



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26
MASTER DEGREE
GLOBAL POLITICS AND SOCIETY (GPS) (Classe LM-62 R)
Enrolled 2025/26 academic year

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	LM-62 R
Degree title:	Dottore Magistrale
Length of course:	2 years
Credits required for admission:	180
Total number of credits required to complete programme:	120
Years of course currently available:	1st
Access procedures:	Open, subject to entry requirements
Course code:	BBI

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Study Programme

Prof. Manlio Cinalli

Tutors - Faculty

Prof. Enzo Colombo (academic tutor)
Prof.ssa Lisa Dorigatti (tutor for Erasmus programme and Double Degree)
Prof.ssa Ilaria Madama (academic tutor)
Prof.ssa Orsola Razzolini (tutor for internships)

Degree Course E-mail

Email: info.gps@unimi.it

Services for students with disabilities

<https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/services-students-disabilities>

Services for students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)

<https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/services-students-specific-learning-disabilities-sld>

Student Registrar

<https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/welcome-desk-informastudenti>

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

Global Politics and Society (GPS) is a two-year master's degree programme, entirely taught in English. Students of this programme will benefit from a multidisciplinary training of the highest quality, aimed at preparing highly-qualified professionals, able to understand and interpret complex social and political dynamics arising in the wake of globalization, within a scenario of increased international interdependences. Core modules will bridge cutting-edge concepts and skills necessary to address key contemporary questions, extending from global geopolitics dynamics to the transformation of societies, from developments in international political economy to changing patterns of social inequalities. Students will

then have the opportunity to strengthen their preparation in specific thematic areas, choosing from a wide range of options made possible thanks to the several lines of research that characterize the Department of Social and Political Sciences, which stands out as one of the best performing department for social and political sciences research in Italy.

During the last decades, globalization processes have been challenging the functioning of western societies across a wide range of domains: from political participation and representation to welfare states' structures and labour market regulation; from citizenship's rights and migration, to the threats concerning novel forms of discrimination and exclusion. The complexity, as well as the interdependent nature of those challenges, require professionals able to understand and interpret, in a way that is at the same time rigorous, theoretically informed and methodologically sound, how and in which directions

globalization processes are affecting the functioning of contemporary societies and polities.

The master's degree in Global Politics and Society addresses the above-mentioned task, relying on a genuinely multidisciplinary approach, developed through a coherent path consisting of:

- a core package of six compulsory courses - meant to provide an advanced training in the fields of political science and sociology, complemented by key competences in the area of law and economics (54 credits);
- five elective courses, that allow students to strengthen their competences in specific thematic areas, within a rich offer of options (36 credits);
- other additional elective and optional activities (15 credits);
- a research dissertation (15 credits).

Expected learning outcomes

GPS aims at providing students with the theoretical tools and empirical knowledge necessary for an in-depth and critical understanding of the functioning of contemporary societies and polities. To this end, the master's programme will offer an advanced training in the fields of political science and sociology, complemented with key competences in the area of law, economics and political philosophy.

The programme is designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding:

By the end of their studies, GPS students will have acquired an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the most recent theoretical developments in various disciplinary fields, ranging from political science and sociology to law, economics and political philosophy, with a view to seize crucial developments for ongoing public debates and policy-decisions. The acquired knowledge and understanding will allow for critical and creative thinking in relation to the global challenges affecting the functioning of contemporary societies and polities, including migration, wars, climate change, poverty and economic recession.

Applying knowledge and understanding:

By the end of their studies, GPS students must have developed the ability to apply the knowledge and understanding acquired to:

- the analysis of global politics and society, identifying major global crises and challenges to be tackled as well as where major opportunities stand for progress in a global world;
- the elaboration of policymaking in all its various stages, with a view to address global crises, challenges and opportunities.

Making judgements:

By the end of their studies, GPS students must be able to make accurate assessments of relevant reasons behind various recipes to address global crises, challenges and opportunities, including different normative understandings about what are the best practices and good standards.

Communication skills:

By the end of their studies, GPS students will be comfortable with the technical languages of different disciplines related to global politics and society. In particular, the programme is aimed at the acquisition of soft skills, such as teamwork, the ability to present in public (including both expert and non-expert audiences) and effectively discuss topics related to political and social dynamics in a globalized scenario.

Learning skills:

By the end of their studies, GPS students will have gained full confidence with use of bibliographic and documentary sources, allowing for further individual development and specialization beyond the life of their studentship within the GPS programme (whether this is about entering the labour market or otherwise continuing tertiary education by undertaking a Ph.D. programme).

Professional profile and employment opportunities

Analyst of social and political phenomena in the global scenario

Function in a work context:

Graduates in Global Politics and Society will be able to analyse - contextualizing them in the global scenario - complex socio-economic and political phenomena that characterize the relational and institutional structure of societies contemporary and pertain to different areas of public policy. The areas of expertise include: the analysis of the transformations induced by the processes of globalization and their own implications both on a global and local scale,

the dynamics of discrimination and empowerment processes of discriminated social categories, welfare and anti-poverty policies, labour policies, rights humans.

Skills associated with the function:

Through the educational path, graduates acquire broad critical knowledge of the main social theories of the globalization processes, contemporary dynamics relating to democratization and cooperation processes and development, of intercultural relations and transformation of citizenship, also in relation to social and public rights Work. He also has solid methodological skills, both qualitative and quantitative. The profile of magistrate graduates is characterized by an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the social dimensions, political, juridical, economic and cultural aspects of globalization processes, both as regards relations international and local effects.

The master's graduate in Global Politics and Society therefore possesses advanced knowledge and skills for understand and evaluate the functioning of political institutions in different socio-economic contexts and the implications generated by processes that occur on a global scale.

Employment opportunities:

Global Politics and Society master graduates will be able to pursue several professional careers in one multiplicity of sectors, proposing themselves as specialists capable of interpreting political, economic and social issues in the global scenario and to develop medium and long-term strategic plans: 1) in the field of research applied, in the field of social and political sciences; 2) at national and international institutions and organizations non-governmental; 3) in public, private or third sector companies operating on the global market; 4) in the sectors information, publishing and cultural industries.

By way of example, they may apply to hold positions of responsibility in public, private or third party bodies sector, inserted in national and international contexts or in the global market, including: public bodies and governmental bodies (Ministries, General Directorates, institutions and bodies responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of policies social and labour, anti-discrimination policies and cooperation and development policies (both local and international); community and transnational bodies (multilateral agencies of the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, the OECD, etc.); non-governmental and third sector bodies engaged in subsidiary actions of implementation of social and labour, cultural, educational and development cooperation policies.

Master's graduates in Global Politics and Society will also acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to access second level masters and/or to continue training at doctoral level, in Italy and abroad.

Initial knowledge required

The programme is intended for top-level international students.

Admission is based on academic excellence. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree or equivalent; a strong interest and/or previous studies in political science, sociology or related subjects; a sound knowledge of English language.

The evaluation process will take into consideration the applicants bachelor degree score (or equivalent) as well as the entrance test. The calendar of this entrance test, as well as all details about its delivery, will be posted every year by early spring on the UNIMI website (<https://www.unimi.it/it/corsi/corsi-di-laurea/global-politics-and-society-gps>) as well as on the specific GPS website (<https://gps.cdl.unimi.it/en>). Candidates who do not pass the entrance test can sit again the test the following year.

Applicants who obtained their bachelor's degrees from Italian Universities are eligible for admission only if they hold a "laurea" degree belonging to any one of the "classi di laurea" (degree classes) listed below under the heading "Note 1".

Applicants who completed their undergraduate studies in foreign Universities are eligible for admission if they hold a bachelor's degree in political science, sociology, economics or other broadly related subjects (from history to legal studies, philosophy, and so on), provided that their bachelor's degree may be regarded as equivalent to one of the Italian "laurea" degrees listed below (Note 1).

L-05 Filosofia;

L-11 Lingue e Culture Moderne; L-12 Mediazione Linguistica;

L-14 Scienze dei Servizi Giuridici;

L-16 Scienze dell'Amministrazione dell'Organizzazione; L- 18 Scienze dell'Economia e della Gestione Aziendale; L-20 Scienze della Comunicazione;

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-39 Scienze del Servizio Sociale;

L-40 Sociologia;

L-41 Statistica;

L-42 Storia.

Non-native English speakers must be able to demonstrate their knowledge of English. At least a B2 level is required. The possessing of a IELTS or TOEFL will be taken into account. Candidates can also prove their knowledge of English if they have at least one year of university studies at institutions where English is the main language.

The GPS admissions committee will ascertain the B2-level requirement.

Compulsory attendance

Attendance is highly recommended

Internship criteria

GPS students can rely on a tutor who can be contacted at info.gps@unimi.it.

As regards more specific information on the Erasmus+ programme, on the Double Degree as well as on internships and other mobility programmes, students will need to contact the dedicated tutors.

Degree programme final exams

Having earned at least 105 credits for the learning activities contemplated by his/her study plan, a student may be admitted to undertake the final exam leading to the award of the master's degree.

A total of 15 credits are reserved to the design, preparation and writing up of the master's dissertation.

The formal assignment of these credits can only take place at the moment when the dissertation is completed and discussed and the final exam is passed.

The final exam consists in the submission and public discussion, in front of a committee, of a master's dissertation.

The master's dissertation is an original piece of work, written by the candidate under the guidance of a supervisor.

Notes

Among the electives, those who do not hold an Italian high school diploma or degree can obtain 3 credits in Additional language skills: Italian by demonstrating A2 level in Italian per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This level can be assessed in one of the following ways:

- by submitting a certificate of A2 or higher level issued no more than three years prior to the date of submission. You will find the list of language certificates recognized by the University at: <https://www.unimi.it/en/node/349/>). The language certificate must be uploaded through the dedicated platform;

- by an entry-level test administrated by SLAM that can be taken only once and is compulsory for all students who do not have a valid language certificate. Those who fail to reach A2 level will have to attend one or more than one 60-hour Italian course(s) geared to their level. Those who do not take the entry-level test or fail to pass the end-of-course test after six attempts will have to obtain language certification privately in order to earn the 3 credits of Additional language skills: Italian. As an alternative, they can modify their course programme by choosing a different elective.

EXPERIENCE OF STUDY ABROAD AS PART OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Milan supports international mobility by providing its students with the opportunity to spend study and internship periods abroad. It is a unique chance to enrich your educational path in a new exciting environment.

The agreements entered into by the University with over 300 universities from the 27 EU member countries under the European Erasmus+ programme allow regularly enrolled students to carry out part of their studies at one of the partner universities or to undertake internships at companies, training and research centres and other organisations.

Similar international mobility opportunities are provided outside Europe, through agreements with a number of prestigious institutions.

The University of Milan is a member of the 4EU+ European University Alliance that brings together eight public multidisciplinary universities: University of Milan, Charles University of Prague, Heidelberg University, Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, Sorbonne University of Paris, University of Copenhagen, University of Geneva, and University of Warsaw. The 4EU+ Alliance offers integrated educational pathways and programmes to promote the international mobility of students (physical, blended and virtual).

Study and internships abroad

The degree in Global Politics and Society offers the opportunity to study at several European universities, where students will be able to attend lectures and obtain credits for their degree.

Furthermore, GPS is part of a prestigious inter-university network: the network of European Masters in Labour Studies – EMLS. The other partners of the network are: Université catholique de Louvain, Universität Bremen, Universität Trier, University of Warwick, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Université Toulouse, University College Dublin, Università degli Studi di Firenze, University of Amsterdam, Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration of Romania, Univerza v Ljubljani. Each partner has agreed to recognize the teaching and evaluation methods of partner institutions as well as the equivalence of their curricula. Students may attend a semester in one of the EMLS partner universities. Accordingly, any examination passed at any university in the network is fully and automatically recognized.

GPS students may also obtain a double degree, jointly recognized by the University of Milan and the University of Bremen, following a specific path, focused on welfare and employment matters, and attending the first year at University of Bremen.

How to participate in Erasmus mobility programs

The students of the University of Milan can participate in mobility programmes, through a public selection procedure.

Ad hoc commissions will evaluate:

- Academic career
- the candidate's proposed study programme abroad
- his/her foreign language proficiency
- the reasons behind his/her application

Call for applications and informative meetings

The public selection for Erasmus+ mobility for study generally begins around February each year with the publication of a call for applications specifying destinations and requirements. Regarding the Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeship, the University of Milan usually publishes two calls a year enabling students to choose a destination defined by an inter-institutional agreement or to find a traineeship position on their own.

The University organises informative meetings to illustrate mobility opportunities and rules for participation.

Erasmus+ scholarship

The European Union grants the winners of the Erasmus+ programme selection a scholarship to contribute to their mobility costs, which may be supplemented by the University funding for disadvantaged students.

Language courses

Students who pass the selections for mobility programmes can benefit from intensive foreign language courses offered each year by the University Language Centre (SLAM).

<https://www.unimi.it/en/node/8/>

Learn more at <https://www.unimi.it/en/node/274/>

For assistance, please contact:

International Mobility Office

Via Santa Sofia 9 (second floor)

Tel. 02 503 13501-12589-13495-13502

Contacts: InformaStudenti;

Student Desk booking through InformaStudenti

1st COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Comparative political economy and the welfare state	12	(6) SPS/04, (6) SECS-P/02
Global social dynamics	9	SPS/07
Global social inequalities	9	SPS/09
Globalization and cultural diversity	6	SPS/08
Multi-level legal system	9	IUS/07
	Total compulsory credits	45
Elective courses		
Students must earn 18 credits by selecting two of the following alternatives		
Comparative politics and development	9	SPS/04
Economic of social regulation of global workforce	9	SPS/09
Global citizenship	9	SPS/07
Globalization, social justice and human rights	9	SPS/08
Human Rights at Work in International and Comparative Law	9	IUS/07
International migration and immigration policies	9	SPS/10
2nd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2026/27) Core/compulsory courses/activities common		
Learning activity	Ects	Sector
Global politics	9	SPS/04
	Total compulsory credits	9
Elective courses		
Students must earn 18 credits by selecting two of the following alternatives		
Consumer culture	6	SPS/08
Datafied society	6	SPS/08
Employment, inequalities and discrimination in the global labour market	6	(3) IUS/07, (3) SPS/09
Gender theory and social issues	6	SPS/07
Global challenges to democracy	6	SPS/04
Global public policy and the knowledge society	6	SPS/04
Globalization and labor markets	6	SPS/09
Journalism, media and politics	6	SPS/08
Liberal Rights and Social Justice	6	IUS/20
Social justice in a global world	6	SPS/01
The welfare state and social innovation	6	SPS/04
Value change and global societies	6	SPS/07
Further elective courses		
Student must earn 6 credits by selecting among the following activities: Internship (6 or 3 ECTS), Additional/advanced Language skills (3 ECTS) and Laboratories and other activities (3 ECTS)		
Additional Language Skills: Italian (3 ECTS)	3	ND
Advanced Language Skills: French (3 ECTS)	3	ND
Advanced Language Skills: German (3 ECTS)	3	ND
Advanced Language Skills: Spanish (3 ECTS)	3	ND
Data lab	3	SPS/04

Dissertation lab	3	SPS/07
Lab. Qualitative methods and empirical research: space	3	SPS/10
Students must earn 9 credits for elective activities		
Among these activities, students can choose also "Research methods in social and political science"		
Research methods in social and political science	9	(3) SPS/04, (3) SPS/07, (3) SPS/09
<i>End of course requirements</i>		
	15	ND
Total compulsory credits	15	