UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27
IN
VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS (Classe LM-73 R)
Enrolled in the 2026/2027 academic year

HEADING

Degree classification - Denomination and code:	LM-73 R
Degree title:	Dottore Magistrale
Length of course:	2 years
Credits required for admission:	180
Total number of credits required to complete programme:	120
Course years currently available:	1st
Access procedures:	open, subject to entry requirements
Course code:	GBF

PERSONS/ROLES

Head of Study Programme

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Tutors - Faculty

Study plan tutor

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Degree Course website

https://mountainside.cdl.unimi.it

Didactic Secretariat of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

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CHARACTERISTICS OF DEGREE PROGRAMME

General and specific learning objectives

The Master's Degree Course in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS, taught in English, aims to form professionals who are capable of promoting the enhancement, development and sustainable management of mountain territories, by applying innovative approaches and a systemic vision. Multidisciplinary training will integrate environmental and agro-forestry knowledge with proficiency in the economic, legal, historical-geographical and communication skills necessary to clearly delineate the specifics of mountain territories. This will foster the ability to highlight and transmit unique and valuable elements of the mountain context. The graduate will be able to promote the creation of products and/or services of economic and social value beginning from the specific environmental, natural and agro-forestry resources of the mountains, following the principles of sustainability and in relation to local and global

processes operating at the level of environmental (e.g., climate change) and socio-economic factors (depopulation, competitiveness and new models of development, etc.) and related national, European and international intervention policies.
The master's degree program will allow graduates to acquire concrete knowledge, skills and abilities specific to the environmental characteristics of mountain agro-forest ecosystems, specific technologies and methods for monitoring and sustainable management of the mountain environment and its resources, and to optimize the services rendered (ecosystem services, tourism, etc.) and the products that can be obtained. Indeed, the training aims to promote the sustainable enhancement of the specific resources of mountain territories in strategic sectors for the economy such as tourism (e.g., planning and promotion of greenways and paths, dissemination/environmental education), energy from renewable sources, as well as (with regard to "bio-resources" and mountain agrobiodiversity) traditional local short supply chains (e.g. agritourism companies, catering, crafts, etc.) but also in typical industrial supply chains in various sectors such as agri-food, medicinal/health, nutraceutical, cosmetic, manufacturing (e.g. textile) biotechnology, or in the context of the bioeconomy and the circular economy. The specific knowledge, skills and competence of a historical-geographical, juridical-legislative and economic nature will allow the graduate to contribute to the development of business, marketing (product, service and territorial strategies) appropriate to the mountain context, both for the start-up of new businesses and for the planning and management of interventions in the context of programs and strategies for the development of these areas. Furthermore, the expert professional of the mountain territory knows how to use effective communication techniques and methodologies (transversal skills applicable across a range of sectors) including the most innovative digital technologies (web, social, etc.). This is essential to effective interaction with service and innovation centres, between the mountain and urban, local and "global" scales, for continuous training, networking, technical-scientific dissemination and outreach, as well as the marketing of the territory and its products and services. The master's degree in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS is characterized by unique elements with regard to training for the management and sustainable development of mountain territories, including international orientation (the inclusion of these territories in an international framework of dialogue is essential to their development) and multidisciplinarity. Another unique aspect is the logistical location of the course, which takes place entirely at the UNIMONT pole of the University of Milan, which has been active for 25 years at Edolo (a mountain municipality in the central Alps) exclusively dedicated to the development of mountain areas through teaching, research and third mission activities. The location of the centre favours teaching within the mountain environment and gives students the opportunity to experience, on a day-to-day basis, the characteristics of the territory that, as professionals, they will influence. However, from a methodological and operational point of view students are guaranteed an experience that is anything but "local", as UNIMONT is part of an "ecosystem" that includes the main sector stakeholders at regional, national and international levels, effectively connecting the local dimension with the supralocal, facilitating the processes of innovation, capacity building and empowerment of human capital essential for the enhancement of these territories. Therefore, the master's course is specific for mountain areas, includes multidisciplinary and the connection between the local and the "global" dimension.

Expected learning outcomes

Consistent with the educational objectives of class LM-73 (the only class that includes the sustainable development of the mountains among its objectives) the master's degree in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS ensures graduates the following learning outcomes with reference to the five Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and understanding Graduates acquire:
- knowledge of the environmental, natural and agro-forestry specifics of the mountain context;
- knowledge of techniques for surveying, processing, and interpreting environmental data for the analysis, monitoring and sustainable management of mountain environments, nature and agro-forestry;
- knowledge of the specific characteristics of raw materials of natural and/or agro-forestry origin of the mountains, to collaborate in the planning and promotion of the transformation into products/services of economic and/or social value, in the strategic sectors of these areas, also in the context of the bioeconomy and circular economy;
- knowledge of methodologies and technologies for the analysis, planning, management and promotion of soft mobility networks for sustainable mountain tourism;
- knowledge and understanding of the environmental, technical and managerial aspects relating to the production of energy from renewable sources and the needs for the protection of mountain environmental resources and the sustainability of optimization interventions in the biomass-energy chain;
- knowledge of the socio-economic environment and understanding of the specific economic phenomena of mountain areas in relation to socio-cultural evolution, the principal dynamics in progress and the main players in the "ecosystem" of innovation in these territories;
- economic and marketing knowledge for the evaluation of goods and services of the mountain territory and European planning;
- knowledge of legal and regulatory aspects (national, European and international) relating to the environment and the mountain territory, and the main policies and intervention programs for sustainable development and the protection of these areas;
- knowledge of methods and techniques of communication, of the dissemination of scientific knowledge (both traditional and online) and understanding of strategies and methodologies for dissemination and networking.
The assessment of the acquired knowledge and understanding will be carried out through written and oral examinations, reports of the results of laboratory activities carried out in-situ, within hosting companies, in the field, in the laboratories and throughout the elaboration and discussion of the thesis.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding Graduates are able to:
- use the most appropriate and innovative technologies and methods to carry out surveys, processing and interpretation of complex data of different origins to carry out analyses, monitoring and assessment of the ability to produce goods and services (including ecosystems) and for the development of sustainable management plans for the mountain environment; - plan interventions to evaluate, safeguard and enhance the heritage of natural and agro-forestry biodiversity, also in an educational context;
- use scientific, technological and economic knowledge to promote both traditional and innovative processes in the bioeconomy and circular economy for the enhancement of products from forestry and mountain agro-environmental raw materials (e.g. bio-resources, agrobiodiversity), interacting with specialists from different sectors in multidisciplinary working groups;
- apply environmental, technical and managerial knowledge relating to the production of energy from renewable sources; - correctly apply knowledge to guide strategic business choices and to analyse and find solutions to the management problems of mountain resource enhancement initiatives in the specific socio-economic and legal legislative framework of the mountain territory;
- identify tenders and financing opportunities for development projects, and apply economic knowledge to collaborate with sectorial experts in the planning and management of development and marketing initiatives for products/services and the mountain territory, and in the development of economic and business plans;
- develop programs for scientific dissemination and environmental education, as well as communication regarding the specific features and products/services of the mountains, using traditional and digital methods (web, social), for networking and effective interaction with service and innovation centres.
The assessment of the skills related to the application of the knowledge and understanding will take place through final written and oral tests, evaluation of laboratory activities, reports of group work, workshops, elaboration of plans and projects as well as through the evaluation of the final dissertation.

3. Making judgements
Graduates in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS can independently formulate constructive and original ideas and appropriate judgements regarding: priority issues to be addressed in a complex context such as that of the mountain environment; the specifics to be enhanced; the most appropriate survey methodologies to be adopted; the interventions to be implemented to promote the sustainable development of mountain areas, including consideration of social and ethical responsibilities related to the application of knowledge and judgements. The multidisciplinary training course gives graduates a systemic vision of the mountain territory and its complexities, also strengthened by the experience of daily life in a mountain municipality and by the interaction with local, regional, national and international stakeholders - aspects that, together, stimulate the development of critical ability and independence of thought.
The assessment of independent judgement will take place through the evaluation of laboratory activities, reports of group work, workshops, elaboration of plans and projects as well as in the final overall assessment of the training course, the internship activities and during the assessment and discussion of the dissertation.

4. Communication skills
Graduates in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS are prepared to effectively communicate, both on a technical-scientific and instructive level, both the most specialized and focused matters and those relating to broader, complex systemic projects. They are able to address the scientific community of different fields using the appropriate technical language as well as translating complex technical-scientific contents into intervention proposals for policy makers, as well as into "messages" of interest to general society. This will effectively contribute to the creation of the correct degree of knowledge and awareness of the characteristics and specificities of the environment and mountain areas and of the products/services offered, of the role and value of these areas for society as a whole. The graduate also knows how to operate effectively in the field of scientific dissemination and environmental education, is able to interact and communicate within working groups, at stakeholder tables and project partnerships, as well as interacting in focus groups within projects for territorial development and marketing. Graduates can communicate fluently in English (the official language of the course) and can use traditional communication tools (oral and written) but also the most innovative and technological means, using the web, social networks, programs and applications and the most effective methods to achieve aims.
Communication skills in different forms and with different technological and digital tools will be tested during individual lessons, during specific exercises, group work, exams, laboratories and workshops, which include moments of presentation of ideas and projects to the network of mountain stakeholders at local, regional, national and European level, and which may also involve journalists and web and social communication experts. Communication skills will also be assessed during the presentation of the final thesis.

5. Learning skills
During the training course, the master's graduate improves the learning skills necessary to face a complex and multidisciplinary issue such as that of territorial development, given the rapid evolution of society, in which methods, tools and approaches are modernised thanks to the increasingly rapid acquisition of new knowledge in different sectors. The graduate therefore knows how to identify and consult the accredited sources of reference in the various sectors, and how to use the main open-source platforms of international scientific literature, in order to learn about innovation and promptly

transfer this knowledge to the local level. The graduate, knowing the characteristics and composition of the "ecosystem" of the actors and tools of the development of the mountain area, knows how to identify and choose courses for in-depth study and professional updates in areas key to their professional activity.
The ability to learn will be assessed throughout the course of study, both within the planned courses (compulsory, curricular and free-choice) and in the framework of the other planned training activities, including the preparation and discussion of the dissertation.

Professional profile and employment opportunities

The graduate in valorization and sustainable development of mountain areas is a specialist in the enhancement and sustainable development of mountain areas.

Function in a work context:
Graduates in Valorization and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas work for the valorization and sustainable development of mountain areas using innovative and specific scientific and technological methodologies and approaches with particular reference to:
- the analysis, monitoring, conservation, management and valorization of natural and agro-forestry resources (e.g. analysis and monitoring of mountain ecosystems, planning of forestry and silvicultural restoration interventions with conservation, protection and production functions; collaboration in the definition of natural resource management plans, valorization of agrobiodiversity, etc.);
- collaboration in the planning, implementation and promotion of products and/or services of economic and/or social value deriving from the environmental and agroforestry resources of mountain areas (e.g. planning and coordinating interdisciplinary interventions for the use, including tourism-recreational and educational, of the territory; enhancing and promoting the use of energy from renewable sources, with specific reference to local sources and the forest-wood-energy supply chain; collaborating in the definition of processes for the valorization of traditional and innovative agro-forestry production for the development of the circular economy and the bioeconomy, as well as contributing to sustainable management to implement ecosystem services in the mountain environment);
- the identification of strategies for the valorization of resources as regards specific policies and regulations for the governance and development of mountain areas;
- participation in the project management of projects for the valorization and development of mountain areas within local, regional, national, European and international cooperation programmes;
- the application of digital technologies and communication methods to networking and to the strategic valorization of environmental resources and products and services of mountain territories, as well as to the scientific dissemination of the results of projects and studies.
All these skills are linked to the ability to identify and interpret the specific legal, administrative, socio-economic and cultural framework of these territories, to the phenomena of ongoing climate and demographic change, and in the context of planning intervention for transition phases towards the definition of new models of sustainable development.

Skills associated with the function:
Graduates of the Master's Degree in Valorization and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas are able to:
- recognize and evaluate the specific environmental, natural and agro-forestry resources of the mountains and the ecosystem services connected to them (production, protection, cultural services);
- evaluate the evolution and effects of climate and anthropogenic factors and changes on the natural and agro-forestry mountain environment, the main impacts generated and prevention, adaptation and/or mitigation strategies also through nature-based solutions.
- recognize and safeguard biodiversity heritage with specific intervention programmes, including educational-didactic ones, with particular reference to agro-biodiversity and forest biodiversity;
- apply scientific, technological and economic knowledge to promote valorization processes of traditional and/or innovative products from raw materials (e.g. bio-resources and agrobiodiversity) originating from natural and mountain agro-forestry ecosystems, interacting with specialists from different sectors in multidisciplinary work groups;
- identify calls for regional, national and European funding programmes for the development of mountain areas and collaborate in the planning and management of systemic intervention for valorization and development;
- use territorial information systems and the most innovative technological tools, advanced IT tools and remote sensing techniques, for territorial monitoring, management and planning, also for the purposes of land use (tourism, for example), the valorization of resources and of agricultural and forestry production, also in the field of renewable energy;
- apply specific knowledge regarding the economic and cultural environment in which companies and public and private entities operate, identifying appropriate strategies for the valorization of resources (bioeconomy, circular economy) also to support decision-making processes in governance, in the planning of intervention for the development of the territory and the valorization of products/services;
- apply specific knowledge regarding the legal-legislative framework from which policies, strategies, programs and regulations relating to the sustainable development of mountain areas derive, in planning sustainable development intervention and providing technical support to the management of the complexity of these areas;
- work in interdisciplinary and international groups;
- apply economic and marketing knowledge to promotion processes for territorial development (territorial marketing);
- apply specific technical knowledge to collaborate with professionals from sectors specialized in promoting the use of energy from local renewable sources, combining methods of economic sustainability assessment with methods of

environmental impact quantification; apply knowledge related to the use of digital technologies and communication techniques for networking and effective interaction with service and innovation centers, valorization and strategic territorial marketing and technical-scientific training and dissemination.

Career opportunities:
Career opportunities include coordination roles and high responsibility in strategic sectors for sustainable development, environmental protection and valorization of mountain areas, in the fields of research, innovation, development, planning and management of complex environmental and agro-forestry systems. Graduates will be able to undertake freelance and consultancy activities, entrepreneurial activities, or work as employees in private or public, national or international companies at:
- technical-professional firms and forestry and environmental services and consultancy companies
- planning companies for territorial valorization and development;
- forestry consortia and companies;
- local action groups - GAL;
- consortia for the promotion of the territory and sustainable and environmental tourism;
- agro-forestry companies;
- consortia of agro-forestry producers;
- trade associations;
- parks and protected areas;
- municipalities, consortia of municipalities, provinces, regions, ministries;
- development agencies;
- foundations and NGOs;
- training and dissemination institutions and companies;
- forestry and environmental research and development bodies;

Master's degree graduates can work as freelancers as Doctors of Agronomy and Forestry, after passing the state exam and registering in the Register. They can access competitions for the recruitment of officers of the former State Forestry Corps and other Environmental Police Forces and for research doctorates in Italy (after passing the relevant competitions) or abroad (by passing specific selection procedures), or for a second-level master's degree.

Pre-requisites for admission

Graduates in degree class L-25 (Agricultural and Forestry Science and Technology, pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04), L-26 (Agri-food Science and Technology, pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04) or in the equivalent class 20 (Agricultural, agri-food and forestry sciences and technology, pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/1999) and L-32 (Environmental and Nature Science and Technology pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04) or in the equivalent class 27 (Environmental and Nature Science and Technology, pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/1999) or those in possession of an equivalent qualification obtained abroad can access the Master's Degree Course in Valorization and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas.
Graduates from classes other than those indicated above can also access the course, if they have acquired at least 45 credits (CFU) in the scientific-disciplinary sectors listed below, of which at least 12 credits (CFU) earned in biological and agroforestry and environmental disciplines:
- Mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer science and statistics

MAT/02 - Algebra, MAT/03 - Geometry, MAT/05 - Mathematical analysis, MAT/06 - Probability and statistics, MAT/08 - Numerical analysis, FIS/01 - Experimental physics, FIS /03 - Physics of matter, FIS/06 - Physics of the earth and the circumterrestrial medium, FIS/07 - Applied physics (to cultural heritage, the environment, biology and medicine), CHIM/01 - Analytical Chemistry, CHIM/03 - General and inorganic chemistry, CHIM/06 - Organic chemistry, CHIM/12 - Chemistry for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, INF/01 - Computer science, ING-INF/05 - Data processing systems information, SECS-S/01 - Statistics, SECS-S/05 - Social statistics
- Biological and agro-forestry and environmental disciplines

AGR/02 - Agronomy and field crops, AGR/03 - General arboriculture and tree cultivation, AGR/05 - Forest management and silviculture, AGR/14 - Pedology, AGR/15 - Food science and technology, AGR /16 - Agricultural microbiology, AGR/17 - General zootechnics and genetic improvement, AGR/19 - Special zootechnics, BIO/01 - General botany, BIO/03 Environmental and applied botany; BIO/05 - Zoology, BIO/07 - Ecology, BIO/19 - General microbiology, GEO/02 Stratigraphic and sedimentological geology, GEO/04 - Physical geography and geomorphology, GEO/05 - Applied geology , GEO/07 - Petrology and petrography
- Agricultural and forestry engineering and land planning disciplines

AGR/08 - Agricultural hydraulics and hydraulic-forestry management, AGR/10 - Rural buildings and agroforestry land planning, ICAR/06 - Topography and cartography, ICAR/20 - Urban planning and technique, ICAR/21 - Urban planning, ING-IND/09 - Systems for energy and the environment, ING-IND/22 - Science and technology of materials
- Socio-economic and legal disciplines

SPS/10 - Urban and environmental Sociology of the environment, M-GGR/01 - Geography, M-GGR/02 - Economic and political geography, AGR/01 - Rural economics and appraisal, SECS-P/01 - Political economics, SECS-P/02 - Economic policy, SECS-P/08 - Economics and business management-marketing, SECS-P/06 - Applied economics, SECS-P/12 History of Economics, IUS/03 - Agri-food law, IUS/14 - European Union law, IUS/09 - Public law, IUS/10 - Administrative law

Students without an Italian University degree

Those holding another qualification obtained abroad and recognized as suitable by the admission commission will also be able to access.

Admission procedure for all students
Admission requires verification of the curricular requirements specified above and of background knowledge. These checks are carried out by a Commission. If necessary, the Commission may ask the candidate to integrate the information provided.
Background knowledge will be assessed on the basis of the positive outcome of the main exams in the Academic Disciplines indicated as entry requirements. If this assessment reveals a lack of competences, the Commission will call the candidate for an interview. Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the procedure via the online admission application system (https://mountainside.cdl.unimi.it/en/enrolment)

Proficiency in English at a B2 level or higher, under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), is required for admission.
The B2 level requirement will be assessed as follows:
- by submitting a Language certificate at or above B2, through the online application;
- during a specific admission interview.

Programme structure

Teaching methods and organisation
- lectures
- classroom exercises
- exercises in the computer and multimedia classroom
- laboratories
- field activities
- seminars, workshops, problem solving sessions

The teaching activities are organized in such a way as to create the conditions for the independence of the student in the context of the courses provided in the study plan. This is organized and delivered in such a way as to favour participation and interaction in lectures, individual and group work (cooperative learning), the critical analysis of case studies, the comparison and direct interaction with the natural, agro-forestry, and socio-economic environments specific to the mountain territory. Teaching activities will include laboratories, workshops, group exercises, design challenges and problem solving, including activities in the natural and virtual environment, contamination labs, both multidisciplinary and interactive, which stimulate students to transform ideas into concrete projects/products/services. Activities may also include the participation of representative stakeholders, as well as discussion forums, including the use of digital platforms and tools. Teaching is organized in such a way as to leave the necessary space for self-learning and laboratories.

Course organisation
Teaching will typically be organized for each year of the course in two coordinated cycles lasting less than one year, conventionally called "semesters" and equal to no less than 12 weeks each. The courses will be delivered in English.

Presentation of the study plan
The plan must be submitted in the first year of the course: the deadlines and submission methods are made known by the Student Secretariat Management with notices published on the page https://www.unimi.it/it/studiare/frequentare-un-corso-di-laurea/seguire-il-percorso-di-studi/piano-studi
After approval of the study plan, the student can independently take additional exams in addition to his/her training path.
We also point out the activities included in the University project for the development of transversal skills: https://www.unimi.it/it/studiare/frequentare-un-corso-di-laurea/seguire-il-percorso-di-studi/competenze-e-abilita-trasversali.
These training activities are mandatory, have a defined number of places and can be included in the study plan, among the "Free choice activities", only if they have been approved by the relevant degree course. Details are available on the page https://mountainside.cdl.unimi.it/en/courses

Calendar of teaching activities
For the academic year 2026/2027, the teaching calendar is as follows:
first semester from September 21th 2026 to January 15th 2027
second semester from February 22th 2027 to June 11th 2027

Lesson timetable
The lesson timetable will be published on the website: https://www.unimi.it/it/node/128/

Exams
Exam sessions
For the academic year 2026/2027, the exam sessions will occur during the following periods:
- from January 18th 2027 to February 19th 2027
- from June 14th 2027 to July 30th 2027
- from September 1st to 17th 2027

The following teaching breaks to allow exam sessions and ongoing tests are also envisaged:
- from May 3th to 7th 2027

The exam calendar is published on the degree course website.

Registration for the exams is mandatory and can be done through online services: https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/technology-and-online-services/online-services-former-sifa or from the section "Exams and teaching evaluation" (“Esami e valutazione della didattica”) of UNIMIA.

Tutoring

At the time of enrolment, each student is assigned a tutor belonging to the teaching staff, whom the student can contact, throughout the training course, for organizational and cultural orientation and for all needs related to teaching activities and for the compilation of the Study Plan. The tutors are indicated in this document in the paragraph "Points of reference Tutors" ("Riferimenti-Docenti tutor"): any changes will be communicated to the students during the first weeks of the first semester of the first year. The student is therefore guaranteed a specific support activity, with the opportunity to meet the teacher individually or in small groups.

- Students with learning difficulties and disabilities

The University of Milan - in order to guarantee the right to study, equality and social integration within the university community - provides assistance and services to University students with disabilities or specific learning disabilities (“disturbi specifici di apprendimento”; DSA). For all information in this regard and how to access the service, please refer to the University website (https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/services-students-specific-learning-disabilities-sld and https://www.unimi.it/en/study/student-services/services-students-disabilities).

Language test / computer literacy test

Additional Language Skills: Italian (foreign students).

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 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.

Compulsory attendance

Attendance of the training activities is strongly recommended.

Internship criteria

The course of study includes an internship that leads to the acquisition of 6 ECTS credits and a master's degree thesis, the preparation and discussion of which will result in the attainment of 20 ECTS credits. The internship, and possibly also the thesis, are carried out in close collaboration with national and international stakeholders in the sector, and will aim to develop original, innovative and concrete contributions and projects aimed at enhancing mountain areas.

Degree programme final exam

The master's degree in VALORIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREA is obtained after passing a final test, consisting of the presentation of the degree thesis, written and presented in English. This will be developed by the student with the guidance of a supervisor, and possibly a co-supervisor from among the other professors or external experts. The subsequent defense of the thesis will be carried out based on critical comments and questions of the Commission, composed of teachers of the degree course. The evaluation of the presentation, the defense of the thesis, and the overall career of the student will determine the final grade. Admission to the final exam takes place following the acquisition of all the credits required by the training course, with the exception of those credits obtained during the final exam itself. Each candidate is presented by the supervisor who will highlight the commitment and quality of the thesis preparation work, the individual contribution and autonomy, originality of the work and the skills acquired. The student's entire career will also be summarized, including additional reporting of the average grade of the exams taken, any other element useful for the assessment, including any periods of study abroad, etc. The candidate is required to present the thesis to the commission in a well-defined time, following the structure of a scientific article. During the discussion the members of the Commission ask questions for an overall and conclusive evaluation. The final graduation mark, expressed out of a total of 110, is formulated by the Commission on the basis of the score obtained during the university career. This considers the average mark of the exams taken, to which the score corresponding to the evaluation of the supervisor and the Commission is added. The awarding of honours takes place if proposed by the President of the Graduation Commission and unanimously approved by the commission.

EXPERIENCE OF STUDY ABROAD AS PART OF THE DEGREE 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 Master's Degree Course offers ample opportunities for study abroad mainly through the Erasmus + program which includes about 30 foreign universities located in the countries of the European Community and the Swiss Mobility Program. The sectors that can be developed at the partner universities embrace all the specific areas of the Master's Degree Course. The definition of the study program (learning agreement) takes place in collaboration with the Erasmus manager of the study course, both with regards to the choice of exams and the organization of the internship at the partner university. Before completing the learning agreement, the student must obtain formal approval, from professors holding equivalent or similar courses at the University of Milan, of the exams to be taken at the host university. To carry out an experimental activity abroad, which can constitute part or all of the internship activity, a letter of consent is required from a professor of the partner university and the formal approval of the objectives, of the program and the period of the internship by a professor of the course of study who acts as a supervisor. The grade and the associated credits obtained in the partner universities are recognized almost in their entirety, thus giving the students the certainty that what work carried out at the host university is then positively evaluated in their study curriculum. There are also other opportunities for cultural exchanges with universities that have established agreements with our university but which are not part of the Erasmus system. These belong to non-community areas such as China, Japan, and Latin America. Thus, through the constant interaction in European and international working groups, as part of the degree course in "Valorization and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas", students will have the opportunity to activate Erasmus exchanges and internships at research and universities both in the Alpine Region and in an international non-European context.
The participation of the UNIMONT pole in the principle networks of institutes and research centres active on interdisciplinary issues relating to the enhancement and sustainable development of mountain areas and their specifics (https://www.unimontagna.it/networking/livello-internazionale/), facilitates the interaction between students and the specific international “ecosystem” of innovation for mountain areas, increasing opportunities to gain specific experiences abroad at these institutions.

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

ADMISSION CRITERIA: 1ST YEAR OPEN, SUBJECT TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Application and enrolment information and procedures

Access is open, with the assessment of curricular requirements and adequate personal preparation.

Information and organizational methods for enrolment

Deadlines to apply for admission are from 22th January up to 31st October, 2026.
Non-EU citizens applying for a visa must apply from 22th January to 30st April 2026.
Graduates and those who will graduate by 31st December 2026 can apply.
Candidates from other universities must attach the documentation certifying the degree obtained or to be achieved, the exams passed, the exams still to pass, and any language certifications.
For undergraduates and graduates of the University of Milan, this documentation can be acquired from the university offices.
Detailed information is available on the page: https://www.unimi.it/en/study/bachelor-and-master-study/degree-programme-enrolment/enrolment-masters-programme/open-admission-master-programmes

N° of places reserved to non-EU students resident abroad

20

1st COURSE YEAR Core/compulsory courses/activities

Scheduling	Learning activity	Module/teaching unit	Ects	Sector
1 semester	Applied Statistics for Mountain agri-environmental analyses		6	STAT-01/A
1 semester	Bioresources for innovation in mountain products (Total number of ects:12)	Bio Active and functional compounds in traditional and innovative mountain products	6	(3) CHEM-05/A, (3) MVET-02/B
		Microbiology for traditional and innovative products	6	AGRI-08/A
1 semester	Environmental Geology for Mountain Areas		6	GEOS-03/B
2 semester	European Union Law		6	GIUR-10/A
2 semester	Geographic and historical development of the mountain in the long run		6	(3) STEC-01/B, (3) GEOG-01/A
2 semester	Mountain ecosystems and biodiversity valorization		12	(6) AGRI-09/C, (6) BIOS-01/C
2 semester	Sustainable Management and Bioeconomy of Mountain Forests		8	AGRI-03/B
		Total number of compulsory credits/ects	56	

2nd COURSE YEAR (available as of academic year 2027/28) Core/compulsory courses/activities

Scheduling	Learning activity	Module/teaching unit	Ects	Sector
1 semester	Economics, management and valorization of mountain goods and services		8	AGRI-01/A
1 semester	Renewable energy and mountain sustainable environment management		6	AGRI-04/B
2 semester	Infrastructures and landscape planning for sustainable tourism in mountain areas		6	AGRI-04/C
2 semester	Web communication theories and techniques		6	GSPS-06/A
		Total number of compulsory credits/ects	26	

Further elective courses

The teaching plan includes 8 self-chosen ECTS credits, to be acquired with modules offered by the University of Milan. Some of the activities of your choice may include the attendance of seminars, conferences, refresher courses, or other activities organized by the university or another body, always following a favourable assessment from the Academic Board, and can usually allow students to acquire up to a maximum of 4 ECTS credits.
These activities must appear in the study plan and are freely chosen by the student with the help of the tutor but must be approved by the Academic Board which judges their consistency with the master's course. The courses specifically activated by the Master's degree in Valorization and Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas are listed in the table below. See also the paragraph "Program structure - Study plan definition and submission for approval.

1 semester	Co-creation for policy: challenge-based learning and outdoor education as tools to connect people and places *not activated for 2026/2027 a.y.*		3	GSPS-06/A
2 semester	Current issues in mountain tourism management		2	ECON-07/A
2 semester	Mountain biodiversity conservation and protected areas		4	(2) BIOS-03/A, (2) BIOS-01/C

STUDENTS MUST EARN 4 ADDITIONAL CREDITS by choosing from the following activities.
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 https://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.

	Additional Language Skills: Italian (3 ECTS)		3	NN
	Other training activities (1 ECTS)		1	NN
	Other training activities (4 ECTS)		4	NN
End of course requirements				
	Internship		6	NN
	Final exam		20	NN
		Total number of compulsory credits/ects	26	