

## **HUMANITIES SUMMER SCHOOL - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Course period: 15 June-10 July 2026**

### **Online activity**

Organized by the University of Bergamo, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, following an agreement with Fairleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey, USA)

### **Subject, purpose and recipients**

Established in 2012, the Humanities Summer School is an international study program, held in English and organized by the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures of the University of Bergamo.

The 2026 edition will be delivered online from 15 June to 10 July and will be aimed at enrolled students and Erasmus or exchange students at/from the University of Bergamo, as well as at students coming from partner universities, until all available places are filled.

The Summer School offers 4 courses on topics drawn from the humanities, social sciences, and economics, with an interdisciplinary vocation.

Each course lasts 30 hours and is completed over a two-week period (from 15 to 26 June and from 29 June to 10 July), with a final exam in a single session, to which other forms of ongoing evaluation may be added.

- Registration opens on 20 April and closes on 20 May 2026.
  - Courses are taught in English and require a B2 level or higher.
  - All courses require compulsory attendance for at least 80 per cent of the classes (Monday to Friday).
  - Teaching is delivered remotely, in virtual classrooms managed by individual lecturers, to groups with a limited number of students to ensure maximum participation in classroom activities.
  - Students are required to log on with the camera switched on and to actively participate, otherwise they will be excluded from the course.
  - It is possible to take up to 4 courses, lasting 2 weeks each.
  - The examinations must be taken at the end of each course, in the only available exam session, set and communicated by the lecturer, which may also take place on a date subsequent to the conclusion of the course; any intermediate examinations are also compulsory and contribute to the final grade.
- For each course, after passing the examinations and completing the final questionnaire, a certificate is provided which students may send to the Board of their Degree Course (*Consiglio del Corso di Studio*) to request recognition of 5/6 credits (CFU/ECTS) as elective courses ("a scelta libera") or additional credits.

### **Application procedure**

The registration form must be sent by email from the student's university address to the summer school secretariat ([humanitiessummerschool@unibg.it](mailto:humanitiessummerschool@unibg.it)) with the subject line "Humanities Summer School 2026" by Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 12 noon (Central European Summer Time). Applications must be submitted exclusively by individual students from their institutional email address; applications sent by the administrative offices of the home universities will not be accepted, in order to ensure proper registration and traceability of the order of arrival.

Applicants who have already taken part in previous editions of the Summer School may also apply; however, it will not be possible to enroll in courses with the same title and/or substantially similar content to those already attended. In any case, should the number of applications exceed the number of available places, priority will be given to candidates who have not previously participated in the Summer School. Applications are invited from students with at least B2 level competence in the English language. There is no registration fee. The Administration accepts no responsibility for the dispersion of communications due to inaccurate information on the email address provided by the candidate or due to failure or delay in communicating a change in the address indicated in the application or in any case attributable to the acts of third parties, fortuitous events or force majeure. The call for applications and the registration form will be published on the website of the University of Bergamo (Università > Concorsi e selezioni > Per gli

studenti > Bandi studenti e laureati) <https://www.unibg.it/ateneo/amministrazione/concorsi-e-selezioni/bandi-studenti-e-laureati>.

### **Admission Process**

The maximum number of students admitted to each course is 50, 25 of which will be allocated with priority to those enrolled at the University of Bergamo and to Erasmus or exchange students, and 25 to those enrolled at international partner universities of the University of Bergamo. Should the places reserved for one of the two categories not be fully allocated, they will be redistributed; applications will be accepted in order of enrolment, excluding those who have already attended courses with the same title and/or substantially similar content and, in any case, giving priority to those who have not already attended previous editions of the same summer school, until the numbers indicated above are reached, and a waiting list will also be drawn up to be used in the event of withdrawal, which students must communicate by Wednesday 20 May 2026, no later than 12 noon (Central European Summer Time). As the places available are limited, those who do not renounce by this deadline, if admitted, commit themselves to participating. By 29 May, the results of the selection will be communicated by email to the address indicated by the candidates.

### **Course program and content**

15-26 June 2026

1) *Walls or Bridges: Italy, Migration, and the Pitfalls of Globalization*  
Prof. Gloria Pastorino (Professor Emerita, Fairleigh Dickinson University)

2) *Digital Humanities: Theory and Practice*  
Prof. April Patrick (Rowan University)

26 June-10 July 2026

3) *'Make' in Italy: An Introductory Lab on Entrepreneurship and Venture Creation in Cultural and Creative Industries*

Supported by "Competencies and Resources for Entrepreneurial Orientation" (CREO) – Center for Young and Family Enterprise (CYFE), University of Bergamo, within the broader entrepreneurship education offerings available on the [CREO platform](#); Course Director Prof. Davide Hahn

4) *How to See the World. Contemporary Visual Cultures and Politics of the Gaze*  
Prof. Giuseppe Previtali

#### **Walls or Bridges: Italy, Migration, and the Pitfalls of Globalization**

Prof. Gloria Pastorino (Professor Emerita, Fairleigh Dickinson University)

Italy has been a country of mass migrations for a century and a half, both losing its people to countries that offer(ed) better working opportunities or welcoming a new labor force from several other countries, particularly in the past 40 years. Migrants to and from Italy have met with a similar, at times inhumane, treatment as suspect "others," against whom communities need to build defenses to protect a fragile sense of self. Political agendas have always contributed to a social unrest that aims at criminalizing people rather than appreciating them as resources.

The course explores the different nature of these migrations through a socio-economic, political, and cultural lens, using essays, literature, films, and documentaries.

#### **Digital Humanities: Theory and Practice**

Prof. April Patrick (Rowan University)

Digital Humanities is a broad term that includes a wide range of approaches to engaging with literature, history, and art by using technological tools to provide new insights about those materials or new ways of accessing them. This course explores the goals and methods of digital humanities work and provides

hands-on experience with textual analysis and distant reading, data analysis and visualization, network analysis, and digital editions and publishing. Each meeting will include theoretical foundation and history of digital humanities as a field, analysis of existing digital humanities projects, reading and discussion of literary texts (for summer 2026, the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley), and hands-on activities to use digital humanities tools. By the end of the course, students will create and present their own digital humanities project on a topic of their choice.

### **'Make' in Italy: An Introductory Lab on Entrepreneurship and Venture Creation in Cultural and Creative Industries**

Supported by "Competencies and Resources for Entrepreneurial Orientation" (CREO) – Center for Young and Family Enterprise (CYFE), University of Bergamo, within the broader entrepreneurship education offerings available on the [CREO platform](#); Course Director Prof. Davide Hahn

The entrepreneur is an agent of change and an innovator who identifies and acts upon opportunities across various domains. In today's globalized and interconnected economy, technological disruptions – such as artificial intelligence – and major demographic trends – such as population aging – create fertile ground for startup creation across sectors, not only in high-tech industries but also in the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), including those tied to culture and the 'Made in Italy' brand (e.g., arts, humanities, food, tourism).

Starting from the fundamental theoretical foundations of entrepreneurship, the course introduces participants to core tools for generating and validating opportunities for new venture creation. These tools will be applied through a real-world challenge proposed by an organization operating in the CCIs. Students will respond to this challenge by developing and validating a startup opportunity. The aim of this challenge-based approach is to enable participants to internalize idea generation and validation methodologies by applying them to real problems and opportunities within the CCIs.

### **How to See the World. Contemporary Visual Cultures and Politics of the Gaze**

Prof. Giuseppe Previtali (University of Bergamo)

The module provides a critical introduction to visual culture studies, offering the students with methodological tools to interpret images and visual media as crucial cultural agents of contemporary mediascapes. Moving from the idea that contemporary events – whether political, social, or cultural – are increasingly shaped by and circulated through visual forms, the course will frame visibility as a key site of ideological-political negotiation. By examining a heterogeneous range of media (from photography to cinema and interactive media), the course will explore how visual forms shape contemporary reality, particularly in contexts of conflict and crisis (e.g., war and insurgencies). Particular attention will be paid to the political dimension of aesthetics, the epistemological challenges posed by algorithmic images and artificial intelligence, and the role of visual culture in the construction of public discourse.

During the first week, the course will sketch a genealogy and methodology of visual studies, providing critical frameworks to address contemporary visibility. During the second week, the course will address the link between visual culture and conflicts, focusing on post-9/11 wars and offering insights from leading figures of the field (e.g., Mitchell, Mirzoeff, etc.).

### **Duties of Summer School participants, certificates and recognition of credits**

Students responding to the call for applications must send all communications from their university email address. They undertake not to apply if they are not seriously interested in participating and, in any case, to communicate their possible withdrawal before the deadline of the call for applications, so that other students from the waiting list may be able to attend the course.

Each participant is required to take part in all the activities, attending no less than 80% of the classes: these will be held remotely, online. It is necessary to keep the camera on at all times and to interact, as requested by the lecturer, under penalty of exclusion from the program. At the end of the course and subject to passing the final exam, as well as any intermediate tests (the one and the other are compulsory and delivered in a single exam session), a certificate will be issued, which the students of the University of Bergamo may forward to the Board of their Degree Course (*Consiglio del Corso di Studio*) should they wish to request recognition of 5 or 6 credits (CFU) as an elective course ("scelta libera") or as additional credits.

### **Person in charge of the procedure**

Pursuant to Law 241/1990, Ms. Barbara Mirto, the Administrative Manager of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, is appointed as the person responsible for the administrative procedure.

### **Processing of personal data**

The University informs the applicant, that the personal data acquired will be processed in compliance with EU Regulation 679/2016 and the applicable national legislation, for all the purposes inherent to the Summer School. The Data Controller is the Rector pro-tempore of the University of Bergamo. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) can be contacted at: [dpo@unibg.it](mailto:dpo@unibg.it). The interested party may address any requests concerning the processing of his/her personal data to the DPO.

### **Reports of violations affecting the public interest or the integrity of the University**

In accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 24/2023 (on the protection of those who report infringements of European Union law and national regulations), participants in selection procedures may report to the University's *Responsabile della Prevenzione della Corruzione e della Trasparenza* (RPCT) any behavior that is detrimental to the public interest or the integrity of the Administration. The above-mentioned whistleblowers are guaranteed the protection measures provided for in Chapter III of Legislative Decree 24/2023. The whistleblowers are also guaranteed specific protection of the confidentiality of their personal identity, provided that the reports are submitted through the dedicated channels established by the Administration, i.e. through the dedicated IT platform accessible at the following web address: <https://unibg.whistleblowing.it/#/> or alternatively through the voice mailbox accessible at the following telephone number: 035.205.2160. Further information can be found on the University's institutional website, in the section Amministrazione Trasparente, subsection Altri contenuti / Prevenzione della Corruzione / whistleblowing.

**Humanities Summer School Coordinator:** Prof. Francesca Guidotti (University of Bergamo)

The Head of the Department of Languages, Literature and Foreign cultures

Prof. Raul Mario Calzoni

*(Digitally signed according to the art. 24 of Legislative Degree 82/2005)*