Università
degli Studi di
Padova
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The University and its History

The University of Padua is a state university, as are most universities in Italy. There are almost 63,000 students out of a total population of about 300,000 inhabitants. There is no campus system. Our relations with other academic institutions and research centres all over the world, from America to China and Australia, are extremely active through exchanges of students, teachers, information and publications. At present the University of Padua consists of thirteen schools: Agriculture, Economics, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Law, Medicine and Surgery, Pharmacy, Political Sciences, Psychology, Sciences, Statistics and Veterinary Medicine.

Name of the institution and its motto

The Università degli Studi di Padua is the second-oldest University in Italy and its traditional name is il Bo (“the Ox”). This name goes back to three possible different origins, which are not mutually exclusive. The first is the most commonly quoted:

- the place where we now see the oldest part of the central building of the University, which hosts the Aula Magna, the Anatomical Theatre and several Halls, was occupied in the 14th century by a hotel named Hospitium Bovis, whose sign was an ox.
- that same place, on the side of Via Cesare Battisti, was earlier occupied by the butcher shops of the town (together with wood, silk shops and so on; all these shops were within easy reach by means of the nearby canal);
- a family whose name was Capo di Vacca (Head of the Cow) used to live on the site the University premises was later built.

The motto of the University is:
UNIVERSA UNIVERSIS PATAVINA LIBERTAS
(Paduan freedom (is) total, complete, general, for everybody).

A short historical outline

The University of Padua is one of the oldest in Europe. Juridical, theological, philosophical and medical studies were fostered in the mediaeval town before the ground was prepared for the official birth of a permanent university, which took place on September 29th, 1222 (St. Michael's Day). The first professors and students came from Bologna, the only Italian city that can boast of an older university. At that time their academic freedom was seriously threatened there, whereas the Paduan government was liberal, the town was commercially very active and wealthy, the natural environment - fertile plain and green hills all around - was ideal.

Italian and foreign students were numerous from the start. Not even events such as Ezzelino da Romano's tyranny, Papal or imperial hostility, wars or plagues could prevent the institution from flourishing over the centuries. The Paduan civil
authorities, powerful noblemen (the Carrara family) and local bishops extended their protection and patronage to the University, which was set up as a self-governing corporation of scholars, with its own regulations. The students were organised in nationes, divided into two groups: the cismonantes or Italians, and the ultramontanes or foreigners. They were governed by two Rectors, elected every year from among the scholars and by their votes only. For more than a century, jurists formed the main body of the University. In 1360 a separation took place between the school of jurisprudence (civil and canon law) and the group of liberal arts teachers giving birth to the Universitas juristarum and the Universitas artistarum.

At first, professors were elected annually by the student body; but from 1445 onwards they were appointed and remunerated by the public authorities. After 1404, when Padua peacefully surrendered to Venetian rule, the University enjoyed more and more protection and privileges. It rose to great splendour due to the number of students attending from every part of Italy and Europe, and because of the excellence of its professors. This favourable situation was to last until the 18th century. The Venetian Senate had the Studio di Padua reformed and reorganised in 1517, after the War of Cambrai. This was cleverly done, always with great tolerance even on religious matters. Professors were granted unlimited freedom in their teaching and no race or creed was banned from the Padua Studio. The University could rightly add to its coat of arms the famous motto Universa universis patavina libertas. Padua became the only Studium of The Most Serene Republic of Venice.

Throughout these centuries, many professors - scientists, jurists and literati - made Padua University a centre which radiated culture all over Europe. Many scholars came from all over Europe and often started their own cultural institutions on their return home. Only a few are named here, starting with the school of Medicine. Pietro d'Abano, both physician and philosopher, introduced Averroes to Italy at the beginning of the 14th century; Marcantonio dalla Torre was Leonardo da Vinci's anatomy instructor; the Flemish Andreas Vesalius contributed to the founding of modern anatomical science. The latter received great impetus from the establishment of a permanent anatomy theatre by Girolamo Fabrici d'Acquapendente in 1594: the theatre is still there today. Scholars from all over Europe attended the school of Medicine, and they often left their names to parts of the human body. G. B. Morgagni was professor for almost 60 years and founded pathological anatomy; William Harvey graduated in Medicine in Padua at the time of Galileo and, once back in England, discovered the circulation of the blood. Thomas Bartholin founded the Danish Medical School and the Hungarian Janos Samboky, physician and humanist, was also here among the famous scholars.

As for the Humanities, among the professors, we can mention Count Giovanni Dondi, Petrarch's friend; Pier Paolo Vergerio, who started the literary Renaissance in Padua; Thomas Penketh, an Englishman and professor of theology; Vittorino da Feltre, lecturer in Rhetoric; the Athenian professor of Greek, Demetrius Chalkondyles; Gaetano da Thiene, Averroistic philosopher, and last of all M. Cesarotti, one of the founders of Italian Romanticism. Among the scholars, we might mention Pietro Bembo; Torquato Tasso; Erasmus from Rotterdam, who visited Italy and Padua between 1507 and 1509; Damiao de Goes; Franciscus Skarina, the father of Bielorussian literature; the Polish poets Klemens Janicki and Jan Kochanowski; Antonio Rosmini; Antonio Fogazzaro; and many others.
The Doctoral College of Law was also highly renowned and had attained great status by the first two centuries owing to jurists like Francesco Zabarella. Later on, various European rulers and governments appealed to the Sacred College of Jurist Doctors in Padua for their opinions and judgements. The natural sciences at Padua Studium were extensively promoted and many great events recorded. The first botanical garden in the world was founded here in 1545; through it several new plants (including the potato) were brought to Europe from the New World. Nicolaus Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer, was a student here, and Galileo Galilei, the founder of the modern experimental method, was a professor, starting from 7th December, 1592, as he wrote himself, for "the best eighteen years of my life". A curious and important moment in the history of Padua University was the year 1678, when Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia obtained her doctorate in Philosophy, thus becoming the first woman in the world to graduate in a university.

In 1797, Napoleon ‘sold’ the Venetian Republic to the Austrians. During Austrian domination, Padua - though restricted by circumstances - kept to its ideals of freedom by becoming a centre of political struggle against foreign rule. After the annexation of Venetia to Italy, our University continued its glorious traditions in many ways. Professors of great eminence succeeded one another, such as Giacomo Zanella (Humanities) and Luigi Luzzati (Law), Domenico Turazza and Giulio Bellavitis (Mathematics), and Valeriano Brera and Achille De Giovanni in Medicine.

**Servizio Relazioni Internazionali Studenti/International Services for Students**

The International Services for Students is the equivalent to UCC’s International Education Office. You will mostly be dealing with the Erasmus Programme located in the same building. Their job is to help international students with any enquiries they may have. Please go there if you need any assistance.

Servizio Relazioni Internazionali Studenti/ Erasmus Programme
Via Roma 38
Via 8 Febbario 2
Tel. 0498273061
Tel. 0498273062
Fax 0498273060
Mail: estric@unipd.it / erasmus@unipd.it

Reception: Tuesday 10.00 - 12.30 Thursday and 10.00 - 15.00
Padova, or Padua in English, also known as the City of the Saint, is a strange but charming mixture of both a cultural and an industrial city. After heavy damage caused by bombing during World War II, the city has been extensively rebuilt and is today Veneto’s most important economic centre. Although ‘Padua’ is not one of the most alluring cities of northern Italy, it is one of the most ancient and filled with remains of its history.

Padua is a city in the Veneto, northern Italy. It is the capital of Padua province and the economic and communications hub of the province. Padua’s population is over 200,000. The city is sometimes included, with Venice (Italian Venezia), in the Padua-Venice Metropolitan Area, population 1,600,000. Padua stands on the Bacchiglione
River, and the Brenta River (which once passed inside the city) still touches northern
districts, 40 km west of Venice and 29km southeast of Vicenza. Its agricultural setting
is the Pianura Veneta, the "Venetian plain."

To the city's southwest lie the Euganaean Hills, praised by Lucan and Martial,
Petrarch, Ugo Foscolo, and Shelley. The city is picturesque, with a dense network of
arcaded streets opening into large communal piazze, and many bridges crossing the
various branches of the Bacchiglione, which once surrounded the ancient walls like a
moat. Padua is the setting for most of the action in Shakespeare's *The Taming of the
Shrew*.

A former Roman settlement, the town's importance grew during the 13th century, and
by the 16th century Padua was the second biggest university city in Europe (during
the 17th century, Galileo Galileo researched at the Padua University). Its medical
faculty was one of the most ambitious in Europe. The heritage of that era can still be
found all over the city, with works by masters like Giotto, Mantegna and Donatello
(who originally came from Florence) as treasured pieces. In that time, the city was a
scientific, artistic and cultural centre, but most of all a religious and pilgrimage
destination for St. Anthony from Padua, who was buried there.

St. Anthony from Padua was actually born in Portugal, but he did most of his work in
Padua. St. Anthony was miraculously visited by the Infant Jesus, and is commonly
referred to today as the ‘finder of lost articles.’ Anthony's wealthy family wanted him
to be a great nobleman, but for the sake of Christ he became a priest. He originally
joined the Augustinian order, but he became a Franciscan when the headless and
mutilated remains of Saint Bernard and his four companions, the first Franciscan
martyrs, were brought to be buried at his church. He followed in their footsteps and
left his order to go to Morocco to evangelize. He is called the ‘Hammer of Heretics’
because of his simple, and sometimes miraculous, manner of teaching the Catholic
faith.

Thanks to St. Anthony and the pilgrims that visited, Padua is now one of the cultural
centres in the northeast of Italy. To them, the Basilica di Sant’Antonio, with the grave
of Sant’Antonio, is the most important attraction. Here one can also admire works by
medieval and renaissance artists, of whom Giotto is by far the most important one.
Some of his works are in the Sant’Antonio Basilica, but you definitely should visit the
Scrovegni chapel, covered with Giotto frescoes and furnished with an altar statue of
Giovanni Pisano. Worth visiting are also the Prato della Valle, the biggest square in
Europe (if you exclude the Red Square in Moscow); and the Caffe' Pedrocchi, one of
the most ancient and renowned caffe' houses in Europe.

**Climate**

The climate is continental, with great extremes of temperature. Bring suitable clothing
with you. During the winter months (November to February), temperatures may be as
low as -5 degrees and it is sometimes foggy. Spring is sunny and often warm.
Summer may be hot and humid. The average temperature ranges between 0 degrees in
winter and 30 degrees in summer.
Accommodation

The service in charge of accommodation is S.A.S.S.A. Service. The International Student Relations Services do not deal directly with accommodation. The address is:

SASSA Service powered by ESU Padua
via Tiepolo, 48 35129 PADOVA (Italy)
Tel. +39 049 7927306
Fax +39 049 7800187
E-mail: sassa@sassa.org
Web site: http://www.sassa.org

As already said before, Padua is a university town with a large student population: in such a situation it is very difficult to find accommodation once the academic year has started. Student residences (both those run by private groups and those run by ESU, the regional authority) cannot satisfy all the requests they receive. Therefore, those who want help from the S.A.S.S.A. Service in finding accommodation are strongly advised to apply well in advance, keeping in mind that the number of single rooms is in any case very limited.

Because of such a large demand and such a limited availability of places, successful applicants for student residences will receive a letter accompanied by a copy of contract and bank details for paying the €215 caution deposit. For detailed information about the procedure of reservation, all incoming students are strongly recommended to visit the website www.sassa.org. Once your place is accepted, this will be considered binding for fee payment for the period booked. Students asking for our help will be offered the following accommodation options (each one limited in number):

- Student residences run by ESU
- Private residences
- Private flats

The Accommodation Form is available in three languages: Italian, English and Spanish. All incoming students are requested to fill in the Accommodation Form online, to print it out and to send the original copy duly signed and stamped by the academic authorities of your home university (Erasmus co-ordinator or International Office) to:

SASSA Service
via Tiepolo, 48
I-35129 Padua ITALY

While you decide your date of arrival in Padua, please try not to arrive on Saturday or Sunday, or late at night, as the International Education Office will be closed as will the reception of SASSA Services. If you are choosing to stay in private accommodation, verify your arrival with your landlord. For those who arrive in Padua outside reception hours, we suggest the following list of cheap or moderately expensive first-night places to stay:
- Ostello della Gioventù "Città di Padua"
  Via Aleardi, 30
  35100 Padua
  tel. 0039-049-8752219
- Casa del Pellegrino (booking in advance)
  Via Cesarotti, 21
  35123 Padua
  tel. 0039-049-8752100
- Hotel S. Antonio
  Via S. Fermo, 118
  35100 Padua
  tel. 0039-049-8751393
  fax 0039-049-8752508
- Hotel Piccolo Vienna
  Via Beato Pellegrino, 133
  35100 Padua
  tel. 0039-049-8716331

**Residence permit**

EU citizens may reside in Italy for three months without a Residence Permit (*Permesso di Soggiorno*) from the Italian Police. If you are staying in Padua for longer than three consecutive months, go to the City Hall of your residence district in Italy (*Iscrizione Anagrafica*). On arrival, the International Relations Services will give you further instruction and information about attaining your residence permit.

For more information on the Residence Permit (*Permesso di Soggiorno*) go to:

http://www.poliziadistato.it/pds/ps/immigrazione/cittadini_ue.html
Travel

Arriving in Padua

By Train:

- Padua’s railway station is in a central position, a ten-minute walk from the historic city centre. This is a departure point for taxis and all urban bus lines.

By Car

- Padua can be reached from the A4 Venice-Milan motorway and the A13 Bologna-Padua motorway.

By Plane

- Venice/ Venecia
  From the airport, you can travel to Padua (49km) by:
    - SITA coach (every 30 minutes)
    - Train from Venezia-Mestro railway station. The airport is linked to the train station by ATVO bus.
    - Air Service of Landomas (www.landomas.it). Book at least 24 hours in advance.

- Treviso
  The airport serves low cost companies. From here you can travel to Padua (60km) by:
    - La Marca coach
    - Train. (The airport is linked to the train station by ACTT bus)

- Bergamo
  The airport serves low cost companies. From here you can travel to Padua (197km) by:
    - ATB coach
    - Train. (The airport is linked to the train station by Zani bus)

- Verona
  From the airport you can travel to Padua (86km) by:
    - Train. (The airport is linked to the train station by APTV bus every 20 minutes)

- Milan/ Milano
  From Linate airport, you can travel to Padua (240km) by:
    - Train. (the airport is linked to the central train station by ATM bus)

- Malpensa airport: you can travel to Padua (127 km) by:
Train. (The airport is linked to the Central train station by coach every 20 minutes)

Bologna
From the airport, you can travel to Padua (127 km) by:
  • Train. (The airport is linked to the train station by ATC buses leaving every 15/30 minutes depending on time.)

Getting Around Padua
Padua is quite a small town and therefore the easiest way to get around is by walking or cycling. It is very easy to buy a used bicycle. For those who want to take advantage of the ‘APS Mobilità’ public bus service (a ticket costs €1.00), we suggest the monthly bus season ticket, which costs about €30.00 a month. It can be obtained from ‘APS Mobilità’, by presenting a photo and a certificate of student status prepared by International Relations Office of our University.

Application Procedures

On Arrival in Padua
After their arrival, all Erasmus incoming students are requested to come to the International Relations Office to receive all the papers necessary for their stay in Padua. Then they must enrol at the Segreteria Studenti (Registrar’s office) of the Faculty involved before beginning classes, stating what modules they wish to attend, with the relevant examinations.

Please take with you two photos and a €14.62 marca da bollo (revenue stamp, it can be bought at the tobacconist's). You will also have to fill in some forms, asking for permission to attend the modules you have chosen; you will receive the so-called Libretto Erasmus. At the end of your stay, you must return your Libretto Erasmus to Segreteria Studenti, and at your request, they will issue an official certificate with the results of the examinations you have taken.

Finally, if you simply need to obtain a Certificate of Attendance from your tutor in Padua, you must visit him/her at least once a month and keep him/her up to date as to what you are doing.
You can find the ‘Segreterie Studenti’ of all Faculties at the following address:

Casa Grimani, via Lungargine Piovego 2/3

Opening hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.00 to 12.30
Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.30 and from 15.00 to 16.30
Thursday from 10.00 to 15.00

At the end of your Erasmus stay

In order to have a certificate with the exams you have taken in Padua (transcript of records), you should request it through Segreteria Studenti di Facoltà some days before your departure, giving back your libretto dello studente Erasmus and a €14.62 marca da bollo (revenue stamp; it can be bought at the tobacconist’s), telling them the exact address where you would like to receive the certificate.

* Transcript of records cannot be sent without the request and the marca da bollo. In order to have a certificate attesting your Erasmus stay in Padua, you should come to the Servizio Relazioni Internazionali Studenti: the date of the certificate issue will attest also the end of your Erasmus stay. **No Certificates will be given or sent after leaving Padua at the end of your Erasmus stay.**

**Academic Matters**

**Academic Calendar**

In Padua almost all degree courses are organised according to a semester schedule (two terms per academic year). Each term consists of twelve lecture weeks and four weeks for examinations.

Some degree courses (Economics, Electronic Engineering, Computer Science, Telecommunication, Information, Automation, Biomedical Science, Physics, Material Science) are organised according to a so-called quarter schedule (three terms per academic year). Each term consists of nine lecture weeks and four weeks for examinations. Lectures attendance is compulsory.

During the academic year, apart from summer holidays, we have Christmas holidays (about 3 weeks) and Easter holidays (one week only, generally from the end of March to the first days of April).

Other one-day holidays are: 25th April (Anniversary of the Liberation), 1st May (Festa del Lavoro), 15th August (Ferragosto and The Assumption), 1st November (All Saints) and 8th December (The Immaculate Conception). The Feast Day of the University of Padua is celebrated on 8th February.
Student workload and examinations

Italian students are given a great deal of freedom and are responsible for their own progress. The tutor system has only recently been proposed, and still has to be fully implemented in some degree courses. Contact hours spent attending lectures and in laboratories vary according to the Faculty but generally are about 10 hours per week.

You are kindly invited to introduce yourself to the teachers in charge of the modules you have chosen to attend. Please do this as soon as possible, so that they can give you advice or any other help.

Students have to study on their own in order to take examinations. Examinations may be written or oral and can usually be taken three times a year. The evaluation grading system goes from 18 to 30. The minimum grade is 18, which corresponds to sufficient; the maximum grade is 30, which corresponds to excellent. “Idoneità” means that the exam has been passed, but no evaluation is foreseen for the module in question.

Students looking for information about their faculty and study courses can visit the websites below:

Agriculture http://www.agraria.unipd.it
Economics http://www.economia.unipd.it/
Education http://www.scform.unipd.it/
Engineering http://www.ing.unipd.it
Humanities http://www.lettere.unipd.it
Law http://www.giuri.unipd.it
Medicine and Surgery http://www.medicina.unipd.it/
Pharmacy http://www.farmacia.unipd.it
Political Sciences http://www.scipol.unipd.it
Psychology http://www.psicologia.unipd.it
Sciences http://www.scienze.unipd.it
Statistics http://www.statistica.unipd.it
Veterinary Medicine http://www.veterinaria.unipd.it/

Italian Language Courses

We will organise language courses at three levels: beginners, elementary and intermediate, according to the needs of students. An advanced course may be organised upon request. In order for a course to start a minimum of 6 to 8 students, at the same level, are required. An Italian language assessment test will be held and each student will as soon as possible be assigned to a course suitable for him/her.

Courses will be free of charge for Erasmus and exchange students; as these courses are rather expensive, we strongly advise you to enrol only if you are seriously
interested. For detailed information’s about Italian courses and application procedures, visit the website:

http://claweb.cla.unipd.it/cla/EN_italiano_erasmus.html

**Libraries**

Erasmus students enjoy the same rights as Italian student. As far as access to libraries is concerned, each library may establish an "ad hoc" procedure in order to ensure that books are brought back safely (e.g. deposit, letter from the person responsible for the mobility exchange, and so on). Check with your departmental library on arrival to find out what procedures are done to make use of library services.

**Practical Information**

**Health and Insurance**

If you need medical assistance, you must have your European Health Insurance Card, issued by your country's Health Service, or private health insurance, before coming to Italy. If you are in urgent need of hospital care, go directly to the nearest hospital, to *Pronto Soccorso* (Emergency Ward), taking your European Health Insurance Card with you. If you need other medical services you must get the green form called *carnet della salute* from:

Ufficio Esteri dell'USL (Unità Sanitaria Locale)
Via Scrovegni 12 Padua
Tel. +39 049 821 40 69
Opening hours: 8.30-12.00 Monday to Friday; also 14.30-16.30 Monday and Thursday.

A file in your name will be opened at this office and there will be a list of doctors available to you. The green form contains one set of coupons used to obtain services and one set of coupons for prescriptions, specialist examination, hospitalisation and so on. During the night, on Saturday afternoons and holidays, or in an emergency, dial 118 or *Guardia Medica* (tel. 049-8808325), or go to the nearest hospital.

As soon as students arrive in Padua, they must pay €8.50 to the University, through a Bank Payment, as insurance. This payment covers any accidents that may occur on the way from your house to university, while attending lectures, or in an ESU canteen while having your meal.
Banking

Most banks are open Monday to Friday, from 8.20 a.m. to 1.20 p.m., and from 2.35 p.m. to 3.35 p.m. European students are advised to open a bank account to facilitate the deposit and withdrawal of money.
In order to do this you need:

- a fiscal code (tax number) which can be obtained at the main Tax Office (Ufficio Imposte Dirette), Via Turazza, 37 tel. 049-7911501 (Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8.30 to 12.30 a.m. and Monday and Wednesday also from 3 to 5 p.m)
- A copy of your registration to the City Hall
- a declaration of your Erasmus status

Disability Support Office

Students with special needs should address their requests to the Disability Service:
Mail: serv.disabilita@unipd.it
Tel.+39 049 827 5032/5033)

Every effort will be made to help them in organising their stay and to offer proper accommodation depending on students’ needs.

Canteen

Every Erasmus student can obtain a canteen card issued by ESU (the regional authority runs several hostels and canteens). This card gives access to the eight ESU canteens with a fixed price of about €3.50 per meal. In order to obtain this canteen card, you need the student card issued by your university certifying that you are enrolled at your university for the current academic year.
Student Matters

University Sports Association

Sports can be practised in several locations around Padua. A special university centre (CUS, Centro Universitario Sportivo) offers coaching and facilities for athletics, tennis, volleyball, basketball, football, hockey, baseball, softball, fencing, rowing, rugby, weight-lifting, body building. Swimming is also possible, through an agreement with the municipal swimming pool.

The following reductions are available for Erasmus and other mobility programme students, for the use of the Sports facilities of CUS Padua:

1. CUS Access card (free of charge)
2. Piovego Facilities (Via J. Corrado) - for the course in Pre-Athletics. Check with CUS programmes.
3. Tennis courts are available at the same price as for Italian students.
   In order to obtain an access card you are invited to go to:
   Segreteria Palestra Via G. Bruno, 27 Padua tel. 049-8801551
   Bring a photo and a medical certificate. The medical certificate can be obtained at Centro di Medicina dello sport, at the same address.

The University of Padua also has an amateur football team registered with the F.I.G.C. (Italian Football Federation) and it is the first Italian University that participates to the University Championship. For those who are interested in participating, information is available at the A.R.C.S. website:
   Web: http://www.unipd-org.it/ARCS/
   Tel. 0498273344
   Fax: 0498273343
   Email arcs@unipd-org.it.

Music

Students who can play a musical instrument may like to join the Concentus Musicus Patavinus. The members of this orchestra are students and teachers of Padua University and come from various countries. During the concert season the orchestra goes on tour, even abroad. Rehearsals take place at least once a week.

Worship

There are groups of students at the University who meet regularly to pray together. There is also a Taizé group active in the town and surroundings. In Padua there are many Catholic churches. The following faiths also have places of worship: Jewish, Islamic, Christian Evangelical, Methodist Evangelical, Pentecostal Evangelical, as well as some smaller religious groups.
Student Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and Padua 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 in Padua.

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.
- Contact the departments in your subject area if you have any questions about academics.
- 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 both oral and/or written.

Accommodation:
- Finding accommodation in Padua can be difficult. If you use SASSA, the university partner accommodation agency, 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 for your 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.
- Bring multiple passport-sized photographs.

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.