



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GUIDE

 internationalstudents@unict.it

 Piazza Università, 2 95131 - Catania



**Università
di Catania**



ABOUT US

UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA (UNICT)

Established in 1434, the University of Catania is the oldest in Sicily. Plenty of historical university buildings are spread out in the old city centre, in stark contrast though with the modern hi-tech campus La Cittadella. UNICT offers an attractive portfolio of academic titles and is strongly committed to the creation of modern laboratories where the ancient Mediterranean culture meets most of the modern and state-of-the-art technologies for advanced training.

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CHAPTER

01

1. University of Catania at a glance



With an average enrolment of 38,000 students, the University of Catania has been around for hundreds of years since 1434 and is oldest one in Sicily. The educational system is run and overseen by 17 departments. The Medical School for starters, and by two other educational units respectively located in the city of Ragusa and in Syracuse. Another special unit is the Scuola Superiore di Catania, a higher education centre based on excellence that was founded in 1998 for the selection and the recognition of the brightest young minds, offering a variety of studies including analysis, research and experimentation

The University of Catania has 17 Departments and 2 Didactic Units that, additionally to the traditional assignments of scientific research, are in charge of the organization and management of educational activities.





2.

The Italian Higher Education system

ACADEMIC CALENDAR The academic year in Italy is made up of two semesters. The first semester starts in September/October and ends in January/February. The second semester starts in February and ends in July. The actual start and finish dates will vary in the different universities but each semester lasts around 20 weeks and is made up of a teaching period lasting around 14 weeks and an exam period lasting around 6 weeks.

GRADING SYSTEM Examinations are graded according to a scale ranging from 0 to 30, with 18 as a pass mark. A “cum laude” may be added to the highest grade (30; 30 e lode) as a mention of special distinction. All examination results are used to calculate the overall degree mark on a scale of 0 – 110. The final result is based on exam results plus the presentation of a project or dissertation in front of a Board of Examiners. The pass mark is 66 and students who obtain full marks of 110 may also be awarded ‘summa cum laude’ (110 e lode).

EXAMS Exams are held after the teaching period and are mainly oral exams although some courses will have written tests taking place during the semester or before the oral exam. Each exam will have a number of dates offered during the exam period and students can choose which date they wish to take the exam. They are also entitled to turn down a mark and take the exam again if they are not satisfied with the result. Rules apply as to how often a student can take an exam within an examination period.

INTERNSHIPS & CONTACTING PROFESSORS To apply for internships where you can also pursue a thesis under a professor, you typically reach out to professors either through email or by visiting their offices as listed on the university website, specific to each department. Additionally, you can participate in Erasmus internships by applying directly to companies through a professor's referral, via LinkedIn, or through the university portal where several internship opportunities are listed.

CHAPTER 2

2. Before arriving

2.1 Apply for UNICT courses

In consideration of the provisions sent to higher education institutions by the Minister for Universities and Research and relating to the start of the academic year 2026/27 all lessons will be held in presence modality.

2.1.1 Apply for a Bachelor's degree or a single cycle Master's Degree (Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture, Pharmacy, CTF, Law)

First, be aware that all our Bachelor courses (apart from Medicine and Surgery) are in Italian and a B2 knowledge of the language is required in order to enrol.

These are the steps to follow if you want to enrol at the University of Catania:

- Check the list of available seats to see whether there are available places in the course you are interested in. The pre-enrolment can be carried out for one course only among those indicated.
- If you need a pre-admission letter for the Italian Embassy or you want to check if your high school diploma is suitable for admission, fill in our online form (at this page you find the link: <https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/iscriversi-un-corso-di-laurea-o-laureamagistrale-ciclo-unico> for the evaluation of the application by entering your personal and academic data and upload the required documentation (copy of the passport, High school Diploma translated in Italian and possibly Statement of comparability or Declaration Of Value and language Certificates)
- Once you have entered your data, uploaded the documents, and submit the online application form for administrative review you will soon receive an email

The academic offer:



informing you of whether you can proceed to pre-enrolment through the pre-enrolment system. The request of the eligibility letter is not compulsory to enter a bachelor's degree!

- Apply for pre-enrolment through the www.universitaly.it website, once the University will approve the pre-enrolment application you will be able to ask the embassy for a type D visa "Application to Italian Universities".
- Contact the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was awarded to obtain the Dichiarazione di valore in loco (DOV-Declaration of Value) of your Secondary School leaving qualification.
- If you prefer you can eventually contact an ENIC/NARIC evaluation centre to obtain a Statement of comparability, this procedure is online. For Italy, you can do it through the Cimea website: <https://www.cimea.it/>
- Contact the Foreign Students Office internationalstudents@unict.it to check the procedure to register for an entry test and if you have to take an Italian language test.

For admission to Medicine and Surgery in English language course check the course web page.

Remember that for Single-cycle Degree Courses with national programming both in Italian and English (Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture, Building Engineering-Architecture), in addition to submitting the pre-registration application at the competent Diplomatic Representation, it is also compulsory to register for the admission tests on the Universitaly website.

For more information: <https://www.unict.it/en/education/bachelors-degrees>

2.2 Apply for a Master's Degree

Master's degree courses are aimed at providing students with an advanced level of education for the exercise of a highly qualified activity in specific areas. Master Degree courses last 2 years, and the degree is awarded to students who have earned 120 credits.

Students that want to enrol in a Master degree course must possess a suitable foreign university or post-secondary qualification (Bachelor's Degree) and should possess curricular requirements and personal competencies and skills.

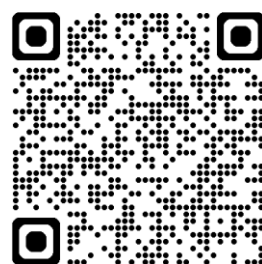
Medicine and Surgery
course page:



Information about
Bachelor's Degree:



Information about
Master's Degree:



2.2.1 Apply for a Master's Degree in English

The University of Catania offers 10 Masters' Degree courses taught in English:

- LM 17 Physics
- LM 22 Chemical Engineering for Industrial Sustainability
- LM 25 Automation Engineering and Control of Complex Systems
- LM 26 R Construction Management and Safety
- LM 27 Communications Engineering
- LM 28 Electrical Engineering
- LM 29 Electronic Engineering
- LM 62 Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations
- LM 69 R Agriculture Science and Technology
- LM-DATA Data Science for Management
-

The call for non-EU students living abroad to enrol in English taught Masters' Degree courses is published each year in February on our website (<https://www.unict.it/en/education/masters-degrees>):

- Follow the instructions set in the Call for admissions in order to present your admission request and if admitted confirm your seat.
- You'll receive an admission letter, and you'll have to apply for pre-enrolment through the www.universitaly.it website once you received the approval from the University. Ask the embassy for a type D visa "Application to Italian Universities".
- Contact the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was awarded in order to obtain the Dichiarazione di valore in loco (DOV – Declaration of Value) of the qualification required for admission to the chosen programme.
- If you prefer you can eventually contact an ENIC/NARIC evaluation centre in order to obtain a Statement of comparability, this procedure is online. For Italy, you can do it through Cimea website: <https://www.cimea.it/>

2.2.2 Apply for a Master's Degree in Italian

A B2 knowledge of the Italian language is required to enrol.

These are the steps to follow if you want to enrol at the University of Catania:

- Check the list of available seats to see whether there are available places in the course you are interested in. The pre-enrolment can be carried out for one course only among those indicated.
- Fill in our online form (at this page you find the link

<https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/iscriversi-un-corso-di-laurea-magistrale>) for the evaluation of the application by entering your personal and academic data and upload the required documentation (copy of the passport, Transcript of records, Syllabus, and language Certificates are compulsory). Possibly attach also Statement of comparability or DOV.

- Once you have entered your data and uploaded the documents, then proceed to submit the online application form for administrative and academic review. You will receive an email (normally within 30 days and not later than 2 months) informing you of whether you can proceed to pre-enrolment at the embassy.
- Apply for pre-enrolment through the www.universitaly.it website once you received the approval from the University. Ask the embassy for a type D visa "Application to Italian Universities".
- Contact the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was awarded in order to obtain the Dichiarazione di valore in loco (DOV- Declaration of Value) of your Secondary School leaving qualification and of your Bachelor's Degree.
- If you prefer you can eventually contact an ENIC/NARIC evaluation centre in order to obtain a Statement of comparability, this procedure is online. For Italy, you can do it through Cimea website: <http://www.cimea.it/>
- Contact the Foreign Students Office internationalstudents@unict.it to check the procedure to register for an entry test and if you have to take an Italian language test.

2.3 Pre-Enrolment procedure

The pre-enrolment application for the issue of visas to candidates of study courses at Italian universities must be submitted using the UNIVERSITALY portal (www.universitaly.it) by the 30th July of each year. **The preliminary acceptance by the university does not confer any right to obtain a visa.**

2.3.1 Pre-Enrolment request for a Bachelor Degree or a single cycle Master Degree

Students interested in a Bachelor's Degree or a single cycle Master's Degree course should access the UNIVERSITALY portal and fill in the related "pre-enrolment application" which must be submitted subsequently to the Italian Mission of the place of residence once validated digitally by the university of reference. For those study courses where a unique national access test is necessary (Medicine and Surgery, Dentistry and Dental Prostheses, Veterinary Medicine and specific courses to become an Architect), the pre-enrolment request is to be considered automatically presented to all the other Universities indicated at the time of enrolment for the test as alternatives to the first choice.

To the competent diplomatic-consular Missions you should present:

- original copy of final secondary education qualification, obtained after at least 12 scholastic study years, or a fully legal substitute certificate;
- certificate declaring the pass grade of an eventual special academic competence exam eventually required for entry to University in the Country of origin;
- two photographs (of which one must be authenticated by the Italian Mission having jurisdiction for that territory);
- a summary of the pre-enrolment request as validated by the university.

2.3.2 Pre-Enrolment request for a Master's Degree

Students interested in a Master degree course must register on the UNIVERSITALY portal and pre-enrol. They will then communicate to the Italian Mission in the country of origin the summary of the pre-enrolment application generated within the UNIVERSITALY portal, as validated by the institution of higher education.

To the competent diplomatic-consular Missions you should present:

- academic qualification gained from a University or post-secondary qualification gained in a non-university Higher Institute which allows them to proceed in loco to further studies at academic institutions at the next level;
- certificate released by the competent University declaring the exams passed, as well as, for each subject, detailed programmes for the completion of said qualifications;
- two photographs (of which one must be authenticated by the competent Italian Mission for that territory);
- admission letter;
- the summary of the pre-enrolment request as validated by the University.

2.4 Study visa

The procedures for issuing these visas must be concluded, normally, by 30 November 20xx, to allow the effective enrolment of international students. To obtain an entry visa for STUDY purposes for University Enrolment (type D "national") and, subsequently, of a residency permit, the foreign student must demonstrate being in possession of the following requisites:

- Economic means for subsistence during the planned stay. These means are varied depending on the year. You should consult the Italian Representative of your country. The availability in Italy of such means of support must be proven through personal or parental economic guarantees or provided by Italian Institutions or Authorities of proven liquidity,

including Universities, local Government, foreign Institutions or Authorities deemed reliable by the Italian diplomatic Mission; they cannot be demonstrated through the exhibition of a bank guarantee, or of a guarantee insurance policy, and neither with cash or guarantees supplied by third parties.

- The availability of the necessary sum for repatriation, which can also be demonstrated by showing a return ticket.
- Suitable lodgings in the national territory.
- Adequate insurance cover for medical expenses and hospital stays which the student must demonstrate being in possession of, at the time of the residency permit request.

Please note that Italian embassies and consulates in different countries may have varying requirements for local citizens. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to consult the Italian Embassy or Consulate in your home country to obtain the most up-to-date and detailed information regarding the Italian student visa application process.

2.5 Arriving in Catania

Catania, the second-largest city in Sicily by population, stretches across the Plain of Catania, nestled between the Ionian Sea and the slopes of Mount Etna.

2.5.1 How to reach Catania

Flights: The main airport in Catania is the Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (IATA: CTA) with scheduled and charter planes arriving from destinations throughout Italy, Europe and several other countries around the world.

Common international airlines flying to Catania Fontanarossa are:

- Brussels Airlines
- Turkish Airlines
- Ryanair
- ITA Airways
- Wizz Air

Buses: Frequent buses connect Catania with nearby cities such as Taormina, Messina, Enna, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, and Syracuse. There are also less frequent services from cities like Naples and Rome. The main bus station is located opposite the railway station, just a 10-minute walk from the city centre.

Trains: Frequent trains run along the east coast to Catania from Taormina (note that Taormina's station is located well below the town, so taking a bus might be more convenient) and Messina, continuing onward to Naples, Rome, and beyond. Trains also connect Catania with Enna, Palermo

(although this route is slower than the bus), and Syracuse. A scenic inland route links Catania with Caltagirone and Gela. Additionally, there is one daily train from Agrigento to Catania.

Ferries: Several ferries operate between mainland Italy and Catania. A daily overnight car ferry runs between Naples and Catania, with additional services available from Genoa and Civitavecchia. It is also possible to travel by ferry to and from Valletta, Malta.

2.5.2 How to move from the airport

If you're arriving in Catania by plane, you'll likely want to know how to get from the airport to the city centre and eventually to your hostel or temporary accommodation. A shuttle bus runs from Catania Airport to Catania Centrale railway station and is the only public transport option besides taking a taxi or renting a car.

- The bus takes 25 minutes, with departures every 30 minutes. The ticket is € 4.00, and it could be bought from the driver by either a cash or accepted debit or credit card.
- The Taxi ride costs € 25.00 – € 30.00. Agree on the price before entering.

Once at the main bus station, you tend to experience Catania's public transport network which is made up of a metro system with a single line and buses. To reach your accommodation you have the city's public buses which can be useful depending on where you're going. Tickets are sold at the tobacco shops (Tabacchi) and must always be validated using the machines inside the bus as soon as you board.

- The ticket costs € 1.00 and last 90 minutes, irrespective of how many buses you take.
- A combined bus and metro ticket is € 1.20 and lasts 120 minutes.

NB! The metro service runs from Monday to Saturday, from Monte Po to Stesicoro and back, with intermediate stops. The service runs every 15 minutes, in both directions from 06.00 to 22.30.

It will be valuable to utilize the local transit and mobility app Moovit when travelling within Catania.

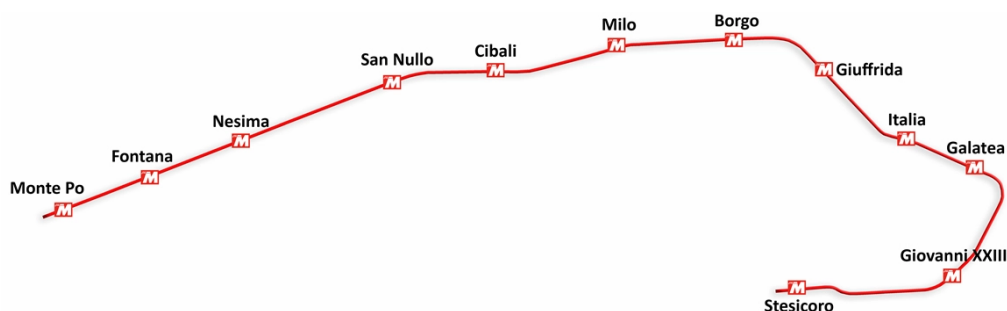


Figure 2.1: Catania Metro Route. With paths under construction and suspended services. As of now, the metro runs from **Monte Po** to **Stesicoro**.

CHAPTER 3

3. In Catania

3.1 Italian phone number

While residing in Italy, it is essential to obtain an Italian SIM card. To do so, you may visit one of the mobile service provider stores, such as Iliad, TIM, WindTre, Vodafone, or Fastweb, carrying a valid passport. A SIM card will be issued to you and activated with a data plan of your choice. A one-time SIM activation fee will be applied, starting from €9.99. The exact amount may vary depending on the mobile service provider. Below are a few examples of monthly data packages, including their respective prices and benefits:



Some of the store locations:

- Iliad: Via Etnea, 80, 95131, CT.
- TIM: Via Etnea, 242, 95131, CT (This TIM store is the cheapest among the other TIM stores).
- WindTre: Via Etnea, 78, 95131, CT.
- Vodafone: Via Etnea, 108, 95131, CT

3.2 Codice fiscale (tax code)

The codice fiscale (fiscal code) is the Italian tax identification number used by the local tax authorities to identify taxpayers. It is generated using the letters of your name and surname, along with numbers corresponding to your date and place of birth. This document is essential for completing your enrollment at the University of Catania and for the residence permit.

Upon your arrival, you will be required to apply for the fiscal code at the Welcome Office of the University of Catania. To do so, you should contact your assigned tutor. If a tutor has not yet

been appointed, you may schedule an appointment with Dr. Maria Sanfilippo by sending an email to maria.sanfilippo@unict.it.

3.3 Permesso di soggiorno (Residence permit)

The Permesso di Soggiorno allows extra-EU students to reside in Italy for more than 90 days. The application must be submitted within 8 days from your arrival in Italy. To apply for the residence permit, you are advised to contact your assigned tutor or, if a tutor has not yet been designated, to schedule an appointment with Dr. Maria Sanfilippo by sending an email to maria.sanfilippo@unict.it.

On the day of your appointment, you will be required to visit her office with the following documents (keep in mind that list of documents) can change,:

- The Application Kit, which is available at the Welcome office.
- Photocopies of the pages of your passport containing your personal information, your Italian visa and the pages containing all other visas and stamps.
- Photocopy of the Codice Fiscale.
- Photocopy of the health insurance valid for one year.
- A copy of documents or a bank statement demonstrating the availability of sufficient financial means to support yourself for a period of one year (corresponding to the validity of the residence permit). Tip: The same document that was used to obtain your visa may also be submitted for this purpose.
- A photocopy of your registered rental contract. The contract must be officially registered with the local tax office. Alternatively, if you have been awarded a scholarship and allocated accommodation through ERSU, you may request the residence document directly from the ERSU office located at Via Etnea, 570, 95128, CT.
- Four Passport-sized photos (Two for the Immigration Office and the other two for the fingerprints' office).
- University's fee payment receipt which can be printed from your university's student portal Smart_edu.
- The study plan of your course with the university's attestation (stamped).
- €16.00 revenue stamp (Marca da Bollo) that can be purchased in any Tabacchi shop. The *Marca da Bollo* resembles as shown in this image:



Once you have completed the necessary documentation at the Welcome Office, you will be required to visit the post office (*Poste Italiane*) to submit your residence permit application. The Poste Italiane nearest to the Welcome Office is located at Via Santa Maria del Rosario, 17, 95131, CT.

As part of this process, you must pay the residence permit fee of €70.46 along with additional postal service charges of €32.00. Upon completion, the post office will issue a ricevuta (receipt), which will include the date and time of your appointment at the Immigration Office (Ufficio Immigrazione). It is essential to keep this receipt safe, as it must be presented on the day of your appointment at the immigration office.

On the day of your appointment, you must go to the immigration office, located at Viale Africa, 25, 95100, CT. The most convenient way to reach this location is by taking the metro and exiting at the Galatea metro station. From there, it is approximately a five-minute walk to the office.

You must bring the following documents to your appointment:

- Your passport.
- The original versions of the documents that were submitted in photocopy form with your residence permit application kit at Poste Italiane.
- Recent passport-sized photographs.
- Any additional documents that were not included in the application kit and have since been obtained later.

Following your appointment, you may check the status of your application by visiting <https://questure.poliziadistato.it/stranieri/> and entering the credentials written on your ricevuta.

Once your residence permit is ready, you will receive a text message with details regarding its issuance and the scheduled date for collection. Please note that the residence permit card must be collected in person by the applicant.

According to the Polizia di Stato, students are responsible for renewing their residence permit within 60 days prior to its expiry. The renewal process does not require a new visa; however, you will be required to complete the residence permit application procedure again.

3.4 Insurance

The Italian immigration law requires students to have health insurance during their stay in Italy. If you have private insurance in your country, please be sure that:

- It has validity in Italy with a minimum coverage of €30,000.
- The exact coverage period should be of one year. The insurance must be valid during the entire validity of your residence permit.

Alternatively, upon your arrival in Italy, you may obtain insurance coverage from any authorized insurance provider, such as Allianz or Welcome Association Italy (WAI), provided the policy meets the required coverage amount.

Another option is to register with the National Health System (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale – SSN). However, please note that this type of coverage is valid from January to December, regardless of the date on which the contribution is paid.

3.5 Bank Account

All international students arriving in Catania are required to open a bank account, as the IBAN code is essential for conducting financial transactions. The main banking institutions include Intesa Sanpaolo, UniCredit, and BNL. Alternatively, students may opt to open an online bank account through providers such as Wise, Revolut, or N26. Each bank has specific and evolving requirements; therefore, it is strongly recommended to explore student-friendly options and verify current conditions before selecting a bank. The following documents are usually required:

- Residence permit (or the receipt for its application).
- Passport.
- Rental contract (for your address verification).
- Fiscal code.
- Acceptance letter from university.
- Carta d'identità (Italian Identity Card).

3.6 Completion of enrolment

Once you have obtained your residence permit receipt and fiscal code, you will be required to finalize your enrolment at the University of Catania. To complete your enrolment, you must contact your assigned tutor or schedule an appointment with the International Students' Office by sending an email to internationalstudents@unict.it. Your enrolment will be finalized by Dr. Erika Magnano. On the day of your appointment, you will have to visit the International Students' Office located at Piazza Università, 2 CT with the following documents required to complete your enrolment are:

- copy of the passport (the personal details page and the visa page).
- copy of the residence permit's receipt.
- copy of the fiscal code.
- Copy of your diplomas.
- Copy of English language proficiency certificate.
- Original DOV or Statement of Comparability.

3.7 Housing

Securing suitable accommodation is a fundamental aspect of relocating to Catania and beginning your academic journey, whether for a short or extended stay. It is important to be aware of the competitive nature of student housing and to actively seek appropriate options, as demand is particularly high among students.

It is strongly recommended that you do not commit to long-term accommodation prior to your arrival in Catania. This caution is advised for two primary reasons: firstly, to ensure the accommodation is conveniently located in relation to your departmental building where academic activities will take place; and secondly, to avoid potential online scams involving fraudulent listings that offer seemingly attractive deals in exchange for advance payments.

Although the process may present some challenges, finding accommodation in Catania is certainly achievable with persistence. Various resources and channels will be explored to assist you in securing both short-term and long-term housing.

It is also important to note that students who apply for and are awarded a scholarship and accommodation through ERSU should take into consideration alternative temporary housing arrangements upon arrival. This is due to the possibility that some required documents for ERSU may not yet be available at the time of your arrival, potentially delaying access to the assigned accommodation.

3.7.1 Temporary accommodation

Prior to your arrival in Catania, it is advisable to arrange short-term accommodation for a period of one to two weeks. This will allow sufficient time to complete essential administrative procedures and to search for suitable long-term housing, as outlined in the following section.

Two widely used platforms among students for securing temporary accommodation are:

1. www.booking.com – This platform offers a variety of lodging options, ranging from budget-friendly hostels to more upscale hotels and bed & breakfasts.
2. www.airbnb.com – Airbnb provides flexible accommodation solutions, including the option to rent a private room or an entire apartment for the initial days of your stay in Catania.

Additionally, Facebook groups and Marketplace can serve as useful tools for finding potential housing opportunities. However, please exercise caution when using these platforms, and refrain from making any advance payments, particularly on Facebook, due to the high risk of fraudulent advertisements promoting unrealistically low rental prices.

3.7.2 Searching a room for rent

Securing a room or apartment in Catania as a student can be both a challenging and rewarding experience, particularly given the high demand for rental properties prior to the commencement of each academic semester. Fortunately, there are numerous websites and applications specifically designed to assist students in their search for suitable accommodation. Notable platforms include:

- www.idealista.it
- www.zappyrent.com/it
- www.subito.it
- www.erasmusu.com

These platforms offer a wide variety of options, such as shared apartments, single rooms, and studio flats. They also provide useful search filters to tailor results based on budget, location, and available amenities.

In addition, students are encouraged to explore local Facebook groups dedicated to housing, such as www.facebook.com/groups/AFFITTI.CATANIA/?locale=it_IT, which can offer valuable insights and rental opportunities.

However, it is strongly advised not to make any advance payments from abroad prior to your arrival and a personal inspection of the property. This precaution allows you to evaluate the condition of the accommodation, its location, and its overall suitability, thereby reducing the risk of potential fraud or dissatisfaction.

3.8 Transportation within the city (Buses and Metro)

As briefly outlined in the previous section regarding mobility in Catania, the Catania Centrale railway station functions as a central hub for urban and regional transportation, offering connectivity to both bus and metro services, two of the primary means of public transport within the city. Considering the essential role that transportation plays in facilitating your academic experience, a more detailed overview is provided below.

Bus services are managed by Azienda Metropolitana Trasporti Catania S.p.A. (AMTS), while the metro is operated by Ferrovia Circumetnea (FCE). Tickets may be purchased at authorized Tabacchi shops or through ticket machines located at metro station entrances.

Students enrolled at the University of Catania (UNICT) are eligible to purchase an annual integrated bus/metro pass at a subsidized rate of €20 available until October 31st each year. This subscription is valid for unlimited use during its validity periods for both bus and metro services within the city of Catania.

To acquire the subscription:

- The fee must be paid through your university student portal under the "TAXES" section.
- You must download and register on the FCE Catania App via your mobile device.
- During registration on the app, you will be required to upload necessary documents such as a passport and a passport-sized photograph.

For the most up-to-date information and step-by-step guidance, please visit the official UNICT transport services page: <https://www.unict.it/servizi/trasporti-e-mobilit%C3%A0#Trasportourbano>.

To explore bus routes and operating hours, you may refer to:

- AMTS Catania official website: <https://amts.ct.it>
- Metro service information: <https://circumetnea.it>

Additionally, mobile applications such as Moovit or Google Maps can assist in navigating the city by providing real-time public transport directions. For enhanced mobility across Catania, students are encouraged to explore other sustainable options as well such as:

- Electric scooters operated by LIME and DOTT.
- Bicycle services such as AmiGo.

Notably, DOTT offers exclusive discounts for UNICT students and staff. Further details are available at: <https://catania.liveuniversity.it/2022/09/05/unict-sconto-monopattini-elettrici->

[studenti-personale/](#). These alternative services present a convenient and eco-conscious means of commuting, especially for short distances within the city.

3.9 Italian identity card and SPID

As a legal resident in Catania, you are eligible to apply for the Italian Identity Card (Carta d'Identità), which is required for certain administrative procedures. Please note that for foreign nationals residing in Italy, the ID Card serves solely as a means of identification within Italian territory and is not valid for expatriation or travel abroad. You may apply for the Italian ID Card only after fulfilling the following conditions:

- You are in possession of a valid residence permit card.
- You have a registered rental contract with a minimum duration of 12 months.

Before submitting an ID card application, it is mandatory to register your residential address with the Municipality of Catania (Comune di Catania). To initiate this process, please send scanned copies of the required documents to Dr. Maria Sanfilippo at maria.sanfilippo@unict.it. Alternatively, you may contact your tutor or schedule an appointment directly with Dr. Sanfilippo.

Documents Required for Residence Registration:

- A duly completed and signed residence registration form, downloadable from the Comune di Catania website: https://www.comune.catania.it/il-comune/uffici/anagrafe/modulistica/allegati/modelli-anagrafe/Modulistica_Cambio_Residenza.pdf.
- A valid passport.
- A valid residence permit.
- A registered rental contract (registered with Agenzia delle Entrate) with a minimum duration of 12 months.
- Your Italian fiscal code.

Once your residence registration is completed and confirmed by the Comune di Catania, you may proceed with booking an appointment at the Comune di Catania to apply for the Electronic ID Card (CIE). To book your appointment, please contact your tutor. The cost of issuing the Electronic ID Card (CIE) is approximately €25.00. On the day of the appointment, you will have to visit the Comune di Catania located at Via A. la Marmora, 23, 95122, CT and bring the following documents along with you:

- Appointment confirmation receipt.
- Valid passport.
- Residence permit.
- Registered rental contract.
- Fiscal code.
- One passport-sized photograph.

To reach Comune di Catania, you can take the bus 902 from the Piazza Della Repubblica.

3.9.1 Digital Identity: CIE App & SPID

At the time of your CIE application at Comune di Catania, you will receive half of a PIN code, while the other half will be delivered along with your CIE card. You must then download the official CIE App on your mobile device and use the complete PIN to access the application. This app will serve as your digital identification for accessing Italian public administration services online. Alternatively, with the credentials associated with your CIE card, you can also apply online for the SPID (Sistema Pubblico d'Identità Digitale) using a smart card reader. SPID and the CIE App serve the same purpose, granting access to various digital services of the Italian public administration.

Requirements for SPID Application:

- A valid Italian ID card (CIE).
- A health card with a fiscal code or fiscal code card.
- An Italian mobile number and an active email address.

CHAPTER 4

4. ERSU Scholarships and Services

This chapter explains the procedure to register with ERSU, how to apply for the scholarship, the documents needed, dormitories, canteens and the *Progetto salute* (salute project). It is crucial to adhere to the dates and deadlines of specific requirements that ERSU publishes each year. The deadline for the initial registration is usually 10th of August each year. But take into consideration that the other dates may be varied and you should check it via Website. The announcement for competition usually will be published in Mid-June.

After successful completion of the application, one is usually put in a list, or ranking, constituting students depending on the year of your application.

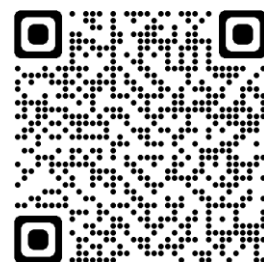
- For first-year students, you will be put into a general ranking of all first-year students of UNICT in descending order of the ISEE value, i.e., the one with the lowest value is placed on top.
- In subsequent years, you will be ranked according to your course of study in descending order of the points. These points are based on 3 different parameters with different weigh value. 70 percent of it, is dependent on the portion of the credits which passed to the total number of credits for each year. 28 percent is dependent on the portion of the GPA to the 30 which is the maximum grade. And the 2 percent remaining is related to the number of courses which the student could get superiority or lode in Italian. With this formula they will get a point out of 100, which is called point.

Then you will be assigned benefits based on your position in the ranking. So, you will be in one of the following categories:

- ASSIGNEE: You will get both money and a bed.
- ELIGIBLE: You have to wait, and probably, due to scrolling down the list, you will receive money and a bed.
- NOT ELIGIBLE:

For more information:

ERSU website



- SUSPENDED: For some reason (incomplete documentation or missing documents for instance). Hence, you are required to provide other documents to complete the procedure, and some of them could be provided once in Catania, as depicted in sections of this document.

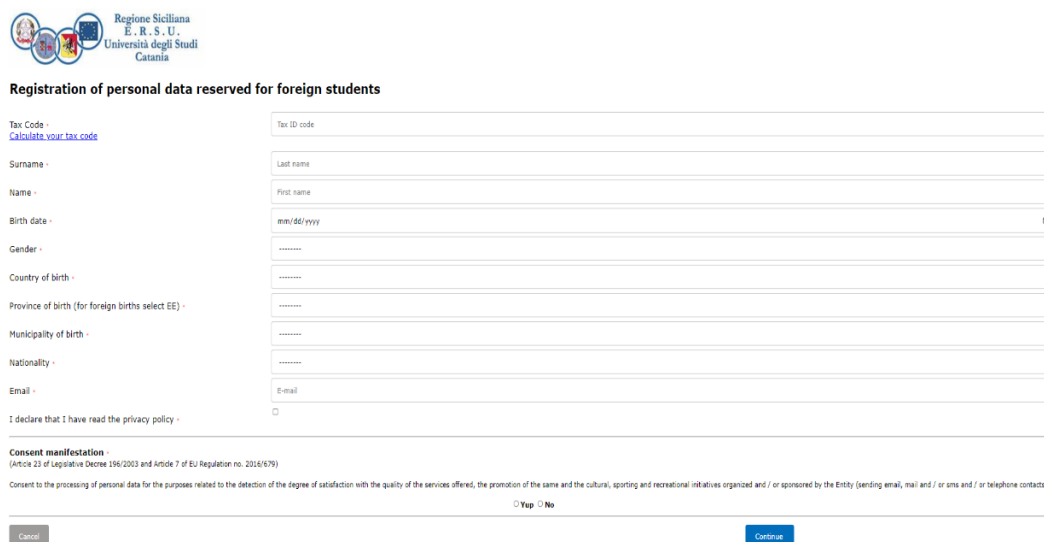
4.1 What is ERSU

ERSU is the acronym of *Ente Regionale di Diritto allo Studio Universitario*, “Regional Right to University Studies Agency”, a regional institution that guarantees the right to education for Sicilian students, in particular, the University of Catania. It aims to assist students with their university studies through benefits and services. The benefits are directed to students with economic difficulties and a proven track record in their studies. The benefits offered to students are inclusively, but are not limited to:

- Scholarship;
- Residence in ERSU dormitories;
- Meals in ERSU canteens.

4.2 Register on ERSU portal and apply for ERSU scholarship

International students in possession exclusively of an identity document issued by the authorities of their country and not resident in Italy can access this portion of the ERSU site: https://studenti.ersucatania.it/register.php?registration_type=s for first-time registration and access (see Fig. 4.1).



The screenshot shows the registration form for foreign students on the ERSU website. At the top left is the logo of the Regione Siciliana E.R.S.U. Università degli Studi Catania. The title of the form is "Registration of personal data reserved for foreign students". The form contains several input fields: Tax Code (with a link to "Calculate your tax code"), Surname, Name, Birth date (mm/dd/yyyy), Gender, Country of birth, Province of birth (for foreign births select EE), Municipality of birth, Nationality, and Email. Below these fields is a checkbox for "I declare that I have read the privacy policy". At the bottom, there is a "Consent manifestation" section with a link to the privacy policy and a consent statement. At the very bottom are "Cancel" and "Continue" buttons.

Fig. 4.1. Registration for international students not resident in Italy.

International students who declare their residence in Italy can access this portion of the ERSU site: <https://idp.ersucatania.it/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e4s1> for first-time registration and access with SPID or CIE (Electronic Identity Card).

Fill in all the requested fields and confirm the given data. Then use the button to generate an OTP code and wait for a phone message or email with the code for the validation of the data.

The deadline for the online request for Scholarships validated with the OTP code is fixed in the call, be sure to check it.

4.2.1 Step-by-step guide to filling in the request

Once registered, to apply for the ERSU scholarship and services, one can simply login on to the ERSU website <https://studenti.ersucatania.it/>, access their page then enter the page "*Procedure e concorsi attivi*" and follow these steps:

NB! When you use a tool to translate the page, the "proceed" and "back" (*procedi* and *indietro*) buttons will not respond. When that happens, you will need to refresh the page in Italian to proceed.

Once on the call page, click on *Procedi* (see Fig. 3.2) and *Continua* on the page that follows (Fig. 3.3). Of course, you're advised to read both pages carefully, especially the second page.

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Portale Studenti ERSU CATANIA

Utente: SALLAH ANTOUMAN

Pratica N. 2022002541

"CONCORSO PER L'ATTRIBUZIONE DI BORSE DI STUDIO, ALTRI CONTRIBUTI ECONOMICI E SERVIZI PER IL DIRITTO ALLO STUDIO UNIVERSITARIO A.A. 2022/2023"

Per richiedere la borsa di studio e/o il servizio abitativo è necessario:

- leggere attentamente il [Bando di Concorso](#);
- essere in possesso dei requisiti economico-patrimoniali previsti dal bando
- solamente per gli studenti iscritti o che intendono iscriversi ad anni successivi al primo, essere in possesso dei requisiti di merito previsti dal bando
- completare le voci richieste durante la compilazione on-line dei moduli entro i termini previsti;
- confermare i dati inseriti;
- solo per coloro che non sono autenticati con SPID o Carta di identità elettronica, premere sul pulsante per generare OTP e attendere SMS con codice per la validazione dei dati inseriti. ATTENZIONE: il codice OTP sarà inviato al numero di cellulare indicato in fase di registrazione al portale;
- validare i dati della richiesta benefici, inserendo nell'apposito campo (entro 60 minuti dalla ricezione) il codice OTP ricevuto via SMS e caricare una scansione del documento di identità in corso di validità;

RICORDA CHE
La procedura per la compilazione on-line della richiesta di benefici sarà disponibile fino alle ore 14:00 (ora italiana) del 28 AGOSTO 2022
La procedura per la validazione dei dati tramite OTP sarà disponibile fino alle ore 14:00 (ora italiana) del 28 AGOSTO 2022

Indietro

Procedi

Figure 4.2: First page of the call.

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AVVERTENZE

La compilazione della presente richiesta avviene secondo le disposizioni previste dal D.P.R. 445/2000 "Testo unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di documentazione amministrativa".

In particolare:

- i dati e le informazioni rese nella richiesta benefici assumono il valore di dichiarazioni sostitutive di certificazione rese ai sensi dell'art. 46 (vigono, al riguardo, le disposizioni di cui all'art. 76 che prevedono conseguenze di carattere amministrativo e penale per coloro i quali rilascino dichiarazioni non corrispondenti a verità);
- i dati e le informazioni suddette, strettamente funzionali all'espletamento della procedura concorsuale, verranno trattati ai sensi e con le garanzie di cui agli artt. 6 e 13 del Regolamento UE 2016/679 (GDPR) e del D.Lgs. 196/2003 e ss.mm.ii.

[Indietro](#) [Home](#) [Continua](#)

[Chiarimenti e informazioni](#)
[Segnala un problema tecnico](#)

Figure 4.3: Avvertenze (Warnings)

Step 1: Preliminary Information on Framework A

Use the following guide and select the appropriate:

- Cittadinanza: Your nationality
- Nucleo familiare residente in Italia (redditi/patrimonio in Italia): No
- Tipologia nucleo familiare: Genitori coniugati (Married parents). For any other option, you will need proof
- Tipologia Attestazione ISEE: Calcolo ISEEU/ISPEU parificato. Or 'non disponibile' if you have not yet made the ISEE parificato at the CAF office. When you are applying in your country, usually you don't have the ISEEU so you click on 'non disponibile'.
- Status occupazionale: Select one
- Eventuale possesso requisiti benefici riservati: Select the appropriate or *Nessuna* (None). If you come from a particularly poor country according to the ERSU list (see below) select the fourth option, '*stranieri extracomunitari parti...*'

Then click *Continua*

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1° STEP: INFORMAZIONI PRELIMINARI AL QUADRO A

Completa i seguenti campi obbligatori

Cittadinanza

Nucleo familiare residente in Italia (redditi/patrimonio in Italia)

Tipologia nucleo familiare

Tipologia Attestazione ISEE

Status occupazionale

Eventuale possesso requisiti benefici riservati

- Cliccare sul pulsante **"Continua"** per passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare sul pulsante **"Indietro"** per ritornare allo step precedente.

[Chiarimenti e informazioni](#)
[Segnala un problema tecnico](#)

Fig. 4.4. Step 1.

List of particularly poor countries:

Afghanistan, Djibouti, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Angola, Eritrea, Malawi, Somalia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan, Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Sudan, Bhutan, Guinea, Mozambique, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Burundi, Haiti, Nepal, Togo, Cambodia, Kiribati, Niger, Tuvalu, Central African Rep., Korea Dem. Rep., Rwanda, Uganda, Chad, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sao Tome & Principe, Yemen, Comoros, Lesotho, Senegal, Zambia, Congo Dem. Rep., Liberia, Sierraleone, Syrian Arab Republic.

Step 2: Framework A - Economic-Financial Requirement

Enter your fiscal code then click *Continua*.

NB! The documents regarding the family economic situation should refer to two years before the current one, i.e., for enrolment and scholarship for a.y. 2026/27 you should attach the documents related to the year 2024. Consequently, the ISEEU should be for that same year 2024.

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2° STEP: QUADRO A – REQUISITO ECONOMICO-PATRIMONIALE

Indicare il codice fiscale del dichiarante

Codice Fiscale Dichiarante*

Ricorda, che è necessario dichiarare i redditi e il patrimonio eventualmente posseduti in Italia dal proprio nucleo familiare.

Ricorda, comunque, che dovrai comunicare, entro e non oltre il termine previsto dal bando (durante il periodo di presentazione del modulo online di rettifica/integrazione dati dichiarati nella domanda di borsa di studio), il calcolo dell'ISEEU/ISPEU Parificato.

Coloro i quali avranno compilato la domanda online indicando solo il codice fiscale del dichiarante e non avranno provveduto ad integrare le informazioni durante il periodo di presentazione delle richieste di rettifica/integrazione, **saranno esclusi dal concorso per la impossibilità di valutare il possesso delle condizioni economiche previste dal bando.**

- Cliccare sul pulsante **"Continua"** per passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare sul pulsante **"Indietro"** per ritornare allo step precedente.

[Chiarimenti e informazioni](#)

Fig. 4.5. Step 2.

Step 3: Preliminary Information on Frame B

- Anno di corso: *Primo anno* (first year) or the appropriate
- Anno conseguimento diploma scuola superior: For your high school
- Istituzione universitaria: Università degli Studi di Catania
- Sede del corso di laurea: Select the place where you are attending lessons of your study course
- Eventuale condizione particolare carriera universitaria: Nessuna or the appropriate
- Contemporanea iscrizione a più corsi di laurea: No
- Eventuale passaggio corso di laurea: No
- Eventuale rinuncia agli studi: No
- Eventuale precedente immatricolazione: No
- Titolo universitario livello inferiore già conseguito: Si, if you have already completed a bachelor's degree course
- Tipologia titolo conseguito: the name of your bachelor's degree
- Anno Accademico conseguimento titolo: Your graduation date
- Istituzione conseguimento titolo: The name of the institution

Then click *Continua*

Pratica N. 2022002541

3° STEP: INFORMAZIONI PRELIMINARI AL QUADRO B

Completa i seguenti campi obbligatori:

Anno di corso Primo anno ▼

Anno conseguimento diploma scuola superiore 2012

Istituzione universitaria Università degli studi di Catania ▼

Sede del corso di laurea Catania ▼

Eventuale condizione particolare carriera universitaria Nessuna ▼

Contemporanea iscrizione a più corsi di laurea No ▼

Eventuale passaggio corso di laurea No ▼

Eventuale rinuncia agli studi No ▼

Eventuale precedente immatricolazione No ▼

Titolo universitario livello inferiore già conseguito Sì ▼

Tipologia titolo conseguito Triennale ▼

Anno Accademico conseguimento titolo 2018 (per laurea nell'anno solare 2022 scrivere 2021 o 2020)

Istituzione conseguimento titolo University of The Gambia

- Cliccare sul pulsante "Continua" per passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare sul pulsante "Indietro" per ritornare allo step precedente.

Indietro
Home
Continua

Fig. 4.6. Step 3.

Step 4: Additional Information Preliminary to Framework B

- Tipologia di corso: Select *laurea magistrale* if you are attending master's degree courses otherwise *laurea triennale* for bachelor's degree courses or *laurea magistrale a ciclo unico* for medicine, dentistry or pharmacy courses.
- Scuola/Dipartimento: The department of your course
- Corso: Your course of study

Then click *Continua*

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4° STEP: ULTERIORI INFORMAZIONI PRELIMINARI AL QUADRO B

Completa i seguenti campi obbligatori

Tipologia di corso laurea magistrale

Scuola/Dipartimento fisica e astronomia

Corso physics

- Cliccare sul pulsante "Continua" per passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare sul pulsante "Indietro" per ritornare allo step precedente.

Indietro Home Continua

[Chiarimenti e informazioni](#)
[Segnala un problema tecnico](#)

Fig. 4.7. Step 4.

Step 6: Framework C - Choice of Benefits

- Benefici richiesti: Select the appropriate. Warning! If you select *Servizio abitativo (posto letto)* for example, you will not be considered for the scholarship money (*Borsa di studio*) or the Canteen meals (*ristorativo*). You need to choose the option all together as it is shown in figure below.

Then click *Continua*

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6° STEP: QUADRO C – SCELTA DEI BENEFICI

Selezionare la voce interessata

Benefici richiesti Borsa di studio, posto letto e servizio ristorativo

- Per **confermare la scelta**, cliccare sul pulsante "Continua" e passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare "Indietro" per ritornare allo step precedente.

Indietro Home Continua

[Chiarimenti e informazioni](#)
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Fig. 4.8. Step 6.

Step 7: Framework D - Payment Methods

Register your European IBAN code or continue and register it in a special section of the *Procedure e concorsi attivi* called **Comunicazione codice IBAN** (Communicate IBAN code) later when you will make one. If you don't have at the time of registration, once you will reach here and open bank accounts, you can put it in the section which is explained above.

Then click *Continua*

Step 8: Frame E - Declarations

Tick all of the mandatory sections. I assume you agree to all.

Then click *Continua*

8° STEP: QUADRO E – DICHIARAZIONI

Dichiarazioni obbligatorie

- ☒ di essere consapevole di rilasciare le dichiarazioni presenti nella richiesta benefici ai sensi degli artt. 46 e 47 del D.P.R. 445/2000, di essere consapevole delle conseguenze derivanti da dichiarazioni mendaci e che formare atti falsi, farne uso nei casi previsti dal richiamato D.P.R. o esibire un atto contenente dati non rispondenti a verità sono puniti ai sensi del codice penale
- ☒ di avere preso visione del bando di concorso in ogni sua parte e di accettarne tutte le condizioni;
- ☒ di avere letto l'informativa sulla privacy resa disponibile nella pagina personale dei servizi "ersuonline" del portale studenti;
- ☒ di autorizzare l'ERSU a trattare i propri dati personali per le finalità connesse alla rilevazione del grado di soddisfazione sulla qualità dei servizi offerti, alla promozione degli stessi e delle iniziative culturali, sportive, e ricreative organizzate e/o patrocinate dall'Ente (invio email, posta e/o sms e/o contatti telefonici).

Dichiarazioni facoltative

Per quanto non previsto nei precedenti step, riportare nel seguente campo facoltativo eventuali "altre dichiarazioni":

Altre dichiarazioni ☐

- Clicca sul pulsante **"Continua"** per passare allo step successivo;
- Clicca sul pulsante **"Indietro"** per ritornare allo step precedente.

Fig. 4.9. Step 8.

Step 9: Entering Identity Document Details

- Tipo di document: Select the appropriate
- Numero document: Passport number - if you select *Passaporto* (Passport)
- Rilasciato da: Put the appropriate organization that issued your passport
- Data rilascio (the date of issue): DD/MM/YYYY

- Data scadenza (the date of expiry): DD/MM/YYYY

Then click *Continua*

The screenshot shows the 'Portale Studenti ERSU CATANIA' interface. At the top, there are logos for the Regione Siciliana, E.R.S.U., and Università degli Studi Catania. The user is logged in as 'SALLAH ANTOUMAN' (Pratica N. 2022002541). The main heading is '9° STEP: INSERIMENTO ESTREMI DOCUMENTO DI IDENTITÀ'. Below this, it says 'Inserisci i dati relativi al tuo documento'. The form contains the following fields:

- Tipo di documento:** A dropdown menu with 'Passaporto' selected.
- Numero documento:** A text box containing 'PC*****'.
- Rilasciato da:** A text box containing 'The Government of The Gar'.
- Data rilascio:** A date picker showing '05/03/2021'.
- Data scadenza:** A date picker showing '05/03/2025'.

Below the form, there are two instructions:

- Per **confermare la scelta**, cliccare sul pulsante "**Continua**" e passare allo step successivo;
- Cliccare "**Indietro**" per ritornare allo step precedente.

At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: 'Indietro', 'Home', and 'Continua'. Below the form, there are two links: 'Chiarimenti e informazioni' and 'Segnala un problema tecnico'.

Fig. 4.10. Step 9.

Step 10: Confirmation of Data

Go through everything and confirm. If you have made any errors, jump to that specific section and adjust it appropriately. Finally, click on *Conferma dati* (confirm the data) and then *Valida richiesta* (Validate request) to validate the request with OTP via SMS. If you have not received the SMS, follow the path *Profilo > Dati personali*, and make sure that an Italian phone number with the correct prefix is registered. . Or you can receive it via your Email as it explained in previous sections.

4.2.2 Documents needed

In the Student Portal of ERSU, within the Additional documentation section (*Fascicolo*), you will need to upload the following documents (in pdf maximum 2 MB) to regularise the request for benefits:

- Copy of front and back of an ID document, such as a passport;

- Copy of the residence permit, or the application receipt. If you attached the receipt, remember to upload the permit once it is received;
- Copy of ISEE (explained in the next subsection).

4.2.3 ISEE-parificato (Equalized ISEE)

ISEE is a fiscal document in which your economic situation (in connection to your family) is declared. This document is usually made in Italy. As a foreign student, with a family resident abroad, you will need to make ISEE-parificato or the Equalized ISEE - an ISEE documentation equivalent.

For the issue of ISEE, each applicant must go to the C.A.F. (Tax assistance centre) with special documentation, certifying the household composition, income and movable assets owned abroad by each member of the household. This documentation should be issued by the competent authorities of your country where the income was produced, translated into Italian and validated by the competent Italian Diplomatic authorities.

For countries where there are difficulties to grant this certification attested by the local Italian Embassy, the documentation is made by the competent diplomatic or consular representations abroad in Italy and legalized by prefectures.

Documentation needed for the issue of ISEE at the CAF:

- Family statement
- Family income
- Financial assets, including real estate properties
- Copy of fiscal code
- Copy of the residence permit (or the receipt for its application)
- Copy of passport

4.2.4 Scholarships assignment criteria

The assignment criteria of benefits are highlighted at the beginning of this chapter. However, it's worth mentioning that as a first-year ERSU scholarship recipient (or ASSIGNEE) you are only provided with the first instalment of the scholarship, the remaining amount is given under the following conditions of merits:

- You have acquired 15 CFU before 10/08 and 20 (15+5) CFU before 10/11/20XX (the next year): you will receive the second part of the scholarship + the reimbursement of € 140.00 fees paid for enrolment + exemption of university fees + international mobility if required.
- You reach just 20 CFU before 10/11/20XX: you will maintain the benefits of the scholarship (first half of the amount) + food you have consumed in ERSU canteens, but you will lose the second half of the scholarship and you should pay half of the price for the bed in the ERSU residences;

- Neither the first, nor the second option: you will have to give back the scholarship and also the money corresponding to the food you have consumed in canteens and pay the bed.
- If you are ELIGIBLE, but not ASSIGNEE to the scholarship, you have the following options:
- You have acquired 15 CFU before 10/08 and 20 (15+5) CFU before 10/11/20XX: you will maintain the eligibility to the scholarship, + the reimbursement of € 140.00 fees paid + exemption of university fees;
- You reach just 20 CFU before 10/11/20XX: you will maintain the eligibility to the benefits (foods), + the reimbursement of € 140.00 fees paid + exemption of university fees but you have to pay the bed assigned;
- Neither the first, nor the second option: you will have to give back the money corresponding to the food you have consumed in canteens.

4.2.5 IBAN code

To receive the scholarship from ERSU, a bank account with an IBAN code should be declared in the Student Portal of ERSU. For the request of the bank account, see Chapter 3, section 5. But in the start due to documentation, it is difficult to open an Italian IBAN, so better to open a European IBAN for the scholarship.

In case of particular difficulties in opening a bank account, it is suggested to open a European Bank account (for example N26, Wise, Revolut, BBVA,...) online and upload the euro-IBAN. This allows you to receive the money, or just to complete the documentation using the section for uploading IBAN on the Student Portal page on the ERSU website.

4.3 Dormitories

When filling out the ERSU's benefit form, you need to express your interest in the housing section/be. Later, if you are an ASSIGNEE to the bed, Posto Letto (PL) - as it is described in the ERSU student portal – you can accept the place in the residences by the following:

- After the initial bed assignments, students need to check the ERSU's news tab to find out when they can book or accept their bed.
- Residence notices link: <https://www.ersucatania.it/category/notizie-residenze/> ;
- Students must confirm their bed before the deadline, with specific deadlines and times mentioned in the notice, usually deadline for accepting bed are within 3 to 4 days;
- Access the personal page of your ERSU student portal with your credentials;
- Access the application to accept the bed in the residence: go to the **Active Procedures and Competition** tab, and then select the **Choice of Bed Place** tab;
- Upon clicking on the above-mentioned tab, students will access the bed selection screen, where they can choose the **STRUCTURE** (ERSU Residences) and **ROOM** (select room number);

- After reserving the bed, you will receive a PDF confirmation named like booking confirmation.

NB! For more information about residences and rooms, follow this link: <https://www.ersucatania.it/residenze-universitarie/>

Then you will have to upload these documents in the subsection of the student portal page of ERSU, Additional documentation, a single pdf file maximum 2 MB:

- Acceptance of the rules of the residences of ERSU; Medical certificate provided by a certificated (Italian) doctor. Ask your tutor or residence office to make an appointment for you;
 - Payment receipt of 150 euro (refundable) security fee deposited in the ERSU Catania Bank account, the detail of IBAN for the deposit can be found on the official website of ERSU Catania;
 - Recent passport size photo;
 - Copy of an ID document;
 - Original and copy of the permit (if not arrived yet it could be sufficient for the receipt only;
- Later you will have to upload the original residence permit in the online student portal of ERSU Catania).

Tip: Always check ERSU website for the updates about the bed confirmation.

4.4 Foresteria service (Guest House)

ERSU offers students for a maximum of 90 days the possibility to stay in their dormitories by paying a relatively small amount, between € 90 - € 130 per month. To ask ERSU for this service, you should:

- Fill in the form you find here: <https://www.ersucatania.it/servizio-ospitalitanelle-residenze-foresteria/>
- Send the application and documents required (ID, Enrolment certificate and fee, ISEE-parificato, Medical certificate) to the email: foresteria@ersucatania.it and ask about the availability of the bed.
- The manager responsible for rents will check the application, documents and availability, and will notify you about further steps, usually deposit payment and submission in presence.

Be aware that this solution is not often available since it depends on the number of the room not occupied at the moment of the request.

4.5 University Canteens

What is the ERSU catering service?

- The catering service provided by ERSU is a crucial offering characterized by essential principles adopted in its canteens. These principles are centered on ensuring the highest quality and variety of foods, with a particular emphasis on health. This commitment guarantees a healthy and balanced diet, adhering to established quality standards. The

catering service is indirectly managed through specific contractual agreements with companies in the sector.

You can access the ERSU canteens, in "Cittadella", "Oberdan" and "Vittorio Emanuele" by:

- Downloading the mobile app, ERSU Catania;
- After downloading the application, use the same credentials as those on the ERSU student portal to access;
- If you are assigned to receive free meals, you are entitled to 360 meals for the year, usable individually and twice a day for lunch and dinner;
- If you are an assignee and the app does not display available meals, it is necessary to visit or contact ERSU at Via Etnea n. 570 – 95128 Catania or Tel. 0957517910;
- If you are not assigned to free meals, you can still access the app by paying for each meal. Typically, the cost is 1.6 euros per meal, with variations depending on your ISEE value

Useful links

- University canteens: <https://www.ersucatania.it/mense-universitarie/>
- Menu: <https://www.ersucatania.it/menu-mense/>
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ersucatania.unipasto>
- Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/it/app/ersu-catania/id6443570180?l=en-GB>

NB! Remember that the number of free meals depends on the Call (Bando). Check updates about the New Call (Bando): <https://www.ersucatania.it/>

4.6 Salute Project

ERSU offers students of the University of Catania the access to examinations and specialist visits at the Polyclinic just paying the contribution rate fixed by the National Health Service.

ERSU provides students, enrolled at the University of Catania, the possibility of booking specialist visits to the outpatient clinics of the Polyclinic at the cost of the ticket only if you do not have the relevant exemption. To be able to use the service, you must first ask your doctor for the appropriate prescription, then connect to the Ersu website <https://www.ersucatania.it/progetto-salute-2/> where you can fill in the online form in which you need to enter your credentials (name, surname, address, telephone number, and email address), the type of visit requested.

ERSU will register and communicate by email the booking with the date and time of the visit, which will in any case take place at the Policlinico via Santa Sofia. On the indicated day, after paying the ticket, the visit will be carried out, without further additional costs. To request more information, you can send an email to: clara.lomonaco@ersucatania.it and by phone 095/7517913.

CHAPTER 5

5. University life

“The University of Catania is not just a place to study — it is a vibrant and welcoming community where you will live unforgettable experiences. From modern learning platforms and excellent academic services to sports, cultural activities, and international events, UNICT offers endless opportunities to grow both academically and personally. Your university life here will be exciting, dynamic, and full of opportunities to create lasting memories and friendships.”

5.1 UNICT Online

The UNICT student portal, Smart_edu, is used by all students of the University of Catania for numerous services, particularly for enrolments to subsequent academic years, booking of exams and graduation, paying taxes and all other essential aspects of being a student in UNICT. To access this portal, you need your fiscal code and a password that will be provided when registering, make sure these credentials are safely kept.

The website is available both in English and Italian. You can change the language by clicking on the language logo on the upper-left part of the login page. Sometimes it is more helpful to navigate the page in Italian as certain information is lost in the translation of the page from Italian to English.

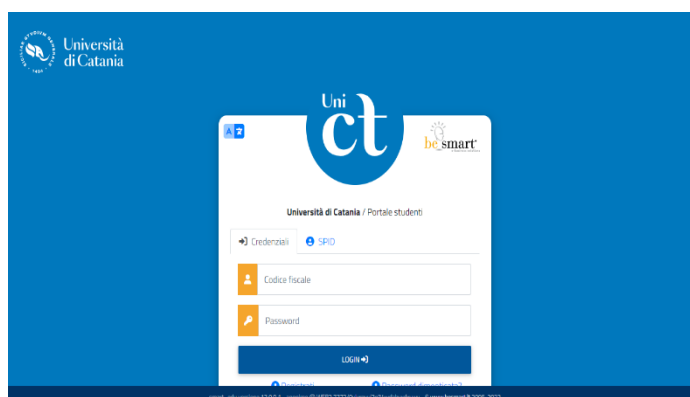


Figure 5.1: Welcome page on Smart_edu

Students' portal:



The portal consists of nine sections visible in several icons right after you are logged in.

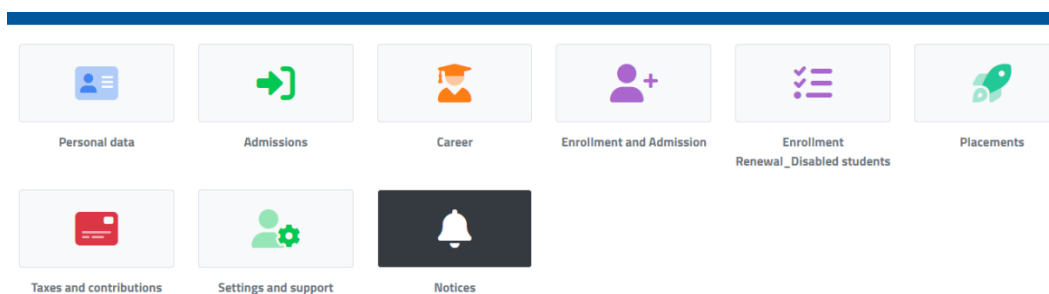


Figure 5.2: The Sections in the Smart_edu student portal (English version)

The most important sections of the portal are:

- ***Procedura di ammissione (Admission Procedures) with Immatricolazioni e Test d'ingresso (Enrolment and Admission Test)***: These two sections allow one to apply for admissions. It can also be used to apply for enrolments (or registrations) in subsequent years because you will be required to enrol twice if your program has a legal duration of 2-years. Of course, if you did not complete your degree program in 2-years you can enrol in the third year (*primo anno fuori corso*) to continue your studies
- ***Carriera, Piano di Studi, Esami (Career)***: In this section, you can build your study plan, review the exams that you have taken, book or reserve an examination and most importantly apply for graduation when the time comes.
- ***Tasse e contribute (Taxes and Contributions)***: In this section, you can make payments for selected services, for example, the *Contributo Diritto Allo Studio* and the *Marca da Bollo virtuale* need for enrolment in any particular academic year. You will always be allowed to see the payments you have made and how to download the receipt

5.1.1 Departments and study courses pages

Each degree course has a specific website, where to obtain information about;

- a professors' announcements,
- degree course announcements (e.g., seminars, suspension of lessons, etc),
- the contact details of each professor to whom you can write,
- the contacts of career secretariats and students that solve some of the problems that you may run into.

On the specific website of every degree course, you can find the schedule of lectures and exam calendar, amongst other things. You can also find the resource centre, 'Studium'.

5.1.2 Student email

Each enrolled student of UNICT is automatically associated with an email. This email is invaluable for receiving communications from the University of Catania. The email address is usually linked with the personal email address that the student used during the registration of enrolment. The default alias created for the mailbox corresponds to your matriculation number (e.g. `matriculationnumber@studium.unict`).

The email address can be retrieved from Studium (see the next section). You can customize the email at first access.

If you need help, you can write to assistenza.posta@studium.unict.it

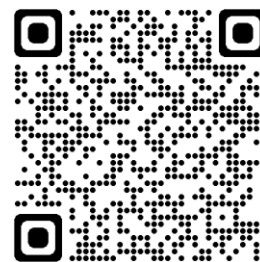
5.1.3 Studium

Studium is a support platform used by the University of Catania to allow professors to share with students materials of interest. Studium can be accessed with the same credentials as Smart_edu, i.e., your fiscal code and the password of the UNICT student portal.

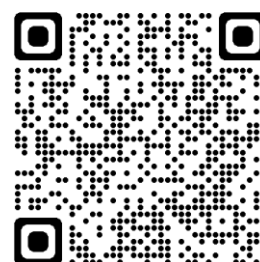
Within Studium, you can navigate to your degree course and subjects of interest with its related materials. One material of importance you can access in Studium is the Syllabus for a course usually prepared by the professor in charge of the course. The syllabus contains important information on teaching staff, learning objectives, course structure, detailed course content and textbook information. The syllabus is also accessible on your department's website.

For more information:

Departments



Studium



NB! Sometimes you may have to go between Studium and your department's website to assess a course syllabus because it might not be in one.

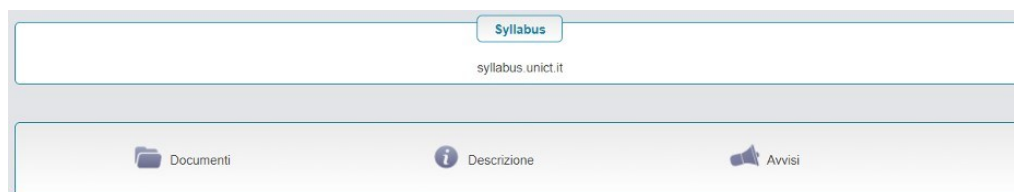


Figure 5.3: A course syllabus on Studium

5.1.4 Exams

The academic year consists of two semesters. Within each semester there are lectures, exercises and laboratory activities. Exam sessions are scheduled at the end of each period in parallel with the suspension of teaching activities. A third exam session is scheduled in the period preceding the start of the new academic year. Thus, you have three exam periods: 1st Session: January/February 2nd Session: June /July 3rd Session: September

During each exam session, there are two or at most three sessions for each subject. To take the exams, it is necessary to book the date of your interest in the dedicated area of the Smart_edu student portal.

The exams are usually written and/or oral, as reported in the syllabus by each professor.

5.1.5 Additional educational obligations (OFA)

Adequate initial preparation is required to enrol in a degree course or a single-cycle master's degree course. Each study course indicates at the admission stage the knowledge required for access. If the verification of the knowledge reveals gaps in one or more topics, you can still enrol, through the fulfilment of the Additional Educational Obligations (OFA). Passing the OFA is fundamental for the student to be admitted for the related exams.

Each study course annually organizes activities dedicated to the recovery of the OFA which can be consulted on the website of the related study course.

5.1.6 Study plan

The study plan is the list of educational activities that must be achieved in the various years of your studies to be admitted to the final graduation exam. To complete the study plan, students must be regularly enrolled in the new academic year. If you are not in good standing (for example, nonpayment of taxes or other administrative reasons) it is not possible to fill in or modify your choices in the study plan.

Before completing the study plan, it is necessary to be well informed about the formative and any curricula activities envisaged by the relevant degree course. It is advisable to read the didactic regulations of your degree course. Study plans correctly completed and sent within the

submission deadlines cannot be modified during the year, not even to change the subjects included among the credits of your choice.

You can fill out the study plan online through your Smart_edu student portal.

In case of any issues related to the completion or modification of the study plan—whether due to technical problems or to the student's own situation (such as failure to pay tuition fees or missing important deadlines)—the Didactic Secretariat of the relevant department is responsible for providing assistance and guidance.

5.2 Facilities

5.2.1 Italian language courses

Every semester the University of Catania organizes an Italian language course in which foreigners who are interested in a certificate and qualified knowledge of the Italian language may take part. The course is free for international students duly enrolled in the University of Catania and consists of 100 hours (80 hours of lectures in Italian + 20 hours of laboratory activities) usually during one whole semester. The course gives you a maximum of 9 CFU.

You can find more information at: <http://www.italstra.unict.it/en>.

5.2.2 Library services

The University of Catania is full of libraries. Every student can borrow books for studying and research from one of the libraries. If you want to borrow a book, you must first confirm if that book or publication is available (and not already being lent) through the UNICT's library website: <http://unict.summon.serialssolutions.com/advanced>.

Each department has its library, so it is important to check where the book is physically available.

5.2.3 Discount on books

Being enrolled in the University of Catania allows you to receive a discount on university books in affiliated libraries. Just by showing proof of the paid University fees, you will receive 20% off books for your study course.

The full list of affiliated libraries can be found at: <https://www.unict.it/servizi/sconti-sui-libri-di-testo>

5.2.4 University sports centre (CUS)

Centro Universitario Sportivo (CUS) is the university sports center. Its main building is in the Cittadella Universitaria, next to the ERSU canteen. Here, you have a running track, soccer and basketball courts, and a gym. The other building is in Via Santa Sofia 98, Catania, where you can find volleyball, basketball and tennis courts. If you want to sign up for the gym or one of the different fitness courses, there is a discounted fee for university students. You

can check out the website for gyms and sports facilities open to all our students:

<http://www.cuscatania.it>

CHAPTER 6

6. School of Excellence (SSC)

The Scuola Superiore di Catania (SSC) is a higher education Centre of the University of Catania, whose mission is to attract brilliant young talents.

The SSC develops culture, scientific research and innovation by:

- offering highly qualified and innovative educational experiences;
- evaluating and transferring knowledge and technology to the outside world;
- promoting a scientific community, which is open to cultural growth and liberal social exchange; • living in a campus offering facilities, totally free of charge.

The SSC is organized into two Classes:

- Humanities and Social Sciences students including ordinary undergraduates in law, economics, politics and humanities;
- Experimental Science students including ordinary undergraduates in science, medicine and engineering.

All SSC Students have to enrol at the University of Catania and pass the Admission Exam. They attend both the University's undergraduate courses and the SSC courses. Furthermore, they take part in seminars and cultural events organized by the SSC and live within its College (Villa San Saverio).

The SSC education program integrates university studies with additional courses, seminars, laboratories, internships at national and international scientific institutions, along with collaborations in research projects.

SSC Students attend a tutor-guided educational course integrated with their degree course at the end of which they'll receive a License Diploma. The SSC courses are updated annually, taking into account the international continual evolution of scientific knowledge and technology, and include: • Interdisciplinary courses dealing with cross-cultural themes and content; • Specialist courses: integrating university preparation with in-depth knowledge of specific themes connected to the students' particular discipline with the further objective of encouraging early research;

- Foundation courses: providing basic preparation for all ordinary students; • Laboratory courses: introducing students to interdisciplinary research within groups;
- Foreign language courses: taking students to Advanced Level (C1 - CEF) in a foreign language (usually English).

To become a student of the Scuola Superiore di Catania, you need to apply to the call of admission (20 places available every year) and pass the exams and place in the merit ranking. Eligibility consists in having the right qualification to access the University of Catania's undergraduate courses. Exam notification, including exam programs, is also online at: www.scuolasuperiorecatania.it.

The SSC Admission Exam (in Italian), generally given in September, has two parts: written and oral which vary according to the chosen Class: Humanities and Social Sciences or Experimental Sciences.

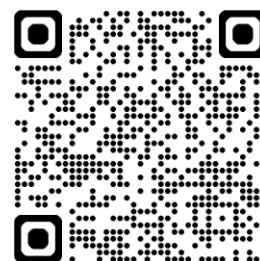
Students of the Scuola Superiore di Catania must:

- enroll at a University of Catania's undergraduate course;
- pass all their degree modules on time with a minimum average of 27/30;
- attend the SSC internal courses and pass their exams;
- live within the College "Villa San Saverio".

The SSC students benefit from free board and lodging (+ library, journals room, gym, multi-media theatre) at the College "Villa San Saverio" and may ask for contributions towards external study and research.

For further information, write to prelaurea@ssc.unict.it or visit the website.

Website of Scuola
Superiore di Catania:



CHAPTER 7

7. Living in Catania

7.1 Living Cost

Accommodation (Single room)	€200-€350 approx., excluding €25-€50 for bills (Water, Electricity, Internet). You might be asked to pay 2-3 months' rent in advance.
Resident Permit for Non-EU Students	Total €118.6 (€102.6 for Resident permit fees + Postelitaliane fees and €16 Euro for Marca da bollo)
Fiscal Code	Free of Charges
Food (ERSU Meals)	€0.00 - €6.00, depending on your income and scholarship availability.
Food (Outside ERSU)	€7.00 onwards depending on the type of cuisine; Coffee €0.70 onwards (Chiosco), 1.00 onwards (Bars), Colazione/ Tavola Calda €1.00 - €1.50 onwards.
Leisure Activities	Museum €5.00 - €10.00 onwards, Disco €10.00 - €15.00 onwards.
Food items Pricing	Pasta/Rice €2.00 onwards, Bread €1.00 - €1.50 onwards, Fruits €1.00-€2.00 onwards, Milk €1 onwards, Biscuits/Cake €1.50 onwards.
University Fees	Yearly fees €306.00, 1st semester €156.00, 2nd semester €150.00 (First Semester fees paid while applying for the university offer letter).
Stationaries	Pens/Highlighters/Pencils €1.00 onwards, Notebooks €1.50 onwards, Textbooks depends on the course.

While departing from your country, it is suggested that you bring at least € 1,300.00 - € 1,500.00 for the first few months of expenses.

7.2. Markets

Supermarket	Location	Timings
PENNY	Corso Sicilia, 39/41	8:00AM to 9:00PM
	Via Pietro Mascagni, 116	
	Via Cifali, 3/1	
	Via Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, 7	
	Tremestieri Etneo, Metropolitan city of Catania	
LIDL	Via Acquicella Porto, 6	8:00AM to 9:30PM
	Corso Sicilia, 64	
	Corso Indipendenza, 77-79	
	Viale Regina Margherita, 12	
	Via Gelso Bianco, 94	
	Via Martino Cilestri, 75/77	
	Viale Felice Fontana, 36	
	Via Giovanni Segantini	
EuroSpin	Corso Indipendenza, 83	8:00AM to 8:30PM
	Via Don Luigi Sturzo, 2	
	Via Sabato Martelli Castaldi, 157	
	Piazza Vito Mar Nicolosi, 17/18	
	Via Gelso Bianco, 33	

Best way to find supermarket near you is write this on google for example: "PENNY near me".

Some other supermarkets are: Deco, ARD Discount, MD

Fish Market

The biggest Fish Market in Catania is located in Piazza Duomo, the historical city center of Catania. The entrance to the Catania fish market is located just behind the Amenano Fountain. The baroque Carrara marble fountain takes its name from the Amenano river that had once flowed on the same spot.

The streets near Catania's Duomo are transformed into a loud and fast-paced market, now expanded from selling fish to just about everything. A great place to catch a glimpse of Sicilian life, it instantly awakens all the senses – and the appetite!

Every morning on weekdays and Saturdays, fresh fish and food of all kinds are sold here, from around 7:30 am until 2 pm, though some stalls begin to shut down before noon. The lively scene is especially chaotic on Saturday morning.

La Fiera (The Fiera) Market

The Fiera is a huge market in the centre of the city, in the Piazza of Stesicoro, mere steps from Piazza del Duomo. It sets up from Monday to Saturday from 7am to noon and covers several huge streets so to walk it takes some time. In the Fiera you can find everything from all kinds of food to clothing items and tools or accessories. Yes, the most striking are the vegetables and fruits that are available here. They have an amazing colour and are wrapped in place with a fragrance that makes it impossible not to give into the temptation to buy something.

The quality of the products is exceptional and there are vegetables and fruit that I had never seen before, for example, purple cauliflowers. The market is always crowded because everyone buys acai products and the atmosphere is truly wonderful. What's more, sellers are more glib than anyone and always try to cajole you to buy something so it's impossible to leave the market without having bought anything.

7.3 Pharmacies

Pharmacy	Location	Time
Farmacia Coffa	Via Cristoforo Colombo, 25	8:30AM to 10:30PM
Farmacia Cutelli	Via Vittorio Emanuele II, 54	7:00AM to 12:00AM
Farmacia Minerva - Catania	Via Etnea, 385/387	8:30AM to 8:30PM
Farmacia Crocerossa	Via Etnea, 274	8:00AM to 8:30PM
Farmacia Europa	Corso Italia, 111	7:00AM to 12:00AM
Farmacia La Falce Marina	Via Umberto I, 155	8:00AM to 8:30PM

You can also find your nearest pharmacy by searching "Pharmacy near me" on google.

7.4 Tourist Attraction or Places to Visit

Cathedral of Sant'Agata

Catania's main Catholic place of worship, the Cathedral of Sant'Agata is dedicated to the city's patron saint. Positioned on the east side of Piazza Duomo, it has a baroque façade that stands on three orders, with Corinthian-style granite columns and marble sculptures depicting Sant'Agata, Sant'Euplio and San Birillo. The entrance portal is decorated with 32 panels that illustrate the life and death of the patron saint. From the Diocesan

Museum, where religious artefacts, altarpieces and paintings from the 14th century are found, you can access the underground ruins of the ancient Greco-Roman baths.

Location: Via Vittorio Emanuele II 163, 95131, Catania

Opening hours: From 7:00 to 12:00 and from 16:00 to 19:00 on weekdays; from 7.30am to 12.30pm and from 4.30pm to 7pm on public holidays



Bellini Civic Museum & Bellini Park

The Bellinian Civic Museum is entirely dedicated to the main Sicilian composer, Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835). Inaugurated in 1930, the museum occupies the house where the artist was born, in Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi. Personal memorabilia and photographs belonging to the musician are on display, including the death mask, 2 pianos, autographed manuscripts, a spinet and a harpsichord. Entrance to the museum is free, and it is possible to organize a guided tour at a low cost.

Location: Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi 3, 95124, Catania

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 to 13:00; Sunday from 8.30am to 1.30pm



Roman Theater and Odeon

Dating back to the Roman Empire, the Roman Theater and the smaller Odeon are two amphitheaters located on Via Vittorio Emanuele. Of the first, which has a diameter of approximately 102 metres, the orchestra area and the cavea are still visible, which was accessed thanks to the ring corridors, and the steps which could accommodate over 7000 people. About half the size, the Odeon Theater is still used today in summer for musical and dance performances.

Location: Via Vittorio Emanuele II 266, 95124, Catania

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9:00 to 13:30 and from 14:30 to 18:00



Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena

Located in the heart of the historic center of Catania, the Benedictine Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena is one of the largest in Europe; this jewel of the late Sicilian Baroque is now home to the Department of Humanities of the city University. Guided tours (around €7) are available every hour, taking you through the 16th-century kitchens and cells and the main altar of the church of San Nicolò l'Arena.

Location: Piazza Dante Alighieri 32, 95124, Catania

Opening hours: Every day from 9:00 to 17:00



Aci Castello

Aci Castello is a coastal town 9 km north of Catania, dominated by a splendid Norman castle built in 1076. The Civic Museum housed inside displays archaeological finds dating back to various eras, from prehistory to the Middle Ages. From the top of the castle you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea. Aci Castello is also worth a visit for the Church of San Giuseppe, splendidly frescoed by Pietro Paolo Vasta.

Location: Aci Castello, 95021, in the province of Catania



Mount Etna

The imposing cone of Etna stands tall between the cities of Catania and Taormina. This active volcano 3300 meters high is a must for excursion lovers who wish to test themselves during their visit to Catania. The buses that take you to the slopes of the volcano leave every day at 8.15am from Catania train station, returning in the evening; the cost is approximately €7 per person. The journey takes about an hour and leads to the southern access to the mountain, the Rifugio Sapienza. From here it is possible to go up to the crater area with a hike of around 1000 metres, or take the cable car which costs around €30.

Location: Etna, 95031 Adrano, Catania



Taormina

Taormina, a Sicilian jewel, dominates a hill on which the ancient Greek remains of the city are found and from which spectacular views of Etna and the Mediterranean Sea open up. For a one-day visit you can take the bus from the Interbus Terminal - Etna Trasporti, in the center of Catania; the ticket costs approximately €8.50 each way. One of the busiest attractions during the summer is Isola Bella, a small nature reserve connected to the mainland by a thin line of sand. The area has been proposed by UNESCO for inclusion among the World Heritage Sites.

Location: Taormina, 98039, Province of Messina



7.5 Hospitals and emergency contacts

Emergency Services	112, 113 For all kinds of sudden emergencies; either of the two emergency numbers can be contacted and you will be directed to the respective responsible authority.
Ambulance	118 For medical emergencies.
Fire Services	115 For fire emergencies.
Police	112, 113 For any kind of police-related emergencies.

Here are a few prominent hospitals in Catania that provide services for emergency admissions:

Presidio Ospedaliero Garibaldi-Centro

Piazza Santa Maria di Gesù, 5, 95124 Catania CT

Tel.: 095 759 1111

Azienda ospedaliero-universitaria Policlinico "G.Rodolico - San Marco"

Via S. Sofia, 78, 95123 Catania CT

Tel.: 095 378 1111

Guardia Medica

Address: Corso Italia, 234, 95129

Tel.: 095 382113

7.6 Other Useful Information

Taxis

There are taxi company available in Catania and at the airport taxi services can be booked if needed. Below are some companies for the reference .

Company Name	Contact Numbers	Website	Services Offered	Availability
Radio Taxi Catania	+39 095 8833 +39 095 330 966 WhatsApp: +39 342 073 6541	radiotaxicatania.org	Standard taxis, station wagons, executive cars, airport transfers, accessible taxis	24/7
New Taxi Catania	+39 348 921 0175	newtaxicatania.it	1–9 passenger vehicles, airport and hospital transfers, group transport	24/7
Distefano Taxi	+39 360 968 390 +39 328 251 6010	taxi-catania.com	Private hire, airport transfers, regional trips with professional drivers	24/7

Important Offices & Services

Office/Service	Address	Contact	Purpose
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International Office (UNICT)	Via Antonino di Sangiuliano, 259	international@unict.it	Erasmus, mobility, and international student services
Cultural Mediator (UNICT)	Usually available through student services offices	Varies (check with International Office)	Assistance for linguistic and cultural integration
Italstra (School of Italian Language)	Via Teatro Greco, 46	italstra@unict.it	Italian language courses for foreigners
ERSU – Regional Student Support	Via Etnea, 570	info@ersucatania.it +39 095 7517911	Scholarships, housing, canteens, and student welfare

Local Cuisine Highlights – What to Try in Catania

Catania is a treasure trove of Sicilian Street food and traditional dishes. Here are some can't-miss specialties:

Dish	Description
Arancino	Deep-fried rice ball filled with ragù, mozzarella, or pistachio
Pasta alla Norma	Pasta with tomato sauce, fried eggplant, ricotta salata, and basil
Granita con Brioche	Icy, flavored granita (almond, pistachio, coffee, etc.) served with soft brioche bread
Cannolo Siciliano	Crispy pastry filled with sweet ricotta cheese
Cartocciata	A stuffed baked pastry filled with ham, cheese, or vegetables
Horse Meat Specialties	Common in local grills; served as steaks or polpette

CHAPTER 8

8. UNICORE – University Corridors for Refugees

8.1. UNICORE Scholarship

University of Catania is part of the University Corridors for Refugees (UNICORE) project promoted by UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Caritas, Diaconia Valdese and Centro Astalli. The project aims at granting refugee students in African territories the opportunity to continue their academic careers at Italian universities. Offering young refugees, often unable to continue their studies in the country where they have found protection, the chance to obtain visas for study purposes in Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), Caritas Italiana, Centro Astalli-JRS Jesuits service for refugees in Italy, Diaconia Valdese, Gandhi Charity, Italian universities listed in the National cooperation agreement.

8.2 General Admission Requirements

- Are residing in the specified countries and have a recognized refugee status in those countries (Please refer to the call for applications on <https://www.unict.it/en/international/unicore-university-corridors-refugees> ;
- Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme. The qualification must have been

UNICT UNICORE website:



issued by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the Country where the degree has been issued;

- Have a GPA (Grade point average) of at least 3.0 corresponding to, at least, 24/30 — referred to the Italian System. For the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system, the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education will be used;
- Hold a degree obtained within a certain period and no later than the call deadline (Please refer to the call for applications);
- Meet specific curricular requirements and, in accordance with the provisions established by Italian Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004, have an adequate educational background, for the program of interest, as further specified in each course information sheet;
- Not being previously registered in an academic study programme at University of Catania or at any other Italian university member of UNICORE consortium;
- Proficiency in the English language is required.

8.3 Application Documents

Mandatory Documents:

- Valid Refugee Identity card issued in cooperation with UNHCR or valid PoR Card;
- A Certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree course or, if the qualification has not yet been obtained, a certificate of enrolment from the University stating the expected date of graduation;
- Transcript of exams passed and marks obtained;
- Detailed and signed Curriculum vitae;
- A motivation letter (max two A4 pages), where they introduce themselves and explain their motivations.

Not Mandatory Documents:

- Syllabus.
- Letter/s of reference written by supervisor / advisor supporting the application.

For more information:

UNCHR UNICORE website



- Short video-CV (candidates can use their mobile phone for recording it).
- A Certificate or self-declaration about English language proficiency.

8.4 Deadline and How to Apply

Applications deadlines vary each year (Please refer to the call for applications on <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>). Students are to send applications, including all the documents listed above, through the UNICORE website, at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>. Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Students are allowed to apply for one second level degree programme offered by the University of Catania and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE project.

8.5 Selection

- Students are selected on merit-based criteria.
- Assessment will be performed by the admission board officially appointed by Rectoral Decree.

The selection process will be performed in two steps:

- Step 1: assessment of CV and documents concerning foreign qualification
- Step 2: online interview

8.6 Benefits of Scholarship

- Full coverage of expenses to be faced before arriving in Italy;
- Flight tickets, costs for getting visa and costs involved in preparing documents concerning foreign academic qualifications (CARITAS Italiana and UNHCR);
- Italian language course of 40 hours, free of charge, delivered online in synchronous mode by University for foreigners of Siena and University for foreigners of Perugia between July and September 20XX;
- Yearly scholarship of €5.000,00 Exemption from university contribution; Accommodation in university residences;
- Meals;
- Senior students Tutorship, aiming at supporting administrative procedures, learning activities and inclusion in the students' community;
- Counselling for enrolment procedures; - Support and full coverage of expenses for the procedures related to the issuance of Italian study permit (both first application and renewal) over the standard duration of the master's degree;
- Support and full costs coverage for the procedures related to registration in Italian health care system over the standard duration of the master's degree;

- Free of charge registration in Italian language courses organized by the School of Italian Language and Culture of the University of Catania;
- Transport pass;
- Further support services - for example psychological counselling, cultural and linguistic mediation, legal assistance, mentoring, tutoring, social and cultural activities.

8.7 Incompatibility

- The UNICORE scholarships cannot be combined with:
- Merit-based or income-based grants / prizes offered by University of Catania;
- Study grants issued by Italian Ministry for foreign affairs and international cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for holders of international protection; - Scholarships addressing to international students and issued by foreign governments and bodies upon agreements with University of Catania;
- Regional scholarships (ERSU).