



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PAVIA



FONDAZIONE  
ALMA MATER TICINENSIS

## SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM

PAVIA, ITALY, EUROPE: A GRAND TOUR  
AMIDST CULTURE AND BEAUTY



## SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM

# PAVIA, ITALY, EUROPE: A GRAND TOUR AMIDST CULTURE AND BEAUTY

A semester abroad in Pavia, Italy is the perfect way to immerse oneself in this country's language and culture, to discover its history, art, and design, and become a living part of the Italian way of life. The program "Pavia, Italy, Europe: a grand tour amidst culture and beauty" is organized by the Alma Mater Ticinensis Foundation and by the University of Pavia and is addressed to foreign undergraduate students.

## THE CITY OF PAVIA

The old city of Pavia belongs today to the Milan area, less than 30 minutes from its centre. Founded in Roman times, capital of Longobard kingdom from 572 to 774, Pavia preserves its own distinctive personality and charm deeply rooted in its past. The old city, a maze of narrow streets and time-honored charm, features the Visconti Castle, a splendid example of Renaissance architecture, the exquisite 18th-century Frascini opera house, and a wealth of historic churches and buildings. St. Augustine is buried in Pavia, and Frederick I was crowned Holy Roman Emperor here in 1155. The city is both peaceful and exciting while offering a high quality of life. The countless exhibitions, concerts, operas and other cultural events, the many inviting cafés and restaurants, the wealth of local sports (especially river sports) all make Pavia an intellectually stimulating environment, a perfect place to live and study.

## THE REGION OF LOMBARDY

Pavia, crossed by the Ticino river, is located in the heart of Lombardy. This region hosts thirteen universities and some 8,500 tenured researchers. It is thus one of the most interesting places to be for those who want to stay abreast of developments in a vast range of sciences. The Semester Abroad in Pavia program puts you right in the heart of all this: an economically thriving region, a beautiful Italian city, splendid landscapes, art and architecture, and an academic setting steeped in tradition while offering the highest level of scientific and cultural study.



## THE UNIVERSITY

Pavia is home to one of the oldest Universities in Europe, founded in 1361. World renowned scholars have studied or taught in Pavia. We may mention Girolamo Cardano, Alessandro Volta, Cesare Beccaria, and a host of Nobel laureates: Ernesto Teodoro Moneta (Peace - 1907), Camillo Golgi (Medicine - 1906), Giulio Natta (Chemistry - 1963), Carlo Rubbia (Physics - 1984). But the multidisciplinary University of Pavia has more to be proud of than just its past. It is currently ranked among the top Italian institutes of higher education and enjoys a great international reputation in fields ranging from medicine to mathematics, and from classical studies to linguistics. More than 20.000 students from Italy and abroad, 2000 researchers and teaching staff, 18 departments, 2 faculties, 20 residences, many libraries and research centers: this is the University of Pavia by the numbers. More than two thousand students are housed on campus in stunning facilities that date back as far as the 16th century.

## YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD IN PAVIA

The Alma Mater Ticinensis Foundation and the University of Pavia have pooled their resources to create this Semester Abroad Program. It is addressed to foreign undergraduate students who wish to study in Italy while earning credits at their home institutions, and to acquire or improve fluency in Italian. Courses are taught in English.

The Semester Abroad Program offers a unique opportunity to gain in-depth experience in Italian language and culture and its European ties. Pavia's historical status and geographical position place it at the crossroads of Mediterranean culture and its continental counterparts. The program provides students with the skills necessary not only to comprehend the heritage of this vibrant area, but also to make it an intrinsic part of their future personal and professional lives.

The program comprises two components: Italian Studies and Italian Language.



## ITALIAN STUDIES

Italian Studies provide theory supplemented by field studies offering a solid background in Italian culture and history, from architecture and design to music, food and wine.

The courses are taught by University of Pavia professors. Students are required to take at least 4 and at most 6 of these courses, depending on each student's transcript. Field studies are an essential part of each course.

## COURSES

Students will earn from 12 to 18 credits (3 credits per course) in Italian Studies. Before each course begins, the University of Pavia Academic Advisor will work with his/her counterpart at the student's home institution to ensure the transferability of all credits earned abroad.

The classes will be given in such as the following subjects:

- Contemporary Italian and European History
- The Political Institutions of the European Union
- Italian and European Economics
- The History of Italian Art
- Music in Italy
- The History of Italian Literature

Active courses are listed on the Alma Mater Ticinensis website [www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu). The courses are given at Palazzo Vistarino (see website under "Activities"). The website also provides staff profiles, course syllabuses, and the number of credits for each course.



## ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Italian language courses at all levels are an indispensable part of the program. Each 90-hour course provides 6 academic credits. Language level will be determined in a placement workshop.

IT100 beginner

IT200 intermediate

IT250 advanced intermediate

IT300 advanced

## FIELD STUDIES AND TRIPS

To give students the chance to directly experience Italian culture and way of life, the semester abroad places a strong emphasis on field studies and trips.

Field studies include guided tours and hands-on experience to consolidate the student's classroom preparation under the guidance of lecturers and tutors. Topics are the following:

- Modern Architecture in Milan
- Italian Cars and their history (with track tests): Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Lamborghini
- Violins in Europe and the Luthiers of Cremona (visit to the world's largest violin museum)

One-day field trips led by an expert are also offered, giving students first hand experience in the region's historical and cultural treasures, dynamic economy, and exceptional food and wine. The field trips include:

- Leonardo da Vinci and the Taming of the Waters
- Wine Fit for a King: sparkling wine
- From the Romans to the Renaissance: tour of the City of Pavia
- The dream of a Duke: visit to the Certosa di Pavia

The description of these exciting and enriching learning experiences can be read on [www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu).



## CALENDAR

The Semester Abroad Programs are offered in Fall and Spring as follows.

### Fall Semester

Arrival: beginning of September

Orientation: first week of September

Lessons begin: mid September

Holiday breaks: October 31 and November 1,

December 8 and 9

End of courses and exams: around December 20

### Spring Semester

Arrival: beginning of February

Orientation: first week of February

Lessons begin: by February 10

Breaks: to be defined

Holidays: April 25 and May 1

End of courses and exams: end of May

The exact dates are provided on the Alma Mater Ticinensis Foundation website: [www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu)







## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prof. Giorgio Buccellati, President  
Prof. Fabio Rugge, Rector of the University of Pavia  
Mr. Andrea Canepari, Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia  
Prof. Ilaria Poggiolini, Rector's Delegate for International Affairs

## ADMISSION

Applications must be submitted by the following deadlines:

- Fall application deadline: June 3
- Spring application deadline: October 15

Applications must include the student's CV and a letter of presentation. Applications are subject to review and approval by the Admissions Committee. Candidates will be notified of the Committee's decision within two weeks from the application deadline.

## TUITION

Tuition for the Semester Abroad Program is indicated on the Alma Mater Ticinensis website: [www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu).

Tuition covers courses, field studies and trips (including transportation), housing in Palazzo Vistarino, and tutor assistance. Meals are not included.

## HOUSING, SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Students will reside in Palazzo Vistarino, an 18th-century residence in the heart of Pavia, overlooking the Ticino river. The Palazzo combines the allure of a noble residence with state-of-the-art technology. Twenty-four single or double rooms and suites are available (all with en-suite bathrooms and Wi-Fi, some embellished with historic frescoes and many with a wonderful view of the city) as well as three conference rooms and three meeting and training rooms.

Palazzo Vistarino provides a full range of audio and video equipment, including LCD projectors, audio-recording equipment, and high-speed Internet access. You may take a virtual tour of the palazzo at [www.palazzovistarino.it](http://www.palazzovistarino.it)

## MEALS, COFFEES AND RESTAURANTS

Cafés and restaurants abound in Pavia, offering traditional local cuisine (pizza, pasta, risotto, polenta...) and also fusion and vegan food. In addition to the University cafeterias, Semester Abroad students may also take advantage of student discounts, specially arranged for them with some local cafés and restaurants. For details see [www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu) During their staying, visiting Students will be supported by "School friends": tutors and students of the University of Pavia.

## SPORT FACILITIES

Special gym subscriptions are available to Semester abroad international students.

**CUS - Centro Universitario Sportivo** is an association that promotes sport and physical education for university students in Pavia. [www.cuspavia.it](http://www.cuspavia.it)

**Campusaquae** - A trendy gymnasium located in the new scientific campus (just 15 minutes by bus distance from the university), boasting added value with a sauna and swimming pool. [www.campusaquae.it](http://www.campusaquae.it)



## CONTACTS

Semester Abroad Program  
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[www.almamaterticinensis.eu](http://www.almamaterticinensis.eu)  
[www.palazzovistarino.it](http://www.palazzovistarino.it)





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