

GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1ST LEVEL

MASTER'S DEGREE
EDITION XI A.Y. 2025 – 2026

PRESENTATION

The Master's in Global Economics and Social Affairs (GESAM) is organized by Ca' Foscari University in collaboration with the Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO).

The main goal of GESAM, with its contacts with international organizations, multinationals and other universities and academies in many countries worldwide, is to prepare a new generation of leaders for the global market. The Master's Programme is designed to stand out for the interdisciplinary nature of the themes examined with the aim of exploring the many interactions between the global economy and social justice, in order to provide students with a key to interpret and manage complex phenomena involving multiple and composite variables, which have become more prominent in the face of the economic and pandemic crisis. The scope of analysis is therefore focused on the study of globalization and its effects on economic processes and legal systems, with the aim of identifying possible solutions and the most effective strategies for managing the phenomena associated with it, in order to combine economic growth and sustainable development. The Master's programme adopts an integrated and multidisciplinary educational approach, hosting professors and experts from the academic, institutional, and economic worlds from all over the globe. The classroom training activities will be complemented by study projects, research, conferences, seminars, and, to complete the teaching, a 300-hour internship in Italy or abroad, at institutions, companies, research centers, or NGOs.

OBJECTIVES

The Master's Programme thus aims to provide the tools – a sort of interpretative key – needed to understand global scenarios and their dynamics, which necessarily play out at the level of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

SYLLABUS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MARKET GLOBALIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

The module introduces students to the fundamental themes of the GESAM Master's Programme, examining the challenges that sustainable development, globalization and digitalization pose for global society, from an economic, social and legal perspective. The transformation of business models in the light of the dynamics caused by the internationalization of markets and artificial intelligence create new challenges for institutions and businesses, resulting in the need to prepare professionals to interpret today's complexity using integrated approaches. This first part of the programme aims to lay the groundwork for further study, highlighting the actors, tools and dynamics at play in global society from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Course hours: 60

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The module aims to define the economic, political and sociological context of the relationships between global economics and social affairs. It will focus specifically on the various aspects of global governance, elements of the context, criticalities and tendencies; the theme of the empowerment, legitimisation and efficacy of global institutions such as the World Bank, United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, ILO, etc.; together with models of cooperation/harmonisation between institutional parties in the global space (international and regional) interpreted from a perspective which considers the teachings of the past, the present and, above all, future evolution.

Course hours: 60

GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The module will study the constituent elements of global law and the most recent trends, exploring the problems associated with competition between legal systems, the conflict between global uniformity and national differences, the coexistence of different global regulatory regimes and their sectoral aspects, competition between global, regional and national rules and regulations, and lastly, the criticalities inherent in identifying competent bodies responsible for resolving legislative disputes. Particular focus will be given to the themes of arbitration from both a theoretical and practical point of view (classroom simulation of arbitration) and anti-money laundering.

Course hours: 40

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SOCIAL CLAUSES

The module explores the dynamics of international trade with regard to both the GATT-WTO system and the bilateral and multilateral aspect of commercial relations between countries. It focuses on the need to reflect on the relationship between free and fair trade by examining trade agreements at the regional and international level and the use of social clauses to promote social justice and fundamental social rights.

Course hours: 40

LABOUR MARKET IN THE ERA OF DIGITALIZATION

The module is dedicated to business and business models with a focus on internationalisation, innovation and digitalisation processes in view of the transformations caused by sustainable corporate governance. The themes examined include: sustainable management of human resources; sustainable corporate governance; innovation and climate change; business networks and new markets; management and marketing of international companies. It will include classroom analysis of corporate experiences and case studies.

Course hours: 90

GLOBAL LABOUR LAW

The module involves a week of lessons at the ILO headquarters in Geneva and participation in the International Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law to take place at Ca' Foscari in May. The module is dedicated to analysing and understanding the processes involved in drawing up international standards and the dynamics behind cooperation between states on the themes of the protection of workers and promotion of social justice. The aim is to offer students an opportunity to gain inside knowledge of the workings of an international organization, in this specific case, the ILO (lessons will therefore be taught by ILO managers and officials on the institution's premises) and to examine the themes of employment in the age of digitalisation and global value chains, and those related to social protection needs from a comparative viewpoint, also in light of the dynamics caused by climate change.

Course hours: 80

DURATION AND ACADEMIC CREDITS (CFUs)

The Master's has a duration of one year and consists of:

- **370 hours of blended coursework**
- **300 hours of internship** (participants already working in the sector may apply to have their work count in lieu of the internship)
- **1,500 total hours of study**, including individual study and preparation of a final thesis
- **60 CFUs** awarded

QUALIFICATION ISSUED

Students who attend the didactic activities, complete the internship and pass the intermediate and final examinations will be awarded the qualification of **first-level Master's degree in Global Economics and Social Affairs (GESAM)**.

After evaluating the student's previous career and in compliance with the access restrictions set by the individual courses and degree programs, the credits acquired at the end of the Master's may be recognized for enrollment in the Degree Programme in [Comparative International](#) Relations at Ca' Foscari University. Interested students can write to campus.linguistico@unive.it at any time for further information or (according to the deadlines indicated on the page <https://www.unive.it/pag/13136/>), to request the credit recognition form.

COURSE PERIOD	MARCH 2026 – MARCH 2027
COURSE CALENDAR	<p>The GESAM Master's Programme includes five weeks of full-time online lessons (from March 16th to April 17th 2026), from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday.</p> <p>March 16th is scheduled for the Inauguration Ceremony of the GESAM Master. The educational program of the Master also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After verifying the feasibility, Summer school at the International Labour Organization in Geneva (one full-time week in May/September 2026) - An internship of 300 hours in Italy or abroad in international or national institutions, NGOs, enterprises or research centres (participants already professionally engaged in the sector can replace the internship with the preparation of a targeted project work focused on the activities of interest). - The International Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law in Venice (full-time for one week in June 2026) - Preparation of a 50 page thesis in English, with the support of a university tutor. The discussion of the thesis will take place in December 2026 (1st call) or February 2027 (2nd call).
TEACHING METHOD	Blended
LANGUAGE	English
ATTENDANCE	Attendance is compulsory for 80% of total hours and will be monitored by the master's staff. Award of the degree is conditional on completion of activities, including any intermediate examinations, internship and final examination. Students who work in a sector relevant to the Master's degree may apply to have their work counted in lieu of the internship.
COURSE LOCATION	<p>Ca' Foscari Challenge School</p> <p>Via della Libertà 12, 30175 Venezia (Vega Park)</p> <p>Online</p>
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	<p>FIRST LEVEL</p> <p>/ Undergraduate degree awarded under system prior to that introduced by M.D. 509/99</p> <p>/ Three-year Bachelor's degree</p> <p>/ Equivalent foreign university qualification, following approval from the Board of Professors</p> <p>/ Self-certification by the student of knowledge of English (indicative level: B2, spoken and written)</p>
ADMISSION APPLICATION	<p>Candidates must fill in the on-line admission application, the details of which are defined under article 3 of the University's Call for Applications. Only applications accompanied by all the required documentation will be considered. The Call for Applications and relative attachments can be downloaded from the Master's web page.</p> <p>Please refer to the Master's Programme profile for information about applying for any scholarships available for the programme.</p>

SELECTION PROCEDURE

A specially appointed commission will assess the candidates through analysis of their CVs and qualifications, and a motivational letter. Within the framework of the selection, the evaluation criteria will be: academic qualification, professional experience, knowledge relating to the field of the master's programme and motivation.

GRADUATE ELIGIBILITY

Students about to graduate may also be admitted, provided they qualify within one month from the start of the course. In this case, the enrolment in the Master's may only be finalised after the valid qualification for admission has been awarded.

AVAILABLE PLACES

Maximum number of available places: **30***

**The Master's course will only be activated if at least 15 students have enrolled.*

COURSE FEES:

€ 4,000

/ 1st instalment by **23/02/2026**: / € 2,016 (inclusive of duty stamp of € 16)*
/ 2nd instalment by **28/05/2026**: € 2,000

** The cost of the revenue stamp is not refundable.*

SELECTION FEE:

€ 36 (inclusive of duty stamp of € 16)

Not refundable, to be paid **by 16/02/2026**, when submitting the application of admission, through PagoPA.

Failure to pay the selection fee will result in exclusion from the selection process and from admission to the Master's Programme.

STUDY SUPPORT

Where study grants are available to totally or partially cover the enrolment fees, up-to-date information is available on the Master's website. Loans are available from the University's partner banks (for more information: <http://www.unive.it/pag/8560/>).

ENROLMENT

ADMISSION APPLICATION SUBMISSION (online procedure, Call for Applications, art. 3) **by 16/02/2026**

SELECTION RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT **by 19/02/2026**

ENROLLMENT COMPLETION (online procedure, Call for Applications, art. 6) **by 23/02/2026**

START OF DIDACTIC PROGRAMME: **March 2026**

DIRECTOR

Prof. Vania Brino

FOR INFORMATION

For general information concerning the master's programme, enrolment procedures, access methods and internships, please contact the Administration Office. The coordinator of the Master's Programme is available by appointment for clarification regarding the syllabus and programme.



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**Challenge
School**

Government

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