

University of Florence (UNIFI), Florence, Italy

Faculty of Humanities and Education Studies

Master's Degree Program Geography, Territorial Management, Cultural Heritage for International Cooperation

<https://www.spatialmanagement.unifi.it/vp-141-presentazione-del-corso.html>

## BODY

### COURSE IN BRIEF

The course aims to train highly qualified experts in the analysis, design, and management of territories, with a particular focus on the urban dimension. A distinctive feature of the program is the emphasis on specific theoretical, methodological, and technical skills in the fields of data acquisition, systematization, processing, and presentation of socio-spatial data, as well as digital cartographic representation in a GIS environment. Special attention is given to topics such as the analysis of social and spatial transformations in contemporary cities, the drafting of integrated territorial development projects, and the enhancement of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Due to its projection towards the international job market, the course is offered entirely in English, although some courses are also offered in Italian. An added value of the course is a highly intercultural learning environment, focused on active student involvement in educational activities.

### EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The specific objective of the course is to provide theoretical and methodological knowledge and technical and computer skills to analyse, interpret, and represent socio-economic-cultural processes that contribute to the transformation of territorial systems at various geographic scales.

All educational activities are framed within a scientific and cultural perspective of international scope with extensive references to territorial contexts outside Europe.

During the course of their studies, students will acquire knowledge and skills applied to various themes, including:

- Implementation of territorial analysis projects, with particular reference to territorial resource enhancement, tangible and intangible cultural heritage preservation, and tourism development.
- Empirical data collection through quantitative and qualitative methodologies and their organization into spatial databases for spatial and territorial analysis.
- Production of thematic cartographic representations of territories.
- Analysis of the social impact of territorial policies at various scales, including international cooperation.
- Development of local and territorial development projects and plans.

The course also offers the opportunity to specialize in the field of disciplinary education by formulating a curriculum aimed at teaching geography in secondary education, where applicable.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of this program have a technical skill set suitable for a wide range of roles, including:

- Analyst at public and private research centres in the fields of urban and territorial studies.
- Operator in governmental and local public institutions in the fields of territorial planning and management, environmental and cultural resource management, both in Italy and abroad.
- Operator at international agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specialized in international cooperation.
- Analyst at institutes and companies specialized in geographic and cartographic information processing and interpretation.
- Collaborator in the field of multimedia geographic publishing and environmental and tourism information dissemination.
- Graduates also have the opportunity to take admission exams for training programs for teaching at the secondary school level in Italy.

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Educational activities include lectures, seminars, and laboratory activities. Particular importance is given to fieldwork exercises. Regular attendance is particularly important as all educational activities involve active student participation. For specific needs and requirements, especially for working students, individual programs can be agreed upon with the course instructors.

The course also offers numerous opportunities for collaboration and involvement in cooperation and field research projects, as well as opportunities for collaboration with organizations, local authorities, and associations in Italy and abroad.

The international perspective of the course is enriched by the integration of courses taught by visiting professors of international renown.

## INTERNSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Within the educational offerings, up to 12 ECTS (university credits) are dedicated to internships and traineeships at public and private organizations in the fields of territorial analysis, planning, and cultural heritage enhancement, also within the context of international cooperation. Internship opportunities are managed in collaboration with the School of Humanities and Education, based on agreements between the degree program and host organizations. Internship projects and related agreements can also be initiated by students, following their specific inclinations and professional interests.

For those interested in consolidating their skills in empirical research, internship and traineeship activities can also be carried out in the form of internal educational activities, by connecting to ongoing projects coordinated by the course instructors or by developing original research proposals in the geographic field. Internal educational activities can be carried out within the excellent Geographic Laboratories located at the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art, and Performance (SAGAS), the Laboratory of Social Geography – LaGeS ([www.lages.eu](http://www.lages.eu)), and the Applied Geography Laboratory – LabGeo ([www.geografia-applicata.it](http://www.geografia-applicata.it)).

Additional training opportunities are available thanks to the participation of the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Fine Arts, and Performance (SAGAS) in the national funding program for Departments of Excellence, due to the high quality of research activities. In this context, the degree program can offer its students supplementary training activities such as:

- Access to the Path of Excellence, a dedicated educational path for second-year students who have obtained a minimum of 48 ECTS and have achieved an average grade of at least 29/30. Upon completion of the Path of Excellence, each participant is awarded a prize of 1,000 €.
- Funding for the organization of exhibitions and scientific seminars based on initiatives carried out by students of the SAGAS Department.
- Since 2023, the post-graduate specialization course in International Operators for Cooperation and the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Fragile Contexts has also been activated.

This master's degree is also essential for access to doctoral programs in geographic and territorial themes, both in Italy and abroad.

## ASSESSMENT EXAMS

Throughout the university course, the knowledge acquired by students will be verified through written and oral assessment exams. The assessment of other experiences useful for entering the job market (including internships and traineeships) is based on a final report signed by the student, the delegate of the degree program, and the responsible person of the host institution, which is then approved by the degree program council.

## FINAL DEGREE EXAMINATION

The final degree examination carries 24 credits. The exam consists in the preparation, under the guidance of an advisor, of an original written paper, followed by its defence before a specially appointed committee. The final examination will attest to the theoretical, methodological, and possibly empirical knowledge, as well as the ability to conduct in-depth analysis of particularly relevant aspects of the phenomena investigated during its preparation. During the final examination, the candidate will demonstrate their ability to define working hypotheses, to an extent that allows verification; knowledge of the relevant literature and the ability to relate it to the formulated hypotheses; the ability to draw conclusions consistent with the working hypotheses and the documentation used.

## TUTORING SERVICES

The degree program provides tutoring services, with functions of support and guidance during the admission phase of new students and throughout the entire educational path. These services cover guidance on formulating study plans, laboratory activities, international mobility, and the choice of internships and traineeships, through the delegates responsible for these functions.

## COURSES (AS OF 2023)

### First Year Courses

- Anthropology of cultural heritage

- Anthropology of the environment
- Archaeology in conflict areas
- Urban geography: theories and methods
- GIS for the analysis of environment and space
- Introduction to spatial analysis
- Other language
- Quantitative methods for population studies
- Topography and cartography
- Urban geography I: theories and methods
- Urban planning and international cooperation

#### Second Year Courses

- Computer skills for geographic disciplines
- Geography teaching
- Final exam
- Internship
- Internship
- Urban design
- Urban geography II: practice

#### ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

To enrol, candidates must have obtained a Bachelor's degree in Italy or abroad in one of the following scientific fields (for example and not exhaustively): geography; cultural heritage; history; education and training; environmental sciences; sociology; political science; international relations; international cooperation; statistics; urban studies and territorial planning; topography and cartography.

Candidates with a degree in a field other than geography must demonstrate, through detailed examination records and possibly an interview, that they possess sufficient basic knowledge and skills in geography.

In addition, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in the English language, with a certificate at the B2 level or higher. In case of inability to provide such certification, the selection committee will assess language proficiency through an interview.

Candidates who have doubts about the admission requirements are encouraged to contact the orientation delegate for an initial evaluation of their profile.