



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

Master's degree programme in

**Law and
sustainable
development**

facoltà di

GIURISPRUDENZA

Applications and admissions

Open, subject to entry requirements.

Admission requirements

Candidates applying for the LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development must hold a first cycle (three years/bachelor = 180 ects) degree, be proficient in English (level C1), and have adequate personal knowledge and background.

In particular, candidates must hold, or obtain before the 30 October 2026, either:

- a) A first cycle degree obtained in Italy, in Law, Economics, Political Science, or International Relations. In accordance with national classification, Italian first cycle degree must belong to one of the following classes of degrees: L-14 (Scienze dei servizi giuridici), L-33 (Scienze economiche), L-36 (Scienze politiche e delle relazioni internazionali), L-37 (Scienze sociali per la cooperazione, lo sviluppo e la pace), L-16 (Scienze dell'amministrazione e dell'organizzazione), L-18 (Scienze dell'economia e della gestione aziendale);

or

b) A first cycle degree (three years/bachelor = 180 ects), obtained in Italy or abroad, in other disciplines, provided that the candidate has obtained at least 18 ects in Law and 12 ects in Economics;

- Have strong personal competencies in the fields of law and economics. The adequacy of the candidates' competencies is assessed by the Admissions' Board;

- based on the academic performance of the candidate and consistency of the programme with her/his previous studies, professional or other relevant experiences, and career plans;

- through a personal interview to be held exclusively from remote, when the Admission Board deems it necessary to do.

More info on admission criteria and procedures on the Degree course website llmsd.cdl.unimi.it/en/enrolment

Language requirements:

- Proving that they have previously completed an academic programme fully taught in English, or providing an English language certificate, among those accepted by UNIMI, attesting the possession of the level C1 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Objectives

The LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development, entirely taught in English, aims at educating professionals capable of using their advanced legal knowledge and skills, integrated with an understanding of the underlying socio-economic issues, to further the realization of the SDGs in the activities of public and private organizations, at the international, national, and local level.

The programme provides students with an advanced understanding of contemporary legal and socio-economic dynamics, characterised by interdependence, increasing complexity, rapid evolution, and integration between different fields of knowledge, as well as by a pluralist legal landscape, in which the traditional boundaries between levels (international, supranational, and domestic) and sources (public/private) of regulation are blurring.

In this context, students will develop an advanced understanding of the theoretical foundations of sustainability processes and the ethical implications of the choices made in this field by policy-makers and regulators, as well as by economic and social actors. They will also acquire an in-depth knowledge of the international and European legal

framework applicable to the design and implementation of sustainability policies by international and supranational organisations, national and local public authorities, corporations (both in the domestic and transnational dimension), and organisations of the civil society (including NGOs).

Career prospects

The LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development aims at shaping a new type of international legal expert able to contribute to the realization of the SDGs, within the public sector (at the local, national, supranational, and international levels), the private sector (business enterprises), the professional services sector (consultancy and legal firms), and within the third sector (non-profit organizations, NGOs, and advanced research institutions).

Students will be educated and trained for the following professional profiles:

1) Legal expert in SD for the public institutions (Public Administration, supranational and international institutions).

Graduate students, especially those who choose the curriculum 'Rule of Law', will be able to develop normative approaches and policies in line with the SDGs. Students will contribute to guiding decisional processes within international and supranational organizations, national, regional and local institutions, to promote social, economic and environmental standards.

Building on the best practices developed in these fields, students will be able, in particular, to manage the private-public partnerships and the green and ethical public procurement, to enhance transparency, and to tackle corruption;

2) Legal expert in SD for business (sustainability managers in enterprises, national and multi-national corporations).

Graduate students, especially those who choose the curriculum 'Law, Economics, and Development', will be able to deal with the legal aspects related to sustainability in business enterprises, focusing mainly on corporate social responsibility.

They will contribute to the drafting of contracts and the adoption of business strategies that meet the needs of the enterprise and its stakeholders while promoting social and environmental standards;

3) Legal expert in SD in consulting (consultancy firms and law-firms).

Graduate students, especially those who choose the curricula 'Law, Economics, and Development' or 'Environmental Law and Policy', will be able to provide legal advice and other professional services about the applicable social and environmental rules and standards.

They will conduct research and draw up reports on subjects relevant to human rights and environmental regulation adopted at the international, European, and national levels. Moreover, they will make use of their knowledge of regulations and standards applicable in different areas (i.e. environment, trade, finance and investments, competition, manufacturing, agriculture, and health) in tasks such as auditing and compliance;

4) Legal expert in SD for the third sector (non-profit organizations, NGOs, think-tanks, research institutes). Graduate students, especially those who choose the curricula 'Human Rights Law and Social Development' or 'Environmental Law and Policy', will be able to provide legal advice to not-for-profit organizations operating in the areas of development aid and cooperation, environmental protection, and human rights law.

In this context, they will engage in advocacy activities and strategic litigation, fund-raising, as well as the design, management and monitoring of projects. They will be able to conduct advanced research in public and private research centres.

Double degrees

University of Galway (Ireland): following the successful completion of the first year of the LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development, students may be granted admission to the master's degree courses offered by the University of Galway. Admitted students will spend the whole second year in Galway. Upon successful completion of the two programmes, students will be awarded both the Unimi and the Galway Masters' degrees.

Universidad del País Vasco (Spain): after attending the first year of the LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development, students may be granted admission to the one-year International Master in Sociology of Law of Universidad del País Vasco and be awarded the Unimi and País Vasco Masters' degrees.

Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany): after attending the first year of the LL.M. in Law and Sustainable Development, students may be granted admission to the one-year International Law and Sustainability program of the Leuphana University and student will be awarded both Unimi and Leuphana Masters' degrees.

Degree syllabus

1 year

COMPULSORY LEARNING ACTIVITIES COMMON TO ALL CURRICULA	ECTS
Constitutional law in context	9
Economic geography and history	6
Economics, economic policy and social justice	9
International law and international law on sustainable development	9
Public administration for sustainable development	9
Society, law, and development	9
Statistical probability and scientific certainty	6
3 ects to be earned as follows: a) students not having previously obtained a degree in Italy: knowledge of Italian language (level A2) - Additional Language Skills: Italian b) students having previously obtained a degree in Italy: optional activities with a vocational nature	3

II year

(to be made available as of academic year 2027/2028)

Students are required to choose elective courses for 24 ects. In each curriculum four elective courses, two of which (12 ects) must belong to the area of international, European, or comparative law.

Curriculum: Law, economics and development

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Antitrust law and Sustainable Development
- Comparative contract law
- Corporate governance and social responsibility
- Economic ethics and corporate social responsibility
- EU Law on business and human rights
- International and European financial law and sustainable development
- International commercial and investment arbitration
- International trade and labour rights
- Law and economics of green transition and social justice
- M&A: the contract
- Smart cities, artificial intelligence and digital transformation law
- Sustainable development in global trade (WTO) law
- Theory and practice of international tax law

Curriculum: Rights, Institutions and social development

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Access to justice in a multilevel constitutional system
- Comparative constitutional traditions
- Cultural diversity and human rights law
- EU administrative law
- Gender Justice
- International commercial and investment arbitration
- International human rights law
- International refugee protection and sustainable development
- Labour law and environmental sustainability
- Labour and philosophy in a cross-cultural perspective
- Law and policies of social rights protection in Europe
- Law, culture and development in a global world
- Multi-level protection of rights in AI
- Negotiation, mediation and sustainable conflict resolution
- Private law and sustainability form a comparative law perspective
- Public Administrations in the EU energy policies and communities
- Public health and sustainability
- Transnational Commercial Litigation

Curriculum: Environmental law and policy

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Agriculture and sustainable development
- Collective redress and sustainability
- Environmental sustainability
- International climate change and energy law
- International environmental law
- Public and private partnership for sustainable development
- Sustainable development in global trade (WTO) law

Compulsory learning activities common to all curricula

- 9 ects from the courses (6 ects) offered within any curriculum, or courses (6 or 9 ects) offered by the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan and/or additional course, legal clinics or workshops (3 ects)

Other courses or optional modules offered within the LL.M.:

- AI and public administration (6 ects)
- Anthropocene and Environmental History (3 ects)
- Immigration, cultural crimes and sustainability (3 ects)
- Individual applications before the ECtHR as constitutional remedies (3 ects)
- Legal clinic on "Arctic studies" (3 ects)
- Legal clinic on "Rule of law and democracy" (3 ects)
- Scientific innovation and legal challenges of food regulation (6 ects)
- Workshop on "Human rights and the ombudsman" (3 ects)
- Workshop on "Project management for sustainable development" (3 ects)
- Workshop on "Space Law" (3 ects)
- Internship (6 ects)
- Final dissertation (18 ects)

INFO

🎓 **Disciplinary classification:** LM-SC-GIUR R Scienze Giuridiche

🕒 **Duration:** 2 years (120 ects)

📅 **Curricula:**

- Law, economics and development
- Rights, Institutions and social development
- Environmental law and policy

📅 **Attendance:** compulsory (at least 70% of classes for all taught courses)

📍 **Location:**

- via Festa del Perdono, 7 - Milan

📧 **For information:**

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🌐 **Websites:**

lmsd.cdl.unimi.it
www.unimi.it



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