UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26
BACHELOR
GEOGRAPHY, ENVIROMENMENT AND TERRITORY (Classe L-6 R)
Enrolled 2025/2026

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	L-6 R
Degree title:	Dottore
Length of course:	3 years
Total number of credits required to complete programme:	180
Years of course currently available:	1st
Access procedures:	Open, subject to completion of self-assessment test prior to enrolment
Course code:	CAG

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Study Programme

Prof.ssa Alice Giulia Dal Borgo

Tutors - Faculty

Tutor per l'orientamento / Academic guidance tutor
Prof. Valerio Bini, Prof. Nicola Rainisio
Tutor per stage e tirocini / Internship tutor
Prof.ssa Maristella Bergaglio
Tutor per la mobilità internazionale e l'Erasmus / Erasmus and international mobility tutor
Prof. Giuseppe Gambazza
Tutor per i piani di studio / Study plan tutor
Prof.ssa Eleonora Mastropietro
Tutor per trasferimenti / University and programme transfer tutor
Prof.ssa Eleonora Mastropietro

Academic services

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Student registrar

Via S. Sofia 9/1 - 20122 Milano (MI) Italia   https://www.unimi.it/it/studiare/servizi-gli-studenti/segreterie-informastudenti

Student tutor

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Prof. Valerio Bini   Email: valerio.bini@unimi.it

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

The Bachelor's degree programme in Geography, Environment and Territory aims to provide students with thorough knowledge and skills in physical and human geography, and the applications thereof, with a view to equip them for the

challenges posed by the sustainability goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

At the end of the three-year programme, graduates will have developed a solid theoretical and practical knowledge base, including proficiency in using advanced analytical methods and tools, allowing for a critical understanding of the complex processes regulating the Earth system. Thanks to this expertise, they will be able to thoroughly investigate the many factors influencing an area, in order to interpret environmental, social and cultural dynamics, and to provide solutions based on a trans-scalar approach, taking into account the correlations between those factors. During the programme, students are also taught to the theoretical and methodological foundations of physical geography, psychology, urban planning, anthropology, law, economics, sociology, history, philosophy and literature, becoming fully equipped to assess the multiple elements of human-nature interactions within a certain environment, territory or landscape, and how they have evolved over time and in different contexts. Lastly, graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory are proficient in the use of tools for the scientific analysis and representation of complex territorial systems.

During the first programme year, students learn the theoretical and methodological fundamentals of geography, which are essential to understand environmental and territorial processes. They gain knowledge and skills regarding cultural anthropology (i.e. the study of cultural diversity and the different views of the world) and contemporary history, acquiring a set of tools to critically understand its political, economic, social, cultural and religious aspects. They can also further their knowledge of Italian literature, its milestones, and the related aesthetics of landscape and environment. By the end of the first year, students are expected to pass a 3-credit language assessment attesting proficiency in English at level B1. To this end, they can either submit a valid certificate recognised by the University (if they have one), or attend the language courses organised by the University Language Centre. During the second year, students have the opportunity to further develop their English competence, acquire knowledge and skills regarding environmental psychology and the cultural elements of landscape, and approach other fundamental subjects which variously intersect the topics of environment and territory, with a stronger focus on ecology and environmental-awareness. Furthermore, second-year students can delve deeper in the topics, theories and analytical methods of specific branches of geography. In line with a more profession-oriented approach, during the third year students have to choose between two curricula (even though a number of courses remain compulsory for both). The first curriculum focuses on environment and sustainable development, investigating topics and issues linked to utilisation and transformation processes, political instances at the local and regional level, legal instruments and climate dynamics. The second curriculum is devoted to territorial valorisation and focuses on local development processes in the Global North and Global South, local marketing tools, community regeneration initiatives involving urban and peri-urban areas, and tourism activities with their trends and criticalities.

Additionally, students have to earn 3 university credits for other activities (workshops offered within the degree programme in Geography, Environment and Territory, workshops offered within other degree programmes but consistent with the study plan, language certificates), and another 3 credits for an internship at a company or public entity (research activities conducted under the lead of the thesis supervisor are also eligible). Lastly, students have to earn 12 credits for elective activities to be chosen from all the courses/workshops offered by the University (also as part of other degree programmes), provided that the courses/workshops chosen are consistent with the study plan. The degree programme offers a wide variety of in-person workshops, particularly on experimental methods, data collection and data processing.

Students wishing to participate in the Erasmus+ programme will be assisted by a professor acting as Erasmus+ coordinator, who will guide them in choosing the most suitable partner university and assist them in completing the Learning Agreement. In accordance with European harmonisation principles, this first-cycle degree can be awarded to students who, having developed the necessary expertise in geography and other human and natural sciences, and having adopted a comprehensive and synthetic approach to their studies, are able to use the analytical tools of geography and the humanities to interpret, represent and communicate phenomena pertaining to the creation and evolution of environments, territories, landscape, cultures and societies. Additionally, graduates are expected to be proficient in at least one language of the European Union besides Italian, as well as in the use of IT tools to collect documents, process and manage information, produce cartographic representations and communicate with the public. All the above-mentioned skills are tested through written and/or oral exams, as well as during workshops and the internship, and students will have a chance to showcase them when writing and defending their final thesis (9 credits). Students are allowed to sit for exams only if they have properly registered for the exam date in question using the dedicated online service. Failure to register for an exam date will result in exclusion from the exam date in question. Students with certified specific learning disorders (SLD) are entitled to additional time and accommodations when taking exams, provided that they have duly communicated their condition to the competent office of the University, the SLD tutor for the degree programme, and the course lead instructor.

Expected learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory acquire knowledge and understanding in the core subjects of degree class L-6, which deal with the following topics: natural and anthropic landscape; active processes and the resulting forms, as well as their evolution over time in different local settings; cartographic representation; the dissemination of geographic knowledge; urbanisation processes; environmental and local development policies.

This knowledge is a prerequisite for analysing, interpreting, representing and communicating the features of the main processes occurring at different scales and in different geographical contexts. To attain this knowledge, students are introduced to the major methodological approaches presented in the specialised literature (both discipline-specific and cross-disciplinary approaches), and to the methods and processes for analysing, crafting and using different types of cartographic sources.

Students gain knowledge and understanding by participating in lectures and exercises included in the core courses, as well as through independent study. Moreover, the wide range of supplementary and elective courses included in the programme

provides them with plenty of chances to delve deeper into specific subjects. The coursework also includes lectures and seminars with scholars, experts and high-profile representatives from the cultural sector and public institutions, plus workshops and exercises on specific topics, and site-specific field trips. Furthermore, teaching relies on the use of multimedia educational resources (cartographic and photographic materials, documentaries, GIS processing).

For each course, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding is assessed through activities carried out by the student during the relevant teaching period (e.g. assignments, problems and exercises, oral presentations in the class, etc.) as well through a final oral and/or written exam, also in the form of a cartographic project, or a project of another kind.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory will be able to use the knowledge acquired during the programme for real-life practical applications. These may include:

- territorial analysis: using methods and tools to analyse the geographic features of a region, taking into account environmental, economic and social dynamics;
- geotechnologies: using geographic technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect, analyse and interpret spatial data;
- cartography: creating maps to visually represent geographic data and support land planning and management;
- territorial representation: analysing, interpreting and producing audiovisual and written representations (including both literary and non-literary texts) of a certain region;
- human-environment interactions: understanding and analysing interactions between human activities and natural environment, examining the impact of human decisions on a certain area;
- environmental and development policies: contributing to the development and implementation of environmental, economic and social policies impacting on land management;
- interdisciplinary cooperation: effectively working with experts from other fields (such as engineers, biologists and economists) to address geographically-complex issues;
- technical documentation and report writing: being able to write clear and detailed reports summarising findings and recommendations;
- presentations and dissemination: being able to present the results of one's own research and analyses understandably, using visual aids such as maps and graphs;
- education and awareness raising: taking part in education and awareness-raising initiatives on land management and environmental topics.

Students demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge and understanding through workshop-style activities (e.g. project work), practical activities, and the final thesis, which also serves as a tool for professors to assess this ability.

Making judgements

For graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory, making judgements means being able to make informed and independent decisions, based on robust theoretical and methodological knowledge. This ability is essential to address complex and dynamic matters in the fields of geography, social sciences and land management.

Graduates should be able to critically analyse geospatial data and information, evaluating their reliability, relevance and accuracy. This involves:

- source evaluation: being able to differentiate between trustworthy and non-trustworthy sources, using scientific criteria to assess the quality of data;
- data interpretation: critically analysing and interpreting geospatial data, understanding the implications of different collection and analysis methods.

Graduates will be able to make independent and well-grounded judgements on complex geographic matters, taking into account multiple interrelated variables. This ability comes into play in:

- decision making: making informed decisions on complex geographic matters, including land management, urban planning, environmental sustainability and the mitigation of natural risks;
- solution finding: developing innovative and feasible solutions for geospatial issues, based on a sound theoretical and practical understanding of territorial dynamics.

Graduates will be aware of the social and ethical implications of their decisions and actions. This involves:

- recognising ethical responsibilities inherent in the use of geospatial data and in the implementation of territorial policies, considering impacts on local communities and the environment;
- assessing the social impact of geographic decision making, taking into account aspects such as equality, social justice and sustainability.

Graduates must be able to integrate knowledge from different disciplines to make comprehensive and informed judgements. This requires:

- interdisciplinary cooperation: effectively working with experts from other fields to achieve a holistic understanding of territorial issues;
- information synthesis: combining information and methods from different domains (environmental sciences, economics, sociology, politics) to make informed decisions.

Students will develop judgement-making skills particularly through seminars, workshops, site-specific field trips, the internship, and during the preparation of the final thesis. Professors will assess these skills by assigning written assignments, presentations and exercises.

Communication skills

Communication skills expected from graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory include the ability to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions clearly and effectively to different audiences. These skills are used inter alia in the following instances:
- technical report writing: producing detailed and well-structured reports on geospatial research projects, analyses and findings;
- academic paper writing: producing papers for academic journals, respecting genre conventions and using the appropriate technical language;
- knowledge dissemination: producing informative materials for a non-specialist audience;
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS): using GIS software to create maps and spatial visualisations in order to support geographic analysis;
- data visualisation tools: using digital tools to represent data in an understandable and eye-catching manner;
- digital communication: using online platforms (websites, social media, blogs) to disseminate geographic information and interact with the public;
- presentations: producing clear and engaging presentations using visual aids (such as slides, maps, graphs).
Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory will be able to communicate effectively with different types of audiences, adjusting their language and communication style accordingly. Their communication skills will also include active listening and the ability to provide and receive constructive feedback. These skills are essential to disseminate geographic knowledge, influence local policies and promote sustainable practices, while ensuring clear and effective communication across the board.

Learning skills
Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory will be able to organise and plan their learning, setting clear goals and timelines. Thanks to the practical and operational skills acquired during the degree programme, they will be able to further their studies on their own, using bibliographic repertoires, databases, online information and other tools allowing them to systematically update their knowledge, even after entering the job market. Notably, the will be able to autonomously research a topic using various sources (libraries, online databases, academic articles etc.), and to critically assess their learning to identify possible areas for improvements, by actively looking for new opportunities. Furthermore, they will be able to keep up-to-date with the latest geospatial technologies, such as GIS software, remote survey tools and environmental modelling applications, and to combine knowledge from different disciplines to enrich their learning experience and address complex matters. All of this requires:
- interdisciplinary cooperation: effectively working with experts from other fields (e.g. biology, engineering, sociology) to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of territorial and environmental issues;
- information synthesis: combining information from different domains to develop innovative solutions and ideas.
Learning skills are tested through exams and the final thesis.

Professional profile and employment opportunities
1) Local development officer
Job function
Using geographic knowledge and research methods, as well as their practical applications, for the enhancement of territorial systems, with particular regard to local development and regeneration processes.
Professional skills
Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory are proficient in the use of IT tools for processing and representing qualitative and quantitative territorial data, and are familiar with the methods used to analyse and create cartographic records of different kinds. Moreover, they possess information management and communication skills, and are able to draft complex project documents in their field of expertise. Graduates can communicate proficiently, both orally and in writing, in at least another language of the European Union besides Italian. Lastly, they have specific expertise in local development planning, tourism design, local marketing and community engagement tools.
Career opportunities
Potential employers include private and public entities looking for professionals with the skill set provided by this degree programme, and particularly entities operating in the fields of: land analysis and representation; analysis and enhancement of local resources and the related economic and political phenomena; tourism promotion; community-based local regeneration. Job opportunities may also be found with specialist publishers and in the field of territorial branding.
2) Environmental and sustainability technician
Job function
Using geographic knowledge and research methods, as well as their practical applications, to design strategies for sustainable development, environmental protection and regeneration.
Professional skills
Graduates in Geography, Environment and Territory are proficient in the use of IT tools for processing and representing qualitative and quantitative territorial data, and are familiar with the methods used to analyse and create cartographic records of different kinds. Moreover, they possess information management and communication skills, particularly in their field of expertise. Graduates can communicate proficiently, both orally and in writing, in at least another language of the European Union besides Italian. They possess specific expertise in the areas of environmental protection and natural resource enhancement, sustainable development policy-making (particularly in regard to climate change), and environmental laws and regulations. Furthermore, they are able to produce complex documents for regeneration projects of different scales and contexts.

Initial knowledge required

Applicants to the Bachelor's degree programme in Geography, Environment and Territory must have a high-school diploma or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad. Furthermore, they are expected to have a general knowledge of the main theories and methods of geography, a good command of the national and regional geography of Italy, as well as of European and non-European countries, and an understanding of the core interaction processes between society and environment. Logical reasoning, argumentative, reading comprehension and writing skills are also required. Before enrolling in the programme, students must take a self-evaluation test aimed at assessing prior knowledge. The test is compulsory, but a fail does not prevent applicants to enrol in the programme. Students who do not pass the test will have to fulfil additional learning requirements (OFA), as indicated in the Programme Description.

The OFA must be fulfilled within the first year of the programme through remedial activities specifically planned by the University. Further information in this regard will be published on the degree programme website. Students who fail to fulfil the OFA will have their academic career halted at the end of the first year.

The administration reserves the right to establish a cap on admissions, to be determined on a yearly basis by the competent academic bodies based on the financial, instrumental and human resources available to run the programme.

Compulsory attendance

Attendance is strongly recommended
For laboratories, attendance is compulsory.

Degree programme final exams

After earning the required academic credits (171), in compliance with the applicable regulations, students may sit the final exam (9 credits) and obtain their degree.

As a general rule, for the final exam students have to write and defend a paper of around 30-50 standard pages, involving either the production of geographic texts on a specific region or topic, or the analysis of geographic, cartographic or statistical documents related to the subjects included in their study plan. The paper topic may also be linked to an internship or workshop previously completed by the student over the course of the programme.

Notes

In order to obtain their degree, students must be proficient in English at a B1 level under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This proficiency level may be certified as follows:
- By submitting a language certificate attesting B1 or higher level in English and issued no more than three years before the date of submission. 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 during the enrolment procedure, or subsequently to the portal http://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue;
- By taking a placement test offered by the University Language Centre (SLAM) between October and December. Students who fail the test will be required to take a SLAM course.
The placement test is mandatory for all those who do not hold a valid certificate attesting to B1 or higher level.

Those who have not taken the placement test by the end of December or fail the end-of-course exam six times must obtain the necessary certification privately before graduating.

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

Students mobility abroad is enhanced through a number of initiatives, and most of all through the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ incoming students from other European universities are also welcome to attend courses offered as part of this degree.

Erasmus+ information meetings provide interested students with a chance to ask questions to their Erasmus+ and international mobility tutor regarding the application process, the destinations available, and the exams to take abroad.

For this Bachelor's degree, the University has inter-institutional agreements with partner universities in France, Germany and Poland. For an overview of the international agreements in force, see https://www.unimi.it/en/international/university-milan-world/international-agreements

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**
Cultural anthropology	9	M-DEA/01
English assessment B1 (3 ECTS)	3	ND
Geography Theories and Praxis	9	M-GGR/01
Physical geography	9	GEO/04
Political and Economic Geography	9	M-GGR/02
Total compulsory credits	39	

Elective courses		
The student must acquire 9 CFU by choosing a course from the following subjectis:		
Contemporary History	9	M-STO/04
Economic History	9	SECS-P/12
The student must acquire 9 CFU by choosing a course from the following subjectis:		
Aesthetics of the environment and landscape	9	M-FIL/04
Environmental Italian Literature	9	L-FIL-LET/10

2nd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2026/27) Core/compulsory courses/activities common		
Learning activity	**Ects**	**Sector**
English language	6	L-LIN/12
Fundamentals of Ecology for Geography	6	BIO/07
Social and Environmental Psychology	9	M-PSI/05
Total compulsory credits	21	

Elective courses		
The student must choosing 2 course (18 CFU) from the following subjectis:		
Population Geography	9	M-GGR/01
Regional geography	9	M-GGR/01
Urban geography	9	M-GGR/01
The student must choosing 1 course (6 CFU) from the following subjectis:		
	6	M-GGR/01
Cartography and Cartographic Semiology	6	M-GGR/01

3rd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2027/28) Core/compulsory courses/activities common

Learning activity		Ects	Sector
Economic Institutions		6	SECS-P/01
Geographical Information System GIS		9	(3) INF/01, (6) ICAR/06
Urban studies		6	ICAR/21
	Total compulsory credits	21	

Elective courses

The student must acquire 30 CFU according to the chosen route:

Environment and sustainability path:

		Ects	Sector
Administrative and environment law		6	IUS/10
Climatology		6	GEO/04
Environmental Politics		9	M-GGR/01
Landscape and Environment Geography		9	M-GGR/01

Territory and valorisation path:

		Ects	Sector
		9	M-GGR/01
		6	AGR/01
Community psychology for territorial valorization		6	M-PSI/05
Tourism Geography		9	M-GGR/02

COURSE YEAR UNDEFINED Core/compulsory courses/activities common

Learning activity		Ects	Sector
		3	NA
	Total compulsory credits	3	

Further elective courses

Laboratories/additional knowledge
3 CFU
for:
- further cartographic, IT, digital, language skills for the latter, visit: https://www.unimi.it/it/studiare/competenze-linguistiche/altre-lingue-test-e-corsi/studi-umanistici-accertamento-della-conoscenza-di-lingua-francese-spagnola-e-tedesca-3-cfu);
- workshops on environmental education, regional description and multimedia representation, writing and image technique;

12-CFU electives
You can take elective courses from Bachelor's degree programmes, in order to delve into subjects available within your track. You will thus earn additional credits (up to 12 CFU per course).

End of course requirements

Final exam		9	NA
	Total compulsory credits	9	