Unilab Svoltastudenti

The Italian Students' Union

Electoral Program

National Council of University Students (CNSU)

Student Elections
May 17 - 18 – 19, 2022

Wo we are

We are a network of independent, non-partisan and non-denominational representation associations. Founded in 2013, we aim to unite associations that share the idea of representation untethered from the influences of parties, unions, and religious associations. We believe in peer2peer representation: by students for students.

Our network is made up of realities present in 15 regions and is constantly expanding: the associations that join have heterogeneous backgrounds, which makes Unilab Svoltastudenti a laboratory of ideas, where different perspectives, coming from most of Italy, come together to develop and carry out proposals for a more innovative, inclusive, meritocratic university, which focuses on preparing students for work and life.

With our work at the National Council of University Students (CNSU), we collect the requests that are submitted to us by students and the realities in the various universities and we bring them to the attention of the Ministry, the Government, the Parliament, and other competent bodies, with a bottom-up process, not top-down.

Our key points

As Unilab Svoltastudenti, we firmly believe in the centrality of certain issues in the student view and, therefore, in university representation:

- **Right to Study, Recognition of Merit and Equal Opportunity**: to allow access to the widest possible number of students deserving without means, to reward more merit, while ensuring equity;

- **Innovative and Quality Teaching**: introduce new learning methods, closer to the students, also using the new technologies introduced in recent years;

- **Internationalization**: make the Italian university more international, not only by promoting more international exchanges but also by making universities more open to the global context;

- **Access to the World of Work**: improve the link between university and work, increasing connections with companies and organizations active in the area and promoting quality paid internships;

- **University Beyond Lessons #beyondlessons**: promote a university that is not only didactic, but that becomes the active center of students' social and cultural life.

The last term: our #saiddone and #workinprogress

In the 2019-2022 term, we worked steadily, advancing our demands to the National Council of University Students (CNSU), Parliament and other relevant bodies. Here is a list of our major accomplishments, the **#saiddone**:

- **Dual Enrollment**: final approval of the law that allows students to enroll in two-degree programs at the same time, as we have repeatedly proposed: in 2015, 2017 and 2020;

- **Coverage for the Right to Study**: extension and stabilization of the No Tax Area to the ISEE threshold of 22,000 and increase in the amounts of scholarships;

- **Rent Fund for out-of-town students**;

- **Access to Medical Specialisation and Educational Funnel**: financing of scholarships for the progressive exhaustion of the educational funnel phenomenon;

- **Qualifying degrees**: for medicine and surgery, dentistry and dental prosthetics, pharmacy and industrial pharmacy, veterinary medicine and psychology;

- **Measures to support the student community during the COVID period**;

- **Extension of the academic year**: for the years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22;

- **Erasmus and Brexit**: reporting of the problem of Erasmus to the UK to the top Italian and European policy makers, with proposals on possible solutions;

- **Increased funding in Fondo di Finanziamento Ordinario (FFO) and Erasmus funds**.

But our work doesn't end here: we have several proposals in the pipeline that we've started working on and will pursue in the next term, **#workinprogress**:

- **Introduction of the Minor program**: the possibility of taking a second degree integrated, as a 'minor' course, into one's major;

- **I-rasmus, national mobility**: possibility to carry out exchanges 'within' the Italian territory;

- **Voting for out-of-town students**: possibility of voting in elections from the city where out-of-town students study;

- **Orientation in University access**: use of PNRR funds to improve orientation, introducing more homogeneous activities throughout the country and more dedicated services for students;

- **Increased psychological support and measures to combat gender-based violence in universities**.

TEACHING

1. Minor: one more option

- **Encourage multidisciplinary curricula:** introduce the possibility of taking a "partial" degree in another discipline by taking a semester of another course of study (e.g., Major in management and Minor in communication).

2. From Distance Learning (DAD) to Digital Integrated Learning (DID)

- **Moving from Distance Learning (DAD) to Digital Integrated Learning (DID):** leveraging recent investments in digitization to develop more innovative, engaging, and hands-on teaching;

- **Streaming and videotaping**: maintain and secure streaming and videotaping at a distance.

3. More hands-on, interactive, and professionalizing education

- **Flipped classes**: introduce flipped teaching, in which theory is prepared at home and applied in class, with the professor;

- **Training for work**: increase workshops, group work and simulations of realistic situations that will be faced after the conclusion of the studies;

- **Interactive teaching**: final evaluation of the teachings based not only on the exam result, but also on assignments, group work, classroom participation, etc.;

- **Collaboration with the corporate world**: increase company visits, competitions between students with company awards, training activities held by professionals in their field and in-company training.

4. A more innovative university: University 4.0

- **Exams accessible to everyone**: encourage each university to set up a digital archive, where past exams can be uploaded for use by students;

- **Most useful software**: use in classroom teaching software and technological instruments that are also commonly used in the working world;

- **Refresh courses in English and teaching methodologies**: make mandatory training courses and assessment exams on English and teaching methodologies for teachers;

- **Multilateral training**: create a database where video recordings of lectures held for each degree course by each university are entered, giving students from all over Italy the opportunity to access them.

5. I-rasmus: easier internal mobility

- Create a platform, like that of the Erasmus program, that allows for student mobility on a national scale to promote cultural and social exchange.

6. Student tutoring: peer2peer teaching

- Introduce a system of peer2peer tutoring by students, selected on the basis of merit, accessible to all students who need it.

7. Languages are important

- **Free language courses**: give students the opportunity to attend free language courses, also in preparation for Erasmus;

- **Expand educational opportunities**: through ministerial courses and incentives, with the aim of obtaining English language certifications with level equal to, or higher than, B2 for teachers.

8. More student involved in research

- Include students, beginning with the bachelor's degree, in undergraduate research activities and raise awareness of research pathways in public or private institutions and organizations.

9. Abolition of exam skipping: a useless and harmful practice

- Abolish the practice of 'roll-call skipping', i.e., the prohibition of taking an exam in the roll immediately following the one in which you failed.

10. 110 is worth 110: standardization of the degree grade

- **Uniform criteria for graduation grades**: create, with the dean conferences, guidelines that establish common criteria for graduation grades, uniform across the same courses at different universities;

- **Uniform assessment methods in each subject area**: avoid nationwide differences in assessment because one's bracket or university;

- **Bonus points**: introduce bonus points in the final degree grade and in the evaluation for access to master's degree programs, assigned based on the performance of curricular or extracurricular activities during the academic career, such as: international mobility, associationism or internship.

11. Enhance the quality of teaching

- **In-course tests:** enhance the continuous learning process during the semester, encouraging the use of optional in-course tests and assignments as a method of evaluation, seeking the active participation of the student;

- **Facilitate and incentivize internships**: provide the opportunity for curricular internships evaluated with university credits;

- **Enhancement and awareness of students to the importance of ANVUR questionnaires**: in order to obtain data as truthful as possible, also bringing case studies of hypothetical situations improved through the questionnaires;

- **Include the post-exam questionnaire**: to include an evaluation also for the examination methods and the final phase of the fruition of a teaching. With the aim of helping professors to structure their own exams, understanding if and where there are critical issues;

- **Lessons in step with the times**: introduce the obligation to update the contents of all the teachings, constantly and periodically, so that they are in step with current events and the state of the art of the subject;

- **Equal for all**: homogenize the teaching methods and examination tests in every course of study that has more than one bracket;

- **Merit of professors**: define guidelines outlining bonuses and incentives for teaching quality and publish evaluations of individual courses. Introduce evaluation of teaching quality in the parameters that determine career steps and departmental funding of professors.

12. FOCUS:

Medicine and Surgery:

- **Elimination of attendance requirement**: lift the attendance requirement for face-to-face lectures, maintaining it exclusively for professionalizing internship and laboratory activities.

- **No more *observership:***

  - frame curricular internships on par with licensure internships to allow for the full legality of more practical and engaging internships, not just observational ones;

  - review curricular internships and training for certification, applying the paradigm "knowing, knowing how to do, knowing how to be", to ensure adequate and sufficient training for entry into the world of work.

- **Teaching Innovation:**

  - implement the use of "problem-based learning", simulation and "bedside teaching" so that students' clinical skills can be developed;

  - revise assessment methods based on the latest practices in the field;

  - introduce "objective structured clinical examination" as a possible method of assessment;

  - implement refresher courses for faculty to accomplish the above points.

- *Core curriculum?*

  - ensure the correct implementation of the core curriculum in the various Italian universities;

  - introduce into the *"core curriculum"* subjects such as: evidence-based practice, therapeutic appropriateness, ethics, and medical ethics.

- **Ensure quality training for tomorrow's physicians:**

  - update the criteria for defining the places available in the Bachelor of Medicine degree program at each location, based on the actual resources of the universities and health care providers, as well as the needs of the National Health System;

  - redefine the places available at each location, exclusively on the basis of the aforementioned criteria;

  - reduce the student/faculty ratio to encourage interactivity in teaching.

- **MD/PhD programs:**

  - create a framework and provide incentives to universities in order to establish programs that allow medical students to also obtain a PhD during their studies.

Architecture:

- **Less paper, less expense, less waste:**

  - prefer digital revisions, use paper prints only for interim review moments and seminar activities, or when scale requires it (e.g., 1:20), to achieve less material waste during revisions and a more sustainable university;

  - Control prices of large-format prints, to curb speculations.

- **Less bureaucracy**:

  - reduce the bureaucracy required to begin the internship process by focusing on digitizing procedures.

- **Thesis Lab**:

  - provide teaching for the bachelor's degree thesis that has a weight and number of CFUs corresponding to the required work.

- **Invest in certifications**:

  - courses for digital training aimed at achieving internationally recognized certification (Revit, Rhinoceros, ArchiCAD, V-Ray, etc....), useful in professional terms;

  - include among the optional courses also courses co-organized with the Order of Architects or provided by other Courses of Study, to encourage multidisciplinarity.

Primary Education Sciences:

- **Clarity for the exam**:

  - improve clarity in publishing the location and date of the placement test;

  - better explicate the content of the entrance test papers for the math and science sections.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID (DSU)

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1. No Tax Area and Scholarships

- **More accessible universities**: raise the No Tax Area threshold to at least €30,000 ISEE and abolish the figure of eligible non-beneficiaries students throughout Italy;

- **Beyond the No Tax Area**: provide more services and benefits, even non purely subsidiary, dedicated to students with an ISEE just above the No Tax Area threshold;

- **Scholarships adjusted to the cost of living**: automatically indexing the amount of scholarships to the cost of living, without depending on the annual updating of the LEP (Essential Level of Performance) and paying particular attention to rising costs in university towns.

2. Beyond University Education Financial Aid (DSU)

- **The right to change one's mind**: guarantee in all calls for proposals for the University Education Financial Aid (DSU) the possibility of changing course during the first year without penalty;

- **Beyond ISEE**: incentivize the provision of services and benefits, even if not purely subsidiary, dedicated to students with a medium-low ISEE who find themselves excluded from the No Tax Area or from the measures for Financial Aid;

- **Without forgetting the merit**: promote greater incentives for academic, sporting, artistic or cultural merit, in the form of fee reductions or economic contributions.

3. University Residences and Rents

- **The right to feel at home**: after two years of closure due to Covid, it is necessary to revise the rules governing the access of guests to university residences, also allowing overnight stays through a guesthouse service;

- **A helping hand to dealing with housing**: establish at each Right to University Study Institution a showcase of ads and a desk to assist students in finding a room and in dealing with landlords;

- **Proportional fees**: establish proportionality on the basis of ISEE also for the definition of the amount of fees for the accommodation of paying guests.

STUDENT STATUS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

1. Dual enrollment: what now?

- **Safeguards for those who have fallen behind**: to ensure that this precious opportunity does not turn into a generational injustice, it is necessary to develop transitional measures to allow those who have not been able to take advantage of it to bridge the educational gap with the next generation.

2. Gender Equality and LGBTQIA+

- **Gender balance**: adopt strategies to raise students' awareness of gender equality in university courses, including in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas. This includes having female researchers, alumni and professors tell high schools about their experience at university and what motivated them to undertake their studies and careers;

- **Civics**: introduce a Civics course for all university courses (LT, LM, LCU), transversal and including knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, legal, civil and environmental structures and profiles of society paying particular attention to the issue of harassment and bullying;

- **Alias careers in all universities**: introduce alias careers, update the ID card, personal badge and any identifying or registry tool, so as to be inclusive towards those who have or are undertaking a gender transition;

- **Tampons without VAT**: it is important that universities take the first step: we want tampons to be sold in vending machines at a reduced price.

3. Working students and caregivers

- **Worker-friendly universities**: regulate the status of student-workers at the national level, to facilitate students and encourage universities to expand part-time courses;

- **Caregiver-friendly universities**: regulate the status of caregiver students at the national level, to facilitate the study path and access to the master's degree for those who find themselves devoting many hours of the day to a person in need of help.

4. Pregnancy, motherhood and fatherhood

- **National Guidelines**: ask for national measures to protect the college career of pregnant and introduce the possibility for students of maternity and paternity leave;

- **Maternity and paternity status**: enable the possibility of suspension specifically in the case of maternity, along with the recognition of support and arrangements;

- **Scholarships for mothers and fathers**: offer the possibility of extending, in case of need, the expiry date of any scholarships awarded previously or during the period of maternity and paternity leave;

- **Pregnant-friendly teaching**: implement and promote a type of teaching that provides for the use of e-learning platforms and allow students unable to attend courses to complete their studies on time.

5. Inbound Orientation

- **National Orientation Fair**: organize in each Italian area (e.g., Central, North, South) an orientation event, managed in an organic way, so that all high school students can easily find out about the opportunities in Italy;

- **Open Day at universities**: organize for high school students short introductory lectures given by university professors and alumni;

- **Information website**: inform high school students about the possibilities of scholarships, financial benefits and student contributions in universities;

- **Tutors for Schools**: identify tutors in universities to guide high school students through the college application process;

- **Introduction of Fall Schools and Spring Schools**: weeks when students can attend courses and workshops, specifically dedicated to them, on introductory topics related to various subject areas (e.g. Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Economics etc.).

6. Psychological Support

- **More funding**: increase funding for Counseling and Psychotherapy services, to increase the possibility for students to use them;

- **Specialist sessions**: give students who need them the opportunity to continue their therapy by being referred to an appropriate specialist after the first sessions, in agreement with the university service.

7. Out-of-town voting

- **Allow everyone to vote**: allow students from outside the city to vote in municipal, national and European elections without necessarily having to return to their municipality of residence;

- **Allow students to vote**: allow students to vote also for municipal elections in the town they study;

- **Extension of travel bonuses**: allow students to return to their place of residence with any transportation company, while taking advantage of state benefits.

8. Infrastructure and Services

- **Removal of architectural barriers**: facilitate access to universities for people with reduced mobility;

- **Peer2peer support**: establish departmental tutors to follow students with SEN, SLDs, and disabilities.

9. Health

- **Free First Aid** and **BLSD** (Basic Life Support Defibrillation) **course**: make students more aware of what to do in case of emergency;

- **Health care for out-of-towners**: overcome the obligation to have a general practitioner in the region of residence, ensuring the possibility of having another one at the same time in the region of study and live;

- **Medical assistance within the universities**: through an agreement with the Regional Right to Study Board, providing medical assistance to out-of-town students.

10. Facilities and discounts

- **National University Student Card**: increase discounts for students and communicate them through a single website, for example by including them in the National Youth Card;

- **PC Bonus**: give the possibility to apply for computer equipment, based on ISEE, for those who do not have financial means;

- **Free software courses**: organize, through universities, free courses to teach the software necessary for learning and the profession.

11. More open university spaces

- **Open universities**: use university services such as: study spaces, libraries and sports fields h24 and every day of the week.

12. Post-Covid Digitalization

- **Digitization of bureaucracy**: make all possible paperwork digital, limiting queues and related inconvenience in the office.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Rankings

- **Give bonus points in pre-existing rankings**: add points and/or create rankings based on sustainability;

- **Adding an entry to CENSIS rankings**: create an additional CENSIS entry, related to efficiency, electricity source of the electrical system, waste and green area management, and awareness initiatives;

- **University selection of partners**: choose partners based on codes of ethics that include respect for the environment.

2. Devices and Construction

- **Install water dispensers**: distribute free filtered water in the University and University Halls of Residence;

- **Set a minimum number of filtered water dispensers**: choose an appropriate number of dispensers based on the number of students;

- **Install solar panels**: install solar panels to charge cars, bikes, electric scooters, and charging stations for computers and phones;

- **Funding only zero-impact new construction**: implement renewables in renovations of unrestricted buildings;

- **Installing meters in visible places (for electricity and hot and cold water)**: raise awareness about conscious consumption and combat waste;

- **Optimization of heating and lighting**: install motion sensors, dimmable LEDs and light sensors to reduce wasteful lighting, optimize heating management by applying methods to reduce phantom consumption, such as a "hard" shutdown of outlets.

3. Foster micro-mobility

- **Provide universities with infrastructure to encourage micro-mobility**: for example, wired and video-monitored bike and scooter storage areas, with access controlled by university badges. Depending on usage and availability, the creation of a university workshop for repairs could be considered;

- **Equip universities with infrastructure to promote sustainable mobility**: e.g., reserved parking spaces, with space for recharging.

4. Discounts

- **Discounts for students on public transport and sharing**: install parking spaces reserved for sharing services, located in visible and convenient locations near the universities, to encourage sustainable mobility;

- **Discounts through the National Youth Card**: give the possibility to have discounted rates, being aware that in other European countries student passes are already heavily discounted or free.

5. Recycling and Reuse

- **Establishment of university collection points for special waste**: introduce in the universities and residences the presence of collection points for special waste such as: electronic waste, used oil and batteries. Introduce a reservation service for special waste;

- **Adequate information**: inform students about collection services and the environmental damage caused by improper disposal;

- **Possible collaborations with associations**: avoid waste by collaborating with the food bank and associations for clothing donations;

- **Capillarization of bins for recycling**: install enough bins, including adequate communication, to facilitate recycling;

- **Install bins with ashtrays outside the university**: install ashtrays in the smoking areas outside the university, with the aim of preventing cigarettes from being thrown on the ground.

6. Commission for Ecological Transition

- **Creation of a ministerial commission for ecological transition**: establish a commission that operates at both national and local levels, with tasks such as: supervision of procurement contracts and verification of the application of sustainability principles, such as the reduction of plastic in canteens, bars and vending machines and the reduction of food waste with the management of leftover food;

- **Awareness raising, through in-person events:** organizing hackathons on ecology, clear information on recycling and proper waste distribution, perhaps proposing cashback when certain waste, such as bottles, is recycled properly.

ACCESS TO THE WORLD OF WORK

1. Internships

- **Standardize internships**: standardize internships by making internship pay mandatory;

- **Facilitate access**: introduce tax incentives for companies to hire students on a permanent basis after the internship;

- **Make the internships offered clear**: create a platform where are entered internships related to the different study paths that each university offers;

- **Reduce bureaucracy for access to internships**: start internships with reduced bureaucracy;

- **Benefits for universities**: introduce economic incentives for universities with a higher percentage of programs to encourage entry into the world of work, students who find work through the same university and professionalizing internships;

- **Simplify collaboration between companies and universities**: implement a permanent dialogue, to facilitate cooperation;

- **Encourage the possibility of the thesis in the company and industrial PhD**: give the possibility of being able to carry out the research activities and write the thesis in the company or developing a PhD research in the company.

2. Role of Universities

- **Introduce simulation activities**: increased use of real-world case studies, such as business games, to simulate work activities;

- **Facilitate outbound students**: improve the tools used to communicate outbound opportunities to current students and help in writing the first CV and LinkedIn profile;

- **Give the opportunity to integrate PhD courses into the Master's degree**: introduce the possibility of including a teaching of choice from those of the PhD in the curriculum of the Master's degree;

- **Integrate an orientation towards and during the Doctorate**: have an incoming orientation and, during the Doctorate, an orientation from Doctoral Students to Doctoral Students;

- **Facilitate dialogue among third mission offices**: establish a national coordination of the third mission offices of the Universities.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

1. Mobility Grants

- **Students without borders, more places for Erasmus+**: increase the number of "outgoing" students through appropriate incentive mechanisms;

- ***Fallback plan****:* introduce the possibility of choosing a second destination in case of emergency situations that preclude the exchange;

- **Decrease costs of studying abroad**:

  - effectively adjust scholarship amounts to the cost of living in host countries;

  - increase the number of country classes from the current ones.

2. Easier Erasmus+

- ***How to****:* create guides, according to a template from the Italian Erasmus+ Agency, to explain how to fill out the necessary documents for the exchange;

- ***Let's be buddies****:* pair each outgoing student with a "buddy" student from the host university, who will mentor and provide support to the former.

3. More resources for those who leave

- **Advice from those who have been on Erasmus**: create a European portal that provides the main information about the universities that are part of the Erasmus+ program, and offers the possibility for students to express their opinions;

- **Finding a home will no longer be a nightmare**:

  - create a portal of homes and rooms for rent, "certified" by universities, to make it easier for students to find housing;

  - create a housing assessment portal;

- **Learning abroad, from home**: make it possible, through the digitization of teachings, and promote the use of teachings provided by different universities;

- ***We got you covered****:* establish pre-departure, basic-level language courses to facilitate students in their everyday life during the exchange.

4. Teaching

- **Certainties regarding the validation of exams**: provide for the official recognition of the exams before departure, conditional on their actual passing during the exchange period, based on the syllabus made available by the foreign university;

- **Two weights, ~~two~~ one measure**: introduce a single conversion table, which facilitates the conversion of grades obtained during the Erasmus+ mobility and smoothes out the current inequalities between the various Italian universities;

- **Mobility-proof exam sessions**:

  - establish extraordinary sessions and/or provide for the possibility of online examinations to allow for optimal planning of exams that the student would eventually have to postpone, due to the contemporaneity with the exchange;

  - standardize the academic calendar to that most common among the various states of the European Union, in order to avoid overlapping between the exam sessions at the home university and the beginning of the semester at the host university;

- **Increased clarity regarding language requirements**:

  - provide that the calls for proposals should explicitly state whether the host university requires a specific language certification;

  - standardize language requirements for access to exchange programs to ensure that all outgoing students have the same level of proficiency in the foreign language;

- **Adjusting factors for averages**: employ unambiguous average multipliers, based on the mode of the averages of different courses of study, to harmonize scores for ranking purposes and foster greater equality among potential applicants;

- **Degree courses in English**: expand the range of courses offered in English, in order to reduce language barriers with other European countries and boost the attractiveness of Italian universities for incoming students;

- **Global teaching, more international professors**: increase the number of international professors teaching in Italian universities, innovating teaching, making universities more international and improving faculty mobility.

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