

Call for Applications for Lectureships
Globalization Program
Appendix 1 - Globalization Program and Guidelines for Professors

Venice International University (VIU) is a global consortium of universities and research institutions dedicated to advancing international, interdisciplinary, and intercultural learning, teaching, and research cooperation.

Established in 1995 by five pioneering universities, VIU has grown into a vibrant network of more than twenty universities and research institutions worldwide. Its campus on the Island of San Servolo in Venice has become a unique crossroads for ideas, dialogue, and exchange.



The member institutions of Venice International University are:
Boston College (USA); Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy); Duke University (USA); European University at St. Petersburg (Russia); Iuav University of Venice (Italy); IUSS Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pavia (Italy); Korea University (Korea); KU Leuven (Belgium); Ludwig Maximilians Universität (Germany); Rice University (USA); Sabancı University (Turkey); Stellenbosch University (South Africa); Tel Aviv University (Israel); Tor Vergata University of Rome (Italy); Tsinghua University (China); University of Bordeaux (France); University of Exeter (UK); University of Lausanne (Switzerland); University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy); University of Padua (Italy); Waseda University (Japan); National Institute of Astrophysics (Italy); National Research Council of Italy (Italy); Metropolitan City of Venice (Italy).

Globalization Program

Today's interconnected world needs flexible minds, capable of crossing disciplines, approaching challenges with critical thought, and balancing humanistic, environmental, ethical and economic perspectives.

The Globalization Program unites talented students and faculty from member universities in a truly multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. Together they engage in collaborative learning that fosters intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and innovative approaches to global issues.

Courses are taught by faculty from the member institutions and attended by students representing diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. This exchange of perspectives creates an enriching educational setting that encourages dialogue, collegiality, and new forms of collaboration.

Students may participate for a semester, a full academic year, or a summer session, earning credits toward bachelor's or master's degrees. Exposure to different teaching methods and learning styles challenges assumptions, strengthens adaptability, and deepens analytical skills. Being exposed to other disciplines opens the mind to new ways of thinking.

Through peer-to-peer engagement, students develop intercultural competence, learning to communicate across languages and cultures while embracing diversity with openness and curiosity. Studying at VIU is a transformative experience that prepares graduates to become thoughtful and globally minded.

Each semester 120+ students participate in the Globalization Program choosing from an offering of 25-30 courses for all background and levels, which are English-taught by professors from the member universities and are recognized for credit.

The Globalization Program is composed of two types of courses:

- Core courses on three themes offered every semester: Italy; Cultures of the World; Global Challenges
- Specialization track courses offered in alternate semesters (3 tracks each semester)

Refer to Appendix 2.



Teaching at Venice International University:

Venice International University (VIU) provides a truly **international** environment, bringing together students and professors from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. More than 20 nationalities are typically represented each semester, creating a multicultural community that fosters global exchange and collaboration. Exchange students from local member universities such as Ca' Foscari, Iuav, and Padova may join the Globalization Program, further increasing the diversity of nationalities. Depending on their home institution, students may take a full course load at VIU or select individual courses while continuing studies at their home university.

The program is inherently **interdisciplinary**, welcoming students from a wide range of academic fields. Many come from liberal arts schools, while others pursue discipline-focused degrees in areas such as economics, history, architecture, or environmental studies. Some students enroll in VIU courses to explore subjects beyond their primary field of study, and courses are designed to be accessible to all students regardless of background, while remaining challenging for those with prior expertise. Interdisciplinary teaching equips students with analytical skills and the ability to think creatively across fields.

At the **degree level**, students attend VIU for one or two semesters as part of their bachelor's or master's studies at a member university. Their ages, language proficiency, academic stages, and motivations vary. For example, students from American, Japanese, and Korean member universities tend to be younger, while those from Israeli, German and Russian members are typically older. Credit recognition and course requirements differ by institution: some students will be motivated to pursue courses in order to achieve high grades, others may be motivated by academic curiosity and personal enrichment towards the end of their degree. Regardless of background, VIU requires all students to respect the policy of compulsory attendance, and to complete all coursework, including presentations, mid-term evaluations, and final exams. Auditors are not admitted.

The **intercultural** nature of the program enhances the learning experience by exposing both professors and students to perspectives different from what they are used to. Each participant brings unique personal and cultural experiences to discussions, fostering greater understanding, adaptability, and the ability to work collaboratively in diverse teams. Students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and are better prepared for graduate study, professional careers, and emerging interdisciplinary fields.

Further guidelines for course proposals:

Candidates should consider the following guidelines when drawing up course proposals:

Teaching methods

At VIU, we recommend active and flexible teaching methods that embrace the interdisciplinary, intercultural, and international nature of our student body. Classes typically range from 5 to 25 students, representing diverse nationalities, cultural backgrounds, disciplines, degree levels, and ages. To foster engagement and ensure all students can participate, professors are encouraged to use a mix of strategies and a variety of methods so that students with different strengths have opportunities to excel while also stretching themselves and exploring new skills.



There is no single “one-size-fits-all” solution at VIU; instructors have the freedom to adapt their approach to the specific dynamics of their class, but the following strategies have proven effective in fostering participation, inclusivity, and deeper learning in our diverse environment. In addition to **weekly readings** professors may consider requesting students to submit short reading summaries in advance or assign a student to present short reading summaries at the beginning of class. This approach allows students who are less confident in English or less accustomed to speaking in class to prepare their thoughts and contribute meaningfully, while also ensuring engagement and progress in the course. If facing challenges in getting all students to contribute to **in-class discussions**, professors might consider that small-group discussions could be successful for their courses. These are particularly effective for encouraging participation from quieter students and for facilitating peer learning across disciplines and cultural perspectives. Group work, fieldwork, and creative projects are welcomed, with attention to mixing students from different universities and academic backgrounds to build community and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Throughout the semester, the professors participate in **Faculty Meetings** where they share their experience, address challenges and exchange effective teaching strategies in a collegial discussion on the dynamics of the international and interdisciplinary classroom.

Assessment of students

Assessment should ensure fairness and transparency. A variety of approaches, including research papers, individual and group presentations, quizzes, and exams (both in-class and take-home), are valid. At VIU, our recommended approach to assessment is primarily formative, focusing on monitoring learning, providing ongoing feedback, and guiding instructional strategies. Assessment emphasizes individual student progress, development, and the learning process, helping identify areas for improvement and supporting growth throughout the course.

Professors are required to submit mid-term and final grades to the Globalization Program office for each student, using the grade conversion scheme approved by the VIU Academic Council. Professors may determine the assessment method and deadlines.

Student work-load, credits and level of courses

Courses should be designed to be accessible to students from any discipline and should not assume prior knowledge of the subject. At the same time, they must remain sufficiently challenging for students with a background in the field. Since most VIU students are not native English speakers and many take four or five courses per semester, the **recommended reading load for each course is limited to a maximum of 30 pages per week.**

VIU Globalization Program courses are worth 6 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS¹)

A full academic year corresponds to 60 ECTS, with one credit representing 25–30 hours of work. Therefore, each VIU course represents 150–180 hours of work. The workload is an estimation of the average time students need to achieve the expected learning outcomes; individual time spent may vary.



Typically, the estimated workload includes:

- Class hours: 40 hours (36 contact hours + 4 hours of co-curricular activities at the professor's discretion)
- Individual or group work: Preparation before and review after lectures, seminars, or labs; research, paper/project writing, practical work, or site visits
- Assessment preparation: Time required for presentations, tests, or exams

This integrated approach to teaching, assessment, and workload ensures that VIU students are supported, challenged, and fully engaged, while taking into account the diverse academic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds of our international student body.

Course schedule

The semester is 15 weeks long: 12 weeks of classes, 1 orientation week, 1 week-long midterm break, 1 exam week. Courses consist of 2 classes of 1 hour 30 minutes *sine tempore* each, for a total of 36 hours. The remaining 4 hours can be scheduled at the professors' discretion (field trips, conferences, VIULectures, etc.). Classes in a course will be held on a Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday schedule. Up to 4 courses in the program may be arranged with an intensive schedule with one 3-hour class per week. This option is available on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons only and is reserved for professors with other teaching commitments in their home university. Requests for this arrangement must be included at time of application.

Site visits and field trips will be scheduled on Fridays.

Times must be the same for each course on both days of teaching.

Options for visiting professors teaching two courses

¹ ECTS is the credit system for higher education used in the European Higher Education Area, involving all countries engaged in the Bologna Process. It is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. ECTS credits are based on the workload of students in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.

M-W	9.00-10.30	and	13.00-14.30
M-W	10.45-12.15	and	14.50-16.20
T-T	9.00-10.30	and	13.00-14.30
T-T	10.45-12.15	and	14.50-16.20
T-T	13.00-14.30	and	16.30-18.00

Options for single courses

M-W	13.00-14.30
M-W	14.50-16.20
T-T	13.00-14.30
T-T	14.50-16.20
T-T	16.30-18.00



Options for single courses 1 x 3hr class per week (limited availability)

Mon only	NONE
Wed only	NONE
Tues only	14.50-18.00
Thurs only	14.50-18.00

All final exams must take place during exam week and the deadline for any final papers should be during exam week. In the event that you plan a class discussion during exam week, the deadline for papers can be the week before in order to allow the Professor to read them in advance. In any case, all courses have to meet for a final in-class gathering (test, written exam, discussion, presentation, etc.) during exam week. Professors are expected to be present at exams and at the closing ceremony of the semester.

Cancelled classes and those that fall on Italian public holidays must be rescheduled in order to guarantee the minimum number of contact hours required for the credit recognition procedures in the member universities. These classes are usually rescheduled on Fridays. In the event a professor wishes to reschedule one or more classes due to personal or professional commitments, he/she must notify the Dean of VIU, Prof. Carmelo Marabello, by sending an e-mail to dean@univiu.org.

Compulsory Attendance policy

The Globalization Program is a credit only program. Auditors are not admitted to the courses. Professors are expected to cooperate with VIU in monitoring attendance by filling out the attendance sheet available on Moodle for each class. The attendance policy also applies to site visits and field trips related to the content of courses, including those scheduled on Fridays.

Recognizing attendance and active participation as part of assessment - by assigning them a percentage of the final grade - helps foster student engagement, accountability, and a richer learning experience for both the individual student and the class group.

Co-curricular activities

Professors are encouraged to propose co-curricular activities related to the content of the course. Co-curricular activities may include site visits, field trips and guest lectures. Site visits and field trips are arranged on Fridays.

Participation of Professors in VIU activities:

During orientation week professors will be expected to participate in the following activities:

- a) Welcome Coffee
- b) presentation of courses
- c) faculty meeting
- d) Opening Ceremony, during which a *Lectio Magistralis* will be delivered by a distinguished speaker invited by VIU.

During the semester professors are expected to:

- a) be available to receive students for at least 2 designated hours per week (including orientation week)
- b) participate in four faculty meetings (including one during orientation week)
- c) participate in the VIU Plenary workshop
- d) participate in the VIU Lectures series
- e) participate in the GP faculty research collaboration meetings
- f) participate in the Closing Ceremony, which is usually held on the Thursday or Friday of Exam Week.
- g) to contribute to mixing students of different nationalities
- h) to contribute and take part in co-curricular activities



Professors are invited to include Venice International University among their affiliations for the duration of the academic year and in any publications resulting in research conducted and developed during the semester at VIU.

Library resources, e-learning platforms, VIU classrooms and offices

The VIU Library is small (approx. 5000 books) and contains the text books from previous and current courses. VIU will purchase one copy of each of the required texts specified by the professors in the syllabus of their courses. All texts should be in English and currently in print. These books will be on loan for one day only while other books in the VIU collection are on loan for a week.

The on-line catalogue of VIU Library is available on VIU website www.univiu.org > Campus and Services > Library

VIU students and Professors have access to the city libraries and the libraries of Ca' Foscari University. Due to the limited resources on campus, and the limited number of texts in English in the Venetian libraries, we highly recommend that you compile a digital course pack for your courses to be shared with the students via Moodle.

The VIU e-learning platform is on Moodle <http://elearning.univiu.org/>. Each course has a dedicated section with access reserved for the students who are registered for the course.

If you are not familiar with Moodle VIU staff can provide the necessary technical support.

VIU classrooms and offices

The classrooms are equipped with audiovisual projection facilities and audio systems. Each classroom includes a dedicated computer, and personal laptops can be connected to the classroom projector if preferred.

Wi-Fi is available throughout all classrooms, the library, and VIU common areas. Students also have access to shared computing facilities, including 16 Apple Mac computers in the digital lab and 4 PCs in the PC room.

Professors and students will be assigned a personal account that will allow log-in to any computer on campus (classroom, offices, PC room and digital lab), VIU wi-fi network and Moodle.

Professors are assigned an office with a pc, internet connection, telephone (must be paid for at the end of the semester) and access to a network printer and a print card with 1500 copies accredited. For environmental reasons VIU discourages excessive printing in favor of electronic resources. Course materials can be uploaded to the Moodle platform where students can consult them online.

Meeting Venice: Encounters, Investigations and Explorations

Co-curricular activities



The Co-Curricular Program at VIU is an integral part of the Globalization Program. The co-curriculum program has the triple aim of a) taking teaching outside the formal setting of the classroom b) providing students with the opportunity to understand the social, economic and cultural dynamics of the city of Venice, and how it relates to its hinterland c) providing students with opportunities for discussion and socialization. Professors are therefore encouraged to propose co-curricular activities related to the content of their courses.

Co-curricular activities may include site visits and field trips. Professors, who intend integrating co-curricular activities in the program, should do so through the Globalization Program office, so as to guarantee that the proposed activity does not overlap with other planned activities; that there is a classroom available; that there are funds available to cover the costs of the proposed activity.

Professors should submit proposals for co-curricular activities and guest lectures in advance, preferably, before the semester commences, and **no later than two weeks following the beginning of classes**. After this deadline VIU cannot guarantee that the activities proposed will be possible, due to organizational and budgetary constraints.

Activities off campus should not interfere with student attendance in other courses. Site visits and field trips therefore are usually arranged on Fridays.

Plenary Workshop

The plenary workshop is a key event of the Globalization Program in which professors and students explore and discuss a theme chosen together at the beginning of the semester.

Participants will offer their interpretation of an aspect of this theme, working as a class group or on their own, taking inspiration from their courses or presenting their personal experience.

Previous workshops have been on:

- Transition
- Resilience
- Persona
- Paradoxes
- Heritage and Culture
- Dialogue
- Identity
- The Future

Guest lectures

Professors may invite guest speakers in their courses. Proposals for guest lectures must include information on the topic, and the CV/resume of the speaker, and are subject to evaluation. All the relevant information should be sent before the semester commences, and in any case **no later than two weeks following the beginning of classes**, to the GP office and in copy to the Scientific Director of the Globalization Program, Luca Pes.

Please consider that there is no budget for the invited speakers.



VIU Vice Dean and Scientific Director of the Globalization Program

For any further queries about academic issues related to the Globalization Program and what is expected from professors while they are at VIU, please contact the Scientific Director of the program and Vice Dean, Prof. Luca Pes:

luca.pes@univiu.org

For further information:

Venice International University
Globalization Program office
Isola di San Servolo
Venice, Italy
www.univiu.org
gpoffice@univiu.org
t. +39 041 2719 511