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The Universities that form VIU represent fourteen countries across the globe: from Asia (China, Korea and Japan), passing through Europe and the Mediterranean (Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland,

Slovenia, Italy, United Kingdom, Russia, Israel), on to North America (USA), and since 2020 representing the Global South (South Africa).



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Venice International University



VIU, Venice International University

20 Universities
14 Countries
4 Continents
1 Campus

A Global Experience



Almost thirty years ago, the first President of Venice International University (VIU), Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, with visionary intuition recognized the opportunity to found a center dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of contemporary global challenges on the Island of San Servolo in the heart of the Lagoon of Venice.

Venice International University began with five pioneering institutions in 1995, and today has twenty-one member institutions from across the globe whose students, professors, and staff constitute the vibrant, multicultural, global VIU community. At VIU they experience an international, interdisciplinary and intercultural opportunity for learning, teaching and research cooperation.

VIU was founded with the purpose of developing joint academic, research and capacity-building programs, across disciplines, continents, languages and cultures. It is a flexible and adaptable organization, funded by the annual contributions of the member institutions.



VIU has become the ideal setting for experimenting innovative approaches to education and training, where students, researchers and professors come together to exchange knowledge and ideas, while exploring interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives in their studies and research.

VIU, together with its constituents, seeks to contribute to the creation of knowledge, understanding, and skills, and to respond to current and future major societal challenges faced by humankind today: environmental, social, cultural and technological phenomena and their local impacts. Knowledge creation across the disciplines - the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences - can play a fundamental role in coping with the Global Challenges.

VIU is committed to a critical exploration of what it means to envision a sustainable future, and the programs acknowledge the interconnected and intertwined relationships between human and natural systems. The activities take advantage of the multicultural context and the unique setting of Venice as a special laboratory, as a location that foregrounds the extraordinary culture of the past, the problems of the present, and the possibility of the future.

Focus Areas & Specialization Tracks

The following topics are addressed by assorted VIU programs.

Sustainability

Environmental Management & Security; Green & Circular Economy.

Innovation

Creativity, Innovation and Design; Transport, Logistics and Planning.

Globalization & Global Challenges

Cities and Global Change; Identity, Heritage, Ethics & Human Rights; Comparative Cultures.

Science and Society

Science Communication; Ageing Societies; Ethics in Research and Medicine.

Humanities

Cultural Heritage Conservation & Management; Visualizing Cities; Global Humanities; History and Memory; Environmental Humanities; Republics and Republicanism; Film Studies.



Academic Programs

Globalization Program

2 semesters + summer sessions, for bachelor and master's students who gain credit towards their degrees.

PhD Academy

To develop transversal skills and promote research cooperation among advanced PhDs.

Graduate Seminars

To support early-career PhDs beginning their research.

Summer schools

Intensive taught programs for various target groups, from bachelor to PhD, and also professionals.

Training and Capacity Building

Staff training; International capacity building; collaboration with the private sector.

Research

European, international and national projects activating and merging competences of member universities.

Dissemination

High level conferences, seminars and workshops, organized by members or brought by other international institutions.

Thematic Programs

Through its three Thematic Programs, VIU endeavors to promote a research triangle of stakeholders – industry, academia and government, developing solid networks of experts and institutions relevant to the focus areas. More recently, the multi-stakeholder approach has been extended to include citizens and civil society. The engagement of citizens and civil society has the potential to inform both research and policy, and positively impact the investigation and tackling of today's global challenges.



_TeDIS Program on Innovation
_TEN Program on Sustainability
_Ageing Program

VIU also participates in public debate on the issues through conferences and events, which include the Opening Ceremonies of the academic semesters which feature *Lectiones Magistrales* delivered by esteemed guests, and the VIULectures series in which interesting topical issues are put forth for debate.