



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL



INTERNATIONAL *student guide*

PIACENZA AY 2024/2025

INDEX

› Before You Leave Home	6
› What to Bring to Piacenza	8
› Medical Assistance	10
› Accommodation in Piacenza	12
› Cattolica Regular Courses	16
› Italian Language Course and Welcome Days	17
› Student Life	19
› Living in Piacenza	19
› Public Transportation in Piacenza	20
› How to Reach Us Upon Arrival	22
› Money Matters	23
› Connecting You	25
› International Office	26



WELCOME TO PIACENZA

Dear International Student,

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

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

Please check regularly the International Student Web Portal:

› <https://international.unicatt.it/>

in order to keep up-to-date on academic issues concerning your stay.

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

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

Cattolica International Staff



BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Application Form

You can refer to our website for guidelines about the application procedure.

› [Exchange in Piacenza](#)

Please note that you will first need to be nominated by your Home University, and then you will be able to submit your online application.

Placement Confirmation and Course Selection

Your international student advisors will send you information via email regarding your placement, forms, and courses. If you need further help you can send an e-mail to:

@: ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

Visa Requirements

Non EU residents require a visa for a stay of longer than three months (90 days). Students need to apply for a student visa at the Italian embassy or consulate of their jurisdiction.

Below you will find the basic application requirements. However, it is important that students verify their consulate's web site for any additional requirements:

- Admission letter issued by host institution
- Passport
- Student visa application to be submitted in person

- Proof of enrolment at home institution
- Affidavit of financial support
- Proof of adequate health insurance coverage outside your country
- Flight itinerary

Please refer to our [website](#) for post-admission for non-EU students.

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

Residency Permit Requirements

If you are a non-EU Citizen holding a visa, you will have to submit an application for a Residency Permit (permesso di soggiorno) within 8 days of your arrival into Italy. The Residency Permit will be issued by the local police (Questura).

You will require the following documents:

- An Application Form ('yellow kit') available from any Post Office
- Your passport and the photocopy of every page of your passport (one copy per page)
- VISA documentation and any letter issued and stamped by the Consulate (make additional photocopies)
- Admission letter issued by Cattolica International and available for download on the enrollment portal, after you have completed your application

- A copy of your health insurance
- A revenue stamp (Marca da Bollo) of €16 that you can purchase upon arrival from any Tobacconist shop
- Your address in Piacenza, including the zip code.

The total amount of fees you will have to pay is € 116.46 (subject to change).

After submitting the form at any Post Office, you will be given a receipt. Please keep it in a safe place as proof of your application.

Further details on how to apply for the Residency Permit are available on our [website](#).

Travel Insurance

Your health insurance will likely not cover any damage or loss of belongings during travel and stay in Piacenza. We highly advise you to insure your most precious and expensive belongings such as laptop and other electronics. Travel insurance would usually cover any loss of important documents such as passport, credit cards, etc. Your travel insurance may also cover medical expenses and evacuation in case of emergency.

Do a search to compare the benefits and see how they complement your health insurance abroad.

Never leave your belongings unattended anywhere on campus, library, computer lab, etc. Do not mail your laptop as it will be held at customs and will only be released by paying a

customs fee.

Medical Insurance

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

Non EU residents must purchase International Health Insurance protection to cover any cost related to medical treatment and/or admission to hospital.

Please refer to

› [WAITALY](#) for further details. The cost is of € 86 for 6 months or € 135 for a year. Higher levels of cover are also available.

Note: An insurance policy is compulsory if you apply for a Residency Permit (Non EU Students only).

WHAT TO BRING TO PIACENZA

Documentation check-list

- A valid passport/ID card
- A valid student visa (if applicable)
- Travel itinerary/ticket
- Travel insurance
- Health insurance
- Credit cards & other cards
- Any medical certificates
- Admission letter issued by host institution
- Four colour and original passport size photos (3 x 4 cm). They cannot be scanned.

Documentation guidelines

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

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

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

Packing

The weather in Piacenza varies considerably depending on the season. December to February are the coldest months, but April usually brings nice spring weather. July and August are the hottest months.

Students on campus generally dress informally but you may want to bring with you something more formal for special events. You can find everything in Piacenza so don't worry if you forget to pack something.

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







Medication

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

Pharmacies

Many medications that you purchase over-the-counter in other countries may be available only by prescription in Italy.

Health Centre at Cattolica

An on campus Health Centre provides all registered students with free medical and nursing care as well as psychological counselling to be arranged by appointment at reduced fees for students.

Health Centre opening hours (no appointment required):

- **Mondays and Thursdays:**
11am - 12pm
- **Wednesdays:** 3pm - 4pm

Hospitals

If you require more serious medical assistance you will need to visit the hospital. Remember to always bring a copy of your health insurance cover or Health Insurance card. If you require an interpreter, please ask the International Office to arrange one for you (this may attract a fee).



ACCOMODATION IN PIACENZA

Before your arrival in Piacenza, Cattolica International will send you useful information about available options.

There are two on-campus residence halls and two residence halls in the town centre. The University also has agreements with some real estate agencies that can help students find the right place to stay charging a reduced fee.

Residences for students

Residenza Gasparini (on campus)

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

Contacts:

Segreteria Operativa Piacenza
EDUCatt

@: reception.piacenza@educatt.org

Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11

Fax: +39 0523 579416

› [Residenza Gasparini](#)

Collegio Sant'Isidoro (on campus)

The Residence was built in 1995. With 165 single bedrooms, the Residence provides many services, including heating, air conditioning, sports facilities, common study rooms, tv

room, wi-fi connection, private bathroom, room cleaning - all included in the accommodation fee.

Contacts:

Segreteria Operativa Piacenza
EDUCatt

@: reception.piacenza@educatt.org

Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11

Fax: +39 0523 579416

› [Collegio Sant'Isidoro](#)

Inside the Collegio you will find the University canteen, open to students, administrative and teaching staff and to external guests.

Collegio Sant'Isidoro will be closed from 26 July to 25 August for Summer Holidays.

Collegi di Piacenza

Alternatively, you can apply for a private room at one of the other [residences for students](#).

Collegio San Vincenzo

(in the town centre)

For information about the application procedure and deadlines please refer to:

@: ospiti@collegiomorigi.it

Tel. +39 0523 338551

› [Collegio San Vincenzo](#)

Collegio Morigi (in the town centre)

For information about the application procedure and deadlines please refer to:

@: ospiti@collegiomorigi.it

Tel. +39 0523 338551

› [Collegio Morigi](#)



Platforms for shared accommodation options

You might prefer to share an apartment with other students. Have a look on the following accommodation platforms:

- › [Roomtastic](#)
- › [AirB&B](#)

Real Estate Agencies

If you prefer to stay in a private apartment, we suggest that you book a room in a hotel or hostel for a few days and make an appointment with one of the real Estate Agencies that support our international students. The following agencies will offer Cattolica students a 50% discounted fee for finding an apartment for rent. The minimum rental duration is 6 months.

Invest SRL

Roberta Sarti
Via Mazzini 31-33 – 29121 Piacenza
Tel +39 0523 384842
@: roberta@investimmobiliare.eu
@: info@investimmobiliare.eu
› [Invest Immobiliare](#)

Casa In

Ms Emanuela Anglani (English speaking)
Tel. +39 339 4297746
@: info@casainpiacenza.it
› [Casa In](#)

Agenzia Immobiliare Piacenza Affitti

Mr. Sandro Mazzalupi
Tel. +39 0523 305648
@: info@piacenzaaffitti.it

Once you arrive in Piacenza, we suggest that you also look at the ads on the notice boards located inside the Uni (close to the café) or inside Collegio S. Isidoro.

Temporary Lodgings

Bed & Breakfast L'antica Torre

Str. La Motta Vecchia, 31 - 29122 Montale (PC)
Tel/Fax: +39 0523 615267
Mobile: +39 392 3958926 - +39 348 4590725

Mulino degli Orti B&B

Via Colombo, 120 - 29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 614272
@: celiodiego@gmail.com
› [Mulino degli Orti](#)

Papa Giovanni XXIII Hostel

Mrs Daniela Ponzini
Cantone San Nazzaro 2/A - 29122 Piacenza (PC)
Tel. +39 (0)523 337989
@: info@ostellodipiacenza.it
› [Ostello Papa Giovanni XXIII](#)

Euro Hotel Piacenza

Hotel & Apartments
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 29/F
29100 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 606 011
@: info@hoteleuropiacenza.it
› [eurohotelpiacenza.it](#)

Hotel City Piacenza

Via Emilia Parmense, 54
29100 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 579752
› [Hotel City](#)

Bed & Breakfasts in Piacenza

B&B Giò

Via Croce 10
29121 Piacenza
Tel.+39 333 6595722 -
+39 340 5252402

@: bedandbreakfastgio@gmail.com

› [B&B Giò](#)

› [Bed and Breakfast](#)

Casa del Viaggiatore

Ms. Giada
Stradone Farnese 63/a
29121, Piacenza
Tel.+39 0523 1996230 -
+39 348 6376766

@: casadelviaggiatorepiacenza@gmail.com

› [Casa del Viaggiatore](#)

Casa Scalabrini

Collegio di Piacenza

Via Francesco Torta 14 -
29122 Piacenza
Tel.+39 0523 348611

@: casamadre@scalabrini.net

› [Casa Scalabrini](#)



Prices

Accommodation	Average fees/month	Other fees
Residenza Gasparini	€ 660 including breakfast	meals
Other residences	Depending on your family income	
One-room apartments	€ 400-500 (bills excluded)	Estate agency fees (50% discount)
Two-room apartments	€ 500-700 (bills excluded)	Estate agency fees (50% discount)
Three-room apartments	€ 600-900 (bills excluded)	Estate agency fees (50% discount)



CATTOLICA REGULAR COURSES

ECTS

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

› [ECTS Guide](#)

Please check course requirements when you select subjects to fill out your Learning Agreement

You may also have a look at the Cattolica homepage:

› [Piacenza Unicatt](#)

Registering for Cattolica courses

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

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

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

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

The Italian Grading System

The Italian Grading System ranges from 18/30 (=pass) to 30/30.

The highest mark is 30eLode (with distinction).

All the exams under 18/30 are considered as "not passed" and thus are not registered on the final Transcript of Records.

1 ECTS corresponds to 1 CFU (Credito Formativo Universitario).

- **Economics and Law**
› [Courses Details](#)
- **Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences**
› [Course Details](#)
- **Education**
› [Courses Details](#)

Fall semester

- **Lectures:** September - December
- **Examination Session:** December, January and February

Spring semester

- **Lectures:** February - May
- **Examination Session:** May, June and July
- **Extra Examination Session:** dates may vary according to the Faculty.

Academic Calendar

Please check the Academic Calendar of your Faculty at

› [Unicatt](#)

ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSE AND WELCOME DAYS



Cattolica International organizes an Italian Language and Culture Course, designed for students who want to learn, study and explore the Italian language and culture.

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

For more information visit:

› [Italian Language and Culture Course](#)



STUDENT LIFE

Some of the activities organized throughout the semester include:

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



LIVING IN PIACENZA

Piacenza is a quiet but dynamic city. People ride their bikes everywhere. The essence of Piacenza is as true today as in centuries past.

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

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

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

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

Useful links:

- › [Cattolica International](#)
- › [Seta](#)
- › [Trenitalia](#)
- › [Comune di Piacenza](#)
- › [Castelli del Ducato](#)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN PIACENZA



Bus

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

Tickets

All tickets for the public transportation system can be purchased [online](#), through Apps such as Roger, Moon-eygo or at authorised newsagents kiosks, tobacco shops or at the main Bus Station (via Colombo, 3 - Piacenza).

Fares

- Single ride: € 1,50
- Multi-ride pass: € 8 (6 rides/ individual - it cannot be shared)
- Multi-ride pass that you can share with other passengers on the same ride: € 15 (12 rides)
- Student one-month pass: € 32
- SETA/bus company I.D. card: € 5 (compulsory for the monthly pass)

Additional information will be given at the Welcome days.

For further information visit the website:

› [Seta](#)



HOW TO REACH US UPON ARRIVAL

Situated at the heart of the Po Valley, in the lush and fertile region of Emilia-Romagna, Piacenza lies on the border between Lombardy and Piedmont, two of the most industrialized regions in the north of Italy, at a crucial crossroads for road and rail transport, both national and international.

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

By Plane

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

Airports:

- Aeroporto Orio al Serio (BG)
 - 110 km from Piacenza
 - › [Milan Bergamo Airport](#)
- Aeroporto di Linate (MI) -
 - 65 km from Piacenza
 - › [Milano Linate](#)
- Aeroporto di Malpensa (MI) -
 - 120 km from Piacenza
 - › [Milano Malpensa](#)



By Train

From Milano Centrale Station take a train to Piacenza. Shuttle buses to Central station are also available from all Milan airports.

Please check out the timetable at:

› [Trenitalia](#)

By Bus

From Piacenza Railway Station take bus no. 2 or 3 to Università.

Please Check the timetable at:

› [Seta](#)

You can also catch a taxi outside Piacenza Railway Station or call the following numbers:

Radio Taxi: +39 0523 591919

Night hours - Taxi service:

+39 348 4485155

The average taxi fare from the station to Cattolica is about € 10-15 (during the day) and a little higher at night.

By Car

Coming from the A1 Highway towards Bologna, take the 'Basso Lodigiano' exit.

Stay on the 'tangenziale' (ringroad) and follow for San Lazzaro/Università.

MONEY MATTERS

You may keep your bank account at home and use your debit/credit card at any ATM around the city.

When withdrawing money from an ATM be mindful of the people around you. We advise you to use ATMs that are inside banks and not those right off the street. Unless necessary do not use ATMs inside or near stations.

Bank account and Codice Fiscale

If you wish to open a bank account or rent an apartment you will need a Tax code/tax file number, *Codice Fiscale* (Please note that the Tax Code is free of charge). This card is issued by the Agenzia delle Entrate - Via Modonesi 16. You will need to bring your Passport and a copy of your Visa if you are a non-EU student.

If you are a non-EU student, we recommend that you apply for your Codice Fiscale at your local Embassy before leaving your Country.

More information will be given at the Welcome Day and orientation sessions.

Average expenses (per semester)

- Accommodation*: € 2,400 to € 3,300
- Food**: € 650 to € 1,000
- Personal expenses: € 200 to € 400 per month
- Books: € 200
- Local Transportation: € 100 - 200

* The price for accommodation may vary depending on the area, single or double room and possible program benefits.

** The University provides you with a badge (student card) which allows students to have meals in the cafeteria at discounted prices:

- Full meal: € 6.65/light meal: € 5

Average single priced items

- Pizza & Beer: € 25
- Movie ticket: € 10
- Ice-cream, *gelato*: € 3
- Sandwich, *panino*: € 8
- Coffee, *caffè*: € 2.50





CONNECTING YOU

Mail

To locate a post office look for the yellow and blue PT sign. For mailing cost information consult the Italian Post web site:

› [Poste Italiane](#)

If you need to mail important documents or fragile items we would advise you send them by recommended mail, courier, or through express mail services, such as DHL, UPS or FedEx. Postal & customs taxes are very high depending on the weight and the value of the package content.

Please note that if you are going to get packages delivered to our office, this is the procedure you are required to follow:

- inform us that you are expecting a package and the estimated delivery date;
- since our office is not authorized to keep cash money, you are kindly requested to leave us the amount you are supposed to pay at least a couple of days before the foreseen delivery date.

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

Telephone

The most convenient way to keep in touch with your new Italian friends and family back home is the mobile phone. You can purchase an unlocked GSM phone back home and get an Italian SIM card at local providers such as TIM, 3, Vodafone or Wind.

Only triband and quadband phones will work in Europe. Check with your home mobile phone service provider to find out if your current phone (once unlocked) can support an international SIM card. Once in Italy, you may look into signing up for a plan offer or simply getting pre-paid/rechargeable service. If you do not have a GSM phone purchased at home you may also buy one at a reasonable cost once in Italy.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

At Cattolica we have so much to offer. Much more than can be contained in the few pages of this brochure.

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

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

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

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

The International Office gives support and advice to all international students at the University making sure they have a happy and successful time in Piacenza.



Particularly, we will give you assistance regarding:

- VISA/Residency permit
- Course registration
- Cultural adaptation and homesickness
- Any other problems that you may be experiencing

Should you have any problems or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Daniela Morni, the Incoming Exchange Student Advisor:

> ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Cattolica International

Via Emilia Parmense, 84 - Piacenza 29122
Tel: +39 0523 599 106

CONTACTS

UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE

CATTOLICA INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Piacenza-Cremona Campus

Via Emilia Parmense 84, 29122 Piacenza (PC) - Italy

TEL

+39 0523 599 106

E-MAIL

› ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

WEBSITE

› international.unicatt.it



Study in Piacenza at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore