

**University of Milano-Bicocca**  
**Master's Degree Program in APPLIED**  
**EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES D.M.**  
**22/10/2004, n. 270**  
**Study Handbook – Academic Year 2017/2018**

**ART. 1**

**This is a summary of the regulations and information regarding this degree program. The full version can be consulted in the original Italian.**

Master's Program: APPLIED EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
The LM-51 class of Master's degrees in Psychology  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Duration: 2 years

Credits: 120 CFUs

Degree name: Master's Degree in APPLIED EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Maximum number of credits recognized: 12

Administrative headquarters and courses located in MILAN, ITALY

Web addresses: <http://www.unimib.it/go/49416>; <http://elearning.unimib.it/F5105P>.

**ART. 2 Introduction**

The Master's in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences is an international degree program. All courses will be taught in English. The degree course will make use of and connect the different areas of Psychology, thus offering students a professional profile in Behavioral Sciences and Applied Psychology. Graduates will be able to apply advanced methods and understanding to various professional spheres. This Master's program is meant to attract students from abroad and create professionals who can compete in the national and international job market. After this Master's degree, graduates may begin a Second-level Master's as well as Specialization or PhD programs in Psychology.

**ART. 3 Specific Educational Objectives and Course Description**

The Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences provides students with a broad mastery of various areas of Experimental Psychology. Reading the most recent international literature, graduates will acquire skills and knowledge in advanced Theoretical and Applied Psychology. They will be able to understand and analyze the cognitive, behavioral and choice processes that individuals and organizations put into place in public and private situations. In addition, they will be able to plan research projects and treatment. Thus, the first year will provide broad and multidisciplinary insight into fields of Experimental Psychology such as Cognitive Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Social Cognition, Developmental Cognitive Psychology and Experimental Clinical Psychology. Innovative teaching techniques

geared toward showing the applications of various disciplines will stimulate students' understanding of different theories and models.

The second year will focus on developing students' theoretical knowledge and skills through a variety of optional, more practical courses. Second-year students may direct their interests to a specific field by doing an internal research internship or an external professional internship and by preparing the Master's thesis. Both years of the program will emphasize integrating the theoretical and methodological aspects of Psychology.

Students will reach these educational goals by:

- a) Attending interactive classes, for example, students will take part in class discussions on applying theoretical principles to practical situations.
- b) Independent study using advanced texts and articles from specialized international journals.
- c) Doing methodology labs on the main research methods, multidisciplinary research skills and planning treatment.
- d) Using specialized professional tools such as programming languages and statistical analysis.
- e) Doing the internship and possibly studying abroad with one of our partner universities.
- f) Preparing the Master's thesis.

The skills that this Master's program should provide combine flexibility (research and methodological skills can be applied to a wide range of areas) and specificity (skills are applied to a specific field in the student's course of study). During the Master's program, Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences students should acquire the skills and knowledge to address complex individual, social, research and organizational needs and questions from the different areas of Psychology. Classes are taught with a focus on application. Skills and knowledge in diverse theoretical fields allow students a great deal of flexibility particularly as regards less traditional, more specialized and cutting edge work environments. Students show they can apply their knowledge by participating in class and labs. The labs will introduce the students to a variety of methods, such as Cognitive Science research methods, methods of measurement and ambulatory assessment, computational models, and cognitive and behavioral measures. Second year labs will specifically focus on multidisciplinary research and planning skills, (for example, how to plan and write a research project or applying for funding), project development, and evaluation in psychological treatment. Labs are wholly integrated with coursework and they allow students to see how programming languages, data analysis, research methods, and multidisciplinary research skills are applied. Here, students will apply the methods they've learned to specific research questions. In the same way, the internship and thesis will allow students to directly apply their multidisciplinary skills and their knowledge of specific methods, which they sharpen in the process.

Students will hone their independent critical judgment by facing complex individual and organizational decisions. Graduates will be able to integrate methodological and theoretical skills autonomously and apply them to various situations. This Master's

program is designed to develop a lasting ability to make decisions by taking into account internal and external elements that make the professional environments our graduates can enter so complex. Students will achieve this by learning to form judgments based on empirical data and a critical understanding of the complexities inherent in various environments where they may work. Graduates will know how to apply empirically founded, generalizable methodologies to specific cases. They will also acquire theoretical and practical multidisciplinary expertise that will allow them to work independently and make responsible decisions. Finally, graduates will be able to put elements of what they've learned together to create original and innovative solutions.

Graduates will be able to communicate with a range of public and private sector professionals from different cultural and scientific backgrounds. By the end of the program, graduates in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences will be able to propose effective, innovative research projects. They will also be able to clearly convey their results and conclusions in detail to an expert or general audience using field-specific terms. Some strongpoints of this program are that graduates are able to express themselves fluently in English, coordinate teamwork and collaborate with outside professionals.

Students' academic progress is measured in university credits, from here on called, CFUs. CFUs represent the work students invest in class, in the lab and in independent study. One CFU is equivalent to 25 hours of work.

## **ART. 4 Professional Opportunities**

### **4.1 Psychologist (Public Sector)**

Analysis of the cognitive, behavioral and choice processes that individuals and policy makers put into place in political, economic and social situations to:

1. Manage or correct cognitive and behavioral errors.
2. Plan and conduct empirical research based on the psychological principles of: Cognitive Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Social Cognition, Developmental Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Social Cognition, and Experimental Clinical Psychology.
3. Engage in independent or team planning of treatment strategies to change individual or group behavior for a social impact related to health, the environment or political engagement.
4. Propose and promote institutional changes (for example in schools) to better foster wellness, cognitive processes and appropriate behavior.

### **Professional Abilities**

Graduates will gain the professional skills to be able to operate in the public sector. Through the closely connected theoretical skills and work activities, they will be able to critically select the most appropriate psychological models for planning treatment and carrying it out. The experience of applying different lab-acquired research methods, of doing the internship and preparing the thesis will allow graduates to evaluate the efficacy of a given treatment. In-class and in-lab group work teach graduates to do their part in a professional group with a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach.

Graduates will learn to encourage individual or group decisions and behaviors that promote wellness and to foster effective interactions and behaviors in organizations such as hospitals, schools, communities, public institutions, and non-for-profits. The skills described above can be used in research planning and/or producing public service announcements.

### **Skills**

Graduates will be able to do research and work in public institutions, agencies that promote social development, or national or international NGOs by applying psychological constructs and models to take and carry out policy decisions.

### **4.2 Psychologist (Private Sector)**

This professional analyzes individuals' cognitive, behavioral and choice processes, creating and conducting research projects for communication campaigns and technical products for consumers.

### **Professional Abilities**

Graduates will develop skills to select the most appropriate psychological methods and models to deal with the target problem. After gaining theoretical knowledge and working in the lab, graduates will be able to find the most appropriate methods to plan treatments and carry them out.

Graduates gain skills applicable to different research methods in the lab, at their internships and through their thesis preparation that allow them to evaluate the efficacy of treatments. In-class and in-lab group work teach graduates to do their part in a professional group with a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach.

Graduates will hone the skills to give treatment that can 1) change or encourage individuals' behavior and choices (ex. consumer behavior), 2) promote effective behaviors and interactions in a variety of work environments with human and non-human agents (ex. the human-machine relationship), 3) plan effective communication campaigns, and 4) develop grant proposals from State agents or private foundations (including independent budget planning, cost-benefit and effectiveness analyses based on the principles of various domains of Psychology).

### **Skills**

In private firms, consulting firms, communications agencies, and national and international market research institutions, our graduates can work as researchers and

have expertise in applying psychological constructs and models (such as those for communications, marketing and ergonomics) in a multidisciplinary context.

#### **4.3 Possible Careers for our Graduates**

Social Science Specialists

Specialists in Psychological and Psychotherapeutic Sciences

Educational and Developmental Psychologists

Occupational Psychologists

University Researchers and Senior Technicians

Researchers and Senior Technicians in History, Philosophy, Education and Psychology

#### **ART. 5 Admissions Requirements**

Students with a 3-year Bachelor's degree, or an international equivalent may apply to the Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences. Additionally, basic knowledge of general Psychology and Physiology, Educational and Developmental Psychology, Dynamic-Clinical Psychology, and Social and Occupational Psychology is required. Students must have completed 88 CFU undergraduate credits (or the international equivalent) earned in courses on various fields of Psychology (M-PSI/01, M-PSI/02, MPSI/03, M-PSI/04, M-PSI/05, M-PSI/06, M-PSI/07, MPSI/08). A B2 level of English is also required.

#### **ART. 6 The admissions Process**

The Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences can accommodate 50 EU students and 10 non-EU students. To be accepted, students must possess the above curricular requirements and be among the top 50 EU (or 10 non-EU) students in the merit ranking.

The curricular admissions requirements are:

- A. A Bachelor's degree and 88 CFU credits in the following areas: M-PSI/01, M-PSI/02, M-PSI/03, M-PSI/04, M-PSI/05, M-PSI/06, M-PSI/07, M-PSI/08. These credits can be earned during the Bachelor's or even after, by taking extra courses. These credits cannot count toward the 120 CFUs to be earned in the Master's program. This requirement is considered automatically fulfilled by students with:
  - a. An L-24 ex DM 270/04 Bachelor's degree
  - b. A foreign 3-year Bachelor's degree or similar that is deemed equivalent
- B. A minimum of a B2 (European Framework) level of English.

If the applicants outnumber the available slots, students will be ranked and chosen according to the criteria outlined in the call for applications. The following documents will be considered in any ranking: CV, reference letter, and motivation statement. The admissions committee may require an interview as part of the evaluation.

## **ART. 7 Master's Program Structure**

The Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences lasts 2 years and requires 48 CFUs in specialized courses, 24 CFUs in advanced and supplementary courses, 8 CFUs in electives, 24 CFUs in job market access skills, 16 of which may be earned in labs and 8 in the internship. The thesis is worth 16 CFUs. Six specialized first year courses will provide theoretical and applied psychological expertise. To complete the first year, students must select 2 out of 4 methodology labs and at least one elective chosen from among the Master's courses offered at the university, for a total of 8 CFUs. In the second year, students personalize their scientific profile by selecting 3 out of 8 advanced and supplementary applied courses. They attend 2 required labs on applied, multidisciplinary skills on thesis preparation and the internship.

### **7.1 Courses**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

##### Required courses for 48 CFUs:

Cognitive Psychology, M-PSI/01, 8 CFUs  
Cognitive Neuroscience, M-PSI/02, 8 CFUs  
Psychometrics and Quantitative Methods, M-PSI/03, 8 CFUs  
Cognitive Development, M-PSI/04, 8 CFUs  
Social Cognition, M-PSI/05, 8 CFUs  
Experimental Clinical Psychology, M-PSI/08, 8 CFUs

##### Elective labs for 8 CFUs. Choose among:

Research Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience, 4 CFUs  
Measurement Methods and Ambulatory Assessment, 4 CFUs  
Computational Modelling, 4 CFUs  
Cognitive and Behavioral Measures, 4 CFUs

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

##### Required labs for 8 CFUs:

Transferable Research Skills Laboratory, 4 CFUs  
Evaluation of Psychological Interventions Laboratory, 4 CFUs

Internship, 8 CFUs

Thesis, 16 CFUs

##### Elective courses for 24 CFUs. Choose among:

Cognitive Ergonomics, M-PSI/01, 8 CFUs  
Decision Making, M-PSI/01, 8 CFUs  
Applied Neuroscience, M-PSI/02, 8 CFUs  
Applied Cognitive Development, M-PSI/04, 8 CFUs  
Applied Psycholinguistics, L-LIN/01, 8 CFUs  
Applied Social Cognition to Public Policies, M-PSI/05, 8 CFUs  
Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, M-PSI/01-M-PSI/02, 8 CFUs  
Consumer Psychology, M-PSI/06, 8 CFUs  
Games and Strategic Behavior, SECS-P/01, 8 CFUs

### **7.3 Internships**

This Master's program requires an internship (8 CFUs) that gives students the chance to get practical work experience and delve further into the subjects they learned about in class and the lab. Alternatively, students can do their internship at the Psychology Department or abroad. For more information on internships, please go to the Internship Office.

### **7.4 Earning CFUs**

Students earn CFUs by taking the final exam, with a score out of 30, at the end of each course. Exams may be only oral or combine written and oral parts. CFUs for lab work are earned by successfully completing the work assigned.

### **7.5 Attendance**

The Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences requires attendance of at least 70% of lab hours. Students must register for CFU lab credits immediately after each lab unless they have a documented excuse. For courses, attendance is not required but strongly encouraged.

### **7.6 Pre-requisites**

There are no pre-requisites within the program but is best to take the 1<sup>st</sup> year courses before the 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses.

### **7.7 Study Plan**

The study plan is the set of required courses, suggested courses and electives. Students are automatically assigned an official study plan when they enroll in the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Afterwards, students must hand in their own individual study plan with all the suggested courses they plan to take as well as their electives. Study plans are approved by the Didactic Coordination Council or by the Departmental Council. The deadline and format of the study plan are outlined by the university. Students' rights to take exams depend upon those courses being included in the most recently approved study plan. Any further issues on this subject can be clarified by the university regulations.

### **7.8 Orientation and Tutoring**

Teachers and tutors help students to create their individual study plans through orientation and tutoring. At the beginning of the school year, new students will see a presentation on the Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences. The Orientation Network ([www.unimib/orientamento](http://www.unimib/orientamento)) also offers guidance to students. The Psychosocial Consulting Service provides the following services:

- a) Helping new students face the difficulties of starting a new program by thinking about their motivations and professional goals.
- b) Identifying students' personal strengths (cognitive, emotional and relational), potential and commitments to help them face criticism in their academic careers.
- c) Remotivate students' choice of subject or re-orient them to another focus more in line with their aspirations and professional plans. For foreign students, this will include promoting integration by working alongside an Italian student in the same program who has a Bachelor's degree from the Bicocca.

### **7.9 Course schedule and exam schedule**

The academic year is divided into two semesters: the 1<sup>st</sup> from, October to December and the 2<sup>nd</sup> from March to May. Every course corresponds to only one exam. The three annual exam sessions are January-February, June-July and September. When students finish a course they must take the final exam within one academic year. For 1<sup>st</sup> semester courses, the last valid exam date is in the September exam session. For 2<sup>nd</sup> semester courses, the last exam date is in the January/February session of the following year.

The course calendar, lesson schedule and exam calendar are available on the program website: <http://didattica.unimib.it/F5105P>

### **ART. 8 Thesis**

Students prepare their theses under the supervision of a professor who teaches a course in the Master's program in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences. Part of the thesis work can be done during the internship. The thesis consists of an original, written paper describing the student's research on a topic related to the Master's program. In order to write the thesis, students may choose to attend outside courses on project realization related to subjects in the Master's program.

The Master's thesis must be written and defended in English. The thesis defense will be public and take place before a committee of professors who will give the final mark out of 110 points.

### **ART. 9 Thesis format**

The thesis project consists of writing and defending an original paper under the guidance of an advisor and possibly a second advisor. Alongside the advisor, a co-advisor critically evaluates the thesis. The thesis defense will be public and take place before a committee of professors according to university regulations. The committee will give the final mark out of 110 points.

Every year, the Department council decides on the dates for thesis defense sessions. For more information on theses, please see the website: <http://didattica.unimib.it/F5105P>.

### **ART. 10 Transfer Credits**

A commission nominated by the Department council will evaluate requests for recognition of courses or parts of Master's programs that are equivalent to those of this program.

According to laws D.M. 270/2004 and L. 240/2010, universities can recognize individually certified professional skills as academic credits as well as a maximum of 12 CFUs of other post-secondary education. Courses and other educational activities already recognized in the Bachelor's program cannot be recognized again in the Master's program. Other Master's Programs cannot be transferred.

### **ART. 11 Research that Supports the Educational Program**

The Master's program curriculum, specifically the internship and the thesis, can be connected to the research done in the Department of Psychology. Interns and thesis students can do their work in departmental labs. Research is carried out in all the fields covered in the Master's program, for example: decision-making processes, Cognitive Psychology, Applied Neurosciences, Social Cognitive Psychology, Experimental Clinical Psychology, Development Processes, Language Processing, and advanced methods and techniques of measurement. These research areas are supported by our professors' many notable scientific publications in prestigious international journals.

### **ART. 12 Master's Program Faculty**

Bricolo Emanuela; Full Professor, M-PSI/01  
Bulf Hermann Sergio; Associate Professor, M-PSI/04  
Perugini Marco; Full Professor M-PSI/03  
Durante Federica; Assistant Professor, M-PSI/05  
Preti Emanuele; Assistant Professor, M-PSI/08  
Cattaneo Zaira; Associate Professor, M-PSI/02

### **ART. 13 Contact and Other Information**

The courses take place at: Department of Psychology, University of Milano-Bicocca, Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo, 1, 20126 Milan  
Department website: <http://www.psicologia.unimib.it>  
Master's program website: <http://didattica.unimib.it/F5105P>  
Department office: Department of Psychology, University of Milano-Bicocca, Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo, 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Building U6, 20126 Milan

Departmental website: [psicologia.didattica@unimib.it](mailto:psicologia.didattica@unimib.it)  
 Master's Program Director: to be nominated  
 Email contact: [aeps@unimib.it](mailto:aeps@unimib.it)

For information on procedures and deadlines for enrolment, transfers and individual study plans, go to: [www.unimib.it](http://www.unimib.it).

Minor changes to these regulations may be made. The electives and labs offered will depend on the number of students enrolled.

#### ART. 14

|             |                              | CURRICULUM   | SECTOR                 | CFUs   | HOURS |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------|--------|-------|
| FIRST YEAR  | COURSES                      | Cognitive Psychology                                 | M-PSI/01               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Cognitive Neuroscience                               | M-PSI/02               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Psychometrics and Quantitative Methods               | M-PSI/03               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Cognitive Development                                | M-PSI/04               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Social Cognition                                     | M-PSI/05               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Experimental Clinical Psychology                     | M-PSI/08               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             | Labs                         | Research Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience           |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
|             |                              | Measurement Methods and Ambulatory Assessment        |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
|             |                              | Computational Modelling                              |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
|             |                              | Cognitive and Behavioral Measures                    |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
| SECOND YEAR | Choose 3 among these courses | Cognitive Ergonomics                                 | M-PSI/01               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Decision Making                                      | M-PSI/01               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Applied Neuroscience                                 | M-PSI/02               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Applied Cognitive Development                        | M-PSI/04               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Applied Psycholinguistics                            | L-LIN/01               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Applied Social Cognition to Public Policies          | M-PSI/05               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience          | M-PSI/01 -<br>M-PSI/02 | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Consumer Psychology                                  | M-PSI/05               | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             |                              | Games and Strategic Behavior                         | SECS-P/01              | 8 CFU  | 56    |
|             | Labs                         | Transferable Research Skills Laboratory              |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
|             |                              | Evaluation of Psychological Interventions Laboratory |                        | 4 CFU  | 32    |
|             |                              | Internship   |                        | 8 CFU  | 200   |
|             |                              | Thesis   |                        | 16 CFU |       |