UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27
MASTER DEGREE
POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PPPA) (Classi LM-62 R/LM-78 R)
Enrolled in 2025/26 academic year

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	LM-62/78 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:	2nd
Access procedures:	Open, subject to entry requirements
Course code:	BBJ

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Study Programme

Professor Nicola Riva

Tutors - Faculty

Academic tutors

Professor Biancamaria Cepollaro
Professor Annalisa Ceron
Professor Beatrice Magni

Erasmus+ and international mobility tutor

Professor Luca Ciabarri

Tutor for internships, workshops and other types of activities

Professor Nicola Riva

Degree Course website

https://pppa.cdl.unimi.it

Contact:

Email: pppa@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

Via S. Sofia 9/1 - 20122 Milano (MI) Italia https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/welcome-desk-informastudenti

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

The Master in Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (PPPA), offered jointly by the University of Milan and Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, is a highly interdisciplinary programme that offers advanced and comprehensive training in both political science and philosophy. This training is specifically designed to provide students with the solid academic preparation and the analytical tools necessary to critically interpret complex public issues and to address the political

questions they raise. The programme provides students with an awareness of the challenges and opportunities associated with current social trends, and with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand them and to propose effective and ethically appropriate interventions to address the political problems arising from such trends.
By the end of the programme, students will be familiar with the methods of political and social science used to study and explain political and social processes, as well as the philosophical methods of conceptual, logical and argumentative analysis and critical evaluation.
To achieve these learning objectives, the study plan includes a common core of compulsory courses that provide advanced knowledge of the basic concepts, methods and theories of political science and political, moral and social philosophy, together with an understanding of some of the economic, legal and social challenges of our time. Common courses combine different disciplinary perspectives and approaches, providing the common background necessary for elective courses, while helping students to develop strong argumentation skills and knowledge of the epistemic status and methods of empirical research in political sciences.
Elective courses cover a wide range of topics that are at the centre of public debate and raise important political issues. These topics include:
- The trends and challenges that characterise contemporary democracies, both domestically and in an international context characterised by increasing instability and new forms of conflict.
- The opportunities and challenges posed by climate change and by developments in science and technology, with particular reference to biomedicine, information technology and neuroscience.
- The demographic and socio-cultural changes affecting contemporary societies and their management, with a focus on gender inequalities, cultural diversity and migration dynamics.
- The transformations of the contemporary economy and their impact on people's rights, the labour market, welfare systems and levels of social inequalities.

Expected learning outcomes

Students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding:
By the end of the programme, PPPA students will have acquired in-depth knowledge and understanding of recent theoretical developments in a range of disciplinary fields - from political, moral and legal theory to the political, economic and social sciences - combined with clear insights into the significance of such developments for public debate and policy-making. Graduates will be able to engage with a wide range of issues, including: political ideas and the ways in which individuals and groups define political issues; the functioning of political institutions and their role in relation to the economy and other social systems; structural and contingent transformations of the social order at the national, transnational and international levels and the political implications of such transformations; contemporary political challenges, including climate change, migration, pluralism, poverty and economic inequality, war, and the challenges posed by scientific and technological developments. The programme also aims to strengthen students' reasoning and argumentation skills and to provide them with methodological tools for empirical research.

Application of knowledge and understanding:
By the end of the programme, PPPA students will have developed the ability to apply their acquired knowledge and understanding to:
- Analyse complex political events, processes and situations, accurately reconstructing their genesis and evolutionary dynamics, and identifying the challenges and opportunities they present.
- Propose interventions to address political challenges and explain the rationale for these proposals.
- Compare and evaluate proposals for addressing political challenges against empirical standards of feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency, and ethical standards of goodness and rightness.

Making judgements:
By the end of the programme, PPPA students will be able to make judgements about important public issues and the ways in which they might be addressed, with a view to understanding the factual, ethical, political, moral and legal implications of these issues and the wider contexts in which they arise.

Communication skills:
By the end of the programme, PPPA students will have mastered the technical terminology of various disciplines and developed expository skills that will enable them to produce rigorous research projects, position papers and reports on complex issues of public concern. They will also be able to successfully present the results of empirical investigation and ethical reflection to both expert and non-expert audiences, and to participate in public debates on political issues.

Learning skills:
By the end of the programme, PPPA students will have acquired the ability to idependently locate and analyse reliable bibliographic and documentary sources. They will also be able to design an individual programme of study to keep their knowledge up to date, including with a view to further specialisation. Some PPPA students will also have acquired the study skills necessary to successfully complete a PhD programme, which could prepare them for a career in academia.

Professional profile and employment opportunities

Political adviser

Job description:
The political adviser analyses political, economic and social phenomena, highlighting their dynamics and paying attention to their medium- or long-term developments and their ethical implications; examines key issues in public debate and highlights the factors to be taken into account in addressing them; compares possible lines of intervention, taking into account both feasibility and effectiveness criteria as well as ethical issues; develops intervention proposals and advises on the development of medium- and long-term strategies in the light of the opportunities or problems associated with political, cultural, social and economic trends.
Professional skills:
The job requires: a multidisciplinary approach, including philosophical disciplines and political and social sciences; the ability to critically analyse complex political, economic and social phenomena and to grasp their dynamics, possible developments and the ethical issues they raise; the ability to analyse and interpret empirical data; argumentation skills; social skills (e.g. relational, communicative, organisational and managerial skills).
Employment opportunities:
Local, national and international public institutions; research centres of political parties and other political organisations, interest groups and trade associations, national and international non-governmental and third sector organisations.

Political science specialist

Job description:
The political scientist conducts research on political, economic and social phenomena; develops research projects; develops interpretative and explanatory hypotheses; collects and critically examines empirical data; writes research reports and informative and scientific publications; coordinates projects, research groups and activities aimed at disseminating research results at national, European or international level.
Professional skills:
The job requires: specialised knowledge of political, economic and sociological fields; ability to interpret complex political, economic and social phenomena from a multidisciplinary perspective, understanding their specificities, dynamics and implications in relation to issues of public interest; ability to analyse and interpret data using qualitative and quantitative methods; ability to develop rigorous research designs appropriate to the topics addressed; social skills (e.g. relational, communicative, organisational and managerial skills).
Employment opportunities:
Public or private organisations, institutions and research centres operating at local, national or international level. In addition, graduates who have obtained a sufficient number of credits in certain disciplinary areas will be able to participate in the national competition for secondary school teachers, in accordance with current legislation.

Philosophy specialist

Job description:
The philosophy specialist carries out research activities in the philosophical field; develops research projects; proposes interpretative hypotheses on the ethical issues raised by political, economic and social phenomena and/or scientific and technological developments; comparatively examines possible lines of intervention with regard to problems of public importance and proposes arguments and criteria to discriminate between the available options; writes research reports and informative and scientific publications; coordinates projects, research groups and activities aimed at disseminating research results at national, European or international level.
Professional skills:
The job requires: expertise in philosophy; a multidisciplinary set of skills enabling an understanding of complex political, economic and social phenomena and the ethical issues they raise; logical and argumentative skills; the ability to carry out philosophical analysis using a range of methods; the ability to develop rigorous research designs appropriate to the topics addressed; social skills (e.g. relational, communicative, organisational and managerial skills).
Employment opportunities:
Public or private organisations, institutions and research centres operating at local, national or international level. In addition, graduates who have obtained a sufficient number of credits in certain disciplinary areas will be able to participate in the national competition for secondary school teachers, in accordance with current legislation.

Internal consultant for companies, organisations and public and private institutions

Job description:
The internal consultant has high strategic, managerial and operational responsibilities; she/he coordinates working groups and carries out project management, work planning, communication and marketing activities.
Professional skills:
The job requires: multidisciplinary skills enabling the consultant to design broad strategies taking into account a variety of factors and to effectively coordinate working groups of professionals with different skills; ability to critically analyse and interpret political, cultural, social and economic trends; ability to anticipate and adapt; social skills (e.g. relational, communicative, organisational and managerial skills).
Employment opportunities:

Public administrations; public and private institutions, non-governmental and third sector organisations requiring professionals with strategic, management and communication skills; private companies at national, international or global level.

Cultural manager

Job description:
The cultural manager develops and coordinates cultural projects and initiatives; analyses the characteristics and trends of cultural demand; identifies and manages resources for the organisation of cultural initiatives; plans and manages training courses aimed at disseminating culture and current affairs, including to non-specialist audiences; collaborates in the preparation of training and information materials and in the creation of editorial projects.
Professional skills:
The job requires: multidisciplinary knowledge and a strong cultural awareness, enabling an understanding of the links between cultural phenomena and political, cultural, social and economic trends; analytical, forecasting and planning skills; social skills (e.g. relational, communicative, organisational and managerial skills).
Employment opportunities:
Communication, publishing, journalism and cultural industries in general; foundations, institutes and public and private organisations that carry out cultural projects and other activities for the dissemination of knowledge and culture.

Initial knowledge required

A Bachelor's degree or equivalent Italian or foreign qualification is required for admission.
All applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy (L-5 or equivalent Italian or foreign degree) or Political Science and International Relations (L-36 or equivalent Italian or foreign degree) will be considered for admission.
Candidates with a Bachelor?s degree or equivalent in other disciplines will only be considered for admission if they have completed at least 42 credits (ECTS or equivalent) in the disciplinary fields of M-FIL/02, M-FIL/03, M-FIL/04, M-FIL/05, M-FIL/06, SPS/01, SPS/02, SPS/04, SPS/07, SPS/08, SPS/09, SPS/10, SPS/11, IUS/07, IUS/08, IUS/09, IUS/10, IUS/13, IUS/14, IUS/20, IUS/21, M-DEA/01, M-STO/04, SECS-P/01, of which at least 12 in the disciplinary fields of M-FIL/03, SPS/01, SPS/02, SPS/04, IUS/20.

Proficiency in English at a B2 level or higher per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is required for admission.
The B2-level requirement will be ascertained by the University Language Centre (SLAM) upon admission as follows:
- Language certificate of B2 or higher level issued no more than three years before the date of admission application. You will find the list of language certificates recognized by the University at: https://www.unimi.it/en/node/39322. The certificate must be uploaded when submitting the online application;
- English level achieved during a University of Milan degree programme and certified by the University Language Centre (SLAM) no more than four years before the date of admission application, including levels based on language certificates submitted by the applicant during their Bachelor’s degree at the University of Milan. In this case the process is automatic, the applicant does not have to attach any certificates to the application;
- Entry test administrated by the University Language Centre (SLAM) according to the calendar published on the website: (https://www.unimi.it/en/node/39267/)
All those who fail to submit a valid certificate or do not meet the required proficiency level will be instructed during the admission procedure to take the Entry test.
Applicants who do not take or pass the Entry test will be required to obtain a language proficiency certificate recognized by the University (see https://www.unimi.it/en/node/39322) and deliver it to the SLAM via the InformaStudenti service by the deadline fixed for the master’s programme (https://www.unimi.it/en/node/39267/).
Applicants who do not meet the requirement by said deadline will not be admitted to the master's degree programme and may not sit any further tests.

Applications are assessed by an ad-hoc admission committee. Applicants may be invited to attend an online interview to assess whether they have the basic knowledge and skills required to successfully complete the programme.

Compulsory attendance

Attendance is not compulsory but highly recommended.

Internship criteria

PPPA students can gain up to 6 credits for further activities through internships.
Only internships activated through COSP - University Study and Career Guidance Service will be accepted.
The procedures for activating an internship are illustrated in the following links:
- for internships in Italy: https://www.unimi.it/en/study/traineeships-and- work/traineeships-and-internships/activating-curricular-internship.
- for internships abroad: https://www.unimi.it/en/international/study- abroad/traineeships-abroad/activating-internship-abroad.
As an alternative to curricular internships, students can earn 6 credits by:
- Acquiring advanced computer or language skills.

- Attending workshops, intensive courses and seasonal schools.

For more information on how to obtain the 6 credits for further activities, PPPA students can contact the dedicated tutor.

Degree programme final exams

Students must have obtained a minimum of 105 credits for the learning activities included in their study plan in order to be admitted to the final exam and receive their Master's degree.

For the final exam, which is worth 15 credits, students must design and write a Master's thesis, i.e. an original piece of work prepared under the guidance of a supervisor. The thesis can only be submitted with the approval of the supervisor. The 15 credits for the final exam are not formally awarded until the student has successfully defended the thesis before a graduation committee.

Notes

Students who do not know Italian are strongly advised to acquire knowledge of this language, which in the national context may be a condition for access to the employment and professional opportunities envisaged by the course.

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 http://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue;

- 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

In the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, PPPA has signed agreements with the following universities:

- Europa-Universität Flensburg (Germany)
- Heidelberg University (Germany)
- Leipzig University (Germany)
- Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
- University of Bayreuth (Germany)
- University of Bremen (Germany)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

PPPA also participates in the 4EU+ programme, which allows students to take online courses offered by the European universities that are part of the 4EU+ European University Alliance: https://4euplus.eu/4EU-1.html

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 (disactivated from academic year 2026/27) Core/compulsory courses/activities common			
Learning activity		**Ects**	**Sector**
Conflicts, Political Arrangements and Legitimacy		9	SPS/01
Critical Thinking and Argumentation		3	M-FIL/02
Empirical research in political sciences		3	SPS/04
Ethical Theory and Hard Choices		6	M-FIL/03
Political Order, Violence and Institutions		9	SPS/04
Rationality, Rules and Institutions		9	SECS-P/01
The Western tradition: moral and political values		12	M-FIL/06
	Total compulsory credits	51	
Elective courses			
Students must earn 6 credits by selecting 1 course from those listed below			
Economy and Society: past, present and perspectives		6	SPS/04
Labor Market and Inequalities		6	SPS/09
Liberal Rights and Social Justice		6	IUS/20
Students must earn 6 credits by selecting 1 course from those listed below			
Gender Theory and Social Issues		6	SPS/07
Migrations and Cultural Diversity		6	SPS/10
The Politics of Mobility, Displacement and Asylum		6	M-DEA/01
2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common			
Learning activity		**Ects**	**Sector**
Differences and Non-Discrimination: Rights in Action		6	IUS/07
The Welfare State and Social Innovation		6	SPS/04
	Total compulsory credits	12	
Elective courses			
Students must earn 6 credits by selecting 1 course from those listed below			
Climate Change: Ethics and Politics		6	M-FIL/03
Frontiers in Bioethics		6	M-FIL/03
Neuroethics and human enhancement		6	M-FIL/03
Reasoning with Data		6	M-FIL/02
Students must earn 6 credits by selecting 1 course from those listed below			
Dirty-Hands Politics: Theories and Practices		6	SPS/01
Global challenges to democracy		6	SPS/04
Justice and international affairs		6	SPS/01
Students must earn 6 credits choosing from advanced computer or Language skills, internships, workshops and other activities			

Additional Language Skills: Italian (3 ECTS)		3	NN
Advanced Language Skills: French (3 ECTS)		3	NN
Advanced Language Skills: German (3 ECTS)		3	NN
Advanced Language Skills: Spanish (3 ECTS)		3	NN
Qualitative Methods for Empirical Research		3	NN
Quantitative Methods for Empirical Research		3	NN
Further elective courses			
Students must earn 12 credits of electives (additional courses of their choice)			
End of course requirements			
Final Exam		15	NN
	Total compulsory credits	15	