

University of Milano – Bicocca
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Master's Degree Programme in
Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine
Annual Manifesto - A.Y. 2026-2027
(MSc Programme description)

The Master of Science in Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine is an open access 2-year degree programme offered by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the Milano-Bicocca University.

1. COURSES PLAN

FIRST YEAR (students enrolling in the A.Y 2026-2027):

MANDATORY COURSES:			CFU	SSD	Semester
BIODIVERSITY AND MARINE ECOLOGY (12 CFU)	BIODIVERSITY UNIT	LECTURE – 4 CFU	6	BIOS-05/A	First
		PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU			
	MARINE ECOLOGY UNIT	LECTURE – 4 CFU	6	BIOS-05/A	
		PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU			
FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE BIOLOGY		LECTURE – 4 CFU	6	BIOS-03/A	First
		PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU			
MARINE GEOMORPHOLOGY		E-LEARNING LECTURE * – 4 CFU	6	GEOS-03/A	First
		E-LEARNING LAB ACTIVITY * – 2 CFU			
INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	GIUR-09/A	First
BIOGEOSCIENCES AND GLOBAL CHANGES		LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	GEOS-02/A	First
		PRACTICAL CLASS – 1 CFU			
CHEMISTRY OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	CHEM-01/B	Second
PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY		LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	PHYS-05/B	Second
		LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			
MANDATORY MULTIPLE-CHOICE COURSES – The Student has to choose 1 course (6 CFU) from the following					
COASTAL AND MARINE HAZARD AND RESILIENCE		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 6 CFU	6	GEOG-01/B	Second
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND GEOPOLITICS OF THE SEA		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	GEOG-01/B	Second
MANDATORY MULTIPLE-CHOICE COURSES – The Student has to choose 1 course (6 CFU) from the following:					
MARINE INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	BIOS-03/A	First
APPLIED GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HABITAT		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 4 CFU	6	GEOS-03/A	Second
		LAB ACTIVITY – 2 CFU			
APPLIED MICROPALEONTOLOGY AND BIOMONITORING		LECTURE – 4 CFU	6	GEOS-02/A	Second
		LAB ACTIVITY – 2 CFU			
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF SMALL ISLAND SYSTEM		LECTURE – 3 CFU	6	GEOG-01/A	Second
		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 3 CFU			
MARINE BIOPROSPECTING		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 6 CFU	6	BIOS-08/A	Second

MARINE VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY	LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	BIOS-03/A	Second
OCEAN AFFAIRS LAW AND POLICY	LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	GIUR-09/A	Second
	FIELD ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			

* Lecture delivered online

SECOND YEAR (students enrolled in the A.Y. 2025-2026):

MANDATORY MULTIPLE-CHOICE COURSES – The student has to choose 2 courses (12 CFU) from the following:					
APPLIED MARINE GEOLOGY		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 2 CFU	6	GEO/04	First
		LAB ACTIVITY – 3 CFU			
		FIELD ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			
COASTAL AND MARINE BOTANY		LECTURE – 4 CFU	6	BIO/01	First
		FIELD ACTIVITY – 2 CFU			
COASTAL AND MARITIME TOURISM		LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	M-GGR/02	First
		PRACTICAL CLASS – 1 CFU			
COASTAL RISKS AND DYNAMICS		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 5 CFU	6	GEO/04	First
		LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			
COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND INTERPERSONAL RELATION MANAGEMENT		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	M-PSI/08	First
MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC RESOURCES: FISHERIES		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 6 CFU	6	BIO/07	First
MARINE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY		LECTURE – 6 CFU	6	BIO/11	First
OCEAN MONITORING AND DATA ANALYSIS		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 1 CFU	6	GEO/12	First
		LAB ACTIVITY – 5 CFU			
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY		LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	BIO/19	First
		LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			
CONSERVATION PALEOBIOLOGY		LECTURE – 5 CFU	6	GEO/01	First
		LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU			
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON MARINE ECOLOGY		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 6 CFU	6	BIO/07	First
MULTIDISCIPLINARY LAB (6 CFU)	BIO-ECOLOGY LAB UNIT	E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 1 CFU	3	BIO/07	Second
		FIELD ACTIVITY – 2 CFU			
	ENVIRONMENTAL LAB UNIT	E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 1 CFU	3	GEO/01	
		FIELD ACTIVITY – 2 CFU			
UNDERWATER SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGIES FOR ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND MONITORING		E-LEARNING LECTURE *– 2 CFU	6	BIO/07	Second
		FIELD ACTIVITY – 4 CFU			
OTHER MANDATORY ACTIVITIES					
TRAINEESHIP			4	NN	Annual
FURTHER LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE	<u>Italian students</u> have to choose among the following:	ENGLISH - C1 LEVEL	4	NN	Annual
		FRENCH - B2 LEVEL	4	NN	Annual
		GERMAN - B2 LEVEL	4	NN	Annual
		SPANISH - B2 LEVEL	4	NN	Annual
		Mandatory for <u>foreign students</u>	ITALIAN - B1 LEVEL	4	NN
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES “TO BE CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT”			12	NN	
FINAL EXAMINATION			28	NN	

* Lecture delivered online

The Italian CFU system corresponds to the European Credit Transfer System (1 CFU = 1 ECTS). One Italian CFU is equivalent to a total of 25 hours of overall effort by the student, including self-study. The expected workload for the student in classroom depends on the type of teaching activity, as follows: 1 CFU lecture/E-learning lecture = 7 hours; 1 CFU lab activity/E-learning Lab activity/practical class/field activity= 12 hours

2. ADMISSION TO THE MSC DEGREE PROGRAMME IN MARINE SCIENCES – SCIENZE MARINE

To be eligible for admission to the MSc Degree Programme in Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine, applicants must fulfil some curricular requirements and attend an interview to assess their personal educational background.

All information about curricular requirements, admission and enrolment procedures, as well as administrative deadlines, is published on the MSc Degree Programme's e-learning page "[Admission](#)".

Applicants with international qualification must submit their application for admission via [Dream Apply](#) portal.

Applicants with Italian qualification must submit their application for admission via the [Online Student Registry](#), the digital platform of the University of Milano - Bicocca. Please, [read MARINE SCIENCES –2026/2027 A.Y. Admission information and deadlines](#).

The list of admitted candidates will be posted on the webpage [MSc Programme Degree in Marine Sciences - Scienze Marine](#).

Admitted candidates will be able to enrol, via the [Online Student Registry](#), starting a few days after the publication of the admitted list until **21 October 2026**.

3. SIMULTANEOUS ENROLMENT IN TWO HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMMES

According to Regulations in force, the student is allowed to enrol simultaneously in two different Master's Degree Programmes in order to obtain two independent qualifications (see Art. 20 of the [Regolamento Didattico](#) di Ateneo).

Information on how to submit the request and on fees is published on the University's webpage '[Simultaneous enrolment in two degree programmes](#)'.

4. RENEWING ENROLMENT FOR THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE FIRST ONE, TRANSFER PROCEDURES AND CREDIT RECOGNITION

Every year, the University sets and publishes on its website the deadlines for [renewing enrolment for the years following the first one](#) and for [submitting transfer applications](#), according to the procedures indicated by the University.

Students who have transferred from other master's degree programmes at this or another university, or students who have taken a leave of absence or have previously withdrawn from the university, or those with another master's degree can request recognition of their previous credits.

The student may request recognition of credits earned in other Master's Degree Programmes only if these credits were not used as curricular requirements for admission to the MSc Degree Programme in Marine Sciences.

For any question email segr.studenti.scienze@unimib.it

5. ACADEMIC YEAR: Classes' timetable and attendance

The academic year is subdivided into two main terms, conventionally called semesters:

First semester:	from 12 October 2026 to 29 January 2027 (start of first-year courses) from 1 October 2026 to 29 January 2027 (start of the second-year courses)
Teaching break:	from 16 to 20 November 2026 (for both second-year and off-year students)
Second semester:	from 1 March to 25 June 2027
Teaching break:	from 31 March to 6 April 2027 (for all students)

Classes' timetable is available on the [Web Agenda](#) of the University.

Please, download the [BicoccaApp](#) on your mobile device to check easily your classes' timetable.

Lecture attendance, although not required, is strongly recommended, while attendance at all practical activities is mandatory for at least 75%.

6. COURSES: Syllabus and professors' office hours

Courses may consist of a single unit or several integrated units, even multidisciplinary and with multiple teachers. Each unit consists of lectures, usually combined with practical class, lab and/or field activities.

Lectures are mainly in-person, but some take place remotely (e-learning lecture) in agreement with the [Courses' Plan](#) for the A.Y. 2026-2027. Practical classes, lab and field activities are in-person only.

E-learning lectures are in videoconferencing, synchronous mode, or video-recorded and may include interactive activities (c.d. e-tivities), as stated in the [University's Students Regulations](#).

Teachers may provide recordings of their classes at their discretion.

All the essential information about each course (Syllabus) is posted on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Courses](#)" section. Please, read each syllabus carefully to learn about content, learning outcomes, grading policy, reading, and everything else you need to know about courses. Professors' office hours are also available in the courses' syllabi.

Lecturers use the [Moodle e-learning platform](#) to provide students with teaching materials and additional resources to facilitate subject learning. Download [Moodle App](#), the mobile application combined with the University's e-learning platform.

7. STUDY PLAN

When enrolling in the first year, students are automatically given the "statutory" study plan, which includes the mandatory educational activities. Later, in agreement with the [Programme Regulations](#) of the enrolment year, students have the opportunity to submit their own study plan, in which mandatory multiple-choice courses, foreign language and the educational activities "To be chosen by the Student" should be stated.

It is possible to draw up an individual study plan including educational activities other than those provided for in the Programme Regulations of the MSc Degree Programme, as long as they are consistent with the "Academic Disciplines" (SSD – Settori Scientifico-Disciplinari) set out in one's own "Teaching System" (Ordinamento Didattico).

The Study Plans Commission, appointed by the MSc Degree Teaching Council, assesses whether the student's choices are consistent with the educational purposes of the MSc Degree Programme.

More information is available in the [University Students Regulations](#) and on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Study Plan](#)" section.

Every year, the University sets and publishes on its website the [Procedures and deadlines](#) for submitting the study plan.

8. MANDATORY MULTIPLE-CHOICE COURSES

In agreement with the [Programme Regulations](#) for the enrolment year, students are required to pick one or two courses from lists offering a variety of options, so that they can tailor their studies to their interests or career goals.

9. FURTHER LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE – 4 CFUs

To obtain the degree, students must be proficient in a foreign language in one of the following ways:

For Italian students only:

- by passing a University test of foreign language proficiency at level B2 or higher among French, Spanish or German;
- or
- by passing a University test of English proficiency at level C1 or higher.

For foreign students only:

- by passing a University test of Italian proficiency at level B1 or higher.

Alternatively, students having the above language proficiency certifications, issued by University-accredited Institutions, will

be exempted from the test. The language certificate must be submitted to segr.studenti.scienze@unimib.it to receive the validation of the expected 4 CFUs.

Click [French, Spanish, German and Italian](#) or [English](#) to know language proficiency certificates recognised as valid. The Languages@unimib manages all University foreign and Italian languages tests.

10. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES “TO BE CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT” – 12 CFUs

The activities “To be chosen by the Student” are part of the study plan.

In order to calculate the total number of the exams, the activities “To be chosen by the Student” count for just one exam, regardless of the number of exams taken to earn 12 CFUs.

The student may acquire the expected 12 CFUs by choosing one of the following ways:

- Courses for a total amount of 12 CFUs offered by this or other MSc Degree Programmes at the University;
- 6-CFUs practical training activity (150 hours) plus one 6-CFUs course offered by this or other Master's Programmes at the University;
- 12-CFUs practical training activity (300 hours).

6- or 12-CFUs practical training activities will be held, under the guidance of both University and corporate tutors, in labs, companies, organizations and institutions, even at international level, the University set agreements with, and may be used for the preparation of the final examination. Alternatively, it is possible to carry out 6- and 12-CFUs practical training activities through the international mobility projects [Erasmus+ Traineeship](#) or [Exchange Extra-EU](#).

All information on practical training activities is available on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the “[Traineeship & Practical training](#)” section.

11. SUPERNUMERARY CREDITS - 16 CFUs

Students have the opportunity to include in their own study plan a maximum of up to 16 CFUs in excess of those required for graduation. The CFUs and grades earned for these supernumerary activities do not count in the final average exam grade, but are reported in the [Diploma Supplement](#).

Students may include the following activities as supernumerary credits:

- Courses offered by this or other MSc Degree Programmes at the University
- [Bbetween](#) and [iBicocca](#) activities offered by the University

12. TRAINEESHIP – 4 CFUs

The 4-CFUs compulsory traineeship (100 hours) provides students with the opportunity to put into practice both scientific and technical skills acquired during their classes.

Under the guidance of both university and corporate tutors, this traineeship can be held in Italian and/or international laboratories, companies, bodies, and institutions with which the University has stipulated specific agreements. It may also be part of the activities to be carried out for the final examination.

Before starting any traineeship activity, please read all information available on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the “[Traineeship & Practical training](#)” section.

13. EXAMS

Students gain credits by passing the exams. The examination assessment may result in a mark (from a minimum of 18/30 up to a maximum of 30/30) or in a pass/fail basis.

The examination may be: 1) oral exam; 2) written exam with compulsory oral; 3) written exam with optional oral. If the written exam consists only of multiple-choice questions, the oral exam is compulsory. Written or oral reports may be requested by professors and, in this case, are an integrated part of the exam.

More information on the assessment for each course can be checked in the respective Syllabus, published on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Courses](#)" section.

The exam sessions, no less than six per academic year, are scheduled in three periods: January-February (Winter session), June-July (Summer session) and September (Autumn session). Additional exam sessions are scheduled during "teaching breaks" or may be requested by students with justified reasons.

The student's right to take the exam of a learning activity depends on the presence of the activity itself in the last approved study plan and on the student's administrative and contribution status.

Students may register for examinations 30 to 3 days before the exam date and for only one exam at a time per each teaching activity.

The exams calendar is available on both the [Web Agenda](#) of the University and the [Exam Sessions Board](#) of the OnLine Student Registry. Registration for exam dates must be performed by means of the [Online Student Registry](#).

14. FINAL DEGREE EXAM

The thesis work, prepared by the student under the guidance of a supervisor, aims to develop an original research project, with important scientific and/or applied contents on specific topics related to the marine environment, also referring to the practical training experiences. It can be carried out internally at the University or externally at Italian or foreign companies, organizations, institutions or other universities. The thesis has to be written in English.

In order to be admitted to the final examination, students must be in possession of the credits pertaining to the educational activities envisaged in the last approved study plan, which must be added to those achieved in the final examination to obtain 120 credits.

Students will present and discuss their thesis work in open sessions in front of a Final Degree Exam Committee. The Committee assesses the scientific method, the originality of the proposed work, the degree of in-depth analysis of the topic and references cited, as well as the ability to communicate and debate during the discussion. The Committee may award from 1 to 8 points, which are added to the weighted average of exam marks recalculated on the basis of 110 (min of 66/110 to max of 110/110). The Committee may award honours based on the student's career.

The forms and rules concerning the procedure for submitting the thesis project, the regulations of the final degree examination as well as the timetable of the final degree sessions, including administrative deadlines, are available on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Final examination](#)" section.

Upon request, the University issues an [Open Badge](#) to certify the MSc Degree qualification.

15. SOFT SKILLS

The University offers students the opportunity to strengthen their soft skills by means of projects and activities that allow them to acquire digital certifications, named [Open Badges](#), which can be uploaded in the e-curriculum and on social media to quickly communicate the acquired skills and competences.

Please, discover the [Bbetween](#) and [iBicocca](#) Projects to improve your soft skills. Through the [Altissia portal](#), the University offers free, self-paced online courses in the major foreign languages

16. INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

The MSc Degree Programme encourages international mobility, both in the form of attendance at courses or for activities such as internship, practical training or thesis work. These periods take place within the framework of [International Mobility Programmes](#) and require participation in a call for admission.

Major international mobility projects are:

- [Erasmus+ study](#): students can undertake a study period abroad at one of the University's Erasmus partners, during which they can study and take exams;
- [Erasmus+ Traineeship](#): students have the opportunity to spend a period at foreign universities, research centres and higher education institutions in the EU in order to carry out practical training activities and/or to prepare their dissertation;
- [Exchanged EXTRA-UE](#): students can carry out practical training and/or research activities aimed at preparing their

dissertation at higher education institutions, research centres and NGOs in non-EU countries.

The University issues the [Open Badge International Student](#): an Open Recognition useful tool for enhancing the student's experience during the international mobility period. This open badge also includes the CFUs earned abroad.

17. TUTORING SERVICES

The MSc Degree Programme in Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine offers the following tutoring services:

- [Peer-to-peer tutoring](#) aimed at orienting first-years students, especially foreigners, in the university life. First-year students can ask for general and practical information on MSc Degree Programme and University functioning, as well as on administrative deadlines.

- Discipline tutoring linked to specific courses: tutors support students in understanding the subject throughout the whole course period in order to lead them towards the exams.

18. CONTACTS

Location of the MSc Degree Programme

[Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences](#)

Buildings U1 and U4 - Piazza della Scienza, 1 and 4 – 20126 Milan

Teaching Secretary's Office

E-mail: didattica.ms@unimib.it

Phone: +390264482038

MSc Programme's webpage: <https://www.unimib.it/graduate/marine-sciences>

MSc Programme's e-learning page: <http://elearning.unimib.it/course/index.php?categoryid=3626>

Students Secretary's Office - Sciences: <https://en.unimib.it/services/offices-and-facilities/student-services>

Email: segr.studenti.scienze@unimib.it

Fees and funding: <https://en.unimib.it/services/offices-and-facilities/fees-and-funding>

Email: segr.studenti.tasse@unimib.it

Disability & SLD: B.Inclusion space: <https://en.unimib.it/study/services-students-and-graduates/disability-sld-binclusion-space>

Alias Career: <https://en.unimib.it/about-us/governance/equality-committee/anti-discrimination-policies>

Certificates and self-certifications: <https://en.unimib.it/services/offices-and-facilities/student-services/certificates-and-self-certifications>

International Mobility: <https://en.unimib.it/international/international-students/outgoing-students>

Email: outgoing.erasmus@unimib.it

Prospective students: <https://en.unimib.it/prospective-students>

Enrolled students: <https://en.unimib.it/enrolled-students>