

Dear International Student,

Welcome to the University of Messina. Your time here will be both challenging and exciting. As you know, academic mobility is vital to enhance European competitiveness. Mobility contributes to building up a knowledge-based society where awareness of cultural diversity and traditions is an incentive, rather than an obstacle, to innovation and international cooperation. This Handbook is designed to assist you while you are preparing to study in Messina and to advise you on how to organize your stay.

MESSINA

Several times destroyed, several times rebuilt, the ancient Zancle, later called Messanion, has been stubbornly reconstructed on the same site. Wars and earthquakes have changed its appearance but have not affected the perseverance of its inhabitants.

One of its historical buildings the courtly Palazzata, facing the port, was razed to the ground by two devastating earthquakes, the first in 1783 and the second in 1908 when more than a hundred thousand people died. The new Messina was subsequently rebuilt with anti-seismic systems and a modern urban design.

Nowadays very little remains of its architectural heritage: the Cathedral's original facade dating back to the 12th century; one of Montorsoli's masterpieces, Orion's Fountain, which is in the Cathedral square; other historical monuments located in the city centre include the Church of the Catalans, a Byzantine construction with Arabic influences, and the 19th century Vittorio Emanuele Gallery.

The statue of the Virgin of the Letter, placed at the entrance to Messina's harbour, bears testimony to local religious traditions. She blesses Messina and all visitors arriving or departing from the City of the Strait. Opposite the Statue of the Virgin is the Fountain of Neptune.

A synthesis of the historical and artistic legacy of Messina is held in the Regional Museum where two Caravaggio paintings are kept.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Messina has a long history of cultural and educational activities. The Faculty of Law was founded in the late XIII century, whereas the famous Greek Faculty and Pope Paolo III's "Studiorum Universitas" were founded in November 1598.

The University was closed in 1678 because of Messina's revolt against the Spaniards.

After a long period of silence, during which academic studies were carried out in the "Academia Carolina", the University was re-established in 1838 by King Ferdinando II. At the time the University played a key role in the political and cultural life of the city and famous scholars, such as Giovanni Alfonso Borelli, Pietro Castelli, Giovan Battista Cortesi, Carlo Fracassati, Giacomo Gallo, Mario Giurba, Marcello Malpighi, Francesco Maurolico, taught at the University.

In 1847, due to the city's anti-borbonic rebellion, the University was closed again and reopened two years later with restrictions to non-Sicilian students. The 1908 earthquake destroyed most of the University, including its famous library and its scientific equipment. The Faculty of Law reopened only a year later in 1909, while the Faculties of Science, Pharmacy and Medicine reopened between 1914 and 1915.

UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA AND ITS LOCATION

The University of Messina includes eleven Faculties, covering the widest range of disciplines, and located in different parts of the town. More precisely the University has four main sites. The University Hospital (<http://polime.it/>), hosting the Faculty of Medicine, is located in the southern area of Messina. The Faculties of Law, Economics, Political Science and Education are located in the city centre, together with the University's Administration Offices. Papardo campus, hosting the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering, and the Annunziata Campus, with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, are located in northern Messina. The Annunziata Campus includes the Sports Campus (Unime Sport http://unimesport.unime.it/tariffe/ums_index.html) with a fully equipped gym, football pitches, tennis courts, basket volley and baseball courts, and two swimming pools. All University sites can be easily reached by public transport.

ACADEMIC SERVICES AND STUDENT FACILITIES

In terms of academic services and student facilities, each Faculty has its main Library as well as individual departmental specialized libraries. On-line databases and updated information on academic and research activities and services are available on the University Website (www.unime.it).

At the beginning of each term, usually in October and March, international students registered at the University of Messina can attend an Intensive Italian Language Course offered by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The aim of the course is to allow students to become proficient in Italian and, in particular, to acquire academic skills useful to attend lectures and seminars in Italian.

Students take an entrance test and are then divided in two different groups (beginners and intermediate). Enroling for the course is not automatic: students must clearly specify their intentions in the application form.

Sports facilities available to students are mainly, but not exclusively, offered by Unime Sport (Cittadella Sportiva Universitaria, V.le S.S. Annunziata Tel.: +39 090/ 95.86.062 - 35.47.29 Email: unimesport@unime.it), where students can practice and take courses on all main indoor and outdoor sports.

ERASMUS STUDENTS ENROLMENT PROCEDURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

In order to register as an Erasmus student at the University of Messina you **have to**:

- Fill in the on line Application Form and Learning Agreement at the following link:
- <http://unime.llpmanager.it/studenti/>
- Print the Forms
- Send them by mail to the following address:

Ufficio Programmi Comunitari
Settore Relazioni Internazionali
Università degli Studi di Messina
Piazza S. Pugliatti, 1
98122 Messina

Tel/Fax: 00.39.090.676.42.78

relint@unime.it

- The Application Form and the Learning Agreement **MUST** be signed by your own Institutional Coordinator or Departmental Exchange Coordinator.
- **DEADLINES** for submission of applications are:

Full academic year stay **30th June**

First semester stay **30th June**

Second semester stay **1st November**

Important

PLEASE MAKE SURE that your Home Institution sends your application to the International Office (email: relint@unime.it), otherwise we cannot accept your Registration.

We kindly ask you to e-mail your date of arrival to the International Office as soon as possible. After arranging your accommodation, come and see us at the International Office as you have to fill in a form containing your personal data.

After completing registration, you will meet your University Coordinator who will help you choose the courses you are interested in and will help you face any academic problems that may occur during your stay here at the University of Messina: s/he will assist you in your studies and take into account any possible request to prolong your stay in Messina. In any case, the International Office will be a point of reference for anything you need during your stay in Messina.

EU CITIZENS

As provided by Decree nr. 30, dated February 6th 2007, pertaining to the "Application of the Directive 2004/38/CE about the right of EU citizens and their relatives to freely circulate and stay in the Member States" you are allowed to move without restrictions throughout Italy without applying for a stay permit.

During your first 3 months of stay you have no requirements to fulfill, provided you have a valid identity document.

After 90 days of uninterrupted stay in Italy, you must register at Messina City Hall (Comune di Messina - "Ufficio Anagrafe").

Required Documents:

- Valid identity card;
- Passport-size photographs (at least 4)
- Health card
- Registration certificate available at the International Office

Non-EU citizens need to apply for a **study VISA** before leaving their home country. Application should be submitted to the nearest Italian Embassy or Consulate in your home Country. (All relevant information can be found at [www.study -in-Italy.it](http://www.study-in-Italy.it), a website provided by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research)

HEALTH CARD

Healthcare is very important: you might need medical assistance and, if you do not have health coverage, medical assistance can be very expensive. Health cards are issued by the institution responsible for healthcare in your country (AOK, etc.).

ACCOMODATION

Living in a hall of residence will provide you with a good base to settle down. You will also be close to other students, as well as being near the University.

University Halls of Residence

Papardo Campus (Faculty of Engineering) Contrada Di Dio tel + 39090-3977800.

Guest House: Via Pietro Castelli Tel: +39 090 6014401

Hall of Residence: Via Cesare Battisti (temporarily closed for renovation)

The average monthly rent is 170,00 euro, including bed linen and blankets. Laundry service is not available. Access to your room cannot be arranged if you arrive on Saturday or Sunday.

Due to the growing number of incoming Erasmus students at our University, the availability of rooms for all international students is not guaranteed.

Private Accommodation

For those students who cannot be lodged at a University Hall of Residence, the International Office offers assistance in the search of accommodation in private shared flats through contact with ESN, an association of former Erasmus students (email: esn_messina@hotmail.it). ESN provides regularly updated lists of private flats and houses and helps students in their search. More info on the ESN Messina web site:

<http://www.esn-messina.it/>

CANTEENS

The University of Messina has four main canteens located in different areas, all close to Faculties:

- “*Mensa Casa dello Studente*” - Via Ghibellina n. 141 – located in the city centre, at walking distance from University buildings, close to the Faculty of
- Economics and the Faculty of Law (open from 12:00 to 2:00 a.m. and from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)
- “*Mensa Policlinico*” located in the southern part of Messina near the Faculty of Medicine (open from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.)
- “*Mensa Papardo*” close to the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering (open from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.)
- “*Mensa Annunziata*” located at Annunziata Campus (contrada Citola), not far from the City centre, close to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.(open from 12:00 to 2:00 pm)

In order to have access to the canteens, students must apply for a CARD available at ERSU (Regional Office for University Studies, located in Via Gasparro n.337) at the cost of €5,00. The cost for a meal for cardholders is €3.50.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM MESSINA

BY PLANE

Messina does not have its own airport; however it can be easily reached flying direct to Catania, Palermo or Reggio Calabria International Airports, via Milan Malpensa Airport (www.sea-aeroportmilano.it) or via Roma Fiumicino Airport (www.adr.it).

Bus Service connections are available from Catania Airport to Messina City centre

(<http://www.saisautolinee.it/regionali.htm>) as well as from Reggio Calabria Airport to Villa San Giovanni(<http://www.autolineefederico.it>). From Palermo Airport there are no direct connections; those who fly to Palermo should go to the Central Railway Station (info on www.gesap.it) and take a bus or a train to Messina.

BY TRAIN

You can get to Messina by train. Detailed information and timetables are available on http://trenitalia.it/homepage_en.html. Tickets can be bought at the railway station or booked online.

USEFUL INFORMATION

HEALTH CARE

Non-EU students, coming from countries that do not have any bilateral agreements with Italy regarding health care, need to take out **international insurance** covering medical treatments and admission to hospital. In order to avoid any problems we strongly recommend that you contact insurance agencies before leaving your country. An insurance policy is compulsory if you apply for a residence permit.

TAX CODE (CODICE FISCALE)

The Tax Code is a compulsory document if you wish to open an account at an Italian bank. This card is issued by the “Ufficio Anagrafe Tributaria” after submission of a valid identity document: the card contains a code made up of letters and numbers which makes identification easier in the case of tax control.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Phone numbers listed below are useful in case of an emergency during your stay in Italy:

Carabinieri 112 (Italian Police)

Messina Soccorso 118 (First Aid)

Ospedale Policlinico 090/3991 (University Hospital)

Pronto Intervento 113 (Emergency)

Incidenti Stradali 116 (Road Accidents)

Pompieri 115 (Fire Brigade)

Polizia Municipale 090/771000 (Police)

Municipio 090/7721 (Messina City Hall)

ENEL (Elettricità) 800- 011322 (Electricity)

Servizio Acqua 090/675505 (Water)

Servizio Gas 800- 900999 (Gas)