
Master in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication (MPHC)

Guidelines complementing and supplementing the Study Regulations

Whereas

- On 12.11.2018, the Council of Professors accepted the transfer of the granting of the Master's degree of the USI-UNISR Joint Degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication (MPHC) from the Faculty of Communication Culture and Society to the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences;
- On 6.9.2021, the Faculty Council approved an amendment to the study regulations in the following terms:
- *For the Master's degree in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication (MPHC), of which the title is awarded by the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences jointly with the Faculty of Psychology of the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan, the provisions of the Regulations of Studies valid for students enrolled from the 2020/2021 academic year of the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society apply. For disputes, however, reference is made to the applications of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences (Art. 1 Scope. Cpv.3);*

and considered

- the Convention for the award of a joint degree between Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan (UniSR) and USI of 29 January 2016 with its annexes and subsequent amendments of 16/22 February 2022;
- the Curriculum des Psychologiestudium an Schweizer Hochschulen issued by the Swiss Psychological Society (the so-called SSP "Consensus");

The Council of Professors, at the proposal of the Master's Degree Organisation Committee and supported by the Dean's Office, issues the following Guidelines to supplement and complement the Study Regulations.

The guidelines apply to students matriculated from academic year 23/24.

Reference Article in the Guidelines COM Studies Regulation	Guidelines
Art. 1 Scope of application and referral	These Directives supplement and complete the Study Regulations and apply exclusively to students enrolled for the MPHC (and not to students enrolled for the MCMH attending the same courses)

¹The masculine term also applies to feminine

Art. 2 Qualification conferred	<p>The Faculty of Biomedical Sciences confers the title of Master of Science in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication</p> <p>Jointly with the Faculty of Psychology, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (henceforth UNISR).</p>
Art. 3 ECTS	<p>The MPHIC programme is equivalent to 120 ECTS, of which at least 60 are offered by USI.</p>
Art. 4 Admission conditions	<p>A specific condition for admission to the MPHIC is to have obtained a Bachelor's degree in psychology from a recognised Swiss or foreign university with an average of exams and criteria defined annually in the application notice.</p> <p>A maximum of 30 students per year are admitted.</p> <p>The student must demonstrate 250 hours of professionalizing educational activities during the three-year bachelor's degree program. Professionalizing activities carried out and certified during the bachelor's degree may be recognized with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) activities, carried out individually or in small groups, aimed at learning methods, tools and procedures, related to the applied contexts of psychology; b) practical experiences, laboratories, simulations, role playing, project writing, carried out individually or in small groups, concerning tools, methods and procedures aimed at developing the knowledge necessary to operate in the contexts in which psychologists intervene. <p>In the total or partial lack of recognition of the 250 hours, admitted students acquire the missing hours in addition to the 120 ECTS of the master's degree.</p>
Art. 5 General structure and obtaining the degree	<p>The MPHIC programme comprises 120 ECTS including courses, seminars and workshops, Master's thesis and field project.</p> <p>The programme is organised in four semesters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the two autumn semesters (I and III semesters) at USI • the two spring semesters (semesters II and IV) at UNISR <p>The teaching modules at USI and UNISR are organised in subject areas and include compulsory and optional courses. Students must acquire at least 8 ECTS in optional courses over the two years. Students who include a language course in the curriculum as an elective may not choose a language of which they are native speakers.</p> <p>Extra credits and credits for supplementary activities represent a flexible part of the study programme that enables students to perfect their knowledge in research, in the clinical field, with regard to cognitive or neuropsychological aspects, or of communication in healthcare.</p>

Extra credits and credits for supplementary activities can be acquired upon application to the Steering Committee (SC) and subsequent approval.

The order in which courses are taken is defined by the current study plan. In special cases, the SC may define a customised study plan for the individual student. Any individual change to the study plan must be presented to the SC in advance and must be formally approved before being implemented.

Art. 6
Scientific
Responsibility

The scientific and didactic responsibility for the Master's programme is entrusted to an Organising Committee (OC) comprising

- the two programme directors appointed by the respective faculties
- one tenured professor from each faculty appointed by the Council of Professors.

The OC is responsible for

- the definition of the training offer in accordance with the provisions in force in Switzerland and Italy for the recognition of the professional title of psychologist;
- the proposal for the assignment of lectures;
- the approval of MT and Field Projects.

The OC meets at least once per semester.

Decisions are taken by majority vote.

Within the OC, the two co-directors form a Steering Committee (SC), which meets independently and deals with ordinary or urgent resolutions.

Each OC or SC meeting is minuted and the minutes deposited on the platform shared by the OC members and the Master's secretariats of the two universities.

The minutes of the OC are transmitted to the respective Faculties (Faculty of Psychology UNISR and Faculty of Biomedical Sciences USI), which take note of them and intervene only in the event of disputes between the OC's equal members and in the event that a majority is not reached in the decisions.

Art. 7
Internships,
semester of mobility

The specific purposes and modalities of any internship or equivalent activities are defined on a case-by-case basis by the SC, which analyses the applications and approves or rejects the proposals.

Art. 8
Master's thesis:
nature and aims

The Master's thesis (MT) deals with a topic chosen in agreement with the supervisor and approved by the OC.

The MT is written in English.

Typically, the MT consists of approximately 40-80 pages, not including the final bibliography. An initial part is dedicated to the conceptualisation of the research with theoretical references and the state of the art of the literature; a central part to the method, a part

	<p>dedicated to the presentation of the empirical themes of the research and a final part to discussions and conclusions</p> <p>The supervisor of a MT must be a lecturer holding a course within the MPHIC programme.</p> <p>Conflicts of interest: a professor or course instructor with whom the student has/had a previous working relationship cannot act as supervisor.</p> <p>In addition to the rapporteur, a co-rapporteur may be appointed. The co-rapporteur must be at least a researcher and must hold a PhD or specialisation in psychology and be an active member of USI or UNISR.</p> <p>In the case of an MT carried out in companies or institutions, a second co-rapporteur may be co-opted, external to academic institutions, who has specific experience in the specific field of MT.</p>
Art. 9 Master's theses: conditions	<p>During the spring semester of the first year, a meeting is organised with all potential MT speakers at which the SC informs the students of the topics for an MT. At that meeting or later, students may also propose topics and speakers for their MT.</p> <p>By 30 June of the first year, students notify the MPHIC's teaching tutors of the MT topic and the name of the speaker willing to follow the work.</p> <p>By 15 September, students notify the MPHIC's teaching tutors of an extended abstract (approx. 450 words) including, in addition to the title and the name of the speaker, a brief description of the background (with bibliographical references), an indication of the MT's contribution to the current scientific debate and some information on the planned method (also specifying what type of data the students will be analysing, original or secondary).</p> <p>The official deposit of the title and abstract of the MT will only take place at the UNISR secretariat. The deadlines for filing the MT will be indicated from time to time by the UNISR Psychology Faculty Secretariat responsible for this type of filing.</p> <p>The MT defence will take place during the autumn session at the end of the second year or during the spring session following the end of the second year.</p>
Art. 10 Enrolment in courses	<p>At the beginning of the second year, students must enroll in courses of their choice at both USI and UNISR.</p>
Art. 11 Assessment system	<p>At UNISR the numerical scale ranges from a minimum of 18 to a maximum of 30 (cum laude). To acquire the credits for each course, students must pass the relative examination with a mark of 18 or higher. When the assessment is on a binary basis, a passing grade is required. Examinations and written papers awarded a mark of less</p>

than 18 (i.e. failed) must be repeated. In the case of repeated exams and resubmitted papers, the last result is the one that counts.

At UNISR, only core courses are assessed on a scale of 18 to 30 (cum laude). Choice courses and the field project are assessed on a binary basis.

Grades in tenths are converted into thirtieths according to the following conversion table

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	6.5	6.5	7	7.5	7.5	8	8.5	8.5	9	9.5	9.5	10

If a grade in tenths corresponds to more than one grade in thirtieths, the course instructor must indicate the corresponding grade. The same conversion table is used by UNISR to convert grades from thirtieths to tenths.

Some courses in USI are considered single courses while in UNISR they are combined to form modules. The UNISR modules that include exams taken at USI are:

1. The Communication in Health module (12 ECTS) consisting of the exams of: Health Communication (6 ECTS), Health Campaign and Evaluation (3 ECTS), Fundamentals of Global and Public Health (3 ECTS)
2. The module of Research Methods in Health (9 ECTS) consisting of the examinations of: Experimental design and analysis of psychological data (6 ECTS), Psychometrics (3 ECTS).
3. The Behaviour and Management module (12 ECTS) consisting of the examinations of: Business Strategy (6 ECTS), Organisational behaviour (6 ECTS).

The construction of the module grade is done in the following way:

- The grade in tenths of each exam is transformed into thirtieths following the table above.
- For each module, the weighted average of the marks in thirtieths of the component exams is calculated.

The student's career at USI shows the individual courses with their ECTS and grades.

The student's career at UNISR shows the three modules with the relative ECTS and grades.

Art. 12
Final Examination

The master's course falls within the class of degree qualifying for the practice of psychology in Italy. To this end, the student discusses his or her experience of professionalizing practical activities in a Final Examination with a special committee consisting of four members, two of whom are internal and two external members belonging to the Order of Psychologists.

The Final Examination is mandatory for the award of the master's degree.

	<p>For admission to the Final Examination, the student must have acquired 750 hours of professionalizing practical activities, including the 250 hours referred to in Art.14.</p>
Art. 13 Master Thesis Evaluation	<p>The MT evaluation committee consists of at least seven members, including five full professors and/or researchers on fixed-term contracts, including the supervisor, a possible co-reporter and other lecturers, one of whom takes on the role of counter-reporter. The counter-reporter is appointed directly by the UNISR Faculty of Psychology.</p> <p>For the discussion of the MT, the rules and provisions laid down by the UNISR Faculty of Psychology where the student defends his MT apply. Therefore, for all the more specific rules, please refer to the UNISR regulations.</p> <p>Two judgements are attributed to the MT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- one based on the Swiss assessment in tenths, from 1 (minimum) to 10 (maximum)- one based on the Italian assessment in hundredths. In this case, the student is presented to the commission with the arithmetic mean of the marks obtained in all the compulsory examinations. The arithmetic mean is converted into hundredths. The discussion of the MT is awarded a minimum of 5 points and a maximum of 7 points, which are added to the calculation in hundredths up to a maximum of 110. <p>If the maximum mark (110) is reached, the committee may award honours if decided unanimously.</p> <p>The final grade awarded by the Degree Committee is expressed both in hundredths (110, UNISR Italian degree mark) and in tenths (USI degree mark).</p> <p>The diploma and related documents are issued by UNISR. The transcript is issued by USI at the student's request.</p>
Art. 14 Repetition and validation of examinations and written work (papers)	<p>Intermediate individual or group examinations are valid for two academic years.</p>
Art. 15	<p>No employment relationship with a USI or UNISR professor or course-holder is permitted during the period of attendance at the MPHIC.</p>

Abbreviations: SC Steering Committee
OC Organizing Committee
MT Master Thesis