Università degli Studi di Siena
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The University

The University of Siena has a rich history and a great knowledge-related tradition, as well a strong commitment to both research and innovation. In the eight centuries since its foundation, the University of Siena has generated knowledge in all fields of study, and today it continues to achieve some of the best results of all Italian universities for its research, teaching and services.

The university grew constantly during the 20th century, passing from four hundred students enrolled between the two World Wars to over twenty thousand students in recent years. At the same time the number of faculties increased from the original Medicine and Surgery and Law to include Pharmacy (1933), Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences (1962), Economics (1966), Arts and Humanities in Arezzo (established in 1969 as the faculty of Education), Arts and Humanities in Siena (1970), Engineering (1992) and Political Science (1997).

The history of the University of Siena has evolved alongside Tuscany’s cultural tradition since the Middle Ages. The oldest document testifying to the university’s existence is a decree of the city’s Podestà (chief magistrate) dated 26 December 1240. A notarial deed dating back to the mid 13th century informs us that alongside the Law School, there was also a Grammar School and a Medical School. The latter soon became well respected, as demonstrated by the presence among the teaching staff of Pietro Ispano, a renowned medical doctor and philosopher, who was elected as the Pope (John XXI) in 1276.

The first major expansion of the University of Siena took place in 1321, when many students transferred here from the University of Bologna. The city council quickly grasped the fact that the university had the potential to become a very important cultural and political hub. It immediately allocated large amounts of money to host the students from Bologna, who were awarded and exempted from paying university fees. As a result, the University’s reputation grew significantly.

On 16 August 1357, thanks to the diplomatic efforts of the Sienese Concistoro [Council], the Sienese Studium was finally included among the Universities of the Holy Roman Empire in a diploma granted by the Emperor Charles IV in Prague. This recognition allowed all academic degrees to be awarded in all the faculties, except for Theology, and granted both teachers and students many privileges and immunities.

At the end of the 14th century, the Bishop of Siena proposed the construction of a hall of residence for students. Thus the Casa della Sapienza [house of knowledge] was opened in 1416 and immediately attracted students from all over Europe.

Following the fall of the Republic of Siena in 1555, the city authorities asked Cosimo de’ Medici to preserve the university and the city continued to give its constant support. In 1808 Tuscany was occupied by the French, who closed down the Sienese Studium, keeping only the School of Medicine open. The university was only reopened under the
Restoration, when it moved from the Casa della Sapienza to the site of a former Vallombrosan monastery, where the university’s head offices are still located today.

The University of Siena’s fortunes improved after 1859, with thanks to the help of local bodies and a series of legislative acknowledgements, which meant the university was officially recognized as among the most important in Italy. Despite such successes, in 1892 the Minister of Public Education Ferdinando Martini proposed shutting down small universities, including that of Siena. The combination of a general strike, the opposition of all the city’s institutions and popular uprisings immediately forced the minister to abandon his project. Having escaped closure, the city began to invest large quantities of resources in its university again, which was consequently able to introduce new degree courses and faculties.
International Relations Office

The International Relations Office at the Università degli Studi di Siena is the department of the University with which you will have the most contact during your stay in Siena. The International Relations office is similar to University College Cork’s International Office, and will serve as your primary resource for information of the resolution of issues you might experience in Siena. To that end, if you are interested in studying in Siena or require any assistance during your stay, please do not hesitate to contact Università degli Studi di Siena’s International Relations Office.

University of Siena
International Relations Office
Via San Vigilio, 6 53100 Siena – ITALIA
Fax: +39 0577 232392
Email: uri@unisi.it

Web: http://www.unisi.it/v0/minisito_en.htm?fld=2974
Siena, also spelled Sienna, is a city in Tuscany, Italy. It is the capital of the province of Siena. The historic centre of Siena has been declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site. It is one of the nation's most visited tourist attractions, with over 163,000 international arrivals in 2008. Siena is famous for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the Palio, a horse race held twice a year.

Siena's cathedral (Duomo), begun in the 12th century, is one of the great examples of Italian Romanesque-Gothic architecture. Its main façade was completed in 1380. It is unusual for a cathedral in that its axis runs north-south. This is because it was originally intended to be the largest cathedral in the world, with a north-south transept and an east-west nave, as is usual. After the completion of the transept and the building of the east wall (which still exists and may be climbed by the public via an internal staircase) the money ran out and the rest of the cathedral was abandoned.

Inside is the famous Gothic octagonal pulpit by Nicola Pisano (1266–1268). Within the Sacristy are some perfectly preserved renaissance frescos by Domenico Ghirlandaio, and, beneath the Duomo, in the baptistery is the baptismal font with bas-reliefs by Donatello, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Jacopo della Quercia and other 15th century sculptors. The Museo dell'Opera del Duomo contains Duccio's famous Maestà (1308–1311) and various other works by Sieneese masters. More Sienese paintings are to be found in the Pinacoteca, e.g. 13th century works by Diotisalvi di Speme.

The shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the town square, which houses the Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia, is another architectural treasure, and is famous for hosting the Palio.
horse race. The Palazzo Pubblico, itself a great work of architecture, houses yet another important art museum. Included within the museum is Ambrogio Lorenzetti's series of frescos on *the good government and the results of good and bad government* and also some of the finest frescoes of Simone Martini and Pietro Lorenzetti.

On the Piazza Salimbeni is the Palazzo Salimbeni, a notable building and also the medieval headquarters of Monte dei Paschi di Siena, one of the oldest banks in continuous existence and a major player in the Sienese economy.
Travel

By Plane

- The nearest international airports to Siena are Peretola Airport in Florence and Galileo Galilei International Airport in Pisa. Of course, there are options to fly into other cities such as Rome.

By Train

- Siena can be reached by train from both Pisa and Florence, changing at Empoli. Siena railway station is located at the bottom of a long hill outside the city walls, and travellers with luggage should look for a taxi or bus (from the stop opposite the station).
- Siena is connected to Chiusi railway station for Rome. See the Italian Railways website for rates, routes and timetables. The railway station is about 2 km from the town centre and it can easily be reached by bus in a few minutes.

By Bus

- There are bus connections with several northern and southern cities; the most frequent are for Florence, Rome and Bologna. See the SENA web site (www.sena.it) for rates, routes and timetables.

By Car

- From the north, take the Chiantigiana from Florence (SS 222 - 72 km) that elegantly crosses the hills of Chianti or the highway (SS 2 superstrada Siena/Firenze - 68 km).
- From the south, Siena can be reached by taking the Autoway from Rome (A1 Roma-Firenze, exit Valdichiana), turning right on state highway #326 (Bettolle-Siena - 240 km).
- Relatively cheap parking can be found near Fortezza Medicea, northwest of the city stadium - and around it.

Getting Around

- The centre of Siena is accessible only on foot. Cars (other than taxis, police, etc.) are strictly prohibited; motorcycles and scooters are OK, though.
- Siena is a city (a small city, yes, but it isn't like one of the hill towns) and the attractions away from the Piazza/Duomo area are spread out on three steep hills, so walking is a necessity. You will understand why Italians can eat so much, and not get fat, when you see old women carrying groceries up a long street with a 30-degree incline. If you are tired, check to see if you can get to your destination by walking along a ridge, rather than going in a straight line down a hill and back up.
Accommodation

University Residences

A few places in the University Residences owned by the Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio (Regional Office for the Right to Higher Education) are reserved for the University of Siena. Of these, approximately 100 beds are available for international exchange students, i.e. about one fifth of the expected incoming students. Almost all of the rooms are doubles and the price per person is €230 euros per month.

The International Relations Office deals with the allocation of these rooms. The most important criteria taken into consideration in order to ensure the fair allocation of accommodation are: the income of the student’s family, the kind of scholarship awarded (Erasmus, bilateral agreement, etc.), the length of stay in Siena, the student’s country of origin.

Erasmus students interested in accommodation in a University Residence should send the Accommodation Form to the International Relations Office by 30 June (for students arriving in the first semester) and by 30 November (for students arriving in the second semester). Accommodation requests that are incomplete, sent after these dates and/or lack a statement of family income cannot be accepted.

For more information:
http://www.dsu.toscana.it/it/alloggi/residenze_universitarie/siena/index.html

Santa Chiara-Refugio Graduate College

For information and reservations, please contact the College directly:

Santa Chiara Graduate College
Via Valdimontone, 1 - 53100 Siena
Tel. +39 0577 280376
E-mail: santachiara@unisi.it
Web site: http://www.unisi.it/santachiara/residenze-cdsc.html

The Santa Chiara College is a centre of excellence of the University of Siena that can accommodate approximately 50 Italian and foreign doctoral students and researchers. The College is a place where students can meet and take advantage of a variety of services to facilitate their research work. Some students can also stay here in the first or second year of their doctoral studies (for a maximum of one year). A limited number of rooms are reserved for doctoral students from foreign Universities that have an agreement with the University of Siena, as well as for foreign lecturers and researchers from other Universities.
Private Accommodation

The University’s Public Relations Office provides students with an updated list of private accommodation available in apartments, rooms and beds in shared rooms. Students looking for accommodation can consult the accommodation bulletin board (http://www.unisi.it/v0/minisito.html?fld=4250). The Public Relations Office also distributes “La giusta casa”, a guide for students on rental contracts for housing. Notices seeking and offering rooms can be found throughout the city and in particular: on notice boards in the university faculties, libraries, residences and canteens, at bus stops and in some supermarkets.

Students can also consult the following websites:

- uniaffitti.it
- affittistudenti.it

Cost of Living

The average cost of living for a student in Siena amounts to approximately €500.00 per month, the main expense being accommodation.

**University accommodation**

- Double room: € 230.00

**Private accommodation**

- Single room in centre: € 400.00
- Single room on the outskirts: € 350.00
- Double room in centre (per person): € 300.00
- Single room on the outskirts: € 250.00
- Studio/bedsit: € 700.00/750.00

**Costs of living in Siena**

- Full meal at the canteen € 4.00
- Meal in a pizzeria € 20.00
- Breakfast in a bar € 2.00
- Bus ticket (valid for 1 hour) € 1.00
- Student season (three-month) ticket/bus pass € 56.00
- Specialist medical visit € 36.00
- Cinema € 8.00
- Newspaper € 1.00
Admissions

Entrance to Italy - the Visa

Students outside of the European Union must request an entry visa from the Italian consulate for the purpose of study prior to arrival in Italy. The list of Italian diplomatic consulates abroad can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Students who are not members of the EU, but attend university in an EU country

Foreign Students participating in a European exchange program and who got a residence permit issued by a country member of the EU, may enter Italy for stays longer than three months without needing a visa. As long as the student is enrolled at a university or in a university course, he or she may enter Italy in order to continue studies already begun in their host county or in order to integrate themselves with a program of related study. In this case, the student must attach a document issued by their home university to their permit to stay attesting that the courses that student will take at the University of Siena accord with their area of study at the home university.

The permit to stay

EU students
EU students who plan to stay in Italy for longer than three months are not obligated to ask for a permit to stay. After three months the student must register themselves as residents of Siena. In order to do this, the student must present a document that attests to their enrolment at the University of Siena. For stays less than three months students are not required to register as residents.

Questura di Siena - Immigration Office
Piazza Jacopo della Quercia
Tel. 0577 201631
Website

Opening times:
Monday, Wednesday and Saturday: 8.30-11.30

Students from outside of the EU
- For stays shorter than three months, students are not required to apply for a permit to stay but are required to declare their intention stay.
Students coming from a country which does not apply to the Schengen Agreement must declare to the border police at the time of entry into Italy
Students coming from a country that applies to the Schengen Agreement must declare at the Siena Police Station within the first 8 days in Italy
Failure to submit a declaration of presence will result in expulsion from Siena. The same penalty is enforced if the student overstays his or her declared time of study.

Cost of a Permit to Stay
€30.00 for shipping and handling
€27.50 to submit electronically
€14.62 for the stamp, available at all tabaccherie
- **For stays longer than three months**, foreign students must apply for a permit to stay within 8 working days of their entry into Italy. Under the agreement signed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Italian Postal Service, requests for permits to stay must be submitted to the post office by filling out the application forms (available at all post offices). Upon submission of the request, the student must be prepared to show a valid form of ID and the OPEN envelope containing all of the appropriate forms.

The following documentation is required for the first issue of a permit to stay:
- copy of the student’s entire passport
- copy of a document that certifies registration at the University of Siena
- copy of an insurance policy that guards against the risk of illness and injury, and that is valid in the pertaining territory for the duration of the stay.

The postal employees will issue a receipt which serves as a documentation of the application’s submission. In the second stage of the process, the student will be given a date to meet with the Police. During this appointment the applicant must bring 4 passport size photographs and they will be digitally fingerprinted. The student will then be given a second date during which he or she must go to the Police to withdraw his or her permit to stay.

### Application procedure

International students selected to spend a study period at the University of Siena must send the following documents by fax or by regular mail to the following address:

**University of Siena**  
**International Relations Office**  
**Via San Vigilio, 6 53100 Siena – ITALIA**  
**Fax. +39 0577 232392**

1) **Application form**  
All students wishing to study at the University of Siena must fill in the application form and send it duly signed and stamped by their home university.  
**Deadlines**  
**15 July for 1st semester**  
**30 November for 2nd semester**

2) **Learning Agreement**  
All students must complete a proposed study program (learning agreement) to be submitted signed by the student and their home institution co-ordinator. Students can use either our learning agreement form or the form of their home university. Detailed information about courses offered by our Faculties is available at the following websites:
- Faculty of Law:
  http://www.giurisprudenza.unisi.it/
- Faculty of Political Sciences:
  http://www.unisi.it/scienzepolitiche/
- Faculty of Economics:
  http://www.economia.unisi.it/index.php
3) Language form
The University of Siena offers Italian language courses for international students with an insufficient knowledge of Italian. Courses are held in two sessions:
In September and October for the 1st semester students; in February and March for the 2nd semester students.

Deadlines:
31 July for the September course
31 August for the October course
31 December for the February course
31 January for the March course

The fee for the language course is € 75.00, to be paid by bank transfer to the Università degli Studi di Siena (banks’ details are on the form).
Please enclose a copy of the receipt of payment to the form.
Students can attend the Italian language course one time only.

4) Accommodation form
Some places at the University Residences are reserved for international students. Almost all of the rooms are doubles and the price to pay per person is €230.00 per month. The International Office deals with the allocation of these rooms. Students interested in accommodation in a University Residence should send the Accommodation Form to the International Office.

Deadlines
30 June for 1st term students
30 Nov for 2nd term students

Accommodation requests which are incomplete, sent after these dates and/or lack a statement of family income cannot be accepted.

Orientation Day
The International Relations Office and ESN Siena organize a welcome orientation meeting for upcoming international students at the beginning of each semester:
Guide for foreign students
http://www.unisi.it/v0/minisito.html?fld=1517
For further information please contact:
incoming@unisi.it
Academics

For ordinary exams, universities in Italy use a 30-point scale simply divided in two: non passing (0 to 17), and passing grades (18 to 30 cum laude). For the final score a 110-point scale is used, which is divided in two as well, with 66 being the minimum grade for passing. The 110-point takes into consideration of both exam scores and the final thesis. For outstanding results, the Lode "praise" is added to the maximum grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Grade Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.00 - 30.00</td>
<td>Ottimo - Cum Laude (With honors and commendations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.00 - 28.99</td>
<td>Molto Buono (Very Good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.00 - 26.99</td>
<td>Buono (Good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.00 - 23.99</td>
<td>Soddisfacente (Satisfactory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.00 - 18.99</td>
<td>Sufficiente (Sufficient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.00 - 17.99</td>
<td>Respinto (Fail)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library

The library is located in the building of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Political Sciences, Via P. A. Mattioli, 10 in Siena.

- **Consultation on site**
  
  Everyone can have access to the bibliographic material of the Library. The Library is organized in order to make all the bibliographic material available for reference during the opening hours. The periodicals, the legislation and the material of consultation are open shelf which means that they can be consulted directly from the user. The user cannot take more than 5 volumes at a time. The staff is available for any information.

- **Loan**

  Books can be borrowed by the students, the teaching staff and the technical and administrative staff of the University of Siena. In all the other cases a guarantee is required from a teacher of the University of Siena, or, in any case, an authorization by the Library Staff is needed. The books of the courses cannot be borrowed for more than 2 days while the others can be borrowed for 30 consecutive days (the teaching staff for 60 days). Longer periods are possible if no one has requested the same material in the meantime. Certain books, where marked, and all the magazines and
journals cannot be borrowed.
Also for the loan the limit is of 5 books.

- **Inter-Library Loan**

  The Library provides this service on request.

- **Reference Service and Document Supply**

  The Library provides the Services of Bibliographic Researches and Document Supply. For these services it is necessary to contact Library Staff: Alessandro Giunti, Luana Bogi or Daniele Fusi by phone, fax or E-mail:

  (+39 0577 235350)

  (+39 0577 235352)

  circgiur@unisi.it

**Computer Rooms**

Each faculty is equipped with computer rooms which are always available to students. Accredited exchange students are allowed access to computer room services upon presentation of the authorization form, which can be picked up from the person in charge of the computer room. For details on each departmental computer room visit:

http://www.unisi.it/v0/minisito.html?fId=1778

**Academic calendar**

Most of the faculties at the University of Siena have adopted a semester system (approximately from 1st October to 31st January and from 1st March to 31st May). Only the academic calendar of the Faculty of Engineering is divided into three terms.

Lectures take place in the morning and in the afternoon Monday to Friday.

There are usually four hours per week of lectures for each course. Lectures are normally in Italian, except for courses held by foreign visiting professors. Classes stop for holidays at Christmas and Easter, as well as in summer (from the end of July until the start of the next academic year).

**Local and national holidays**

1st November: All Saints Day

1st December: St. Ansano Patron of Siena
8th December: Immaculate conception  
25th December: Christmas  
26th December: Boxing Day  
1st January: New Year’s Day  
6th January: Epiphany  
25th April: Liberation Day  
1st May: Labour Day  
2nd June: Republic Day  
2nd July: Palio  
15th August: Assumption Day  
16th August: Palio

**Practical Matters**

**Health Insurance**

In Italy, the national healthcare system is provided by a public healthcare service (ASL). Only foreign Citizens with a valid stay card or residence permit may apply for the service.

EU students who are in Italy for a temporary stay, are required to have the European Health Insurance Card to gain access to health care services During temporary visit.

Non-EU students must show evidence of a certified health insurance cover (it is recommended to have a copy certified by the Italian Consulate or Embassy).

**Registration with the ASL**

To register with the ASL, students must go to the ASL district registry office of the district where they live. To find the nearest office, you can ask the URPs - Public Relations Offices, or call the free number 800 663366 (for calls in English, please call Mon to Fri from 14.30 to 16.30, Wed, Thu and Sat from 9.00 to 12.30).

The registration provides for the assignment of a healthcare card and the selection of a general doctor. Medical examinations are free and are the carried out at the doctor's study (at the patient's home visits are only for severe health conditions). Specialist examinations and must be requested are booked through the CUP service (the Unified Booking Centre - Toll Free Number 8488 84 888), or at the major city chemist's shops / pharmacies. All examinations require the payment of a "ticket", equivalent to a portion of the total cost.
Emergency situations

Police: 113 or 0577 47047
Carabinieri (military police): 112
Fire brigade: 115
Accident and emergency: Policlinico Le Scotte – Viale Bracci
Emergency medical services (doctor): 0577 280110 or 0577585111
Ambulance service: 0577 280110/0577 280009/0577 280028

Acclimation and Immersion
If you prepare carefully for your stay in Siena, you will be sure to make the most of this opportunity. For preliminary information, please contact the International Relations Office in Siena, who will send you all necessary documents and information to organize your study period in Siena:

- Simona Querci Tel. 0039 0577 232496
- Candida Calvo Vicente Tel. 0039 0577 232158
- E-mail: incoming@unisi.it

Arriving in Siena

On your arrival in Siena go to the International Relations Desk (Banchi di Sotto, 55).
Opening hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri. from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tues, Thurs. from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Here you can:
• register your arrival;
• get information about the University;
• get information about accommodation;
• pick up a canteen card.

Student must inform this office of his/her address and telephone number in Siena and of any changes to these details.
A passport photo and a valid identity card or passport are required.

Appointment for registration

For registration students must make an appointment on the following webpage:
Enrolment

After being registered at the International Relations Desk, you have to enrol at the University of Siena.

The **Foreign Students’ Office** handles all students’ enrolments.

Documents required:
- valid identity card or passport;
- presentation letter from the University of origin;
- 2 passport photos.

Each student receives a certificate of enrolment that must be kept in order to demonstrate that he/she is an Erasmus student at the University of Siena and in order to have access to the University’s services (libraries, wireless connection...).

**The study booklet**

You can also pick up your study booklet in this office. Students must record in the booklet the attended courses and the taken exams (including relative credits) and give it back when they leave in order to receive the final certificate (transcript of records).

The booklet can only be filled in and signed by members of the academic staff. Before leaving, the study booklet must be stamped by both the International Relations Office and the library of the student’s faculty and be given back to the Foreign Students’ Office.

At the end of your studies at the University of Siena a final certificate (transcript of records) with an English translation will be issued. This certificate is delivered to your home University.

Italian Language Courses

At our nine faculties almost all undergraduate courses are held in Italian. It is therefore advisable to have a good working knowledge of Italian before arriving.

The University of Siena signed an agreement with the University for Foreigners of Siena (Università per Stranieri di Siena) to hold intensive Italian language courses for International Mobility Programme students with an insufficient knowledge of Italian.

The language courses are held in two sessions:
- in September and October for the first semester students;
- in February and March for the second semester students.

The fee for the language course is € 75.00, to be paid by a bank transfer to the Università di Siena (banks details are pointed out on the form); please enclose a copy of the payment receipt to the form.
Student interested in taking one of these courses (which are not compulsory) must send the language form by:
- **31 July** for the September course
- **31 August** for the October course
- **31 December** for the February course
- **31 January** for the March course

**EILC**

The European Commission promotes the Erasmus Intensive Language Courses (EILC) with the aim of teaching the less commonly taught and spoken European languages. The University for Foreigners of Siena is one of the organizer institutions in Italy for the 2011/2012 academic year.

The EILC courses are organised in two language levels (level I: beginners, level II: intermediate) and will be held in two sessions: summer (in August and September) and winter (in January and February).

These courses can be attended by foreign students who won an Erasmus mobility scholarships for Italy. The application procedure is on-line.

For further information:
- EILC website of the University for Foreigners of Siena
- EILC website of the European Commission

**Sports Facilities**

In collaboration with the Regional Authority for Higher Education Grants (Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario - ARDSU) and Siena University Sports Centre (CUS), the University promotes sports for students by offering courses for free or at reduced rates in: basketball, football, volleyball, rugby, judo, weight training, fencing and tennis.

CUS also arranges the participation of both individuals and teams in competitive sporting events recognised by the respective national federations.

To participate in these events, students must have an ARDSU/CUS membership card, which can be obtained from the following offices:

Erasmus and other International exchange students can take part in sports activities if they have the DSU-Toscana/CUS-Siena sports identification card, which can be requested at the following office:

**Sportello Servizi e Relazioni con gli studenti**

via Paolo Mascagni, 53
53100 Siena
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday also 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m.
Tel. 0577 292839
E-mail: sport.si@dsu.toscana.it

For more information: http://www.dsu.toscana.it/it/cultura/sport/index.html
Tips from UCC Students

Academic Matters

- If you can foresee having trouble in a course, let your instructor know that you are an Erasmus student and that Italian is not your first language. They may be more understandable and flexible than they would be otherwise.
- There are plenty of libraries and computer facilities and they are all easy to use. Don’t let this go to waste!
- Try to reserve your place in the language course as early as you can. If you attempt to enter the course too late, you may find that there are no seats left.
- Italian exams can be quite a bit of work, so it is useful to get the reading list for a course as early as you can to be sure that you’ve enough time to prepare yourself.

Accommodation

- As is the case with many university cities, student accommodation can be very difficult to find. Start your search early for the best opportunity of finding a room.
- Apartments in Siena typically do not come with kettles, linens, and the like. Be sure to go to a shop straight away to get the things you deem necessary.
- Public transport stops around 10:30pm, so finding accommodation within the city walls is very convenient.

Travel

- Students are advised to arrive in Italy at the end of August or in very early September, as that is when the Italian language course takes place.
- Siena is well-connected to other cities by train.
- Book flights to Italy early, as these are the earlier the booking usually ensures the cheapest tickets.

Bureaucracy

- Your passport is required to do many things around Siena, so it is imperative that you keep it with you at all times.
- Unless your passport is in a language other than English, it is unlikely that you will need to have it translated.
- Be sure to have all of the materials you need whenever you engage with the Italian bureaucracy. If something is out of line, the entire process must often begin again.
- Your European Health Insurance Card should be enough to see you through all health-related issues.

Social Life

- There are a number of cinemas, theatres and museums in Siena, so you should never be bored.
- Erasmus Nights are hosted by various Erasmus organizations in Siena, and are a great way to get to know other students.
- Local students tend to go home on the weekends, so use these times to get to know your fellow international students.