



**Inauguration Ceremony of the 2024-2025 Academic Year  
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the University of Foggia**

**Address by the Students' Representative  
Alessandro Barrasso**

Esteemed Rector, Guests, Heads of Departments and Professors, Director General, academic, civil, judicial, military, and religious Authorities, technical-administrative and library Staff, dear Students and dear Ph.D Candidates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I extend my warmest greetings to all of you.

I am deeply honoured to be here today, on the occasion of the inauguration of the 2024-25 academic year, to proudly represent the voice and aspirations of all the students of the University of Foggia. It is a privilege for me to give voice to their thoughts, enthusiasm, and hope, and to contribute, albeit in a small way, to amplifying the strength and determination of our students.

This year, we also gather to celebrate a particularly significant milestone: the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of our University.

In a quarter of a century, the University of Foggia has succeeded in becoming a model institution, growing and establishing itself as a center of excellence in both our region and the city of Foggia. The city should continue to invest in the University's development to further enhance its value.

The latest data from Censis (Center for Social Investment Studies) provide a positive picture of the master's degree programs offered by our University. It is ranked first in Italy in the "Education and Training" sector and in the economic field, and first in Southern Italy for the agricultural-forestry, legal, and medical-healthcare areas. Equally impressive are the results concerning the teaching quality of undergraduate programs. Our University is ranked first in Southern Italy in the educational-training, sports sciences, agricultural-forestry, economic, and medical-healthcare areas.

As students, we feel we are an integral part of this story of success, which is inevitably the result of the work carried out over the years with commitment and dedication by the entire academic community.

The University is a place where we receive a high-quality education and, at the same time, a space where we lay the foundations for our future, preparing ourselves to face the challenges of an ever-changing world.

The anniversary we commemorate this year should not merely serve as an occasion to reflect on the past with pride, but also as a catalyst for approaching the future with the appropriate enthusiasm. Today, we are students; tomorrow, we will be professionals. We must, therefore, recognize that the responsibility to take up the baton and perpetuate this legacy - founded on values such as culture, dedication, and collaboration - rests with us.

It is through these very values that we can identify ourselves as a cohesive community and play an integral role in a society where care represents the underlying force that sustains human relationships.

Every significant change in human history originates from someone who decided to care for something: a problem, a person, an idea. This inevitably means that, as students, we must begin building our future by engaging with the community and, by extension, with society.

Care also involves recognizing the opportunities for growth that are presented to us and making the most of them. Fully embracing our university experience means caring not only for ourselves as students, but also as individuals in the process of learning - open to discovery, sharing, and mutual support. To care also means listening and taking an interest. In today's society, however, the prevailing theme seems to be "disinterest", with a focus almost exclusively on individual interests, sometimes encroaching upon the rights and freedoms of others or even disregarding the essential needs for the well-being of others. In this regard, I must address the primary issue that plagues the students of the University of Foggia: the lack of adequate spaces to accommodate the growing number of students in our institution. This problem is likely to worsen with a potential reform that proposes open access to the first semester for degree programs in the Health Sciences.

Our Constitution enshrines the importance of the right to education. The right to study is inviolable and inalienable, and it is the duty of institutions to guarantee it. The increase in the number of students confirms the value and prestige of our University

and is a source of satisfaction. However, it is desirable to initiate a constructive dialogue between institutions to ensure the well-being of current and future students, in addition to focusing on providing a high-quality education that reflects our potential. This approach allows us to make care the foundation of progress.

We will continue to express our ideas and ensure our voices are heard, with the awareness that, although we operate on distinct levels from the academic institution, collaborative efforts generally represent the first step toward a future full of accomplishments, as demonstrated in these first twenty-five years.

Life is shaped by choices, and the future is one of them. We have chosen to invest in the University of Foggia as an investment in our future.

Wish you all a fruitful and rewarding academic year.

Thank you.