



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

**School of
Agriculture**



guide for Erasmus students



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School of Agriculture

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Welcome!

Dear student,

You have chosen the University of Florence to complete a part of your studies or are about to do so. Congratulations, thank you, and welcome! This guidebook will help you navigate your way through your first contact with Italy and the city of Florence, by offering some practical information that should provide answers to the most frequent questions new students ask (life in Florence, administrative procedures, school and course organisation and policies, etc.). We hope it will make it easier for you to settle in among your fellow students. Throughout your stay in Florence, our team will always be available to help you so that your stay will be as enjoyable and rewarding as possible, from both an academic and personal point of view. We look forward to meeting you!

The International Relations Office of the School of Agriculture.

Practical information for international students

Tuscany

Tuscany is one of Italy's most famous regions, covering an area of about 23,000 square kilometres and supporting a population of about 3.75 million. The regional capital is Florence (Firenze). Tuscany is known for its gorgeous landscapes, its rich artistic heritage, and its cultural influence through the ages. The region is considered the true birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and has been home to many influential figures in the history of art and science: Dante, Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Leonardo da Vinci, to mention just a few. As expected, it is also home to several world-class museums (such as the Galleria degli Uffizi, the Palazzo Pitti collections, the Galleria dell'Accademia) as well as many other, perhaps lesser known but equally impressive, collections. In addition, Tuscany vaunts a unique culinary tradition and is renowned for its wines (the best known are Chianti, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Morellino di Scansano, the Super Tuscans and, of course, Brunello di Montalcino).

Seven Tuscan sites have been designated UNESCO World Heritage sites: the historic centre of Florence (1982), the historic centre of Siena (1995), Pisa's Piazza dei Miracoli (1987), the historic centre of San Gimignano (1990), the historic centre of Pienza (1996), the Val d'Orcia (2004) and a nucleus of 12 Medici villas and 2 gardens (2014). Over 120 areas in Tuscany are designated as protected nature reserves.

These and many other assets make Tuscany and its capital, Florence, a popular tourist destination that attracts millions of tourists every year. Enjoy your stay with us!

Florence

Florence, with a population of around 380,000 is located in north-central Italy. It is the capital of both the Metropolitan City of Florence and the Region of Tuscany. It is the largest and most populated city in Tuscany, as well as the centre of historic, artistic, and economic power. The city's history is the stuff of legend. It was a crossroads of medieval European trade and finance and one of the wealthiest centres of the time. It is the cradle of the Renaissance and has even been called the 'Athens of the Middle Ages.' Florence's turbulent political history includes periods of rule by the powerful Medici family and numerous religious and republican insurrections. From 1865 to 1871, the city was also the capital of the then recently unified Kingdom of Italy.

The heart of Florence is the Piazza della Signoria, with its majestic Palazzo Vecchio, its gallery of sculptural masterpieces under the Loggia dei Lanzi, and the nearby Galleria degli Uffizi, one of the world's most highly acclaimed art museums. Palazzo Vecchio is not far from the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, with its majestic dome (in the words of Leon Battista Alberti, 'so vast as to shelter all the people of Tuscany in its shadow'). The huge cathedral is flanked by Giotto's bell tower, one of the most beautiful in Italy. It faces the Baptistery of St. John, with its famous bronze doors, including Lorenzo Ghiberti's 'Gates of Paradise'.

The Arno River divides Florence in two and has always played an important role in the city's history and life. Historically, the Florentines have a love-hate relationship with the Arno, which has brought them both trade benefits and floods. Several beautiful bridges cross the river in the city, but Ponte Vecchio is unique. It has many jewellery shops along it and the Vasari Corridor running above it. It is the only bridge in the city to have survived World War II unscathed. Florence has a long tradition as a 'university town', welcoming students from all around the world. During the year, the city offers a wide range of cultural activities, entertainment, and sports even s. t is known to be a lively multicultural centre, offering countless opportunities for young people to meet and get to know each other.

Florence and Tuscany have a longstanding tradition of agricultural education. The Accademia dei Georgofili, the world's oldest agricultural academy, was founded on 4 June 1753. On 2 February 1834, Marquis Cosimo Ridolfi opened a school in Meleto in the Chianti region to educate future farmers. The first incoming class had 25 students. Ridolfi, a proponent of the innovative idea of 'professing agriculture in the University,' was later called to chair the Department of Agriculture and Pastoralism (of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Pisa), established on 5 October 1840 by notification of Grand Duke Leopold II of Lorraine. On 5 February 1882, the Agricultural Technical Institute opened in Florence's Parco delle Cascine. The Royal Forestry Institute was founded in Vallombrosa in 1869 and moved to Florence in 1913. Again, in Florence, the Italian Colonial Agricultural Institute (which then became and at present is part of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development) was founded in 1904 and was followed, in 1921, by the Experimental Station of Forestry. In 1936, a year after another Faculty of Agriculture had opened in Pisa, the Forestry Institute became the Faculty of Agriculture of Florence. Except for the School of Meleto, all the other schools, colleges, faculties, and academies mentioned are still in operation. On 1 March 2013, the Faculty of Agriculture became the School of

How to Get to Florence

Florence is well connected to the rest of Italy and Europe and is easy to reach by land or air.

By Car

The A1 motorway, Italy's main north-south road artery, runs past Florence. There are five exits for the city: Firenze Nord, Firenze Scandicci, Villa Costanza, Firenze Impruneta and Firenze Sud. The A11 motorway and the Florence-Pisa-Livorno (FI-PI-LI) highway run westward and link the city with the Tyrrhenian seacoast. Motorway tolls can be paid by credit or debit card.

For more information visit <https://www.autostrade.it/en/home>

By Train

Florence is a key station in the Italian railway network. High-speed trains (Frecciarossa, Frecciargento and Italo) now connect Florence with other important Italian cities in record time: Milan in 1 hour and 40 minutes, Rome in 1 hour and 30 minutes, Bologna in just 37 minutes. Florence has three main train stations: Santa Maria Novella (central station), Campo di Marte station and Rifredi station.

For more information visit: www.trenitalia.it or www.italotreno.it

By Plane

Florence's Amerigo Vespucci Airport is served by a great number of domestic and international carriers offering many flights each day. The airport is just 5 kilometres northwest of the city centre and is easy to reach by tram. (line T2). Tickets can be purchased from the automatic ticket machines located at every station (mobilita.comune.fi.it/tramvia/index.html).

Pisa's Galileo Galilei Airport is about 80 kilometres from Florence. To reach Florence from Pisa airport, a bus service is available from the airport to the railway station in Florence (autostradale.it) via the T2 tram stop Guidoni. It is also possible to take a bus and then a train from Pisa station (www.trenitalia.it).

Moving Around Florence

The easiest way to travel in Florence is by bus or tram, both operated by Autolinee Toscare. Discounted monthly metro transit passes are available for students. A monthly ticket costs around € 75. Bus tickets are available online on their app (AT-bus) at bars, tobacconists and newsstands that display the 'Biglietti AT' (AT Tickets) sign, and from automatic ticketing machines. You must stamp your ticket in the validating machine onboard the bus/tram as soon as you board. You can also buy a ticket via SMS by messaging 4880105. For more information please visit: www.at-bus.it.

Taxis are quite expensive in Florence. Radio-taxi numbers: 055 4242 / 055 4390 / 055 4798.

There are also several rental car companies in Florence, including a number of pay-per-use franchises such as Enjoy, as well as e-bikes and manual bicycles and scooter rental companies such as [mobike.com/it](https://www.mobike.com/it)

Living Costs

The cost of living in Florence (per month) is approximately:

€300/500 – accommodation (shared room, expenses excluded)

€150/200 – food

€150/200 – further expenses

Students will require at least €600 per month to meet everyday living expenses in addition to study-related costs (books, etc.).

The cost of some standard commodities (as of 2023):

Loaf of sliced bread: €2

Glass of beer (in cafés): €5-7

Fast-food meal or salad: €6-12

Pizza: from €10

Cinema ticket: from €8

Bus/tram ticket: €1.70

Healthcare and Health Insurance

European students in possession of a European Health Insurance card, or equivalent document, will have access to subsidized health care during their stay in accordance with the Italian legislation. Students who do not have complete health coverage in their home country or are not EU citizens need to buy health insurance. For more information, students can contact the following office:

Azienda Sanitaria Locale Ufficio Stranieri

https://en.comune.fi.it/administration/health_safety/health_services_urp.html

Careggi Hospital, Largo Brambilla 3 – Pavillon 2 NIC (Main Entrance)

e-mail: ufficio.stranieri@asf.toscana.it

For more information visit:

<https://www.unifi.it/cmpro-v-p-10834.html>

Emergency medical services (nationwide): 118.

Public Holidays

January 1st (New Year's Day), January 6th (Epiphany), Easter, Easter Monday, April 25th (Liberation Day), May 1st (International Workers' Day), June 2nd (Republic Day), August 15th (Ferragosto/Assumption Day), November 1st (All Saints' Day), December 8th (Immaculate Conception), December 25th (Christmas Day), December 26th (St. Stephen's Day). And, in Florence, June 24th (St. John's, the city's patron saint).

Leisure Time

The city and its surroundings offer a myriad of opportunities for a nearly unlimited variety of leisure activities. Florence's geographical position makes the city an ideal starting point to explore the rest of Italy. High-speed railway lines take you to many of the most important Italian cities (Rome, Bologna, Milan, Naples, etc.) very quickly. Florence is also approximately 1 hour from some of the most beautiful beach locations in Tuscany: Forte dei Marmi, Viareggio, Torre del Lago, and many others. Central Italy's premier ski resort, Abetone, is just 1.5 hours by car or by bus from Florence.

Monuments and Museums

As a cradle of Italian culture, Florence boasts many great monuments: the Duomo, the Church of Santa Croce, Santa Maria Novella and San Lorenzo, the Uffizi, Palazzo Pitti, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, etc., which represent only a small part of the immense artistic and historical wealth of this city. The Botanical Garden "Giardino dei semplici" at the Museum of Natural History, the Mineralogy and Lithology museum, the Anthropology and Ethnology museum, the Galileo museum, the Geology and Paleontology museum, and La Specola are among Florence's most renowned scientific museums, all part of the [University of Florence Museum System](#).

Theatres

Students are entitled to special rates on some shows and performances. For more information, contact the theatre's box-office directly. The main theatres in the

centre of Florence are:

- Teatro della Pergola – Via della Pergola, 12/32
(www.teatrodellapergola.com)
- Teatro Verdi – Via Ghibellina 99
(www.teatroverdifirenze.it)
- Teatro dell’Opera di Firenze – Piazza Gui 1
(www.maggioflorentino.com)
- Teatro Cinematografo Puccini – Piazza Puccini 41
(www.teatropuccini.it)
- Teatro di Rifredi – Via Vittorio Emanuele II 303
(www.teatrodირifredi.it)
- Obihall – Lungarno A. Moro 3
(www.obihall.it)

Programmes and tickets can also be purchased at the following address:

Box Office Toscana - www.boxofficetoscana.it

Cinemas, Meeting Places and Events

The average cost of cinema tickets is Eur 8-10. Cheaper entrance is possible in some suburban cinemas or on special days and hours.

In the evenings you can meet up in bars, pubs or simply in streets and squares as the locals do. Check local newspapers or the local magazine [Firenze Spettacolo](#) to see what’s on in town.

Useful Services

Late-Closing Post Offices

Most post-offices are open from 8:15 AM to 1:25 PM. There are a number of offices open in the afternoon (Monday to Friday) and on Saturday morning. For more information: www.posteitaliane.it

Currency Exchange

Currency exchange is available at any bank and kiosks in the main tourist streets. Exchange rates and commissions can be steep, so you will be better off just paying with card for all your purchases. You can use credit/debit cards to withdraw cash for automatic tellers open 24/7, but almost the totality of shops takes cards these days, including bus and tram ticket vending machines.

Banks

To open a bank account, you must be at least eighteen, be in possession of a valid identity document and [tax ID number](#) and have not had any convictions for bankruptcy. Foreign nationals must declare if they are living in Italy when the account is opened. Foreign nationals are qualified as residents if their permanent residence or domicile is in Italy, or they have been classed as residents by the

registry office for at least 183 days a year.

The terms and conditions relating to the bank account vary from bank to bank: in most cases a debit card is issued. In some banks, a small deposit of money may be required to open the account. In any case, it is advisable to contact the banks directly, considering that each institute offers different solutions.

Tax Identification Number

The tax identification number (codice fiscale) is a code to identify citizens in their dealings with the Italian Public Administration. Every Italian citizen is issued with one by default at birth, but also foreigners residing in Italy are required to have one, for example to obtain a residence permit, open a bank account, register for the National Health Service, rent an apartment, buy a SIM card, etc.

The request can be submitted online or directly by the person concerned to: Agenzia delle Entrate (Revenue Agency) - Direzione Provinciale di Firenze; Via Santa Caterina d'Alessandria 23; E-mail: dp.firenze@agenziaentrate.it

EU/EEA citizens must show a valid passport or equivalent ID; non- EU / EEA citizens must have a valid passport with appropriate visa (if required) as well as a photocopy of the passport (of the pages clearly showing personal data and visa) and/or residence permit. Alternatively, the tax identification number can be requested before arrival to Italy from the Italian diplomatic authorities in the country of residence.

Foreign citizens entering Italy with a research visa will receive a certificate of attribution of the tax number at the time of the convocation to the Immigration Desk (Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione - SUI).

For more information visit: www.agenziaentrate.it

Emergency Services

Municipal Police (Polizia Municipale) 055 055/055 3285

Emergency Police Intervention (Soccorso Pubblico di Emergenza) 113

Health emergencies 118

Fire Brigade (Vigili del Fuoco) 115

Carabinieri 112

To report crime and stolen goods go to either the [Police](#) or the Carabinieri offices. You can also report stolen goods online at the [Carabinieri website](#). (in Italian only)

For urgent medical aid, the doctors below ('Guardia Medica') are available every night from 8 PM to 8 AM and from 10 AM on the day before a holiday to 8 AM of the day after a public holiday.

Via della Pergola 1; 055 6938980

Via Sant'Agostino 6; 055 215616

Via di Camerata 10; 055 679293

Via Volterrana 3/A; 055 2320082

Via Chiantigiana 26; 055 6536899

Via Santa Maria a Cintoia 9/A; 055 700536

Via di Caciolle 3/E; 055 419779

Via delle Panche 49; 055 42691

Via di Peretola 68; 055 315225

The University of Florence

History

One of the largest and oldest universities in Italy, the University of Florence offers courses in all the main scientific fields: agriculture, architecture, economics, arts, education, engineering, law, mathematics, physics and natural sciences, healthcare sciences and medicine, pharmacology, chemistry, political sciences, and psychology. The first centre of the University of Florence was founded as the 'Studium Generale Republicae Florentinae' seven centuries ago, in 1321. The Studium was recognized by Pope Clement VI in 1349 and authorised to grant degrees. It became an Imperial university in 1364 but was moved to Pisa in 1473 when Lorenzo the Magnificent gained control of Florence. Charles VIII moved it back from 1497 to 1515, but it was again moved to Pisa when the Medici family returned to power. In 1859, various institutions were grouped together to form the 'Istituto di Studi Superiori Pratici e di Perfezionamento' which was recognised a year later as a fully-fledged university by the government of the new, unified Italy – although the name did not change until 1924 when the *Istituto* was officially denominated the University of Florence by Parliament.

The University of Florence today

The University of Florence is an important and influential centre for research and higher education in Italy, with 1,800 lecturers and internal research staff, 1,600 technical and administrative staff, and over 1,600 research assistants and doctoral students. It offers a wide range of study paths at various levels and in all areas of knowledge, with 143 degree programmes (first and second cycle, corresponding to bachelor's and master's degrees) organised into 10 Schools, with a student population of about 53,000, one-fourth of which come from outside of Tuscany. Over 9,000 degrees are awarded each year in Florence.

The University of Florence has an innate international vocation, and the development of internationalisation is one of its strategic priorities. It is one of the largest and most productive public research systems in Italy thanks to the number of permanent and fixed-term researchers working in a wide range of disciplinary and scientific fields as well as the numerous junior scientists in training. It is also due to an intensive participation in research programmes of national and international relevance and the significant scientific results achieved. External funds support this research and knowledge transfer activities. This combination of factors qualifies the Florentine institution as a modern research university which accounts for its excellent position in national and global rankings. Researchers at the University of Florence operate within 24 different departments and have around 40 research facilities available including inter-departmental and inter-university centres as well as specialised research, knowledge transfer and advanced training centres.

In recent years, the University of Florence has increasingly consolidated its ventures in the field of knowledge sharing: from the filing of patents to the setting up of joint workshops with businesses, in addition to participation in spin-off companies.

The Italian Education System

According to the principles of the Bologna Process, in 1999 the Italian educational system was reformed in a three-cycle university system.

First Cycle (undergraduate)

First cycle studies consist exclusively of bachelor's degree courses (Corsi di Laurea Triennale). The general access requirement is the school diploma awarded on completion of 13 years of global schooling and after the relevant State examinations. Equivalent foreign qualifications may be also accepted. Admission to Degree programmes may be subject to specific requirements or entry tests. Degree programmes require 3 years of full-time attendance and the *Laurea* (the bachelor's degree) is awarded to students who have earned 180 university credits (CFU).

Second Cycle (postgraduate)

Second Cycle Degree Courses (Corsi di Laurea Magistrale) have a full-time duration of 2 years. Access is allowed after having achieved a 1st Cycle Degree or a comparable foreign degree. Admission is subject to specific course requirements determined by each university (workload: 120 university credits - CFU). The awarding of the 2nd cycle degree (the master's degree) is conditional on completing and defending a master's thesis. A limited number of 2nd Cycle Degrees (Dentistry, Human Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Architecture, Law) are one-block programmes organized into 5 years and 300 credits (Human Health Sciences take 6 years and 360 credits).

First and Second-level Post-graduate Programmes

They normally involve one year of full-time study. To access a first-level Post-graduate Professional Master Course, students must have earned a bachelor's degree, while second-level Professional Master Courses are accessible after completion of a Master's Degree.

Third Cycle

These include:

- a. Research Doctorates (Dottorati di Ricerca). Admission requires a 2nd cycle or Master's degree (or a comparable foreign degree) and is based on a selection by a committee. The programmes last 3 years.
- b. Specialisation Courses: they mainly concern medical, clinical, and surgical specialisations. Admission requires a 2nd cycle degree (or a comparable foreign degree). Course length varies in relation to subject fields.

The School of Agriculture

History

History of the Cascine Park

The School of Agriculture is located in Florence's Parco delle Cascine, a strip of land running along the north bank of the Arno River, bounded on the north by the Fosso Macinante and the river's tributary, the Mugnone creek. The second-generation Medici rulers were the first to exploit the 'island', at the time separated from the city by a parcel of land called 'La Sardigna' where infected animal carcasses were thrown. Alessandro de' Medici nicknamed '*il mulo*' (the mule) or '*il moro*' (the Moor), became the first Duke of Florence in 1532. He reclaimed and used the land as a game reserve and to breed and rear dairy cattle.

It would seem that he created the first pine tree boulevard, but it was his successor Cosimo I 'the Younger', second Duke of Florence and first Grand Duke of Tuscany, who turned Le Cascine into a true wooded park by planting evergreen oaks, maples, elms and other trees and rare and exotic plants. Cosimo I considered the land to be his private property and deeded park use rights and revenues to his successors. Towards the end of the seventeenth century, the last descendant of the Medici family, the 'sad' Gian Gastone, wrote from Bohemia: 'Soon it will begin to snow and mark the start of this extremely cold hobby of sleighing. How I much prefer a carriage ride at Le Cascine in springtime.'

It is documented by many sources that the park was already used during this time as a promenade for Florentines as well as avenue for parties and firework displays. These sources are the collection of interesting pictorial documentation and exhibits pertaining to the Cascine once held by the now-defunct *Firenze Com'Era* museum but now divided up among various civic and state museums in and around Florence.

After the death of Gian Gastone and the end of the Medici dynasty, the park passed to Florence's new Hapsburg-Lorraine rulers, who eventually donated it to the State Department of Possessions. The park was opened to the public in the early 19th century. In 1787, Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine ordered the architect Giuseppe Manetti to replace the park's old farm with a new building (where the School of Agriculture is now headquartered), a villa with arcades decorated with bull's-head medallions that became a popular venue for grand-ducal court events. The park was gradually fitted out with new boulevards, furnishings, and small neo-classical 'functional' monuments such as the sheds for the park's gardeners, shaped like miniature temples, the pyramid-shaped icehouse as well as watering-troughs with grotesque masques.

The park's best-known fountain is the Fontana del Narciso, named for the verses beneath it that refer to the myth of the vain Narcissus:

'eternal monument of this place great pity displayed for Narcissus who gazing at his reflection in the water died, consumed by passionate love.'

In the 19th century, Percy Bysshe Shelley drew his inspiration for his 'Ode to the West Wind' at the fountain, as a memorial plate at its base reminds us: 'At This Fountain, Named Narcissus, The Poet Shelley, In Autumn 1819, Wrote "Ode to The West Wind'.

Throughout the 19th century, processions of carriages enlivened the park during the sunset promenade. The best-known event at the Cascine was held on Ascension Day, when the population filled the lawns to celebrate the cricket as a symbol of spring or, according to another version, to eliminate as many of these insects, considered harmful to crops since pagan times, as possible.

The Piazzale delle Cascine, where today the School of Agriculture is located, originally hosted several service buildings for maintaining the property. They were raised with no overarching plan or consideration for order or symmetry. Pietro Leopoldo regarded them as being 'out of harmony' with the rest of the park and urged changes. He entrusted Giuseppe Manetti with the new project and the first foundations were laid in April 1786. The Grand Duke was so pleased with the result that he decided to retain the first floor of the new building for court use and not, as originally planned, for rural uses. The opening celebrations for the new 'Palazzina Reale' took place in July 1791 under Pietro Leopoldo's successor Ferdinando III.

In the period when Florence was capital of Italy, the city government determined that the Parco delle Cascine should have its own café and restaurant. The concession for the Caffè Ristorante Doney in the Palazzina courtyard was granted to the Doney catering company in 1868. In 1906, during the last years of Doney's permanence at the park venue, some first-floor rooms were given over to a women's society which founded the first agricultural school for women (Scuola Agraria Femminile), which remained on site until the new building in via delle Cascine was ready for occupancy. For a short time, the Palazzina hosted the Comitato per l'Istruzione Agricola Coloniale school (now the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare or Overseas Agronomic Institute). In 1912, the city government gave its permission to the Regio Istituto Superiore Forestale (Royal Forestry Institute) of Vallombrosa to transfer its offices to the main building and the two lateral outbuildings; the institute opened at the Cascine in 1913. In 1924, the by-then Istituto Superiore Forestale Nazionale (National Forestry Institute) became the Regio Istituto Superiore Agrario e Forestale and thereafter, in 1936, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florence.

History of the School of Agriculture

The Regio Istituto Superiore Forestale of Vallombrosa (the toponym is from the Latin *vallis umbrosa*, 'shady valley') founded on 15 August 1869, was Italy's very first forestry school. In the past, the Vallombrosa Forest (about 40 km from Florence on the northwest slope of Monte Secchieta in the Pratomagno massif) has undergone minor changes of ownership: after the land was donated by the Guidi counts to S. Giovanni Gualberto in the early 11th century, it remained the property of the monks of Vallombrosa until the seizure of monastic property during the reign of Napoleon I.

The forest returned to the monks after the Restoration until 1866, when Italy introduced a law suppressing contemplative religious corporations. Meanwhile, during the early years of Italian unity, the need for an institute for forestry training became ever more evident. Founded in 1869, the institute at

Vallombrosa offered a three-year course to provide technical training to the personnel of the Italian Forestry Administration to ensure that it would be able to 'conserve [...] Italy's deteriorating forest land through wise land management'. The first director of the institute was Adolf de Bérenger (1869- 1880), a French professor whose interests centred around botany, economics, and legislation. He was followed by Francesco Piccioli (1880-1908), Annibale Franchi (1908-1912) and Vittorio Perona (1912-1914).

In 1913, the institute was transferred from Vallombrosa to Florence and became the Istituto Superiore Forestale Nazionale under the direction of Arrigo Serpieri, a distinguished economist and later undersecretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. At that time, the courses lasted 2 years. A degree in Agricultural Sciences or in Civil Engineering was a prerequisite for admission. The course was normally held from October to June of each academic year and was followed by 2 months of practical forest study and fieldwork at Vallombrosa. Ten years after it first opened, in November of 1924, the Istituto Superiore Forestale Nazionale became the Regio Istituto Superiore Agrario e Forestale. In 1931, the course curriculum was definitively set: a 2- year general studies course plus 2 years of specialisation in either Agricultural Sciences or Forestry Sciences. In March 1936, the institute's name was changed by law to 'Facoltà di Agraria dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze' and on 1 March 2013, following a ministerial restructuring, it became the School of Agriculture of the University of Florence.

The Academic Year

The academic year is made up of two semesters. The first semester starts in September and ends in February: the months of January and February are dedicated to the exam sessions, so there are no lessons. The second semester starts in February/March and ends in July: the months of June and July are dedicated to the exams and so again there are no lessons during this time. The actual start and finish dates vary according to the School, but each semester lasts around 20 weeks, and it is made up of a teaching period lasting around 14 weeks and an exam period lasting around 6 weeks.

The academic calendar changes every year, so you should check the School's website under '[Didattica>Calendario didattico e orario delle lezioni](#)'

Usually, details for the following academic year are available around mid-July.

Classrooms

Classrooms are located in various campuses, depending on the Degree programme. Please refer to [this page](#) for complete info.

The main locations are: Cascine (Natural Resources Management), Quaracchi (mainly Forestry), Novoli (all other degree programmes).

Bachelor's Degrees

Agricultural Sciences

Students acquire the technical and scientific knowledge needed to perform various tasks within the agricultural sector and to carry out qualified promotion and technical assistance activities for agricultural businesses as well as agro-industrial and agro-tourism enterprises located in temperate-climate areas.

Website: www.clscienzeagrarie.unifi.it

Forest and Environmental Sciences

Students acquire the technical and scientific knowledge needed to understand forest and environmental systems, to address problems and perform activities for management and conservation of various types of ecosystems and mountain areas. Website: www.forestambiente.unifi.it

Sciences and Technologies for Green Spaces and Landscape Management

This degree course has two curricula: Plant Nursery Sciences and Green Spaces Planning and Management. The course teaches the entire plant cycle, from the germination in the nursery to the planting in the field, as it relates to the agricultural production (fruit, vegetables and other crops and nursery plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees) for private and public green spaces.

Website: www.scienzevivaistiche.unifi.it

Wildlife Sciences

The course deals with all aspects of interactions between wildlife and agro-forestry ecosystems as well as with environmental planning of territories in relation to wildlife species. Website: www.lfau.unifi.it

Food Technologies

The central subject of this course is the food product and its interactions with the consumer in terms of sensory, nutritional and safety features.

Website: www.tecnologiealimentari.unifi.it

Viticulture and Oenology

The course focuses on grape-growing and wine production at all levels of the production chain from the improvement of varietal selections to cultivation techniques and from the management of wine production and quality-control processes to marketing.

Website: www.viticulturaenologia.unifi.it

Technologies and Advanced Manufacturing in Wooden Furniture and Constructions

The professionally oriented bachelor's degree programme focuses on wood supply chains and, in particular, on processes and products for furnishing, building, logistics and trade.

Website: www.temalegno.unifi.it

Master's Degrees

Agricultural Sciences and Technologies

This course embraces six fields of study. Students choose their major from the following:

1. Agro-ecosystem Sustainable Management
2. Marketing and Management for the sustainable development of Agro-food ecosystems
3. Plant Disease Management
4. Production of High-Value Crops
5. Animal Production Sustainability and Management
6. Planning and Management for Agro-territorial Biosystems

Each curriculum is based around common subjects as well as subjects specific to the chosen field of study. Each course prepares students for different professional career paths.

Website: www.scienzeetecnologieagricole.unifi.it

Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development

The degree in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development, offered only at the University of Florence, is aimed at professionals who will work in developing countries. The course, taught entirely in English, trains professionals to be able to carry out environmental monitoring, planning and on-the-ground organisation of development projects and joint cooperative efforts in tropical developing countries.

This master course has two curricula:

1. Agricultural Production
2. Land and Water

Website: www.tropicalruraldevelopment.unifi.it

Forest Systems Sciences and Technologies

The course curricula cover the study of forestry ecosystems and wood products, from forest management and conservation to production, management and commercialisation of wood and forest products. After a first year of study common to all specialisations, the degree programme branches out into different areas:

1. Ecological Management of Forest Ecosystems
2. Forest Engineering
3. Enhancing Forest Resources
4. Forest Landscape Planning Technologies

Website: www.forestambiente-magistrale.unifi.it

Food Sciences and Technologies

Advanced knowledge about all aspects of food and wine production chains; expertise in evaluating, improving, and guaranteeing the quality of food products and wines, management of food and wine production processes and sales and marketing aspects of the sector.

Website: www.scienzeetecnologiealimentari.unifi.it

Wildlife Science and Management of Environmental Resources

The course imparts specialist knowledge relating to the management of wildlife in the different habitats/environments of Italy, including notions of conservation and management of wildlife resources, as well as the interactions between wildlife, the environment and human beings and environmental/wildlife monitoring and research methods.

Website: www.magistralefaunistica.unifi.it

Biotechnology for Environmental Management and Sustainable Agriculture (BIO-EMSA)

The course trains Biotechnologists capable of understanding the complex processes related to climate change, allowing them to manage and develop sustainable and innovative agricultural and industrial processes aimed at reducing the impact of these activities on the environment.

Website: www.bio-ems.unifi.it

Sustainable Innovation in Viticulture and Oenology

The Master's in Sustainable Innovation in Viticulture and Oenology, belonging to the Food Science and Technology class, is an inter-institutional degree course between the University of Pisa and the University of Florence. It trains professionals capable of carrying out complex planning, management, control and coordination activities within the entire wine production chain with a view to sustainability and environmental protection by consciously employing rigorous scientific methods and innovative working tools.

Website: www.isve.unifi.it

PhD Programmes

Doctoral-level research degree programmes are designed to promote the progress of science and technology, to enhance your professional culture and add an international dimension to a student's educational path. The School of Agriculture offers two PhD programmes:

1. Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Coordinator: Prof. Giacomo Pietramellara
<https://www.dottoratoscienzeagrarieambientali.unifi.it/>
2. Sustainable Management of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Resources.
Coordinator: Prof. Erminio Monteleone
<http://www.phd-gsrafa.dagri.unifi.it/>

Student Workload and Exams

Students' workload are measured in CFUs ('Crediti Formativi Universitari') which are equivalent to ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits. One CFU corresponds to 25 hours of student work, comprehensive of lessons (8 hours) and individual study (17 hours). A three-year (undergraduate) degree equals 180 CFUs; each semester's work amounts to about 30 CFUs. 1 Italian CFU is equivalent to 1 ECTS credit.

Exams are scheduled at the end of each course and students will be required to sit written or oral exams, or both. Exams are scheduled for three exam sessions, each with two calls: Winter (January-February), Summer (June-July), Autumn (September). The exam sessions are scheduled on a semester-by-semester basis. Please note students have to register online for their exams between 3 and 14 days before the scheduled date. Without registering, it is not possible to take the exam. After the exams, the recorded results can be checked by students simply logging into their personal online page. They will also receive an email at their @edu.unifi email with the result, which they can accept or refuse (and retake the exam).

Grading System

The Italian grading system is based on a scale from 18 to 30, as follows:

ITALIAN GRADES / ECTS GRADES

30 or 30/30 e lode (honours)	A [excellent]
27/29	B [very good]
23/26	C [good]
19/22	D [satisfactory]
18	E [pass]
<18	F, FX [fail]

As a rule, failed exams are not listed in students' transcripts.

Field Training

Field training (pre-degree practical experience) is required for all the undergraduate- and master-level degree programmes. The practical work is regulated by specific rules, the 'Regolamento di tirocinio per i corsi di laurea triennale e di laurea magistrale' which is available on the School of Agriculture's website.

Vaccinations

Currently, Italy requires no particular vaccinations for incoming students. In any case, it is advisable for students to be vaccinated against tetanus and to be up to date with their booster vaccinations, especially when taking courses involving practical activities.

DAGRI

The Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry (DAGRI), University of Florence (UNIFI) was founded on 1 January 2019 as a result of the merging of the Department of Agri-food Production and Environmental Sciences (DISPAA) and Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Systems (GESAAF). From this year, it represents the only Department of the Agricultural area of the University of Florence. This is the second Department of the Florence University in terms of size and activity. The staff includes about 125 professors and researchers, 60 technical/administrative, 40 PhD students, 60 research fellows and 50 scholarship holders. Through this merger, we therefore wanted to offer students, researchers, territory, a point of reference that, in a coordinated way, is able to provide concrete and innovative answers to the management and development of a large sector, which is of increasing interest in the national and international context.

The Department deals with numerous disciplines that share similar methodological approaches, although in different sectors of agricultural and environmental systems. The aim is to achieve basic and applied scientific activities in the field of plant and animal productions, environmental protection and recovery, study on chemical, physical, biological, and genetic components, including their interactions, which characterise the agricultural and environmental systems. The activities are focused on integrated and multidisciplinary studies of multifactorial components crucial in determining agriculture production quantity and quality and environmental protection (soil, microorganisms, climate, plants, animals, biodiversity). DAGRI is equipped with main laboratories, field areas for research activities and extensive bio-physical databases. It also offers post-graduate training courses, including two research doctorates (Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Sustainable Management of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Resources), two Professional Master courses (Management and Marketing of Wine Products; Agricultural Heritage Systems) and a professional refresher course. The research activity develops in numerous regional, national, and European projects (H2020, Life), financed by public and private structures, which see the participation of teachers as coordinators or partners.

The internationalisation and cooperation activities with developing countries are also important and represent for the Department one of the main goals. Food security and water management, conservation of biological and cultural diversity, valorisation of local traditions are some of the major problems that affect the development of rural areas in less developed areas overseas. The level of intensification and environmental impact of the different solutions possible to face these problems must be carefully considered case by case. Modern technologies can bring a consistent increase of productivity in advanced areas. At the same time, costly technologies with high environmental impact cannot be proposed in marginal areas where, instead, sustainable solutions can be implemented with reduced costs particularly if they can be based on the scientific modernisation of local traditions.

Student Services

Internet

You will be issued your student number (matricola) and password for accessing the University's free Wi-Fi network upon completion of the registration procedure after your arrival in Florence. You can also access the Eduroam network with your home university credentials.

Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (CLA)

The Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (University Language Centre) offers a free Italian language course to all Erasmus+ and Exchange students starting from A2 level. The Centre also offers other foreign language courses upon the payment of a small additional fee.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cla.unifi.it>

Library Services

The University library system (<https://www.sba.unifi.it/>) offers broad-ranging services, including access to the main online scientific journals, computer facilities and reading rooms. The Library of the School of Agriculture makes available all the information and documentation needed for study purposes, teaching, and research. It is located at the main building of the School of Agriculture, Piazzale delle Cascine 18 - 50144 Firenze, and is open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM.

As an Erasmus student you can access all libraries and borrow material just by citing your student number.

Canteens

The university canteens are handled by the Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario - DSU (Tuscan Regional Board for the Right to University Education). DSU Toscana has several catering facilities (some of them are run by DSU, others have been contracted out to private firms) where students may eat at reasonable prices. In order to use the services of the university canteens, students need the Canteen Card (Tesserino mensa). Erasmus+ and Exchange students can also apply for a card by producing their identity card and a document proving their enrolment to the University.

The updated list of all the canteens, the menus offered, prices, and further information can be found on their website: www.dsu.toscana.it/servizi/ristorazione

For more information on the canteen card, please contact the Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario di Firenze - Servizio Ristorazione, at the following offices:

- Viale Morgagni, 51

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday 10 AM – 1 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays also 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

- Via Miele, 3

Opening hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9 AM – 12 PM and 1 PM – 3PM

Accommodation

Unfortunately, the University does not arrange accommodation for students. We advise you to secure your room several months in advance. Florence is a highly sought after tourist and student destination and affordable rooms are scarce.

For more information, please visit the Unifi [Accommodation webpage](#).

Call for applications are published about 1 year before the intended move-in dates.

All students must notify the International Relations Office of their address in Florence and of any subsequent change of address. It is important to keep this data updated, since it allows us to contact students, if necessary.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Sports

The Centro Sportivo Universitario di Firenze (University Sports Centre) organises a full range of sports activities and courses with qualified instructors at its facilities. The courses, open to all the students, include Fitness and Bodybuilding, Bosu, Aerobics, Karate, Yoga, Capoeira, Caribbean Dance, Archery and Tennis. Students may also attend swimming and aqua aerobics courses organised by associated sports centres. Moreover, students can take part in university intramural tournaments, promotional and leisure activities, winter and summer camps and competitions.

There are two facilities, the main one in Florence, not far from the Rifredi train station and another one in Sesto Fiorentino at the Sciences Campus

To join in any activity, a CUS card is needed and can be obtained submitting:

- a medical certificate, not older than 1 year, stating the student's fitness to take part in non-competitive sport activities.
- a document proving enrolment at the University of Florence.
- Payment of the fee can be made by credit/debit card or cash

For more information visit: www.cus.firenze.it

Erasmus

International Relations Office

The International Relations Office of the School of Agriculture will be your main contact point for administrative issues before your arrival and during your Erasmus mobility period. We can help you prepare for your stay with us and act as a link between you and your Erasmus coordinator in Florence, who is responsible for your academic counselling and supervision of your studies. You can contact us either by e-mail, phone or drop in at the office.

The International Relations Office is located at the main building of the School of Agriculture, Piazzale delle Cascine, 18 Firenze, Room M1 on the ground floor.

Tel: +39 055 2755721

E-mail: erasmus@agraria.unifi.it

Opening Hours: Tuesday from 2 to 4 PM

Wednesday from 10 AM to 12 PM;

Tuesday from 2 PM to 4 PM.

It's necessary to make an appointment.

Admissions Procedure – Erasmus+ Study

The School of Agriculture accepts students who possess at least a **B1-level** proficiency **in Italian**. You need to submit your certification of knowledge together with your application paperwork. All our courses are taught in Italian (except for second-level degree courses in *Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development* and some subjects of the course in *Biotechnology for Environmental Management and Sustainable Agriculture*).

Insufficient Italian-language proficiency will seriously hinder your success in following courses and passing examinations. If you wish to take courses taught in English, please submit a certification at B2 level.

- Students interested in pursuing thesis work, or an internship must inform us of their intention and relative field of study in the Learning Agreement submitted prior to their arrival in Florence. With regards to thesis work, students are also required to specify the time that they want to dedicate to this work. ECTS value will be determined on a 25h:1credit ratio
- Students who do not take exams but require a record of attendance must consult their course professor, who will, at their discretion, sign a declaration to that purpose. Lacking that, your mobility will be closed on the day of the last class or on the day of your last exam.
- You need to make sure your mobility period **INCLUDES** the exam period. Which is always **AFTER** the classes have ended. Exams taken outside of your mobility period cannot be recorded in your ToR. For the first semester, exams are **AFTER** the Christmas holidays, in January and February.

Students selected to undertake an Erasmus Study mobility period in Florence must be nominated by their home institutions. The International Relations Office in Florence needs to receive the name, contact details and degree course selection for each nominated Erasmus student by email.

If you need a visa to enter Italy (this requirement is applicable to students from non-EU countries; for example, Turkey), you need to get an Acceptance letter form us and then pre-enrol on the [University](#) portal. You can also contact the Italian diplomatic mission in your home country.

You will receive information for your application in due time (June-July for First semester and full year mobilities, October-November for Second semester mobilities). You will need to submit:

- a) Enrolment form
- b) ID/passport
- c) certificate of B1 Italian or B2 English
- d) Learning Agreement (online via EWP for EU partner institutions).

Please remember that all the documents must be stamped and signed by the home institution and will not be considered unless signed and stamped. Please scan the documents and send as PDFs by email to: erasmus@agraria.unifi.it
Pictures taken with the phone will not be accepted.

In order to fill in the Learning Agreement, you can consult the course catalogue [here](#).

We also encourage you to explore the school's entire website for comprehensive info on all aspects of your Erasmus experience.

Please note that the maximum workload is 30 ECTS per semester and 60 ECTS for a full-year stay.

If you need assistance, please contact us: erasmus@agraria.unifi.it

Or visit the section dedicated to [Incoming Students](#) on our website.

Admission Procedure – Erasmus+ Traineeship

Students interested in coming to Florence as Erasmus Traineeship must be selected and then nominated by their home institutions. The programme is aimed at satisfying the needs of students looking for opportunities for specific training or research activities, for example, for their thesis work.

In this case, the Learning Agreement for Traineeship is not approved by the School of Agriculture as such but by its department: Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie, Alimentari, Ambientali e Forestali (Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry – DAGRI).

Students are responsible for identifying a point of contact at the host institution willing to welcome them, outlining the project they intend to develop, and setting the period of stay (between 2 and 12 months).

The International Relations Office is at their disposal for any help needed, including identification of your point of contact.

Once the programme is agreed upon with the host department, the student can proceed with filling in and submitting his/her Traineeship Agreement. Send the Traineeship Agreement (duly filled-in, signed and stamped for approval by the home institution), with the acceptance letter attached and signed by the point of contact at the host department.

Email: didattica@dagri.unifi.it

Learning/Traineeship Agreement Validation

The Erasmus Coordinator will validate your Learning or Traineeship Agreement. Any change to the agreement (which constitutes a 'study contract') must be notified immediately to your Departmental Coordinator. A copy of the modified Agreement, signed by the Coordinator, must be sent to the International Relations Office (erasmus@agraria.unifi.it).

No change to your Agreement will be accepted unless signed by your Coordinator.

The Erasmus Academic Coordinator for the School of Agriculture is Prof. Anna Dalla Marta.

Email: anna.dallamarta@unifi.it

The contact person at the International Relations Office is Ms. Vanessa Torcasso.

E-mail: erasmus@agraria.unifi.it

Arrival in Florence

When you arrive in Florence, you need to send us via email your proof of arrival (boarding pass or train ticket showing Florence as your final destination) so that we can proceed with issuing your student number (numero di matricola) and your Certificate of Arrival (CoA)

You will also receive a provisional password (date of birth) to access the online services: [click here](#) . You will be asked to change the password at the first access. At the end of your Study/Traineeship mobility period, you must inform the International Relations Office (erasmus@agraria.unifi.it) that you want to close

your mobility so that we can issue your Transcript of Records (ToR) and your certificate of departure.

Changes to the Learning Agreement

If you wish to change some of the subjects listed in your “Before the mobility” Learning Agreement, you can do so within a month of the beginning of classes. You can change as many subjects as you like. If you are only dropping subjects, you do not need to let us know. Simply do not sit for the exam and no records will remain of your choice.

If you made your LA online, also your changes to the LA must be made online, following the same procedure.

Extending Your Stay

If you wish to request an extension of your study period, download, and fill in the required [form](#). Your home institution must sign and stamp the form first, then we will sign it, send it back to you as a proof of stay and update your mobility period.

Transcript of Records

Your Transcript of Records includes the list of your completed course units, the credits obtained, and the grades awarded during your Erasmus mobility period, according to the Italian grading system. Please note that failed exams will not be included in your Transcript of Records. If you need a certificate of attendance (certificate for a course for which you do not plan to take the exam during your Erasmus mobility period), contact the professor before the classes start. The International Relations Office will send the official Transcript of Records by e-mail directly to the Home University.