ICPU

Programme	ICPU - INDUSTRY COMMUNITY PROJECT UNIT
Overall description	ICPU in a nutshell: • Students collaborate with industry partners; an academically rigorous activity led by academics and industry leaders with high-level expertise • Students work on a business opportunity or problem in interdisciplinary groups of 5-10 members from 3 different universities Sydney, Padua and Lausanne, supervised by an academic and guided by an external partner • Students will develop and improve soft-skills • Open to students of all programs The project includes a 6 CFU ad-hoc teaching course ('ICPU - Industry Community Project Unit') organised by the University of Padua, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, the University of Lausanne and regional partners (companies, multinationals and service companies). These will present an operational question and/or case study to which students will be asked to respond. The aim of the course is to promote in the participants the development of soft skills and to foster the connection with companies and the business world, developing the ability to relate and collaborate between students from different fields of study and backgrounds, teamwork, problem-solving approach - all skills necessary for professional growth and entry into the world of work. The course will combine an online activity period (29 June to 4 July and 20 to 26 July 2026) with an in-person activity period from 6 to 17 July 2026 at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland).
Contents	Food systems lie at the heart of sustainable urban development. Cities must ensure access to healthy and affordable food for growing populations while simultaneously reducing environmental pressure, strengthening resilience, and promoting social justice. In the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and global trade transformations, urban food systems have become a critical lever for action toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production. This project invites interdisciplinary student teams to explore how urban food systems can be transformed to become more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive Through collaborative research and applied case study work, students will design innovation-led initiatives that respond to real-world challenges identified by civil society actors, private sector stakeholders, and city representatives.

	The project is coordinated by the University of Lausanne (HEC Lausanne – Enterprise for Society), in collaboration with international academic experts, institutional partners, and stakeholders engaged in food governance and nutrition.
	The programme builds on ongoing research and applied projects from the Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) initiative, implemented by a Swiss consortium addressing food and nutrition security in secondary cities across Africa and Asia. It will also enable students to engage with political, institutional and private actors of urban food systems directly in the area of the University of Lausanne, to better grasp real time and concrete issues in different contexts.
Number of places	25
Programme dates	29 June – 4 July 2026 online 5 July 2026 for travel/independent study 6 -17 July 2026 in person delivery, Lausanne 20-26 July 2026 independent study; completing assessments
Mode	Blended
Host institution (if applicable)	University of Lausanne (Switzerland)
Credits and recognition	6 CFU that can be included in the study plan as INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY PROJECT (AVP8085478)[1], if the Degree Course Coordinator and the Student Office of the student's degree course agree.
Financial support	The ICPU programme makes use of Erasmus+ EU funding for short-term mobility. Participants receive a daily mobility grant based on their physical presence abroad + plus reimbursement for travel expenses based on the distance between Padua and Lausanne. It is strongly recommended to take out a travel insurance policy providing for reimbursement in the event of cancellation.
Eligible degree courses	ICPU is open to students of the University of Padua regardless their degree course
Selection criteria and application documents	University selection criteria + motivation Documents: 1. Language certificate 2. Transcript of records/Diploma supplement 3. Motivational video (max 1 min) 4. Further useful documents

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[1] https://unipd.coursecatalogue.cineca.it/corsi/2025/9980/insegnamenti/2025/51319_477447_63688/2025/51319?coorte=2025

	Students who do not have a language certificate but intend to take the IELTS test at the CLA on available dates in **March** or **April** can apply after receiving their IELTS results (last available date is April 9, 2026). See the complete [calendar](#) of available IELTS dates at the CLA.
Application link	https://forms.gle/bgvzaBqJpjA1fFpu9
Language requirements	Students must prove their proficiency in English at a B2 level or higher (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). As required by the University of Lausanne, the language requirement is satisfied if and only if the candidate complies with one of the following situations: ❖ Have of a certificate of English language proficiency from the University of Padua (TAL) with an overall grade of C1 (according to the Common European Framework) ❖ Have of an "IELTS Academic" certificate with a minimum score of 6,5, of which not less than 6 points in each section.[2] ❖ Have of a "TOEFL IBT" certificate with a minimum score of 85, of which not less than 20 points for the sections "reading", "speaking" and "listening", and not less than 22 points for the section "writing". ❖ Have of a "PTE - Pearson Test of English" certificate with a minimum score of 61; ❖ Have of a "Cambridge" certificate with a minimum score of 176; ❖ have successfully completed in the past 5 years a first-cycle degree course (undergraduate) of at least 3 years fully delivered in English, and submit official supporting documents (e.g. transcript of records); ❖ have successfully completed the first 3 years of a single-cycle degree course fully delivered in English, and submit official supporting documents (e.g. transcript of records); ❖ have successfully completed the first year of a second-cycle degree course (post-graduate) fully delivered in English, and submit official supporting documents (e.g. transcript of records); ❖ have successfully completed secondary education studies in an English-speaking country recognised by the University[3] in

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[2] The student is responsible for obtaining the required certificates. We would like to remind you that the CLA (Centro Linguistico di Ateneo) is an IELTS certification centre and students can access the service with discounts on both certifications (https://cla.unipd.it/certificazione-di-inglese-ielts/) and preparatory courses (https://cla.unipd.it/corsi-certificazione-ielts/)

[3] American Samoa, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Canada (excluding Quebec), Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland), United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

	the past 5 years, and submit official supporting documents; ❖ be a citizen of an English-speaking country recognised by the University. Language certificates must be taken within the past 2 years and be valid for the entire duration of the programme. All the above-mentioned conditions must be met at application date. NB: The University Language Center (CLA) is accredited for IELTS certifications. The CLA organizes monthly IELTS sessions (see the [specific page](#)). The last session is April 9th, with registrations open until April 1st. The price for Unipd students is €255 instead of €269 (price for non-Unipd candidates).
Further requirements	A minimum of two years of full-time undergraduate study is required by the time of application. Moreover, The following students cannot apply to this programme: − Students from a partner university currently on exchange the University of Padua − Double / joint degree students