

LYNX Summer school

Globalising the protection of cultural heritage

23-26 June, 2025

IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca

Call for Applications

168 are today the States that include the 952 cultural sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List (hereinafter, “the List”). Of these sites, 46.85% are located in Europe and North America, 24.20% in Asia and the Pacific, 12.26% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 8.83% in Africa, and 7.85% in Arab States.

These figures provide some key insights:

1. The number of cultural sites considered to have an "outstanding universal value" (the essential condition for being designated as a World Heritage Site and included in the List) is remarkable and it has been significantly increasing over the years;
2. The geographic distribution of UNESCO-listed cultural sites is uneven. Europe and North America dominate the list, while representation is significantly lower for regions such as Africa and the Arab States.

The reasons for these disparities are diverse, stemming not only from historical and artistic considerations, but also from legal, geo-political, and diplomatic factors.

Moreover, the high number of cultural sites inscribed in the List also highlights how the protection of cultural heritage is shifting from being primarily a national prerogative to becoming a **global phenomenon**.

In this context, and to operate in an increasingly globalized world requiring knowledge of cross-border realities, it is essential to understand **what constitutes and how to implement cultural heritage protection today**. What are the rules governing this field? To which legal traditions do they belong? Which international or intergovernmental instruments must be considered? And in what diverse ways is ‘protection’ carried out today? Addressing these questions is critical to navigate the contemporary academic and professional world, whether as a lawyer, an art historian, or a professional working within a cultural institution.

Building on these considerations, this unique program seeks to analyze and reflect—through a [case-study-based approach](#)—on the major trends characterizing the concept of "cultural heritage protection" today. We will examine not only [global trends](#) but also the role of specific functions, such as the [protection of property rights](#), [art export controls](#), and initiatives of [digitalization](#). Cultural heritage will be considered in its broadest sense, encompassing both material and immaterial heritage, while also considering the context in which the heritage is situated. This framework will enable the analysis of concepts such as "contested heritage," which is significant because the idea of protection involves not only physical but also contextual preservation able to account for the interests of different stakeholders.

A central aspect of this analysis regards the various actors operating in the global arena: States and their distinct legal systems. Therefore, one of the main focuses of the Summer School is the [comparative analysis](#) among EU member states, as well as with non-European countries, such as the United States. This comparative approach will allow to understand how cultural heritage protection varies across different contexts, not only in terms of regulatory instruments, but also of the ideologies underpinning the different legislative settings.

In addition to comparison, a second defining feature of the Summer School is its [multidisciplinary nature](#). The proposed topics will be addressed through the lens of different disciplines, benefitting of the knowledge and experience of a diverse cohort of speakers.

Objectives, Structure, and Participant Profiles

This program aims to establish a framework for research and teaching, promoting the creation of a [network](#) which will provide participants with lasting benefits, supporting ongoing research and development beyond the program's conclusion.

The Summer School is designed to target participants with diverse backgrounds and profiles:

- a) **Students, Ph.D. candidates, and researchers** will have the chance to deepen their understanding of the legal framework for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage, identifying key research areas and the specific needs of public and private institutions in this field;
- b) **Legal professionals and practitioners** will enhance their awareness of international cultural heritage regulation and management;
- c) **Cultural heritage professionals** will gain insights into applicable legal frameworks, improve their models and best practices, and develop awareness of diverse rules and management approaches.

The program will last [four days](#), featuring lectures delivered by highly regarded international professionals and academics, helping participants develop a theoretical understanding of the subject matter and its interrelated issues. Participants will also have the opportunity to actively engage in critical discussions, benefiting from a privileged platform to interact with speakers and peers.

In addition to lectures, the program includes an [off-site visit](#) outside the city of Lucca and a [group project activity](#), where participants will collaboratively develop a project based on the themes discussed during the sessions.

The Summer School will be conducted in English. The program may be updated; please check our website (www.regulatingcheu.imtlucca.it) for the latest information.

How to Apply

If you're interested in the 2025 *Globalising the Protection of Cultural Heritage* Summer School, please complete the **application form by February 10, 2025**.

The form requires the following details:

- Your name
- E-mail address
- Current position and affiliation
- A brief statement explaining your interest in the Summer School
- Your CV (to be uploaded)

For the Application Form, click [here](#).

All applications will be reviewed, and responses will be sent by approximately **February 17, 2025**.

Successful applicants will receive detailed instructions regarding the registration fee payment and other practical information.

Participation Fee

The participation fee for the Summer School is **€200** and covers access to all classes, the social dinner, the final reception, and three lunches on June 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

All other costs not mentioned here are intended on the participant's behalf.

PhD students from IMT will be entitled to a reduced participation fee of 80 euros.

Payment Information

Details regarding the payment fees in euros will be shared after acceptance is communicated.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

To keep the registration fee as low as possible, there will be no refunds in cases of cancellation. However, accepted applicants who have to cancel their participation may substitute another delegate at no extra cost.

Program

I. PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

23 June 2025

Morning (9:30 - 13:00)

- *Introduction to the Program*
- *The Protection of Cultural Heritage under the Law: An American Perspective* | **Patty Gerstenblith** (DePaul University, Chicago)
- *The globalisation of cultural heritage* | **Lorenzo Casini** (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca)

Afternoon (14:00 - 17:30)

- *Art historians looking at the object in legal disputes* | **Sharon Hecker** (Art Historian and Curator)
- *Introducing the concept of Difficult Heritage* | **Agnese Ghezzi** (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca)
- *Off-site visit What to preserve?*

Social Dinner (20:00)

II. NATIONAL APPROACHES TO THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

24 June 2025

Morning (9:30 - 13:00)

- *The protection of cultural property according to their ownership regime* | **Andrea Averardi** (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca)
- *The protection of immaterial cultural heritage* | **TBC**
- *Protecting cultural heritage through art export controls* | **Anna Pirri Valentini** (IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca)

Afternoon (14:30 - 17:30)

- *Preserving Cultural Heritage through Intellectual Property Law: Comparisons between Europe and the U.S.* | **Felicia Caponigri** (Chicago-Kent College of Law)

- Dedicated time for participants to work on group projects

III. PROTECTION BEYOND STATES

25 June 2025

Morning (10:00 - 13:00)

- *The Spectrum of Digital Repatriation* | **Sonia Katyal** (UC Berkeley School of Law)
- *The protection of cultural heritage through international law* | **Manlio Frigo** (Milan State University)
- *The Art, Law, and Finance Project* | **Delia Violante** (UC Berkeley School of Law)

Afternoon (14:30 - 17:30)

- Presentations and discussion of participants' group projects

IV. OFFSITE VISITS

26 June 2025

Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Vorno (Residential and exposition venue for performing and contemporary art)

Nunzia and Vittorio Gaddi's Collection, Vorno (Private contemporary art collection)