

**Master's Degree in**  
**Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine**  
**Annual Manifesto - A.Y. 2024-2025**  
(MSc Programme description)

The international Master of Science in Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine is an open access 2-year joint degree programme offered by the University of Milano-Bicocca in partnership with the Maldives National University.

In the Academic Year 2024-2025, the first and second year of the MSc Degree Programme in Marine Sciences – Scienze Marine (Class LM-75 - Environmental and Land Sciences) are active.

**1. COURSES PLAN**

**FIRST YEAR** (for students enrolling in the A.Y 2024-2025):

| MANDATORY COURSES:  |                            | CFU                     | SSD        | Semester |       |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|-------|
| <b>BIODIVERSITY AND MARINE ECOLOGY (12 ETCS)</b>  | <b>BIODIVERSITY UNIT</b>   | LECTURE – 4 CFU         | 6          | BIO/07   | First |
|   |                            | PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU |            |          |       |
|   | <b>MARINE ECOLOGY UNIT</b> | LECTURE – 4 CFU         | 6          | BIO/07   |       |
|   |                            | PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU |            |          |       |
| <b>FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE BIOLOGY</b>   | LECTURE – 4 CFU            | 6                       | BIO/05     | First    |       |
|   | PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU    |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY *</b>  | E-LEARNING LECTURE – 4 CFU | 6                       | GEO/04     | First    |       |
|   | LAB ACTIVITY – 2 CFU       |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA</b>   | LECTURE – 6 CFU            | 6                       | IUS/13     | First    |       |
| <b>CHEMISTRY OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>  | LECTURE – 5 CFU            | 6                       | CHIM/12    | Second   |       |
|   | LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU       |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>PHYSICS OF THE SEA</b>   | LECTURE – 5 CFU            | 6                       | FIS/06     | Second   |       |
|   | LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU       |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>MANDATORY MULTIPLE-CHOICE COURSES – The student has to choose 2 courses (12 CFU) from the following:</b> |                            |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>GEOBIOLOGY</b>   | LECTURE – 5 CFU            | 6                       | GEO/01     | First    |       |
|   | PRACTICAL CLASS – 1 CFU    |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY</b>  | LECTURE – 5 CFU            | 6                       | BIO/19     | First    |       |
|   | LAB ACTIVITY – 1 CFU       |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>ENGINEERING, CHARACTERIZATION AND DEGRADATION OF POLYMERS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT *</b>                | E-LEARNING LECTURE – 6 CFU | 6                       | ING-IND/22 | Second   |       |
| <b>APPLIED GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HABITAT</b>  | LECTURE – 4 CFU            | 6                       | GEO/04     | Second   |       |
|   | PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU    |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>BIOFACIES</b>  | LECTURE – 4 ETCS           | 6                       | GEO/01     | Second   |       |
|   | PRACTICAL CLASS – 2 CFU    |                         |            |          |       |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND GEOPOLITICS OF THE SEA</b>   | LECTURE – 6 CFU            | 6                       | M-GGR/02   | Second   |       |

|   |                 |   |          |        |
|---|-----------------|---|----------|--------|
| <b>HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF SMALL ISLAND SYSTEM</b> | LECTURE – 6 CFU | 6 | M-GGR/01 | Second |
| <b>MARINE INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY</b>            | LECTURE – 6 CFU | 6 | BIO/05   | Second |
| <b>MARINE VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY</b>              | LECTURE – 6 CFU | 6 | BIO/05   | Second |
| <b>OCEAN AFFAIRS LAW AND POLICY</b>           | LECTURE – 6 CFU | 6 | IUS/13   | Second |

\* Remote lecture by videoconference

**SECOND YEAR** (for students enrolled in the A.Y. 2023-2024):

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

\* Remote lecture by videoconference

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 laboratory/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.

To get more information about curricular requirements, admission and enrolment procedures, as well as administrative deadlines, please read [2024/2025 A.Y. Admission information and deadlines](#). Further information is also published on the MSc Degree Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Admission](#)" section.

Applicants must submit their application for admission via the [Online Student Registry](#), the digital platform of the University of Milano - Bicocca. Please, see the tutorial: [how to apply](#).

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 **25 October 2024**. Please, see the tutorial: [how to enrol](#).

**Non-EU students applying for a study visa** can find further information on the webpage [Getting the Essentials](#). For any question about Italian study visa request procedure and study residence permit, please email [visa.applicationforstudy@unimib.it](mailto:visa.applicationforstudy@unimib.it).

Non-EU students requiring a study visa have to pre-enrol on the [UNIVERSITALY Portal](#) by **15 July 2024**. Non-obtaining a study visa by **30 January 2025** will result in the enrolment cancellation.

Information for **all international students with a foreign qualification** (both EU and non-EU citizens) is published on the webpage [Access for students with an international qualification](#). For any question about enrolment procedure, please email [credential.evaluations@unimib.it](mailto:credential.evaluations@unimib.it)

## 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 [University's Teaching Regulations](#)).

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](mailto:segr.studenti.scienze@unimib.it)

## 5. ACADEMIC YEAR: Classes' timetable and attendance

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

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>First semester:</b>  | from 14 October 2024 to 31 January 2025 (start of first-year courses)<br>from 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025 (start of the second-year courses) |
| <b>Teaching break:</b>  | from 11 to 15 November 2024 (for both second-year and off-year students)   |
| <b>Second semester:</b> | from 3 March to 27 June 2025   |
| <b>Teaching break:</b>  | from 23 to 30 April 2025 (for all students)  |

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

Please, download the [UniMiB Course App](#) on your mobile device to easily check your classes' timetable, exams calendar and classroom availability.

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 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 2024-2025. Practical classes, lab and field activities are in-person only.

E-learning lectures are in videoconferencing, synchronous mode, 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.

## 7. STUDY PLAN

When enrolling in the first year, students are automatically given the so-called "Statutory Study Plan". Later, 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 [Teaching 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 in keeping 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. INTERNSHIP – 4 CFUs

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

This internship can be carried out both in other University's research laboratories and at other institutions, upon previous authorization of the Stage Commission, appointed by MSc Degree's Teaching Council.

Under the guidance of both University and corporate tutors, it will be held in the labs, companies, organizations and institutions, even at international level, the University set agreements with.

It may also be part of the activities to be carried out for the final examination.

All information is available on the MSc Programme's e-learning page, in the "[Practical Training - Internship](#)" section.

## 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](mailto: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 [International Promotion and Language Training Office \(UPIFoL\)](#) 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.

Other activities like summer/winter schools, seminars, research activities at University research centres or other international centres can be validated as “6-CFUs Practical Training”, but they must be agreed in advance with the Stage Commission.

All information is available on the MSc Programme’s e-learning page, in the “[Practical Training \(stage\)](#)” 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. EXAMS

Students gain credits by passing the exams. The examination assessment may result in a grade (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 the [Web Agenda](#) (or [UniMiB Course](#) App) of the University. Registration for exam dates must be performed by means of the [Online Student Registry](#).

## 13. FINAL DEGREE EXAM

The final exam consists of the presentation and discussion in English of a thesis project with important scientific and/or applied contents, prepared by the student under the guidance of a supervisor.

The thesis work aims to develop an original research project 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.

Graduating students will present and discuss their thesis work in open sessions in front of a Degree Exams Committee, which will assign the final evaluation in 110 (with a minimum of 66/110) with potential honours, considering the student's entire career.

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.

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.

## 14. 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.

## 15. 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 experience abroad at one of the University's Erasmus partners, for a period ranging from a minimum of 3 months to one year, during which they can study and take examinations;
- [Erasmus+ Traineeship](#): students have the opportunity to spend a period ranging from a minimum of 2 up to 12 months at foreign universities, research centres and higher education institutions in the EU in order to carry out internships or to prepare their dissertation;
- [EXTRA-EU Exchange](#): for a minimum period of 1 up to 6 months, students can carry out internships 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.

## 16. TUTORING SERVICES

The MSc Degree Programme in Marine Sciences 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.

## 17. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:segr.studenti.tasse@unimib.it)

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

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

Email: [outgoing.erasmus@unimib.it](mailto:outgoing.erasmus@unimib.it)