Course Council decides whether to recognise the full or partial credits allocated to the preparation of the Master's Degree dissertation, specifying that these credits were obtained abroad. The maximum number of ECTS credits that may be awarded by the Course Council is set at 15 credits.

The resolution will be sent to the Student Center so that the recognised learning activities can be recorded.

Art. 3 – Restrictions

With reference to the provisions of Articles 14 and 15 of the University Didactic Regulations, the Course Council 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

Assessments may take the form of examinations or any other form of assessment, such as an aptitude test, the nature of which will be defined once a year by the Course Supervisor/Coordinator in accordance with the Didactic System and the Dublin Descriptors it contains.

The Course Supervisor/Coordinator is under obligation to provide students with detailed information on the assessment processes when lessons start. These processes will also be published in the course teaching activity syllabuses.

Students will acquire the corresponding ECTS credits when they pass an assessment.

The exam committees are composed in accordance with Article 24 of the University Didactic Regulations.

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

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 assessment exams are scheduled once a year and disclosed to the students. The six examination rounds provided for by the University Didactic Regulations Article 21(10), are divided into winter, summer and autumn rounds.

Art. 5 – Final Exam

The qualification is awarded following a final exam.

In order to be admitted to the final exam, students must have obtained all the credits for all the learning activities.

Twenty-one ECTS credits out of the total 120 are assigned to the final exam, equivalent to a total commitment of 525 hours.

5.1 Definition of the Roles associated with the Final Exam

All permanent, adjunct or contract professors of the Faculty, as well as researchers who hold a teaching post, may be supervisors for the final examination.

Professors and researchers of the Faculty, adjunct and contract professors, lecturers and researchers from other Faculties of the University or other Universities and experts of proven expertise in relation to the topics discussed in the submitted dissertation may be assistant supervisors.

Professors and researchers of the Faculty of or the University and adjunct and contract professors serving in the academic year concerned, in the Faculty or the University may be co-examiners.

5.2 Dissertation drafting

The final exam consists in the presentation and public discussion before an examination committee of an original dissertation prepared by the student under the guidance of a lecturer of the Master's Degree Course known as the "supervisor" and possibly also a second supervisor known as the "assistant supervisor", within one of the scientific disciplinary sectors for which courses are required in the Master's Degree Regulations and in which the student has earned credits.

Dissertations must demonstrate originality, completeness and informative clarity, as well as the Master's Degree candidate's ability to locate and appropriately analyse relevant scientific literature and to develop a single-subject study in an autonomous and critical manner.

Dissertations are normally written in Italian but may be written and presented in English if agreed

on in advance with the supervisor. In this case, at least one part of the dissertation must set out and illustrate its contents, albeit concisely, in Italian. Each dissertation must in any case contain an abstract in both Italian and English.

As regards students taking part in the joint Master's Degree programme organised in partnership with Institut Catholique de Toulouse, their dissertation must be written and discussed also in French and must be accompanied by an abstract in Italian, French and English.

5.3 The Degree Examination

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

Alongside the Supervisor is the "co-examiner" nominated by President of the Course Council, whose job is to perform a critical assessment of the dissertation during the degree examination.

5.4 Calculation of Degree marks/GPA

The final assessment will take into account the student's entire career in the Master's Degree Course, the time and method of credit acquisition, the assessment exams passed and the final examination, as well as any other element deemed relevant.

More specifically, the proposed final mark is determined by: a) the weighted average of the marks obtained in the assessment exams, including any supernumerary examinations included in the customised study plan; b) the mark obtained in the degree examination, determined as the weighted average of the marks of the individual committee members on a scale of 0 to 5.

If honours are awarded for assessment exams, this has no effect on the weighted average for the degree mark.

An additional 1 point will be added to the degree mark for students who have completed a period of international mobility as part of the Erasmus+ Study and Erasmus+ Traineeship programmes, a period of mobility for a degree awarded jointly with Institut Catholique de Toulouse or a period of mobility for their thesis internship (even when extra-EU).

The examination committees award a mark out of 110 and may award the candidate full marks with honours if the Master's Degree dissertation shows particular originality, completeness and critical capacity, as well as full knowledge of the relevant literature on the subject.

In any case, the examination committee may only award honours to candidates who achieve a final score of 112 or higher, including the additional point awarded to candidates who have completed a period of international mobility.

The pass mark for the exam is 66/110.

The final mark is in any case approved by the examination committee with an absolute majority of its members; honours may only be awarded by unanimous decision.

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.

It is possible to take the assessment exams for the courses in the study plan by a deadline compatible with the start date of the graduation session in which the student intends to take the final exam. The Student Center announces this deadline on a session-by-session basis.

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.

5.6 Degree Exam Committee

The Examination Committees are appointed by the President of the Course Council and are composed of at least seven members, at least 5 of whom must be permanent lecturers and/or researchers on fixed-term contracts, as provided for in Article 30 of the University Didactic Regulations. At least one member of the committee must be a full professor. The committee is chaired by the longest-serving permanent full professor. Contract professors, professors and researchers also from other degree courses at the University or other universities are entitled to participate in the examination committees.

Art. 6 – University and course transfers

Transfer requests to the University from students enrolled at other universities in Italy and abroad, military academies or other similar institutes, as well as Master's Degree course transfers are subject to approval by the Course Council, which will:

- a) assess 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, in compliance with the University Didactic Regulations and applicable legislation;
- b) indicate the year of the course in which the student shall be enrolled;
- c) establish any educational debt to be made up;
- d) formulate the minimum study plan in order to complete the curriculum required for the award of the degree.

Depending on the number of credits awarded, the Course Council may admit students to years subsequent to the first. The Course Council will assess this on a case-by-case basis.

Art. 7 – Admission to individual courses

With regard to admission to individual courses as observers, please refer to the specific Regulations adopted by the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy.

Students in possession of a five-year secondary leaving certificate or other qualification obtained abroad and recognised as being suitable, a university diploma, a bachelor's or master's degree, as well as holders of academic qualifications issued abroad, can enrol on individual learning activities within the study courses, take the corresponding exams and receive the certification including indication of the credits subject to the approval of the Course Council.

For all other aspects not covered herein, the provisions of Article 31 of the general section of the University Didactic Regulations shall apply.

Art. 8 – Recognition of degrees awarded by foreign universities

The Course Council decides on the recognition of academic qualifications obtained abroad; this task may be exercised in compliance with the legislation in force, without prejudice to the powers and any authorisations of Authorities foreseen by the regulations in force.

Art. 9 – Committees established within the Course Council

The Course Council may avail itself of the assistance of a Teaching Committee, which has an advisory role aimed at better coordinating activities. It contributes to assessing the achievement of the educational objectives of the course, supervises the smooth running of the learning activities, intervenes where individual courses deviate from the educational objectives set out in the study plan, evaluates the educational curricula, and monitors the ministerial provisions on teaching qualifications in institutions of higher education. With regard to these actions, the Teaching Committee proposes possible corrective actions and is responsible for monitoring their effectiveness, also taking into account the observations of the student representatives and the Lecturer-Student Joint Committee.

The Teaching Committee consists of the Dean of the Faculty, the Course President and at least three lecturers. The Committee may also meet as sub-committees for the management and monitoring of specific activities.

The Lecturer-Student Joint Committee is also established within the Course Council, and carries out the tasks entrusted to it by current legislation.

Art. 10 – 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. 11 – Modifications

Modifications to these Didactic Regulations are decided on by the Faculty Council, subject to a proposal from the Course Council and 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

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The course activities provided for over the course of the academic year are divided into two semesters of approximately 14 weeks each. The forms of teaching provided for may include lectures, seminars, workshops and/or library activities, internships and IT exercises. 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. For particular requirements, some lessons or seminars inside the course programme may be held in European Community languages other than Italian; this will be indicated in the annual course programmes.

Lectures include a prevalent delivered teaching component focusing on the presentation and illustration of content by the lecturer, also with the aid of computer and/or multimedia material, on the basis of a predefined calendar. They can include an interactive teaching component in the form of tutor-led activities, revision, further exploration, exercises, presentations and assisted learning.

Further details on how the ECTS credits for delivered teaching and interactive teaching are distributed may be specified in the syllabuses.

As regards the “additional” learning activities, defined in accordance with the requirements of Article 10(5)(d) of the Italian Ministerial Decree 270/2004, the 6 credits can be acquired by carrying out a placement with public institutions and companies with which the University has agreements in place. Placements may be arranged with a view to the preparation of the degree dissertation.

Students who do not undertake a placement may obtain ECTS credits through the acquisition of basic computer skills (3 credits) and attendance of advanced cultural courses organised from year to year by the Faculty or by other scientific bodies of national importance, as assessed by the Faculty (3 or 6 credits). Students can also earn 3 credits for additional learning activities by participating in individual seminars or cycles of seminars organised by the Faculty.

Participation in each seminar makes it possible to obtain 0.10 credits, subject to certification by the President. Three credits are awarded for a cycle of seminars.

Possession of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) is considered equivalent to the attainment of the 3 credits foreseen under the item ‘additional activities’ for the acquisition of basic computer skills.

Possession of certificates attesting knowledge of languages other than English is considered recognisable with the award of 3 credits for additional activities if these certificates are issued by the following institutes: Alliance Française Centre Pilote Delf-Dalf; Chambre de Commerce et de l'Industrie de Paris; Goethe-Institut; Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch; Weiterbildung-Testsysteme; Ministerio de Educacion, Cultura y Deporte; ТРКИ-Torfl; Istituto A.S. Pushkin in Moscow; TELC (The European Language Certificates) for German, French, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, Portuguese, Danish, Czech and Turkish. Certificates of knowledge of the Hebrew language issued by Faculties of Theology and the Italian Zionist Federation may also be recognised.

Preparatory courses

The preparatory courses constraint applies to any course in which a student intends to take a second year's course. The exam committee is responsible for ascertaining compliance with the preparatory course requirements.

Attendance

The compulsory attendance is set by the individual lecturer at the beginning of the teaching activity and is specified in the Student Guide.

If the lecturer imposes compulsory attendance for his or her course, students who are unable to comply with this requirement must submit a reasoned written request for exemption to the President of the Course, who will forward the case to the Course Council for approval.

Again if the lecturer imposes compulsory attendance, in compliance with the provisions of Article 23 of the University Didactic Regulations, students may only take the assessment exams once they have obtained a certificate of attendance for the learning activity being assessed. At the beginning of the learning activity, the lecturer will notify students of the methods for determining the frequency of attendance and the minimum attendance of 70% required to obtain a certificate of attendance. At the end of the learning activity, the lecturer will send the Student Center a list of those who have not met the attendance criteria and may not therefore sit the assessment exam.

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.