

# **UNILAB SVOLTASTUDENTI**

## **ELECTORAL PROGRAM**

### **2025 - 2028**



**Elections for the renewal of  
the National Council of  
University Students**

### **14 - 15 May 2025**

## WHO WE ARE

We are a network of independent and non-partisan student representation associations. Founded in 2013, our goal is to unite associations that share the idea of a form of representation free from the influence of political parties, movements, and religious organizations. We believe in peer-to-peer representation: by students, for students.

Our network comprises numerous organizations across Italy and is constantly expanding. The associations that join us have diverse backgrounds, making Unilab Svoltastudenti a true laboratory of ideas, where different perspectives from all over the country come together to develop and promote proposals for a more innovative, inclusive, and merit-based university system that prioritizes preparing students for both work and life.

Through our work with the National Council of University Students (CNSU), we collect the needs and concerns expressed by students and university groups and bring them to the attention of the Ministry, the Government, Parliament, and other relevant bodies, through a bottom-up—rather than top-down—approach.

## OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

As Unilab Svoltastudenti, we firmly believe in the importance of several key themes in student life and therefore in university representation:

- **Right to Education, Recognition of Merit, and Equal Opportunities:** Ensuring that talented students without financial means can access education as broadly as possible, and promoting merit while guaranteeing fairness.
- **Innovative and High-Quality Teaching:** Introducing new teaching methods that are more engaging for students, also through the use of new technologies developed in recent years.
- **Internationalization:** Making Italian universities more international—not only by promoting exchange programs but also by opening institutions up to the global context.
- **Access to the Job Market:** Strengthening the connection between universities and the world of work by increasing ties with local companies and organizations, and promoting high-quality, paid internships.
- **University Beyond the Classroom #beyondlessons:** Promoting a university experience that is not limited to academics but truly becomes the active center of students' social and cultural lives.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS

Over the years, we have worked tirelessly to advance our proposals within the National Council of University Students (CNSU), Parliament, and other relevant institutions. Below is a list of our main achievements and the proposals we are currently working on to turn into reality:

- **Double Enrollment:** Final approval in 2022 of the law allowing students to enroll in two degree programs at the same time—an initiative we proposed repeatedly in 2015, 2017, and 2020.
- **Support for the Right to Education:** Extension and stabilization of the No Tax Area up to an ISEE threshold of €22,000, and an increase in scholarship amounts.
- **Housing Fund for Off-Site Students** and measures to counter the rise in rental costs.
- **Qualifying Degrees:** Monitoring of working groups to expand the number of degrees that directly confer professional qualification.
- **I-rasmus – National Mobility:** Opportunity to participate in student exchanges within the Italian territory.
- **Extension of the Academic Year:** Granted for academic years 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22, and 2022–23.
- **Minor Program:** Possibility to pursue an integrated second degree as a “minor” within one’s main degree program.
- **Voting Rights for Off-Site Students:** Possibility to vote in elections from the city where the university is located.
- **Increased Psychological Support** and measures to combat gender-based violence in universities.
- **Free Degree Redemption:** Recognizing the years spent studying as valid for pension purposes, free of charge and without added costs for students.
- **Commitment to Reforming the Limited Enrollment System in Medicine and Surgery,** while maintaining selective access and a national test.
- **Commitment to Reforming the 60-CFU Qualification Pathway** and ensuring fair costs.
- **Paid Curricular Internships:** Ensuring that student work is compensated fairly and with dignity.

# TEACHING

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- **Innovation in Teaching**

Implementation and greater use of innovative teaching methodologies (flipped classroom, group work, laboratory activities, use of software commonly used in the professional world, etc.) and consideration of these innovative methods in teacher evaluations.

- **Encouraging Teaching Development for Faculty**

Development of "faculty development" pathways and teaching training, including topics such as Special Educational Needs (DSA), inclusion, etc.

- **Teaching Evaluation with Career Impact**

Establishing reward mechanisms for teachers based on teaching evaluations, both through student surveys and additional checks.

- **Creation of Excellence Pathways for Research-Oriented Master's Students**

Establishing excellence pathways for students interested in research during their master's or single-cycle degree programs, with guidelines managed at the national level.

- **Professional Qualification Degrees**

Abolishing the State Examination for certain degree programs, such as engineering and architecture.

- **Improvement of Teacher-Student Ratio**

Reducing class sizes and increasing the teacher-student ratio to foster a more serene, effective, and interactive learning environment.

- **Integrated Digital Teaching**

Increased flexibility in the use of tools such as recorded lectures, etc., for students who have difficulty attending in person due to circumstances beyond their control.

- **Course Evaluation Surveys for Exams**

Applying course evaluation surveys to all study programs to provide constructive feedback to academic departments regarding the organization and evaluation methods for exams.

- **Expansion of "Minor" Opportunities**

Promoting the offering of cross-disciplinary "Minor" curricula, allowing students to add a complementary pathway to their main degree program.

- **Flexibility in Exam Sessions**

Abolishing the "exam gap" rule: allowing students to take an exam immediately after failing, thus eliminating the blocking of access to subsequent exams and reducing anxiety and wasted time.

- **Increase in Exam Sessions**

Harmonizing and increasing the number of exam sessions for each course, guaranteeing at least 5 exam dates per course, and improving students' personal planning.

- **Protection of Graduation and Thesis Pathways**

- **Thesis Supervisor Limit:** Establishing a maximum number of students per thesis supervisor to ensure adequate supervision and quality of work.
- **Ban on Unjustified Rejection of Thesis Proposals:** Prohibiting supervisors from rejecting thesis proposals without documented reasons, ensuring transparency and respect for graduation timelines.

- **Separation of Teaching and Research Activities**

Clearly distinguishing between academic teaching staff and those who are solely involved in research activities. Ensuring greater flexibility for staff in organizing their teaching, research, and service duties, while respecting and aiming to enhance the professionalism and talents of each individual.

## FOCUS: MEDICINE AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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- **On the Reform of Admission to the Degree Courses in Medicine and Surgery at Italian Public Universities**
  - a. The reform currently being proposed, still lacking clarity on many fundamental aspects, represents, in our opinion, a wrong answer to a real problem.
  - b. It not only fails to resolve the main critical issues of the previous selection system but also risks introducing new distortions. It encourages even more unhealthy competition among students.
  - c. It introduces a maximum number of attempts (3), limiting opportunities without ensuring greater fairness.
  - d. A true reform should start by listening to the student community, investing in education, and ensuring fair and sustainable access to medical education.
- **Redefining Admission and Training Capacity in Medicine and Surgery Degree Courses**
  - a. The criteria for determining the number of available places in the Medicine and Surgery degree programs should be revised downward, based on the actual resources of universities (including the services of university campuses) and healthcare facilities, as well as the real needs of the National Health System, avoiding excessively detrimental funding cuts to the universities concerned.
  - b. The number of places available at each site should be redefined exclusively based on these criteria, considering that the current university system is not capable of adequately training more than 20,000 people per year in medicine.
  - c. The student-to-teacher ratio should be reduced to encourage interactive teaching and improve the quality of training.
  - d. Data show that there is not a shortage of doctors, but rather a shortage of specialists; therefore, resources, including financial ones, should be redirected to the most underfunded specialty schools, making them more attractive.
  - e. There is also a chronic shortage of nurses. Promoting the nursing profession will be essential in the coming years to ensure quality care within the National Health System.
- **Redefining the Attendance Requirement for Theoretical Classes**
  - a. The attendance requirement for theoretical lessons, as currently interpreted, should be redefined. It is the final evaluation's

responsibility, not classroom presence, to certify the preparation of students.

- b. Training must be evaluated based on acquired skills, not mere physical attendance. In this light, greater harmonization of medical and healthcare curricula at the European level could be proposed, focusing on common standards for content and assessment rather than bureaucratic constraints such as mandatory attendance.

- **Addressing Critical Issues in Nursing Degree Courses**

- a. The shortage of nursing staff is a reality that must be acknowledged.
- b. Nursing staff salaries are not adequate to the responsibilities and the educational path required.
- c. Internships should not be an opportunity to exploit students' labor, but a chance for learning and developing personal and professional skills.

- **Structured Practical Training and Skills Assessment**

- a. Introduce a progressive clinical-surgical curriculum, with specific practical skills to be achieved year by year.
- b. Introduce the OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) as a standardized method for assessing clinical skills.
- c. Review curricular and qualifying internships by applying the paradigm of "knowing, knowing how to do, knowing how to be," to ensure solid and adequate preparation for entering the workforce.
- d. Move beyond the concept of observership: curricular internships must be practical, legally recognized, and engaging. This can be promoted by introducing rules that both protect and require tutors to train interns practically and engagingly.
- e. Promote student involvement in clinical and preclinical research and the recognition of their activities.
- f. All professional training activities should foresee a 1:1 clinical tutor-to-student ratio, as is already the case in the practical-evaluative internships required for qualification as a Medical Doctor.

- **Educational Innovation and Faculty Training**

- a. Promote active methodologies such as problem-based learning, simulation, and bedside teaching (a specialized form of small-group teaching that takes place in the presence of the patient, in a real or simulated environment) to strengthen the development of clinical skills.
- b. Revise evaluation methods, adopting the best international educational practices.

- c. Offer mandatory refresher courses for teachers, accompanied by peer discussions on teaching, to foster the effective application of new training and assessment models.

- **Field Experiences and International Cooperation**

- a. Introduce and promote partnerships with non-profit organizations and local healthcare institutions in low- and middle-income countries, offering trained and willing students the opportunity to learn in the field in contexts that need healthcare personnel, significantly enriching their practical and experiential background.
- b. Promote and incentivize opportunities for professionalizing internships (curricular and qualification-related) abroad, within the Erasmus+ program, as well as through programs promoted by individual universities.
- c. Facilitate recognition procedures for “self-placed” internships, i.e., those not falling under the aforementioned programs (including IFMSA exchanges).

- **Language Requirement for International Students**

All foreign students who have completed their degree entirely in Italy must demonstrate, before the fifth year, a B2 level of Italian language proficiency; to achieve this, academic Italian language modules will be activated from the first year. This will be a necessary and sufficient condition for obtaining a license to practice medicine in Italy.



# RIGHT TO STUDY

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- **Extension of the No Tax Area**  
Raising the ISEE threshold for full exemption from university fees to €30,000.
- **More Services for Low-Income Students**  
Providing more services and benefits, even those not strictly subsidies, for students with an ISEE slightly above the No Tax Area, to prevent sharp economic penalties.
- **A Second Choice**  
Ensuring, in all student support calls, the possibility to change degree programs at the end of the first year without losing the scholarship or facing penalties.
- **Automatic Indexation of Scholarships**  
Institutionalizing a mechanism for the annual adjustment of state scholarships based on inflation.
- **Reactivation of the National Observatory for the Right to Study**  
Advocating for the reactivation of the ministerial body for monitoring and proposing policies, which is currently inactive, to strengthen student support policies.
- **Stability of University Fees**  
Prohibiting all academic institutions—public and private—from increasing tuition fees year after year for already enrolled students, thus ensuring certainty and predictability of career costs.
- **Contributions for Mandatory Educational Materials**  
Establishing financial aids (grants, vouchers, or discounts) for students enrolled in courses that require the purchase or production of specific materials for exams (e.g., models for architecture), to avoid additional unforeseen costs not included in the standard tuition fees.

# ACCESS TO THE JOB MARKET

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- **Real Preparation for the Job Market**

Ensuring that universities are able to concretely prepare students for the demands of the job market with seminars, tailored services, etc.

- **Career Days and Local Orientation Events**

Periodically organizing job fairs, thematic seminars, and alumni meetings both at the central and decentralized levels, to support graduating students and recent graduates in finding professional opportunities.

- **Time to Pay for Work**

Introducing a minimum compensation requirement, based on hourly contributions, for all curricular internships, ensuring fairness and recognition of students' efforts.

- **Unified Platform for Internships and Job Offers**

Updating the national portal (AlmaLaurea) so that universities and businesses can post and consult internship and job offers aligned with students' fields of study.

- **Support for Youth Entrepreneurship**

- Recognizing academic credits (CFU) for entrepreneurial projects carried out by students.
- Creating startup accelerators in collab with universities to allocate funds to support the creation of worthy startups by students.

- **Free or Deferred Degree Redemption**

Allowing the redemption of years spent in a degree program without additional costs, or incorporating the redemption fee at a discounted price directly into university tuition fees.

- **I-Rasmus Traineeship**

Establishing exchange opportunities for internships at national institutions within the Italian Erasmus program (I-Rasmus), modeled on the Erasmus+ Traineeship/Placement exchange.

- **Enhancement of Post-Graduation Research Paths**

- Integrating advanced PhD-style modules into master's degree programs, such as research seminars, dedicated labs, and specialized mentoring, to bring deserving students closer to the PhD experience and facilitate a smooth transition into doctoral programs.
- Overcoming regulatory challenges and proposing combined Master's degree or Single-Cycle Master's degree and PhD pathways.
- Strengthening orientation towards PhD programs, with a particular focus on "industrial doctorates" (a national PhD program in collaboration with companies).

# STUDENT CONDITION

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- **Identity and Inclusion**

- **Alias Careers:** Guarantee in all universities the ability to register and update identification cards, badges, and any other identification or personal data tools, to be inclusive for those who are undergoing or have undergone a gender transition.
- **Civic Education and Prevention of Harassment and Mobbing:** Introduce mandatory training modules on rights, duties, and the prevention of harassment, with clear reporting procedures and reliable protection for victims.
- **Gender Balance:** Adopt strategies and actions to reduce gender disparity in degree programs where needed (STEM fields).
- **Spaces for Religious Freedom:** Allocate multi-religious areas (prayer rooms, meditation spaces) to guarantee the right to worship and religious practice for all faiths.

- **Welfare and Basic Services**

- **Healthcare for Commuting Students Without Giving Up Family Doctor (MMG):** Extend and formalize a national university healthcare assistance system: every Local Health Authority (ASL) in cities with large universities should provide one or more dedicated general practitioners for non-resident students, without the obligation to permanently change their family doctor (MMG).
- **Free Hygiene Products for Women:** Install free dispensers of sanitary products in university campuses.
- **Discounted Transportation:** Negotiate discounted transportation fares for students, especially during the periods of return for holidays and festivities.

- **Support for Caregiver and Working Students**

- **Status of Working Student:** Define national criteria and flexible hours for students balancing study and work, encouraging the offering of part-time courses.
- **Status of Caregiver Student:** Formally recognize the status of caregiver students, providing flexibility measures and dedicated paths to complete their degree.

- **Protection of Maternity and Paternity**

- **National Guidelines:** Request clear directives from the Ministry to ensure facilities and protective tools for pregnant students and students on paternity leave.
- **Maternity and Paternity Scholarship Extensions:** Offer the possibility to extend the deadlines for any scholarships awarded before or during maternity and paternity leave if needed.

- **DSA, BES, and Disabilities**

- **Specialized Departmental Tutors:** Establish dedicated and regularly updated figures trained to assist students with DSA (Specific Learning Disabilities), BES (Special Educational Needs), or disabilities.
- **Full Application of Laws on Learning Disabilities and Disabilities:** Establish specific measures to support the learning and evaluation of students with DSA and disabilities.
- **Protection of Rights for Students with DSA in Universities:** Promote the introduction of a formal and binding tool, similar to the Personalized Educational Plan (PDP) already present in primary and secondary schools, to guarantee objective and uniform criteria for applying compensatory and dispensatory measures at university level. No more individual negotiations with professors or universities—students' right to education should apply everywhere, not depending on who is grading the exam.

- **Merit Scholarships**

Strengthen support for students excelling in academic, sports, or artistic fields, through the allocation of merit-based scholarships.

- **School-to-University Orientation**

Develop structured programs to accompany students from high school to university, with campus visits, thematic workshops, and dedicated tutors to facilitate study path choices.

- **Student Advisors**

Establish the role of a dedicated advisor in each university, who supports students with their academic journey, scholarships, research activities, and the development of career plans and post-graduation opportunities.

- **Support for Commuting Students**

Introduction of Specific Financial Measures for commuting students with an ISEE (Equivalent Economic Status Indicator) lower than 30,000 euros, for example, through the reintroduction of a university transport bonus.

# SUSTAINABILITY

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- **National Framework and University Governance**

- Request to the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) for national guidelines to ensure that partnerships between universities and private entities respect international decarbonization commitments, and the establishment of a ministerial commission (national and local) to oversee the implementation of these directives (sustainable procurement, plastic reduction, food waste, etc.).
- Creation of a Working Group in each university with students, faculty, and technical-administrative staff to define, monitor, and update ecological transition strategies.

- **Transparency and Merit in Rankings**

Introduction of a New CENSIS Category dedicated to “Green Campus” (energy efficiency, renewable electrical supply chain, waste management, green spaces, awareness initiatives).

- **Environmental Code of Ethics for Partners**

Adoption by Every University of Selection Criteria for collaborations based on ethical codes that prioritize low environmental impact suppliers and partners.

- **Integrated Waste Management and the Fight Against Waste**

- Mandatory Training for Canteen Staff and agreements with recovery organizations to redistribute food surpluses.
- Installation of Collection Points for WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), used oil, and batteries, with reservation-based pick-up, and extensive provision of containers for separated waste collection, accompanied by appropriate communication directed at students.
- Collaboration with Food Banks and Local Associations for food and clothing donations, reducing waste, and supporting those in need.

- **Sustainable Mobility**

- Establishment of Secure Bike and Scooter Storage Facilities, accessible via university ID card.
- Creation of Parking Spaces for Electric Vehicles with charging stations at university campuses.

# UNIVERSITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

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- **Strengthening Connections with Decentralized Campuses**

- Initiate Agreements with Municipalities and Regions to ensure punctual and discounted transport connections between city centers and decentralized university campuses.
- Establish a Technical Committee with Local Authorities to monitor quarterly punctuality, coverage, and quality of transport services.

- **Increase State Co-financing for Property Recovery**

- Propose Raising the Maximum Co-financing Share provided by Law 338/2000, to encourage the purchase, recovery, and renovation of buildings intended for student residences.
- Simplify Access Procedures to Funds through annual simplified calls for proposals and equip the Ministry with a section dedicated to monitoring interventions.

- **Dignified and Accessible University Housing**

- Reserve a Quota of Places (min. 30%) for students with an ISEE  $\leq$  24,000 €, allocated through a transparent ranking system.
- Define Minimum Quality Standards and Services (study spaces, Wi-Fi, common areas) for each residence managed by the DSU (Student Services Unit).

- **National Housing Platform for Student Housing Demand and Supply**

- Establish a “Student Rentals” Desk and an Online “Listings Display”, coordinated at the national level.
- Create a National Consortium of Partner Landlords: landlords offering subsidized rents, with insurance guarantees and legal protection against defaults.

- **Accommodation Fees Proportional to ISEE**

Introduce a Contribution Scale for Housing Fees based on ISEE bands, ensuring fairness and progressivity.

- **Accessibility and Removal of Architectural Barriers**

- Launch Monitoring and Structural Adjustments of existing university infrastructures to make them fully accessible to students with disabilities.
- Establish a Dedicated Fund for Quick Barrier Removal (elevators, ramps, accessible restrooms).

- **Digitalization of University Bureaucracy**

Centralize Procedures (enrollment in rankings, accommodation booking, transport bonus applications) in a single online platform, with a mobile-friendly interface.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

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- **Strengthening Counseling Services**

Implement and Enhance Psychological Listening Centers in every university, ensuring short waiting times and free access to individual counseling sessions for a suitable number of appointments.

- **Specialized Agreement Pathways**

- Ensure Continuation of Therapy with Specialists (psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists) in collaboration with the university and local health services (ASL), where necessary.
- Establish Support Protocols to facilitate the transition from basic services to specialists, with no additional cost for the student.

- **Prevention and Well-being Promotion Projects**

- Launch Awareness Campaigns on mental health and stress management, with workshops, webinars, and informative materials.
- Organize Recreational, Sports, and Group Workshop Activities for off-campus students, to promote inclusion, social interaction, and peer-to-peer support.

# INTERNATIONALIZATION

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- **Single "Welcome Desk" Office**

- Physical and Online Welcome Desk in the university in collaboration with local authorities, offering advice and assistance on visas, residence permits, housing, bank account opening, and bureaucratic procedures, with streamlined processes and clear timelines.
- Ensure Clear and Unified Guidelines for scholarship applications, including any foreign equivalents of required documents, with translated forms and dedicated support at the desk.

- **Enhance Erasmus+ and Double Degree Programs**

- Increase Funding for Erasmus+ Projects to ensure larger mobility grants and cover travel, food, and accommodation costs.
- Extend Bilateral Agreements for double or joint degrees with leading foreign universities.

- **Uniform Recognition of Foreign Degrees**

National Guidelines for the fast and transparent evaluation and validation of foreign degrees, ensuring consistent criteria across all universities.

- **Simplified Grade Conversion**

Adopt a National Standardized Grade Conversion Table for grades earned during exchange programs abroad, to eliminate discrepancies between different Italian universities.

- **Continuous Evaluation of English Proficiency of Professors**

Implement a Biennial Certification System for English proficiency levels for those teaching in English, accompanied by frequent updates.

- **Resources and Scholarships for International Mobility**

Increase Financial Allocations for Erasmus+ Scholarships aimed at both low-ISEE students and high-achieving students, particularly adjusting scholarships to inflation and the cost of living in the host country.

- **More International Faculty**

- Implement a 3 Years Plan for Recruiting Foreign Faculty and Researchers to make the Italian university system more international.
- Support for Incoming (Visiting Scholars) and Outgoing (Faculty Exchange) Mobility, to facilitate the Transfer of Skills and Innovative Teaching Methodologies by supporting faculty mobility programs.