

# **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

Master's degree programme in URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning Collegio di Pianificazione e Progettazione

Academic Year **2025/2026** 

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# **Art. 1 - Specific learning objectives and career prospects**

## 1.1 Specific Learning Objectives

The Master's degree programme is an advanced educational path in the field of territorial governance. It trains "territorial planners" and urban planners (hereinafter referred to as "planners"), providing them with advanced design and professional skills to take on positions of responsibility in the following areas:

- design and development of planning tools at various scales (urban, regional, strategic, landscape, and environmental planning);
- definition of territorial governance and mobility policies;
- formulation of policies and projects for urban and regional transformation and regeneration;
- coordination of environmental assessment processes.

To carry out these activities—which require territorial planners to collaborate with experts from various disciplinary fields—the Master's degree programme develops systemic thinking skills, critical and interpretative analysis and synthesis abilities, and the capacity to devise solutions to complex problems. It complements core planning skills with advanced knowledge in environmental sciences, engineering and geosciences, architecture, and social sciences.

In addition, the programme provides cross-disciplinary management skills, enabling planners to coordinate interdisciplinary teams, and relational skills to effectively communicate and engage with non-expert audiences and a wide range of stakeholders in decision-making, negotiation, and participation processes.

Territorial planners are professionals capable of addressing complex urban and territorial challenges from the perspective of environmental, social, and economic sustainability and resilience, with attention to multiple dimensions and critical issues. These topics are tackled by the programme through an integrated approach to development, social inclusion, the right to the city, ecological and energy transitions, climate change, and soil protection. Special focus is placed on the preservation and enhancement of natural, historical-cultural, and landscape heritage and on the sustainable management of territorial resources.

The programme trains professionals able to develop and support—also thanks to advanced knowledge of Geographic Information Systems, the organisation and management of spatial databases, and spatial analyses and assessments—strategies, policies, programmes, plans, and projects for urban and territorial transformation centred on the sustainable use of local resources and involving relevant institutional, economic, and social actors. This is achieved also through hands-on experiences and project-based experimentation at various scales.

### 1.2 Career prospects

The Master's degree programme aims to train a variety of professional profiles. The career prospects and main functions and competencies associated to each profile are illustrated below.

Professional Profile	Main functions and competencies
	Functions: Planners with expertise in developing strategies, policies, programmes, and projects for urban and territorial transformation. They work as experts and/or coordinators in the design of spatial governance strategies and policies across different scales and sectors.
Territorial planner / Urban planner	Competencies: Ability to:  collaborate with and coordinate specialists from various disciplines to define strategies, policies, and projects for urban and territorial transformation and regeneration;  take part in socially inclusive processes by engaging with non-expert audiences, facilitating participatory processes, and interpreting community needs;

- provide institutional and legal frameworks—at both national and international levels—relevant to urban and territorial governance tools;
- propose operational and procedural solutions for implementing urban and territorial policies and projects;
- conduct analyses in the field of local development and of local social and environmental systems;
- carry out spatial analyses by developing and managing advanced Geographic Information Systems and spatial databases (including thematic datasets such as those related to logistics, commerce, etc.).

#### Potential Employers:

Territorial planners and urban planners may work:

- (a) in the public administration;
- (b) as freelancers;
- (c) in private companies;
- (d) in third-sector organisations
- (a) Within public institutions, planners may be employed as high-level officers in local and regional authorities in charge of drafting spatial development programmes at various scales (regional, national, European, and international), strategic plans (particularly in metropolitan areas), and integrated spatial strategies and policies (e.g. local development plans, rural development plans, integrated territorial programmes, etc.);
- (b) They may also work independently as freelance professionals, receiving consultancy assignments from public bodies and associations;
- (c)(d) Additionally, they may work as employees or consultants for international agencies, public or private companies, research and consultancy centres, or third-sector organisations.

#### Functions:

Territorial planners with expertise in drafting urban, regional, environmental, and landscape plans, projects, and programmes at various scales. They coordinate or lead design teams working in the field of urban and regional planning, also in connection with sector-specific planning and programming (e.g. transport, protected areas, energy, real estate, etc.), with a focus on the challenges of ecological transition, sustainability, and territorial resilience.

Graduates are eligible to register—after passing the State Examination—for Section A of the Italian professional register of "Architects, Planners, Conservators and Landscape Architects", under the title of "Territorial Planner".

# Competencies:

#### Ability to:

- collaborate with and coordinate specialists from different disciplines and technical fields involved in the planning process;
- provide the planning team with institutional, legal, and procedural frameworks—both national and European—related to spatial governance tools;
- contribute to defining the spatial components of plans at various levels, including forecasting, exploratory, and design-based land-use scenarios;
- carry out complex and specialised analyses of urban, regional, environmental, landscape, and energy systems, using a range of analytical tools;
- use spatial databases and develop and manage Geographic Information Systems;
- critically select and apply methods, techniques, and tools for planning problem analysis and problem structuring;
- contribute to setting landscape quality objectives and territorial structures within the planning process and define guidelines for landscape planning and design;
- conduct plan and project evaluations, real estate appraisals, and urban and economic feasibility studies;
- coordinate the drafting of environmental assessments (EIA, SEA, Appropriate Assessment, and assessments of environmental and landscape compatibility), with particular attention to the interaction between strategic environmental assessment and the development of plans at various levels:
- assess the implications of decisions regarding urban infrastructure and transport facilities, working in synergy with sectoral experts;
- develop implementation plans and urban development projects.

## Territorial planner / Urban planner

Potential Employers: Territorial planners and urban planners may work: (a) in the public administration; (b) as freelancers; (c) in private companies; (d) in third-sector organisations. (a) In the public administration, planners may be employed as technical officers (with responsibilities) within institutions and territorial authorities legally responsible for designing territorial and/or sectoral policies and for drafting specific planning tools: in municipalities, for the drafting of municipal or inter-municipal urban plans or detailed development plans; in provinces or metropolitan cities, for the drafting of coordination plans and metropolitan territorial and strategic plans; in regions, for regional spatial plans, landscape plans, and other sectoral plans (e.g. regional energy and environmental plans, park plans, transport plans). (b) Planners may work independently as freelancers, producing studies and projects commissioned by territorial authorities (see point a); providing consultancy services related to European project design, territorial marketing programmes, or planning and feasibility studies for companies (e.g. mobility managers, site localisation consultants); or supporting construction companies or real estate firms. Graduates may also obtain qualification for energy performance certification of buildings (art. 2 of Presidential Decree 75 of 16/04/2013) after passing the State Examination (Register of Territorial Planners) and completing a dedicated training course. (c) Planners may be employed in private companies as analysts and managers of territorial databases or real estate assets (e.g. in insurance, industrial, logistics, or commercial sectors). (d) In the third sector or in research institutions, they may work as analysts of spatial phenomena (such as settlements, economic activities, environmental transformations, territorial heritage, and more), or contribute to policy development. Preparation for Further Studies Prerequisites for continuing studies The knowledge acquired by graduates of the Master's program serves as a prerequisite for admission to PhD programs and second-level Master's degrees. In particular, the following are essential foundations for further studies: understanding institutional and legislative frameworks, tools for urban and territorial governance, the ability to identify problems and conduct analyses aimed at drafting plans, the ability to apply techniques for their development and implementation, knowledge of techniques and tools applicable in planning processes, the ability to construct predictive scenarios, including spatial ones, the development of participatory processes, advanced knowledge in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the ability to exercise independent judgment, communication skills, and the ability to work within interdisciplinary teams and Ph.D. programme, Second-Level formulate project proposals. Master's, Postgraduate School At the Politecnico di Torino, students can continue their studies through the inter-university PhD program in Urban and Regional Development and the School of Specialization in Architectural and Landscape Heritage. A particularly relevant opportunity is the second-level Master's program in "Methods and Techniques for the Governance of Resilient Territories: Towards Integrated Risk Management", which is activated subject to a minimum number of enrolled students. For more information about the Master's programs offered, please refer to the website: https://www.polito.it/didattica/master-e-formazione-permanente/master-universitari/offertamaster-universitari

# 1.3 Professional profiles (ISTAT codes)

With reference to the list of professional profiles classified by ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics, https://www.istat.it/en/), a graduate from this Bachelor's degree programme can work as:

ISTAT code	Description
2.2.2.1.2	Pianificatori, paesaggisti e specialisti del recupero e della conservazione del territorio

# Art. 2 - Admission requirements

Italian regulations on enrolment in Master's degree programmes require Italian universities to check that applicants meet the following requirements:

- have a three-year Bachelor's degree or university diploma, or other educational qualification obtained outside Italy
  and recognized as suitable for admission;
- meet specific curricular requirements;
- have an academic performance considered suitable for admission;

The provisions issued by the Academic Senate and the implementing regulations adopted by the competent academic bodies establish that, for students coming from specific academic backgrounds and with certain academic achievements, the curricular requirements and the suitable academic performance are considered automatically fulfilled.

All other applicants must be assessed by an evaluator.

In particular, for admission to LM-48, the curricular requirements are automatically considered fulfilled by applicants who have a Bachelor's degree in class L-21 (Ministerial Decree 270/04) or class 7 (Ministerial Decree 509/99). The mandatory interview assesses the applicant's academic background and any other relevant educational or professional experience, specifically for candidates from other universities.

This assessment may result in an offer of admission, rejection, or conditional admission requiring the fulfilment of specific curricular requirements identified by the evaluator.

Enrolment in the Master's degree programme is possible in both first and second semester, provided that students meet the deadlines and the specific requirements for admission.

#### **CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

As far as curricular requirements are concerned, applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or a three-year university diploma, or an educational qualification obtained outside Italy and recognized as suitable for admission. In addition, they must have gained specific knowledge and competencies during their previous academic path (credits in specific Scientific Disciplinary Fields).

In particular, applicants must have earned:

- minimum 30 credits earned in the following Scientific Disciplinary Fields (settori scientifico-disciplinari): BIO/03, BIO/07, GEO/02, GEO/04, GEO/05, M-GGR/01, M-GGR/02, ING-INF/05, MAT/03, MAT/05, MAT/06, ICAR/06, ICAR/17
- minimum 60 credits earned in the following Scientific Disciplinary Fields (settori scientifico-disciplinari): AGR/01, AGR/08, GEO/05, ICAR/02, ICAR/03, ICAR/04, ICAR/05, ICAR/14, ICAR/15, ICAR/18, ICAR/20, ICAR/21, ICAR/22, ING-IND/11, IUS/10, IUS/14, M-GGR/01, M-GGR/02, M-STO/04, SECS-P/01, SECS-P/06, SECS-S/02, SPS/10, MAT/07, GEO/09, M-STO/02, ING-IND/10

The credits of the Scientific Disciplinary Fields found both in the first group and in the second group are primarily counted for the first group. The remaining credits are counted for the second group. Therefore, the credits of a course can be counted partly to reach the minimum number of credits of both groups.

Applicants who lack less than 10 credits may be admitted to the programme by the Academic Advisor. For applicants who lack more than 10 credits, the evaluation will be subject to the final approval of the Coordinator or the Vice coordinator of the degree programme.

Applicants who do not meet the curricular requirements must make up for their unfulfilled curricular requirements (missing credits) before enrolment, by means of:

• enrolment in single courses in order to make up for unfulfilled curricular requirements: this is possible for students who need to earn up to a maximum of 60 credits. Students who enrol in single courses for this reason are allowed to include in their Personal Study Plan exclusively the courses assigned by the evaluator. Passing the admission test will allow only those applicants who are required to complete curricular integrations to enrol also in the academic year following the one in which the test was taken, in any case only after passing the exams related to the curricular integration.

or else,

• **credit transfer at Bachelor's level**: this is possible for students who need to earn more than 60 credits. In this case, students need to enrol in the Bachelor's degree programme that offers the credits in the specific Scientific Disciplinary Fields (core subjects and commentary subjects) required for admission to this Master's degree programme.

#### SUITABLE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Applicants must have an English language certificate (B2 level or above, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment – CEFR).

The academic performance will be assessed as follows.

# 1) Applicants from Politecnico di Torino

Applicants can be admitted to the programme if they earned their Bachelor's degree in:

- 4 years or less exam average grade required: ≥24/30;
- between 4 and 5 years—exam weighted average grade required: ≥ 25/30

The weighted average grade is calculated on all accrued course credits (graded on a scale of 30) counting towards the achievement of the Bachelor's degree, after having subtracted the worst 28 credits. The duration of the Bachelor's path is calculated on the number of academic years in which the applicant has been enrolled at the university, starting from the first enrolment in the Italian university system:

- for full-time students: the duration of the Bachelor's path is equivalent to the number of academic years of enrolment.
- for part-time students: each year of enrolment is counted as half-year.
- for full-time students taking part in the "Dual Career" programme: each year of enrolment is counted as half-year, as for part-time students.

In the event of credit transfer, the duration of the Bachelor's path must be increased proportionally to the number of credits that have been recognized by Politecnico (10-60 CFU =1 year, etc.). The worst 28 credits must be subtracted proportionally to the number of validated credits.

- (1) Applicants must have graduated by the end of the December Graduation Period
- (2) The weighted average is calculated as follows:  $\sum (grade*credits) / \sum credits$

#### b) Admission subject to passing the admission test

Applicants who do not have a sufficient weighed average grade, must take and pass an admission test, as detailed in the following section "Admission test and its validity".

## 2) Applicants from other Italian universities

Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree awarded by another Italian university must have a weighted average grade of all the exams  $\geq 24/30$  and must pass the admission test referred to in the next paragraph. The weighted average grade ( $\Sigma$ (grade\*credits) /  $\Sigma$ credits) is calculated on all accrued course credits (graded on a scale of 30) counting towards the achievement of the Bachelor's degree, after having subtracted the worst 28 credits.

#### Admission test and its validity

The test consists of an interview focusing on areas of knowledge considered essential for successful attendance of the Master's degree programme:

- fundamentals of urban and regional planning and landscape planning;
- institutional framework for territorial governance;
- sustainable local development;
- geographic information systems.

Only applicants required to make up for unfulfilled curricular requirements will be allowed to enrol in the following academic year, provided they have passed the admission test and completed the required integrations. Enrolment is also subject to the activation of the degree programme.

#### 3) Applicants with a non-Italian educational qualification

To be admitted to Politecnico Master's degree programmes, applicants must have an academic qualification awarded by an accredited/recognized foreign university, earned after completing at least 15 years of total education (including primary school, secondary school and university).

Applicants who have attended a university programme lasting five or six academic years (different from the 3+2 system) without completing it must still meet the minimum requirement of 15 years of total education (of which at least 3 years at university level) and they must have earned at least 180 ECTS credits or equivalent (pre-university courses or foundation years cannot be counted towards the threshold of minimum credits or years of total education).

In addition to having an adequate academic background and certified English language proficiency at least at B2 level, students applying for degree programmes taught fully or partially in Italian must also hold a B2-level Italian language certificate, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), as an admission requirement.

The applicant's academic performance and the consistency between the degree programmes offered by Politecnico and the applicant's previous academic background are assessed by the professors designated by Coordinator of the Collegio. The evaluation is carried out on the Apply@polito platform under the section called "applicants with a non-Italian qualification."

A positive evaluation (offer of admission) allows applicants to enrol in the programme only in the academic year in which the application has been submitted. Admitted applicants who do not complete the enrolment process within the deadlines are required to apply again to the programme in the next academic years.

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More information is available at <a href="https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/admissions-and-enrolment/master-s-degree-programmes">https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/admissions-and-enrolment/master-s-degree-programmes</a>

# **Art. 3 - Programme curriculum**

## 3.1 Programme overview

The two specialist tracks, "Urban and Regional Planning for ecological transition" and "Planning for the Global Urban Agenda," differ in their language of instruction (Italian and English, respectively) but share the same educational objectives and teaching methods, structured as follows:

- Mono-disciplinary Teaching Modules (courses): advanced training activities providing systematic contributions that enhance analytical and critical-interpretative skills;
- Integrated Teaching Modules (courses): courses combining two disciplines within a common field of operational experimentation of theories, methods, and tools;
- Atelier/Studio Teaching Modules: multidisciplinary workshops focused on defining planning and design tools for the territory at various scales, simulating the integration of multiple perspectives typical of planning and design teams through contributions from several disciplines. Each Atelier runs for a semester and results in a single exam;
- Free-choice credits: alongside mandatory courses, students may delve into specific fields by choosing some free-choice credits (10 ECTS in the Italian track and 12 ECTS in the English track). These credits can also be substituted by an internship, which can be completed in Italy or abroad;
- Thesis: the second semester of the Year 2 is mainly dedicated to writing the thesis (in Italian or English). The thesis can be theoretical (developing a topic through theories, methods, case studies, with a critical approach and bibliographic research) or applied (application or development of experimental methods on case studies), in both cases producing original research aimed at problem-solving.

The two tracks share a common educational framework that develops in-depth competencies in the following learning areas:

- Analysis and evaluation of historical, geographical, economic, environmental, and social contexts;
- Territorial governance: urban and regional planning, landscape and environmental planning; urban and territorial policies;
- Urban, urbanistic, and environmental design.

For both specialist tracks, the educational framework constantly refers not only to theories and methods but also to real-world application contexts and planning processes, constituting the strength of the professional and experimental approach of the mono-disciplinary courses, integrated courses, and ateliers.

Among the applied activities, the programme offers three complex design experiences for each track. The Atelier/Studio activities develop parallel educational objectives (urban design methods and tools, local planning, planning attentive to cultural and natural heritage, as well as analysis and evaluation), but with different emphases on specific themes and application fields, also reflecting the national or international operational context.

While sharing the same educational objectives, the two specialist tracks organise the activities differently, as follows:

## **ITALIAN SPECIALIST TRACK:**

- **1st semester, Year 1:** solid competencies in territorial governance; history of the city and territory; ability to apply methods and tools in urban planning design;
- 2nd semester, Year 1: interpretative tools for urban and territorial geography; methods and techniques of inclusion and participation in the development of urban and territorial policies; ability to draft a local planning instrument in relation to urban design and the real estate and transport markets;
- 1st semester, Year 2: knowledge of territorial governance models in the European Union; knowledge in strategic planning and climate change adaptation design, with attention to energy and environmental challenges; ability to draft and apply landscape, territorial, and environmental planning tools with particular focus on hydrogeological risk; ability to construct evaluation frameworks for planning acts and knowledge of environmental appraisal methods.

### **ENGLISH SPECIALIST TRACK:**

• **1st semester, Year 1:** knowledge of territorial governance systems in Europe and worldwide; interpretative knowledge and methods regarding the history of the city and the territory; European and international policies for nature, environment, and landscape, and related planning tools; ability to conduct and represent spatial analyses;

- **2nd semester, Year 1:** methods and techniques of inclusion and participation in the development of urban and territorial policies; ability to intervene on the existing settlement system, considering cultural and natural heritage and natural hazard risks; ability to construct evaluation frameworks for sustainability policies;
- 1st semester, Year 2: interpretative tools for urban and territorial geography; ability to build planning strategies addressing climate change adaptation for cities and territories, with attention to energy and environmental challenges and hydrogeological risk; theories and methods for urban planning design.

# 3.2 Organization of educational activities

The list of courses (compulsory and optional), curricula, possible organization of courses into modules, any pre-requisites and exclusions and the list of the faculty members responsible for the courses are available at: <a href="https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta">https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta</a> formativa 2019.vis?p a acc=2026&p sdu=81&p cds=575

The list of the Scientific Disciplinary Fields (Settori Scientifico Disciplinari) for each activity (specific subjects and complementary subjects) is available at: <a href="https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.vis\_aiq\_2023.visualizza?sducds=81575&tab=0&p\_a\_acc=2026">https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.vis\_aiq\_2023.visualizza?sducds=81575&tab=0&p\_a\_acc=2026</a>

# Art. 4 - Student career

The Student Guide is published on the Teaching Portal every year before the beginning of the academic year. There is a specific Student Guide for each Master's degree programme. The Student Guide is available on the <a href="web site">web site</a> of the degree programme.

It contains information and deadlines on:

- academic calendar;
- Personal Study Plan and Annual Personal Study Plan;
- free choice credits;
- internships;
- tuition fees;
- dual career;
- classes and exams;
- class delivery;
- foreign language learning;
- studying abroad/mobility programmes;
- exam rules;
- transfers in/out and internal transfers;
- interruption, suspension, withdrawal, forfeiture;
- credit transfer.

# Art. 5 - Final Examination

The final examination represents a key educational milestone of the Master's degree programme and consists of a thesis that must be independently developed by the student under the supervision of a supervisor and, where applicable, with the collaboration of co-supervisors. The thesis activities typically require the application of knowledge acquired across multiple courses and design studios, the integration of additional elements and the ability to propose innovative ideas.

The Master's thesis topic is chosen by the students within the disciplines included in the Master's degree curriculum and/or in relation to the internship carried out; it must also be agreed upon with the supervisor.

The thesis may be written and presented in English.

The thesis worth 20 ECTS credits.

The thesis supervisor must be a tenured professor or researcher from Politecnico, or an external lecturer teaching at Politecnico, as defined in the Student Regulations (Article 11 – Rules for the final examination). If the supervisor does not belong to the Collegio di Pianificazione e Progettazione, he/she must be supported by a co-supervisor chosen among the tenured professors or researchers from this Collegio.

Students must request the thesis topic online through a dedicated procedure available in their personal page on the Teaching Portal, under the section "Thesis," in compliance with the Graduation Periods deadlines published in the Student Guide.

The final examination consists in presenting and defending one's Master's thesis. The Committee in charge of the final examination evaluates the candidates' entire academic path assessing their cultural maturity, ability to develop original ideas and the overall quality of the thesis work.

The final grade is given by the Graduation Examining Committee. Its members evaluate the overall average grade of all the exams on a scale of 110. The Committee may add up to a maximum of 8 points, considering the following factors:

- quality of the thesis work (originality, relevance of results, in-depth analysis of the topic, methodological rigor, presentation and representation of results, ability to support one's ideas etc.);
- thesis oral defence (clarity in presentation, etc.);
- outstanding results achieved during the academic path (number of honours, experiences at other universities or research centres, extracurricular activities, participation in Student Teams or Societies, etc.).

A degree with honours (lode) may be awarded at the Committee's discretion if the total score reaches at least 110, upon qualified majority (two thirds of the Committee members).

If the thesis meets the required standards, the Committee may grant the dignità di stampa (printing honour) only if the final grade is 110 cum laude and the Committee's decision is unanimous.

#### **More Information and Deadlines:**

- Student Regulations
- Student Guide

#### **Diploma Supplement:**

In compliance with article 11, paragraph 8, of Ministerial Decrees No. 509/1999 and 270/2004. Politecnico di Torino issues the Diploma Supplement, a document that can be attached to a higher education qualification. It is designed to improve the transparency of international qualifications, as it provides the description of the curriculum successfully completed by the student. This certificate follows the European model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO – CEPES: it is issued in two languages (Italian-English) and it is composed of approximately 10 pages.

 $More\ information\ at: \underline{https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/academic-experience/certificates-and-other-documents$ 

# Art. 6 - References

# **6.1 Student Regulations**

The <u>Student Regulations</u> define the rights and responsibilities of students and set out the administrative and disciplinary rules that all students enrolled in a degree programme or in a single learning activity at Politecnico must abide by.

# **6.2 Other Regulations**

Particular aspects of students' academic progress are governed by specific Regulations or Calls for Applications published on its website.

In particular:

- The <u>Tuition Fee Regulations</u> specify the annual tuition fees that students must pay. The procedure for requesting a tuition fee reduction is explained in a dedicated guide.
- The University Regulations on Funds for Student Mobility Abroad outline the principles and rules for awarding and
  disbursing mobility grants. Standard procedures apply to all types of mobility programmes with unified Calls for
  Applications published twice a year at <a href="https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/studying-abroad">https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/studying-abroad</a>
- The Code of Ethical Conduct also applies to students.