



Direzione Ricerca,
Innovazione e
Internazionalizzazione

**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**

ID

VP_005_BIOS

Visiting Professor Program Academic Year 2025/2026

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 12 hours

COURSE TITLE

Naturalistic Museology

TEACHING PERIOD

II semester

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Earth Sciences

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

- History of collections and museums, zoos and botanical gardens: wunderkammern and menagerie;
- ICOM definition of museum and definition of naturalistic museums and their main functions (differences with non-naturalistic museums: e.g. archaeological and art): conservation, research and dissemination;
- The social role of nature museums and the deontological and ethical aspects associated with them;
- The museum professions: definitions of roles, functions and competences, critical issues and prospects;
- The management of voluntary activities within nature museums – concept of heritage community;
- Codes and laws relating to Italian nature museums;
- Care, restoration and standardized cataloging of naturalistic collections;
- Rules for loans and exchanges of museum exhibits (and insurance coverage);
- Naturalistic museum collections: minerals, rocks, fossils, animals and plants;
- Design and construction of permanent and temporary exhibition itineraries;

- Techniques and tools to enhance the accessibility and usability of nature museums by a public with atypical development;
- Museum education and accessibility, Citizen Science;
- Interactive and virtual museums;
- Analysis of case studies (via websites and/or museum visits) and comparisons with non-naturalistic / non-scientific museums;
- Practical activities in the field of conservation, cataloging and museum education.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to:

- i) provide the basic notions to understand the essential functions and the active role of Museums in contemporary society;
- ii) provide the theoretical foundations of scientific-naturalistic museology;
- iii) provide the main knowledge on the conservation, research and dissemination activities carried out by scientific-naturalistic museums;
- iv) provide the theoretical and practical bases for the management, conservation and cataloging of naturalistic collections, the organization of museum education aimed at schools of all levels and the dissemination of scientific-naturalistic culture to the general public.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Since the program developed by the Visiting Professor will be focused on how Earth Sciences are presented in non-Italian museums, the ideal candidate should be an Earth Scientist with ongoing collaborations with Natural History Museums (both for outreach and research activities) focused on Geology and/or Mineralogy and/or Palaeontology. Direct engagement with collection of specimens in the field and the creation/management of open-air museums and geosites would be desirable.

CONTACT REFERENT

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