ERASMUS+

GUIDE FOR FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES
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INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OFFICE

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Dear international students and professors,

Thank you for choosing the University of Catania as your host university. I am honored to welcome you to the Siculorum Gymnasium. I hope you will enjoy your stay at our university, to achieve educational growth and formative experience in our town, rich in history and tradition. The University of Catania is a public institution with a strong and ever growing international orientation and community. Our main goal is to provide international students with a stimulating learning environment, and to offer them an international dimension based on excellence and innovation, both key elements of the educational experience. This guide is designed to help international students and professors who spend a period in Catania, taking part in stimulating learning programs and exchanging cultural experiences. In order to ease your integration into academic and cultural life in Catania, this guide provides you with a general description of the university, and gives practical advice to be used before leaving your own country, and some information that might be useful at your arrival in Catania. Further on, you will find information on academic course, as well as a presentation of university facilities, accommodation services and practical addresses of interest that will enhance your experience here. Moreover, through the last section, you may discover Catania, a town that has always played an active role in promoting cooperation and cultural exchanges for centuries, in the Mediterranean Area and in Europe. May your stay here be stimulating, pleasant and fruitful. A warm welcome to all of you.

Giacomo Pignataro Rector of the University of Catania.
University of Catania

A Brief Historical Background

The foundation of the University of Catania, the oldest in Sicily, dates back to 1434, when the king of Spain, Alfonso of Aragon (who was also King Alfonso I of Sicily), authorized the establishment of a Studium Generale with the privilege of issuing legally valid academic titles in the four core disciplines of theology, canonic and civil law, physical and joint philosophy, liberal arts. In 1444, the first four faculties of Medicine, Philosophy, Canonic and Civil Law and Theology and Arts were established. Students began to attend classes in 1445, however it was not until two centuries later that the university gained its own establishment in Piazza Università. It still stands in the piazza today, in the former grounds of St. Mark’s hospital. The building was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1693 and students were left without a place to continue their studies. In the interim period, before it was rebuilt, the resourceful students, unperturbed by such events and endowed with infinite determination, transferred classes to wooden huts by the harbour. The new building, designed by Giovan Battista Vaccarini, is a magnificent monument of Baroque architecture. The University of Catania was not only structurally powerful, it also held the exclusive right by Royal Decree to grant degrees within the Reign of Sicily. Although the hierarchical power of the university was in the hands of the Church, the Rector, an elected student in his last year of studies, had the power to put students on trial. Twenty-five chimes of the Cathedral bell marked the beginning of the academic year. Throughout the year, a porter marked daily any professor absence. The figures were then taken to a notary who subtracted a day’s wages from their pay. At the end of his studies, a student was awarded his degree at the Cathedral building as well as a gold ring and a blessing from the Archbishop. Although this ceremony and many other traditions have fallen into disuse, the academic structure of the university is still as strong today as it was in the first half of the 15th century, when it started out with just ten students.

Today the university buildings are spread throughout the city, with a contrast between the modern, hi-tech “University City”, and numerous historical buildings in the old city - centre. It offers an attractive portfolio of academic titles and is committed to the creation of a “laboratory” where the ancient Mediterranean culture meets new technologies, in order to offer advanced training experience. Students wishing to take an undergraduate degree will find our university to be a high-quality educational institution, with degrees specifically aimed at the labour market, which prepare effectively for further studies. Excellent departments, schools and support services are offered throughout all of our university sites in Catania, Syracuse and Ragusa. Here, students may also discover a culturally dynamic environment suitable for growing as students and individuals as well. Those who are considering taking post-graduate, masters or doctorate studies can choose among a wide range at the top, developed by internationally recognized research groups. Students have the opportunity to begin their university career at the top. The University of Catania is also attractive for those companies interested in transfer technology developed in university departments and research centers.
Departments and Schools

The University of Catania has 17 departments, 1 school and 3 didactic units that, additionally to the traditional assignments of scientific research, are in charge of the organization and management of educational activities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture, Food and Environment</th>
<th>Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences</th>
<th>Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: Via Valdisavoia 5, I-95123 Catania</td>
<td>Address: Città Universitaria Via S. Sofia 64, I-95125 Catania</td>
<td>Address: Corso Italia 57, I-95129 Catania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director: Salvatore Luciano Cosentino</td>
<td>Director: Filippo Drago</td>
<td>Director: Carmelo Monaco</td>
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<tr>
<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:di3a@unict.it">di3a@unict.it</a></td>
<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:biometec@unict.it">biometec@unict.it</a></td>
<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:biomlg@unict.it">biomlg@unict.it</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:fbranca@unict.it">fbranca@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:livolti@unict.it">livolti@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:distefan@unict.it">distefan@unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:gmarle@unict.it">gmarle@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:enzograsso@unict.it">enzograsso@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:antonio.fagone@unict.it">antonio.fagone@unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.di3a.unict.it">www.di3a.unict.it</a></td>
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<th>Chemical Sciences</th>
<th>Civil Engineering and Architecture</th>
<th>Clinical and Experimental Medicine</th>
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<td>Address: Città Universitaria Viale Andrea Doria 6, I-95125 Catania</td>
<td>Address: Città Universitaria Viale Andrea Doria 6, I-95125 Catania</td>
<td>Address: “Garibaldi Nesima” Hospital Via Palermo 636, I-95122 Catania</td>
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<td>Director: Roberto Purrello</td>
<td>Director: Enrico Foti</td>
<td>Director: Francesco Purrello</td>
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<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:dsc@unict.it">dsc@unict.it</a></td>
<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:dicar@unict.it">dicar@unict.it</a></td>
<td>General contact: <a href="mailto:medclin@unict.it">medclin@unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:sscire@unict.it">sscire@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:dcafiso@dica.unict.it">dcafiso@dica.unict.it</a></td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:rerizzo@unict.it">rerizzo@unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:gmarino@unict.it">gmarino@unict.it</a></td>
<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:milombardo@presidenza.ing.unict.it">milombardo@presidenza.ing.unict.it</a></td>
<td>Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:chcantarella@unict.it">chcantarella@unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Drug Sciences</td>
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<td>Educational Sciences</td>
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<td>Address: Città Universitaria (Building 2) Viale Andrea Doria 6, I-95125 Catania Director: Giovanni Puglisi General contact: <a href="mailto:dsf@unict.it">dsf@unict.it</a> Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:milena.rizzo@unict.it">milena.rizzo@unict.it</a> Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:raprivitera@unict.it">raprivitera@unict.it</a> tel:+39.095.7384009-026 Website: <a href="http://www.dsf.unict.it">www.dsf.unict.it</a></td>
<td>Address: Corso Italia 55, I-95125 Catania Director: Michela Cavallaro General contact: <a href="mailto:dei@unict.it">dei@unict.it</a> Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:imazza@unict.it">imazza@unict.it</a> Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:russob@unict.it">russob@unict.it</a> tel:+39.095.7357536; +39.095.7537511 Website: <a href="http://www.dei.unict.it">www.dei.unict.it</a></td>
<td>Address: Via Biblioteka 2, I-95124 Catania Director: Santo Di Nuovo General contact: <a href="mailto:difor.amm@unict.it">difor.amm@unict.it</a> Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:r.piazza@unict.it">r.piazza@unict.it</a> Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:tcaruso@unict.it">tcaruso@unict.it</a> tel: +39.095.7466310 Website: <a href="http://www.disfor.unict.it">www.disfor.unict.it</a></td>
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<th>Electric, Electronic and Computer Engineering</th>
<th>General Surgery and Medical-Surgical Specialties</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Address: Città Universitaria (Polifunctional Building) Viale Andrea Doria 6, I-95125 Catania Director: Vincenzo Catania General contact: <a href="mailto:dieei@unict.it">dieei@unict.it</a> Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:riccardo.caponetto@dieei.unict.it">riccardo.caponetto@dieei.unict.it</a> Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:pborgia@presidenza.ing.unict.it">pborgia@presidenza.ing.unict.it</a> tel:+39.095.7382006-352 Website: <a href="http://www.dieei.unict.it">www.dieei.unict.it</a></td>
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<td>Address: Piazza Dante 32, I-95124 Catania Director: Giancarlo magnano San Lio General contact: <a href="mailto:disum@unict.it">disum@unict.it</a> Scientific contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:b.bauman@unict.it">b.bauman@unict.it</a> <a href="mailto:m.damore@unict.it">m.damore@unict.it</a> - <a href="mailto:crizzo@unict.it">crizzo@unict.it</a> Administrative contact for didactics: <a href="mailto:giuliana.aiello@unict.it">giuliana.aiello@unict.it</a> - <a href="mailto:ferlito@unict.it">ferlito@unict.it</a> <a href="mailto:matilde.vecchio@unict.it">matilde.vecchio@unict.it</a> - tel: +39.095.7102311 Website: <a href="http://www.disum.unict.it">www.disum.unict.it</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Mathematics and Computer Sciences</td>
<td>Medical and Surgical Sciences and Advanced Technologies</td>
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| **Address:** Via Gallo 24, I-95124 Catania  
**Director:** Roberto Pennisi  
**General contact:** giur@unict.it  
**Scientific contact for didactics:** adistefano@lex.unict.it  
**Administrative contact for didactics:** servizi.didattici@lex.unict.it  
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**Administrative contact for didactics:** cmele@dmi.unict.it  
**tel.**+39.095.7337227  
**Website:** web.dmi.unict.it | **Address:** Policlinico Universitario (Building 2Via Santa Sofia 78, I-95123 Catania  
**Director:** Stefano Puleo  
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**Administrative contact for didactics:** giovanna.schillaci@unict.it  
**tel.**+39.095333900  
**Website:** www.medicina.unict.it |

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<th>Political and Social Sciences</th>
<th>Physics and astronomy</th>
<th>School of Medicine</th>
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| **Address:** Via Vittorio Emanuele II 8, I-95131 Catania  
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**General contact:** dfa@unict.it  
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**Administrative contact for didactics:** giovanna.schillaci@unict.it  
**Web:** www.medicina.unict.it |
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<tr>
<th>RAGUSA (Didactic Unit)</th>
<th>SIRACUSA (Didactic Unit)</th>
<th>Scuola Superiore di Catania - Mediterranean University Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Foreign Languages and Literatures (Didactic Unit)** | **Architecture** | **Address:** Via Valdisavoia 9, I-95123 Catania  
President: Francesco Priolo  
General contact: scuolasuperiore@ssc.unict.it  
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tel:+39.0931.489404-07  
Website: www.architettura.unict.it |
European Policy Strategy

The University of Catania considers the internationalization process to be of deep importance for its development, therefore, it is willing to adopt strategic plans aiming at improving such process, thanks to some different actions to be realized in a short time and some others requiring longer times for their implementation, but all pursuing the goal of rising its visibility, reputation and attractiveness. The University of Catania is the oldest of the Italian South-Centre universities and it manifests some excellences in terms of didactics and research thanks to particular synergies and specific collaborations with several research institutes operating in its territory. Furthermore, Catania geographic position, even if off-centered from North-center European countries, is certainly in a focal point with respect to Mediterranean area countries, with whom it is certainly possible to organize cooperation activities of great importance. Other key points can be considere, enterprises working on the territory representing a reference point for study, research and industrial collaboration initiatives. Therefore, in order to improve the internationalization process the university will adopt the following strategic actions.
**Short-term actions:**

- Enhance international activities communication through a more attractive web site and the creation of social network profiles;
- Increase the educational offer in English language, thanks to the activation of new courses and the creation of “course packages”, useful for incoming students in the creation of their learning agreements;
- Reinforce English language courses in all degree courses in order to boost students’ linguistic competencies and make them more competitive within the international job market;
- Enlarge the number of agreements with European countries and particular France, United Kingdom, Germany and Northern European countries;
- Increase existing international cooperation and transfer contacts and best practices to similar disciplinary areas.
- Stimulate international mobility (European and Non-European) of teachers and administrative staff using simple administrative procedures;
- Implement services and facilities for incoming students, teachers and staff, with better accommodations services and dedicated procedures to obtain visas;
- Enhance Italian language courses offer for foreign student;

**Long-term actions:**

- Favour the activation of degree courses and/or Ph.D. courses with joint degree and increase their number;
- Rise incoming mobility of internationally recognised professors to do some didactics or seminars;
- Boost University of Catania active participation to the most important international inter-universities networks;
- Favour and promote the realization of multidisciplinary activities such as international high specialization summer school;
Studying at the University of Catania

The University of Catania has adopted the CFU accreditation system which corresponds to the European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

**ECTS** - The ECTS system is based on the principle of mutual trust and confidence between the participating higher education institutions. The few rules of ECTS, concerning **Information** (on courses available), **Agreement** (between the home and host institution) and the use of **Credit Points** (to indicate student workload) are set out to reinforce this mutual trust and confidence.

**ECTS CREDITS** - The ECTS credits are a value allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course requires in relation to the total quantity of work necessary to complete a full year of academic study at the institution, that is, lectures, practical work, seminars, private work in the library or at home and examinations or other assessment activities. The ECTS credits express a relative value. In ECTS, 60 credits represent the workload of a year of study; normally 30 credits are given for a semester and 20 credits for a term. It is important that no special courses are set up for ECTS purposes, but that all ECTS courses are mainstream courses of the participating institutions, as followed by home students under normal regulations. It is up to the participating institution to subdivide the credits for the different courses. Practical placements and optional courses which form an integral part of the course of study also receive academic credit. Practical placements and optional courses which do not form an integral part of the course of study do not receive academic credit. Non-credit courses may, however, be mentioned in the transcript of records. Credits are awarded only when the course has been completed and all required examinations have been successfully taken.
**ECTS GRADING SCALE**

The ECTS grading scale provides a common currency to measure the quality of student achievement. It is important to note that it is not meant to replace the local grade but to be used optionally and in addition to it.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td><strong>EXCELLENT</strong> outstanding performance with only minor errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td><strong>VERY GOOD</strong> above average standard but with some errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td><strong>GOOD</strong> generally sound work with a number of notable errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td><strong>SATISFACTORY</strong> fair but with significant shortcomings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td><strong>SUFFICIENT</strong> performance meets minimum criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td><strong>FAIL</strong> some more work required before the credit can be awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX</td>
<td><strong>FAIL</strong> considerable further work is required</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ECTS students and Erasmus program

The students participating in ECTS receive full credit for all academic work successfully carried out at any of the ECTS partner institutions. They will be able to transfer these academic credits from one participating institution to another on the basis of prior agreement on the content of study programs abroad between students and the institutions involved.

When the student has successfully completed the study program previously agreed between the home and the host institutions and returns to the home institution, credit transfer will take place, and the student can continue the study course at the home institution without any loss of time or credit. Students may be awarded a student mobility grant if they fulfill the general conditions of eligibility for the Erasmus program. They shall not be required to pay tuition fees at the host institution and continue to pay normal tuition fees to the home institution during the study period abroad.

For further information, please consult the website: www.unict.it/en/ects
Enrolment Procedures

EU and non-EU citizens can equally enroll at the University of Catania. In case of dual citizenship, the Italian citizenship prevails (L. 31 May 1995, n. 218 art. 19). Distinct application rules apply to: - EU citizen; - non EU citizen; - Italian citizens with foreign academic qualifications.

EU CITIZENS - Those who wish to apply for an Italian degree course must observe the same deadlines and procedures of Italian citizens. Citizens from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Republic of San Marino and Liechtenstein are treated as EU citizens; the same rule is applied for Non-EU citizens owning a residence permit (permesso di soggiorno) or a residence card (carta di soggiorno) for work, family, religion or asylum, and political refugees. Prospective students can apply for only one degree course, although they may pre-enroll in several courses and take multiple admission tests. EU nationals and EU-equated citizens are not requested to take the Italian language test. They do not belong to places reserved to non-EU citizens (contingente riservato). They should respect, as Italian students, the deadlines provided by the calls of each course of study. In order to enroll at the university it is compulsory to fulfill the online registration procedure on the “Portale Studenti” and submit the documents, described in the following paragraph, to the Foreign Students Office.

In order to accomplish the online enrollment, applicants must be provided with the Italian tax code (codice fiscale).

NON - EU CITIZENS - Every study program sets an annual quota of places available for non-EU students. To request pre-enrolment for a program, citizens should contact the Italian embassy-consulate in the student’s country of residence, they cannot apply for a degree course (either for a first or a second cycle degree) directly to the University of Catania. Application deadline is established annually by the Italian Ministry of Education. At the Italian embassy or consulate, applicants fill a pre-registration request form and they can choose only one degree course.
**EU CITIZENS**

**For 1st cycle and One-long Cycle 2nd degree programs:**

- original copy of secondary school diploma obtained after at least 12 years of schooling. The diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the diploma to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the school/college belongs to;
- certificate assessing the student’s passing of the academic admission/proficiency test (where required), if provided for home country university access;
- any university study certificate or non-university post-secondary study certificate (exams passed and exam programs) for the obtainment of the enrolment to an academic year after the first one (shortening of the program time limits) or for the completing of the 12 year schooling required for the access to Italian universities;
- a copy of the residence permit is also needed for non-EU applicants resident in Italy.

**EU CITIZENS**

**For 2nd cycle degree programs:**

- original copy of secondary school diploma obtained after at least 12 years of schooling. The diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the diploma to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the school/college belongs to;
- 1st cycle degree obtained at any university the diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the degree to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the school/college belongs to;
- Diploma supplement or certificate released by the relevant academic institution, translated and duly validated, assessing the passed exams as well as the detailed programs and time plan devoted to the teaching and laboratory activities provided for each subject area dedicated;
- a copy of the residence permit is also needed for non-EU applicants resident in Italy.
- admission is subject to specific course requirements determined by each Master Degree board.
**NON - EU CITIZENS**

For 1st cycle and One-long Cycle 2nd degree programs:

- secondary school diploma (original copy) obtained after at least 12 years of schooling. The diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the diploma to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the school/college belongs to;
- certificate assessing the student’s passing of the academic admission/proficiency test (where required), if provided for home country university access;
- any university study certificate or non-university post-secondary study certificate (exams passed and exam programs) for the obtainment of the enrolment to an academic year after the first one (shortening of the program time limits) or for the completing of the 12-year schooling required for the access to Italian universities;
- any certification assessing the knowledge of the Italian language

For 2nd cycle degree programs:

- original copy of secondary school diploma obtained after at least 12 years of schooling. The diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the diploma to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the school/college belongs to;
- 1st cycle degree obtained at any university the diploma must be translated and duly validated;
- declaration of value for the degree to be released by the Italian diplomatic representation in the country to which the university belongs to;
- Diploma supplement or certificate released by the relevant academic institutiontranslated and duly validated-assessing the passed exams as well as the detailed programs and time plan devoted to the teaching and laboratory activities provided for each subject area;
- any certification assessing the knowledge of the Italian language if the Master Degree course is in Italian.
ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEST -

EU students with the following qualifications are exempt from taking the Italian language test and don’t belong to “Contingente riservato”

- 2nd level secondary school qualification obtained following four or five years of study at Italian schools abroad, or one of the secondary school final qualifications described in annex 2 of the provisions of the MIUR Memorandum;
- certificate obtained in conjunction with a school diploma from Argentina that certifies that the program included 5 years Italian language course;
- diploma in Italian language and culture issued by the University for Foreigners of Perugia and Siena, obtained after a course of at least one academic year;
- Italian language proficiency certificates equivalent to levels C1 and C2 of the Council of Europe issued by the III University of Rome and by the University for Foreigners of Perugia and Siena, also issued in agreement with Italian cultural institutes abroad.

Students with Italian language proficiency certificates equivalent to levels not lower that B2 of the Council of Europe, are exempt from the Italian language test, however admission in this case is determined by the number of places assigned to foreign citizens. Every year the date of the test (usually in early September) is set before the beginning of the academic year. Failing the test will prevent students from being admitted to any degree course in any Italian university; that’s why an adequate knowledge level of Italian language is very important. Eventually, enrolment will be completed only after all the tests have been passed (Italian language test and entrance test).
ITALIAN CITIZENS WITH FOREIGN ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS - These students are admitted to the university under the same conditions as other Italian students. The only difference concerns the certification of the foreign academic qualifications. Foreign academic qualifications must fulfill the requirements of the Annual memorandum of the Ministry of Education University and Research for foreign academic qualifications. Assessment of the degree qualification for Admission is subject to specific course requirements determined by each Master Degree board.

### Enrolment in a 1st cycle course

They must attach to the form of enrolment the High School Diploma (original copy) authenticated and translated into Italian with its declaration of value done by the Italian Diplomatic Representation abroad. Moreover candidates must add the following documentation authenticated and translated into Italian:

- original copy of the certificate proving that he has passed such selections if in the country where the degree was issued the admission to universities is subject to competitive exams;
- certificate issued by a foreign university or original certificate of educational qualification issued by a non-university institute stating the years of enrolment to prove that the candidate has reached the 12 years of schooling requested by law, if the student has got a High School Diploma which has been obtained after less than 12 years;
- certificate issued by a foreign university with the list of passed exams, their contents (official study program), the number of theoretical practical teaching hours and marks given, if the candidate is going to ask to be admitted to year following the first (abbreviazione di corso). This certificate must be authenticated and officially translated into Italian.

### Enrolment in a 2nd level degree course

Italian citizens in possession of a High School or university degree obtained abroad, must attach to the form of enrolment the following documentation:

- original copy of the diploma (if obtained abroad) legalized and officially translated into Italian together with the declaration of value done by the Italian Diplomatic Representation;
- Diploma supplement or original copy of University diploma legalized and officially translated into Italian together with the declaration of value of the University diploma done by the Italian Diplomatic Representation;
- original copy of the certificate of taken exams, issued by a foreign university, with the list of passed exams, marks given and their contents. Students must provide the detailed study program for each exam, and the number of theoretical-practical teaching hours necessary for the issuing of the academic qualification. This certificate must be authenticated and officially translated into Italian.

For further information, please send an email at: sestat@unict.it
### GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic calendar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The academic year is organized into 2 semesters, and each semester lasts about 20 weeks.  
The 1st semester begins in September - October and ends in January - February;  
The 2nd semester begins in February and ends in July.  
Subjects may be semester - long or yearlong and exams are held in January - February and June - July.  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching and learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Most teaching takes place in large lecture halls and laboratories; students are also expected to carry out a considerable amount of self-study in order to prepare for exams.  
| Assessment |
| Exams are held after the teaching period and are mainly oral although some courses have written tests taking place during the semester or before the oral exam. Each exam has a number of dates offered during the exam session and students can choose which date they wish to take it. Students are also entitled to turn down a mark and take the exam again if they are not satisfied with the result.  
| Examination grading systems |
| 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 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.  
| Credits recognition procedures |
| The Academic Senate of the University of Catania, deliberated the Course Credits Recognition System Guidelines that establishes the principle parameters that characterize student’s credits recognition in a range of activities carried out in foreign institutions before the student’s departure. Subjects recognition has to be based on a precise coherence between curricular activities and the course of study purposes. The mark obtained by the student during his foreign didactic period is calculated by the office in accordance with the rules fixed by the University of Catania’s official Grading Scale and its integration. The official Grading Scale is available online at [www.unict.it/en/ects](http://www.unict.it/en/ects)  

#### Local and National Holidays:
- 1st November - All Saints’s Day
- 8th December - Immaculate Conception
- 5th February - St. Agatha’s Feast Day (Patron Saint of Catania)
- 25th April - Anniversary of Liberation
- 1st May - Labor Day
- 2nd June - Republic Day

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17
## Educational Offer in English

### Study Courses entirely provided in English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Electric, Electronic and Computer Engineering</th>
<th>Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture</th>
<th>Department of Political and Social Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master degree in:</td>
<td>Master degree in:</td>
<td>Master degree in:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Automation Engineering and Control of Complex System</td>
<td>- Chemical Engineering for Industrial Sustainability</td>
<td>- Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations (GLOPEM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics:</td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:riccardo.caponetto@dieei.unict.it">riccardo.caponetto@dieei.unict.it</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dirrera@unict.it">dirrera@unict.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scientific contact for didactics:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcafso@dica.unict.it">dcafso@dica.unict.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information about subjects provided in English please contact the relevant department.
Practical

Information

International Mobility

For Exchange

Students and Professors
International Mobility Office

The International Mobility Office (IMO) is the administrative unit that takes care and enhances the international dimension of the University. This ambition involves, in particular, a significant collaboration with universities and partner institutions abroad and taking care of the participation of the university in the most relevant international mobility programs.

- Management of Key Action 1 (KA1): Mobility of the Erasmus Plus program that allows students to spend a mobility period abroad in order to attend university courses or to do research for their final paper;
- Coordination of the main international internship programs for students and graduates to spend professional training periods in companies and institutions abroad;
- Selection of professors for a teaching period at the Universities associated in the context of Key Action 1 (KA1) within the Erasmus Plus program;
- Implementation of welcome activities and training periods for foreign students, professors, and administrative staff;
- Exchanges of students, graduates, professors, and staff incoming and outgoing within cooperation agreements;
- Technical consultation and effective support in drafting proposals related to the Erasmus Mundus within the Erasmus Plus program;
- Partnership with “Convitto Nazionale Mario Cutelli” within the student training work project according to Law 105/2015.
Erasmus Coordinator Andrea Rapisarda e-mail: andrea.rapisarda@ct.infn.it

Didactic Division Manager Giuseppe Caruso e-mail: carusog@unict.it

IMO Coordinator Vincenza Tutino e-mail: cinzia.tutino@unict.it

STAFF

Erasmus Agreements e-mail: dorianamanuele@unict.it

Incoming Foreign Students e-mail: n.pascu@unict.it

Outgoing Erasmus students e-mail: dorianamanuele@unict.it

Internship and Placements e-mail: vmilici@unict.it

Accounting e-mail: f.trombino@unict.it

Incoming foreign Professors, staff and communication e-mail: mluisa.leotta@unict.it
Address: p.zza Università 2, I 95131 Catania

Operative seat: Via S. Orsola 5 I - 95131 Catania

Receiving hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30 to 12.30 am

Fax: (+39) 095 /7307008  e-mail: umi@unict.it

Website: www.unict.it/en/

Facebook: universitadeglistudidicatania

Erasmus ID code: I CATANIA01

Erasmus charter: 29276-LA-1-2014-1-IT-E4AKA1-ECHE
Students in mobility in the framework of Erasmus PLUS Program

General Information

The University of Catania participates to the Erasmus PLUS Program, which is an European Union action in the sphere of student mobility. This program enables students, selected by their home higher education institutions in the frame of agreements (in specific thematic areas) stipulated between their institutions and the University of Catania, to study for a full academic year or a semester. Erasmus PLUS program also allows students to spend a traineeship period in an enterprise or organization in Catania to develop specific skills including language skills and to improve understanding of the economic and social culture of the country in the context of acquiring work experience. Students receive an Erasmus grant from their own institution. Placement activity must be done in a company linked, for that purpose, with the University of Catania and must be tutored by a professor of the student’s course in Catania, who will be in charge of the relationships between the University of Catania and the hosting company. Erasmus students do not pay any inscription or taxes fees and can activate their mobility from 1th October to 31st July of every academic year (in August and September there is no provision of didactic activities).
**Mobility for study**

This action involves University students of all levels (Ph.D. students included), selected under the EU Erasmus Plus Programme for a mobility period, within inter-institutional Erasmus Study Agreements, signed between their institution and the University of Catania, in thematic areas indicated in the agreements. Erasmus students will not pay any inscription or taxes fees and can activate their mobility **from the Welcome Day in October (1st semester and full academic year mobility) or in March (2nd semester mobility) to 31st July of every academic year** (in August and September there is no provision of didactic activities). Once selected their students, each partner university will communicate their nomination, by e-mail, to the International Mobility Office (IMO) of the University of Catania.

IMO, after receiving selection communications, will inform students and partner universities, by e-mail, on administrative procedures available at the following webpage: [http://www.unict.it/en/node/383](http://www.unict.it/en/node/383)

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**Mobility for traineeship**

The action enables students to spend a traineeship period in an university structure, enterprise or organisation in Catania. Students receive an Erasmus grant from their own institution and the traineeship period is recognized in their academic career.

- For further Information please consult the webpage: [http://www.unict.it/en/international-mobility](http://www.unict.it/en/international-mobility)
International Student Mobility

**Undergraduates Placement**

In order to support training activities, the University of Catania promotes internal curricular training for foreign students. The training can take place in teaching or research structures of the University. Students from foreign Universities are advised to address all their queries to the relevant office in charge at their institution. The foreign University shall submit a request to the International Mobility Office of the University of Catania (IMO), therefore an Internship Agreement has to be made in order to activate the mobility. The IMO shall be responsible for all the administrative procedures, including the Rector’s signature. Students enrolled at foreign University can be the beneficiaries of the initiative; the internship shall take place for a maximum length of time of 12 months.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: [http://www.unict.it/en/node/631](http://www.unict.it/en/node/631)

**Graduates Placement**

In order to support the development of vocational training, the University of Catania is committed to implementing in-house job training promoted by worldwide partners. The training can be carried out across the University structures, service centers and within any other related structure belonging to University’s general administrative office. Newly graduates from foreign universities, within 12 months after graduation, are advised to address all their queries to the relevant office of their own institution for the activation of a traineeship. The foreign University shall then submit a request to the International Mobility Office (IMO) of the University of Catania. An Internship agreement has to be signed in order to activate the internship. The IMO is responsible for all the administrative process of the internship agreements. The initiative is designed to be used across the facilities and the departments of the University of Catania. The longest length is up to six months and this includes any further extension. The traineeship shall be paid by the host structure where the traineeship is supposed to take place. An allowance of at least €.300/00 gross pay per month has to be given after a minimum of 70% of the whole training activity. The provision of compensation for attendance and its exact monthly amount shall be subject to a specific clause within the agreement.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: [http://www.unict.it/en/node/632](http://www.unict.it/en/node/632)
**Students in mobility in the framework of International Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding for study**

International students can carry out a mobility period according to International Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding stipulated among the University of Catania and their institutions. Such mobility, free of inscription fees, can take place from 1th October and 31st July every academic year (in August and September there is no provision of didactic activities). In case of a single student application, it is necessary to refer to home International Mobility Office to get their authorization. In case of a group of students applications, the sending International Mobility Office will forward to IMO an annual mobility program indicating students number, personal data, mobility periods (1st/2nd semester or academic year) and their study plans. Such didactic information will be formalized, in case of acceptance, in the learning agreements.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: [http://www.unict.it/en/node/384](http://www.unict.it/en/node/384)

**Students in free mobility for study**

International free movers coming from universities who have not signed any international agreement with the University of Catania, who are interested in attending one or more courses offered by the University, can sign up for single courses (maximum 5 single courses and maximum 40 ECTS credits each year). It is, in any case, impossible to sign up for single courses belonging to degree courses with limited entrance at national level. EU and non-EU citizens regularly residing in Italy (as for the Italian Law 286/1998 art. 39, paragraph 5 and further modifications) interested in attending one or more single courses, can sign up producing their university card or other translated and legalized foreign university certificate. Non-EU citizens residing abroad can sign up by applying at Italian diplomatic representation.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: [http://www.unict.it/en/node/385](http://www.unict.it/en/node/385)
Ph.D. students in mobility for a short period

International Ph.D. students can carry out a mobility period (max. 11 months) at the University of Catania. Such mobility can be done in every moment of the academic year compatibly with departments didactic or research activities.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: http://www.unict.it/en/node/386
Professors and staff in mobility in the framework of Erasmus PLUS Program

**Erasmus STA mobility**
This program is addressed to incoming professors selected for didactic mobility under the Erasmus Plus Programme, within Bilateral Erasmus Agreements, signed between their institution and the University of Catania.

Such mobility will not be financed by the University of Catania and it can take place from 1st October and 31st July of every academic year (in August and September there is no provision of didactic activities).

✓ For further information, please consult the website: http://www.unict.it/en/node/382

**Erasmus STT mobility**
Every year the University of Catania organizes an “International Administrative and Teaching Staff Training Week”. This event is primarily targeted to International Relations officers, but it is also open to any motivated person interested in internationalization. The topics will be addressed to explore possibilities to strengthen and improve students’ mobility opportunities and to describe University of Catania best practices. Cultural visits and a social event will be included. European Union participants have the possibility to apply for Erasmus Staff Training mobility grants from their home institutions. Visiting and administrative units, coming from partner institutions who have already signed a Bilateral Erasmus Agreement with the University of Catania, may also choose to apply and be accepted by a specific department for job shadowing practice or training.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: http://www.unict.it/en/erasmus-mobility-training-stt-mobility

**International Professors Mobility**

**International Visiting Professors – Researchers – Scholars**
UE and non-UE professors/researchers/scholars can carry out a mobility period (from 2 weeks up to an academic year) at the University of Catania. Such mobility can be done in every moment of the academic year compatibly with departments’ didactic or research activities. This procedure must be followed both for mobilities within the framework of international agreements and free for mobility.

✓ For further information, please consult the website: http://www.unict.it/en/node/377
**Italian Language Courses**

The University of Catania, through its Department of Humanities, offers for free an Italian Language and Culture crash course (10 hours) for Erasmus students. Moreover Courses of Italian as a Foreign Language to non-Italian citizens who want to live in Sicily and who need a legal certificate (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2 of the Common European Framework) and Courses for CILS Certification are provided at special conditions. At the end of each course every student receives a certificate of participation stating the number of hours attended. Finally the department arranges a linguistic consultancy service organized by native Italian teachers and trainees and one-to-one courses for preparation to take CILS certification exams.

*For further information, please contact the Department of Humanities*

*Address: Piazza Dante, 24 I-95124 Catania Phone: (+39) 095 7102272*

*e-mail: italstra@unict.it  Website: www.italstra.unict.it*
Partnerships

Introduction

Cooperation relations between universities in different countries and between universities and other economic and social actors are one of the most important aspects of university life as well as the most reliable element to assess the impact that an institution fails to have, both in the national context, as the international market. The main instruments for the implementation of cooperation with foreign universities for developing joint research and teaching and encouraging mobility of students and professors are Erasmus Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.)
Erasmus Agreements

The implementation of the Erasmus activities requires the activation of specific inter-institutional agreements, under which mobility flows of students and teachers, both outgoing and incoming, are planned to carry out the following activities: - mobility of students for study purposes; - mobility of students for internships; - mobility of teaching assignment (STA). The Erasmus agreement is an official contract binding two institutes/universities involved in cooperating within the Erasmus framework (i.e. providing funds and support for student, teaching and staff mobility). Institutes/universities interested in entering into a new Erasmus agreement with the University of Catania shall contact the IMO specifying:

- institution name, ID code and Erasmus Charter number;
- duration of contract in academic years;
- names and contact details of both the institutional/departmental coordinators and central administration officer;
- details on incoming/outgoing student mobility: subject area and code, level (1st cycle degree, 2nd cycle degree, Ph.D. courses), numbers of students and total months;
- details on incoming/outgoing teaching mobility: subject area and code, duration of week;
- information about academic calendar, educational programs, foreign language knowledge requirements, services offered to incoming students and professors.

✔ For further information, please consult the website: http://unict.llpmanager.it/studenti/docs/borse_1516.pdf
Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.)

Memorandum of Understanding Within its internationalization policy, the University of Catania stipulates Memorandum of Understanding aiming at establishing and intensifying collaboration relationships with research agencies and universities all over the world in order to develop joint didactic and research activities and for increasing academic and cultural exchanges in education and research fields, as well as students, researcher’s and professor’s mobility. These agreements don’t have any financial backing.

✔ For further information, please consult the website:
http://www.unict.it/content/accordi-quadro-e-convenzioni
University facilities

**Career Guidance and Vocational Centre (COF)**
- Address: Via A. di Sangiuliano 197
- I-95131 Catania
- Head: Prof. Nunzio Crimi
- E-mail: cs.cof@unict.it
- Website: [www.unict.it/en/career-guidanceand-vocational-centre-cof](http://www.unict.it/en/career-guidanceand-vocational-centre-cof)

**Centre for Disability (CINAP)**
- Address: Via A. di Sangiuliano 259
- I-95131 Catania
- Head: Prof. Salvatore Massimo Oliveri
- E-mail: cs.cinap@unict.it
- Website: [www.unict.it/en/centredisability-cinap](http://www.unict.it/en/centredisability-cinap)

**Multimedial Languages Centre (CLMA)**
- Address: Via A. di Sangiuliano 197
- I-95131 Catania
- Head: Prof. Domenico Cusato
- E-mail: cs.clma@unict.it
- Website: [www.unict.it/en/multimedialanguages-centre-clma](http://www.unict.it/en/multimedialanguages-centre-clma)

**Libraries and Documentation Centre (CBD)**
- Address: Via Etna 742, I-95125 Catania
- Head: Prof. Francesco Migliorino
- E-mail: cs.cbd@unict.it

**Accommodations and Meals (ERSU)**
- Address: Via Etna 570, I-95128 Catania
- Head: Prof. Alessandro Cappellani
- E-mail: erasmus@ersucatania.gov.it
- Website: [www.unict.it/en/accommodation-and-meals](http://www.unict.it/en/accommodation-and-meals)

**University Sport Centre (CUS)**
- Address: Viale Andrea Doria 6, I-95125 Catania
- Head: Luca Di Mauro
- E-mail: info@cuscatania.it
- Website: [www.unict.it/en/university-sport-centre-cus](http://www.unict.it/en/university-sport-centre-cus)
**Student Associations**

The associations of students enrolled in the University of Catania are involved in the organization of cultural, sports and social activities related to Erasmus program. In order to have access to some academic services and facilities the associations recognized by the University of Catania have to be recorded in an official register. Associations dealing with international activities are:

- Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l’Europe (**AEGEE**).
- Erasmus Student Network (**ESN**).

Associations are in charge of:

- supporting foreign colleagues upon their arrival;
- helping them in getting familiar with Italian culture and environment;
- assisting them in finding a stable accommodation for all the mobility period.
Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l’Europe (AEGEE)

AEGEE was born 31 years ago bringing together students with different cultural backgrounds. Today, AEGEE is Europe’s largest interdisciplinary youth organisation: 40 countries, 200 cities, 13,000 friends. This network provides the ideal platform for young volunteers to work together on cross-border activities such as international conferences, seminars, exchanges, training courses and case study trips. In line with the challenges young people are currently facing in Europe, AEGEE’s work is focused on three main areas: Youth Participation, Bridging Europe and Inclusion of Minorities. The most important event promoted by the association is the Summer University, that takes place during summer between one and four weeks in one of the cities where AEGEE is present. Understanding and exploring the multicultural dimension of the European continent, removing national borders, fighting for tolerance and creating open-minded citizens are some of the reasons why many young students from all over Europe come together in the Summer University to taste the diversity of multiculturalism.

To know all the services offered, please contact AEGEE
Adress: Via Etnea 440 I-95128 Catania
E-mail: contact@aegee-catania.org
Website: www.aegee-catania.org; Facebook: AEGEE.Catania
Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

In 2009, ESN Ase Catania joined the ESN network, showing throughout the years a great deal of motivation. ESN Catania plays a key role on a local, regional and national level. It promotes, plans and manages all sorts of events, some including cooperation with other sections of the Italian network. Currently there are 25 active board members of ESN, providing a wide range of activities every semester. Among all activities, ESN Catania pays special attention to the Social Erasmus Programme. In fact, Catania was the first to promote Erasmus blood donation day, in partnership with AVIS. ESN Catania also takes part in a non-competitive yearly marathon charity named “Corri Catania” joined enthusiastically by Erasmus students and ESN members. Welcoming incoming students is a priority. Each semester is begun with a Welcome Week, during which, through formal and informal activities, the students get familiar with the association and the services provided. These services include tutoring, a housing program, and many leisure activities such as treasure hunts, excursions, sightseeing tours and parties. Integration and language support are stimulated by a “tandem language learning program” and a biannual cinema club where movies in Italian language are screened and discussed at the end, creating opportunities for debates and exchange of views.

To know all the services offered, please contact ESN Adress: Via del pino 24 -Zafferana-95019 Catania e-mail: catania@esn.it

Website: www.esncatania.it
Facebook: esnerasmuscatania2015/2016
How to get to Catania

☛ **By plane** If you arrive by plane, please consult available flights and useful information about the International airport “Vincenzo Bellini” Fontanarossa.

From the Airport to the city centre and to the Train Station the “Alibus Service” leaves every 20 minutes from 5.00 am to midnight.

☛ **By train** If you reach Catania by train we recommend you to check out the Italian railway services online (www.trenitalia.it).

The Catania Railway Station is located in Piazza Giovanni XXIII

Phone: (+39) 095 532226 Switchboard: (+39) 095 532710
Ticket Office: (+39) 095 532227

☛ **By ship** It is possible to get to Catania by ship from Naples with the companies Tirrenia (www.tirrenia.it) or TTT Lines (www.tttlines.it). Moreover you can sail from Genova to Palermo with “Grandi Navi Veloci” (www.gnv.it) and then take the motorway A19 from Palermo to Catania (Km 190).

☛ **By car** Arriving by car from Milan, Motorway A1 Napoli-Milano, then take the Motorway “Salerno-Reggio Calabria”, exit at “Villa San Giovanni” and get on the boat to Sicily. Then from Messina to Catania Toll-Motorway A18 (km 95). From Palermo to Catania: Motorway A19 (km 195). Updated information about the current road situation are available on-line at: www.autostrade.it
## INDEX

- **THE UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA**
  - PAG.2
- **DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS**
  - PAG.3/6
- **EUROPEAN POLICY STRATEGY**
  - PAG.7/8
- **STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA**
  - PAG.9
- **ECTS GRADING SCALE**
  - PAG.10/11
- **ENROLMENT PROCEDURES**
  - PAG.12/16
- **GENERAL INFORMATION**
  - PAG.17
- **EDUCATIONAL OFFER IN ENGLISH**
  - PAG.18
- **INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OFFICE**
  - PAG.19/22
- **STUDENTS IN MOBILITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ERASMUS PROGRAM**
  - PAG.23/27
- **PROFESSORS AND STAFF IN MOBILITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ERASMUS PROGRAM**
  - PAG.28
- **ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES**
  - PAG.29
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
  - PAG.30
- **ERASMUS AGREEMENTS**
  - PAG.31
- **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (M.O.U)**
  - PAG.32
- **UNIVERSITY FACILITIES**
  - PAG.33
- **STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS**
  - PAG.34/36
- **GENERAL INFORMATION HOW TO GET IN CATANIA**
  - PAG.37
Studying, living, feeling at home …

Welcome to the University of Catania
GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME: UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA

ADDRESS: PIAZZA UNIVERSITÀ 2, I - 95131 CATANIA

WEBSITE: WWW.UNICT.IT/EN

FACEBOOK: UNIVERSITADEGLI STUDI CATANIA

ERASMUS ID CODE: I CATANIA 01

ERASMUS CHARTER: 29276-LA-1-2014-1-IT-E4AKA1-ECHE