



# Information for International Students and Scholars

*Academic Year 2014-2015*

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# Welcome

**The Department of Sociology and Social Research welcomes you.**

Sociology and Social Research is one of the sixteen Departments composing the National University of Milan-Bicocca, located in northern part of Milan and established in 1998.

Milan-Bicocca is the newest university among the seven already existing in Milan. Milano-Bicocca was placed 21st in the 2014 “Top 100 Under 50” Ranking, published by the *Times Higher Education* in April 2014. No other university in the world, among those founded in the 1990s, ranked above Unimib.

The university campus is built in a post-industrial area (the largest in Europe), where the factory Pirelli previously produced tyres and 25,000 blue-collar workers were employed. Today, the same grounds host 33,000 students.

The Department of Sociology and Social Research counts a permanent staff of 65 scholars (16 full professors, 22 associated professors, 27 assistant professors), 21 post-doc researchers, 36 Ph.D. students and 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

The Department offers 4 undergraduate, 4 graduate, 6 master, and 2 doctoral degrees.

Since the inception, the Department of Sociology and Social Research has been ranked as the best in Italy for the quality of research and teaching in social and political sciences, as stated also by the national research ranking (ANVUR 2013).

We pride ourselves in being a friendly and dynamic Department.

In the last years we have had an increasing number of international students and scholars also thanks to Socrates - Erasmus mobility programmes, supported by the European Union, and many international projects.

We understand the needs and expectations of international students, who in many cases come to Italy for the first time. International scholars are also invited to apply as visiting professors and researchers at our Department. We are therefore keen to offer them care and to support their stay in Milan.

**Prof. Carla Facchini, Director of the Department of Sociology and Social Research**

# The Department of Sociology and Social Research: Degrees, Programmes and Courses

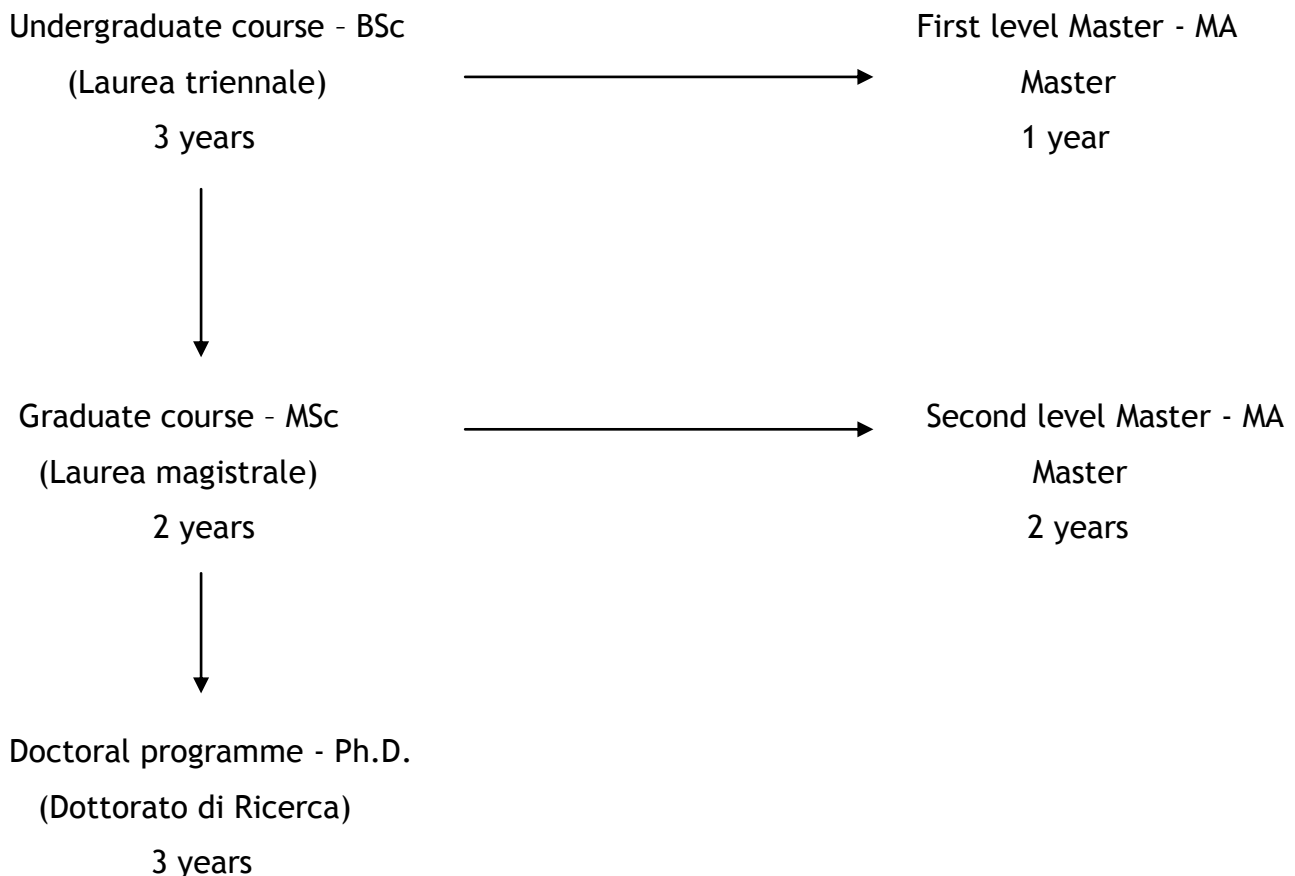
## Introduction

The **Department of Sociology and Social Research** was established at the University of Milan-Bicocca in 1998 with two main aims: to form a centre of excellence for sociological research; to offer at the undergraduate and graduate level a wide range of high standard learning opportunities in the field of the social sciences.

The Department has many international programmes for outgoing and incoming students as well as a program for visiting fellows.

Over the years, both aims have been achieved: on the one hand, the high profile of the research activities in which Department members are engaged is widely acclaimed by the national and international sociological and social sciences community. On the other hand, the learning opportunities offered by the Department are growing increasingly.

### *Structure of programmes offered at the Department*



## *Educational offer*

### *Degrees and courses offered at the Department of Sociology and Social Research*

#### **1. Undergraduate degrees (BSc)**

- **Sociology**
- **Social Work**
- **Tourism Sciences and Local Community Studies**
- **Organisation Science**

#### **2. Graduate degrees (MSc)**

- **Sociology (SOLM)**
- **Planning and Management of Social Policies and Services (PROGEST)**
- **Tourism, Territory and Local Development (TLC)**
- **Service Science and Services Management (MAGES)**

#### **3. Master degrees (MA First Level)**

- **Entertainment, Enterprise, Society (SIS)**
- **Sport Management, Marketing and Society (SMMS)**
- **Health Systems, Traditional and Non-Conventional Medicine (SISMENC)**
- **Science Communication and Sustainable Innovation (MaCSIS)**
- **Communicating Sustainable Tourism (CTS)**
- **International Business Development (MAIB) (Taught in English)**

#### **4. Doctoral degrees (Ph.D.)**

- **Applied Sociology and Methodology for Social Research (ASMSR)**
- **URBEUR - QUA\_SI Information Society (URBEUR - QUA\_SI)**

## 1. Undergraduate degrees (BSc)

### 1.1. Sociology

How complex global contemporary societies are? How do they work? How are they organised? How should be understood their structure, the nature of social conflicts, collective identities and the everyday life? How could we face social problems? This BSc course in Sociology aims at training experts in the analysis of social phenomena and transformations, able to interpret contemporary societies following an innovative reading, as well as to achieve in depth understanding of their underlying mechanisms and functioning.

#### *Course of studies*

During the first two years, all students share the same training programme. Alongside sociological disciplines, other subjects are taught, such as anthropology, law, economics, philosophy, mathematics, psychology, history and statistics. Such a broad interdisciplinary training ensures that students can possess the necessary tools for the understanding of contemporary societies and for an overall reading of their transformations.

Students can further add to this basic training by taking part in apprenticeships, laboratories and European mobility programmes (Socrates - Erasmus).

Quality of studying and training is ensured by a number of important factors:

- Opportunity to take part in alternative forms of training, besides attending traditional lectures: conferences, seminars, classes guided by tutors, collaboration in ongoing sociological research.
- Online access to course and learning material from the Department's website.

#### *Employment opportunities*

Training in sociology provides broad and versatile skills and knowledge, applicable in a vast range of sectors.

The following employers are typically interested in the recruitment of sociologists:

- research institutes dealing with social issues and public policies;
- centres for the execution of opinion surveys and market research;
- local, national, international public administration;
- agencies for cultural promotion and local territorial development;
- marketing and communication agencies;
- staff management agencies;
- press and public relation agencies;

- consultancy firms for employment market analysis;
- national and international NGOs, active in the fields of culture, social policies, solidarity and assistance-based interventions.

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## 1.2. Social Work

This BSc course aims at training experts in Social Workers.

During the three years course, the following competences are acquired:

- Theoretical knowledge: theoretical understanding of basic notions of a broad range of disciplines, ranging from sociology to psychology, anthropology, law, and social policy theory.
- Methodological know-how: ability to employ methods and techniques for the prevention of critical situations and for the management of social work.
- Practical skills and aptitudes: collaborative conduct, in order to facilitate team work among professionals with different technical skills and coordination with local associations and services.

### *Course of studies*

The course has a strong professional orientation. 120 students are admitted to the BSc, selected on the basis of an admission test (80%) and of the mark obtained for their school leaving certificate (20%). The limited number of students ensures close supervision of individual training paths and the organisation of lectures for small groups in order to promote the direct interaction between students and lecturers.

Thanks to the presence, among lecturers, of practitioners, teaching is constantly integrated with practical professional experience. This also ensures that course contents are regularly revised and always up to date.

Periods of practical training are foreseen, thanks to over 150 agreements stipulated between the Department and public and private bodies, managing various kinds of social services in different provinces of the Lombardy Region. Individual trainings are monitored by a social worker within the hosting organization and the experience gained is discussed in class under the supervision of academic teaching staff.

### *Employment opportunities*

After having passed the public examination, the graduate in Social Work can be admitted to the National register and exercise the profession of social worker.

Graduate students in social worker can be employed in sectors for the prevention, sustenance and rehabilitation of people, families, groups and communities, playing also executive roles.

Among possible tasks:

- Social Secretariat

- Organisation and management of social interventions
- Actions for the prevention and social rehabilitation of people in need
- Promotion of voluntary and no profit organisations
- Monitoring and evaluation of existing interventions

Social workers can be employed by the social services of local authorities, by the Regional Health Service (ASL, hospitals), by Ministries (of the Interior, of Labour, of Justice), by no-profit associations, institutes and communities (for the elderly, minors, drug addicts, disabled, people in need), in international cooperation (governmental and non governmental organisations).

The variety of possible employment sectors and the low number of graduates in social work in Lombardy allow Social Workers to find employment easily, with the possibility to choose between different alternatives.

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### 1.3. Tourism Sciences and Local Community Studies

The BSc course in Tourism Sciences and Local Community Studies provides the tools for the scientific analysis of local tourist systems.

During the three years of the course students learn how to exploit local potential in the planning of tourist offers, in order to attract Italian and foreign tourists. A country like Italy, with natural, cultural and traditional resources, requires not so much outgoing specialists, able to prepare an all inclusive package for the Maldives, but rather incoming specialists, capable of promoting the towns along the Po river or Sicily's archaeological sites. Incoming experts are able to operate in the private hospitality industry (hotels, travel agencies, restaurants, transports, etc.), in various levels of the public administration (Regional, Provincial, Municipal) and in public-private institutions (consortiums and agencies).

#### *Course of studies*

188 students are admitted to the BSc, selected on the basis of an admission test (80%) and of the mark obtained for their school leaving certificate (20%).

Lectures are multidisciplinary: alongside sociological and territorial disciplines economics, informatics, law, archaeology, artistic and entertainment disciplines are also taught. Special attention is paid to the interconnections between tourism and other local resources (cultural and environmental resources, associations, enterprises and no profit organisations, etc.), so that students will learn how to plan and manage tourist offers that are integrated with the local context.

Four important experiences also contribute to student training:

- Laboratories (during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year), allowing gaining relevant operative capacities for the profession.
- Apprenticeship (during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year), allowing the student to gain contact with the employment sector and to test him/herself in one of the occupational sectors in which (s) he will be able to work at the end of the course of study.
- Two Summer School courses are foreseen: the first located in the Island of Magoodhoo (Maldivian Republic), where our University has a research and training centre; the second one in India, at the *XIME-Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship* of Bangalore.
- Finally, the Socrates - Erasmus Programme that offers the most praise-worthy students the chance to spend a period abroad, where their training gains an international flavour.

### ***Employment opportunities***

The course provides the necessary tools to access all classic positions among tourist operators: from restaurant manager to food and beverage manager, from head of tour operator marketing to tourist informer, from hotel manager to tourist guide or event organiser.

The course favours the development of innovative capacities for future tourist operators, who will have the ability to assist local authorities and private bodies in reinforcing their attractiveness and their local receiving capacity. The graduate in Tourism, in fact, may become:

- Destination manager.
- Incoming tour operator.
- Sustainable tourism tour operator.
- Expert in marketing management of farm holidays and rural tourism.
- Socio-cultural entertainment organiser.
- Territorial tourist management expert.
- Planner and manager of local receiving structures.
- Entertainment, cultural events and shows organiser.
- Reception operator.
- Expert in tourist e-commerce and new communication networks for local tourism.

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## 1.4. Organisation Science

The BSc in Organisation Studies focuses on the analysis, the development, the design and management of organisations.

During the three years, the following competences are acquired:

- Knowledge. Economics, sociology and law; managerial skills and complementary abilities for economists and engineers.
- Know-how. Excel, database, data analysis software and English language are an extra advantage in seeking for employment.
- Critical view. Ability to look at a situation from different angles, going beyond common sense interpretations. The issue is ability to identify problems and find creative solutions.

### *Course of studies*

During the course students learn to interpret reality with a critical view and develop skills for the analysis, planning, development and management of various organisations: enterprises, public administration, associations, local bodies, no profit organisations.

The course follows a multidisciplinary approach, covering sociological, economic, law and political disciplines. The main topics covered are: local development, strategic planning for enterprises and territorial networks, project design, development and management of innovative small and medium enterprises' networks, product/service and process innovation management, internationalisation, change and process management in public administration, development of the qualified labour market and of knowledge workers, entrepreneurship and creativity.

Laboratories, hands on experiences, apprenticeships and seminars are foreseen alongside traditional lectures, for the development of a correct understanding of real life problems that the student will have to deal with at the end of his/her course of studies.

### *Employment opportunities*

The course has a strong professional orientation: it trains experts in organisational change, human resources and local development with skills for the understanding and activation of innovative processes in complex organisations.

At the start of their career, students from this course will constitute valid collaborators for private and public managers, involved in the organisation and innovation of business models as well as products/services. They will later have access to professional, managerial or entrepreneurial positions and will be able to promote and coordinate programmes for

product and service innovation aimed at the economic and social development of local organisations, and at the promotion of human resource management and development systems.

Students who have completed their BSc in Organisation Studies find employment in medium and large enterprises, in public administration, bargaining agencies, no-profit organisations, consultancy and informatics firms, agencies for local development.

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## 2. Graduate degrees (MSc)

### 2.1. Sociology

The MSc course in Sociology is aimed at offering to students (future researchers and professionals) a high standard theoretical, methodological and technical programme by focussing on the analysis of the structure and transformation of contemporary societies in a comparative way.

The consideration of the structural, institutional and cultural dimensions that conform contemporary societies as well as the study of behaviours, attitudes and opinions that characterise individuals and social groups lies at the core of the MSc course in Sociology.

The MSc in Sociology is thus aimed:

- to develop empirical enquiries in the various subject areas within the discipline;
- to analyse settlements, ways of life and mobility patterns in urban areas;
- to examine organisational systems as well as different human resource management, which connote enterprises and public bodies;
- to consider cultural and communication processes that determine interpersonal, inter-group, inter-organisational and inter-institutional relations and interactions;
- to study on-going changes in welfare systems and the transformation of previous social policies;
- to monitor and assess public policies in different sectors of contemporary societies;
- to reflect upon the changing concepts of rights and citizenship.

The MSc in Sociology offers also to students the possibility to participate in workshops and apprenticeships, where they acquire practical skills in sectors of the labour market and management.

#### ***Course of studies***

This two-year programme is focussed on three main topics:

- Employment and organisation.
- Culture and communication.
- Territory and local policies.

Teaching activities are divided into modules and each gains 6 CFU (Crediti Formativi Universitari = University Training Credits). The total amount of CFU necessary to gain the degree is 120.

In particular, the course foresees both mandatory and optional teaching courses:

- First year: mandatory modules common to all students (42 CFU).
- Second year: mandatory modules common to all students (18 CFU).

The course also includes:

- optional modules;
- laboratories, which also foresee the possibility for students to take part to an apprenticeship programme.

### ***Employment opportunities***

- Cultural and scientific institutions devoted to the analysis of contemporary societies.
- National and local public administration.
- Bodies and agencies devoted to territorial development.
- Companies devoted to research on public opinion and cultural communication.
- Marketing and human resource sectors in national and international companies.
- Press agencies and external relations units.
- Organisations devoted to consultancy in the field of labour market analysis, territorial urban settlement management, institutional and enterprise communication, organisation systems.
- National and international non-governmental and no-profit organisations, operating in Italy and abroad on issues of public utility.

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## 2.2. Planning and management of social policies and services

The MSc course in *Planning and management of social policies and services* prepares professionals for the direction, management and coordination of social policies and services in various settings: institutional, private and cooperation ones.

The teaching programme covers the following:

- Social, economic and cultural dynamics: compared welfare systems, community policies and local realities, new collective and family identities, integration between social policies, processes of social exclusion.
- Management of social services with reference also to the European context: local governance, organization and human resource management.
- Institutional and normative transformations: national and international health law and policies, organisation culture, citizenship rights and cultural pluralism, rights of foreigners.
- Programming and planning in the social field, management control.
- Quality evaluation, facilitation of working groups.
- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of relations and communication: communication in different organisational contexts, intercultural communication, management of cultural diversity, conflict mediation.
- Globalisation and local development: human rights and cooperation, thematic partnerships and local development plans, actors and agenda of international aid.

### ***Course of studies***

Classes for this course are common to all students during the first year. Second year classes, instead, are subject to choice among the following possible themes of specialisation:

- Management of social services
- Intercultural relations
- Social policies
- Cooperation and local development

The course of studies is made up of a multidisciplinary series of lectures. Seminars, laboratories, group-work are also foreseen and held by Italian and internationally acclaimed teaching staff as well as experts in the field. Apprenticeships in the public and private sector in Italy and overseas are available.

Attendance of lectures is highly recommended because the course favours active and critical acquisition of competences and confrontation with the training and working experiences of participants.

The course is aimed at undergraduates in Social Service, Sociology, Political Science, Educational Science, Law, Professional Education and Psychology.

Undergraduates with a master in international cooperation and development or with significant experiences in this field may access directly to the second year course of studies in “Cooperation and local development”.

### ***Employment opportunities***

This course is relative to the field of policies, services, social and health interventions. It therefore aims at training:

- Directors and managers of complex services, structures, departments, sectors and operational units
- Managers for the profit and no profit sectors.
- Experts in intercultural relations, diversity management and change agency.
- Professionals for social programming and planning, also at the local level.
- Supervisors of the activity of professional social workers.
- Experts in cooperation and local development.

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## 2.3. *Tourism, Territory and Local Development*

This MSc course trains incoming tourism experts, able to design tourist development strategies at the local level, as well as to elaborate policies for the enhancement and management of local territory and its potential tourist resources.

The course also encourages students' capacity to analyse tourism as a contemporary social phenomenon.

These highly specialised skills respond to a growing and increasingly diversified demand for free time entertainment and to current organisational changes in local tourist systems.

Cooperation between the public sector, private enterprises and service sector in the tourist market, in fact, is increasing both as far as the supply of services and as far as planning, project development and evaluation.

### ***Course of studies***

The course trains people to become:

- Tourist experts in the private sector, in interface positions with the outside environment in the development and management of integrated tourist packages.
- Tourist experts in the public sector, for the management of qualification and regeneration initiatives in urban and rural settings and in small centres, of parks and collaborations between public bodies.
- Incoming tourism experts for development cooperation.

### ***Employment opportunities***

Tourist experts may be employed:

- In various areas within cultural industries (cultural events and exhibitions, cultural and environmental resources, sustainable tourism, communication networks, multimedia), hospitality (*incoming*, hosting, hotel and other accommodation, restaurants), mobility (tour operators, transport) and public services (infrastructures and local development).
- By private enterprises and cooperatives, no-profit associations, public-private organisations, enterprises and other public bodies in the sector, local, regional and national administrations, international development cooperation.

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## 2.4. Management and Services Design

The MSc in Service Science and Services Management is aimed at educating professionals and managers willing to operate in services companies in a public and private context.

This two-year program is organised in a series of lectures, guest speeches and practical activities aimed at providing:

- theoretical and methodological tools specific to the social, legal, statistical, economic and organizational contexts;
- ability to evaluate and treat economic and social data by means of adequate IT systems, to describe, interpret and explain events and economic processes typical of local, national and international contexts, using both economic and social methods and models;
- skills necessary to plan, manage and solve decision problems typical of specific services industries both in a private and public setting.

### *Course of study*

MAGES has been created thanks to the cooperation and joint work of three Departments of University of Milan-Bicocca: the Department of Law, the Department of Sociology and Social research, the Department of Statistics.

The joint and continuous effort of faculty members from these three Departments has led to the creation of a personalised and interactive training program. Traditional teaching methods are in fact combined with case discussions, simulations and interactive teaching techniques with a constant involvement of external service industry experts and managers.

A specific attention is dedicated to experiential learning and labs where participants deal with project management and problem solving issues identified by companies.

### *Employment opportunities*

The MSc MAGES is aimed at training:

- professionals able to assume managerial responsibilities in different positions within companies and to offer both producer and consumer services to institutions, companies and individuals;
- specialists in management and control in private companies and public administrations;
- specialists in economic science, in managing market relationships, and in personnel and organizational management;
- legal experts in companies and public institutions;
- statistical services experts and research officers;

- management and organisational consultants.

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### 3. Masters (MA First Level)

#### 3.1. Entertainment, Enterprise, Society

Aim of this-one year master is to offer renewed cultural and professional training for entertainment professionals. This need emerged from demand expressed directly by bodies and enterprises active in this sector. Public and private enterprises for theatrical and musical production, and relative public funding bodies, currently face an inadequate training market, held back by this sector's bureaucratic logics. The change of perspective that is currently underway requires the introduction, at different professional levels, of people equipped with up to date knowledge and skills.

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### 3.2. Sport Management, Marketing and Society (MA)

This Master aims to equip students with advanced professional skills and managerial competences, suitable for the management needs of sport organisations and other enterprises directly or indirectly associated with them.

The setting up of this university master derived from a growing need to align the training of managers in sport organisations with the increase in the complexity of the “sport system” at the national and international level. The intersection of organisational, normative, managerial and cultural abilities and knowledge characteristic of this master requires students to act within the “sport system” after in depth analysis, in a strategic way, able to integrate the various sectors of the sport field.

This master offers the opportunity to develop a critical analysis of socio-economic, managerial and cultural aspects of sport, including the examination of different organisation and research experiences at various levels.

Given the specificity and uniqueness of this master, its contents will allow to favour the development of the main technical knowledge relative to:

- Organisation and management of sport in the private sector (agonistic sport, competitive sport, social sport in sporting societies, federations, bodies, leagues, etc.) or in the public sector (“sport for all”, events with local authorities, etc.).
- Organisation and management of sport events at various levels.
- Knowledge of relevant juridical, legal and financial aspects.
- Knowledge related to the safety of structures and of their users.
- Knowledge of new technologies (new media, Internet, etc.).
- Sport communication.
- Contacts with sponsors, marketing actors, mass-media.

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### 3.3. Communication of Science and Sustainable Innovation

The master lasts two years and is open to graduate students holding BA university degrees. It is focussed on the so-called *third mission* of the University, which means the communication of knowledge, research and innovation beyond disciplinary boundaries and formal education.

The master offers a specific programme for those students who are already trained in the area of both natural and human/ social sciences and are interested in advancing their theoretical and empirical knowledge about science communication on the basis of advanced and innovative contemporary researches.

The master is aimed at training new professionals able to handle communication tools and to promote a new kind of citizenship in the *knowledge society*. Therefore, different events on the meaning of science and its communication are organised with the aim to discuss the hottest issues and controversies on the agenda setting.

The master starts the first semester of each academic year with lectures and labs. A 500 hours stage organised in collaboration with our partners, completes the Master during the second year.

*Partners:* medias and communication agencies, science centers, museums, innovation Districts, regional ARPAs, public and private organizations.

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### **3.4. Health Systems, Traditional and Non-Conventional Medicine**

This one-year master has the aim at providing to participants - who have been already trained in issues related to health systems - a specific theoretical knowledge and practical tools, which can contribute to integrate economic and management aspects with clinical issues related to care and non-conventional medicine.

The masters provides tools for the development of quantitative and qualitative analysis related to health problematic, contributes to evaluate health system at the regional, national and international levels and is interested in the study of health inequalities. It focuses on person centred medicine, traditional and non-conventional systems of health system, following the new demand of care. Moreover, it is aimed at provideing tools for the development of managerial skills in key roles and in planning, programming, monitoring and evaluating research, within the complex management of health services and nursing research.

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- Web site: [www.master-sistemisanitari-medicinenonconvenzionali.org](http://www.master-sistemisanitari-medicinenonconvenzionali.org)



### 3.5. *Communicating Sustainable Tourism*

This one-year Master aims at providing students both communication skills and the tools for projecting complex strategies of sustainable development. In particular the Master envisages a learning process based on different communication media (traditional/written, photography, new media). The teaching activity will be carried out both by academics and by professionals. The main objective of the Master is to offer to students both the scientific and the professional perspectives in relation to the skills and strategies for the multimedia communication of tourism.

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- Web site: [www.masterturismosostenibile.com](http://www.masterturismosostenibile.com)

### 3.6. International Business Development (MAIB) (Taught in English)

The master in International Business Development (MAIB) is aimed at offering students the opportunity to become experts in the field of International Business. It is therefore a full-time Triple Credential Program in partnership with Canadian and Indian Universities: Centennial College (Toronto, Canada) and the Alliance University (Bangalore, India).

MAIB is a unique MA program, interested in providing a cutting-edge international business education, where students will be sensitised to learning, living and working in a global environment, with special attention to the inter-cultural skills required.

MAIB offers 3 simultaneous degrees achieved in 18 months, with a total of 120 credits, with the option to obtain a fourth degree, i.e. an Italian Laurea Magistrale (MSc) by adding further exams and therefore University Training Credits (CFU). Being an internationally recognised qualification, MAIB thus offers the opportunity to work in Canada.

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## 4. Doctoral programmes

Doctoral programmes in social sciences - lasting three years - aim at gaining skills to carry out highly qualified research activities.

Holders of an MSc or graduates under the former Italian University system may enter a doctoral programme in order to gain a Ph.D. degree.

Admission to the programme, covered by doctoral fellowships, follows a competition.

Given the international character of research activities of the Department, doctoral students frequently spend training and research periods abroad.

The Department of Sociology and Social Research hosts two doctoral programmes:

- **Applied Sociology and Methodology for Social Research**
- **URBEUR - QUA\_SI Information Society**

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## 4.1. Sociology and Methodology for Social Research

The Doctorate in Applied Sociology is a three-year program, based on two curricula devoted to: 1. Sociology and Methodology in Social Research; 2. Social Work.

The following Departments cooperate actively with the Doctorate: the Department of Social and Political Studies of the University of Milan, and the Department of Social Research of the University of Eastern Piedmont.

The aim of the Ph.D. course is to homogenise students' knowledge about sociological issues in the first year and to design in the second and third year specific research trajectories for each student.

The first year is based on different teaching units. The first is an introductory unit and focuses on theoretical and epistemological aspects. The second unit relates to sociological analysis and in particular to a comparative study of the most significant dimensions of contemporary societies (i.e., family, education, training and vocational systems, cultural and media systems, economy and the labour market, welfare and political systems, local governance and administration, social stratification systems). The third unit of teaching refers to methodology and methods in social research and is based on lectures, seminars and practical exercises. This unit is aimed at increasing students' awareness and skills, so they are equipped able to: learn different methods and methodologies; develop both quantitative and qualitative social research projects; to collect, organise and analyse quantitative and qualitative data; to use complex software. The fourth unit of teaching aims at connecting what is learned in the previous two units, developing comparatively critical analyses about significant empirical studies, concerning in particular the issues of inequality and social change.

The following two years of the Ph.D. program are essentially devoted to specialisation of the candidate, who has to participate in research groups in the Department or other universities involved in the course as well as advanced seminars and conferences at the national and international levels.

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## 4.2. URBEUR - QUA\_SI Information Society

The Ph.D. Programme in Urban and Information Studies is a European doctoral programme that is networked with a number of outstanding European universities: SciencesPo (Paris), London School of Economics (London), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin), King's College (London), Universitat de Barcelona (Barcelona), Katholieke Universiteit (Leuven).

The URBEUR - QUA\_SI European doctoral programme aims to serve as a benchmark for excellence in urban and information studies, contributing to develop scientific and professional skills and expertise in the area of concern. Special emphasis is placed on the acquisition of interdisciplinary skills.

Intensive teaching classes and seminars are designed to provide:

- in-depth knowledge of social science topics, focusing in particular on new theoretical and research perspectives in urban sociology, the transformations of local and national welfare systems, processes of globalisation and their impact on cities, new inequalities, urban segregation, urban policies, the impact of new technologies on daily life, social innovation and networks, environment, space and society.

- advanced quantitative and qualitative methodological skills, suitable to developing territorial comparative research;

- communication skills in order to be able to perform professionally in a global environment.

Co-tutorship and joint degrees as well as exchanges and stays with partner universities are encouraged.

The majority of classes are taught in English.

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