



Venice
International
University

Island of San Servolo: 1 campus

for **20 Universities** from **14 Countries** on **4 Continents**

Introduction for New Members



Venice International University (VIU) is an Association of twenty-one Universities and institutional partners with a common Campus on the Island of San Servolo, Venice, Italy.



Universities today play a strategic role in addressing new Global Challenges: sustainable development, climate change and energy, food and water security, urban growth, welfare, ageing populations, global ethics, protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, human rights, equality, global governance, pandemics. Some of these critical issues could be foreseen, while others have arisen unexpectedly. Students must develop additional skills and the ability to work across disciplines; they must be able to react with flexibility and a broad intellectual range in order to address current and future Global Challenges.

The Association was founded in 1995 with the purpose of developing joint academic, research and capacity-building programs, across disciplines, continents, languages and cultures. Its role as an Association is to provide an innovative platform for transnational education and promote international cooperation in learning, teaching and research among the Member Institutions. We facilitate the exchange of talent and the pooling of resources among the excellent Universities and Institutions that belong to our network.

Campus on the Island of San Servolo



Our *Campus* on the **Island of San Servolo** in Venice is owned by the Metropolitan City of Venice and was extensively restored during the 1990s. Here, the five pioneering founding universities decided to create a center dedicated to collaborative interdisciplinary programs and projects that are drawn up collegially. The island campus is the ideal setting for building consensus and understanding where students and professors alike enjoy an exceptional intercultural experience and contribute to the vibrant, multicultural, global VIU community.

San Servolo is 10 minutes by ferry from St. Mark's Square in the city's historic center.

Venice

The joint activities of **Venice International University** take advantage of the multicultural context and the unique setting of Venice as a special laboratory, as a location that foregrounds the extraordinary culture of the past, the problems of the present, and the possibility of the future.

Venice International University has become the ideal context for experimenting innovative approaches to education and training, where students, researchers and professors come together to exchange knowledge and ideas, while exploring interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives in their studies and research. We have always worked to promote a research triangle of stakeholders – industry, academia and government, developing solid networks of experts and institutions relevant to the Focus Areas. More recently, the multi-stakeholder approach has been extended to include citizens and civil society, as the engagement of citizens and civil society has the potential to inform both research and policy, and positively impact the investigation and tackling of today's global challenges.

Overview of Activities

Academic Programs

- Globalization Program | 2 semesters + summer sessions, for bachelor and master's students who gain credit towards their degrees
- PhD Academy | to develop transversal skills and promote research cooperation among advanced PhDs
- Graduate Seminars | to support early-career PhDs beginning their research
- Summer schools | intensive taught programs for various target groups, from bachelor to PhD, and also professionals

Training and Capacity Building

- Staff training; International capacity building; collaboration with the private sector

Research

- European, international and national projects activating and merging competences of member universities

Dissemination

- High level conferences, seminars and workshops, organized by members or brought by other international institutions

Focus Areas & Specialization Tracks

The following topics are addressed by assorted VIU programs:

Sustainability | Environmental Management & Security; Green & Circular Economy

Innovation | Creativity, Innovation and Design; Transport, Logistics & Planning

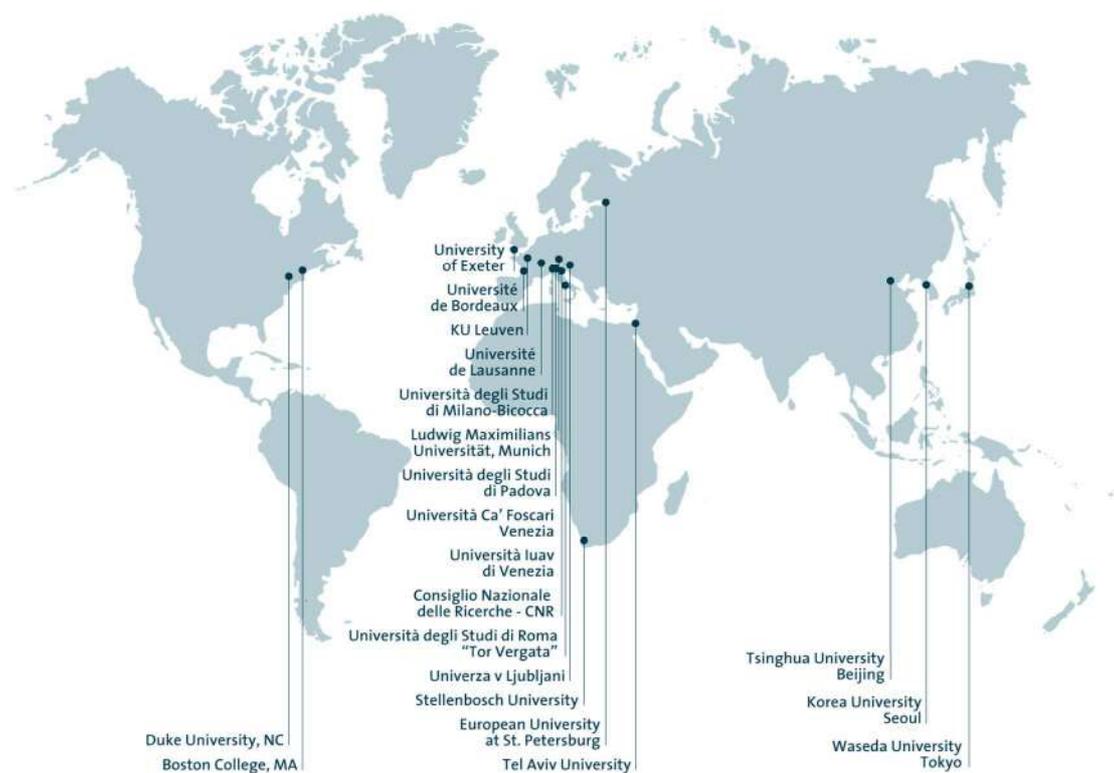
Globalization & Global Challenges | Cities and Global Change; Identity, Heritage, Ethics & Human Rights; Comparative Cultures

Science and Society | Science Communication; Ageing Societies; Ethics in Research and Medicine

Humanities | Cultural Heritage Conservation & Management; Visualizing Cities; Global Humanities; History and Memory; Environmental Humanities; Republics and Republicanism; Film Studies.

VIU Member Institutions

- Boston College, MA, USA
- Duke University, NC, USA
- European University at St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
- Korea University, Seoul, Korea
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany
- National Research Council, Rome, Italy
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Tsinghua University, Shanghai, China
- Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy
- Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Italy
- Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy
- Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy
- Università Iuav di Venezia, Italy
- Université de Bordeaux, France
- University of Exeter, Great Britain
- University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- Univerza v Ljubljani, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
- Metropolitan City of Venice, Italy



Venice International University is a legally recognized non-profit Association founded on December 15, 1995.

In 1997, the Italian Ministry for University and Research recognized **Venice International University** as an International Center of Higher Education and Research.

Governing Bodies

The **VIU Assembly** is chaired by the President.

Each member institution is represented by its Rector, President, Provost or Vice Chancellor, who participates *ex officio* in the meetings of the Assembly of the Association.

The Assembly convenes at least once a year.

The **Board of Directors** is also chaired by the President.

The Board of Directors includes the President, the Vice President, the Dean, and between five and twenty directors who are appointed by the Assembly for a three-year term.

The Board of Directors deliberates on all financial matters and strategic issues concerning VIU management.

The Board of Directors convenes at least twice per year.

The **Academic Council** is chaired by the Dean of VIU.

The Academic Council includes one member for each Member University, who is elected by the Assembly following their nomination by their respective University.

The main task of the Academic Council is to deliberate on all academic matters.

The Academic Council convenes twice per year.

The President is the legal representative of the Association. S/he is elected by the Assembly for a three-year term.

The current President is Ambassador Umberto Vattani, a former Italian diplomat whose curriculum appears on the VIU web site.

The Dean is the chief academic officer of the Association. S/he is elected by the Assembly for a three-year term.

Prof. Carmelo Marabello is the Dean of VIU since 2022. He is full professor of Film and Media Studies at the Università Iuav di Venezia in the Department of Architecture and Arts. He is currently the Rector's delegate for University Strategy. His main research interests lie in the history of cinema and its relations with visual arts and anthropology.

Duties and Advantages for Member Universities

Each Member University must:

- participate actively in the activities of the Association;
- contribute to the financial, strategic and academic planning of Venice International University through participation in the Assembly, Board of Directors and Academic Council;
- submit recommendations for University representatives for the Board of Directors and the Academic Council. These candidates are evaluated and appointed by the VIU Assembly;
- promote VIU activities, circulate calls for proposals and for applications and recruit professors and students within their own Universities, ensuring that the relevant and competent offices in the home University are informed of the decisions taken at the Board and Council meetings;
- establish their own internal procedures for the recognition of credit for courses completed at VIU by their students.

Each Member University may:

- send up to 50 students per year to attend the Globalization Program; 20 per Semester and 10 per Summer Session.
- designate two professors per year to teach in the Globalization Program; each professor teaches two courses during the 15-week semester, receiving a Travel and Accommodation allowance of up to €8,500;
- submit proposals for PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars & Summer Schools in collaboration with other Member Universities;
- allow and encourage professors, researchers and PhDs to participate in the PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars & Summer Schools;
- host students from Member Universities for research internships related to their studies at VIU;
- use VIU facilities for their own activities.

Annual Association Fee:

Each Member university pays an annual association fee, which is currently set at € 59,000 per year. The Association fees contribute to the running costs of **Venice International University**, including the Travel & Housing Allowance paid to visiting professors teaching in the Globalization Program the annual budget of €100,000 for the Intensive Graduate Activities.

Admission Procedure to VIU Association:

A University that wishes to join **Venice International University** should submit a letter of candidature to the President of VIU. The letter must present the University's motivations for requesting to join the Association. The application is then submitted by the President to the VIU Assembly for evaluation and approval.

Academic Programs

Globalization Program

VIU's Globalization Program promotes and facilitates academic cooperation among partner Universities from around the world. The program provides students with an intense educational experience in Venice, in a multicultural context, where global and comparative approaches are privileged.

Each Semester, 150-200 students attend the Globalization Program during which they may choose from a course offering of 25-30 courses, which are English-taught by visiting professors from the Member Universities. Students may attend one or two semesters and receive credit towards their (Bachelor or Master) degree program in their home university. Each University establishes its own procedures for recognizing credit for VIU courses.

A set of Core Courses is available every semester, focusing on three themes:

- *Venice & Italy*
- *Cultures of the World*
- *Global Challenges*

Three Specialization Tracks are available each semester.

1st semester (September-December)

- *Economics, Management and Digital Technologies applied to Cultural Heritage*
- *Science and Society*
- *History and Memory*

2nd semester (February-May)

- *Environmental Management and Sustainable Development*
- *Cities and Global Change*
- *Environmental Humanities*

Starting in 2022, a four-week Summer Session of the Globalization Program is offered during August.

Opportunity for Your Students:

The international, multicultural and interdisciplinary nature of the Globalization Program makes studying at VIU a unique learning experience in which students explore and embrace new knowledge and thought, and develop their capacity for critical thinking.

Students can attend one or two semesters and should receive credit towards their Bachelor or Master's degree program in their home university. They must be registered for a degree program in a Member university, but pay no fees directly to VIU. They do however cover their own accommodation and living costs during their stay in Venice.



Meeting Venice Co-curricular Program:

In order to help the students make the most of the VIU experience, VIU runs a successful and popular co-curricular program. The goals of the program are threefold:

- To allow students and visiting professors to understand the city of Venice and its Lagoon, with its extraordinary wealth of cultural heritage, situated in a unique environment, but also to understand Venice as a living city, which must address the challenges of cultural and environmental conservation and development;
- To take learning out of the classroom and into the field: Venice offers excellent opportunities for on-site learning, mainly in the fields of Cultural Heritage and Environmental Management, but also in different social and economic contexts.
- To provide students with opportunities to break down intercultural barriers in their peer group.

Approximately 35 co-curricular activities are organized each semester, including site visits, field trips, guest lectures, music concerts, social events, sports tournaments etc.

Accommodation & Logistics

VIU students benefit from many services including: assistance in finding accommodation, either on campus or in apartments in the city; obtaining visas and residency permit; tax code; health care; etc.

Internships and Worldwide Mobility | Grants and Scholarships

Students of the Globalization Program can apply for internships to gain work experience in prestigious host institutions in Italy or for worldwide mobility for thesis research supported by VIU scholarships and Erasmus+ grants.

Approximately 10 students per semester are selected.

Host organizations in Italy include:

- Council of Europe – Venice Office
- UNESCO – Venice office
- Peggy Guggenheim Collection
- Vela SpA
- City of Venice – International Relations Office
- Fondazione Musei Civici
- CNR – Italian National Research Council
- We are Here Venice - non-profit association

Member Universities that have hosted VIU students for thesis research:

- Boston College, MA, USA
- Duke University, USA
- European University of Saint Petersburg, Russia
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Ludwig Maximilians Universitaet, Munich, Germany
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Tsinghua University, Beijing China
- Waseda University, Japan

VIU, together with the Member Universities in Italy, has established an Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium. Erasmus+ funding is used by VIU and by the Member Universities to support the participation of students and professors in the VIU programs and for Research Development.

Opportunity for Your Professors:

Professors teaching in the Globalization Program:

- enjoy a unique teaching experience, with relatively small classes, composed of motivated students from different backgrounds, in terms of culture, language, nationality, academic tradition, discipline, level of degree. This encourages the professors to rethink and review their courses, often assuming new, unexpected, stimulating and global points of view;
- participate in a multicultural and multidisciplinary academic community, which represents the transnational network of Member Universities and offers opportunities for academic exchange and collaborative research;
- may engage with the city of Venice as an academic case study and have access to its cultural institutions and museums and the local scientific community. During their term of teaching at VIU, professors are offered the possibility to be affiliated with one of the Member Universities of the metropolitan area (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Luav University of Venice or University of Padua).

Member Universities may offer four courses in the Globalization Program per year. Typically, each professor teaches two courses during a Semester, receiving a Travel and Accommodation allowance of up to €8500. Apartments in Venice cost €1400-€1800 per month depending on the location and size of the apartment.

Professors receive support from VIU in obtaining visas, residency permits, accommodation etc.

www.univiu.org/study/globalization-program



Intensive Graduate Activities

In the Intensive Graduate Activities participants develop a forward-looking vision, experiment with interdisciplinary approaches, collaborate with peers from all over the world, tackle transversal topics, undertake scientific challenges in innovative ways while building and strengthening networks of scholars on areas of shared interest within the Association. Professors from a minimum of three Member Universities participate in the scientific coordination of each program.

VIU launched the Intensive Graduate Activities in 2016. They are all characterized by their multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary focus, while the peer-to-peer experience is highly valued by the participants.

There are three categories of activities:

PhD Academy:

Interdisciplinary intensive programs on major societal challenges with a parallel training program in transversal skills to prepare advanced PhDs for research careers in academia or in the private sector. PhD Academies are reserved for students, researchers and professors of the Member Universities.

www.univiu.org/study/phd-academy

Graduate Seminars:

Thematic intensive seminars, on a focused topic approached from a multidisciplinary perspective. The aim is to support early-career PhDs who are beginning their research and to facilitate interdepartmental cooperation. Graduate Seminars are reserved for students, researchers and professors of the Member Universities.

www.univiu.org/study/graduate-seminars

VIU Summer/Winter Schools:

Intensive taught programs for various target groups, from Bachelor to PhD level, and also professionals. The Summer Schools are open also to students, researchers and professors from non-member universities.

<https://www.univiu.org/study/summer-schools>

The annual budget for the Intensive Graduate Activities is €100,000.

The annual calendar of Intensive Graduate Activities typically includes 2 PhD Academies, 2 Graduate Seminars and 10-12 Summer Schools. 15-25 students participate in each activity.

VIU Global Challenges Initiatives

are a coordinated stream of activities, inspired by ambitions to contribute to the creation of knowledge, understanding, and skills, responding to current and future major societal challenges faced by humankind today: environmental, social, cultural and technological phenomena and their local impacts.

The Academic Council welcomes proposals for Intensive Graduate Activities that can be included in the VIU Global Challenges Initiatives as a means to promote the visibility and recognition of VIU as an Institution playing a key role in some various areas of global relevance.

Knowledge creation across different disciplines - the humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences - can play a fundamental role in coping with these challenges. Within an evolving and unconstrained ensemble of topics addressed by VIU Member institutions, the Initiatives address core interests of global and local relevance.

The Initiatives may include international workshops, forums, and conferences, whose participants are drawn from academia, business, public institutions, civil society, NGO, and the art worlds. By encouraging the interconnection of these activities, VIU will disseminate the outcomes and extend the discussion to a wider audience.



Research

The shared aims of VIU Members create the framework for VIU's Research activities, which are carried out under the coordination of the three thematic programs: TeDIS Program on Innovation (since 1999), the TEN Program on Sustainability (2003), and the Ageing Program (2014).

VIU's Thematic Programs stem from the need to bring together scholars, professionals, decision-makers and citizens in a continuous dialogue on our society's challenges.

VIU Member Universities as well as other national and international stakeholders from a variety of sectors are involved in interdisciplinary research and advanced educational projects, fostering international cooperation, developing capacity building and supporting dissemination of research results.

This approach has allowed VIU to develop innovative networks of experts, to explore emerging focus areas, and to promote multidisciplinary topics.

The networks are at the heart of the activities of the thematic programs, which find fulfillment both in research funded by the European Union and in higher-education activities that are integrated into the VIU academic programs, such as PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars and Summer Schools.

Program on Innovation | TEDIS

Research and higher education in the fields of innovation as a key driver analyzed in two different focus areas: sustainable logistics and mobility policies, both for freight and passengers; enterprise competitiveness through design and creativity within globalization processes of the global economy.

The TeDIS Program:

- is a member of the ALICE network that develops strategy for research innovation in logistics and supply chain management and supports the implementation of EU Programs for research;
- is partner of the H2020 project SPROUT, Sustainable Policy Response to Urban Mobility Transition and in the Interreg projects such as SUSPORT, Sustainable Ports; PROMARES, Promoting maritime and multimodal freight transport in the Adriatic Sea;
- contributes to the VIU Academic Programs with the Summer School on *Advanced Transportation, Logistics and Supply Chain Management* and in the recent years with a Graduate Seminar on *Rethinking Manufacturing, Consumption and Globalization in the Era of Automation* and a PhD Academy on *Mobility challenges for future society*.

www.univiu.org/about-viu/organization/tedis-program

Program on Sustainability | TEN

Research and higher education to promote Sustainable Development at a global level, with particular attention to emerging economies and SDGs. Green Economy, Environment Security, Science Communication and Education are the focus areas of the TEN Program, while Capacity building, knowledge sharing and dissemination are among the main activities.

The interdisciplinary approach adopted promotes interaction within the quadruple helix - industry, academia, government and citizens.

The TEN Program:

- coordinates the H2020 projects QUEST on Science Communication and partner in H2020 MUHAI project on Artificial Intelligence
- coordinates the SMACH project on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change in the Balkans, developed within the Central European Initiative.
- is member of the networks ASVIS, Italian alliance for Sustainable development and UNGC, United Nations Global Compact
- contributes to the VIU's Globalization Program specialization tracks on "Sustainable Development" and on "Science and Society".
- contributes to the VIU academic programs with the Graduate Seminar on Science Communication Today: Challenges and Opportunities in the SDGs Era
- hosts and co-organizes the international Symposium on Science Communication of the PCST- Public Communication of Science and Technology, the most important global network on Science Communication Technology.

www.univiu.org/about-viu/organization/ten-program



Ageing Program

Research and capacity-building activities with the goal of furthering the understanding of the ageing process from an interdisciplinary perspective, referring to the various domains such as economics, health sciences and sociology, in order to identify critical areas that affect health and social care of older people and address the challenges of demographic and societal changes in Europe and in the rest of the World. An important focus is dedicated to longitudinal panel studies and micro-data sets. Target groups include experts and stakeholders, PhD candidates, university researchers and professors, medical and social care professionals.

Ageing program:

- is involved in the EICA, European Interdisciplinary Council on Ageing, the first scientific organization in Europe specifically fostering the knowledge transfer of Ageing research outcomes to various professional groups, policy makers, and the general public mainly through advanced educational programs.
- contributes to the VIU academic programs with the annual editions of the Summer Institute on Ageing, and a new Summer School on Ethics and Health Care.
- promotes a series of webinars and e-learning courses in collaboration with EICA related to ageing, medical, ethical, and legal issues.

www.univiu.org/about-viu/organization/ageing-program

Conferences

Our Campus in Venice is an excellent and unique venue for international conferences and we encourage our members to organize conferences at Venice International University with our support.

We currently run two biennial “VIU Conferences” that are joint endeavors of several Member Universities that have emerged from collaborations among scholars that were initiated in the Academic Programs.

[The Venice World Multidisciplinary Conference on Republics and Republicanism](#)

[Defining the Human in Environmental Humanities](#)

We host many more conferences each year, organized by both Members and other Research Centers or Academic Institutions who seek a suitable location for their academic and scientific Conferences and Workshops.

The Conferences at VIU are a significant contributor to the annual budget. Rates are differentiated for collaborative initiatives among member Universities, for autonomous activities of the Member Universities, and for external institutions.

There are **20 conference and seminar rooms** of varying capacity (ranging from 20 to 240 places) on the VIU Campus, equipped with **all the necessary technological equipment**: video projectors, PCs, audio systems, videoconferencing and **WiFi connection** for all participants.

Catering lobbies and staff offices are also available, and all participants have access to a **restaurant and café**.

VIU staff can provide support in organizing:

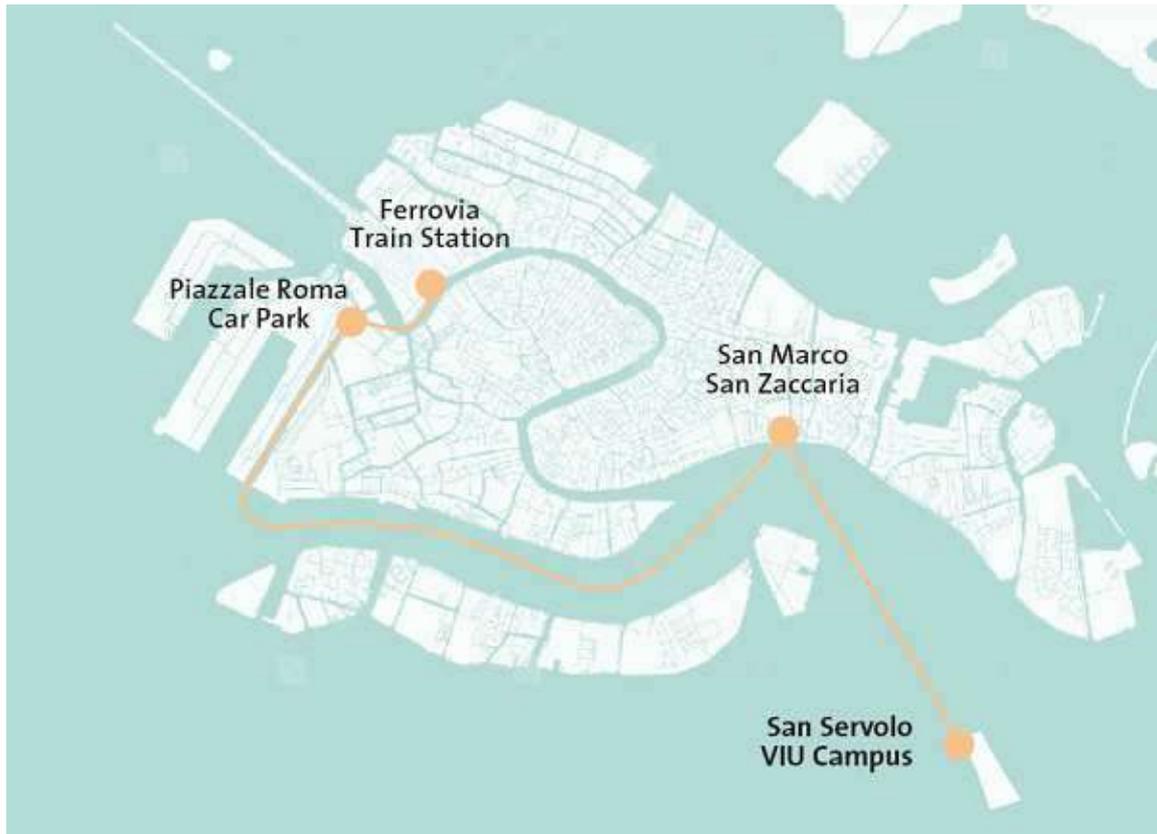
- accommodation with third party providers, either on the Island of San Servolo or in hotels in Venice;
- catering services for coffee breaks, welcome receptions and buffet lunches with third party providers;
- audio-video technical assistance, interpreting etc.
- local logistical requirements



Information regarding the organization of Conferences and Workshops at VIU is available from the **Conferences Office**:

Email: conferences@univiu.org

Direct line: +39 041 2719 581



Venice International University is on the Island of San Servolo, 10 minutes by boat from Piazza San Marco

Venice International University has received the **ISO 9001 Certification for its Quality Management System** for the "Design and provision of undergraduate, graduate and advanced training courses and programs" following an independent assessment.

Venice International University

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