

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SCIENCES**

**SINGLE CYCLE DEGREE COURSE IN VETERINARY MEDICINE (LM42)**

**DEGREE COURSE IN PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS (L38)**

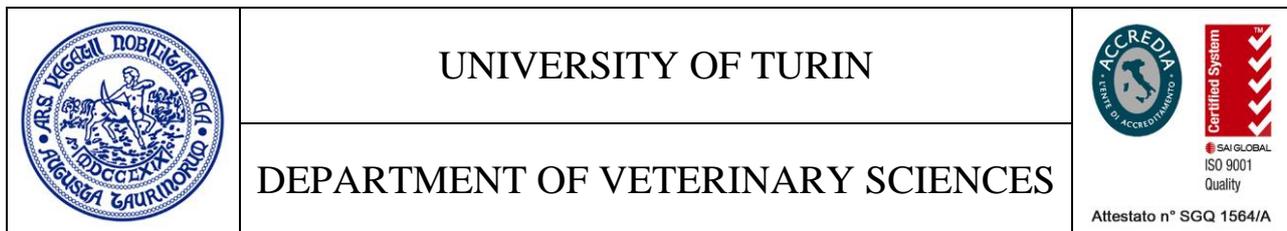
**2020/21 TEACHING PROGRAMME**

The planning of the 2020/21 educational offer of first- and second-level degree courses available within the Department of Veterinary Sciences (DVS) is based on the following premises:

- Both degree courses are characterised by a “*competence based*” teaching approach, providing a number of practical (*hands-on*), lab, clinical and field activities.
- Both degree courses are committed to providing educational programmes that comply with quality assurance standards (ANVUR, ISO 9001 : 2015). Moreover, the Single Cycle Degree Course in Veterinary Medicine undergoes regular accreditation processes by the *European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education*, which ensures that standards provided for in the *Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)* for veterinary training are met;
- In compliance with the aforementioned SOPs, some practical/job-oriented activities shall only take place in person;
- The EAEVE accreditation process shall take place in November 2020.
- The scenarios identified by Unito with regard to the planning of teaching activities scheduled for the upcoming academic year have been taken into account;
- As a result, some restrictions on the use of the premises of the School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine may apply.
- Some uncertainty remains, however, on social distancing measures, making it difficult to plan in-person activities.

On the basis of the abovementioned premises, the degree courses of the DVS intend to use a blended and integrated approach for the planning of 2020/21 teaching activities. Under this approach:

- All theoretical classes will be offered online. Lessons will be recorded for students to watch later. Teaching units will be uploaded onto the Moodle platform. Integrated courses will also allocate some time every week to meet with students of the cohort concerned (*focus time*). Opportunities to further reflect on a specific topic or in person mentoring may be provided, where necessary and possible.
- Practical activities, with particular attention to *hands-on* activities, curricular traineeships and both clinical and non-clinical rounds, will take place in person according to bio-containment rules.



Where possible, in-person activities shall be scheduled during specific weeks and or days of the week, according to pre-determined shifts so as to facilitate student travel.

Class timetables are currently being finalised to ensure that remote classes (*focus time*) do not overlap with in-person classes.

If the situation so requires, this organizational model is considered to be flexible enough to make adjustments as lessons progress. It would be desirable to return to face-to-face classes; however, it is necessary to ensure that teaching material is made available online. If a new COVID wave occurs (total or partial lockdown), remote learning activities will ensure that students continue to have access to the educational offer, provided that new remote learning resources are implemented to include the remaining content for potential graduands. Such an exception, which had already been made during Phase I and II, arises from the need to allow students to complete their studies, while being aware that teaching formats may not fully comply with European standards.

Both the Department and the degree courses believe it is of the utmost importance to support teachers and students as they face this teaching challenge. The coronavirus pandemic and the resulting *lockdown* have demanded a great deal of effort and commitment to adapt, in a very short time, the existing teaching approach to new needs. For many teachers this meant, at a very early stage, learning how to use the tools and platforms for online teaching. In light of how the emergency situation has evolved and that online learning will continue throughout the upcoming academic year, a prompt response is key. For this, UNITO offers training webinars for teachers and the most classrooms will be equipped to allow synchronous online lessons. Participation in training activities, such as those promoted by Unito (webinar), will be strongly encouraged. Support to students will be guaranteed by:

- sharing the 2020/21 teaching strategies (meetings took place by July);
- outlining teaching units and modes of delivery of classes during the first Webex meeting scheduled for all integrated courses at the beginning of the semester;
- reporting the information derived from the periodical meetings between the Presidents of the degree courses and the teachers responsible for the integrated course;
- online tutoring;
- making adequate teaching materials for exam preparation available on the Moodle platform;
- additional tutors recruited through *ad hoc* scholarships, as announced by Unito.