University of Sassari
Department of Chemical, Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences

Academic Year 2025/2026

Master Degree in NATURAL SCIENCES

ITALIAN CLASS: ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
(CLASS L-32)

The Degree Course in Natural Sciences aims to train Naturalist Technologists, graduates with multidisciplinary skills grounded in a solid knowledge of scientific disciplines and techniques for analyzing natural and semi-natural systems. Graduates will be able to identify and classify plants, animals, minerals, and rocks; understand the relationships between the biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems; and assess the impacts of human activities on them.
The curriculum is designed to develop specific competencies across various fields of Natural Sciences, starting from a solid foundation of basic knowledge. Teaching activities include lectures, exercises, laboratory and field work, seminars, and experimental activities. In the event that, due to a health emergency, in-person activities cannot be conducted, the course will adopt distance learning methods in accordance with the University's general guidelines.
The main employment opportunities for graduates in Natural Sciences include the following sectors: public agencies responsible for territorial management; organizations managing natural heritage (parks, protected areas, nature reserves); private professional firms; university departments or other research institutions; public and private organizations engaged in naturalistic research; and public and private entities involved in teaching and promoting scientific culture.
Graduates in Natural Sciences are eligible to take the state examinations for positions such as graduate agro-technician, junior biologist, graduate agricultural surveyor, and junior landscape planner, enabling them to carry out professional activities in these fields.

Admission and enrolment requirements
Admission is free. To be admitted to the degree course, students must hold a secondary school diploma or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad and recognized as valid.
For details on deadlines and procedures for enrollment (which must be completed online), please visit https://www.uniss.it/en and register on the ‘self studenti uniss’ portal.

Verification of Initial Preparation (Determination of OFAs)
Students enrolled who have obtained a high school diploma with a grade below 70/100 will be assigned additional training obligations (OFAs).
To fulfill these OFAs, students must undergo a cognitive, motivational, and orientation interview with a specially appointed commission.

Teaching activities
The calendar of teaching activities, including the lesson timetable, will be published by September 30, 2025, on the Course of Studies website: https://www.dcf.uniss.it/it/didattica/corsi-di-studio/scienze-naturali
Lessons are scheduled to begin on October 1, 2025.

Structure of the educational path
The educational path is structured to develop specific competencies across the various fields of Natural Sciences.
In the first year, most of the foundational disciplines are covered, and students are introduced to biological and Earth sciences, as well as computer skills.
In the second year, while completing the foundational subjects, greater emphasis is placed on core subjects, particularly biological, ecological, and Earth sciences. English language skills are also introduced.
In the third year, related and supplementary subjects are included to complete the programme.
Elective examinations allow students to personalise their study plan.
Class attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Traineeship
Starting from the second year of the programme, students may undertake a traineeship either at the University or at external partner organisations—public or private, national or international. Internships abroad may also be carried out within the framework of international mobility programmes.

Elective activities
For the academic year 2025–2026, the following elective activities are available: Insular Plant Biodiversity (BIO/02), Georesources (GEO/09), Biology of Recreational Fisheries (BIO/05), Ecoacoustics (BIO/07), and Laboratory of Petrography 1 (GEO/07).
However, students may also apply to include other courses offered by the University in their study plan.

Final examination
The final examination consists of a presentation of the experience gained during the traineeship.
The candidate must prepare a short paper, in either Italian or English, on the activities carried out, which must be approved by the supervising lecturer.
The presentation takes the form of an oral interview, during which the candidate must respond to specific questions posed by the examination committee.
For further information, please visit: https://dcf.uniss.it/en/study/study-programmes/natural-sciences-find-out-more.

International Mobility
Students are encouraged to undertake an international learning experience through the University's international mobility programmes: Erasmus+ SMS for study abroad (EU countries), Erasmus+ SMT for work placements abroad (EU countries), and Ulysses for study and work placements outside the EU.
More information is available at: https://www.uniss.it/it/internazionale/mobilita-uscita-outgoing.

Disabilities and Specific Learning Disorders (SLDs)
The degree programme provides designated support staff and contact persons to offer inclusive teaching and learning approaches tailored to individual needs.

YEAR I (A.A. 2025/2026)

AF type	Disciplinary Sector SSD	COURSE OF ACTIVITY	Total ECTS	ECTS		
				Lectures	Class Practical Activity	Field/Lab practical activity
First Semester						
A	MAT/05	**Mathematics**	**9**	7	2	
A	BIO/05	**General Zoology**	**10**	9		1
B	BIO/02	**Plant Biology**	**10**	6		4
Second Semester						
A	CHIM/03	**General and Inorganic Chemistry**	**6**	5		1
B	GEO/03	**Geological and Geomorphological Survey**	**9**	3	3	3
B	BIO/18	**Genetics**	**6**	5	1	
B	BIO/05	**Vertebrate Zoology**	**7**	6		1
Other Activities						
F		**Computer skills** **oppure** **Additional language skills (*)**	4 4			

YEAR II (A.A. 2026/2027)

				ECTS

AF type	Disciplinary Sector (SSD)	COURSE OF ACTIVITY	Total ECTS	Lectures	Class Practical Activity	Field/Lab practical activity
		First Semester				
B	BIO/05	**Invertebrate Zoology**	**10**	8	1	1
B	GEO/07	**Petrography and Mineralogy**	**10**	8	1	1
B	CHIM/06	**Organic Chemistry**	**6**	5		1
		Second Semester				
A	FIS/07	**Physics**	**6**	5	1	
B	BIO/02	**Systematic Botany**	**8**	5		3
B	BIO/03	**Plant Ecology**	**6**	4	1	1
E		**English language**	**4**	1	3	
		Altre Attività				
D		**Elective courses (**)**				

YEAR III (A.A. 2027/2028)

AF type	Disciplinary Sector (SSD)	COURSE OF ACTIVITY	Total ECTS	ECTS		
				Lectures	Class Practical Activity	Field/Lab practical activity
		First Semester				
B	GEO/03	**Geology**	**10**	7	1	2
C	BIO/10	**Biochemistry**	**6**	5		1
C	AGR/01	**Economics and Management of the Environment and Natural Resources** or	**6**	4	2	2
C	BIO/19	**Microbiology**	**6**	4		
		Second Semester				
B	AGR/14	**Pedology**	**6**	5		1
B/C	BIO/07	**IC: Ecology and Climate Change** -Mod **Ecology** -Mod **Climate Change**	**12** **6** **6**	 6 4		 2
		Other Activities				
D		**Elective courses (**)**	**15**			
F		**Traineeship**	**8**			
E		**Final examination**	**6**			

1 ECTS (Lectures, Class Practical Activity, Field/Lab practical activity) = 8 hours of assisted activities, except for 1 ECTS credit of Class Practical Activity for English Language skills, which corresponds to 12,5 hours of assisted activities.
Types of educational activities: A = basic; B = characterising; C = related or complementary; D = elective activities; E = final examination and foreign language; F = other activities.

The 4 ECTS credits in English can be obtained by attending the English language course and passing the related exam, or by recognizing suitable certifications related to English language proficiency at level B1 or higher, according to the ESOL CAMBRIDGE classification scale or an equivalent.

*The 4 ECTS credits in Computer Skills can be obtained through the recognition of suitable certifications related to computer knowledge. Alternatively, the credits can be earned by completing an internship (100 hours = 4 ECTS) or by recognizing language certifications. The 4 ECTS credits in **Additional Language Skills** can be acquired through the recognition of language certifications for English at level C1 or higher, and for other European languages at level B1 or higher.

****Student Elective Activities**: a total of 15 ECTS. Students may request the inclusion of elective training activities in their Study Plan through the dedicated WEB interface self.studenti: from January 1st to February 28th and from September 1st to October 31st.

Prerequisites: no prerequisites are required.