Università degli Studi di Genova
Contents

The University and its History .......................................................... 2
The International Education Office ................................................. 5
Location ......................................................................................... 6
Accommodation .............................................................................. 8
  Residence Permit ........................................................................ 9
Travel ............................................................................................. 9
  Arriving in Genoa ....................................................................... 9
  Getting Around Genoa................................................................. 10
Admissions Procedures .................................................................. 10
  Before Coming ............................................................................ 10
  Enrolment .................................................................................. 10
  Registration ................................................................................ 11
Academics ...................................................................................... 11
  Language Courses ....................................................................... 11
Student Matters ............................................................................ 11
  Student Tips ............................................................................... 12
The University and its history

The Aims and Objective of the University of Genoa

At the University of Genoa, the centrality of the student has long been recognised, and the courses on offer have been formulated with the aspirations and inclinations of young people in mind. The University also recognizes the need for good qualifications and the needs of a labour market that has a European - and in many fields, a global – dimension.

The University of Genoa enhances group work, the freedom to express one’s ideas, and openness to all world visions and cultures. It trains individuals to be prepared and aware citizens of the world, with a sense of belonging to a social group, both small groups, like businesses, and large ones alike.

The University aims to give students a solid basic cultural and scientific training as well as instruments to confront their professional future with rigour and awareness. It provides concrete possibilities for integration between theory and practice as well as mobility – nationally and internationally – both for study activities and work experience in institutions or firms.

Moreover, our University particularly embraces the needs for continuous qualification, and further qualification for those already working. Education is conceived as a life-long process that does not end with a degree, but continues along the entire span of a person’s professional life, fostering flexibility and new skills and competencies in the sectors required by society.

That is why the University aims for quality and innovation in teaching and research. Research, in particular, has enabled the University to achieve recognised and prestigious results nationally and internationally, and to develop excellence, thus increasing the already flourishing exchanges and collaborations with international institutions, and leading to agreements with other Italian and foreign universities and research institutes.

In relation to teaching, relationships between students and professors have bi-directional communication, and there is an open and flexible learning environment that takes advantage of new technological instruments (e-learning platform and access for disabled students).

Lastly, the University of Genoa, with the collaboration of other institutions, is successfully committed to improving the lives of non-residents and their living conditions. To that end, it has made significant investments in scholarships and accommodation for students in a city that is increasingly lively, dynamic and rich with cultural stimuli.
The History of the University of Genoa

In the thirteenth century, Genoa already had colleges which brought together scholars studying in the same disciplines. Colleges conferring degrees in law, theology, medicine and the arts were the first organised forms of higher education in Genoa.

In 1569 four chairs of medicine and the chairs of canonical law, civil law, moral philosophy and mathematics were incorporated into the schools run by the Jesuits (who began teaching in Genoa in 1554, founding minor schools and a college). The present rectorate building, Palazzo Balbi, constructed at the behest of the Jesuits, was designed by Bartolomeo Bianco and inaugurated in 1640.

The year 1670 saw the initiation of what could be called a complete Jesuit university, an event related to the fact that in 1669 the Jesuits had been assigned the profits from the university chairs according to the last wishes expressed by a nobleman called Ansaldo Grimaldi in 1536.

These chairs only became active in 1669, and it was due to this integration that the College acquired the name of University. With the suppression of the Company of Jesus in 1773, a deputation of studies was nominated, and all of the university chairs that had been held by the Jesuits until that time were reconstituted.

Thus began a period of steady progress in the field of education, thanks to the initiatives of private citizens and of the Senate of the Deputation. In 1782, the Senate annexed the Theological College to the University Faculty of Theology. 1784 saw the activation of the disciplines of commercial arithmetics, natural history and experimental physics.

It was not until the Regulation of 1803 and the suppression of the professional colleges, which had until then maintained the privilege of awarding degrees, that the university institute was completed. To the Faculties of Philosophy, Law, Medicine and Theology were added a grammar school course, and a course in commerce and exchange.

After the constitution of the French Empire, which absorbed the Republic of Genoa, higher studies were subdivided into the special schools of Law, Medicine, Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Commercial Science, Modern Languages, and Pharmacy.

Although the momentous historic events of the nineteenth century were reflected in the activities of the University of Genoa, they did not impede its evolution towards an expansion of taught subjects.

During the rebellions of 1821-23 and 1830-35, the University of Genoa was closed for reasons of public safety caused by political agitation.

The entrance hall to the University building bears witness to this period of great political and intellectual fervour: the busts of Giuseppe Mazzini, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Goffredo Mameli and Nino Bixio stand alongside those of Genoese teachers such as Cesare Cabella and Cesare Parodi, who played different parts in the Risorgimento uprisings. The University houses the first tricolour flag, the future symbol of national
unity, which the students, led by Gofferdo Mameli, carried through the streets of Genoa on 10 September 1847, on the anniversary of the rout of the Austrians.

The University of Genoa was appointed to the first evaluation level in 1885 demonstrating the status the University had reached. Of importance in attaining this was the creation of the Royal High Schools in 1870: the Naval School and the School of Economics and Commerce, which were subsequently assimilated into the Royal University of Genoa in 1963. These became the Faculties of Engineering and Commerce (which became the Faculty of Economics on 1st November 1994).

A city of great architectural and artistic traditions, Genoa acquired a centre of higher education in architecture with the opening of the Faculty of Architecture in 1964.

July 1967 saw the executive approval of the convention between the University, Genoa City Council and the A. Baratono, University Teacher Training Institute. On the basis of this convention, the Teacher Training Institute was transformed into the Faculty of Education in the 1967/68 academic year (the Faculty of Educational Sciences since 1996).

In 1969 the degree course in Political Science in the Faculty of Law became the Faculty of Political Science, while in the academic year 1993/94 the course in Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts was transformed into the Faculty of Modern Languages. With the recent opening of the decentralised annexes in the towns of Imperia, Savona and La Spezia, the University has expanded significantly throughout the region. In the academic year 1996/7 a university annex was also opened in the town Acqui Terme.

The International Education Office

Servizio Orientamento e Mobilità Internazionale
Piazza della Nunziata
6-16124 Genova
Tel: 010 2099545 273 238
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 12.00am
Tuesday and Thursday: 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Tradition has it that the name of Genoa comes from the Latin word *janua*, meaning gate – a gate opening onto the sea and onto the fulfilment of distant ambition, such as the conquest of the flourishing Oriental markets. History constantly confirms the sea-going vocation of Genoa. There was already a commercial emporium on the crest of Castelletto hill as early as the sixth century BC, and this primitive settlement near the ancient natural landing-point eventually grew to be a city; from a small commercial emporium to a sea republic which dominated the entire Mediterranean area; from the berth point for the galleys of Andrea Doria to the shipping terminal for merchant and passenger fleets.
The lighthouse, known as the *Laterna*, has dominated the port for centuries. You can see this traditional symbol of Genoa from every direction. It was built in the sixteenth century on the site of a former watch tower, and fires used to be lit on its summit in order to guide sailors into the port.

With a current population of 750,000, Genoa has recently undergone a remarkable urban development aimed at preserving the city’s valuable artistic and architectural heritage. The restoration of the port area, on the five-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, means that the city’s inhabitants once again have access to a completely renovated Old Port. It includes the largest aquarium in Europe and the sophisticated Magazzini-century wharf.

The city’s history is not only evident in the Old Port but also in its buildings and streets – for example the Via Aurea, today’s Via Garibaldi. This was built between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and was the location of the austere and impressive residences of the richest and most powerful Genoese families of the time. The beginning of the seventeenth century also saw the construction of a street called the Strade Grande del Guastato, today’s Via Balbi, the central location of the University of Genoa.

Among the city’s buildings is the Palazzo Ducale, which covers a surface area of 35,000 square metres. Originally the headquarters of the Captain of the People, it was given its present name (the Doge’s Palace) in 1339 when Simon Boccanegra was elected Doge. It has been completely restored and is today used as a venue for Genoa’s most important exhibitions.

In fact, Genoa was the European Capital of Culture in 2004.

Genoa is the capital of Liguria, one of the smallest regions in Italy. It enjoys a temperate climate thanks to its geographical position. It is situated on the coast and sheltered to the north by the Apennine Mountains. The average temperature in January, the coldest month of the year, is 8°C, while the average summer temperature is 25°C.

With its unmistakable Mediterranean flavour, Genoese cuisine has an important place in the rich culinary traditions of Italy. Among the dishes you must try are two types of pasta, *trenette* and *trofie*, served with Genoese pesto sauce, as well as minestrone, torta pasqualina, farinata, focaccia and cima. Naturally, fish is a very important part of Genoese cuisine. Typical sweet specialities include pandolce, Lagaccio biscuits and pine kernel pastries. Among the numerous wines the region offers, Vermentino and Pigato are must-trys.

For more information on the region go to: http://www.turismoinliguria.it
Accommodation

- **University Residences**

These Residences are managed by:
**E.R.S.U. – Ente Regionale per il diritto allo Studio Universitario**
Web: www.ersu.genova.it

Thanks to the agreement between the University of Genoa and E.R.S.U (Regional Office for University Studies), students who come to this university on community programmes or as inter-university exchange students have an opportunity to stay in *Casa dello Studente* (student housing). Remember to fill in the appropriate application form, which has been sent to your own university, and please note there are limited places available in the university residences.

- **Rented Accommodation**

Information and addresses about rented accommodation may be found on university message-boards, in newspapers and magazines, and through special rental organisations. If you decide to live in private rented accommodation, it is advisable to arrive a week or two before the beginning of term to give yourself sufficient time to find accommodation.

- **Temporary Accommodation**

In order to give yourself the chance to look for the accommodation best suited to your needs, the University of Genoa will be pleased to offer you temporary accommodation at the Youth Hostel. The University will pay for a maximum of four nights. If you wish to continue to stay at the Youth Hostel, the present cost is €16.50 a night

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**Genoa Youth Hostel**

Via Costanzi,
120 – 16136
Genoa
Tel/Fax: (0039) 010 / 24 22 457
Mail: hostelge@iol.it
Residence Permit

Within 8 days of your arrival you must apply for a residence permit at the central police station, Questura, Via Diaz (near Piazza della Vittoria).

You will need:
- A valid identity card and passport, plus a photocopy of it
- 3 passport-size photographs
- A written declaration from the University of Genoa
- A document proving your means of financial support i.e. credit cards, Italian bank account statement, bank account statement from your home bank, money transfers, etc.
- European Health Insurance Card and/or private medical insurance

Travel

Arriving in Genoa

By Plane:

Presently there are no direct flights to Genoa from Ireland, so you will need to fly via another European airport. In most causes London may be the most convenient – both Ryan Air and British Airways fly from London to Genoa. Cristoforo Colombo Airport Genoa is situated in the district of Sextri Ponette, and connects by bus to the city centre with Volabus route: Airport – Principe Station – Piazza De Ferrari – Brignole Station. The cost of the ticket, which you can buy onboard the bus or from an automated machine in the airport building, is €4.

For more information about the airport, go to:

http://www.aeroportodigenova.com/

By Train:

Genoa is connected to the major Italian cities by an effective railway network. The two principle train stations are:
- Principe Railway Station – this station, situated in Piazza Acquaverde, is within walking distance of Palazzo Balbi, where you will find the University of Genoa Rectorate and the Research and International Relations Service.
- Brignole Railway Station, located in Piazza G. Verdi.
Getting Around Genoa

The historic centre in Genoa, which dates back to the Middle Ages, is said to be the largest of its kind in Europe. It is, however, fairly compact and easy to walk. Indeed, most of its streets and alleys are so narrow that you couldn't drive through them anyway.

Outside of its historic section, the city of Genoa is fairly large (about 28 km from Voltri, the westernmost neighbourhood, to Nervi in the east). A comprehensive public transportation network runs throughout the city, including main rail lines (operated by Trenitalia) as well as buses, cable cars, public elevators, one water-bus line, and a short underground (all operated by AMT -- www.amt.genova.it).

Tickets must be purchased prior to boarding (usually at newsstands), and cost about €1.20 for unlimited bus rides and/or one train/subway ride during 90 minutes. There is also a 24-hour ticket, and a monthly ticket.

Admissions Procedures

Before Coming

As soon as you have decided on your arrival date in Genoa, you should inform the Research and International Relations Service (Servizio Orientamento e Mobilitá Internazionale) and complete the application form sent to your home institution.

Please do not forget the following documents:

- A valid national identity card or passport
- European Health Insurance Card
- A letter from your Home University declaring your Erasmus status and length of stay
- A valid enrolment certificate

Enrolment

On arrival your first port of call is the Research and International Relations Service at:

Servizio Orientamento e Mobilitá Internazionale
Piazza della Nunziata
6-16124 Genova
Tel: 010 2099545 273 238
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 12.00am
Tuesday and Thursday: 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Registration

In order to register at the University, where you can enrol free of charge as a full time student, you then have to go to the:

Servizio Formazione
Piazza della Nunziata
6-161124 Genova
Tel: 010 2099609 693
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 12.00am
Tuesday and Wednesday 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Academics

Language Courses

Since all subjects are taught in Italian, you should have sufficient knowledge of the language to be able to understand classes, but if you need to improve your knowledge you can enrol in the intensive language courses which the University organises every year.
If you wish to attend these courses, you should mention it on your application form, where you can find further information about the classes running. These courses are free of charge.

Student Matters

Sports Facilities

You have access to all the facilities of the University Sports Centre (CUS). Among the sport facilities organised by the C.U.S are: aerobics, indoor football, free expression, fitness, swimming, basketball, volleyball, weight-lifting, pre-ski activities, squash, tennis, table tennis, windsurfing, etc.
For more information contact:

C.U.S (Centro Universitario Sportivo)
Via Monte Zovetto
21A – 16145
Genova
Tel: 010/ 3623001
Fax: 010/ 318126
Student Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and Genoa will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in your shoes. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied at the University of Genoa.

Academic Matters:
- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about Italian life, culture, history, or literature. You’ll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- Be aware that you are entering a new education system with different administration, course, and exam structures.
- Keep up with your reading.
- Italian examinations can be oral or written.

Accommodation:
- Finding accommodation in Genoa can be difficult. If you decide to use university residences, book early; or, if you decide to try private accommodation, give yourself enough time to find lodging before the beginning of term.
- Find out whether bed linen is included or if you have to buy it on arrival.
- When booking accommodation, ask about the times you will be able to collect your keys and access your residence so you can either arrive during these times, or make alternative accommodation arrangements for the first night.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.
- Bring a 2-pin plug adaptor for any Irish electrical products.

Travel:
- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights, the cheaper they are.
- Some clubs organise really cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.

Bureaucracy:
- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need.
- EU citizens need a Residence Permit if they are staying for over three months.
- It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.
Social:
- Buy local newspapers and magazines, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
- Immerse yourself in the culture.
- Try to interact with Italian students and the local community.

General:
- Bring a good Italian dictionary.
- Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put an Italian SIM card in it.
- Brings some books in English. Although you can buy some English-language books in Italy, they can be expensive, and it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
- Look into phone cards – they are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
- If you have a laptop and internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other internet phone packages.
- Set up Internet banking.