The City of Pisa

Pisa is world famous for its Leaning Tower, Cathedral, botanical garden (founded in 1543 making it the oldest in Europe) and many other historical monuments. It is located in Tuscany, in the centre of the Italian peninsula, near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Its multicultural population totals around 100,000 people, in addition to the many thousands of students who enliven the city. Its cultural life revolves around museums, cultural associations, cinemas and theatres, making Pisa a great place to live and study.

Application Process

To enrol at the University of Pisa, students who hold a foreign high school diploma must have attended school for at least 12 years. In order to apply for a Master’s degree programme, the university must first evaluate the student’s academic qualifications and see whether s/he fulfills the requirements based on the university degree, study programme and exams taken abroad. Different rules apply depending on whether students are EU or non-EU citizens:

www.unipi.it/eu-students-enrolment
www.unipi.it/non-eu-students-enrolment

Fees and scholarships

The full yearly contribution for standard students is approximately € 2,400.00, educational, scientific and administrative services included. Students can apply for a scholarship provided by the DSU (Regional “Right to Study” programme) and be granted tuition waivers or reductions based on family income. The annual call for DSU grants is published at the DSU Toscana website www.dsu.toscana.it. The number of students paying the full yearly contribution is very limited; in most cases, financial support allows to substantially reduce the fee amount.
The University of Pisa

The University of Pisa is one of the most renowned educational institutions in Italy. Although formally founded in 1343, when it was proclaimed a 'Studium Generale' with the authority to prepare university teachers, although its origins date back to earlier centuries.

Nowadays the University of Pisa represents a prestigious modern centre for teaching and advanced research. Almost all of its departments are located in the heart of the city in both the historical centre and the outer districts. Most facilities can be reached on foot within 20 minutes from the centre of Pisa.

Facts and figures

- Date of foundation: 1343
- Number of libraries: 17
- Number of museums: 13
- Number of departments: 20
  - Bachelor’s degree programmes: 60
  - Master’s degree programmes: 72
  - Long single cycle degree programmes: 8
  - PhD programmes: 35
  - Third cycle specialisation programmes: 49
  - One-Year specialisation programmes: 71
- Number of students: 52,000+
- Number of research and teaching staff: 1,518
- Number of technical and administrative staff: 1,572

Amongst the University of Pisa’s glories is Galileo Galilei, who was born and studied in Pisa, and became professor of Mathematics in 1589. The University also counts several Nobel Prize winners among its alumni, including Giosuè Carducci (1906, Literature), Enrico Fermi (1938, Physics), Carlo Rubbia (1984, Physics), and two Fields medalists (Mathematics), Enrico Bombieri (1974) and Alessio Figalli (2018).

World University Rankings

The University of Pisa stands every year in the top positions of the most prestigious international rankings both by universities and subject. In the institutions’ rankings, the University of Pisa ranks amongst the 200th and 400th position, thus standing in the worldwide 1-2% top and among the 10 best universities in Italy.

The University of Pisa ranks higher where the academic performance has more weight (such as in the ARWU and NTU global rankings, as well as in QS and THE “by subject” rankings). In the rankings by subject, the University of Pisa often ranks in the top 100 worldwide for Physics, Mathematics, Classics, Computer Science, and among the top Italian universities for the same subjects.

Areas

- Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Engineering
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences

Programmes taught in English

- Foundation Course
- 2 Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities and Economics
- 16 Master of Science in various fields
- PhD programmes in more than 20 fields
- Summer Schools: 30 Intensive Programmes in different areas
- One-Year specialisation programmes in various fields such as: Commissioning Management of Renewable Power Plants; Management of Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Systems; Risk Management; Big Data Analytics & Social Mining; Imaging Oncologico.

Information at www.unipi.it/programmes-in-english.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be found by searching for advertisements placed on bulletin boards in each of the university’s departments. Costs for renting a room range from €250 to €350 per month. Generally, rent does not include charges for gas, electricity, water and internet, nor does it include general expenses for the building’s maintenance.

We suggest students stay in a hostel for a few days upon arrival to allow plenty of time for viewing and choosing a room. Information at www.unipi.it/accommodation.

Dining halls

The University of Pisa offers a low-price dining service to all of its students. There are three different dining halls throughout the city which provide meals (lunch and dinner) every day of the week. The cost of meals ranges from 3€ to 4,50€ depending on the number of courses chosen. Students will receive an electronic card upon enrolment which they can top-up and then use to buy meals in each of the dining halls.

The Language Centre (CLI)

For those wanting to learn Italian, intensive language courses are offered by the CLI (Centro Linguistico Interdipartimentale) to our international students in September and October each year.

Regular Italian courses are also offered during the year at different proficiency levels. Students are required to take an entry test (even beginners) to establish which classes are most suitable for them.

The CLI also provides courses in a wide range of other foreign languages. Information at www.cli.unipi.it.