

THE VIRGILIO PROGRAM

A pre-graduate Research Track for
training of Physician Scientists

A Joint Program of University of Milano-Bicocca,
University of Milan and Humanitas University,
financed by Fondazione Cariplo



UNIVERSITÀ
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THE PROGRAM



Financed by Fondazione Cariplo, **Virgilio Program** is a joint effort of University of Milano-Bicocca, University of Milan and Humanitas University in implementing an innovative pre-graduate training track in biomedical research for students of medicine and surgery. The program aims to develop and train medical students who are interested in deepening their understanding of research methods and the link between basic sciences and clinical sciences research.


Objectives:

- To introduce medical students to the physician scientist career-path.
- To train students in scientific inquiry and connect basic sciences in biomedicine with clinical medicine.
- To provide mentored research experience to explore translational medicine as a career choice

Virgilio is a merit based 3 years program that selects qualified students in the third year of their Post Graduate Degree in Medicine & Surgery enrolled at each of the three partner Universities who shall undergo the formative training spread over 4rd, 5th and 6th year of their academic degree course. The students will have the opportunity to gain research experience under the mentorship of tutors and leading physician-scientist mentors.

A glowing blue and purple neural network with a central node on the right. The network consists of numerous interconnected nodes and fibers, creating a complex web of light. The central node is a large, bright, glowing sphere. The fibers radiate outwards, connecting to smaller nodes. The overall color palette is a mix of deep blue, purple, and magenta, with a soft, ethereal glow.

BENEFITS



Dedicate time in medical school exclusively to conducting research.

Receive an individualized mentoring plan designed to meet your needs.

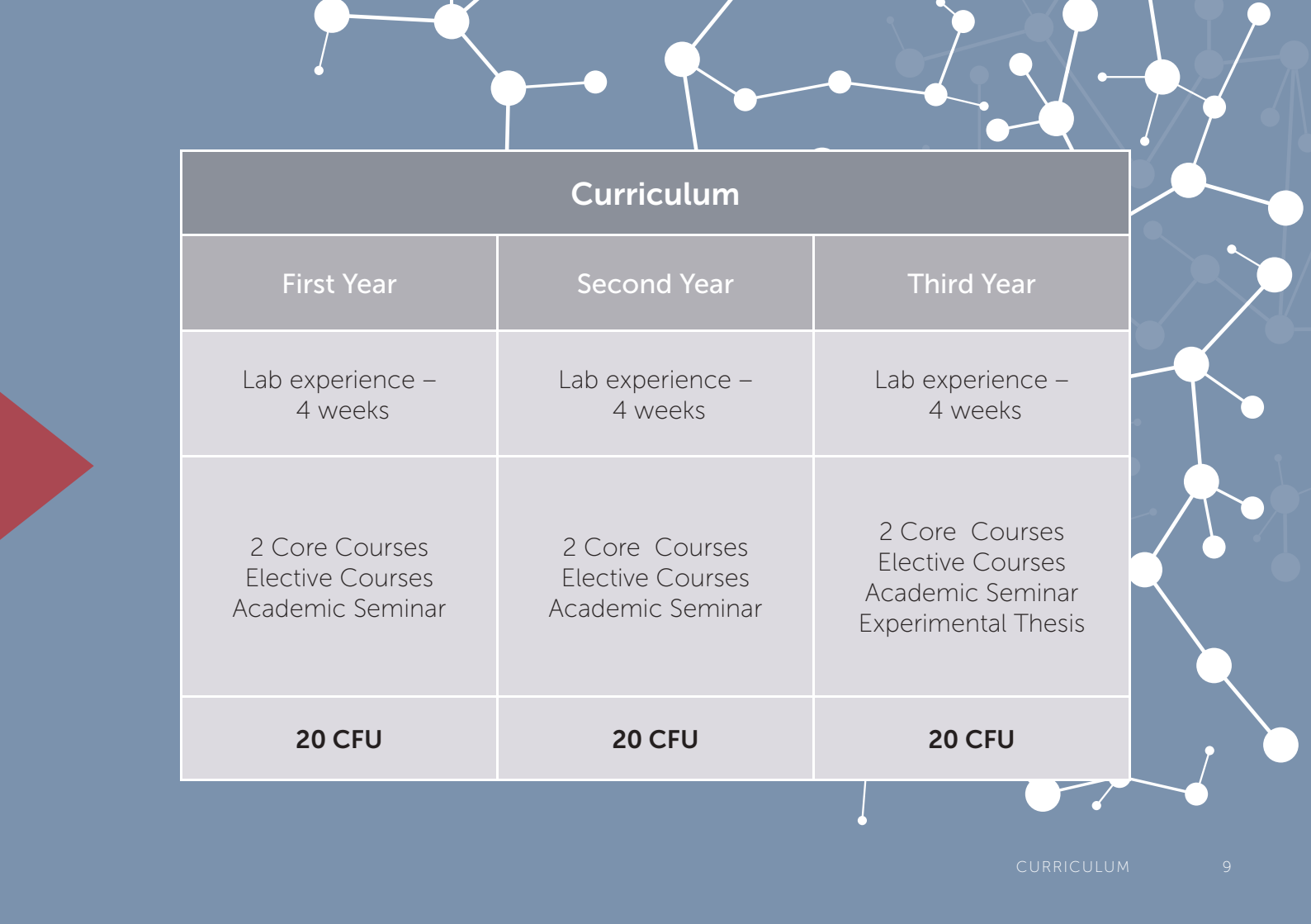
Tailor the program to satisfy your unique research interests.

Curriculum designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills and tools in translational medicine

A person wearing a white lab coat and a hairnet is working in a laboratory. They are looking down at something in their hands. The background is a laboratory setting with a grid pattern on the wall.

CURRICULUM

Virgilio Program follows an integrated curriculum across the three partner Universities that augments the existing Medical School curriculum to help students build the skills and knowledge base through participation in jointly held theoretical course, seminars and laboratory experience. In the last year of the program, the students have the possibility to do their experimental thesis across any research lab at any of the three partner Universities. Each year, three best thesis awards will be given out to the outstanding students. At the end of the program, the students will receive **60 additional ECTS** recorded in their diploma supplement



| Curriculum | | |
|--|--|---|
| First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
| Lab experience – 4 weeks | Lab experience – 4 weeks | Lab experience – 4 weeks |
| 2 Core Courses Elective Courses Academic Seminar | 2 Core Courses Elective Courses Academic Seminar | 2 Core Courses Elective Courses Academic Seminar Experimental Thesis |
| 20 CFU | 20 CFU | 20 CFU |

A photograph of a middle-aged male doctor with a beard and a blue stethoscope around his neck, wearing a white lab coat over a light blue shirt and a dark tie. He is smiling warmly and shaking hands with a younger man whose back is to the camera. The younger man is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting a clinical or office setting.

MENTORING & **TUTORING**



Mentoring

In order to support an individualized education and training program, the students will be assigned a Program Mentor at the beginning of the program. The program mentors, who are successful physician-scientists, will meet regularly with the students to assist with major decisions and provide scientific inputs.

Tutoring

All students will receive the support and guidance of the Tutor for the laboratory experience. The chosen tutors are young scientists who will guide the day to day research experience of the students during the lab rotations and provide academic support during their thesis internship.



ELIGIBILITY


Eligibility

All **internal students enrolled in the 3rd year of the Medicine and Surgery Degree** course at University of Milano-Bicocca, University of Milan and Humanitas University, who are interested in an innovative and integrative theoretical and practical biomedical research training program, with the following requisites are eligible to apply:

- An outstanding record of academic accomplishment
 - to be enrolled for the first time in the 3rd year of the Medicine and Surgery Degree Course;
 - to have acquired all the course credits (CFU) planned for the first two years, according to the Course Regulation;
 - to have passed all the exams as per the Course Regulation with a passing rate of min. 27/30.
- Strong interest in basic and translational research
- English language proficiency

A close-up, blue-tinted photograph of a microscope lens. The lens is the central focus, showing its circular shape and the fine ridges of the focusing mechanism. Technical markings are visible on the lens, including 'PLAN S 10x/122 50/M'. The background is blurred, showing other parts of the microscope.

HOW TO **APPLY**




Through an internal Call for application, Virgilio Program aims to select 30 motivated applicants from each of the 3 partner Universities (10 places reserved per partner university) each year.

The candidates are required to submit the application by completing the appropriate form attached to the communication notice sent internally by each Partner University along with a motivation letter (*max. 2000 words*) expressing their interest in the program. The application along with the motivation letter must be signed, scanned and sent with effect from the date of the Decree and strictly within the deadline communicated. Please note that incomplete applications, without signatures or submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted.

A microscopic view of plant cells, showing large, irregularly shaped cells with thick, golden-brown cell walls. The cells are filled with a light yellowish-green fluid. A prominent red rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

SELECTION PROCESS & RESULTS

A microscopic view of plant cells, showing various cell structures and colors like yellow, orange, and red. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The selection of the candidates is based on the successful completion of course credits, exams passed and votes received, English language proficiency and motivation letter.

The selection committee responsible will shortlist the well-qualified candidates and invite them for a personal interview, scheduled in first week of May every year.

Admission list will be communicated via email to the selected students. The selection results are expected to be announced around third week of May every year.



Leadership team

Our faculty exemplify physician scientist careers and are committed to developing the next generation of Physician Scientists.

PROGRAM
SCIENTIFIC **TEAM**

UNIVERSITY OF MILANO-BICOCCA



Prof. Andrea **Biondi**

Research Area:
*Cell biology, Immunology,
Genomics in pediatric leukemia*



Prof. Pietro **Invernizzi**

Research Area:
Liver Immunology



Prof. Silvia **Brunelli**

Research Area:
*Stem cells and tissue repair in
musculoskeletal disease*

HUMANITAS UNIVERSITY



Prof. Gianluigi **Condorelli**

Research Area:
*Cardiovascular diseases,
Epigenetics, hypertension*



Prof. Isabella **Barajon**

Research Area:
*Immune System, Nervous
System*



Prof. Raffaella **Bonocchi**

Research Area:
*Innate immunity, cancer
Monocytes & macrophages,
Chemokine receptors*

UNIVERSITY OF MILAN



Prof. Paolo **Corradini**

Research Area:
Genomics, T-cells lymphomas



Prof. Niccolò **Bolli**

Research Area:
Oncohematology



Prof. Massimo **Locati**

Research Area:
*Chemokine receptors, immune
mediated diseases, cell biology*



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