FAQ

Students in mobility with programs managed by the University of Pisa

PLEASE NOTE – For all students coming back to Italy, the decree issued on 17 March 2020 requires self-quarantine: it is mandatory to immediately inform the Prevention Department of the Local Health Service of your arrival in Italy.

For the Regione Toscana, the notification form is provided by filling the form at the following link

https://www.prevenzionecollettiva.toscana.it/welcome/pages/segnalazione_estero.html#main

Your arrival in Italy should also be notified to the University of Pisa.

The Prime Minister decree (DPCM) issued on 22 March 2020 states that it is strictly prohibited to all persons to move by public or private transport from one municipality to another except for justified work needs, for emergency or health reasons; consequently, in art. 1, subpar. 1 letter a) of the DPCM issued on 8 March 2020 the sentence “it is allowed to return to your own domicile or residence” has been cancelled. However, the return to Italy is included among the justified needs in the new self-declaration (https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/aggiornato-modello-autodichiarazioni) of the Ministry of Home Affairs to be compiled and presented during any movement.

PLEASE NOTE – in consideration of the fast development of the Covid-19 emergency management and the continuous updates, some of the following FAQ could incur modifications that will be promptly updated.

1 Can I carry on my study/traineeship/research mobility abroad during the Covid-19 emergency?

Of course, it is possible to continue, following the guidelines provided by the University of Pisa, the hosting university/institution/company, the national, regional and local governments, the local health service and the recommendations of the WHO (World Health Organization) concerning the actions to be taken in the hosting country.

2 What are the current options for my mobility?

The following options are possible:

a. stay at your hosting university city and continue to study and attend the online lessons or continue the traineeship in smart working;

b. come back to your home country and attend the online lessons of the hosting university until the in-presence teaching will start again or the end of the mobility period. For students in Erasmus mobility, this option is still under assessment by the National Agency;

c. interrupt the mobility and attend the online lessons of the University of Pisa; you will be reinstated into your original study programme without disadvantage for your study path;

d. suspend your mobility and resume when and if possible;

e. cancel your mobility if it hasn’t started yet;

f. reschedule your mobility to the following term, if possible.
3 Do I have to return to Italy if the classrooms/traineeship at the hosting university/institution/company will be suspended?

No, you can wait for activities re-opening. You can attend online lessons or training in smart working at your domicile abroad when provided for by the hosting university/institution/company. Ask your university tutor for approval. In any case (with or without online lessons or smart working) the suspension will not be considered as an interruption and your grant will continue. For Erasmus+ mobility, if the suspension falls within the minimum required period (3 months for study and 2 months for traineeship mobility), your mobility should be extended for the same suspension period. The financial support will be assured for the entire period. Please check your health insurance, mainly if your mobility is in a non-EU country. The University of Pisa provides you with insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability. Still, it requires the notification of the exact dates of the extension period. Concerning health insurance, in case of private insurance, please read the terms carefully to understand its duration and if necessary contact the company to have further information or extend the period.

4 Is it possible to return to Italy and continue the mobility remotely?

As for Erasmus+ students, the National Agency has not still stated its decision. We are confident of a positive decision in case the hosting university/institution/company has already started the online lessons or smart working. Ask your university tutor for approval. As for the calls funded by the University of Pisa, it is possible to continue the mobility remotely. It will be possible both to attend the exams remotely or at your hosting university when the emergency ends. Please ask your hosting university about the possibility of attending exams remotely. The period of your staying in Italy will not be covered by the grant. In addition to the remote activities of the hosting university/institution/company, you will be able to attend the remote activities of the University of Pisa. Please contact the office in charge of your mobility to verify if your Learning Agreement needs an adjustment. The University of Pisa provides insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability. Still, it requires the exact dates notification of your arrival in Italy and your possible return to the hosting university.

5 What happens to my educational activities and credits if I come back to Italy?

The activities you performed before returning to Italy will be recognized in compliance with your Transcript of Records/LA After the mobility/certificate issued by your hosting institution. You will be reinstated into your original study programme without disadvantage for your study path. As reported in FAQ 4, if having the positive decision of the National Agency, you will be able to continue your mobility remotely if the hosting university/institution/company has already started the online lessons or smart working.

6 What happens to my financial status (grant and costs refund) if I come back to Italy?

The grant is calculated on the valid period done and certified at your hosting university. For Erasmus+ study and traineeship and traineeship extra Europe, the grant is calculated on the effective days of mobility performed. For any other programmes the call’ rules shall prevail. In case you received a grant higher than the one due, you would be asked to return the exceeding part. In case you received a grant inferior to the one due (or previously agreed) you should be given the balance. For mobility interrupted due to Covid-19, the force majeure principle is recognized: in addition to the grant, other
unexpected expenses to return to Italy will be covered. The declared expenses should be authorized by the National Agency for Erasmus+ programmes and by the University of Pisa for the other mobility programmes, but still with the limitation of cost-effectiveness and available resources. Methods of reimbursement will be indicated as soon as possible. Please keep all receipts for travel expenses (e.g. flight tickets), accommodation deposit or transport travelcards that couldn’t be refunded due to cancellations. The reimbursement will be scheduled later. If still waiting to receive the grant or return a part of it, a balance between the grant amount and the refund of the expenses will be done.

7 Once at home, will it be possible to go back to the hosting university/institution/company as soon as the situation is safe again?

If you interrupted your mobility at the very first stage, you could go back again after verifying the hosting university availability and the compatibility with your academic path period (with no delay for the final exam). As for Erasmus+ study and traineeship programs in Europe, the academic year 2019/2020 will be postponed from 30 September 2020 to 31 May 2021. For programmes funded by the University of Pisa, the deadline is postponed to 30 November 2020.

FAQ - Students waiting to start mobility with programs managed by the University of Pisa

1. Can I start my study/traineeship/research mobility now?

No. Under the Italian Government provisions and the EU commission recommendations, all incoming and outgoing mobility are suspended indefinitely. You will be able to reschedule your mobility later after verifying the hosting university/institution/company availability.

2. Can I start my study/traineeship/research mobility remotely from Italy now?

We do not recommend it. Even if the hosting university is proposing you to start your mobility remotely from Italy, we suggest not to proceed. The risk to stop your mobility is high because of the ongoing restrictive measures also adopted by other countries. Furthermore, likely, mobility without a period abroad is not accepted by the Erasmus+ programme.

3. What can I do if the traineeship expected to be performed abroad affect the awarding of my qualification?

You will evaluate with your tutor the possibility of converting the traineeship abroad in traineeship in Italy in smart working.

4. What about the expenses I incurred for the cancelled mobility? For cancellation due to Covid-19 is the force majeure principle recognized? In addition to the grant, other unexpected expenses to return to Italy will be covered?

The declared expenses should be authorized by the National Agency for Erasmus+ programmes and by the University of Pisa for other mobility programmes, but still with the limitation of cost-effectiveness and available resources. Methods of reimbursement will be indicated as soon as possible. Please keep all receipts for travel expenses (e.g. flight tickets, train tickets) accommodation deposit or travel cards that couldn’t be refunded due to cancellations. The reimbursement will be scheduled later.
Will it be possible to go back to the hosting university/institution/company as soon as the situation is safe again?

In case of mobility cancellation, you can postpone your departure after verifying the hosting university availability and the compatibility with your academic path (with no delay for the final exam). As for Erasmus+ study and traineeship programmes in Europe, the academic year 2019/2020 will be postponed from 30 September 2020 to 31 May 2021. For programmes funded by the University of Pisa, the deadline is postponed to 30 November 2020. In the case of Erasmus+ traineeship, if selected for a stage within your study programme, you can defer your mobility within 12 months from the award of your qualification. If you postpone your mobility, please be advised not to plan your journey and your accommodation too far in advance and verify the evolution of the emergency in the other countries.
A few specific cases

1. **Interrupted Mobility but continuing with online lessons in Italy**

   Because of the exceptional situation, we asked the National Agency Indire to adequately consider the mobility period and the credit recognition for Erasmus students whose intention is to attend online lessons from Italy or continue traineeship in Italy in smart working. As for the calls funded by the University of Pisa, it is possible to continue the mobility remotely. If scheduled in advance, it will be possible to attend the exams remotely or at the hosting university when the emergency ends. The period of your staying in Italy will not be covered by the grant. In addition to the remote activities of the hosting university/institution/company, you will be able to attend the remote activities of the University of Pisa. Please contact the office in charge of your mobility to verify if your Learning Agreement needs an adjustment.

2. **Interrupted mobility**

   The mobility interrupted in advance (with or without minimal duration relation) by force majeure caused by the Covid-19 emergency, being declared by the student and verified by the hosting university, will have to be authorized by the National Agency Erasmus+ Italia for Erasmus mobility. For mobility calls funded by the University of Pisa, the office in charge of the call will authorize the interruption upon students’ request. In the case of interrupted mobility, students can ask for reimbursement of the expenses incurred that were not refunded by travel agencies, travel companies, insurance companies or other. It is, therefore, necessary to keep tickets, receipts and invoices and any other document attesting the expenses incurred by the student and the failure to get refunded. The procedure to ask the force majeure clause will be notified later.

3. **Suspended Mobility (with further resumption)**

   For Erasmus mobility, the suspension period will not be determined considering the minimum duration of the mobility period but the maximum period of 12 months of each study programme for which the student can receive mobility contributions.

4. **Cancelled Mobility**

   For the mobility cancelled just before departure due to force majeure caused by the Covid-19 emergency, (declared by the student and verified by the hosting university), students can ask for reimbursement of the expenses incurred that were not refunded by travel agencies, travel companies, insurance companies or other. Students will be reinstated into their original study programme without disadvantage for their study path.