

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK  ITALY SECTION

General Course SAR Student Advocacy Seminar March - June 2022 University of Padova

Coordinators and instructors: Claudia Padovani and Francesca Helm
Speakers: various speakers (scholars and students, see schedule)

This General Course is open to students from the European and Global Studies degree (SPGI) and other master level degrees offered at the University of Padova.

Attendance to the course is required: students should participate in at least **80% of the activities**.

Upon the successful completion of the activities students will be recognised **6 CFU**
Classes are held on Thursday afternoons from 14.30 to 17.30 in Aula Comune (via del Santo 28, 35123 Padova).

This general course is organized in collaboration between SPGI department and the international network [Scholars at Risk](#).

The *Advocacy Seminar Series on Academic Freedom* provides university students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through direct engagement on behalf of threatened members of the global higher education community facing unjust restrictions, prosecution, or imprisonment. Over the course of the seminar, students will gain a deep understanding of both the value of the academic freedom they enjoy, and the risks scholars and students around the world face in the pursuit of knowledge. Students organize awareness-raising advocacy initiatives and prepare an end-of-seminar report. In addition, students will have the chance to put their advocacy skills into practice at a number of public events.

Beside the class work, students are expected to successfully complete a SAR-produced MOOC on academic freedom titled 'Dangerous Questions' (video-lectures and tasks like commentaries, writing posts etc) and work on other video materials produced in the context of the International Conference '*Libertas. Spaces and Practices of Academic Freedom*' held at the University of Padova in June 2022. This is part of innovative approaches to blended learning and is an integral part of the course.

This experiential General Course is designed to give students a foundation in:

- Academic freedom: theory and cases
- Human rights research, standards, and mechanisms
- International relations and institutional commitment to academic freedom and higher education values
- Intercultural competences
- Leadership and teamwork skills
- Organization and networking, writing and public speaking for advocacy
- Social media and online campaigning

The foreseen activities require different disciplinary backgrounds, while offering an opportunity to experiment with the exchange of diverse knowledges and competences in the conduct of a practical project. Proficiency in other languages is welcome. Collaborative interaction will also involve students and lecturers from various universities across Europe and the globe who are also taking part in SAR Advocacy Seminars, as well as guest speakers including representatives from NGOs, IGOs and organizations that are involved in advocacy work.

Requirements: In due consideration of the fact that we will work on sensitive issues, what we expect from each other is motivation and the possibility to commit ourselves to the project until its completion. Further, students should consider that, while the coordinators will be there throughout to support the activities, autonomy and spirit of initiative in deciding how, where and with whom to carry advocacy. And writing the report, is highly important. Finally, a good knowledge of English (writing, speaking and listening) is essential. Credit-seekers and free-riders are discouraged to apply!!

Please apply using this [online form by February 15.](#)

For information and registration contact:

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