



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DELL'INSUBRIA**

**DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOTECNOLOGIE E
SCIENZE DELLA VITA**

**TEACHING REGULATIONS OF THE
BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

a.y. 2025/2026



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Art. 1 - General features and organization of the Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences

The course of study, belongs to the class of the Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences L-13 (DM 16 March 2007, reformed according to the DM 19 December 2023) and is activated according to the teaching order of 15/06/2015.

Based on the expertise of the faculty and the research of the reference department (Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences- DBSV), the CdS is divided into two curricula from the second year: Biomedical and Cellular Biology.

Biology has a prominent role in modern research and is characterised by a strongly innovative approach. This degree programmes will allow you to gain a solid grounding in the different fields of biology and also to become familiar with the methods, theories and new technologies applicable in different fields of research and production.

The modules of this degree programme include the study of modern biomolecular disciplines, which are essential to understand all biological phenomena. The programme offers numerous practical workshops starting from the first year.

Halfway through the second year, students will choose between two different streams that provide specialised training:

- the biomedical curriculum aims at understanding biological issues relating to human health;
- the cells and organisms curriculum focuses on studying fundamental cellular processes, also from an evolutionary standpoint.

The degree programme in biology trains modern, versatile professionals who can choose to continue their studies or access the labour market. If you chose not to continue your studies in our second cycle programme, you will find job opportunities in biological labs that undertake research, analysis or quality control, where you will be offered mainly technical positions. Otherwise you might choose to sit the State Exam to become a Junior Biologist and work as a free-lance consultant in the areas envisaged by the laws in force.

Lessons are held in Italian.

The teaching structure responsible for the course is the DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

The Chair of the course is Professor VIVIANA ORLANDI

<https://uninsubria.unifind.cineca.it/get/person/006306>

The reference teaching secretariat receives by appointment at the pavilion Lanzavecchia in via Dunant, 3 - Varese, and responds to e-mails received through INFOSTUDENTI.

Art. 2 – Lessons timetable

The course is organized following a semester-based calendar. Exams sessions are organized during the teaching activities suspension periods students may access the exams provided for in their study plan after having followed the course (attendance acquisition).

1st SEMESTER:

- Lessons start date: from 30 September 2025 - lessons end date: 17 January 2026
- Fall exams session: 11-15 November 2025 (except for 1st-year students);
- Winter exams session: 20 January 2026-21 February 2026.

2nd SEMESTER:

- Lessons start date: 24 February 2026 - lessons end date: 20 June 2026
- Spring exams session: 8-14 April 2026
- Summer exams session: 23 June 2026 to 19 September 2026 (except for the month of August).

For the lessons suspension dates and holidays for national, local and other festivities (Christmas break, Easter break, University holidays), students should refer to the University's Academic Calendar approved by the University at the following link:

<https://www.uninsubria.eu/about-us/how-find-us/academic-calendar>

Art. 3 Admission, assessment of educational background and additional learning requirements (OFA) remedial procedures

Access to the Degree Course is free.

Enrollment will open according to the deadlines indicated in Sua-CdS and on the website of the University, on the dedicated page.

After having enrolled in the Degree Course students must take an educational background assessment test (mandatory test), following the calendar established by the Degree Course. Students who have not taken the test in any of the established dates will receive a career block and will therefore not be able to register for exams.

Assesment of the students' educational background

The assessment of the students' educational background focuses on basic Mathematical skills and entails a barrier level (10 correct answers for 20 questions). Students who do not obtain this level will be assigned an additional learning requirement (OFA) which entails passing a further assessment test without which students may not take the Mathematics exam. Students may attend a specific remedial teaching activity organized by the Degree Course during the IT Mathematics and Biostatistics course, at the end of which a further assessment test is organized to check that they have met the OFA.

The OFA must be met by 30 September of the year following enrollment. Failure to meet the OFA by this date entails the impossibility to register for the exams of the second year.

The test calendar, syllabus and further information are available on the University's webpage in the specific section dedicated to "Ammissione, Immatricolazioni e tasse" (Admission, enrollment, and fees): www.uninsubria.it/triennale-sbio#1 (in Italian)

The assessment test is mandatory for everyone with the following exceptions: those who enroll in the first, second or third year by transferring from another university or degree course who have already passed a similar educational background assessment test through certification / self-certification which attests students have passed the Mathematics module, and/or who have already passed a Mathematics exam, do not have to take the test.

The AiQUA Committee will decide upon the most suitable procedure to assess the educational background and the attribution of the OFA for those who could not take the test in the planned dates, even though they do not fall into the exonerated category.

Additional learning requirements (OFA) remedial procedures

Students who have not obtained the minimum score in the Basic mathematics module (10 correct answers for 20 questions), may attend lessons, but will have an additional learning requirement.

The additional learning requirement (OFA) is met by passing a mathematics pre-exam which will represent an assessment of the contents offered by the remedial course offered by the Degree Course, as a measure to allow students to meet the OFA. Passing this exam is a necessary condition for admission



to the IT Mathematics and Biostatistics exam.

Additional preparatory teaching activities for the educational background assessment test

To prepare for the educational background assessment test, students may attend the Mathematics Pre-course offered by the University at the beginning of September.

For further information, please visit the page dedicated to pre-courses:

www.uninsubria.it/precorsi (in Italian)

Art.4 Orientation, enrollment procedure and other administrative aspects

Incoming orientation:

The Degree Course organizes for the 2nd semester of every year some presentation (Open Day) and incoming orientation meetings for future freshmen. Informational material is published and distributed to interested students. Admission procedures are published every year on the webpages of the Degree Course and of the students' services.

www.uninsubria.it/orientamento (in Italian)

In itinere orientation:

- Study plan

The tutors of the Degree Course organize orientation meetings on how to select the curriculum and elective courses (Type of Teaching Activity C and Type of Teaching Activity D).

- Internship

The Internships Committee organizes some meetings for 2nd- and 3rd-year students to provide useful information on internal and external internships.

Students and future students may find further information (for example on the pre-course, enrollment procedures) from the University's offices (Students Services Office, Right to Study and Students Services, Orientation and Placement, Academic Offices and International Relations) by sending an email through the Infostudenti service.

INFOSTUDENTI SERVICE

The INFOSTUDENTI service is a web application that offers a communication channel with the administration.

The service may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

www.uninsubria.eu/services/all-services/infostudenti-information-service-students

Art. 5 - Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for the individual courses; however, registration to 3rd-year exams is subject to having passed all 1st-year exams.

Art. 6 – European credit transfer and accumulation system (ECTS)

The courses have different types of assisted teaching: frontal lessons, exercitations and workshops, seminars.

Each ECTS corresponds to 8 class hours, 12 workshop hours or 12 exercitations hours, besides students' individual study time.

Art. 7 – Excellence programme

The degree course offers outstanding students enrolled in their 2nd year an excellence program, that is, a cycle of seminars on topics related to the curriculum and identified every year by the Council of the Degree Course. The seminars cycle is offered between the 2nd and 3rd year. Attendance to the Program

is considered as an honors element in the final exam.

Art. 8 – Validation of linguistic and IT certifications

For the ENGLISH course, the validation of ECTS is automatic, by forwarding to the Student Services office the certificate attesting that one of the following tests, which may have been taken autonomously by the students, has been passed:

- University of Cambridge Examinations - IGCSE (PET, FCE, CAE, CPE, BEC 1-3, CELS) B1 level
- Trinity College London Examinations (ESOL Grade 5 -12, ISE level I – III)
- TOEFL Examinations (Paper Based Test Score > 457, Computer Based Test Score > 137)
- City & Guilds Pitman Qualifications (ESOL Intermediate – Advanced, SESOL Intermediate – Advanced)

The validation of other certificates will be assessed by the Council of the DEGREE COURSE, which will decide whether to validate the related ECTS.

Certificates' validity

For the purposes of validation, the certificates must have been obtained in the last 5 years, with the exception of the IGCSE, ESOL and TOEFL certificates which, instead, have a validity of only 2 years. Certifications/certificates obtained from ONLINE course will NOT be taken into consideration.

Art. 9 – Validation of professional abilities or exams taken in a previous career

Pursuant to article 4, paragraph 7 of the Ministerial Decree 1648/23, the Council of the Degree Course may validate:

- professional knowledge and skills certified pursuant to current regulations;
- knowledge and skills developed in educational activities at a post-secondary level in whose organization and implementation the university was involved.

The validation application will be assessed by the Council of the Degree Course. The validation may take place if the activity is related to the specific educational objectives of the Degree Course and of the educational activities for which the validation is being requested, also taking into consideration the content and duration in terms of hours of the activity.

The maximum number of ECTS that may be validated is 12.

Art. 10 – Attendance obligations

Attendance is mandatory for workshop courses only (at least 75%). Mandatory attendance courses must be taken in the correct year. Exceptions to the present norm may be allowed, for example, in cases of transfers from another course or University.

Art. 11 – Enrolling in subsequent years

There are no restrictions to enroll in the 2nd and 3rd year.

Art. 12 – Transfer procedures from other degrees courses

Students coming from another University or from another Degree Course of this University, can submit to the Students Services Office, together with the admission application, the application for the validation of the previous career, indicating the activities they request validation of. The validation application form will have to be supplied with the syllabi of the exams taken in the previous career: without these syllabi, the activities will not be validated. After enrollment, exams validation applications will not be taken into consideration.

The validation applications will be assessed by the Council of the Degree Course pursuant to article 3, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the ministerial decree of Class redefinition (16 March 2007). The validation of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System is carried out taking into consideration the following criteria:

- analysis of the curriculum
- assessment of the adequacy of the academic fields and of the contents of the activities undertaken by the students in their previous career, with regard to the specific educational objectives of the Degree Course.

Course transfers/changes are subject to availability and allowed to students who have taken an educational background assessment test, even if not organized by the CISIA, or entry test in the L13, L2, L32 Class, which attests (with a certification or self-certification) that students have passed the mathematics module. Admission is allowed without an educational background assessment test, or an assessment test, also if students have passed a mathematics exam equivalent to that provided for in this Degree Course.

Admission to the 2nd year, within the limits of available positions: 21 validated ECTS required.

Admission to the 3rd year, within the limits of available positions: 60 validated ECTS required.

Art. 13 – Rules for the submission of study plans and individual study plans

Students will have to submit their Study Plan during the second year, with the possibility of modifying it in the following year, only for elective courses (Type of Teaching Activity D), following the University's administrative fulfillments calendar. Information on how to submit and fill in the study plan are available on the Students Services Office webpage (www.uninsubria.it/servizi/presentazione-piano-di-studio; in Italian). Elective educational activities may be selected from all the courses activated by the University, with the exception of limited number integrated courses offered by the degree courses of the healthcare area. To check choice constraints, please refer to the reference Students Services Office. The Council of the Degree Course will assess the coherence of these activities with the educational curriculum students have enrolled in.

Study Plans that conform to the regulations will be automatically approved, following the procedure provided by the Students Services for the submission of study plans. Students can submit an individual study plan, provided that this is coherent with the cultural project and suitable for the educational objectives and specific contents of the Degree Course. Individual study plans, which will have to abide by the minimum ECTS established by the Curriculum, will be approved by the Committee appointed by the Council of the Degree Course.

Art. 14 – Curricular traineeship

The final exam can be subject to a period of training at a laboratory, where a qualified practical activity related to the themes of the Degree Course. The internship can be internal, or carried out at a laboratory of the University, or external, if carried out at the laboratories of entities/ companies affiliated with the University. The internship proposal is subject to approval by the Course Council, which also assesses the consistency and appropriateness of the internship project with the specific objectives of the degree programme. The student is then assigned by the Course Council a teacher guide (internal tutor). The internship results in the recognition of 8 CFU, and includes the writing of a final report summarizing the internship and a presentation of the work (for example in ppt) to the internal tutor.

Art. 15 Graduation procedure

The final exam consists of the presentation and discussion of a paper prepared by the student and related to either internal training or external internship activity, or resulting from an analysis and elaboration, coherent and personal, bibliographical sources relating to a subject relevant to the course of study. 4 CFU are attributed to the final test and 8 CFU to the activity of the training tirocinio or to the bibliographic type report.

The proposal for a placement and the topics of the bibliographic report are subject to approval by the Course Council, which assesses the consistency and appropriateness with the specific objectives of the degree programme. The procedures for passing the final test are detailed in the Course Teaching Rules.



The final test is evaluated by a special committee.

For further information please refer to the degree course webpage:

<https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/degree-programs/biological-sciences>

For students with disabilities and/or specific learning disorders, please visit:

www.uninsubria.it/studentidisabilidsa (in Italian)

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Study Plan



STUDY PLAN

MANDATORY TEACHING ACTIVITIES - 2025/2026 COHORT

Assessment method: M = exam with mark / Q = qualification

BIOMEDICAL CURRICULUM

MANDATORY COURSES 1st YEAR

1st YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Plant biology		BIO/03	B	8	67 (58+9 WRK)	M
I	General and inorganic chemistry		CHIM/03	A	8	70 (52+18 EXE)	M
I	Cytology and Histology		BIO/06	A	9	76 (64+12 WRK)	M
A	Physics		FIS/07	A	9	80 (56+24 EXE)	M
A	IT Mathematics and Biostatistics		MAT/05 BIO/18	A/B	12	108 (72+36 EXE)	M
II	Animal biology		BIO/05	B	8	67 (58+9 WRK)	M
II	Organic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry Theory	CHIM/06	A	6	52 (40+12 EXE)	M
II	English		L-LIN/12	E	3	24	Q

BASIC COURSES 2nd YEAR

2nd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY - Workshop		CHIM/06	A	2	18 (12+6 WRK)	M
I	Comparative Anatomy		BIO/06	B	6	48	M
I	Biochemistry		BIO/10	A	8	68 (56+12 EXE)	M
I	Genetics		BIO/18	A	8	64	M
I	Physiology		BIO/09	B	8	64	M
II	Molecular Biology		BIO/11	B	8	68 (56+12 WRK)	M
II	General Microbiology		BIO/19	B	8	68 (56+6 WRK+6 EXE)	M



ND	CURRICULAR COURSE FROM THE LIST			C	6		M
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MANDATORY CURRICULAR COURSES

2nd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
II	Integrated Course in Physiopathology	Human physiology module	BIO/09	B	6	52 (40+12 EXE)	M

MANDATORY COURSES 3rd YEAR

(*) M - EXAM Q - QUALIFICATION

3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Principles of General and Molecular Pharmacology		BIO/14	B	8	64	M
ND	Elective courses			D	12		M
ND	CURRICULAR COURSES FROM THE LIST			C	12		M
	Educational internship		FINEX	F	8		Q
	Further skills		NN	F	1	SEM 10	Q
II	Final exam		FINEX	E	4		

MANDATORY CURRICULAR COURSES

3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Integrated Course in Physiopathology	Immunology and elements of pathology module	BIO/09	B	6	50 (44+8 WRK)	M
II	Cellular techniques		BIO/13	C	6	64 (16+48 WRK)	M



ELECTIVE CURRICULAR COURSES (one exam for the 2nd year and two exams for the 3rd year)

2nd and 3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Human anatomy (2nd and 3rd YEAR)		BIO/16	C	6	48	M
I	Biochemical Methodologies (3rd YEAR)		BIO/10	C	6	54 (36+18 WRK)	M
I	Nutrition biology (3rd YEAR)		BIO/13	C	6	48	M
I	Economics for biology (2nd and 3rd YEAR)		SECS-P/06	C	6	48	M
I	Toxicology (3rd YEAR)		BIO/14	C	6	48	M

CELLULAR BIOLOGY CURRICULUM

MANDATORY COURSES 1st YEAR

1st YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Plant biology		BIO/03	B	8	67 (58+9 WRK)	M
I	General and inorganic chemistry		CHIM/03	A	8	70 (52+18 EXE)	M
I	Cytology and Histology		BIO/06	A	9	76 (64+12 WRK)	M
A	Physics		FIS/07	A	9	80 (56+24 EXE)	M
A	IT Mathematics and Biostatistics		MAT/05 BIO/18	A/B	12	108 (72+36 EXE)	M
II	Animal biology		BIO/05	B	8	67 (58+9 WRK)	M
II	Organic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry Theory	CHIM/06	A	6	52 (40+12 EXE)	M
II	English		L-LIN/12	E	3	24	Q



MANDATORY COURSES 2nd YEAR

2nd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY - Workshop		CHIM/06	A	2	18 (12+6 WRK)	M
I	Comparative Anatomy		BIO/06	B	6	48	M
I	Biochemistry		BIO/10	A	8	68 (56+12 EXE)	M
I	Genetics		BIO/18	A	8	64	M
I	Physiology		BIO/09	B	8	64	M
II	Molecular Biology		BIO/11	B	8	68 (56+12 EXE)	M
II	General Microbiology		BIO/19	B	8	68 (56+6 EXE +6 WRK)	M
ND	CURRICULAR COURSE FROM THE LIST			C	6		M

MANDATORY CURRICULAR COURSES

2nd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
II	Integrated course in Advanced biochemistry	Cellular biochemistry module	BIO/10	B	6	48	M

MANDATORY COURSES 3rd YEAR

3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
I	Principles of General and Molecular Pharmacology (§) (×)		BIO/14	B	8	64	M
	Elective courses#			D	12		M
ND	CURRICULAR COURSES FROM THE LIST			C	12		M
	Educational internship		FINEX	F	8		
	Further skills		NN	F	1	SEM 10	
	Final exam		FINEX	E	4		



MANDATORY CURRICULAR COURSES

3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
II	Integrated course in Advanced biochemistry	Bio-IT module	BIO/10	B	6	52 (40+12 EXE)	M
II	Recombinant DNA Technologies		BIO/18	B	6	52 (40+12 WRK)	M

ELECTIVE CURRICULAR COURSES (one exam for the 2nd year and two exams for the 3rd year)

2nd and 3rd YEAR							
SEM.	COURSE Title	MODULES Title	Academic field	DISCIPLINARY FIELD / Type of Teaching Activity	ECTS	HOURS	ASSESSMENT METHOD
II	Applied plant biology (2nd YEAR)		BIO/04	C	6	52 (40+12 WRK)	M
I	Ecology (2nd and 3rd YEAR)		BIO/07	C	6	48	M
I	Economics for biology (2nd and 3rd YEAR)		SECS-P/06	C	6	48	M
I	Developmental biology (3rd YEAR)		BIO/05	C	6	48	M
I	Biodiversity and evolution (3rd YEAR)		BIO/05	C	6	48	M
II	Comparative physiology (3rd YEAR)		BIO/09	C	6	48	M