



Università  
di Catania

Uni  
ct  
UNITÀ OPERATIVA  
RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' GUIDE

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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 1

## 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.

### 1.1 Departments and Didactic Units

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.

#### DEPARTMENTS

- Agriculture, Food and Environment
- Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences
- Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences
- Chemical Science
- Civil Engineering and Architecture
- Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- Drug and Health Sciences
- Economics and Business
- Educational Sciences
- Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering
- General Surgery and Medical-Surgical Specialties
- Humanities
- Law
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Medical, Surgical Sciences and Advanced Technologies
- Physics and Astronomy
- Political and Social Sciences

#### DIDACTIC UNITS

- Architecture
- Foreign Languages and Literatures

## 1.2 The Italian Higher Education system (academic calendar, grading system, exams, internships and contacting professors)

### 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 PROFESSOR

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.

For more information:



# CHAPTER 2

## 2 Before arriving

### 2.2 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 2024/25 all lessons will be held in presence modality.

#### 2.2.1 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

The academic offer:





administrative review you will soon receive an email 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](http://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](mailto: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. In order to facilitate the procedure, you have the possibility to request pre-enrolment letter. This letter can be presented to the Italian embassy as part of your visa application requirements. To obtain your pre-enrolment letter, you need to fill out the form.

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.

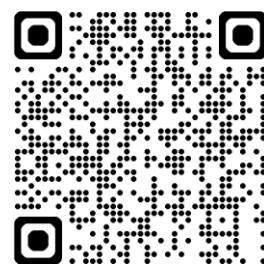
For more information: <https://www.unict.it/en/education/bachelors-degrees>

### 2.3 Apply for a Master Degree

Master 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 Degree) and should possess curricular requirements and personal competencies and skills.

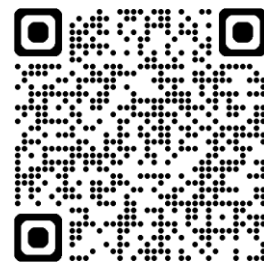
Medicine and Surgery  
course page:



Information about  
Bachelor's Degree:



Information about  
Master's Degree:



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### 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 Euromediterranean Relations
- LM 69 R Agriculture Science and Technology
- LM 91 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 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](http://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 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: <https://www.cimea.it/>

### 2.2.2 Apply for a Master 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/iscriverti-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](http://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 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](mailto: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](http://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 Degree or a single cycle Master 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 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 quantified as € 467.65 per month for each month of duration of the academic year, equal to € 6.079,45 per year. 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

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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.

## 2.5 Arriving in Catania

The second-largest city in Sicily by population, Catania spreads out over the Plain of Catania, between the Ionian Sea and the slopes of 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

Buses: Frequent buses run to Catania from Taormina, Messina, Enna, Caltanissetta, Ragusa and Syracuse and back. Less frequent buses run to Catania from Naples, Rome etc. The main bus station is opposite the railway station and 10 minutes walk from the city centre.

Trains: Frequent trains run up the east coast to Catania from Taormina (but the station in Taormina is a long walk below the town, better to take the Bus) and Messina, then on to Naples and Rome etc, and back. Trains also run to Catania from Enna, Palermo (slower than the buses) and Syracuse. A scenic route runs inland to Caltagirone and Gela. There is one daily train to Catania from Agrigento.

Ferries: Several Ferries run from mainland Italy to Catania. There is an overnight car ferry that runs daily between Naples and Catania as well as ones from Genova and Civitavecchia. One can also get a ferry to/from Valletta, Malta.

### 2.5.2 How to move from the airport

If you are arriving in Catania by plane, you will want to know how to get from Catania Airport into the city centre and then eventually to your hostel (or your temporary accommodation). A shuttle bus runs from the airport to Catania Centrale railway station and is your only option other than a taxi (or a rented car).

- The bus takes 25 minutes, with departures every 30 minutes. The ticket is € 4.00, and it could be bought from the driver.
- 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) or and usually validated with the machines inside the buses.

- 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 Nesima to Stesicoro and back, with intermediate stops. The service runs every 15 minutes, in both directions from 06.40 to 21.00.

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

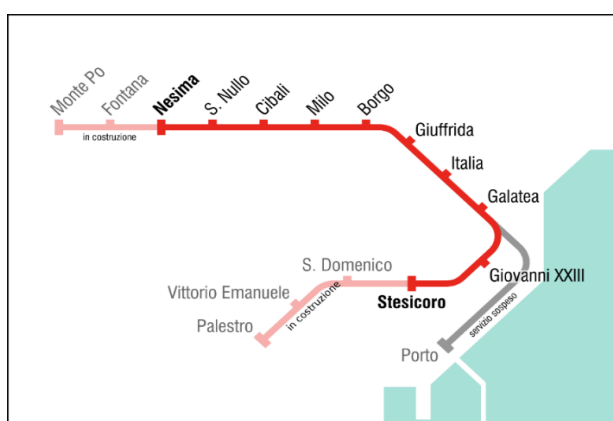


Figure 2.1: Catania Metro Route. With paths under construction and suspended services. As of now, the metro runs from **Nesima** to **Stesicoro**.

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# CHAPTER 3

## 3. In Catania

### 3.1 Italian phone number

While you are in Italy, an Italian phone number is extremely useful. To obtain a rechargeable SIM card with a regular Italian phone number, go to one of the mobile phone company stores (e.g. WindTre, Tim, Vodafone, Fastweb) with a valid passport. The provider will give you a sim card that will be associated with a calling/data plan.

### 3.2 Codice fiscale (tax code)

Codice fiscale (or fiscal code in English) is the Italian tax number for the identification of a Taxpayer for the local Tax Authorities. The codice fiscale is composed of the letters of your name, surname, and numbers related to the date and place of birth.

It would be much better to request the fiscal code from the Italian Consulate/Diplomatic Representation in your country before your arrival. The Italian Consulate/Diplomatic Representation in your Country will give you a temporary A4 document with your fiscal code, which you will be able to use in Italy. Upon arrival, you will need to apply for the fiscal code card at the Welcome office of the University of Catania. Please note that you can apply for the fiscal code only after receiving your residence permit's receipt. You can also apply directly at Agenzia delle Entrate from Monday to Friday at 08:30-13:00 by making an appointment via this link: <https://prenotazioneweb.agenziaentrate.gov.it/PrenotazioneWeb/prenotazione.action>

Agenzia delle Entrate is located at Via Monsignor Domenico Orlando No.1 – 95131, CATANIA and you can reach this location by bus number BRT5.

Alternatively, you can apply via email [dp.catania.comunicazioni@agenziaentrate.it](mailto:dp.catania.comunicazioni@agenziaentrate.it) by attaching following documents:

- Filled Form AA4/8 that you can find at the following link:  
[https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/documents/20143/278893/modello+cf+AA48\\_modello+AA4+8.pdf/a8287f7f-abcf-c4f9-b4f7-f038486bc7d6](https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/documents/20143/278893/modello+cf+AA48_modello+AA4+8.pdf/a8287f7f-abcf-c4f9-b4f7-f038486bc7d6)
- Scan of the first page of passport
- Scan of the Visa page from the passport
- Scan of the Residence permit receipt that you acquire after making a request at the Post office
- Scan of the University enrollment or acceptance letter

### 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.

The necessary documents for the issue of the permit are:

- The Application Kit, is available at the Welcome office (or available at the post office for free).
- Photocopies of the pages of your passport containing your personal information, your Italian visa and the passport pages containing stamps and other visas.
- Photocopy of the *Codice Fiscale*.
- Photocopy of the health insurance valid for 1 year.
- The Letter of Enrolment from the University of Catania stamped by the Italian Consulate/Diplomatic Representation in your country.
- Copy of the documents attesting the availability of appropriate financial means for one year (the time for which the residence permit is valid).
- Tip! The same document that you used to obtain a visa can be submitted
- € 16.00 (marca da bollo) stamp that can be purchased in any Tabacchi shop.
- The document attesting the accommodation in Italy.
- NB! The photocopy of your rental contract must be registered at the local tax office. Or, if you got the scholarship and place in the residence from ERSU, you can request the document from the ERSU office.
- Passport-size photos (2 for the Immigration Office (Questura), 2 for the fingerprints' office).
- The document attesting the payment of the University fee. The document can be printed from your university student portal Smart\_edu.
- The study plan with the University Stamp.

Once you are in the post office, you will have to pay the Residence Permit Fee (€ 70,46) and office expenses (€ 30.00). After completing these steps, you will be given a ricevuta (receipt) by the post office indicating the date of your appointment at the Questura. Please note that it is very important to keep it in the passport, to prove to have applied for it.

On the date of your appointment, you will need to go to Questura di Catania (Viale Africa, No.25). Do not forget your passport, original documents of the photocopies that were enclosed in the Application Kit, photos and any missing documentation that you were not able to insert in the Kit and obtained later. On this appointment, you will get a note for the fingerprinting appointment in another police office. Do not forget to take 2 passport-sized photos, a copy of the passport and the receipt there.

Once your residence permit is ready, you will be notified through a text message with the details of its release and date for collection. The Residence Permit Card can only be personally collected by the applicant.



To track the status of your application, after the appointment at the Questura, you can enter on <https://questure.poliziadistato.it/stranieri/> the code allocated to the file or the password written on the receipt given by the post office.

According to the Polizia di Stato *website*, students are responsible to renew their Residence Permit within 60 days before the expiry date. The renewal process does not require a new visa, but you will have to repeat the Residence Permit application procedure anew.

To complete Permesso di soggiorno request it is mandatory to contact via email and fix an appointment with dott.ssa Maria Sanfilippo [maria.sanfilippo@unict.it](mailto:maria.sanfilippo@unict.it).

### 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 not less than € 30,000.00 amount of coverage,
- it is stamped by the Italian Consulate/Diplomatic Representation in your country
- The exact coverage period is 1-year. Since the duration of your residence permit is connected to the duration of the insurance.

Alternatively, once in Italy, you can request any insurance having the same coverage.

Another option is to register with the National Health System, but bear in mind that this insurance covers you from January till December no matter when you pay the tax.

### 3.5 Bank Account

All foreign students upon arrival to Catania need to open a Bank account, whose IBAN code is crucial for financial transactions. The main banks are Intesa Sanpaolo, UniCredit and BNL. However, there is an opportunity to open an online bank account like Wise, Revolut and N21. Each of them has different requirements which are changing every year, so it is highly crucial to check the student-friendly solutions before choosing the bank where you want to open an account.

The following documents are usually required:

- Residence permit (or the receipt for its application)
- Passport and its photocopy
- Rental contract (for your address identification)
- Fiscal code
- Photocopy of the Admission Letter
- Identity card which requires you to change your residency in the office of Municipality of Catania (depending on the bank)

### 3.6 Completion of enrolment

Another fundamental task, once you arrive in Catania, is achieving the procedures necessary to complete your enrolment. This process is fundamental to confirming your enrolment to the University of Catania that you already started while you were still in your country of origin.

To complete your enrolment, you will be asked to contact the International Students Office ([internationalstudents@unict.it](mailto:internationalstudents@unict.it)) to fix an appointment, where the responsible person will help you to finalize the procedure.

The documents required to complete your enrolment are:

- copy of the passport (the personal details page and the VISA page)
- copy of the request of the residence permit (the 3 papers the post office gave you while applying for residence permit)
- copy of the fiscal code
- DOV in original or Statement of Comparability together with the legalized copy of the study documents

### 3.7 Housing

One of the crucial aspects of relocating to Catania and embarking on your academic journey is securing accommodation, whether it be for a brief or extended duration. It's essential to be mindful of the competitive nature of student housing and to remain vigilant in seeking out favorable options, given the high demand among fellow students. Additionally, it's strongly advised against pre-booking accommodation for an extended period before your arrival, for two primary reasons: firstly, to ensure proximity to your departmental building where classes are conducted, and secondly, to steer clear of online scams involving fraudulent advertisements promising attractive deals and requesting upfront payments. Despite the challenges, finding accommodation in Catania is feasible with perseverance, and we'll explore various avenues and resources for locating both short-term and long-term housing options. It is important to stress that those applying and being ASSIGNEE of the bed and scholarship of ERSU should consider these housing solutions. Because it is possible that by the moment of your arrival you will not be in possession of some documents necessary for ERSU, and you will not be immediately able to get the room you got assigned in. Finally, ERSU Foresteria, is another housing solution offered by ERSU allowing a short stay (max 90 days) in their guesthouses (see chapter 4, section 4.4).

#### 3.7.1 Temporary accommodation

Before your arrival, you need to secure a place for a short period, such as a week or two, upon arrival, allowing time to complete necessary administrative tasks and search for longer-term housing, discussed in the subsequent section. Two popular choices among students for temporary places are available. The first option is booking through [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), offering a range of options from affordable hostels to more upscale hotels and B&Bs. Another viable choice is [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com), providing access to various accommodations where you can rent a room or

entire flat for your initial days in Catania. Additionally, exploring Facebook groups and Marketplace can yield potential housing opportunities, but caution is advised against transferring money in advance, specifically on the Facebook platform, due to the risk of encountering fraudulent ads offering unrealistically cheap rents.

### 3.7.2 Searching a room for rent

Finding a room or apartment in Catania as a student can be a challenging yet exciting task, especially considering that demand for rental properties is typically high before the start of the semester.

Fortunately, there are various websites and apps tailored to assist students in their search for accommodation. Platforms such as [www.idealista.it](http://www.idealista.it), [www.zappyrent.com/it](http://www.zappyrent.com/it), [www.subito.it](http://www.subito.it), and [www.erasmusu.com](http://www.erasmusu.com) offer a wide range of options, including shared apartments, single rooms, and studio apartments, with filters to customize search preferences based on budget, location, and amenities. Additionally, joining local Facebook groups such as [www.facebook.com/groups/AFFITTI.CATANIA/?locale=it\\_IT](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFFITTI.CATANIA/?locale=it_IT) dedicated to housing can provide valuable insights and opportunities. However, it's crucial to exercise caution and avoid making any advance payments from abroad before arriving in Catania and physically inspecting the accommodation. This ensures that students can assess the living conditions, neighborhood and suitability of the place firsthand before making any financial commitments, thereby minimizing the risk of potential scams or dissatisfaction with the chosen accommodation.

### 3.8 Transportation within the city (Buses and Metro)

As briefly mentioned in the preceding chapter regarding mobility in Catania, *the Catania Centrale railway station* serves as a pivotal hub for transportation within the city, facilitating access to buses and the Metro, which constitute the primary modes of public transportation. However, given the importance of transportation for your study experience in Catania, it is imperative to provide a comprehensive transportation guide:

- Buses are operated by *Azienda Metropolitana Trasporti Catania SPA (AMTS)*, and tickets, as previously mentioned, can be purchased at Tabacchi shops. Notably, a special bus route, *BRT-1*, links the City Center from *Piazza Stesicoro* to *the Cittadella Universitaria* and adjacent university centers.
- The Metro is overseen by the company *FCE*, with tickets available for purchase at the entrance of any metro station through ticket machines.
- UNICT students have the option to purchase an annual bus/metro pass at a discounted rate until *October 31, 20\*\** (make sure to check the deadlines). Requests should be made through the students' portal. For updated information, please visit: <https://www.unict.it/servizi/trasporti-e-mobilit%C3%A0#Trasportourbano>
- Additionally, for enhanced mobility options, students may consider utilizing electric scooters provided by companies like LIME and DOTT, which offer convenient and eco-friendly transportation solutions across the city.

- DOTT also offers special students discounts, check this link for more info: <https://catania.liveuniversity.it/2022/09/05/unict-sconto-monopattini-elettrici-studenti-personale/>

### 3.9 Italian identity card and SPID

As a legal resident of Catania, you can apply for the Italian ID Card (Carta d'identità), as it is needed for certain procedures. For foreign citizens living in Italy, the ID Card will only be an identification document and will not be valid for expatriation or outside the Italian territory, i.e., it cannot be used as a traveling document.

To apply for the Italian ID card, after you obtain a regular Residence permit and once you have changed your residence to Municipality of Catania, you will need to go to contact with dott.ssa Maria Sanfilippo [maria.sanfilippo@unict.it](mailto:maria.sanfilippo@unict.it) but once and only if you have a registered house contract for at least 12 months or ERSU housing certificate.

You will also need to prepare the following documents:

- a form that you can either download from page of Municipality of Catania [https://www.comune.catania.it/il-comune/uffici/anagrafe/modulistica/allegati/modelli-anagrafe/Modulistica\\_Cambio\\_Residenza.pdf](https://www.comune.catania.it/il-comune/uffici/anagrafe/modulistica/allegati/modelli-anagrafe/Modulistica_Cambio_Residenza.pdf) or contact dott.ssa Maria Sanfilippo via email [maria.sanfilippo@unict.it](mailto:maria.sanfilippo@unict.it);
- a valid passport;
- residence permit;
- rental contract registered with Agenzia delle Entrate for at least 12 months;
- recent photos of half-bust on a white background clearly showing the face;
- fiscal code.

In order to apply for the electronic ID Card (Carta d'identità elettronica CIE) it is necessary to be a resident of Municipality of Catania and the CIE cost is € 22.00 and for foreign citizens the CIE is valid as an identification document only in Italy and not for expatriation or outside of Italy.

At the time of the application for the CIE there will be half of a linked PIN, while the other half will be delivered together with the delivery of the CIE. This code is useful to apply online for the SPID by a smart-card reader.

The SPID (Sistema Pubblico d'Identità Digitale) is the digital identity that allows you to have access to all the public administration online services, by using a username and a password. It is becoming extremely important and useful recently, with the digitalization of bureaucratic procedures. For foreign citizens living in Italy with a residence permit, the SPID application can be done having:

- a valid Italian identification document (Italian ID Card or CIE);
- a health card with fiscal code or the fiscal code card, or their certificates of attribution;
- an Italian telephone (or cell phone) number and 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.

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 number of credits, i.e., students with the highest credits within your course of study will be placed on top.

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

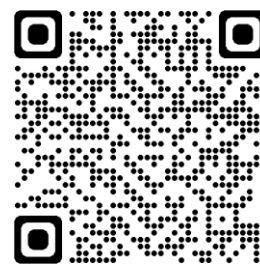
- ASSIGNEE: You will get both money and a bed.
- ELIGIBLE: You have to wait, and probably, due to scrolling down the list, you will receive money and a bed.
- NOT ELIGIBLE:
- SUSPENDED: For some reason (incomplete documentation or missing documents for instance). Hence, you are required to provide other 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

For more information:

ERSU website




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](https://studenti.ersucatania.it/register.php?registration_type=s) for first-time registration and access (see Fig. 4.1).





**Registration of personal data reserved for foreign students**


Tax Code - [Calculate your tax code](#)


Surname -


Name -


Birth date -  

Gender -  

Country of birth -  

Province of birth (for foreign births select EE) -  

Municipality of birth -  

Nationality -  

Email -

I declare that I have read the privacy policy

**Consent manifestation**  
(Article 23 of Legislative Decree 196/2003 and Article 7 of EU Regulation no. 2016/679)  
 Consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes related to the detection of the degree of satisfaction with the quality of the services offered, the promotion of the same and the cultural, sporting and recreational initiatives organized and / or sponsored by the Entity (sending email, mail and / or sms and / or telephone contacts).

Yes  No

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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**"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 <b>28 AGOSTO 2022</b>
La procedura per la validazione dei dati tramite OTP sarà disponibile fino alle ore 14:00 (ora italiana) del <b>28 AGOSTO 2022</b>

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:

- o 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);
- o 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 familiar: 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
- 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.

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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, Mozambico, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Burundi, Haiti, Nepal, Togo, Cambogia, Kiribati, Niger, Tuvalu, Central African Rep., Korea Dem. Rep., Rwanda, Uganda, Chad, Lao People's, Democratic Repubblica, Sao Tome & Principe, Yemen, Comoros, Lesotho, Senegal, Zambia, Congo Dem. Rep., Liberia, Sierra Leone, 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. 2024/25 you should attach the documents related to the year 2022. Consequently, the ISEEU should be for that same year 2022.

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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: For your bachelor's degree
- Anno Accademico conseguimento titolo: Your graduation date
- Istituzione conseguimento titolo: The name of the institution

Then click *Continua*

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### 3° STEP: INFORMAZIONI PRELIMINARI AL QUADRO B

Completa i seguenti campi obbligatori:

**Anno di corso**

**Anno conseguimento diploma scuola superiore**

**Istituzione universitaria**

**Sede del corso di laurea**

**Eventuale condizione particolare carriera universitaria**

**Contemporanea iscrizione a più corsi di laurea**

**Eventuale passaggio corso di laurea**

**Eventuale rinuncia agli studi**

**Eventuale precedente immatricolazione**

**Titolo universitario livello inferiore già conseguito**

**Tipologia titolo conseguito**

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

**Istituzione conseguimento titolo**

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

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
- 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

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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*).

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

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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.

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 documento: Select the appropriate
- Numero documento: Passport number - if you select *Passaporto* (Passport)
- Rilasciato da: Put the appropriate
- Data rilascio: DD/MM/YYYY
- Data scadenza: DD/MM/YYYY

Then click *Continua*

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**9° STEP: INSERIMENTO ESTREMI DOCUMENTO DI IDENTITÀ**

Inserisci i dati relativi al tuo documento

**Tipo di documento**

**Numero documento**

**Rilasciato da**

**Data rilascio**

**Data scadenza**

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

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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.

#### 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)

#### 4.2.4 Scholarships assignation criteria

The assignation 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: 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) 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](mailto: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](mailto:clara.lomonaco@ersucatania.it) and by phone 095/7517913.

# CHAPTER 5

## 5. University life

### 5.1.1 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.

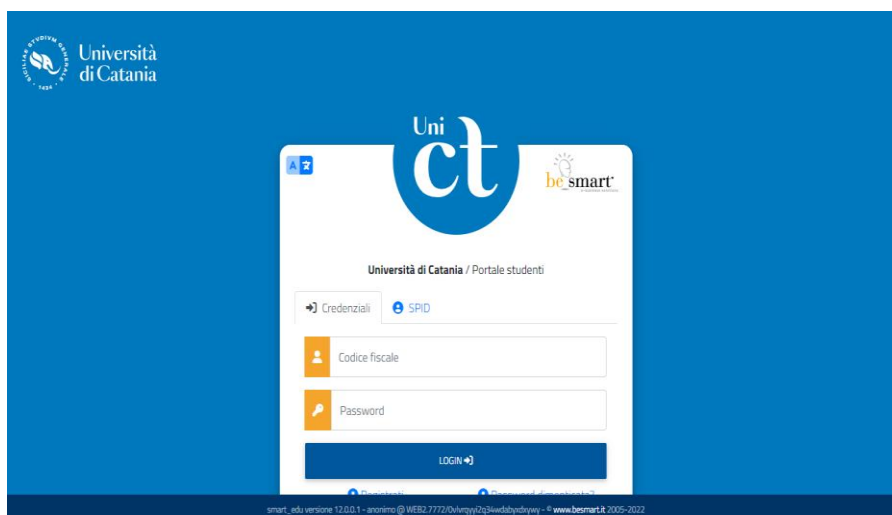
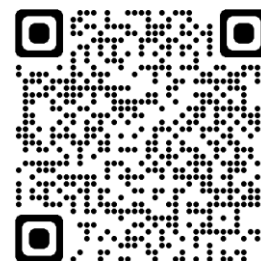


Figure 5.1: Welcome page on Smart\_edu

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

Students' portal:



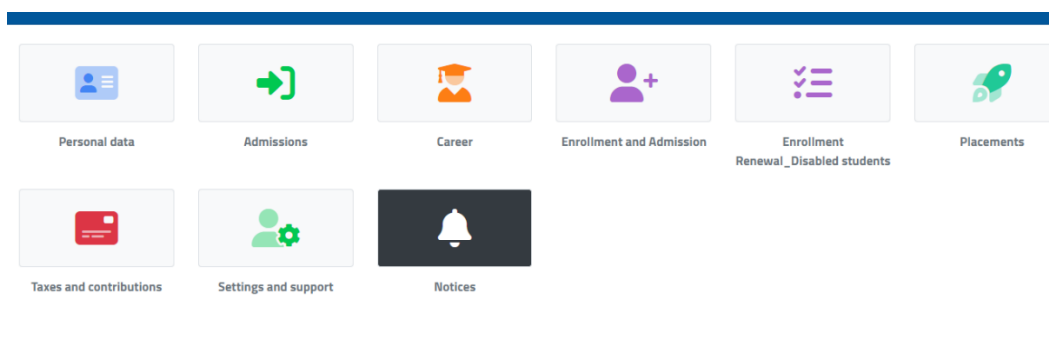


Figure 5.2: The Sections in the Smart\_edu student portal (English version)

The most important sections of the portal are:

- ***Procedure 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.

### 5.1.2 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'.

### 5.1.3 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](mailto:assistenza.posta@studium.unict.it)

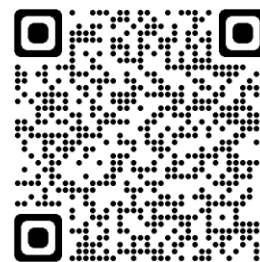
### 5.1.4 Studium

Studium is a support platform used by the University of Catania to allow professors to share with students materials of interest. Studium can be assessed 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

### 5.1.5 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.

### 5.1.6 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.

### 5.1.7 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.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 + Posteltaliane 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

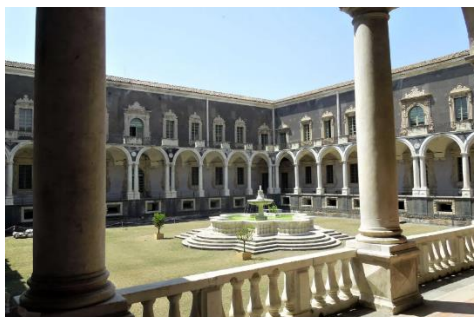


### **Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena**

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