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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

for the **intensive cultural and regional promotion course “Umbria Experience: An immersive journey into the cultural heritage of Umbrian food and landscape”, academic year 2025/2026.**

Art. 1 – COURSE OVERVIEW

This intensive cultural course aims to introduce participants to the defining features of Umbria’s food, wine and craft culture, with a particular focus on the area around the town of Norcia (PG), whilst also exploring aspects of Italian culture and the Italian language.

The theoretical content of the course will adopt an anthropological perspective, with the aim of exploring the social, cultural and historical dimensions linked to food in the region. Participants will gain an understanding not only of the flavors, but also of the deep connections between the environment, the community and the local culinary heritage.

The intensive cultural course is delivered by the University for Foreigners of Perugia, as part of the **‘FENICE – Internationalization and promotion of the region, training programs on tourism, food and wine, sustainability and digital cultures’ project** (CUP E67G23000210001), funded by the 2016 Earthquake Research Call for Proposals – Decree of the Director-General of the Agency for Territorial Cohesion No. 283/2021.

Art. 2 – TARGET AUDIENCE AND TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The course is open to a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 10 participants, selected from among graduates with an interest in the topics covered in the course. It is aimed at non-native Italian speakers with a command of English at least at C1 level, not necessarily fitting the traditional student profile, but rather at individuals who, for various reasons and due to personal inclinations and passions, have an interest in the Italian language closely linked to those cultural elements that strongly characterize the region’s food and wine culture and hospitality.

The course has the following learning objectives:

- Critical analysis of Umbrian culinary heritage
To understand and evaluate the social and cultural characteristics that make Umbrian food unique, with particular attention to the Norcia area.
- Exploration of cultural connections
To identify the links between local food practices, broader Italian traditions and the influences of global gastronomic cultures, through direct study of the local communities and individuals.
- Understanding the factors that shape food and the landscape
Recognizing how environmental, socio-cultural and economic factors influence Umbrian and Italian food traditions, highlighting the interaction between the territory, society and food production.

Art. 3 – COURSE FORMAT, DURATION AND VENUE

The “Umbria Experience” course will take place from 27 September to 4 October 2026, lasting a total of 48 hours, and will be delivered in person. Attendance is compulsory and no absences are permitted.

The summer school will be held in Norcia (PG), at the DigiPASS in Via Solferino.

Art. 4 – PROGRAMME

The educational programme, which is both cultural and experiential in nature, comprises five consecutive days of educational activities divided into morning lectures (2 hours of theory and 2 hours of Italian language lessons) and afternoon experiential workshops and guided tours to discover the region's food and wine specialties and artisan products (4 hours), for a total duration of 8 hours per day (40 hours in total over 5 days). In addition, there will be a full-day visit on the sixth day to the area covered by the Fenice project, with the aim of discovering the region's artistic and scenic highlights, for a further total commitment of 8 hours. Lessons will be held in English and will include supplementary training in Italian.

The workshops will include guided tastings of local specialties (Norcia IGP ham, other typical local cured meats, Norcia IGP Pecorino, Brancaleone di Norcia, Slow Food Presidium Ricotta Salata di Norcia, Norcia lentils and other local pulses).

Experiential activities will be offered, such as cooking classes and a hunt for black truffles from Norcia.

The program includes meetings with producers and members of the local community, as well as other activities such as a visit to the Benedictine Abbey of Al Monte and a tasting of beer brewed by Trappist monks; a visit to the dairy producing Ricotta Salata di Norcia, a Slow Food Presidium.

Attendance at training sessions is compulsory for the entire duration of the course (absences from the 48 hours of activities are not permitted). The award of a Certificate of Attendance is subject to compliance with the attendance requirement (48 hours in total).

A final assessment in the form of a project will be set only for those who, at the time of enrolment, opt to receive 1 credit.

Art. 5 – UNIVERSITY CREDITS (CFU)

The intensive cultural course awards 1 CFU, but only to those who apply for it and upon submission of a final assignment.

Art. 6 – ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted to the course, applicants must:

- hold a three-year degree in any subject area;
- be resident outside Italy and not be a native speaker of Italian;
- have a command of English equivalent to CEFR level C1.

For foreign qualifications, in accordance with Article 2 of Law 148/2002 "The authority to recognise study cycles and periods undertaken abroad and foreign qualifications, for the purposes of access to higher education, the continuation of university studies and the award of Italian university degrees, is vested in universities and higher education institutions, which exercise this authority within the scope of their autonomy and in accordance with their respective regulations, without prejudice to relevant bilateral agreements".

For the purposes of recognition, candidates holding a foreign qualification must attach the documentation specified in Article 9 to their application form.

Art. 7 – AVAILABLE PLACES AND ADMISSION CRITERIA

The course has a limited intake and offers a maximum of 10 places. A minimum of 7 enrolments is required for the course to go ahead.



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The admission requirements for participating in the selection process are:

- possession of a three-year degree or equivalent (Bachelor's degree);
- being resident outside Italy and not being a native Italian speaker
- having a command of English equivalent to CEFR level C1.

Applications will be sorted and selected according to the following priority criteria:

1. Motivation expressed in the application and consistency with the CV. Candidates will be asked to adequately justify their interest in the proposed programme by completing a brief application form, to which they must attach their CV in English and in European format;

The motivation statement must address the following points:

- Prior knowledge and/or interest in topics related to the course
- Interest in exploring and learning about Italian culture and language
- Where applicable, previous professional or personal experience in the sectors covered by the course (food, wine, Italian cultural heritage, local traditions)
- Where applicable, interest in investing in or collaborating with local Italian businesses in the sectors covered by the course

1. In the event of a tie, the criterion of the chronological order in which applications are received will be applied.

The first 10 candidates, selected on the basis of the criteria set out above, will be asked, within a maximum of fifteen calendar days of being notified of their selection, to confirm their participation by sending proof of purchase of the flight or train ticket used to travel to Italy. This should be sent by email to the following address: protocollo@unistrapg.it with the subject line: confirmation of participation in the Umbria Experience course.

Art. 8 – REGISTRATION FEES

Enrolment on the course is free of charge.

Course participants will be provided with:

- meals (lunch and dinner) on the days the course takes place
- accommodation on the days the course takes place
- travel and transport (transport is provided from Perugia to Norcia and back, with a single transfer for both the outward and return journeys at a time to be agreed for all course participants, and locally within the Norcia area for the activities included in the project. Participants are responsible for the cost of travel from their place of origin to Perugia and back).

Art. 9 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The selection procedure opens upon publication of the call for applications and stipulates that applications must be received no later than 30 June 2026, at 23:59 (Italian time).

Applications must be submitted via the dedicated online form, which will be available alongside the call for applications in the Course section of the webpage dedicated to the "FENICE" project, at the following link: <https://www.unistrapg.it/it/progetto-fenice>.

The application form must be completed in full online. The following documents must be attached to the application form:

- a copy of a valid identity document;
- a curriculum vitae, dated and signed.

In the application, candidates must declare, in the relevant section, that they meet the eligibility criteria (see Article 6).

For all legal purposes, the application constitutes a self-certification of the information contained therein and in the attached documents, made in accordance with Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, as amended and supplemented.

The University reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks, including random checks, on the accuracy



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of the declarations made in the application for admission to the course.

Should a candidate submit more than one application for admission, the University for Foreigners of Perugia will consider, for the purposes of selection and the preparation of the list of those admitted to the course, only the last application submitted by that candidate.

Candidates holding a foreign qualification must attach one of the following documents:

- a copy of the Diploma Supplement (DS) issued by the university where the qualification was obtained, written in Italian or English;
- a copy of the degree certificate issued by the university where the qualification was obtained, translated into English.

Art. 10 – PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF ADMITTED CANDIDATES AND ENROLMENT

Following the deadline specified in Art. 9, set for 30 June 2026 at 23:59 (Italian time), the following will take place:

- the eligibility of applications received by the deadline will be verified, in accordance with the admission requirements set out in Article 6;
- the list of admitted candidates will be drawn up, in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 7.

The list of admitted candidates will be published by 20 July 2026 in the Course section of the webpage dedicated to the "FENICE" project, at the following link: <https://www.unistrapg.it/it/progetto-fenice>. This communication shall serve as notification for all purposes and no personal notifications will be sent.

The list will include the reference numbers of the accepted applications, in accordance with current data protection legislation.

Admitted candidates who wish to withdraw from the program must notify us by 31 July 2026 by sending an email to protocollo@unistrapg.it

Admitted candidates who have not notified us of their withdrawal by the said deadline will be enrolled at the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

Any places that become vacant will be reallocated by moving down the list of admitted candidates, and those taking their place will receive a notification at the email address provided in their application form, which shall serve as official notification for all purposes.

Art. 11 – ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF THE COURSE

The academic coordinator of the course is Prof. Cecilia Emma Sottilotta, Associate Professor in the academic field GSPS-02/A (Political Science) at the University for Foreigners of Perugia (Unistrapg).

Art. 12 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of the personal data requested in this call for applications is intended for all activities related to the conduct of the procedure and access to the experiential intensive course "Umbria Experience: An immersive journey into the cultural heritage of Umbrian food and landscape". The privacy notice provided pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) is available at the following address: <https://www.unistrapg.it/trasparenza/privacy-e-protezione-dati-personali>

Art. 13 - OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE PROCEDURE

In accordance with the provisions of Law 241/1990, Chapter II, as amended and supplemented, the Officer in charge of the procedure referred to in this call for applications is Dr Valentina Seri, Head of the International Relations Office (Email: relint@unistrapg.it - Telephone: +39 075 5746308). The course organizational coordinator is Raffaella Rossi (E-mail: raffaella.rossi@unistrapg.it; Telefono: +39 075 5746447).