



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

in ter na tio nal

students
guide



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FIRENZE

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guide

International students guide by

Welcome Service | Servizi agli ospiti stranieri

Coordinamento per le Relazioni Internazionali

Unità di Processo "Internazionalizzazione"

Comunicazione e public engagement

Unità Funzionale Prodotti e strumenti per la comunicazione Istituzionale e per gli studenti

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didacommunicationlab

Dipartimento di Architettura

Università degli Studi di Firenze

www.unifi.it | welcomeservice@unifi.it

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TOP 10 REASONS FOR STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

1

A young University with ancient roots

The University of Florence (UNIFI) is a relatively young Institution with ancient roots going back to the Studium Florentinum set up by the Florentine Republic in 1321. In 1364 the Studium became an imperial university. When the Medici came to power in Tuscany in 1472 it was exiled to Pisa.

In 1859, the University re-emerged as *Istituto di Studi Superiori* (Higher Institute of Vocational and Advanced Studies). In 1923 the *Istituto* was officially granted the title of University. Between 1924 and 1938 the University structured itself into Faculties. In 2013 with the new reform introduced by Law 240/2010 all Faculties have been abolished giving all responsibility to provide teaching and services to the Schools. The image of Solomon, fair and wise king, is the coat of arms of UNIFI since its origins. The current logo shows Solomon holding in his right hand a scepter with the fleur-de-lis.

2

Where cultural heritage meets innovation

Prominent graduates and illustrious figures who taught at the University of Florence include politicians, magistrates, business people, scientists and more. Not all universities are as lucky to have had such great people tread the campus. They occupy or had occupied key positions in the social, economical, political and cultural life of Italy or abroad:

- **François Carlo Antommarchi** | 5 July 1780 – 4 March 1838
Napoleon's physician from 1818 to his death in 1821, earned the diploma of Surgeon in 1812 from the University of Florence;
- **Francesco Saverio Borrelli** | 12 April 1930 – 20 July 2019
Italian magistrate, General Attorney of the Court of Appeal in Milan for 44 years;
- **Lamberto Dini** | 1 March 1931
Italian politician and economist. He was the 51st Prime Minister of Italy from 1995 to 1996 and Foreign Minister from 1996 to 2001;
- **Mario Draghi** | 3 September 1947
Italian Prime Minister, and Italian economist who served as President of the European Central Bank between 2011 and 2019. Before that, he served as the Chairman of the Financial Stability Board from 2009 to 2011 and Governor of the Bank of Italy from 2005 to 2011;
- **Domenico Fisichella** | 15 September 1935
Italian academic and politician, who served as Minister of Culture in the first cabinet of Silvio Berlusconi from 1994 to 1995;
- **Margherita Hack** | 12 June 1922 – 29 June 2013
Italian astrophysicist and scientific disseminator. The asteroid 8558 Hack, discovered in 1995, was named in her honor;
- **Indro Alessandro Raffaello Schizogene Montanelli**
22 April 1909 – 22 July 2001
Italian journalist and historian, considered the best Italian journalist of the 20th century;

- **Alessandro “Sandro” Pertini** | 25 September 1896 – 24 February 1990
Italian journalist, partisan and socialist politician who served as the seventh President of Italy from 1978 to 1985;
- **Giovanni Sartori** | 13 May 1924 – 4 April 2017
Italian political scientist specialized in the study of democracy and comparative politics;
- **Giovanni Spadolini** | 21 June 1925 – 4 August 1994
Republican Italian politician, the 44th Prime Minister of Italy, the first since 1945 not to be a member of the Christian Democrats, newspaper editor, journalist and historian;
- **Piero Luigi Vigna** | 1 August 1933 – 28 September 2012
Italian magistrate. From 1997 to 2005 was Chief of the Procura Nazionale Antimafia (National Antimafia Prosecution Office);
- **Giuliano Urbani** | 9 June 1937
Italian academic and politician. He was the minister of cultural heritage from 2001 to 2005.

Today's excellence

Four researchers from the University of Florence have been reported among the most cited scientists in the world by the US agency Clarivate Analytics: **Alessandro Maria Vannucchi**, professor of blood diseases of the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine - on the list since 2017; **Roberta Sessoli**, professor of general and inorganic chemistry of the Department of Chemistry “Ugo Schiff”. Not to mention **Paolo Nannipieri**, professor emeritus of agricultural chemistry, and **Andrea Scozzafava**, former professor of general and inorganic chemistry. The list of “Highly Cited Researchers” includes researchers who have written high impact scientific articles, most cited each year in their respective scientific fields.

3

Who we are: right here, right now

Today the University of Florence is one of the largest universities in the Italian university system.

Its population counts over 56,000 students (7% foreign students), about 900 PhD students and 800 research fellows.

Its staff is composed of 1.200 teachers and 500 researchers, 1.500 administrative and technical staff.

The University has a budget of around 404 million Euros per year of which 278 million come from State funding, 56 million from tuition fees and the rest from research and other institutional activities.

The University of Florence is made up of:

- **21 Departments** for academic research in 5 different areas:
 - Biomedical;
 - Scientific;
 - Social Sciences;
 - Technology;
 - Humanities and Education;
- **10 Schools** for the organization of didactic activities:
 - Agriculture;
 - Architecture;
 - Economics and Management;
 - Engineering;
 - Human Health Sciences;
 - Humanities and Education;
 - Law;
 - Mathematical Physical and Natural Sciences;
 - Political Sciences;
 - Psychology.

The Museum System

The University Museum System originates and draws its identity from the Museum of Natural History, the most important of the country. Consisting of places scattered over the historic centre of Florence and beyond, the Museum houses 8 million exhibits, some of which of outstanding scientific and naturalistic importance: from sixteenth-century herbaria and precious eighteenth-century waxworks, to fossil skeletons of elephants and collections of multicoloured butterflies. The establishment in 1775 of the first naturalistic museum open to the public, the Imperial and Royal Museum of Physics and Natural History, is due to the love for science and the passion for natural things of Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine. In the *Palazzo Torrigiani*, now home to '*La Specola*', the Medici collections of "*natural things*" were gathered and expanded and nature was shown in its entirety: from mineralogy to astronomy, through botany, zoology and anthropology. Based on this unitary vision of scientific knowledge, all such heritage, enriched by centuries of studies and research has merged into the Museum of Natural History, founded in 1984 with the aim of unifying the numerous collections held by the University of Florence.

Today there are three units that make up the Museum: '*Palazzo Nonfinito*', with the ethnic-anthropological and osteological collections, and the historical photographic archive; '*La Specola*', with the anatomical wax models, the litho-mineralogical and the zoological collections; '*La Pira*', with the geo-paleontological and botanical collections, and the Botanical Gardens.

Included in the Museum System are the Villa La Quiete complex and Villa Galileo in Arcetri. '*Villa La Quiete*, a blueprint of the history of the Medici House, devotion and female education. Preserves the historical and artistic heritage linked to the events of the *Montalve* - a congregation founded in the 17th century by Eleonora Ramirez de Montalvo, which became Sisters in 1939 - who have lived and looked after the *Villa* for over three centuries.

4

International dimension

'Villa Galileo' is the home where the great scientist spent the last part of his life, confined to house arrest by the condemnation of the Holy Office of 1633.

www.sma.unifi.it

Library System

The Library System consists of 5 large thematic libraries (Biomedical, Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology, Humanities) and Prato Campus. Over 3.5 million documents, including 88,163 periodicals, 156,968 e-books, 320 data banks, 6169 documents filed by the academic community in the institutional repository of the University of Florence FLORE (www.flore.unifi.it) are available as well as valuable antique volumes and prestigious collections. The system also offers access to a considerable Digital Library that can be searched online by registered users even outside the University campuses.

www.sba.unifi.it/changelang-eng.html

LENS and CERM

There are several centers and laboratories such as LENS (European Laboratory for Non-Linear Spectroscopy - www.lens.unifi.it) CERM (Magnetic Resonance Centre - www.cerm.unifi.it) and so on.

Firenze University Press

The University of Florence has set up its own publishing house called Firenze University Press – FUP which publishes the outcomes of academic research carried out by the University of Florence and by the national scientific community, with the aim to spread them in the academic circle both at national and international levels.

www.fupress.com

The University of Florence has signed over 500 Cooperation Agreements in over 100 foreign countries in order to promote reciprocal exchange of teachers, researchers, students and technical and administrative staff. Moreover, UNIFI has implemented 26 courses specifically designed to obtain double degrees and 2 joint degrees (see *Studying*). Its strategic goals include the participation in the “European Research Area” of which Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development are the main tools. UNIFI is one of the most active Italian universities in terms of projects and grants obtained. In the 7th Framework Programme, the EU funded about 150 projects for a total of over 40 million Euros. UNIFI has also submitted several proposals with a high success rate in the framework of the Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020 and other EU programmes.

As of December 2019, the University of Florence has over 70 H2020 ongoing projects and more than 90 other EU projects in the field of education, cooperation and joint initiatives. It also participates in several research programmes sponsored by international agencies, associations, foundations and other donors. In December 2018 it has been granted the European ‘HR Excellence in Research’ award. UNIFI is involved in more than 900 Erasmus Bilateral Agreements with partner Universities located in the member countries of the European Union, the member countries of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein), Turkey, Republic of Macedonia and Switzerland. Within each academic year there are about 900 young Europeans taking part in the Erasmus Programme that chose to study in Florence.

In 1999 our Institution was awarded the title of “European Centre of Excellence” by the European Union, in recognition of its specialization in courses dealing with European integration.

EUniWell

The University of Florence is partner in The European University of Well-Being – EUniWell. EUniWell unites 7 different universities and 102 associate partners drawn from 7 distinct regions of Europe. It presents an action-oriented response to well-being, grounded in research expertise, educational leadership and civic engagement to meet the challenge set out by the Council of the European Union and the OECD. EUniWell’s mission is to empower cutting-edge research, education and training and interact closely with society to enhance global and regional well-being in social, environmental, economic, and cultural terms as well as to promote internal well-being for each student and member of staff, for each educational programme, for each disciplinary field and department, for each campus and for the university as a whole.

www.euniwell.eu

Confucius Institute

Since 2014, the University of Florence has been hosting the Confucius Institute, stemmed from the collaboration between the University of Florence and the Tongji University of Shanghai. Recognized and funded by the Ministry of Education of China, the Confucius Institute is the official body for the teaching of Chinese language in the world. It also promotes cultural exchange activities.

Tuscany University Network

Since 2013 the University of Florence is a member of the Tuscany University Network – TUNE- whose mission is the promotion abroad of research and teaching activities performed in Tuscany.

CUCS Network

Since 2009 it participates in CUCS Network, which is currently made up of 30 Italian universities. CUCS network mission is to deepen the reflection about the expanding boundaries of the academic mission in terms of training, research and knowledge/ technology transfer willing to align them to new global challenges.

5 Studying

The University of Florence is a public university. The “credit” system in Italian courses deriving from the Bologna Process, is based on university credits (CFU). The system is based on the concept of “workload” and are equivalent to the ECTS credit system. The university credits (CFU) normally correspond to 25 hours of student work including individual study. The average load of academic work performed by a full-time student in one year is by convention set at 60 credits. The grading system for subject exams is based on a maximum of 30 points with 18/30 as the lowest passing grade. In case of excellence the maximum grade can be enhanced with “cum laude” (30 cum laude).

The final evaluation in order to obtain a degree is based on a maximum of 110 points, with 66/110 as the lowest passing grade. The calculation of the final grade of each candidate takes into account the grade point average obtained in the exams, as well as the quality of the work carried out as a research or in the final thesis which is discussed publicly before an examination board. In case of excellence the maximum grade can be enhanced by the board with “cum laude” (110 cum laude). Failure to pass an exam is not indicated in the “exam transcript”, therefore the student must retake the exam in order to achieve a positive result.

The Diploma Supplement which can be provided upon request is a document attached to the final qualification improving international “transparency” and facilitating academic and professional qualification recognition (diplomas, degrees and certificates etc.). It supplies a description of the nature, the level, the context, the contents and the status of the studies performed and successfully completed by the individual mentioned in the

original copy of the qualification to which such Supplement is attached. It is based on an international model developed through an initiative of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

The Diploma Supplement, issued in dual languages (Italian and English) is composed of eight sections containing information on the holder of the qualification, on the institution that issued it, on the level and the nature of the qualification, on the curriculum of the study course followed with the results obtained, on academic and professional rights, etc. There is also a section dedicated to a description of the national system of higher education related to the qualification obtained and studies completed.

The University of Florence offers more than 250 programmes, with courses at all levels and in all disciplinary areas:

- **First cycle** (Bachelor Degree; First level professional and vocational master)
- **Second cycle** (Master Degree and 5 or 6-year combined cycle degrees; Second level professional and vocational master)
- **Third cycle** (PhD programmes, specialization diploma and other post-graduate courses)

The University of Florence offers the following programmes in English:

Second cycle Degree/Two-year Master’s | *Laurea magistrale*

► **School of Agriculture**

- Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development

► **School of Architecture**

- Architecture (Curriculum “Architectural Design”)

6

Feeling at home in our university community

Among the values of the University of Florence equality, diversity, and inclusiveness play a primary role. The University and all its members are committed to ensure the wellbeing of its community, making the students feel at home, experiment a sense of belonging and fully enjoy their stay. Students can participate in music activities, such as the Choir or the Orchestra, watch the performances of the University Theatre Company "*Binario di Scambio*", enjoy the programme of musical performances and keynote lectures promoted by the University on Sundays, take advantages of the sporting facilities, meet people in university canteens to which the students can access once they have a canteen card and enjoy food at reasonable price.

- **Music, Choir and Orchestra**
corouniversitariofirenze@unifi.it
- **University Theatre Company**
binario.scambio@gmail.com and spettacolo@unifi.it
- **Sport facilities**
www.cus.firenze.it
- **Canteens**
www.dsu.toscana.it

Main Social Media

The University of Florence has official accounts on Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Behance, Google+, Issuu, Instagram and LinkedIn.

- ▶ **School of Economics and Management**
 - Design of Sustainable Tourism Systems
 - Economics and Development
 - Finance and Risk Management
- ▶ **School of Engineering**
 - Geo-Engineering
- ▶ **School of Humanities and Education**
 - Geography, Spatial Management, Heritage for International Cooperation
- ▶ **School of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences**
 - Advanced Molecular Sciences
 - Computer Science (Curriculum: "Resilient and Secure Cyber Physical Systems")
- ▶ **School of Political Sciences**
 - International Relations and European Studies

The academic calendar is based on an academic year divided in two semesters. The classes of the first semester usually start in mid-September and finish in mid-December. Those of the second semester usually start in March and end in May. The academic calendar changes every year: all details are normally made available around the month of August on the university web site.

Some of the sub-units belonging to departments or school, have their own pages, mainly on FB. Social Media accounts, however, do not substitute student and front offices.
www.unifi.it/social

CESPD

As a special unit, the Study and Research Centre for Disability Issues (CESPD) was established to receive student with disabilities, acknowledging their needs and planning the necessary actions to adopt as well as to provide services to enable full access to the resources offered during their academic career. Moreover, in each School one or more academic staff oversee those with disability issues.
www.cespd.unifi.it

Opening ceremony of the academic year

An official ceremony is organized at the beginning of every academic year giving the students the opportunity to meet the President (*Rettore*) and get acquainted with salient aspects of the academic future. On that occasion the students will be introduced to the multicultural tutors at their disposal for any kind of learning issues, information about students' association and so on during all their stay.

7

Students testimonials



I am Amirnezam Amiri a new full scholarship PhD student at Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Florence, since November 2019. I was born in August 1992 in Teheran, IRAN. I will stay here till the end of my PhD, 2022. I selected this university because of one main reason: Super-expert scientists in my field of studies. The University of Florence is a particular place for having both expert scientists and great communities which they are two prominent items for each student. I expect myself to exclude three items during my studies to take back:

- 1. Learning about how we should think in science to find shiny perspective in issues;*
- 2. Learning about the most important scientific/technical subjects in my field of interest;*
- 3. To be a member of big international communities/scientific groups for collaboration with other experts.*

You can probably think all mentioned items will be reached in any places but it does not seem. The University of Florence, at least the department of Physics and Astronomy, is one of the rare regions where you can strongly find them and make your best future opportunities for being an expert person in your field. From my point of view, everything goes well in the case of welcome service duties and I honestly think that this organization is one of the best social services/work which I have ever seen in the world.



Amirnezam Amiri, Iran

8

Here for U

“

I'm having a two-year postdoc position at the department of mathematics and informatics 'Ulisse Dini'. Here, I have the opportunity to work with one of the top scientists in the field in a very friendly atmosphere. I feel I was given a lot of freedom which enables me to develop scientific independence and to fully focus on my research. I also enjoy the Italian lifestyle, coffee culture, the soul of the city of Florence and the breathtaking Tuscany's countryside.

”

Vit Musil, Czech Republic

“

My name is Juan Torres Prados and I am from University of Granada, Spain. I did my last university degree course in Florence, at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, and I am so grateful with this institution and all the people that works in it. I remember all the trips, museums, classes... all the experiences, and I would repeat them a thousand times if I could. I will remember it as a decisive part of my life and I invite to everyone who is interested in go and to learn by the way I did in Florence, the way of learning by every step you do.

”

Juan Torres Prados, Spain

Welcome Service | *Servizi agli ospiti stranieri*

The University of Florence does not have any lodging facilities of its own. However, to facilitate its guests in the search for a suitable accommodation, the Servizi agli ospiti stranieri - Welcome Service can book you in one of its student residences:

- **Residenza Via Romana**
via Romana, 7-13 | Florence
- **Residenza M. Luzi**
piazza Dallapiccola, 6 | Florence
- **Calamandrei University Residence**
Residenza Universitaria Calamandrei
viale Morgagni, 51 | Florence
- **Santa Marta Benedictine Monastery**
Monastero delle Benedettine di Santa Marta
via Santa Marta, 7 | Florence

Advices on reduced price facilities can be given to the guest as well as info about other facilities:

- **Evergreen Residence**
piazza Dallapiccola, 6 | Florence
- **The Student Hotel Florence**
viale Spartaco Lavagnini, 70-72 | Florence
florence@thestudenthotel.com
- **Campusx Florence**
viale Giovanni Battista Morgagni, 51 | Florence
info.firenze@campusx.it
and address the students to Housing Online Platforms

- **Camplus Florence**

via del Romito, 5-7 | Florence
Azienda Diritto allo Studio DSU Toscana
(Tuscan Regional Board for the Right to University Education)
dsutoscana@postacert.toscana.it

► *contacts*

Welcome Service | *Servizi agli ospiti stranieri*

Via della Pergola, 60 | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 2756969 | welcomeservice@unifi.it

International Desk

The International Desk provides a first point of contact for all international students whose country of residence lies outside of the European Union or the European Economic Area. All enquiries from EU-resident prospective students should be addressed to the Student Administration Office of the School they wish to apply to or the Erasmus front desks of their School if they are Erasmus students.

The International Desk serves students from all Schools.

► *contacts*

International Desk

via della Pergola, 60 | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 275 6962/6963/6964/6965 | internationaldesk@unifi.it

Mobilità Internazionale and International Relations Offices of the Schools

provide information about Erasmus + Programme.

► *contacts*

Mobilità Internazionale

via della Pergola, 60 | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 2756975/6976 | erasmus@adm.unifi.it

International Relations Offices of the Schools

- **Agriculture** | *Agraria*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali, Dean's Office
piazzale delle Cascine, 18 | 50144 | Florence
(+39) 055 2755716 | erasmus@agraria.unifi.it

- **Architecture** | *Architettura*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali, S. Teresa complex
via della Mattonaia, 8 - Ground floor | Florence
(+39) 055 27554282 | archint@unifi.it

- **Economics and Management** | *Economia*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
piazza Ugo di Toscana, 5 | 50127 | Florence
Building D15, 3rd Floor, Room 3.02
(+39) 055 275 9763/9764
outgoing: relint@economia.unifi.it
incoming: incoming@economia.unifi.it

- **Engineering** | *Ingegneria*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
via S. Marta, 3 - Ground Floor | 50139 | Florence
(+39) 055 2758987 | international@ingegneria.unifi.it

- **Humanities and Education** | *Studi Umanistici e della Formazione*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
via Laura, 48 | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 2756127/6488 | erasmus@st-umaform.unifi.it

- **Human Health Sciences** | *Scienze della Salute Umana*

Servizio Relazioni internazionali - courses of former Faculty of Medicine and Surgery | *Medicina e Chirurgia*
Careggi Hospital, Pavillion H3 - 1st Floor, Room 120 | 50134 | Florence
(+39) 055 275 1955/1956 | relint@sc-saluteumana.unifi.it

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali - courses of the former Faculty of Pharmacy | *Farmacia*
Department of Pharmacy, Sciences Campus
via Ugo Schiff, 6 | 50019 | Sesto Fiorentino
(+39) 055 457 3672/3673 | relint@sc-saluteumana.unifi.it

- **Law** | *Giurisprudenza*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
via Pandette, 32 | 50127 | Florence
(+39) 055 2759053 | relint@giurisprudenza.unifi.it

- **Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences** | *Scienze Matematiche, Fisiche e Naturali*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
Plesso didattico Viale Morgagni, 40-44 | 50134 | Florence
(+39) 055 2751349 | relint@scienze.unifi.it

- **Political Sciences** | *Scienze Politiche*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
via delle Pandette, 32 | 50127 | Florence
(+39) 055 2759082/083/084 | relint@scpol.unifi.it

- **Psychology** | *Psicologia*

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali
via della Torretta, 16 | 50137 | Florence
(+39) 055 2755374 | ripsico@unifi.it

The University Language Centre

Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (CLA) - organises Italian language courses throughout the academic year.

- ▶ *contacts*

CLA

Via degli Alfani, 58 | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 2756910 | cla@cla.unifi.it | www.cla.unifi.it

Centro di Cultura per Stranieri

offers Italian language courses in four levels (foundation, intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced), as courses of Italian culture.

- ▶ *contacts*

CCS

Via degli Alfani, 6/b | 50121 | Florence
(+39) 055 275 6939 | cecustra@unifi.it | www.ccs.unifi.it

Multicultural tutors

students speaking the most used languages for international exchanges, help in the early stage of foreign integration in Florence. They combine their subject area expertise with the necessary language and cultural skills to communicate with foreign students in the most common languages and work towards creating self-motivated independent students. Together with the International Relations Offices of the Schools and the staff from the International Relations Central Area, the multicultural tutors help their peers to adjust to a different environment by providing both academic and non-academic support, give information about university services and city life and offer fully assistance on foreign student general issues.

SIAF

the University IT System, offers log-in credentials, computer literacy courses at various levels, and different topics, such as internet security, web design, computer graphics, CAD, database design, operating systems and programming languages. Students can enroll in these courses at special conditions.

9

The city

The city is the capital of the region of Tuscany, easy reachable by car, train and plane due the location of the airport Amerigo Vespucci right in town. Today Florence can count not only a glorious past but it is also an important centre for arts and crafts, commerce and industry and is committed to be a “smart” city. Florence was founded by the Romans in the first century B.C. It reached its highest levels of civilization in the 15th century under the Medici family, who later became the Grand Dukes of Tuscany and conferred splendour to the city for over three centuries. The Grand Duchy of the Medici was succeeded in the 18th century by that of the House of Lorraine. In 1860 Tuscany became part of the Kingdom of Italy of which Florence was the capital from 1865 to 1871. Florence has an exceptional artistic patrimony which is glorious testimony to its secular civilization. It gave birth to:



Dante Alighieri (1265 - 1321), an Italian poet. His *Divine Comedy*, originally called *Comedia* (modern Italian: *Commedia*) and later christened *Divina* by Giovanni Boccaccio, is widely considered the most important poem of the Middle Ages and the greatest literary work in the Italian language. Dante's main purpose in writing the *Commedia* was to preach the necessity of a moral and religious renewal for everybody, in order to get ready

for the after-life and to ascend to Heaven, eternally saved. Dante acts as a prophet who speaks on behalf of God to the whole mankind.



Giovanni Boccaccio (1313 - 1375) an Italian writer, poet and an important Renaissance humanist. He wrote several notable works, mostly in Tuscan vernacular and some in Latin including *The Decameron* and *On Famous Women*.



Filippo Brunelleschi (1377 - 1446) is considered the founding father of Renaissance architecture, and is recognized to be the first modern engineer, planner, and sole construction supervisor. He is most famous for designing the dome of the Florence Cathedral, and for the development of the mathematical technique of linear perspective in art which governed pictorial depictions of space until the late 19th century and influence of the rise of modern science.

10

Experience the most of "Italianness"



Leonardo Da Vinci (1452 - 1519) an Italian polymath of the Renaissance whose areas of interest included invention, drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, paleontology and cartography. He has been variously called the father of paleontology and architecture, and he is widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time.



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475 - 1564), known best as simply Michelangelo was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance.

Last but not least, studying at the University of Florence and becoming a part of its community is an opportunity to experience the most of our culture and to bring it back home. Studying abroad is a thrilling experience that students usually never forget! Experiencing a new culture is like stepping into a whole new world. At the University of Florence students are exposed to local language, smells, flavours, colors, sights, sounds, and people. Who doesn't want to have a second language under their belt or the ability to step inside the mind of Italian culture to see things from a whole new perspective? Moreover, spending some time in a foreign university gives students an advantage and a competitive edge in the work field and often opens many doors. In the University of Florence students can expand their circle of friends, gain new skills, learn to empathize and boost their creativity experiencing Italian and Florentine architecture, art forms, music and food.

“*The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page*”

St. Augustine

“*Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts*”

Mark Twain

YOUR HANDBOOK

VISA and residence permit

If you are a student from the EU, Switzerland, EEA, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein you are not required to do any formalities for stays up to 90 days. Before departure, you must verify that your ID or passport is valid for travel outside your country and for the entire period of your stay in Italy. Upon your arrival you are requested to file a declaration of presence within 8 business days of arrival with the Police Headquarters (*Questura*) of the province in which you are lodging, please use the correct form. If you are staying in hotels and other reception facilities, the declaration of presence is handled by the reception facility upon check-in, a copy of which is supplied to you to be displayed to authorities upon request. If you stay more than 90 days, in addition to what above specified, you should register at the *Anagrafe* (public records office) upon your arrival and submit specific documents. You should contact the office beforehand.

If you come from countries outside the EU, EEA, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein you should request entry VISA for study purposes (also if you are applying for a PhD, University Professional Master Course, Post-Graduate Specialization School Diploma and Advanced Training Course) at the Italian Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence. If you stay beyond 90 days a resident permit, issued by the Police Headquarters (*Questura*) is also requested. You should submit the request within 8 business days by using the free yellow kit available at post offices. Afterwards you should enroll in the *Anagrafe* (public records office) of your town of residence in Italy.

► useful contacts

Portale Immigrazione | www.portaleimmigrazione.it

Call Center 800 309 309 (for general information) 24 hours a day

Toll Free number 803 160 (information on certified Post Offices)

For information on the possibility of obtaining a visa for study purposes

www.vistoperitalia.esteri.it | <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it>

Health care and insurance

If you are a student from an EEA country (EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) you are insured through your own national health service. Before leaving your home country you should bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or ask for it if you don't have it yet. The following link is useful for any kind of matter concerning mobility in Europe.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=it>

If you are not a student from an EEA country (European Economic Area) or if you don't have a complete health coverage you should choose your own health insurance plan.

As an international student, from within and outside the EU, enrolled at the University of Florence you can register to the National Health Service (*Servizio Sanitario Nazionale - SSN*) for the duration of your studies. The registration entitles you to choose a General Practitioner and to receive the same healthcare services as any Italian citizen.

The registration expires on the 31 December of every year and has a flat cost of Eur 149.77 (to be paid by postal slip on account n° 289504 - account name: *Regione Toscana*- description of payment: *iscrizione volontaria SSR anno 202x*).

If you are non-EU citizen you need to have a resident permit “for study purposes”; if the resident permit expires before 31 December, the registration will expire in the same date. It will be extended at no extra cost once the permit is renewed. As a foreign student if you wish to utilize the services of the health system, you need to register by submitting the necessary documents listed below to any of the “*Sportelli dell’Anagrafe Sanitaria*”:

EU students: ID and codice fiscale (tax ID number), self-declaration of the school of affiliation, receipt of payment of enrolment fee, statistical form as per D.M 8.10.1986.

Non-EU students: resident permit “for study purposes” and codice fiscale (tax ID number), receipt of payment of enrolment fee, statistical form as per D.M 8.10.1986.

For more info you can refer to your local health office and visit www.asf.toscana.it

► *useful contacts*

Ufficio Stranieri

ASL 10 via Gramsci, 561 | Sesto Fiorentino
(+39) 055 6930111 | ufficio.stranieri@asf.toscana.it

AOUC Careggi

The main hospital is AOUC Careggi. There is a desk dedicated to foreign citizens.

► *contacts*

Foreigners’Hospitalization Office | *Ufficio Spedalità Stranieri*

via Largo Brambilla, 3 | Florence
Pavilion 2 NIC (Main Entrance)
(+39) 055 794 9888/7057

All students who are regularly enrolled in Bachelor and Master’s degree courses are insured by the University’s cumulative accident policy that covers injuries occurred during institutional activities, including learning and practical activities, internships, participation in international programmes (e.g. *Erasmus*), trainings, site inspections, measurements, even by third parties, provided they are related to the study programmes, properly authorized and certified.

The Tax Identification Number | *Codice Fiscale*

The tax identification number (*codice fiscale*) is a code to identify citizens in their dealings with the Italian Public Administration. Every Italian citizen is issued with one by default at birth, but also foreigners residing in Italy are required to have one, for example to obtain a residence permit, open a bank account, register for the National Health Service, rent an apartment, request a telephone line, etc. The tax identification number is issued free of charge by the Italian Revenue Agency by filling out a specific form that you can download from the web site.

- *The request can be submitted directly by the person concerned to*
Revenue Agency | *Agenzia delle Entrate*
Direttorato Provinciale di Firenze
via Santa Caterina d'Alessandria, 23 | 50129 | Florence
(+39) 055 478 7111 | dp.firenze@agenziaentrate.it

EU/EEA citizens must show a valid passport or equivalent ID; non-EU / EEA citizens must have a valid passport with appropriate visa (if required) as well as a photocopy of the passport (of the pages clearly showing personal data and visa) and/or residence permit. Alternatively, the tax identification number can be requested before arrival to Italy from the Italian diplomatic authorities in the country of residence. Foreign citizens entering Italy with a research visa will receive a certificate of attribution of the tax number at the time of the convocation to the Immigration Desk (*Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione - SUI*).

More details on the web site of the *Agenzia delle Entrate* (Italian Revenue Agency).
www.agenziaentrate.it

Opening a bank account | *Conto corrente*

To open a bank account, you must be over eighteen years old, possess a valid identity document and the Italian tax ID number and you must have not been convicted for bankruptcy. Bank account terms and conditions vary from bank to bank: in most cases, a debit card (*Bancomat*) is issued as well as a cheque-book (*libretto degli assegni*). In some banks a small deposit of money is required for opening the account. In any case it is advisable to contact the banks directly to acquire the necessary information considering that each institute can offer different solutions.

Other useful phone numbers active 24/7 and free of charge

- NHS Emergency number: 118
- *Carabinieri*: 112
- Police | *Polizia*: 113
- Fire brigade | *Pompieri*: 115
- Sexual harassment: violence and stalking help on line: 1522

Maps of University sites



► www.unifi.it/vp-10508-sedi-e-trasporti.html

Italian Public Holidays

- 1 and 6 January
- Easter Monday
- 25 April
- 1 May
- 2 and 24 June
- 15 August
- 1 November
- 8, 25 and 26 December

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	ITALIAN
Good morning/Good afternoon/Good evening/ Good night	Buongiorno/Buon pomeriggio/ Buona sera/Buonanotte
Excuse me/Sorry/Please/ Thank you/You are welcome	Scusami/Mi dispiace/Per favore/Grazie/Prego
How are you? / I am fine thanks/ I am not well	Come stai?/ Sto bene grazie/ Non sto bene.
What's your name? My name is Paul/I come from Canada/ Do you speak English?	Come ti chiami?/Mi chiamo Paul/Vengo dal Canada/ Parli inglese?
Do you have any room available? /Double room/ Single room/ Hotel/ Guesthouse/Flat/Youth hostel/Campsite	Avete camere libere?/Camera doppia/Camera singola/Hotel/ Pensione/Appartamento/ Ostello/Campeggio
How much is per night/per person? Is breakfast included?	Quanto costa per notte/ per persona? / La colazione è inclusa?
A table for two, please/What would you recommend? The bill please	Un tavolo per due, per favore/ Cosa consiglia?/Il conto per favore
I am vegetarian/Vegan/I don't eat meat/What's in the dish?	Sono vegetariano/Vegano/Non mangio carne/Che ingredienti ci sono nel piatto?
I am intolerant/Allergic/ Gluten free/Lactose-free	Sono intollerante/Allergico/ Senza glutine/Senza lattosio

Peanuts/Crustaceans/Broad beans/Shellfish/Wheat/Milk/Dairy product/Nuts/Fish/Egg	Arachidi/Crostacei/Fave/Frutti di mare/Grano/Latte/Latticini/Noci/Pesce/Uova
Where is the station?/ Where can I buy a ticket?/ When is the next train?	Dov'è la stazione?/Dove posso comprare un biglietto?/ Quando è il prossimo treno?
Is there a toilet?/ Can I get in?	C'è una toilette?/Posso entrare?
Could you help me please?/ I am lost	Mi può aiutare per favore? Mi sono perso
Leave me alone	Lasciami stare
There has been an accident	C'è stato un incidente
Call the police/Ambulance/ Doctor	Chiama la polizia/Ambulanza/ Dottore
Aspirin/Antibiotics/Anti-inflammatory/ Penicillin/ Insect stings	Aspirina/Antibiotico/ Antinfiammatori/ Penicillina/ Punture di insetti
What time is it?/ It's 8 o'clock/ It's half past 8	Che ora è?/ Sono le otto/Sono le otto e mezzo
Morning/Afternoon/Evening/ Night/ Yesterday/Today/ Tomorrow	Mattina/Pomeriggio/Sera/ Notte/Ieri/Oggi/Domani
Monday/Tuesday/ Wednesday/Thursday/ Friday/Saturday/Sunday	Lunedì/Martedì/Mercoledì/ Giovedì/Venerdì/Sabato/ Domenica

I'd like to buy/How much is it?/It is too expensive	Vorrei comprare/Quanto costa?/E' troppo costoso
Bank/Credit card/ATM/Tourist office	Banca/Carta di credito/ Bancomat/Ufficio turistico
I want to go to	Voglio andare
Does this bus stops at..?	Questo autobus ferma...?
At what time does it leave?/ Arrive?	A che ora parte?/Arriva?
Is this the road to...?	E' questa la strada per...?
What's the address...?	Qual è l'indirizzo..?
Can you show me on the map?	Puoi mostrarmi sulla cartina?
zero/one/two/three/four/ five/six/seven/eight/nine/ten	Zero/Uno/Due/tre/Quattro/ Cinque/Sei/Sette/Otto/Nove/ Dieci
A hundred/a thousand/ten thousand/ a million	Cento/Mille/Diecimila/Un milione
Car/Bicycle/Boat/Motorcycle/ Plane	Auto/Bicicletta/Barca/Moto/ Aereo
A ticket/1st class/2nd class/ one way/return	Un biglietto/prima classe/ seconda classe/solo andata/ andata e ritorno
I will learn Italian. I promise!	Imparerò l'italiano. Lo prometto!



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE