

# Geography, Spatial Management, Heritage for International Cooperation

## Degree

### Master's



## Education

The structure of the course aims at achieving expertise in **spatial analysis and spatial management**, with a particular - yet not exclusionary - focus on **urban space**. This expertise rests, precisely, in the shaping of theoretical, methodological, and technical competences for the collection, systematisation, elaboration, and dissemination of socio-spatial data, as well as for the production of cartographic material through **GIS**.

Thematically, the curriculum pays particular attention to the ongoing complex socio-spatial transformations of cities, to the composition of holistic planning for local development, and to the enhancement of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Acknowledging the actual needs within an increasingly globalised labour market, **the entire programme is taught in English, while a selection of courses is also available in Italian.**

The explicitly multicultural character that the Master's seeks to maintain is essential to achieving the educational and professional skills, a process which is significantly centred on the **students' active participation in a variety of educational activities.**



**Our website**  
[www.spatialmanagement.unifi.it](http://www.spatialmanagement.unifi.it)

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via San Gallo, 10 | Firenze

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## Offices and contacts

## Admission requirements

To attend the master's program, candidates must have acquired a **Bachelor's Degree (Laurea Triennale)**, in Italy or abroad, in one of the following, yet not limited to, scientific fields: geography; cultural heritage; history; education; environmental sciences; sociology; political sciences; international relations; international cooperation; statistics; urban studies; regional planning; topography and cartography.

Candidates with a degree in a field other than geography should demonstrate, through their **transcript**, to possess sufficient geographical knowledge and competences.

Moreover, candidates must demonstrate fluency in English language, proved by a certificate of **B2 level** or above. In the case of the impossibility to provide such a document, the selection committee will evaluate the applicant's capacity of English language through the interview. Candidates who have any doubts regarding their eligibility are warmly encouraged to contact the Professor in charge of admissions for a first assessment of their academic profiles.

For **more information on prerequisites**, please consult the Master Degree's website.

## Objectives

The principal aim that guides the entire programme is a balance between **theoretical and methodological knowledge** on the one hand, and **technical and digital competences** on the other, thus allowing graduates to comprehend, analyse, and represent the social, economic, and cultural phenomena that all together, and throughout various geographical scales, produce the spatial transformations experienced nowadays worldwide. All academic activities are framed by an **international scientific-cultural perspective**, the latter materialised through a considerable contact with non-European contexts and case-studies.

The knowledge and competences acquired by the Master's students during their course are applicable, yet not limited, to the following topics:

- the practical application of **spatial analysis projects**;
- the **collection of empirical data** utilising both qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- the elaboration and organisation of **geospatial information in data-bases** designed specifically for spatial analysis;
- the digital production of **thematic cartography**;
- the analysis of the **socio-spatial effects** of policy-making across diverse scales, also in cases of international cooperation;
- the elaboration of **plans and projects for spatial development**.

Moreover, the Master's programme offers the possibility to acquire competences in **geography teaching** through the creation of a specialised curriculum precisely focused on geographical education.

The educational activities include **lectures, seminars, and applied laboratories**, while a considerable amount of teaching hours is dedicated to **fieldwork visits and exercises**. Given the highly participative character of the entire range of the teaching modalities, regular attendance and participation is considered important. In case of limitations to regular attendance (as, for example, in the case of working students), the programme's teachers remain available to adapt the curricula and shape individualised ones. Eventually, the international perspective is considerably enriched with the integration of educational activities carried out by **visiting scholars** coming from academic institutions from all over the world.

## Internship and Stages

Together with the academic training, the curriculum includes up to **12 ECTS** to be dedicated to **stage and internship activities**, in multiple ways, to spatial and regional analysis and planning, to the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, and to international cooperation. Students who are interested in further advancing their own competences within the field of empirical geographical research, are offered the opportunity to carry out their stage or internship programme within the Master's degree. It is possible to realise such internal internship and stage schemes at the **Geography laboratories of the SAGAS Department**, that is, the Laboratory of Social Geography – **LaGeS** ([www.lages.eu](http://www.lages.eu)), and at the Laboratory of Applied Geography – **LabGeo** ([www.geografia-applicata.it](http://www.geografia-applicata.it)). On top of that, additional educational opportunities are available thanks to the involvement of the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Fine and Performing Arts (SAGAS) within the **Dipartimenti di Eccellenza** national funding scheme for their exceptional academic performance.

In this framework, the Master's programme is in the privileged position of suggesting to its students special activities such as:

- Access to the **Percorso di Eccellenza**, that is, a special academic scheme for second-year post-graduate students who have completed a minimum of **48 ECTS** and have reached an average mark of at least 29/30. At the conclusion of the Percorso di Eccellenza, each participant is rewarded with the amount of 1.000 euros;
- Funding for the **organisation of scientific exhibitions and seminars** based on initiatives brought forward by the students of the SAGAS Department.

Moreover, since 2023 has been activated a postgraduate course (corso di perfezionamento) in **International practitioners in the safeguarding of cultural heritage in fragile contexts**. Last but not least, the Master's degree is compatible with **PhD** programmes in the wider spatial and geographical disciplines, both in Italy and abroad.

## Career perspectives

The Master's graduates are guaranteed to acquire, at the successful conclusion of their trajectory, a professional baggage of technical and theoretical competences suitable, amongst other, for the following **career paths**:

- **analysts** in private or public **research centres** for urban and regional studies;
- professionals in **governmental institutions**, either national or local, responsible for spatial management, as well as for the management of natural and cultural resources, in Italy or abroad;
- professionals in **international institutions and NGOs** active in the wider field of international cooperation
- **analysts** in institutions and organisations specialised in the elaboration, production, and dissemination of **geographical and cartographic information**;
- professionals in the field of **geographic multimedia** publishing, as well as of the dissemination and communication of **environmental and touristic information**;
- eventually, graduates are offered the possibility to be qualified for **geography teaching** in second-grade education in Italy

## Study plan

### First year

Subject	ECTS
Urban planning and international cooperation	12
Topography and cartography	6
Quantitative methods for population studies	6
Urban geography I: theories & methods	12
GIS for the analysis of environment and space	6
Introduction to spatial analysis	6
Archaeology in conflict areas	6

#### choose one from

• Anthropology of cultural heritage	6
• Environmental anthropology	6

### Second year

Subject	ECTS
Urban geography II: practice	6
Data analysis and visualisation	6
Internship	12
Free choice credits	12
Final thesis	24