UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27
BACHELOR
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD
(Classe L-1)
Enrolled a.y. 2025/26

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	L-1 Cultural heritage
Degree title:	Dottore
Length of course:	3 years
Total number of credits required to complete programme:	180
Years of course currently available:	2nd
Access procedures:	Cap on student, student selection based on entrance test
Course code:	CAH

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Study Programme

Prof. ssa Patrizia Piacentini (decan); Prof. Bishara Ebeid Vice Director, Responsible for Acivities UNIVE

Tutors - Faculty

Prof. Michele Bellomo (UNIMI) and Prof.ssa Olga Tribolato (UNIVE): tutors Academic Guidance
Prof. Emanuele Intagliata (UNIMI) and Prof. Bishara Ebeid (UNIVE): tutors Study Plan
Prof.ssa Marina Giani (UNIMI) and Prof. Massimo Maiocchi (UNIVE): tutors Internship and Workshops
Prof.ssa Paola Moretti (UNIMI), Prof.ssa Paola Rossi (UNIMI), Prof.ssa Agnese Vacca (UNIMI) and Prof. Matteo Cosci (UNIVE): tutors Erasmus and International Mobility

Degree Course website

https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it

Academic services

Via Noto 6 e 8 - 20141 Milano (MI) Italia https://www.bac.unimi.it Email: didattica.bc@unimi.it

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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

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

The Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World is a three-year programme, taught in English and jointly hosted by two Universities: University of Milan La Statale (the Department of Cultural Heritage and Environment as well as the Department of Literary Studies, Philology and Linguistics are involved) and University of Venice Ca' Foscari (Department of Asian and North African Studies, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Department of Humanities)

The programme aims to provide a basic, solid knowledge and training in the management and promotion of the tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage of several civilizations of the past, which flourished in Europe, north Africa, Eastern and Western Asia.

The programme covers four intertwined areas: 1. Tangible Cultural Heritage: history and interpretation; 2. Tangible Cultural Heritage: discovering, cataloguing, preserving and archiving; 3. Intangible Cultural Heritage: history, anthropology, philosophy, history of religions, law; 4. Intangible Cultural Heritage: languages and literatures.

The programme adopts an interdisciplinary approach, designed to explore the multi-faceted variety of ancient civilizations, with an emphasis on cultural intersections, contacts and tensions. This comparative approach will enable students to acquire basic know-how, breadth of vision and critical awareness, so as to address the current international debate on the relevance of studying ancient civilizations and its value for critically assessing the complexities of today's world.

Students can benefit from a wide range of expertise, research and teaching within both Universities, which are located in two

exceptionally stimulating cities such as Milan and Venice. With their unique combination of tradition and innovation, past and present, ancient and modern, the two cities represent an ideal framework for studying Cultural Heritage and an exceptionally rich added value in terms of pedagogic experience

Expected learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Among the expected learning outcomes, primary importance is given to the acquisition of a basic knowledge and understanding of the different forms and languages of artistic and material production in diachrony and synchrony. Equally important is the history of the ancient civilizations covered in the programme, including the intangible aspects of their culture (literary production, philosophical thought, religious expressions, law and so on). Graduates are also expected to know and understand the fundamental practices inherent to the protection, enhancement and circulation of the Cultural Heritage as well as the theoretical cornerstones, methodological foundations and basic tools in the relevant disciplines. Students are also provided with a basic linguistic training in Ancient Greek and Latin. Each course usually includes the study of introductory elements and appropriate forms of in-depth analysis through case studies. The expected learning outcomes are achieved and assessed through multiple teaching/learning tools, such as lectures, seminars, workshops and group work. The overall assessment of knowledge and understanding is done through written or oral exams.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

The Bachelor's programme promotes a multidisciplinary approach, with a view to applying acquired knowledge and methodologies to different Cultural Heritage contexts. Through appropriate examples and case studies, graduates will learn to discuss and assess with logical rigor and adequate expressive skills the different forms and languages of tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage as well as their relationship in synchrony and diachrony; to analyze the cultural assets and put them in context, making use of appropriate technical terminology; to read and contextualize the relevant sources (historical, philosophical, anthropological, religious, literary and legal); to apply to various civilizations the tools and methodologies of historical-cultural investigation by; effectively consulting relevant scientific literature, and to acquire basic communication skills for diversified audiences. A problem-solving perspective in teaching/learning approaches will inform all courses, with a view to promoting the students? active participation and helping them to apply their knowledge and understanding. An overarching goal will be to enhance such skills through internships in institutions, companies, public or private foundations that variously operate in the sector of Cultural Heritage.
Assessment will include written and oral exams as well as workshops and internships where students are expected to solve specific problems or deal with practical activities (e.g. archaeological excavation). An overall assessment of this ability is carried out through the supervised preparation and discussion of the concluding dissertation.

Making judgements

Graduates are expected to know how to navigate different approaches and methodologies and how to identify consistent results; to grasp, interpret and historically contextualize the diversity and otherness of different civilizations without bias; to critically discuss the value and role of past civilizations to understand the present. Graduates will be aware of social and ethical responsibilities arising from the management of Cultural Heritage.

Communication Skills

Graduates will acquire specific communication skills, such as the ability of effectively interacting with the general public and various institutions in the world of Cultural Heritage; the ability of communicating with specialized operators in a clear and convincing way; the ability of explaining clearly, in written and oral form, the knowledge and methodologies they have learnt.

Learning Skills

Moreover, graduates are expected to show a good command of their learning skills in order to further pursue their studies with a satisfactory degree of autonomy and to develop an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach. They will also possess the ability of developing questions in a clear and articulated way in order to expand and enrich their knowledge and competences.
All these skills and abilities are assessed through written or oral exams as well as through the supervised preparation and discussion of the concluding dissertation.

Professional profile and employment opportunities

The Bachelor's programme prepares graduates to find employment as Cultural Operator in charge of multifarious services such as: Responsible for the management and/or implementation of reception services at archaeological sites, museums, exhibitions, cultural associations, foundations, or similar bodies and institutions; Collaborator in the cataloging of cultural heritage in foundations, cultural associations, auction houses, or similar bodies and institutions; Assistant Curator to organize exhibitions and cultural events; Excavation Technician, Excavation Assistant and similar; Technician of museums and similar.
A curricular internship involving a specific initial training may result in further jobs such as: Collaborator of cultural

volunteering networks; Art Handler in charge of Fine Arts custom operations; Fine Art Specialist in a logistics company. Furthemore, graduates will be able to find employment as Cultural Communicator and Popularizer or Consultant for the entertainment industry with a historical-cultural setting.
Finally, subject to further qualifying post-graduate training, graduate will be able to find employment as tourist guides.

Initial knowledge required

In order to be admitted to the Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World, prospective students must hold an upper secondary school diploma or equivalent qualification obtained abroad after at least 12 years of schooling. More generally, an adequate educational background is required to understand the historical, cultural and methodological framework of the programme's subjects. Comprehension skills of a non-specialist literary text (in English) is also required. A special syllabus clearly indicates a few bibliographical items that provide all relevant information to pass the admission test.
A sound knowledge of English (level B2 of the European reference framework) is also required to make the best of the programme.
Pursuant to Art. 2 of Italian Law 264/1999, the enrolment in the Bachelor's programme has a cap on student numbers. This is to ensure the feasibility of compulsory internships in organizations and companies (as required by the programme and its learning objectives) and the availability of computer workstations with suitable classroom assistance (as required by the blended teaching and learning of programme: see below).
The maximum number of students is set at 100 included a number of spots (max 25) that will be reserved for non-EU candidates residing abroad. Based on available resources, the relevant Academic bodies will determine the number of students that can enroll annually.
The admission test assesses the basic knowledge and skills required to enroll in the programme namely a general understanding of historical, cultural and methodological facts as well as a basic comprehension of a literary text (in English). Candidates should correctly answer at least 50% of the questions in each of the two areas (namely, general knowledge and reading comprehension).

OFA (Obblighi formativi aggiuntivi) are defined as further requirements for all students who fail to meet the 50% threshold in either (or all) of the two sections (general knowledge and reading comprehension) of the admission test. Students falling short of the threshold may be admitted at discretion but must undergo a specific training designed to address their areas of weakness. Within the first year of enrolment, they will be given the opportunity to sit the test again. Second-year exams will only be available to students who have passed the test. Further information is found at https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it.

The selection takes place in two sessions that will be held in May and in July 2024. Each selection contributes to the coverage of a quota of the total available places and has its own deadlines and requirements. For each of the two sessions, candidates must comply with all the procedures and deadlines set out below.

EU candidates:
The following requirements apply:
May session: both candidates who will obtain their high-school diploma in Italy or abroad (or equivalent qualification) within the 2024/2025 school year, and candidates already in possession of it can apply.
July session: applicants must hold their high-school diploma (or equivalent qualification), or be able to demonstrate its possession by the time of enrolling.

Non-EU candidates applying for a student visa:
May session: applicants must be enrolled in the final year of a secondary school, and obtain their qualification within the 2024/2025 school year.
Important. In this session 25 spots are reserved for NON-EU applicants (i.e. in need of a student visa): in order to benefit from the protected list it is mandatory to sit the test in this session. NON-EU applicants will be all ranked in a dedicated list. Those who will remain excluded and other NON-EU prospective applicants are invited to check the programme?s website to see whether any spots have remained vacant after the first admission session.
July session: applicants must already hold their secondary school qualification or be able to demonstrate its possession by the time of enrolling. NON-EU applicants (i.e. in need of a visa) are welcome to apply if available spots have been announced as per the previous point.

English OFA
To be able to sit the exams included in the degree programme, students must be proficient in English at a B2 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 B2 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 https://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue;

- By submitting a secondary school diploma with English as teaching Language. The diploma must be uploaded during the enrolment procedure in the Language Certificate section, or subsequently to the portal https://studente.unimi.it/uploadCertificazioniLingue;

- By taking a placement test offered by the University Language Centre (SLAM) during year I only, in October. Students who fail the test will be required to take a SLAM course. The Placement Test is mandatory for all students who do not hold a valid certificate, or a secondary school diploma with English as teaching language. Students who do not sit the Placement Test by October or who fail to pass the SLAM end-of-course test within six attempts, must obtain a paid certificate to be able to register for and sit any exam included in the degree programme.

Compulsory attendance

Course attendance is highly recommended. Attendance of Workshops and Internships is compulsory.

Internship criteria

Internships and Workshops

Starting from the second year, the programme includes 6 ECTS for compulsory Internships and from 3 to 6 ECTS for training workshops (including 3 ECTS of teaching workshop:Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication).

Degree programme final exams

The final exam consists in writing an essay on a topic previously agreed with a Faculty lecturer or on a specific project carried out during internship activities (under the supervision of a Faculty lecturer). The essay will be evaluated by a two-member committee. Admission is subject to the acquisition of at least 174 ECTS.

Notes

The Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World is a three-year course.

Language Skills

In the context of the Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World, all students can obtain 3 ECTS by taking an exam in Additional Language Skills.
It is understood that these ECTS will be obtained in a language other than their own.

Those who do not hold an Italian high school diploma or Bachelor's degree are recommended to demonstrate proficiency in Italian at the A2 or higher level per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), also in view of the work opportunities and the labour market in the Italian territory.

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.

Latin and Greek Language: To enrol in the exams of "Introduction to Latin Literature" and "Introduction to Greek Literature", students will first need to pass a Latin / Greek language test (Basic Level). Those who have no previous knowledge of Latin and/ or Greek (e.g. from their school curriculum) are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop Training Latin Language (Basic Level) organized by the University of Milan Language Centre (SLAM) which is taught in the first year of the programme and / or the workshop Training Greek Language (Basic Level) which is taught in the second year (for details see https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it).

Digital and Information Skills

The compulsory course "Public and Community Archaeology and Digital Cultural Heritage" (12 ECTS) and the compulsory training workshop "Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication" (3 ECTS) entail, among other things, the acquisition of specific Digital and Information skills.

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 Bachelor's programme in Ancient Civilizations for the Contemporary World strongly supports international mobility by providing students with the opportunity to spend study and internship periods abroad.
University of Milan supports international mobility through the International Agreements and Projects Office for teaching and training and of the International Mobility and International Promotion Office.
https://www.unimi.it/it/internazionale/studiare-allestero/partire-con-erasmus

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 or other organizations.
Similar international mobility opportunities are provided outside the EU through specific agreements with a number of prestigious institutions.
Students will also have access to an extensive catalogue of online courses offered by partner universities of the 4EU+ alliance of which University of Milan is a member.
https://www.unimi.it/it/internazionale/la-statale-nel-mondo/la-statale-partecipa-4eu/mobilita-e-nuovi-percorsi-formativi-4eu/4eu-gli-studenti-delluniversita-statale-di-milano

How to participate in Erasmus mobility programs

Students access mobility programmes through a public selection procedure. Selection committees will evaluate their Academic career, their proposed Study Plan abroad, their foreign language proficiency, and the reasons behind their application.
As for the Erasmus+ Programme Selection, the European Union contributes to cover the mobility costs of scholarship holders. University funding may further contribute to cover the costs incurred by disadvantaged students.
Students who pass selection for mobility programmes can take advantage of the intensive foreign language courses offered annually by the University Linguistic Center SLAM of University of Milan

1st COURSE YEAR (disactivated from academic year 2026/27) Core/compulsory courses/activities common			
Learning activity		**Ects**	**Sector**
Archaeology of Western Asia: Ancient Civilizations of Mesopotamia		12	L-OR/05
Greek and Roman History		12	(6) L-ANT/02, (6) L-ANT/03
Intellectual History of the Ancient Near East: the Origin		6	L-OR/01
Introduction to Pharaonic Egypt: Mind and Memory of an Ancient Civilization		6	L-OR/02
Public and Community Archaeology and Digital Cultural		12	L-ANT/10
The Bhagavad Gita: the Gospel of India		6	L-OR/17
	Total compulsory credits	54	
Elective courses			
1° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 6 CFU in one of the following subject			
Archaeology of the Silk Road		6	L-OR/16
Classical Mythology and its Media		6	M-STO/06
Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb		6	L-OR/12
Elements of Christian Culture		6	L-FIL-LET/06
History of Classical Tradition in European Art		6	L-ART/04
History of Pre-Modern Science and Technology		6	M-STO/05
Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature		6	L-FIL-LET/08
Introduction to Byzantine Civilization		6	L-FIL-LET/07
Introduction to Chinese Thought		6	L-OR/21
Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature		6	L-OR/22
Origins of Western Philosophy		6	M-FIL/06
Phoenician and Punic Archaeology		6	L-OR/06
Prehistory of th Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean		6	L-ANT/01
The Jews: History, Culture and Religion		6	M-STO/06

2nd COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities common

Learning activity		Ects	Sector
Cultural Anthropology:material approaches in post-colonial		9	M-DEA/01
European and Mediterranean Archaeology, from Prehistory to Late Antiquity A		12	(4) L-ANT/07, (4) L-ANT/01, (4) L-ANT/06
Introduction to Greek Literature		6	L-FIL-LET/02
Introduction to Latin Literature		6	L-FIL-LET/04
Teaching workshop: Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication		3	NN
	Total compulsory credits	36	

Elective courses

2° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 12 CFU (6+6) in one of the following subject (if not already taken)

Archaeology of the Silk Road	6	L-OR/16
Classical Mythology and its Media	6	M-STO/06
Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb	6	L-OR/12
Elements of Christian Culture	6	L-FIL-LET/06
History of Classical Tradition in European Art	6	L-ART/04
History of Pre-Modern Science and Technology	6	M-STO/05
Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature	6	L-FIL-LET/08
Introduction to Byzantine Civilization	6	L-FIL-LET/07
Introduction to Chinese Thought	6	L-OR/21
Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature	6	L-OR/22
Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature	6	L-OR/18
Origins of Western Philosophy	6	M-FIL/06
Phoenician and Punic Archaeology	6	L-OR/06
Prehistory of th Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean	6	L-ANT/01
The Jews: History, Culture and Religion	6	M-STO/06

Starting from the second year, students must obtain 6 ECTS from compulsory Internships.

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

Learning activity		Ects	Sector
Art and Law		6	IUS/10
History of Chinese and Japanese Art		12	L-OR/20
History of Indian Art		6	L-OR/16
Introduction to Italian Literature		6	L-FIL-LET/10
Performance and Performativity between Past and Present		6	L-ART/05
	Total compulsory credits	36	

Elective courses

3° COURSE YEAR: Students must obtain 6 CFU in one of the following subject (if not already taken)

Archaeology of the Silk Road	6	L-OR/16
Classical Mythology and its Media	6	M-STO/06
Classical Wisdom in Arabic Garb	6	L-OR/12
Elements of Christian Culture	6	L-FIL-LET/06
History of Classical Tradition in European Art	6	L-ART/04
History of Pre-Modern Science and Technology	6	M-STO/05
Interculturality and Exchange in Medieval Latin Literature	6	L-FIL-LET/08
Introduction to Byzantine Civilization	6	L-FIL-LET/07
Introduction to Chinese Thought	6	L-OR/21
Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature	6	L-OR/22
Introduction to Sanskrit Culture and Literature	6	L-OR/18
Origins of Western Philosophy	6	M-FIL/06
Phoenician and Punic Archaeology	6	L-OR/06
Prehistory of th Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean	6	L-ANT/01
The Jews: History, Culture and Religion	6	M-STO/06

Further elective courses

Students can earn 12 credits for elective activities to be chosen among those offered by this degree programme or by other degree programmes of both Universities. If a student decides to earn elective credits, partly or in full, through courses taught in a foreign language, such language cannot be the same as the student's own mother tongue. Students have to comply with all other obligations provided for by the academic rules of the degree programme, as laid down in art. 3.

6 Additional ECTS must be obtained from two Training Workshops (3 ECTS each, other than the compulsory Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication) or from 1 Training Workshop (3 ECTS, other than the compulsory Theories, techniques, tools for cultural communication) and an exam in Additional Language Skills. Information is available at https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it. Students without an Italian degree or diploma are recommended to obtain the 3 ECTS in Additional Language Skills by reaching proficiency in the Italian language at level A2 within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR.

Additional Language Skills: Italian (3 ECTS)	3	NN

End of course requirements

Final Exam	6	NN
Total compulsory credits	6	

COURSE PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Latin and Greek Language: To enrol in the exams of ‘Introduction to Latin Literature’ and ‘Introduction to Greek Literature’ students will first need to pass a Latin / Greek language test (Basic Level). Those who have no previous knowledge of Latin and/ or Greek (e.g. from their school curriculum), are strongly encouraged to attend the workshop Training Latin Language (Basic Level) which is taught in the first year of the programme and / or the workshop Training Greek Language (Basic Level) which is taught in the second year (for details see https://ancient-civilization.cdl.unimi.it)

The fulfilment of the Additional Formative Obligations (OFAs) is preliminary to the second and third year examinations.