

# MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION 2008 - 2010

## What does such training offer?

The Master of Advanced Studies in Intercultural Communication is designed to equip students with the tools to handle the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism, an ever increasing characteristic of our societies which are marked by economic globalization as well as by values claiming universality, such as human rights. These analytical and practice-oriented tools are necessary not only to understand but also to manage multicultural interaction in specific professional contexts.

The overall objective of this Masters is to enable students to transform multicultural situations into intercultural ones. This means transforming situations in which various cultures simply coexist into situations characterized by mutual respect and reciprocal enhancement. The Masters provides training to improve intercultural communication in ordinary everyday life as well as in public affairs and in the business world.

The training aims particularly at furnishing students with:

- multi- and interdisciplinary **tools** to analyze multicultural situations;
- **competence and skills** in preventing, mediating and resolving conflicts issuing from multicultural situations;
- an increased **awareness** of one's own culture and the culture of others.

## Who is the Masters program for?

This Master of Advanced Studies is designed for professionals engaged in managing multicultural situations on the operational level or in managing multicultural human resources. The program therefore addresses all those who have or are going to have a leading role in promoting fruitful interaction among cultures:

- in local or national government;
- in international institutions and organizations;
- in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs);
- in development assistance and cooperation;
- in the business world (production, trade, tourism, etc.);
- in the media;
- in education;
- in religious institutions.

## Why study Intercultural Communication at the Università della Svizzera italiana?

The strong traditions of federalism and the decentralized institutional structure of Switzerland provide favourable conditions for the harmonious coexistence of cultures, languages and religions which characterize our country. The Italian speaking part of Switzerland, home of the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), represents a minority language and culture in the national context. At the same time it provides a bridge between Northern Italy and the German and French speaking regions of Switzerland and the neighbouring countries. It is therefore a region particularly sensitive to multicultural questions and experienced in coping with them. The use of several languages in a multicultural atmosphere is a strong point of USI. Furthermore, the university places great emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to find solutions to concrete economic and social problems.

## General Program

Introduction		
	Module 1+2	Intercultural Communication as an Interdisciplinary Field of Study: Explanatory Framework and Methods
I. Analysis of Multicultural Situations and Problems		
I.a Contribution of Select Disciplines	Module 3 Module 4 Module 5 Module 6	Anthropological and Sociological Topics Psychological Topics Linguistic and Semiotic Topics Philosophical and Political Science Topics
I.b Intercultural Communication: between Theory and Practice	Module 7 Module 8	a) Intercultural Project Methodology b) Management of Intercultural Projects at the Local Level Intercultural Communication Competence and Skills
II. Managing Intercultural Communication		
II.a Public Institutions and National Institutions	Module 9 Module 10	Federalism and Multicultural Societies Migrations and Minorities
II.b International Relations and Cooperation	Module 11 Module 12	International Governmental and Nongovernmental Organizations Culture and Development Cooperation
II.c Daily Life and Cultural Diversity	Module 13 Module 14 Module 15	Intercultural Education Religious Practices and Ethical Choices Gender, Family and Youth
II.e Cultures and Business	Module 16 Module 17	Cultural Diversity in the Business World Cultural Creations, Heritage and Diversity
II.f Media	Module 18	Media and Multicultural Publics
III. Permanent Intercultural Laboratory		
Allows participants to apply the theoretical constructs to their own projects and personal experiences. This activity will take place within each single module.		
IV. Personal Project		
	Module 19	Scientific or practice-oriented, individual or group work. Projects of a scientific character should lead, with the assistance of the professor overseeing the project, to a scientific article. The practice-oriented project should produce results that can be applied in a professional context. The theme chosen by the participants has to be approved upon by the Academic Board.
V. Language Preparation		
	Module 20 (optional)	Participants in the Masters program will be offered a one week intensive course in the terminology used in intercultural communication studies (in English or in French).

## Schedule

Modules 1 to 18 (classroom instruction) are organized in 9 intensive weeks of courses (2 modules per week) from Monday to Saturday, to allow participants to pursue their professional activity. These weeks of courses are distributed from October 2008 to March 2010. For further information please visit our website.

## Structure of the Modules

Modules 1 to 18 consist of 24 hours of classroom instruction plus individual study time to satisfy module requirements and contain three parts each:

### 1. Background

Individual preparation for each module, corresponding to 4 hours of work, to be done before classroom instruction. All preparatory material will be made available via internet (e-learning platform) well in advance.

### 2. Classroom Instruction

The main part of each module will be taught during three days of intensive instruction (22 hours plus 2 hours of Intercultural Laboratory).

### 3. Certification

Each module will be evaluated on the basis of the academic work prepared by the student at home.

Background	Classroom Instruction	Certification
4 h	24 h	

Each module is worth 3 ECTS credits, except for Module 19 "Personal Project" which is worth 6.

Module 19 "Personal Project" will consist of focused training. Individual face to face as well as distance assistance will be provided by the faculty throughout the students' work on the project.



## Members of the Faculty

The teaching staff of the Masters program includes professors from the Università della Svizzera italiana and from other universities in Switzerland and abroad.

## Program Staff

### Academic Board

- President: Prof. Edo Poggia, Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland, Scientific Director;

### Organization

- Osvaldo Arrigo, Università della Svizzera italiana, Managing Director ;
- Eugenia Converso, Università della Svizzera italiana, Program Manager ;
- Mimi Lepori Bonetti, CONSONO, Contact Person with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

### Intercultural Laboratory

- Dr. Peter Praxmarer, Università della Svizzera italiana.

## Languages

The official languages of the Masters are English and French.

Students fluent in one language (spoken and written) are required to possess a good working knowledge of the other (reading skills and listening comprehension). Participants can attend a free, optional one week intensive course in either French or English (Module 20), before the program begins.

## Academic Titles and Certificates Awarded

- **Master of Advanced Studies in Intercultural Communication** to students who have successfully completed all modules and their personal project (60 ECTS credits);
- **Diploma in Intercultural Communication** to students who have successfully completed modules totalling 30 ECTS.

Students who attend one or more modules will receive a Certificate of Attendance for each module successfully completed, carrying the corresponding ECTS credits.

## Admission

Applicants should hold one of the following degrees:

- a Master awarded by a University/Federal Institute of Technology or by a university-level Professional School (or an equivalent qualification);
- a Bachelor awarded by a University/Federal Institute of Technology or by a university-level Professional School (or an equivalent qualification) plus adequate professional experience (in selected cases);

In select cases applicants who are professionals with significant experience in the intercultural field and who do not hold one of these degrees can be admitted on the basis of their professional curriculum.

## Fees

Master of Advanced Studies (20 modules) CHF 14'500  
One module (28 hours) CHF 900

Fees include study materials, examinations and hotel expenses during the week of courses organized abroad.

## Location and Facilities

The Masters program will be held at the Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano, Switzerland.

For the fourth edition of the Master a new feature has been added : one week of courses (2 modules) will take place abroad (south mediterranean region).

Participants may freely use the facilities of the Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano.

## Contacts and Information

Università della Svizzera italiana  
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## Application

Application details may be found at: [www.mic.unisi.ch](http://www.mic.unisi.ch)

Support for the Master of Advanced Studies in Intercultural Communication is provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).