



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

STUDENT-LED INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
“Rethinking Destinations:
Sustainable Governance, Territorial Resilience, and the Future of Place Management”

Course period:
First Semester: October 2026 – December 2026

Organized by the University of Bergamo

I. Subject, purpose and recipients

The University of Bergamo is a partner of the BAUHAUS4EU European University Alliance, which brings together partner institutions across Europe to develop a shared campus and to advance innovative, challenge-based and interdisciplinary education inspired by the values of the New European Bauhaus. Through joint teaching formats, mobility opportunities and collaboration with regional ecosystems, BAUHAUS4EU aims to empower students and staff to contribute to a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful future.

One such educational initiative is the Student-Led Interdisciplinary Course (SLC). Student-Led Interdisciplinary Courses are innovative educational formats in which students actively contribute to the design and preparation of the curriculum. Focused on campus transformation, these courses empower participants to act as change agents, using a holistic interdisciplinary approach to develop practical ideas for a greener and more inclusive future.

The University of Bergamo’s Student-Led Interdisciplinary Course “Rethinking Destinations: Sustainable Governance, Territorial Resilience, and the Future of Place Management” examines the transformation of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), from bodies mainly associated with promotion and visitor attraction to institutions increasingly involved in strategic planning, stakeholder coordination, territorial resilience and sustainable destination governance.

The course adopts an interdisciplinary, challenge-based and place-based approach. Through interactive lessons, group work, a Living Lab, in-class discussions and role-play activities, students will explore destinations as complex territorial systems and work collaboratively on real destination challenges.

The course is open to students enrolled at the University of Bergamo, including Erasmus+ and exchange students currently studying at the University, with a maximum of 30 participants.

The course consists of **18 hours of teaching activities**, organised into six three-hour lessons, and corresponds to **3 CFU/ECTS**. Students are required to attend **at least 75% of the teaching activities**.

Registrations open on Monday, September 14, 2026 and close on **Friday, October 9 at 12:00 noon**, Central European Time.

The courses will be delivered primarily in English. A sufficient command of English (B2 level) is therefore required.

II. Application procedure

The application process is open to students of the University of Bergamo who are enrolled in the 2026-2027 academic year. The Student-Led Interdisciplinary Course is open to:

- PhD students;
- Master's students;
- Bachelor's students who have completed at least 60 ECTS credits by October 9, 2026;
- Students who are participating in Erasmus+ or exchange programmes at the University of Bergamo in the 2026/2027 academic year.

Students must complete the application form via [this Google Form link](#), including providing the student's university email address and matriculation ID. Applications must be submitted exclusively by individual students.

There is no registration fee. The Administration accepts no responsibility for the dispersion of communications due to inaccurate information on the email address provided by the applicant or due to failure or delay in communicating a change in the address indicated in the application or in any case attributable to the acts of third parties, fortuitous events or force majeure.

The call for applications and the Google Form application will be published on the website of the University of Bergamo ([Università > Concorsi e selezioni > Per gli studenti > Bandi studenti e laureati](#)) as well as the [dedicated Student-Led Course web page](#) on the University of Bergamo website.

III. Admission process

A maximum of **30** students will be admitted to the course. Admission will be determined on the basis of the chronological order in which applications are received, subject to verification that applicants meet all the eligibility requirements set out in this Call. Eligible applicants will be admitted in order of application until all available places have been filled.

Should the number of eligible applications exceed the number of available places, the remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list, established according to the same chronological criterion. In the event that an admitted student withdraws, the vacant place will be offered to the next eligible applicant on the waiting list.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the admission procedure via the email address provided in the application form.

IV. Course programme and content

The course explores the evolving role of **Destination Management Organisations (DMOs)**, moving beyond their traditional focus on promotion and visitor attraction towards a broader involvement in strategic planning, territorial governance, stakeholder coordination, sustainability and resilience. Destinations are approached as **complex territorial systems**, shaped by the interaction of public institutions, tourism businesses, residents, local communities and territorial resources.

Attention will be devoted to **destination planning and governance**, including different governance models and the relationship between destination management and European tourism policies, with a focus on sustainability, inclusiveness, and the green and digital transitions. An international perspective, including insights from the Swiss context, will complement the course and encourage reflection on different approaches to destination marketing and management.

Students will engage with key contemporary challenges such as **overtourism, local community tensions, stakeholder coordination, multi-level governance and territorial resilience**, considering how the interests of tourists, residents, businesses and territories can be balanced. The course combines academic perspectives with practitioners' experiences, including a Living Lab, and adopts an **interdisciplinary, challenge-based and place-based approach** through interactive teaching, group work, stakeholder engagement, role-play and project work.

V. Duties of Student-Led Interdisciplinary Course participants, certificates and recognition of credits

Students responding to the call for applications must send all communications from their university email address. They undertake not to apply if they are not seriously interested in participating and, in any case, to communicate their possible withdrawal before the deadline of the call for applications, so that other students from the waiting list may be able to attend the course.

Each participant is required to take part in all the activities, attending no less than 75% of the classes and other teaching activities.

The SLC corresponds to 3 CFU/ECTS. Each Degree Course Board (Consiglio di Corso di Studio) may approve the SLC in advance for recognition as an elective activity ("scelta libera"), another educational activity, or additional credits ("sovrannumerari").

Application to the SLC is separate from the compilation of the study plan and does not automatically result in the activity being added to a student's study plan. Students who are admitted may then include the SLC in their study plan according to the recognition arrangements approved by their Degree Course Board.

The 3 CFU/ECTS will be recognized upon successful completion of the SLC, including the required minimum attendance, any intermediate assessments, and the final assessment, which will take the form of a final presentation.

In the case of PhD students, if credits are not part of their PhD programme, an Open Badge recognizing their completion of the SLC will be issued instead.

VI. Person in charge of the procedure

Pursuant to Law 241/1990, Dott.ssa Elena Gotti, the Head of the Training and Students Services Area, is appointed as the person responsible for the administrative procedure.

VII. Processing of personal data

The University informs the applicant that the personal data acquired will be processed in compliance with EU Regulation 679/2016 and the applicable national legislation, for all the purposes inherent to the Student-Led Interdisciplinary Course. The Data Controller is the Rector pro-tempore of the University of Bergamo. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) can be contacted at: dpo@unibg.it. The interested party may address any requests concerning the processing of his/her personal data to the DPO.

VIII. Reports of violations affecting the public interest or the integrity of the University

In accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 24/2023 (on the protection of those who report infringements of European Union law and national regulations), participants in selection procedures may report to the University's Responsabile della Prevenzione della Corruzione e della Trasparenza (RPCT) any behavior that is detrimental to the public interest or the integrity of the Administration. The above-mentioned whistleblowers are guaranteed the protection measures provided for in Chapter III of Legislative Decree 24/2023. The whistleblowers are also guaranteed specific protection of the confidentiality of their personal identity, provided that the reports are submitted through the dedicated channels established by the Administration, i.e. through the dedicated IT platform accessible at the following web address: <https://unibg.whistleblowing.it/#/> or alternatively through the voice mailbox accessible at the following telephone number: 035.205.2160. Further information can be found on the University's institutional website, in the section Amministrazione Trasparente, subsection Altri contenuti / Prevenzione della Corruzione / whistleblowing.

Student-Led Course holder: Roberta Valsecchi (PhD Student in Management, Accounting, Finance), with the mentorship of Prof. Andrea Pozzi, University of Bergamo

Head of the Training and Students Services Area
Dott.ssa Elena Gotti
Digitally signed according to D.LGS 82/2005, art. 24