

University of Padova, 4cLegal Legal Day

The University of Padova: a story intrinsic with values

Universa universis patavina libertas

The freedom of the University of Padova is for everyone. The motto "**Universa universis patavina libertas**" originates from the concept of "patavina libertas", linked to the flowering, in the thirteenth-century, of the free Municipality of Padua, which, in that period, was one of the most important in Italy. A freedom that must be interpreted as "**freedom from**", rather than "freedom of": the University of Padua in fact was not established ex privilegio, with the approval of the Pope or the Emperor, but **thanks to the aggregation of teachers and students, who migrated from the University of Bologna looking for greater autonomy of study and research**. Since the constitution of the Studium, the University of Padova always exercised this desire of openness and inclusiveness, which was demonstrated in practice, for example, by admitting into the University even non-Catholic students - such as Jews, who were normally confined to ghettos - and this attitude was confirmed through the centuries until today. "A beautiful motto," states **Magnifico Rettore Rosario Rizzuto**, "because it explains that openness of knowledge and freedom are guaranteed to everyone. Freedom means freedom of study but also of life, of being who you are, with your civil opinions and your religious beliefs. It seems like a simple concept nowadays, but there have been times when it was not obvious and the University of Padova has defended it for the past eight centuries".

From Universitas iuristarum to the Law School

Formally established in 1222, the University of Jurists - Universitas iuristarum - represents the founding core of the University of Padova. Founded within the framework of a more general articulation of "**juridical knowledge**" within the free Municipality of Padova, the University of Padova immediately became known as a "free" university, an internationally renowned center for study and research, which saw a flowering during the sixteenth century, gathering up to 22 nations - the associations that brought the students together according to their origin - right at the law school. The Faculty of Law, established in 1872, has always kept up the name of legal studies in Padova, becoming the protagonist of a story - as former **Magnifico Rettore Giuseppe Zaccaria** recalled at the opening of the 789th academic year - "of cultural as well as technical-legal commitment", based on the search for "a knowledge capable of understanding the dynamics of interpersonal relationships in depth", fueled by "**a tradition of high juridical knowledge, a weave of**

legal technique and humanistic culture that still connotes legal studies in Padova". The academic experience of the Faculty of Law ended on 31 December 2011 to continue with the **School of Law**, which includes Department of Public, International and Community Law and the Department of Private Law and Critique of Law. A renewal aimed at a necessary reorganization and which, however, starting from the particular denomination, unites present and future with a long tradition of excellence.

Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia

Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, born in Venice in **1646**, fifth of seven children, was the daughter of the noble Giovanni Battista Cornaro, prosecutor of San Marco, and the commoner Zanetta Boni. She soon showed great interest in studying, and was tutored by her father, who soon recognized her daughter's brilliant intellectual talents, and by prestigious teachers in every subject. Elena Lucrezia studied theology, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, geography, music, learned classical and modern languages, from Latin to ancient and modern Greek, from Spanish to French to Hebrew. On Saturday 25 June 1678 she was proclaimed "magistra et doctrix in philosophia". She was the **first woman in the world to graduate and the first to boast the title of Doctor, becoming an important symbol and example of freedom and feminine authoritativeness**, and was able to overcome the threshold of recognition of women's ability to think and teach. A personality of substance, also honored by a precious gift: in 1773 Caterina Dolfin gifted to the University of Padova a statue depicting Elena Cornaro, which is now placed at the bottom of the Cornaro staircase, in the Ancient Courtyard of Palazzo Bo. A tribute to the first graduated woman in the world, but also a symbol of **female emancipation**.

School of law: the new training courses

In the context of a legal market in radical evolution, the University of Padova School of Law presents the **five courses** that compose the new training offer:

1. Course for legal professions
2. Course for public institutions
3. Business and market course
4. International course
5. Critical historical course

Other new features: the activities of each course include the "**legal clinics**" and "**trial simulations**", training activities that pay particular attention to the practical aspects of the jurist's activity through special exercises and simulations.