

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 1st LEVEL MASTER IN LOCAL FOOD POLICY ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Gastronomic Sciences, pursuant to Ministry of Education Decree no. 270 of October 22, 2004, establishes the 1st level Master in Local Food Policy (hereinafter referred to as “Master”) to be held in the Academic Year 2025/26.

The Master is jointly organized by the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele 9, Pollenzo-Bra (Cuneo), hereinafter referred to as **UNISG**, and CIHEAM - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, hereinafter referred to as **CIHEAM Bari**, with the contribution of Slow Food and the World Farmers’ Markets Coalition/Campagna Amica, as key partners, and the technical and scientific support of the University of Turin (Dip. di Culture, Politiche e Società), Està, Rete Italiana Politiche Locali del Cibo, Consulta Nazionale dei Distretti del Cibo.

MASTER OBJECTIVES

The Master course aims to train a **new generation of local food policy managers for food system transformation**, in order to:

- enhance the food system culture
- enhance open innovation capacity (living lab approach)
- contribute to the design, development, and implementation of local food policy
- design and develop innovative actions for food system transformation (farmer market, short food value chain, food losses and waste, canteen and green and public procurement, etc.)
- provide consultancy services to support municipality and public administration on the food policy and food system transformation.

COURSE ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION

The Master program starts in **January 2026** and ends in **December 2026**, for a total of 1500 hours, including theoretical lectures, practical activities and individual study. It awards 60 ECTS credits.

The Master program will be delivered in a blended format, merging online with intensive face-to-face sessions hosted by CIHEAM Bari at its campus premises in Valenzano (Bari) or Tricase (Lecce), Italy over a three-month period (April – June).

The official language of the course is English.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

The maximum number of students that can be enrolled is 30 and the minimum is 20.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Master is open to all graduate students in possession of a degree in any discipline.

If issued in Italy (one of the following)

- A three-year university degree obtained prior to the entry into force of D.M. 509/99, recognized as appropriate by the Master Technical - Scientific Committee for enrolment purposes.

- A Master's degree according to D.M. 509/99 or D.M. 270/04, recognized as appropriate by the Master Technical - Scientific Committee for enrolment purposes.

If issued in a foreign country

- An equivalent qualification issued abroad, recognized as appropriate by the Master Scientific Council for enrolment purposes.
- A pre-requisite is the good knowledge of spoken and written English (minimum B1/Intermediate).

Final-year students may start the Master program as auditors if they have not obtained yet their undergraduate degree, up to a maximum of 5 students.

These candidate auditors shall submit their application according to the deadlines and modalities set forth in the Payment Regulations section of this announcement. They are subject to all payment deadlines and conditions as set forth in the Payment Regulations section of this announcement.

The selection and subsequent admission of auditors cannot be appealed by third parties since this decision it is at the sole discretion of UNISG and CIHEAM Bari together with the Evaluation Board.

Auditors have no obligation to take tests or exams.

APPLICATION TO THE MASTER (PRE-ENROLLMENT)

Candidates applying for the Master's program shall submit their applications through the CIHEAM Bari Education Platform by November 5th 2025 (11:59 pm CET) - <https://www.iamb.it/education/application>

Application supporting documents

Candidates shall upload the following documents in English language along with the application form:

- *Curriculum vitae* (including scientific publications and professional activities, if any)
- ID document (one of the following):
 - identity card (issued by an EU Member State)
 - passport
- Certified copy of the university degree
- Certified copy of the university transcripts
- Motivation letter
- Two reference letters duly signed and dated on headed paper
- Medical certificate (certifying good health status or special conditions and running therapies)
- Any official certificate of English language (minimum level of knowledge: B1/Intermediate).

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

6 – Evaluation Board

The Evaluation Board is composed of 4 members: two representatives of UNISG and two representatives of CIHEAM Bari. It is responsible for the entire selection procedure.

If needed, the Master Scientific Council can appoint other experts from UNISG and CIHEAM Bari as members of the Evaluation Board.

7 - Approval of selected applications - short-list/ranking list

The selection score is awarded up to a maximum of 100 points and takes into consideration the CV, the certified English level, and the motivation (up to 20/100), online interviews assessing pre-acquired technical knowledge, attitude, motivation, and English language proficiency (up to 70/100), and other

qualifications such as scientific publications, professional activities, and specialization courses (up to 10/100).

Applicants are ranked according to the assigned scores; the top **30** applicants are admitted. A merit ranking is produced after the evaluation process.

Should two candidates have the same score, a qualitative judgement will be made by UNISG, CIHEAM Bari, and the Evaluation Board.

Admission to the course is subject to the availability of seats and the final decision of the Evaluation Board.

At the end of the selection procedure, CIHEAM Bari publishes the ranking list of admitted students on its website (www.iamb.it). This online publication serves as an official notification. Selected students are also officially notified by email.

After the admission:

- Selected non-Italian candidates shall provide the "Declaration of value" issued by the Italian Embassy in their country to demonstrate the equivalence of their qualification
- Selected Italian candidates shall submit the legalized copy of their diploma.
- All admitted candidates are registered on the Esse3 UNISG platform according to the instructions they will receive from UNISG.

ADMISSION OF APPLICANTS and FEES

8 – Admission of students

The maximum number of students that may be enrolled is 30 and the minimum is 20. The Board of Directors may decide to exceed the above-stated threshold and enroll more students who meet the selection criteria. Should the minimum number not be reached, the Board of Directors has the right not to start the Master. Students who enrolled in the Master shall be informed of such a decision by email or registered mail. Within 7 days of the aforesaid decision, CIHEAM Bari shall refund enrolled students any fees they have already paid without any surcharge and/or additional expense due to accrued interests and/or currency appreciation.

9 – Payment of fees

Admitted students must pay the deposit of the university fees within 7 days of the online notification of admission and send a payment confirmation via email to didattica@iamb.it. Possible extensions of payment deadlines may be requested by email. Students who do not pay the deposit of the university fees within the aforementioned deadline will be replaced by another student from the waiting list.

The deposit shall, moreover, constitute acceptance by the admitted candidate of the general conditions outlined herein, and of the resulting obligation on the part of the student to pay all of the university

fees, with the understanding of the student's right to withdraw under the terms defined in the Ciheam Bari Fee Payment Regulations section.

Failure to pay any of the subsequent instalments grants UNISG and Ciheam Bari have the right to remove the insolvent student from the Master and to cease providing him/her with any related services. Such a student is nonetheless required to pay all of the university fees.

In consideration of the fact that the costs and charges borne by UNISG and Ciheam Bari to undertake the Master are in the majority fixed and non-recoverable (a fact that admitted students acknowledge),

any refund of all or part of the university fees is not possible, with the exception of the terms and conditions defined in the Payment Regulations section.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

	EARLY ADMISSION SESSION (Early bird discount)	SECOND ADMISSION SESSION
Admission Deadline	September 9, 2025	November 5, 2025
Ranking List Available Online	September 16, 2025	November 12, 2025
Deadline for payment of deposit to guarantee enrollment	Within one week after the communication of the results	

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications received after the second admission deadline will only be considered provided the maximum number of admitted applicants has not yet been reached.

UNIVERSITY FEE PAYMENT REGULATIONS

10 – Fee Regulations

Admitted students will be notified by Ciheam Bari that they have been admitted and shall pay the deposit component of the university fees within 7 days of the date of the notification of admission; the notification may also contain any extension to the payment deadline.

The university fees for the Master program amount to 7,000 Euros and are payable in three installments as follows:

Payment	University Fees	Deadlines
Deposit	€1000	7 days of admission notification
1st installment	€3000	January 12, 2026
2nd installment	€3000	May 11, 2026

For students that are citizens from low- income countries or lower middle income according to the World Bank¹ the University fees amount to 4,000 Euros and are payable in three instalments as follows:

Payment	University Fees	Deadlines
Deposit	€500	7 days of admission notification
1st installment	€1500	January 12, 2026
2nd installment	€2000	May 11, 2026

The university fees include the following:

- all academic activities, including conferences and seminars,
 - study material (in digital format),
 - all study visits expenses and participation in the events included in the Master program,
 - private insurance policy covering urgent healthcare for non-European students,
 - enrolment certificates, receipts of payment, official transcripts and international legalization of diploma for non-Italian students, including mailing fees.
- Admitted candidates who pay the deposit within 7 days following the online publication of the early admission rankings on September 16 are entitled to a **10% early bird discount**, equal to €700, to be applied to the 2nd instalment of university fees.

HOW TO PAY DEPOSIT AND FEES – CIHEAM Bari BANK DETAILS

REFERENCE: the candidate's last name, along with the words "admission fee MLFP 2025/2026"

ACCOUNT HOLDER: CIHEAM – ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO di BARI – Via Ceglie 9 – 70010 Valenzano (Bari)

Fiscal Code: 93047470724

Bank's name: INTESA SAN PAOLO – VALENZANO Agency

Bank's address: Corso Aldo Moro, 70010 Valenzano (Ba)

IBAN: IT14Z0306941753100000300007

SCHOLARSHIPS

11 – Scholarship assignment policy

10 full Scholarships will be assigned (including university fee, travel and insurance expenses, board and lodging, and pocket money).

¹ 1 According to the World Bank list of economies (list as of August 2022), candidates are divided into the following income groups, based on their citizenship and residence: low income, lower middle income, upper middle income and high income

Additional full or partial scholarships may be offered by other institutions and will be assigned according to the qualification ranking. Students can apply for a scholarship if:

- they are citizens from low-income countries according to the World Bank².
- they have applied during the first or second admission session (September or November 2025).
- they are in possession of a minimum level of English language equivalent to a B2-level, (in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). The candidate must complete an online interview as specified in point 7 of this document (use of the webcam required) in order to verify the minimum English language requirement.
- whose income and property situation do not exceed the limits indicated above.
- they have been admitted to the Master program for the 2025/2026 academic year with a minimum score of 80/100.

Scholarship applicants must therefore complete and submit their applications ASAP, and in any case prior to the general application deadline, so that their eligibility can be determined.

12 - Enrolment

The enrolment is an online procedure only. No paper document should be delivered. The enrolment made through a different procedure will not be taken into consideration and does not represent a justified reason for a delay.

UNISG and CIHEAM Bari will issue a certificate of enrolment and, upon request, a payment receipt. No invoice will be issued as the Master is considered a part of the University's institutional activities and not as a commercial service.

13 – Withdrawal

In the event that a student chooses to withdraw from the Master after having accepted entry into the program, the student will be eligible for a partial reimbursement of the university fees as indicated in the schedule outlined below:

Deadline to Withdraw	% of the deposit to be reimbursed	% of 1st installment to be reimbursed (if paid)	% of 2nd installment to be reimbursed (if paid)
30 days prior to Master start date	50%	100%	100%
30 days following Master start date	0%	30%	80%
90 days following Master start date	0%	0%	80%

Students who fall behind in their payments will not be allowed to proceed with their studies (i.e., to take exams or participate in study visits).

² 1 According to the World Bank list of economies (list as of August 2022), candidates are divided into the following income groups, based on their citizenship and residence: low income, lower middle income, upper middle income and high income

ATTENDANCE and

CERTIFICATION

14 – Attendance rules

Attendance is compulsory. Individual student absences may not exceed 30% of the total number of Master activity hours. Any absence exceeding this limit, if due to illness or otherwise serious reasons (duly justified and backed by adequate evidence), shall be taken into account by the Scientific Council of the master when evaluations are made before delivering the Master's Diploma.

15 – Final exam and achievement of title

The final exam to obtain the 1st level Master's degree in “Local Food Policy” consists of a discussion of the project work, showing the knowledge acquired during the course and operative capacity linked to the forecasted professional figure.

Admitted students who complete the entire program and pass all the exams and tests will receive a First Level University Master Diploma awarding 60 ECTS credits, issued by UNISG in collaboration with CIHEAM Bari. The diploma is signed by UNISG Rector and CIHEAM Bari Director.

Admitted non-degree students (auditors) who attend at least 70% of the program activities will receive a Certificate of Attendance from UNISG. The Certificate is not an academic qualification, nor does it confer university credits.

INFORMATION PURSUANT TO EU REGULATION 679/2016

16 – Personal data protection

By submitting their application, candidates explicitly and fully accept and consent to the use of their personal data by CIHEAM Bari and UNISG for the purposes set out in this announcement.

All documents submitted by candidates for the purposes of participating in this Master will be treated in full respect of the protection of confidential information and personal data and for internal and administration purposes, in accordance with the principles of personal data protection established by the Security of the Information and Personal Data Protection Policy of CIHEAM, adopted on 5 July 2019, based on EU Regulation 679/2016 – “General Data Protection Regulation” including subsequent amendments, and with the laws in force.

For further information, please refer to the following e-mail address: didattica@iamb.it

Valenzano, data

Pollenzo, data

CIHEAM BARI Director
Dott. Biagio Di Terlizzi

RECTOR of UNISG
Prof. Nicola Perullo