

*Planning  
your arrival*  
Summer 2017



## International Student Guide

Piacenza



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

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# 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:  
> [www.ucscinternational.it](http://www.ucscinternational.it) in order to remain 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.

UCSC International Staff



# Before you leave home

## Visa Requirements

Students from most countries are not required to apply for a student visa for programs of 90 days or less.

To verify whether you must apply for a visa, check the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website

› [www.esteri.it/visti/homr\\_eng.asp](http://www.esteri.it/visti/homr_eng.asp)

## 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.

A travel insurance would also cover any loss of important documents such as passport, credit cards, etc. Your travel insurance may also cover emergency medical expenses and medical evacuation.

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

If you bring your laptop, it is important you insure it against damage or theft. 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 national from either a [EU Member State](#) or an [EEA country](#) or you are 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 (EHIC) allows to receive medical treatment in another member state for free, or at a reduced cost. A patient contribution is required for prescriptions, medical examinations, oral and dental care.

[Non-EU residents](#) must take out an International Health Insurance which covers costs related to medical treatment and admission to hospital.



# What to bring to Piacenza

## Pre-departure documentations check-list

- A valid passport
- 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 (if applicable)

## 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 other copies to Italy. When traveling remember to keep copies in both your hand luggage and check-in 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 an attachment.

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

## Packing

The weather in Italy can be variable from one day to another and you can experience noticeable climate change. Starting in June the weather can be quite warm and it is advisable to bring light clothing. Air conditioning is not common everywhere however most campus rooms are air conditioned and cool.

You can find everything in Piacenza, so don't worry if you forget to pack something.

You will need to purchase a 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 a two or three round-prong socket.



CAFE  
PIACEN

Ceylon

# Medical assistance

## 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 the stay. Control the customs restrictions for importing medication from outside the EU as you do not want to have your medication confiscated at customs. For safety measures, obtain a letter from your General Practitioner specifying the medication you will bring with you and reasons for taking that medication.

## Health Centre at Cattolica

There is a Health Center on campus which provides all registered students with medical care, nursing care, and psychological counselling.

If you require medical assistance, contact the International Student Advisors who will arrange an appointment with the Health Center on campus. Doctor Giuseppe Miserotti will be glad to assist you. His visiting hours are:

- **Mondays and Wednesdays:**  
3pm - 4pm
- **Fridays:** 11.00am - 12.00am

## Pharmacies

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

## 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. Always inform the International Student Services and they can arrange an English speaking assistance if needed. A range of hospitals and medical centres offer English speaking assistance.





## Food services

If you like you can have your meals in the university cafeteria, located in Colegio Sant'Isidoro (you will need to charge your UCSC Card with money, more details will be provided during the orientation):

### Opening hours

#### Lunch

- **Mondays to Fridays:** 12.10pm - 2.00pm
- **Saturdays:** 12.30pm - 1.15pm  
Booking for Saturdays lunch is compulsory by 7.00pm of the previous day.

#### Dinner

- **Mondays to Fridays:** 7.00pm - 7.45pm

# Public transport in Piacenza

## Bus

The 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 at news kiosks, tobacco shops, or directly on the bus (by paying an overcharge).

## Ticket costs

- One ride is €1.20€ each and is valid for 60 minutes (€1.50 if bought directly on the bus)
- One-day pass ticket costs €3.50
- We recommend you to purchase the **monthly transportation pass** for €27.00

Additional information will be given at the Orientation Events.

For further information visit the website:

› [www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc](http://www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc)



# How to reach us upon arrival

Situated in 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)

210 km from Piacenza

› [www.sacbo.it](http://www.sacbo.it)

### Aeroporto di Linate (MI)

65 km from Piacenza

› [www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/linate](http://www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/linate)

### Aeroporto di Malpensa (MI)

100 km from Piacenza

› [www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/Malpensa](http://www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/Malpensa)

## By Train

From **Milano Centrale Railway Station** take a train to Piacenza.

Please check out the timetable at:

› [www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia21.html](http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia21.html)

## By Bus

You may take a bus from Piacenza Railway Station to UCSC.

Please check out timetables at:

› [www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc](http://www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc)

## By Taxi

If you prefer to take a taxi you can call the following numbers:

- Radio Taxi: (+39) 0523 591919
- Night hours Taxi service: (+39) 348.4485155

The cost from Piacenza Railway Station to UCSC Piacenza during the day is about €7.50.

## By Car

- **Motorway A1** (Milano-Bologna): Exit "Piacenza Sud."
- **Motorway A21** (Torino-Brescia): Exit "Piacenza Sud."

From both exits, follow indications for Piacenza city center. Turn left at the first round-about, go straight ahead, then take the first exit on the right; the University is on the right (500 metres).







# Student life

Some of the activities organized throughout the semester include:

- Welcoming activities
- Language sharing
- Happy hours and aperitivo
- City tours
- Nights out
- Trips
- Site visits

You can look at these websites to get more information about:

## Tourism in Piacenza

› [turismo.provincia.piacenza.it/](http://turismo.provincia.piacenza.it/)  
› [www.castellidelducato.it/castelli-delducato/](http://www.castellidelducato.it/castelli-delducato/)

## Nightlife

› [www.piacenzanight.com](http://www.piacenzanight.com)

## Art, culture, music and shows

› [www.piacenza-pc.it/default.htm](http://www.piacenza-pc.it/default.htm)

## Theatres

› [www.teatricomunali.piacenza.it](http://www.teatricomunali.piacenza.it)

Venerdì piacentini concerts, markets and shopping on Fridays nights in the city centre

› [www.venerdipiacentini.it/](http://www.venerdipiacentini.it/)

Facebook: Venerdì piacentini

## July

4th July: Sant'Antonino Fair, Piacenza Patron Day

Venerdì piacentini concerts, markets and shopping on Fridays nights in the city centre

› [www.venerdipiacentini.it/](http://www.venerdipiacentini.it/)

FB: Venerdì piacentini

Village festivals, *Sagre di Paese*, with food, markets, concerts and fireworks.

Medieval shows in the Castles of the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza.

# Summer events in Piacenza

## June

Speed Meeting for language learners at Baciccia Pub

› [www.baciccia.biz/](http://www.baciccia.biz/)

Facebook: Baciccia

# Living in Piacenza

Piacenza is a quite but dynamic city. People ride their bikes everywhere. The essence of the city 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:

- › [www.ucscinternational.it](http://www.ucscinternational.it)
- › [www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc](http://www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc)
- › [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)
- › [www.comune.piacenza.it/welcome?set\\_language=en](http://www.comune.piacenza.it/welcome?set_language=en)
- › [www.visitpiacenza.it/www.informagiovanionline.it/emiliaromagna](http://www.visitpiacenza.it/www.informagiovanionline.it/emiliaromagna)

## Housing

### Residenza Gasparini

Located right behind the University cafeteria, it is our brand new dorm on campus. With 52 single rooms and private bathrooms, and three common kitchens. It 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 in which you can study and spend your time with other international students.

### Contacts

Segreteria Operativa Piacenza  
EDUCatt

› [reception.piacenza@educatt.org](mailto:reception.piacenza@educatt.org)

Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11

Fax: +39 0523 579416

address: Strada Dell'Anselma, 9  
(Piacenza)

› [educatt.unicatt.it/educattresidenza-gasparini-il-collegio](http://educatt.unicatt.it/educattresidenza-gasparini-il-collegio)

### Indoor Gym: medical certificate

You are welcome to access our indoor gym located in Collegio Sant'Isidoro (on campus dorm). Please bring a medical certificate of good health with you.



# Enjoy a weekend in Milan

Piacenza is located very closely to Milan, so we advise you to take the advantage to visit the city. Below is a guide of places to visit in Milan.

## Trains from Piacenza to Milano:

Trenitalia - Italian Railways:

› [www.trenitalia.com/](http://www.trenitalia.com/)

## The Duomo

One of the most remarkable landmarks in Italy - *Il Duomo*, located in *Piazza del Duomo* is the heart of Milan so be sure to soak in the atmosphere of this beautiful Cathedral and square.

## Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

A huge glass-roofed shopping arcade lined with exclusive shops, bars, and restaurants. It has mosaics with the symbols of the cities forming the newly united Italy. Some people consider it good luck to spin on the bull of Turin.

## La Scala

Built in 1778 it has a very opulent interior. You can also visit the museum. Prices vary depending on the production and seating.

› [www.teatroallascala.org/](http://www.teatroallascala.org/)

## Castello Sforzesco

The castle was originally built in the 15th century by the ruling Visconti but was destroyed and rebuilt by the Sforzas soon after. It became a museum complex in the 19th century and is one of Milan's major landmarks.

› [www.teatroallascala.org/](http://www.teatroallascala.org/)

## Santa Maria delle Grazie

This is the church which contains Da Vinci's famous fresco, the Last Supper. Although the building was bombed in 1943, the fresco survived. To visit, it is necessary to book in advance.

› [www.cenacolovinciano.org/sito/home.html](http://www.cenacolovinciano.org/sito/home.html)

## National Museum of Science and Technology





## Leonardo da Vinci

The museum is housed in what was once a 16th century monastery. The museum has a vast collection showing the history of science and technology starting from Leonardo Da Vinci's machines.

› [www.museoscienza.org/english/](http://www.museoscienza.org/english/)

## Sant'Ambrogio

It is the fourth-century church of Milan's patron saint Sant'Ambrogio. Inside you will be stunned by many beautiful relics, carvings, and mosaics.

## Pinacoteca di Brera

Originally started by Napoleon, this is Milan's most prestigious art gallery. It

holds a huge collection of over 600 works in 40 rooms.

[www.brera.beniculturali.it/](http://www.brera.beniculturali.it/)

## Shopping in Milan

Milan is a fashion lovers paradise so you will easily find top quality clothing, footwear, and accessories. Visit Corso Vittorio Emanuele II near Piazza della Scala, via Monte Napoleone near the Duomo, or Via Dante between the Duomo and Castle. For exclusive fashions, try the area around Via della Spiga called the *Quadrilatero della Moda*. Corso Buenos Aires has many chain stores. Markets are held around the canals.

# Money matters

You may keep your bank account at home and use your visa check card at any ATM around the city.

When withdrawing money from an ATM be careful 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.

## Average single priced items

- Pizza & Beer: 15€
- Cinema ticket: 8.50€
- Ice-cream, *gelato*: 3€
- Sandwich, *panino*: 5€
- Coffee, *caffè*: 1.50€



# 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:

› [www.poste.it](http://www.poste.it)

If you need to mail delicate materials 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's content.

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

1. inform us that you are expecting a package and the estimated delivery date;
2. 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, UCSC 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 cell phone. You can purchase an unlocked GSM phone back home and get an Italian SIM card at cell phone providers such as TIM, 3, Vodafone or Wind.

Only triband and quadband phones will work in Europe. Check with your home cell phone service provider to find out if your current cell 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. The people to take you to these faraway places are the same people who will first bring you to the unique land of Italy.

On paper they are just names. But once you are enrolled at Cattolica, the International Office Staff will soon become your advisor, mentor and friend. 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 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 and help you to have a happy and successful time

in Piacenza.

Particularly, we will give you assistance regarding:

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

Should you have any problems or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Francesca Lucchi, the Incoming Student Advisor:

› [ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it](mailto:ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it)

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore  
UCSC International

Via Emilia Parmense, 84 - Piacenza  
29122

Tel: +39 0523 599 436

## Office hours:

- **Monday/Wednesday/Friday:**  
10.00am - 12.00pm
- **Tuesday/Thursday:**  
2.30pm - 4.30pm

## Note:

If you are unable to come during the above office hours, you may send an email to:

› [ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it](mailto:ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it)  
to request an appointment for a different time.





**International Office**

Piacenza-Cremona Campus

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