International Student Guide - Piacenza

A genuine experience
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Welcome to Piacenza

Dear International Student,

Studying in Piacenza can be an exciting and challenging experience as well as an opening of your social and cultural horizons.

This guide has been carefully drawn up to provide the essential information about courses, visas, permit of stay, housing, student life and practical tips for your stay here in Piacenza and your experience at Cattolica.

Please check regularly the International Student Web Portal:
> www.ucscinternational.it
in order to remain updated on academic issues concerning your stay.

Further information relevant to your day-to-day experience in Italy will be provided during the welcome days, however this guide should give you a good idea of what to expect upon arrival.

We hope you will make your stay a positive and enriching experience.

UCSC International Staff
Before you leave home

APPLICATION FORM
You can find the application form to fill out online on our website
Please note that it has to be filled in and signed by your home Institution Advisor as well.

PLACEMENT CONFIRMATION AND COURSE SELECTION
Your international student advisors will send you information via email regarding your placement, forms, and courses. If you need further help you can send an e-mail to:
@: ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

VISA REQUIREMENTS
Non E.U. Citizens require a visa for a stay of longer than three months (90 days). Students need to request a student visa at the Italian embassy or consulate of your jurisdiction. Below you will find the basic application requirements. However, it is important that students verify their consulate’s web site for any additional requirements:
✓ Admission letter issued by host institution
✓ Passport
✓ Student visa application to be submitted in person
✓ Proof of enrolment at home institution
✓ Affidavit of financial support
✓ Proof of adequate health insurance coverage outside your country
✓ Flight itinerary

Once in Italy, you will have to follow the steps of the Permit of Stay procedure. All information will be provided at the Welcome Days.
TRAVEL INSURANCE

Your health insurance will likely not cover any damage or loss of belongings during travel and stay in Piacenza. We highly advise you to insure your most precious and expensive belongings such as laptop and other electronics. A travel insurance would also cover any loss of important documents such as passport, credit cards, etc. Your travel insurance may also cover emergency medical expenses and medical evacuation. Do a search and compare the benefits and see how they complement your health insurance abroad.

If you do bring your laptop it is important you insure it against damage or theft. Never leave your belongings unattended anywhere on campus, library, computer lab, etc. Do not mail your laptop as it will be held at customs and will only be released by paying a customs fee.

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Do not mail your laptop as it will be held at customs and will only be released by paying a customs fee.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

If you are a citizen from either a EU Member State or an EEA country or of Swiss nationality, you should have an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC, Italian acronym: TEAM) obtained in your home country from your national healthcare authority. The European Health Insurance Card (or EHIC) allows to receive medical treatment in another member state for free, or at a reduced cost.

The patient will be charged for prescriptions, medical examinations, oral and dental care.

Non-EU Citizens must take out an International Health Insurance which covers costs related to medical treatment and admission to hospital. This insurance costs about 49 € for a period of six months and 98 € for a period of twelve months.

Always contact your insurance agency before leaving for Italy.

Note: An insurance policy is compulsory if you apply for a permit of stay (Non EU Students only)
What to bring to Piacenza

DOCUMENTATIONS

CHECK LIST

✓ A valid passport/ID card
✓ A valid student visa (if applicable)
✓ Travel itinerary/ticket
✓ Travel insurance
✓ Health insurance
✓ Credit cards & other cards
✓ Any medical certificates
✓ Admission letter issued by host institution
✓ Two colour and original passport size photos (4 x 4 cm). They can not be scanned.

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Make additional copies of all your documents, certificates, cards, etc. Keep copies in a safe place in your home country, and bring the rest to Italy. When travelling remember to keep copies in both your hand luggage and check-in luggage. Upon arrival keep all documents in a safe place in your apartment.

For further safety measures, scan all your documents, certificates, cards etc. and email them to yourself as attachments.

Bring receipts of any electrical goods that you bring such as laptops, cameras, iPods, etc. This ensures when and where the items were purchased.

PACKING

Piacenza is the major crossroads of Northern Italy.

December to February are the coldest months, but April usually brings nice springy weather.

Students on campus generally dress informally but you may want to bring with you something more formal for special events.

You can find everything in Piacenza so don't worry if you forget to pack something.

You will need to buy plug/power converters for your electrical devices. Electricity in Italy and Europe comes out of the wall socket at 220 volts. The Italian plug is the two or three round-prong socket.
Medical Assistance

MEDICATION
You should verify the availability of certain drugs in Italy, but we suggest that you stock up from home on any specific medication you will need during the stay. Control the custom restrictions for importing medication as you do not want to have your medication confiscated at customs. For safety measures, obtain a letter from your General Practitioner (GP) specifying the medication you will bring with you.

PHARMACIES
Most medications that you purchase over-the-counter in other countries are available only by prescription in Italy.

HEALTH CENTER @ CATTOLICA
There is a Health Center on campus which provides all registered students with medical care, nursing care, and psychological counselling. If you require medical assistance, contact the International Student Advisors who will arrange an appointment with the Health Center on campus. Doctor Giuseppe Miserotti will be glad to assist you. His visiting hours are:
- Mondays and Wednesdays: from 3pm to 4pm
- Friday: from 11am to 12am.

HOSPITALS
If you require more serious medical assistance you will need to visit the hospital. Remember to always bring a copy of your health insurance or Health Insurance card. Always inform the International Student Services and they can arrange an Italian speaking assistance if needed.
Accommodation in Piacenza

Finding a lodging in Piacenza is very easy. There are various owners willing to rent their apartments to foreign students, most of whom speak English. Before your arrival, our International Office will send you updated information about available apartments in town. Moreover, our university offers two Residences on campus and two in the city center, and collaborates with some good estate agencies that help students finding the right place to stay, according to your needs and expectations.

RESIDENCES FOR STUDENTS

Residenza Gasparini
Located right behind the University canteen, it is our brand new Residence on campus. With 52 single rooms and private bathrooms, and three common kitchens, this residence is a very comfortable place to stay. The price includes breakfast, bed linen, blankets, bath towels, weekly room cleaning and Wi-Fi connection. There are also several common rooms in which you can study and spend your time with other international students.

Contacts:
Segreteria Operativa Piacenza
EDUCatt
@: reception.piacenza@educatt.org
Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11
Fax: +39 0523 579416
› http://educatt.unicatt.it/educattresidenza-gasparini-il-collegio

Collegio Sant’Isidoro (on campus)
The Residence was built in 1995.
With 165 single bedrooms, the Residence provides many services, including heating, air conditioning, sports facilities, common study rooms, tv room, wi-fi connection, private bathroom, room cleaning, all included in the accommodation fee. Around June-July students willing to stay at Collegio Sant’Isidoro will have to fill in the online Application Form within the given deadline. Students will also have the opportunity to ask for a Scholarship by giving the following information:

- number of family members
- family annual income
- family real estate property
- family financial condition

Inside the Collegio you will find the University canteen, open to students, administrative and teaching staff and to external guests. Collegio Sant’Isidoro will be closed from 25th July to 25th August for Summer Holidays.

Useful Links:

  (Consulta il Bando di Concorso per le Borse di Studio)
- http://educatt.unicatt.it/educatt-soluzioni-abitative-presentazione
  (Bando di Concorso per l’ammissione e requisiti per la riammissione)

PLEASE NOTE: a few bedrooms will be set aside for Exchange Students. for deadlines and application procedure please contact:
Francesca Lucchi
International Office
Tel. +39 0523 599 436
@: ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it
Collegio Morigi (off campus) – Collegio Orsoline (off campus)
Alternatively, you can apply for a private room at one of the other residences for students.
For information about application procedure and deadlines please refer to:
Mr Paolo Grassi:
@: paolo.grassi@educatt.it
Mr Raffaele Ciociola
@: raffaele.ciociola@educatt.it
Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11
Fax: +39 0523 579416

REAL ESTATE AGENCIES
If you prefer to choose your apartment directly in Piacenza, you can easily book a room at a hotel or hostel and take an appointment with one of the Real Estate Agencies that support our students:

TECNOCASA
Ms. Umbra (English speaking)
Tel. +39 0523 455863
@: pccc2@tecnocasa.it
› www.tecnocasa.it

SOLUZIONE CASA
Mr Massimo Corbellini (English and Spanish Speaking)
Tel. + 39 0523 490818
@: info@soluzionecasapc.it
› www.soluzionecasapc.it

CASA IN
Ms Emanuela Anglani (English speaking)
Tel. +39 339 4297746
@: info@casainpiacenza.it
www.casainpiacenza.it

TEMPORARY LODGINGS:
BED & BREAKFAST L’ANTICA TORRE
Str. La Motta Vecchia, 31 - 29122 Montale (PC)
Tel/Fax: +39 0523 615267
Mobile: +39 392 3958926 - +39 348 4590725

DON ZERMANI HOSTEL
Mrs Daniela Ponzini
Via Zoni, 38/40 - 29121 Piacenza - Italy
Tel. and Fax: +39 0523 712319
› www.ostellodipiacenza.it

PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII HOSTEL
Mrs Daniela Ponzini
Cantone San Nazzaro 2/A - 29122 Piacenza (PC)
Tel. +39 (0)523 337989
@: info@ostellodipiacenza.it

PETIT HOTEL
Via Pennazzi, 5 - 29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 590405
@: petithotelpiacenza@gmail.com
› www.hotelpetit.it
**EURO HOTEL PIACENZA**  
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 29/F  
29100 Piacenza  
Tel. +39 0523 606 011  
@: info@hoteleuropiacenza.it

**HOTEL CITY PIACENZA**  
Via Emilia Parmense, 54  
29100 Piacenza  
Tel. +39 0523 579752  
› www.hotelcitypc.it

**PRICES**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Average fees/month</th>
<th>Other fees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residenza Gasparini</td>
<td>650 €</td>
<td>meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other residences</td>
<td>Depending on your family’s income</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-room apartments</td>
<td>300-350 € (bills excluded)</td>
<td>Estate agency fees (50% discount)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-room apartments</td>
<td>400-500 € (bills excluded)</td>
<td>Estate agency fees (50% discount)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-room apartments</td>
<td>550-650 € (bills excluded)</td>
<td>Estate agency fees (50% discount)</td>
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Cattolica regular courses

**ECTS**

You can select your courses by consulting our online course offer. Please note that CFU correspond to ECTS credits.

**Follow the steps:**
- Visit [http://piacenza.unicatt.it/offerta-formativa-facolta](http://piacenza.unicatt.it/offerta-formativa-facolta)
- Select your Faculty
- From “Corsi della Facoltà” select either the undergraduate (Laurea Triennale) or Graduate (Laurea Magistrale) offer
- Select the curriculum you are interested in
- Click on “PIANO DEGLI STUDI” (left)
- To view the course program, please select the Faculty and course name at the following link:
  [www4.unicatt.it/netgoal/web_programmi/ProgrammiUc.asp?SEDE=PC](http://www4.unicatt.it/netgoal/web_programmi/ProgrammiUc.asp?SEDE=PC)

As an international student you can take any course within any school at any level, Laurea Triennale (Undergraduate) or Laurea magistrale (Graduate).

You may also have a look at the Cattolica homepage:
[piacenza.unicatt.it/](http://piacenza.unicatt.it/)

**Registering for CATTOLICA courses**

You may attend as many courses as you want and within three weeks from the beginning of the lessons decide which courses you want to keep for the rest of the semester.

Attending a course does not mean you are supposed to take the exam.

For instance, you can follow 5 courses but decide to take 4 exams. Remember that you will not have any written proof of your attendance to the courses unless you take the corresponding exams.

*Note: You will not get any credit by UCSC International if you take a class but drop (or fail) the exam at the end of the semester.*

**THE ITALIAN GRADING SYSTEM**

The Italian Grading System ranges from 18/30 to 30/30. The highest mark is 30eLode (with distinction). All the exams under 18/30 are considered as “not passed” and thus are not registered on the final Transcript of Records.

1 ECTS corresponds to 1 CFU (Credit-Formativo Universitario).
Note: Academic calendar 2014/15

- **Economics and Law**
  > piacenza.unicatt.it/facolta/eco-nomia-calendario-accademico-precorsi-lezioni-e-esercitazioni

- **Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences**
  > piacenza.unicatt.it/facolta/agricia-calendario-precorsi-lezioni-esercitazioni-e-corsi-di-sostegno

- **Education Science**
  > piacenza.unicatt.it/facolta/scienze-della-formazione-calendario-accademico-precorsi-orario-delle-lezioni

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**FALL Semester**
- **Classes**: September - December.
- **Examination Session**: December - February

**SPRING Semester**
- **Classes**: February - May
- **Examination Session**: May - July
- **Extra Examination Session**: dates may vary according to the Faculty. Please check the Academic Calendar of your Faculty at
  > www.unicatt.it
UCSC International organizes an Italian Language and Culture Course, designed for students who want to learn, study and explore the Italian language and culture.

Further information about the courses and the Welcome Days date will be communicated directly via email as soon as possible.

For more information visit:
› http://www.ucscinternational.it/student-services-at-cattolica/students-services-piacenza-cremona/italian-language-culture-course-in-piacenza-cremona
Student life

Some of the activities organized throughout the semester include:

- Welcome Activities
- Happy Hours and Aperitivo
- Cooking Course
- Dinners
- Cultural and Social Events
- Trips

Living in Piacenza

Piacenza is a quite but dynamic city. People bike everywhere. The essence of Piacenza is as true today as in centuries past.

Piacenza is a beautiful city, a city which offers a multitude of cultural features that tourists rarely discover.

Piacenza is the real Italian city, where theaters and concerts pervade the atmosphere, where rivers, castles and hills are perfect locations for picnics and discoveries of real Italian food & wine.

Piacenza is a city to explore and a place to reflect. Piacenza is a city of people. A city full of life. The menus of Piacentini restaurants have influenced the world's finest cuisines.

Piacenza is a living, breathing, exciting city, friendly and welcoming.

Useful links:

- [www.ucscinternational.it](http://www.ucscinternational.it)
- [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)
- [www.comune.piacenza.it](http://www.comune.piacenza.it)
- [www.vivipiacenza.it](http://www.vivipiacenza.it)
- [www.informagiovanionline.it/emiliaromagna](http://www.informagiovanionline.it/emiliaromagna)
Public Transportation in Piacenza

BUS
The wide network of buses covers the entire city. It will allow you to access all major city attractions within 30 minutes.

TICKETS
All tickets for the public transportation system can be purchased at news kiosks, tobacco shops, or directly on the bus (by paying an overcharge).

TICKET COSTS
• One ride is 1.20 € each and is valid for 60 minutes (1.50 if bought directly on the bus)
• One-day pass ticket costs 3.50 €
• We recommend you to purchase the monthly transportation pass for 27 €
Additional information will be given at the Welcome days.

For further information visit the website:
› http://www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc
Situated at the heart of the Po Valley, in the lush and fertile region of Emilia-Romagna, Piacenza lies on the border between Lombardy and Piedmont, two of the most industrialized regions in the north of Italy, at a crucial crossroads for road and rail transport, both national and international.

Thanks to its easy access from both the south and the north of the country, Piacenza has always been an important center for commerce and transport.

**BY PLANE**

Once arrived at any of the Airports listed below, you may take a bus to Milano Centrale Railway Station (please check the Airport website for timetable, tickets and prices).

**Airports:**
- **Aeroporto Orio al Serio (BG)** - 210 km from Piacenza
  - [www.sacbo.it](http://www.sacbo.it)
- **Aeroporto di Linate (MI)** - 65 km from Piacenza
  - [www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/linate](http://www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/linate)
- **Aeroporto di Malpensa (MI)** - 100 km from Piacenza
  - [www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/Malpensa](http://www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/Malpensa)

**BY TRAIN**

From [Milano Centrale Railway Station](http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia21.html) take a train to Piacenza. Please check out the timetable at:

**BY BUS**

You may take a bus from Piacenza Railway Station to UCSC. Please check out timetables at:

If you prefer to take a taxi you can call the following numbers:
- Radio Taxi: (+39) 0523 591919
- Night hours Taxi service: (+39) 348.4485155

The cost from Piacenza Railway Station to UCSC Piacenza at day time is about 7.50 €.

**BY CAR**

- **Motorway A1** (Milano-Bologna): Exit “Piacenza Sud.”
- **Motorway A21** (Torino-Brescia): Exit “Piacenza Sud.”

From both exits, follow indications for Piacenza city center. Turn left at the first round-about, go straight ahead, then take the first exit on the right; the University is on the right (500 metres).
Money Matters

You may keep your bank account at home and use your visa check card at any Bancomat around the city. When withdrawing money from a Bancomat be careful of the people around you. We advise you to use Bancomats that are inside banks and not those right off the street. Unless necessary do not use Bancomats inside or near stations.

**BANK ACCOUNT AND CODICE FISCALE**

If you wish to open a bank account or rent an apartment you will need a Tax code/tax file number, Codice Fiscale (Please note that the Tax Code is free of charge.). This card is issued by the Agenzia delle Entrate - Via Modonesi 16, under presentation of a valid identity document and a copy of your Visa if you are a non-EU student. More information will be given at the Welcome Day and orientation sessions.

**AVERAGE COSTS (per semester)**

- **Accommodation***: 2,400 € to 3,300 €
- **Food**: 650 € to 1,000 €
- **Personal expenses**: 200 € to 400 € per month
- **Books**: 200 €
- **Local Transportation**: 108 €

* Cost may vary depending on the area, single or double room and possible program benefits.

**The university provides you with a badge (student card) which allows students to eat in the cafeteria at discounted prices.

- **Full meal**: 7.50 €/Lunch meal: 5 €
- **Pizza line**: 4.50 €

**AVERAGE COSTS IN TOWN**

- **Pizza & Beer**: 15 €
- **Cinema ticket**: 8.00 €
- **Ice-cream, gelato**: 2.00 €
- **Sandwich, panino**: 4.50 €
- **Coffee, caffè**: 1,00 €
MAIL

To locate a post office, Poste Italiane, look for the yellow and blue PT sign. For mailing cost information consult the Poste Italiane web site:
▶ www.poste.it

If you need to mail delicate materials we would advise you to send them by recommended mail, courier, or through express mail services, such as DHL, UPS, or FedEx. Receiving packages from US via priority mail can cost a lot in terms of taxes. Postal & customs taxes are very high depending on the weight and the value of the package's content.

Please note that if you are going to get packages delivered to our office, you are required to follow the procedure below:
1. Inform us that you are expecting a package at our office and the estimated delivery date;
2. Since our office is not authorized to keep cash money, you are kindly requested to leave us the amount you are supposed to pay at least a couple of days before the foreseen delivery date.

Please note that if you don't respect this procedure, UCSC International will not accept the package and it will be sent back to the post office headquarters.

TELEPHONE

The most convenient way to keep in touch with your new Italian friends and family back home is via cell phone. You can purchase an unlocked GSM phone back home and get an Italian SIM card at cell phone providers such as TIM, Vodafone or Wind. Only triband and quadband phones will work in Europe. Check with your home cell phone service provider to find out if your current cell phone (once unlocked) can support a foreign SIM card. Once in Italy, you may look into signing up for a plan or simply getting pre-paid/rechargeable service.

If you do not have a GSM phone purchased at home you may also buy one at a reasonable cost once in Italy.
International Office

At Cattolica we have so much to offer. Much more than can be contained in the few pages of this brochure. The people to take you to these faraway places are the same people who will first bring you to the unique land of Italy.

On paper they are just names. But once you are enrolled at Cattolica, the International Office Staff will soon become your advisor, mentor and friend. International Student Advisors are not only responsible for promoting the attractions and benefits of Cattolica, they are there for the duration of your time at Cattolica. And beyond.

Many of our past students have since started international networks endorsing the benefits of our beautiful and supportive university as a study destination, whether for a semester, a year, or years.

Whether your need or concern relates to your studies, experiences or needs, our purpose is to be both your first port of call and in the vast majority of cases, your answer.

We have a unique understanding of the challenges experience by International Students.

We give support and advice to all international students at the University and help you to have a happy and successful time in Piacenza.
Particularly, we will give you assistance regarding:

- VISA/Permit of stay
- Course registration
- Cultural adaptation and homesickness
- Any other problems that you may be experiencing

Should you have any problems or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Francesca Lucchi, the Incoming Student Advisor:

@: ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
UCSC International
Via Emilia Parmense, 84 - Piacenza 29122
Tel: +39 0523 599 436

Office hours:
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Tuesday/Thursday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

NB. If you are unable to come during the above office hours, you may send an email to:
@: ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it
to request an appointment for a different time.
We look forward to welcoming you in Piacenza

www.ucscinternational.it