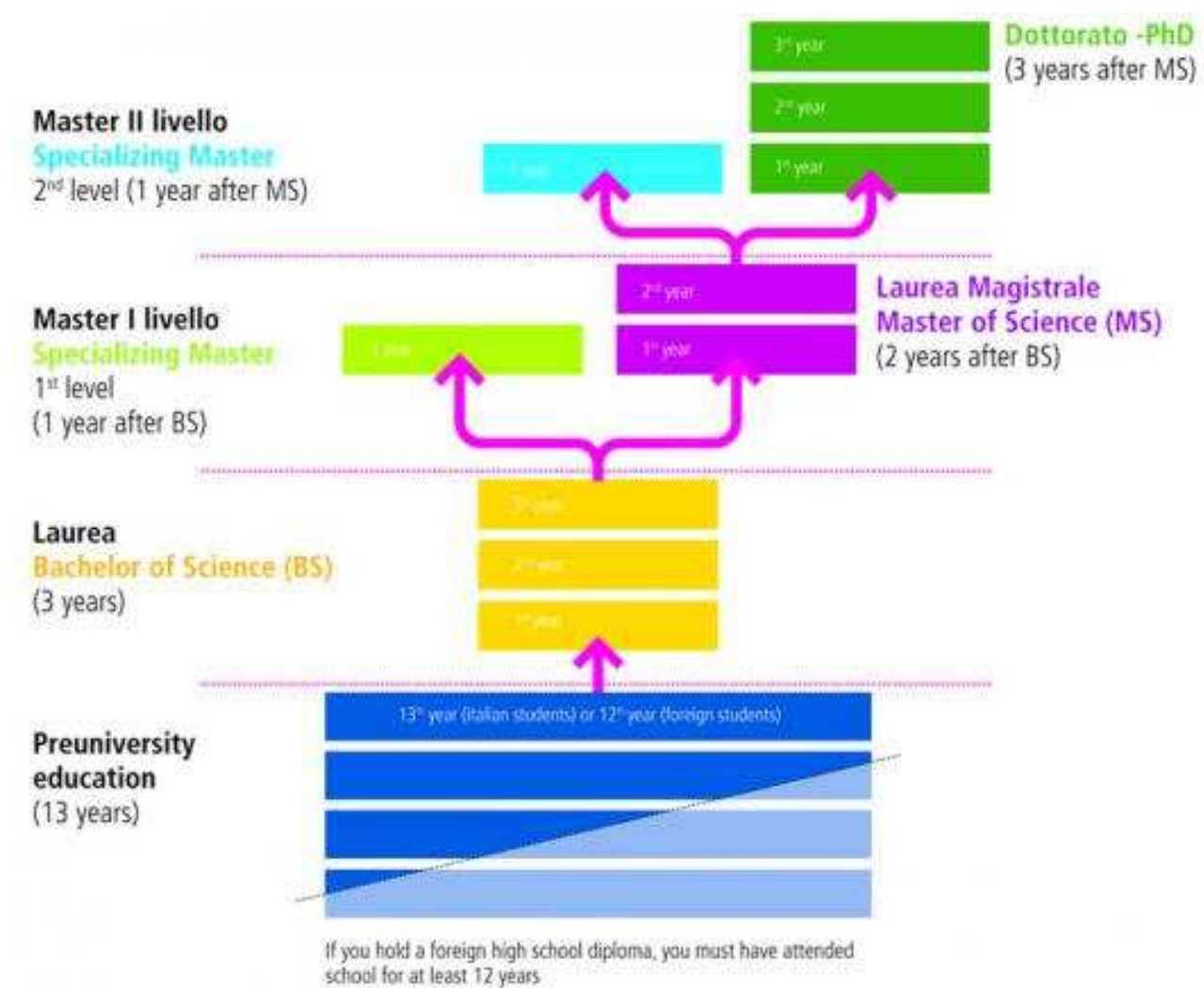


# Italian university system

The reform of the Italian University System (Ministerial Decree no. 509/99) has introduced some important innovations in the organization of the academic degrees, implementing the decisions taken by EU Ministers in Bologna in 1998.

The new system can be illustrated as follows:



- The first cycle (**Laurea**) has a 3-year duration for a total of 180 ECTS. It leads to a Bachelor of Science equivalent degree (UK);
- The second cycle (**Laurea Specialistica/Laurea Magistrale**) has a 2-year duration for a total of 120 ECTS. It leads to a Master of Science equivalent degree (UK);
- The third cycle (**Dottorato - Phd**) has a 3-year duration for a total of 180 ECTS. It leads to a PhD equivalent;
- On top of the first cycle, the Italian system provides a 1-year course (minimum of 60 ECTS) leading to a 1<sup>st</sup> level Specializing Master;
- On top of the second cycle, the Italian system provides a 1-year course (minimum of 60 ECTS) leading to a 2<sup>nd</sup> level Specializing Master.

- Undergraduate degree/Bachelor of Science – BSc (“Laurea Triennale”)**  
 Awarded after a three-year course of study and aims to provide a solid foundation in the core subjects as well as more specialized, professional training. During the third year, the student is usually expected to acquire work experience by doing an internship.  
 For some degree programs, the student can choose from a range of different curricula. The degree is awarded after the accumulation of 180 ECTS and students can either enter the job market or continue their studies by applying for a Master of Science program or a Specializing master.
- Graduate degree/Master of Science - MSc (“Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale”)**  
 The Master of Science is awarded after two years of graduate studies for a total of 120 ECTS. It aims to provide rigorous, advanced training in more highly specialized areas. It is important to note that some specific study courses, such as Law, are made up of a single cycle of five years (3 undergraduate years + 2 graduate years).
- Specializing Master (“Master Universitario”)**  
 Students having completed a BSc or an MSc can enroll in a one-year Specializing Master. The “Master Universitario” focuses on specific topics and aims at providing practical professional skills to fresh graduates or professionals wanting to develop specific professional competences. Master’s courses are mostly run on a full-time basis, but UCSC also offers a number of part-time courses for professionals who wish to keep working during their studies.
- Doctoral Program - PhD (“Dottorato di Ricerca”)**  
 A PhD is awarded after three additional years of study and aims to develop the professional competence to carry out high level research in manufacturing and service companies, public bodies and universities. In order to enter a Doctoral Program a candidate must have achieved the Master of Science degree or an equivalent graduate degree.

<http://www.unicattolica.it/1734.html?rdeLocaleAttr=en>