



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

Bachelor's programme in

**Ancient civilizations  
for the contemporary  
world**

facoltà di

**STUDI UMANISTICI**

The Bachelor's degree in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World is a three-year programme, taught in English and jointly delivered by the **University of Milan La Statale** and **Ca' Foscari University of Venice**.

## Applications and admissions

Admission is subject to an entrance test.

For information on the number of places available and the test dates, please visit:

<https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it/en/enrolment>

## Additional learning requirements (OFA)

The programme includes two types of additional learning requirements (OFA): General OFA and English OFA.

### General OFA

Students who do not achieve at least 50% in one or more sections of the admission test (reading comprehension, inductive reasoning, and reasoning on texts and data) may be assigned General OFA. Students may still be admitted but will be required to complete targeted training to address identified gaps. They will have the opportunity to retake the test during their first year. Access to second-year examinations is conditional upon successful completion of these requirements. Further details are available at: <https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it>.

### English OFA

A good command of English, corresponding to at least B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), is required in order to follow the programme effectively.

English language proficiency at B2 level or higher may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- by submitting a recognised language certificate obtained within the three years preceding enrolment (for the list of accepted certificates, see: <https://www.unimi.it/en/node/297/>). The certificate must be uploaded during the enrolment procedure or subsequently via the portal: <http://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue>;
- by holding a secondary school diploma with English as the language of instruction (to be uploaded during enrolment);
- by taking a Placement Test administered by the University Language Centre (SLAM) during the first year (October-November). Students who do not pass the test will be required to attend a SLAM course.

The Placement Test is compulsory for students who do not hold a valid certificate or a secondary school diploma taught in English. Students who do not take the Placement Test by November, or who do not pass the SLAM end-of-course test within six attempts, will be required to obtain a recognised external language certificate, at their own expense, in order to fulfil the English requirement.

Fulfilment of the English OFA is required to sit any examination within the programme.

## Objectives

The programme provides a solid grounding in the study, management and promotion of both tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage across a wide range of ancient civilizations in Europe, North Africa, Eastern and Western Asia.

Teaching is structured around four interconnected areas: 1. Tangible Cultural Heritage: history and interpretation; 2. Tangible Cultural Heritage: methods of discovery, documentation, preservation and archiving; 3. Intangible Cultural Heritage: history, anthropology, philosophy, history of religions and law; 4. Intangible Cultural Heritage: languages and literatures.

The programme adopts an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, emphasising cultural interactions, exchanges, and tensions across different historical contexts. Students develop analytical skills, breadth of perspective, and critical awareness, enabling them to engage with current international debates on the relevance of the ancient world for understanding contemporary global challenges.

Students benefit from the combined expertise and research environment of both universities, located in the historically rich and culturally dynamic cities of Milan and Venice. Their distinctive interplay of past and present provides an exceptional setting for the study of Cultural Heritage.

## Career prospects

The programme equips graduates with the skills required for entry-level roles across the cultural heritage sector. These include positions in museums, archaeological sites, exhibitions, and cultural institutions; cataloguing and documentation of cultural heritage in foundations, associations, and auction houses; exhibition support and curatorial assistance; archaeological fieldwork (e.g., excavation assistants and technicians).

The programme also provides a foundation for roles such as cultural communication and public engagement; support in cultural volunteering networks; art handling and logistics within the fine arts sector.

Graduates may also find opportunities in the creative and entertainment industries, particularly in contexts involving historical and cultural content.

A curricular internship, including initial professional training, further enhances employability in these areas.

With appropriate additional training, graduates may also qualify to work as tourist guides.

# Degree syllabus

I year

COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
Archaeology of Western Asia: Ancient Civilizations of Mesopotamia, the Levant and the Eastern Mediterranean	12
Greek and Roman History	12
Intellectual History of the Ancient Near East: The Origin of Accounting Systems in Comparative Perspective	6
Introduction to Pharaonic Egypt: Mind and Memory of an Ancient Civilization	6
Public and Community Archaeology and Digital Cultural Heritage	12
The Bhagavad Gita: The Gospel of India	6
<b>6 ECTS chosen from the following options:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Archaeology of the Silk Road</li><li>- Classical Mythology and Its Media</li><li>- Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb</li><li>- Elements of Christian Culture</li><li>- History of Classical Tradition in European Art</li><li>- History of Pre-modern Science and Technology</li><li>- Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature</li><li>- Introduction to Byzantine Civilization</li><li>- Introduction to Chinese Thought</li><li>- Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature</li><li>- Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature</li><li>- Origins of Western Philosophy</li><li>- Phoenician and Punic Archaeology</li><li>- Prehistory of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean</li><li>- The Jews: History, Culture and Religion</li></ul>	6

II year

(available from the 2027/2028 academic year)

COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
Cultural Anthropology: Material Approaches in the Post-colonial World	9
European and Mediterranean Archaeology, from Prehistory to Late Antiquity	12
Introduction to Greek Literature	6
Introduction to Latin Literature	6
Teaching workshop: Theories, Techniques, Tools for Cultural Communication	3

COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
<b>12 ECTS chosen from the following options:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archaeology of the Silk Road</li> <li>- Classical Mythology and Its Media</li> <li>- Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb</li> <li>- Elements of Christian Culture</li> <li>- History of Classical Tradition in European Art</li> <li>- History of Pre-modern Science and Technology</li> <li>- Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature</li> <li>- Introduction to Byzantine Civilization</li> <li>- Introduction to Chinese Thought</li> <li>- Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature</li> <li>- Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature</li> <li>- Origins of Western Philosophy</li> <li>- Phoenician and Punic Archaeology</li> <li>- Prehistory of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean</li> <li>- The Jews: History, Culture and Religion</li> </ul>	6+6

III year

(available from the 2028/2029 academic year)

COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
Art and Law	6
History of Chinese and Japanese Art	12
History of Coins	6
History of Indian Art	6
Introduction to Italian Literature	6
<b>6 ECTS chosen from the following options:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archaeology of the Silk Road</li> <li>- Classical Mythology and Its Media</li> <li>- Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb</li> <li>- Elements of Christian Culture</li> <li>- History of Classical Tradition in European Art</li> <li>- History of Pre-modern Science and Technology</li> <li>- Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature</li> <li>- Introduction to Byzantine Civilization</li> <li>- Introduction to Chinese Thought</li> <li>- Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature</li> <li>- Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature</li> <li>- Origins of Western Philosophy</li> <li>- Phoenician and Punic Archaeology</li> <li>- Prehistory of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean</li> <li>- The Jews: History, Culture and Religion</li> </ul>	6

### Elective activities

- 12 ECTS for elective courses
- 6 ECTS for internships
- 3-6 ECTS for workshops
- 0-3 ECTS for additional language skills
- 6 ECTS for final examination

The degree in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World allows graduates to meet the curricular requirements for access to most Master's degree programmes in LM-2 Archaeology in Italy.

# INFO

- 🎓 *Disciplinary classification:* Cultural heritage (L-1)
- 🕒 *Duration:* 3 years (180 ects)
- 📅 *Attendance:* strongly recommended; participation in workshops and internships is compulsory.
- 📍 *Location:*
  - Teaching Sector Celoria (entrance via Celoria, 18) – Milan
- 📧 *Contact:*
  - didattica.bc@unimi.it
- 🌐 *Websites:*
  - ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it
  - www.unimi.it
  - Instagram: accw.unimi.unive



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