What to expect from your third year at EPOS

Last update: September 22, 2023

This document provides you with some important information on your third year. Everything in this document applies equally to those students who will choose an Economics degree (L-33) or a Political Science degree (L-36).

When you first enrolled in EPOS, you opted to obtain either an Economics BA or a Political Science BA. You can change your decision when you complete your study plan online for the third year. This should be done at the beginning of your third year of EPOS. Unless you change it, your initial choice will be final. For clarifications and help on this point, you can write to the Student Administrative Office (Segreteria Studenti) at segecosta@unibo.it.

The third year of the Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Politics, and Social Sciences will include:

- Some mandatory courses, including one foreign language module
- Some elective courses
- Internship (optional)
- Final examination

Third year courses

In the third year of EPOS you must select courses totaling no less than 32 credits (cfu). The course selection is done by presenting a study plan, which lists the complete set of exams that you need to pass in order to graduate. Some exams are mandatory (BIG DATA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, PROGRAMMING LAB 2, POLITICAL ECONOMY), while others are elective. A study plan can be presented by properly enrolled students who have paid their tuition fees and, in the case of international students, who hold a valid residence permit. You have some degrees of freedom although remaining within a given structure. What follows will guide you in the choice of electives or tracks. The rules are the same for those of you who will choose an Economics degree (L-33) or Political Science degree (L-36). In short, your choice can be articulated into three steps:

STEP 1: Select one course from the following list (8 cfu):

96357	BIG DATA APPLICATIONS	SECS-P/01	8
96991	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY AND GROWTH	SECS-P/01	8
90299	PUBLIC ECONOMICS (C)	SECS-P/03	8
B1431	STRATEGY, BEHAVIOR, AND POLICY IN ECONOMICS	SECS-P/01	8

STEP 2: Select one course from the following list (8 cfu):

96358	APPLIED POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY	SPS/09	8
96359	DATA SCIENCE FOR POLICY ANALYSIS	SECS-S/03	8
81295	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS	SPS/04	8
96361	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND MARKET REGULATION	IUS/10	8
86049	PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	SECS-P/07	8

74513 - EU INSTITUTIONS (C)	SPS/04 (10 cfu but for EPOS it will count only for 8 cfu)	
92592 – POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES (A)	SPS/04 (10 cfu but for EPOS it will count only for 8 cfu)	
96357 BIG DATA APPLICATIONS	SECS-P/01	8
96991 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY AND GROWTH	SECS-P/01	8
90299 PUBLIC ECONOMICS (C)	SECS-P/03	8
B1431 STRATEGY, BEHAVIOR, AND POLICY IN ECONOMICS	SECS-P/01	8

(Legend: the letter in parenthesis shows the number of enrolled students in the last years, A = less than 20; B = in-between 21 and 50; C = in-between 51 and 100; D = more than 100)

STEP3: Select other electives courses (16 cfu)

Electives cannot total less than 16 cfu, but you can pick electives for more than 16 cfu. The list of available courses you can choose from is at the end of this document. The internship counts as an elective and it is 10 cfu worth. See the sections below for more information on internships. If you go abroad in an exchange program, you can put elective courses in your Learning Agreement

To help you build an internally coherent study plan for your EPOS degree, we suggest you the following three possible tracks:

Track of Global Political Economy

        SPS/04 8   International Politics

        SECS-P/01   Economic Development

        + Electives for 16 cfu

Track of Data Analysis

        SECS-P/01   Big Data Applications

        1 course between:

        SPS/09-11   Applied Political Sociology and SECS-S/03 Data Science for Policy Analysis

        + Electives for 16 cfu

Track of Public Economics & Management

        SECS-P/03   Public Economics

        1 course between:

        SECS-P/07 Public Management   and IUS/10 Administrative Law and Market Regulation

        + Electives for 16 cfu

These tracks provide a coherent study plan and are warmly recommended, Although they are not mandatory. More generally, you can go outside the tracks above provided that you respect the scheme: one course from group 1 + one course from group 2 + electives for 16 cfu.

 You can find more details about the courses here:

https://corsi.unibo.it/1cycle/EconomicsPoliticsSocialSciences/course-structure-diagram/piano/2022/5819/000/000/2021

Foreign Languages

In order to graduate, EPOS students must show proficiency in either Spanish or French. By the end of the third year, the student must obtain a B1 level certification in either French or Spanish. This requirement is a pass/fail test to obtain the credits (there is no grade).

In which semester are language classes taught? Courses are offered in both semesters, and you choose when to enrol. To choose the class of the proper level, you should do an assessment test of what your starting level is. https://corsicla.unibo.it/menu/blended

How are language classes taught? There are about 24 hours of lectures with the instructor (typically once per week) plus 50 hours of self-administered activities on interactive material provided in the course. The instructor is mother-tongue and has structured the class for Italian-speaking students. If you do not speak Italian, please let the instructor knows. Usually, he/she will be able to accommodate your needs in the regular course. If that does not work, another option is to rely on a tutoring service available every day. The tutor can provide teaching material and textbooks more suited to your native language https://centri.unibo.it/cla/it/corsi/autoapprendimento-assistito-da-tutor

If you are already fluent in Spanish or French, then should you still take the class? No, to obtain credits you have just to prove that your language skill is at least at the level B1. If you already have one of the B1 certifications listed here, then you can skip the class altogether: https://centri.unibo.it/cla/it/riconoscimento-idoneita-linguistica

What if you are a complete beginner? We recommend you to take the language class in the first semester of the third year and see which level you reach after the semester. It is possible that you will need to take another class in the second semester to reach the level B1. Experience suggests that also Italian-speaking students sometimes need two semesters to obtain a B1 level.

Internship

The internship is intended to complete your university education by carrying out practical work in private companies and public institutions within or outside the University of Bologna, in Italy or abroad. The internship is an option for students and not a requirement. At EPOS, you can select one 250-hours internship among your electives by placing it in your study plan, which will count for 10 Cfu.

The internship can take place from around May of your second year. The internship is an option that you may or may not do. The Internship Office is available to provide information, guidance on choosing and contacting companies as well as career guidance and CV reviewing, ems.bo.serviziotirocini@unibo.it

You can do your internship in Italy or abroad. If you want to do an internship abroad, you could do it through an Erasmus call. In this way you may obtain also financial help. Keep in mind that doing an internship abroad requires more planning and time to organize.
There exists curricular and extra-curricular internships. In order to obtain credit toward your EPOS degree, the internship experience must have involved activities consistent with the subjects and goals of EPOS.

When can you apply? You can apply when you submit your study plan. The internship should begin after you have placed it into your study plan.

What types of working activity will grant you credits? Internship experiences considered not in line with subjects and goals of EPOS will not earn you credits. The faculty member that will decided on granting you credit for your internships is prof. Michele Alacevich.

We suggest you to put together in advance a brief plan of activity where you precisely identify the organization, where you are located within the organization, the address where you will be working, the expected period of the internship, your (expected) supervisor name, the likely activities you will be doing, and the expected skills that you will acquire.

https://corsi.unibo.it/1cycle/EconomicsPoliticsSocialSciences/internships

Going abroad

During your third year – but also earlier that that – you will be able to complete some exams abroad though an Erasmus or Overseas program, or to do an internship abroad. Again, in order to do so, you should put it in your study plan and arrive at a so called Learning Agreement before your departure. You must identify those courses at the host institution that best match the ones you want credit for at the University of Bologna. You can seek equivalents to the required EPOS courses of the second and third year; you can also usefully look at the EPOS study plan. In principle it is also possible to ask to convert your activities abroad into courses not listed in this document, but that is subject to a case-by-case approval (the complete list of courses available at Unibo is here: https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue)

You can submit your learning agreement at any time. The next step will be a validation process. Those proposals that have been validated within a given date (see below) will be approved or rejected on the dates listed below:

Proposals validated by (will be approved by):

Nov 27th (Dec1st) 2023; Jan 15th (Jan 19th) 2024; Feb 26rd (March 1st) 2024; June 24th (June 28th) 2024; July 22th (July 26th) 2024; September 2nd (Sep 6th) 2024

For example, all the Learning Agreements submitted and validated by Nov 27th will be approved or rejected by Dec 1st . If you submit your Learning Agreement on Nov 28th, you will have to wait until Jan 19th for the approval.

The faculty member in charge of deciding on learning agreements is Prof. Martin Gonzalez Eiras, and the final approval is done by the Programme Director on behalf of the Degree Programme Board. All your communications, though, should be directed at the International Relations Office (didatticasociale.mobility@unibo.it), and not to Prof. Gonzalez Eiras or the Programme Director. Even if you have deadlines, please contact the relevant Office. They will then forward the documents if needed.

https://corsi.unibo.it/1cycle/EconomicsPoliticsSocialSciences/mobility-programmes-approval-change-and-recognition-of-activities

For which UNIBO courses can I get credit for?

- Consider the mandatory EPOS courses of the first, second and third year
- Consider the list of electives in the EPOS website
- It is also possible to ask to convert your activities abroad into other courses in addition to the ones in the EPOS website, but that is subject to case-by-case approval (the complete list of courses available at UNIBO is [here](#)).

What courses at the host institution are likely to get approved?

The course unit(s) you select at the host institution should match well with the course(s) at UNIBO you ask credit for. Some general criteria about the content that will facilitate the approval of your learning agreement are the following:

1. Equivalences work only for courses in the same area: e.g. a management course will not be converted into an economics course, and viceversa. At UNIBO, course areas are identified by their codes: IUS=law, SPS=political science, SECS-S and SECS-P/05=mathematics, statistics and econometrics, SECS-P/07-11=management, SECS-P/01,SECS-P/02,SECS-P/03,SECS-P/06=economics, SECS-P/04 e SECS-P/12-storia economica e del pensiero.
2. The big data sequence in EPOS comprises intermediate-level and advanced-level courses that you do **after** statistics, programming, and econometrics. You should make sure that the units you choose abroad are at the same level as the ones in EPOS. For example, doing an introductory quantitative course abroad would not be a good substitute for BIG DATA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES.
3. There will be more flexibility in converting a host institution course unit into an EPOS elective course than into a mandatory one.
4. The best way to do the comparison is to check the syllabi of the host institution course units (i.e. the detailed description of topics, textbooks, instructor's name, etc.). They are not always available, but it is highly recommended to send them to didatticasociale.mobility@unibo.it when you submit your Learning Agreement on AlmaRM. Online you can find a short description of mandatory and characterizing EPOS courses as well as more details on the guideweb.
5. The number of hours/credits/workload of the courses should be comparable.
6. You will not get credit for English language courses done abroad. Even if you do an Advanced English writing class at the host institution, EPOS will not give you credit for it.

Final Examination

At the end of your study path, there will be a final examination, which consists of a written exam on a transversal theme through which the student demonstrates that she or he has gained the ability to process the knowledge and skills acquired during the course of study in an interdisciplinary perspective. The type of final examination for EPOS students is quite different than what is done in other Bachelor's Degrees, where the students writes a research paper at home under the

supervision of a single professor. The procedure for EPOS students is instead the following. A Graduation Commission composed of EPOS faculty members will supervise the process.

About two months before the final examination takes place, the student is notified of three macro-themes. The student will prepare on her own through appropriate readings and study. On the day of the test, the Commission will disclose three specific questions, one for each of the macro-themes. Only at this point, the student will select which question to pursue. The test lasts few hours, it must be written in English and, unless otherwise specified, is computer-based and carried out in presence under the supervision of the Commission in a room at the university. The Commission will evaluate the students exams within five days from the date of the test and will assign a grade. The proclamation will follow, with the announcement of the overall grade for the Bachelor Degree.

While exam grades are on a 18-30 scale, the final grade that you will receive at graduation is on a 66-110 scale. Such final grade is the result of the Starting grade + Final Essay + Bonuses (see below).

Starting grade: The starting grade is the mathematical average of all of your exam marks weighted on the corresponding credit point values, converted into a mark in the 66-110 scale. Please consider that:
- Courses and activities in your records that are not graded, that is those assessed on a pass/fail basis, such as internships or *idoneità,* do not count towards the starting grade.
- Exams from previous academic careers appearing on your records as "acknowledged" will not count towards the starting grade (however, if the where recognized via the "transfer from another Italian university" procedure, they will count).

Final essay: 0, 1, 2, or 3 points

Bonuses: Your final grade may benefit from adding the following bonus points to your starting grade.
- LODI Bonus: For every exam passed with honorus (30 e Lode) 0.33 points are added
- SPEED Bonus: Depending on the timing of your graduation, 1st session of your third year (July): 3 points; 2nd and 3rd (the following September and October): 2 points 4th (the following March): 1 point.
- [EXCHANGE ABROAD Bonus: 1 point for at least 8 cfu earned abroad. This holds for courses and for internship.] [THIS BONUS IS AT THE MOMENT ON HOLD!]

The numerical value resulting from Starting grade + Final Essay + Bonuses is rounded up to the nearest integer value: if the decimal point is equal to or higher than 5 then the score is rounded up, whereas if the decimal point is lower than 5 it is rounded down. To students whose academic curriculum is particularly deserving and whose final paper is well produced, the Graduation Board may decide to award honours (110 e Lode).

In order to graduate, the student must submit a request on studentionline about two-three months before graduation. **The student must specify in the space reserved for the title of the "Tesina" the bonuses that she or he qualifies for.** This step is essential, as - if this is not done at this time – the student cannot later claim any bonus point that were not requested in the Tesina title space. Inaccurate declarations will be sanctioned.

Here are some examples:
"I qualify for 0.66 points for LODI + 1 point for SPEED + 1 point for EXCHANGE ABROAD (30 cfu at UNIV. AUTONOMA BARCELONA, January-July 2023) – total of 2.66 points"

"I qualify for 2 points for SPEED + 1 point for EXCHANGE ABROAD (10 cfu for internship at WORLD BANK, May-August 2022) – total of 3 points"
[UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DO NOT PUT THE EXCHANGE ABROAD BONUS AS IT IS ON HOLD!]

Graduation dates will be posted here:
https://corsi.unibo.it/1cycle/EconomicsPoliticsSocialSciences/final-examination

Italian Language for international students

If you are an international student, an Italian language course is included in your study plan as a compulsory activity. However, if you have already taken Italian classes before or have an Italian language certificate you can ask to be exempted from this activity (more informations below).

An online Italian language course is offered in blended mode and you can register through Studenti Online (SOL Bookings). This kind of course includes self-study online activities and synchronous online meetings with a tutor (once a week for 13 weeks). You can choose your preferred day and time of meetings among different timetables. The course is offered once or more time per academic year. we suggest you to consider taking this opportunity as soon as possible. The courses are offered for CEFR levels A1 and absolute beginners. The course is designed not to interfere with other courses and to allow you to self-organize your time. To participate, you need to register for this mandatory course. Please refer to this site and to CLA for further information: https://centri.unibo.it/cla/en/courses/self-study-tutor-assisted-learning-for-italian-language-beginners

The completion of the online course is a compulsory activity for international students with no previous knowledge of the Italian language. The corresponding activity must be registered in your study plan before graduation. International students exempted from doing the Italian course are:

· International students who have already obtained a previous qualification in Italian language: in case you hold a bachelor/secondary school diploma taught in Italian, please inform your Student Administration Office to be exempted from this activity.

· International students already in possession of an Italian language certification, who can request a recognition in order to be exempted from the completion of the course.

· International students who have previous knowledge of the Italian language equivalent or superior to CEFR level A1, but cannot certify it through an official certificate, can choose the in-class courses (A2-C1) offered by the University Language Centre: https://centri.unibo.it/cla/en/courses/italian-courses

List of Electives [SUBJECT TO CHANGES]

The list below includes all courses you can choose from (including the so called "Lista Taf D"). Please pay attention to the number of credits cfu of each course as you need to complete at least 16 cfu in total. Most of these courses have been created for students of other Bachelor's Degrees, and this carries two important implications. First, the location and schedule of classes may clash with other electives of your choice. If this happens and it makes your learning experience too difficult, you may

want to select another course, because scheduling is not under our control. Second, you may not be able to enroll in some courses if several other outside students have enrolled. In fact, some courses are willing to accept only a limited number of Unibo students external to their Bachelor's Degree for which the course was created. Some courses may not be active in a specific year.

--- COURSES ALREADY IN THE TRACKS (created specifically for EPOS)

96358	APPLIED POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY	SPS/09	8 cfu (credits)
81295	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS	SPS/04	8
96359	DATA SCIENCE FOR POLICY ANALYSIS	SECS-S/03	8
96991	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY AND GROWTH	SECS-P/01	8
90299	PUBLIC ECONOMICS (C)	SECS-P/03	8
86049	PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	SECS-P/07	8
96357	BIG DATA APPLICATIONS	SECS-P/01	8
96361	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND MARKET REGULATION	IUS/10	8

--- COURSES ALREADY ACTIVE – POLITICAL SCIENCE AREA

89219 - SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY AND POLITICS   M-STO/04
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/438244   6
Instructor: STEFANO CAVAZZA, Stefano.cavazza@unibo.it
74513 - EU INSTITUTIONS   (C)   SPS/04
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/452705   10
Instructor: Elena Baracani, elena.baracani@unibo.it
84673 - LABORATORY: GEOPOLITICS, FINANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INSTRUMENTS   (B)
Instructor: Silvia Grandi, s.grandi@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/422340   4
74786 - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (B)   SPS/01
Instructor: Giovanni Giorgini, giovanni.giorgini@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/392888   10
92592 - POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES (A)   SPS/04
Instructor: Matthew Loveless, paulmatthew.loveless@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/452703   10

--- COURSES ALREADY ACTIVE – ECONOMIC AREA

B1431 - STRATEGY, BEHAVIOR, AND POLICY IN ECONOMICS   SECS-P/01,   8
Instructor: Stefania Bortolotti
98235 - SOCIAL NORMS, CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING (B) SECS-P01   6
Instructor: Jonathan Neil Chapman, jonathan.chapman@unibo.it
B1574 - FOUNDATIONAL IDEAS IN ECONOMICS.   SECS-P/04   6 cfu
 Instructor: Cleo Chassonery
B1575 - HISTORY OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND POLICY.   SECS-P/04   6
Instructor: Cleo Chassonery
84563 - BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS   (C)   SECS-P/01   6
Instructor: Maria Bigoni, maria.bigoni@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/422039

84556 - INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION   (B)   SECS-P/01
Instructor: Flavio Delbono, flavio.delbono@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/422031   6
94356 – Evolution of the World Economy   (B)   SECS-P/04,   4
Instructor: vera.negri@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/460749

--- COURSES ALREADY ACTIVE – OTHER AREAS
66962 - CINESE 1   (1^ term)   L-OR/21 (taught in Italian)
Instructor: Sabrina Ardizzoni, sabrina.ardizzoni@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/367402   12
95041 - HINDI DI PRIMO LIVELLO   (1^ term)   LILEC (taught in Italian)
Instructor: Marged Flavia Trumper, margedflavia.trumper@unibo.it
 https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2022/465347
66964 - ARABO 1   L-OR/12 (taught in Italian)
Instructor: Giuseppe Cecere, giuseppe.cecere3@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/367404   12
94355 - PHILOSOPHY OF LAW   (A)   IUS/12
Instructor: Corrado Roversi, corrado.roversi@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/460748   9
77093 - ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS   (B)   SECS-S/01
Instructor: Fedele Pasquale Greco, fedele.greco@unibo.it
        https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2020/403304   6
28170 - MATHEMATICS II   (B)   MAT/02   6
https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/insegnamenti/insegnamento/2022/403288
Instructor: Andrea Brini, andrea.brini@unibo.it

(Legend: the letter in parenthesis shows the number of enrolled students in the last years, A = less than 20; B = in-between 21 and 50; C = in-between 51 and 100; D = more than 100).