



Università
di Catania

Uni
ct

UNITÀ OPERATIVA
RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI



Erasmus+



INCOMING STUDENT HANDBOOK

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UniCT



The University of Catania is a public university located in Catania, Sicily. Founded in 1434, it is the oldest university in Sicily. The 17 Departments of the University are spread in several parts of the city, ranging from the historical buildings of the city

center to the modern structure of the Cittadella campus, where most of Scientific & Medic Departments are located. The two special Didactic Structures are located in the cities of Syracuse (SDS Architecture&Cultural Heritage) and Ragusa (SDS Foreign Languages).

The University of Catania provides well-equipped study spaces distributed across various campuses and locations. Students can find quiet places for individual study or collaborate with peers. University libraries are rich in academic resources, offering an ideal environment for research and study. Additionally, there are outdoor spaces and collaborative study rooms that foster idea-sharing and collaboration.

WHERE WE ARE



Catania

[17 Departments](#)

Syracuse

[Special Structure of Architecture](#)

Ragusa

[Special Structure of Foreign Languages](#)

IRO

The International Relations Office is aimed in fostering international activities and mobility opportunities. It manages exchange Programmes and partnerships with universities around the world, assisting both incoming and outgoing students, as well as staff. The office provides practical information on mobility options, application procedures, and general administrative aspects, acting as a central contact point for all matters related to studying abroad and international experiences. In addition, the Office offers support services for enrolled international students, assisting them with administrative procedures, orientation, integration into university life, and everyday practical matters. It also promotes intercultural exchange and initiatives aimed at enhancing the international student experience.

The International Relations Office is actively involved in the EUNICE project, a European University alliance that strengthens cooperation among partner institutions, encourages innovative educational opportunities, and expands international mobility and collaboration for students, researchers, and staff.

The International Relations Office is located on the second floor of the Rectorate Palace, making it easily accessible for students who need support with international mobility and exchange-related matters.



Departments

The 17 Academic Departments & 2 Special Didactic Structures in UniCT are the main point of reference for students when it comes to teaching and learning, with the primary aim of organizing and delivering high-quality academic and research programmes. Their teaching and research activities cover a wide range of academic fields.

The Departments oversee degree courses, timetables, exams, and academic regulations, serving as a point of reference for issues related to didactics—such as course content, study plans, or communication with professors.

The scientific disciplines are mainly based in the *Cittadella Universitaria*, UniCT's large campus located in the northern part of Catania, while the other academic fields are distributed across several university buildings situated throughout the city centre.



The two **main points of contact** for incoming students are the [International Didactic Units](#) (administrative person) and [Erasmus Coordinators](#) (professors). **We strongly recommend that all students get in touch with their Department upon arrival in Catania** and, where appropriate, send their queries by email **to all relevant contacts at the same time** to ensure smooth and efficient communication.

Buildings, museums and nature reserves

Within its institutional framework, UNICT offers a wide range of [buildings](#) and sites of significant historical and cultural interest. The University is housed in several locations of remarkable artistic and architectural value, many of which can be accessed freely or visited through guided tours organized by the organization [Officine Culturali](#). In addition, UNICT provides access to a network of [museums](#) and [natural reserves](#), offering valuable opportunities to explore the region's scientific, cultural, and environmental heritage. These resources represent a meaningful complement to the academic experience and an opportunity to fully engage with university life in Catania.



Academic Calendar & bank holidays

The Academic Calendar has a first period of classes and a second period of exams in each semester. The official dates are published [here](#). Some class breaks can be provided depending on each Department, so we suggest to check any relevant information on the website of the hosting Department.

The bank holidays in Catania, when the University and many businesses are closed, are:

- All Saints' Day: November 1st
- Immaculate Conception: December 8th
- Christmas: December 25th

- St. Stephen's Day: December 26th
- New Year's Day: January 1st
- Epiphany: January 6th
- St. Agatha's Feast Day: February 5th (Local Patron Saint)
- Easter Monday
- Liberation Day: April 25th
- Labour Day: May 1st
- Republic Day: June 2nd

Attendance, extension, change form



Attendance is mandatory for all incoming students, for at least 60% of the total lecture hours. To certify their attendance, students must collect from the [IDU](#) of their hosting Department attendance sheets (one for each course in the Learning Agreement), and ask to the professor to sign them after each class.

Students who wish to extend their mobility period from the first semester to the full academic year may use the extension form available at the following [link](#). The form must first be signed and approved by the student and the home university, and must then be sent to the [IDU](#) of the hosting department and to erasmus.incoming@unict.it.

Students are allowed to submit **one** learning agreement change form per semester.

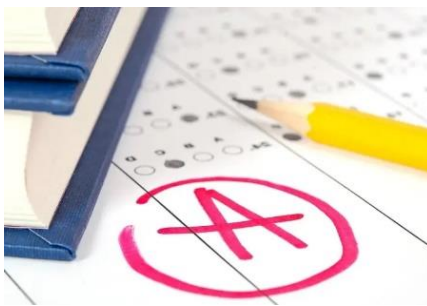
- ✎ If they have used the Dashboard or any Online Learning Agreement (OLA) platform, they must use the same

platform and select the “Edit” or “Change Form” option from the previously approved OLA signed by both the sending and receiving institutions. Students must not create a new OLA; otherwise, it cannot be viewed or approved by UNICT.

- ✚ If they have used the option “Learning Agreement” available on the UNICT student portal (coming from universities who are not active on the Erasmus Without Papers platform), they may access the “Change Form” section of the Learning Agreement.

Examination rules & grades

For each examination session (one per semester) two examination dates per course are provided. It is possible to pick any of it and, in case the exam is not passed on the first date, to retake it on the second



date. It is possible to attend exams, and consequentially obtain credit recognition, only of the courses approved on the Learning Agreement or Learning Agreement change form.

Marks are ranked on a scale from 0 to 30, where 18 is the pass mark. A “cum laude” can be added to the highest grade, in case of special mention. Conversion tables (for converting your Italian grade in your home university’s grade) are available [here](#). For more information, please refer to the contact persons in each Department.

End of mobility

At the conclusion of the mobility period, and no later than five weeks following the final mobility date, the University of Catania (UNICT) will issue the Transcript of Records. This document will be transmitted to both the Sending Institution and the student.



The Transcript of Records shall include the student's personal details, the start and end dates of the mobility period, the courses corresponding to those approved in the Learning Agreement, and the examination grades obtained.

The start of the mobility period is considered the date of the Welcome Day, where attended, while the end corresponds to the date of the last exam taken. Any period of physical stay in Catania, as well as any non-didactic activity carried out before or after these dates, shall not be considered part of the mobility period and shall not justify any extension thereof.

At the end of the mobility, all students are required to contact the [International Didactic Unit](#), to inform them about the completion of their exams.

In case a Certificate of Attendance is required by the home institution, students must submit the relevant template, duly completed with their personal details, to the following email address for signature: erasmus.incoming@unict.it.

UNICT Student services and facilities

A successful mobility experience is not only about lectures and exams—it is also about having access to the right support when you need it. In the following pages, you will find an overview of the services and facilities available to UniCT students, designed to help you navigate university life more easily and make the most of your time in Catania.

URBAN TRANSPORT SUBSCRIPTION

The University of Catania is actively engaged in fostering green mobility for all incoming students and, thanks to its collaboration with local urban transport services, promotes sustainable and affordable ways to move around the city. Incoming students in Catania can benefit from a special subscription to urban transport tickets, including bus and metro services, for a flat rate of €30.00 covering the entire duration of their mobility period, making it easier and more convenient to explore the city while reducing environmental impact.

In order to obtain the subscription, it is mandatory to indicate in the special section on the student card form within the deadline communicated.



CANTEENS



The University canteens are managed by the E.R.S.U., a public body for the rights of students.

Erasmus students can take advantage of meals for a price of €5.00.

These include:

- “Vittorio Emanuele” (Via Vittorio Emanuele 36–38–40, open Monday to Friday from 12:15 to 14:45)
- “Oberdan” canteen (Via Verona 25, open Monday to Sunday from 12:15 to 14:45 and 19:00 to 21:30),
- “Cittadella” canteen (Via Santa Sofia 6, open Monday to Saturday from 12:15 to 14:45 and 19:00 to 21:30).

To access these services, students must first install the ERSU app on their device and then visit the E.R.S.U. Catering Services Office (Via Etnea 570 in Catania) with smartphone, ID or passport, and a copy of their acceptance letter or registration card. Once registered, they can add money to their virtual canteen card via the app, book meals, and pay by scanning their smartphone at the canteen totem.

HOUSING

Finding a room or apartment in Catania as an incoming student can be a challenging task, especially as demand for rental properties is typically high before the start of the semester.

The most popular areas to live in are the city center and in the *Cittadella* area. However, other neighborhoods, especially if they are located next to a METRO stop, are becoming increasingly popular among incoming students due to high demand and potentially more competitive prices.



The following options are the most common and recommended for incoming students; please click on the link to be addressed on the corresponding contact persons:

- [University residences in Catania, Syracuse, and Ragusa](#), managed by E.R.S.U., offer a limited number of places reserved for incoming students: as really limited spots are available, we suggest to book a room with the responsible contact persons as soon as possible;
- [ESN, AEGEE and other student associations](#) provide active housing support, maintaining lists of private apartments available to incoming students for each semester;

- [Some private university colleges](#) operate within the city.

It is also possible to search for accommodation through rental websites or Facebook/WhatsApp groups. However, we strongly recommend **prioritizing the options listed above** to ensure greater reliability of accommodation.

IT SERVICES

During their mobility, students can benefit of the same IT services as the students from UNICT. These include:

- Wi-fi access
- Unict e-mail account; TEAMS access
- Access to STUDIUM (the platform where teachers usually upload study material and other communication related to the mobility)
- Access to the computer rooms located in the various Departments
- Access to Libraries and Digital Libraries

The account to access all these services is always the same:

USERNAME: yourfiscalcode@studium.unict.it

PASSWORD: the same password used to access the student portal

As fiscal code, you should refer to the code used for accessing to the student portal.



- ➔ The IT services are activated by the hosting Department upon, or shortly after, your arrival. You can check whether they are active by accessing the “Career” section on the student portal. If your “Career” is not yet active, please contact your [International Didactic Unit](#) before requesting further assistance, in order to complete the activation of your IT services.
- ➔ The “EDUROAM” network also allows you to access to the Wi-fi in all the University places with your personal credentials **from your Home University**.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSES



The School of Italian Language and Culture is a Special Teaching Structure of the University of Catania founded in 2016, to promote the historical and advanced knowledge of Italian

Language and Culture for foreign students and workers. It is situated in the Benedictine Monastery, where also the Dept. of Humanities is located.

Thanks to the collaboration with the International Relations Office, every semester the school offers to incoming students two free Italian language courses:

- **Intensive course (9 ECTS)** The course includes an entry test for our students and it ends with a final exam. A participation certificate, which certifies student attendance rates, will be issued. The entry test made it possible to divide students into classes on the basis of their starting competences of Italian language.
- **Crash course (3 ECTS)** to get in touch with Catania and the essential communicative functions of Italian.

The enrollment form will be shared with all incoming students shortly before the classes start.



It is possible to ask for the recognition of the relative credits: the courses are not available for being inserted in the Learning Agreement, but upon

attendance and exam completion, they will be recognized in the Transcript of Records.

If your home university requires these courses to be included in the Learning Agreement, apart from the OLA process, it is possible to add them to a PDF version of the Learning Agreement after the OLA has been approved.

For more information, please check the [website](#) or reach italstra@unict.it.

CINAP

The Disability Advisory Centre (CINAP) at the University of Catania supports students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties (SpLDs), working since 1999 to ensure equal access to courses, facilities, and university life for all incoming and current students. Its goal is to provide the same opportunities and level of support so every student can fully participate and succeed.

CINAP strongly encourages students to share their needs as early as possible, as the wide range of available services allows for tailored and personalized support. These services include tutoring, note-taking, adapted exam arrangements, mentoring, counselling and psychological support, interpreters, mobility assistance, and career guidance, all designed around individual requirements. Early contact helps the centre plan effectively and ensure each student receives the most appropriate support without delays.



More information can be found on the website <https://www.cinap.unict.it/>, while the official email contact for any additional information or an appointment are uds2@unict.it - cinap2@unict.it - cinap1@unict.it.

THEATRE PROJECT



The University of Catania is a partner in the *Erasmus Europe on Scene Network* through its project **Scena Erasmus**, which aims to promote inclusion, language learning, and international social cohesion through theatre.

Each semester, theatre workshops are organized for both incoming and local students, culminating in a final performance taking place in the University Theatre. The initiative is completely free of charge, and no knowledge of Italian or prior theatre experience is required.

Participation procedures will be communicated at the beginning of each semester.

For more information, please reach centro.teatrale@unict.it.

UNIVERSITY SPORT CENTRE



The CUS (UNIVERSITY SPORT CENTRE) operates in collaboration with UNICT since 1947. It manages the university's sport facilities and promotes physical activity and sport for students, staff and the academic community. It also organizes an annual sport competition, "Palio d'Ateneo" between the Departments of the University, which takes place during the month of May.

Incoming students, like the student enrolled in UNICT, **can enroll for free** and benefit from the use/booking of the following services: <https://www.cuscatania.it/attivita-universitaria/uso-e-orari-impianti/>.

They can also subscribe to the full open activities (check <https://www.cuscatania.it/attivita-universitaria/calendario/>) for the price of €30,00/month.

- ➔ It is necessary to obtain a medical certificate, which can also be asked on site by taking an appointment with a doctor operating inside the CUS. For more information, please reach info@cuscatania.it

CONNECTING FAMILIES



The project, held in the International Relations Office, aims in connecting Erasmus incoming students at the University of Catania with university employees and professors and their families. The families have a genuine interest in getting to know a different culture and learn about other countries, while incoming students have the opportunity to learn about Italian culture and Sicilian

traditions. The families will be in contact with at least two students and will spend time together during the period of their Erasmus mobility in Catania. Students will not live with the families, but they will meet them at least twice and spend some time together.

The International office at Catania University will arrange a meeting at the beginning of each semester, with the purpose of making it easy for families and students to meet for the first time.

Participation procedures and further information will be communicated at the beginning of each semester.

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

At the University of Catania, several student associations actively collaborate in promoting international mobility, intercultural exchange, and student participation. These associations play an important role in welcoming incoming Erasmus students and supporting them throughout their experience in Catania.

Student associations can provide valuable support with practical aspects of student life, such as finding accommodation, understanding university procedures, and adapting to daily life in a new country. At the same time, they offer opportunities for integration and personal enrichment through cultural events, language exchanges, social activities, trips, workshops, and other extracurricular initiatives designed to encourage interaction between local and international students. They also



contribute to the promotion of internationalization by fostering dialogue, inclusion, and collaboration among students from different countries and backgrounds.

Through their commitment and enthusiasm, these associations help create a welcoming, inclusive, and dynamic environment, making the Erasmus experience at the University of Catania both academically and personally rewarding.

You can find below the contacts of the student association collaborating with the University IRO:

- ESN: catania@esn.it
- AEGEE: aegeecatania@gmail.com
- KOINE: associazionekoine.ufficiale@gmail.com
- DISUMMER: erasmus.disummer@gmail.com
- LA FINESTRA: erasmus.lafinestra@gmail.com
- NIKE: informazioni.nike@gmail.com

More information is available in our [website](#).

CULTURAL MEDIATOR



A Cultural Mediator Service offers to Non-EU students support for the completion of the necessary bureaucratic practices during their stay in Catania, including tax code and permit of residency. Non-EU students are strongly suggested to book an appointment via email

with the Cultural Mediator: maria.sanfilippo@unict.it

INSURANCE

The University of Catania will take out an insurance policy limited to participation at didactic/formative activities, excluding sport activities, for all incoming students.

Erasmus Students with European nationality can benefit from public medical assistance. Non EU-students have to obtain a private health policy.

Your life in Sicily

After exploring the academic side of your Erasmus journey, it's time to focus on everything beyond the classroom.

Living in Catania is a fundamental part of your experience—one that will broaden your perspective, challenge your routines, and help shape your European identity. In the following pages, you'll find tips and insights to help you make the most of the city (or at least survive it with a smile!).



Sicily is widely known for its hospitality, a characteristic rooted in its long and complex history of successive civilizations and cultural exchanges. Over centuries, different dominations and influences have shaped the island's identity, fostering a natural openness and curiosity toward others and contributing to a generally welcoming attitude toward foreigners.

Catania and Surroundings



Catania, the second biggest city in Sicily, is set in the eastern coast, between the Ionian Sea and the imposing presence of Mount Etna. It is known for its rich

cultural life, shaped by history, student energy, and a strong

local identity. The city's historic center—recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site as part of the late Baroque towns of the Val di Noto—features impressive landmarks such as the Piazza Duomo with the iconic Elephant Fountain, the Cathedral of Sant'Agata, the elegant Via Etnea, and the historic Teatro Massimo Bellini with its iconic square.



Beyond its monuments, Catania is especially alive in its narrow streets, where everyday life unfolds among small shops, cafes and historic buildings. Its traditional markets, such as *La*

Pescheria and *Fera o' Luni* are central to the city's atmosphere, offering a vivid mix of sounds, colors, and local products that reflect Catania's deep connection to food and tradition.

The city is also an important gastronomic hub, known for its street food culture—arancini, granita, and fresh seafood are just a few of its specialties. This culinary identity is an essential part of daily life and social interaction. Catania also offers a lively and attractive nightlife, with bars, clubs, and social spaces that make the city particularly dynamic in the evening.

Catania's surroundings are equally remarkable: the majestic Mount Etna dominates the landscape, while nearby destinations such as the elegant town of



Taormina, the historic city of Syracuse with its ancient Greek heritage, and the baroque beauty of Ragusa and several small town and villages scattered around the coast, the mountains and the backcountry offer exceptional opportunities for exploration and for experiencing the real Sicilian culture.

TOP CURIOSITIES:



The Magic Elephant: The city's symbol is the Fontana



dell'Elefante in Piazza Duomo, a black lava elephant (called *Liotru*) from Roman times holding an Egyptian obelisk. Legend says the statue possesses magical powers, with some believing it can calm the nearby active, erupting Mount Etna.



The Black-and-White City: Following the 1693 earthquake, Catania was rebuilt using dark volcanic basalt and white limestone. This unique, high-contrast baroque style is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



A City Beneath the City: Due to repeated destruction by lava flows and earthquakes, ancient Catania is buried seven layers deep. You can visit the Underground Catania to see Roman ruins, including the Roman Baths of Achilles directly beneath the cathedral and the

ancient Roman Theatre, one of the city's most important archaeological sites.



The famous Seltz limone e sale kiosks ("chioschi") are uniquely Catanese. These old-school drink stands stay busy late into the night serving sparkling drinks with lemon, salt, syrups, and sodas. They function almost like open-air social clubs.



The Hidden River: The Amenano River, which was buried



during the 1669 eruption, flows beneath the city and reappears briefly near the fish market (*A' Piscaria*) as the "Acqua 'o linzolu" (water

sheet) fountain.



The Cyclops Legend: According to Greek mythology, the coast near Aci Trezza was home to the Cyclops Polyphemus. The volcanic sea stacks known as the "Faraglioni dei Ciclopi" are said to be the rocks thrown by the Cyclops at Odysseus during his escape.





The Origins of Granita: One of Sicily's most famous



desserts has its roots on Mount Etna. In the past, snow collected from the volcano during winter was stored in special stone caves called

neviere to preserve it throughout the year. During the warmer months, the snow was transported down to the city and mixed with fruit syrups, lemon, coffee, or almonds to create the first versions of granita. This ancient tradition made Catania and eastern Sicily pioneers of early frozen desserts long before modern refrigeration existed.



Fire That Gives Life:

Mount Etna is not only a force of destruction, but also a source of creation and fertility. Each eruption continuously reshapes the volcano and, in some areas, has



even extended Sicily's coastline through lava flows reaching the sea. At the same time, the volcanic ash enriches the surrounding soil, making the slopes of Etna exceptionally fertile. This unique landscape is renowned for its vineyards, citrus groves, pistachios, and the

production of prestigious Etna DOC wines cultivated directly on the volcano's terrain.



Street Art Revival: The historically neglected neighborhood of San Berillo has been transformed by urban renewal projects into an open-air art gallery. Today, its streets are filled with colorful murals, and creative spaces that reflect the district's complex history and multicultural identity. Walking through San Berillo offers visitors a different perspective on Catania, combining creativity, memory, and everyday city life.



Moving around

Catania is a relatively compact and walkable city, especially if you live in the central area. Several transport alternatives are available in the city to help you navigate efficiently.

- **Buses:** The urban bus network covers most neighborhoods, key university areas, and central hubs such as the train station and city center. Services are more frequent during peak hours, while evenings and weekends may have reduced schedules. All the lines, stops and timetables are available on the official [AMTS website](#),

The [BRT1 bus](#) line is particularly important for students, as it provides a fast and direct connection between the city center and the Cittadella Universitaria, where most of the scientific and medical departments and the University Sport Center, are located. Thanks to its dedicated route and frequent service, it is one of the most efficient ways to travel between the historic center of Catania and the university campus.

To make travel easier, students are encouraged to use the mobile app *Moovle*, which provides updated information on bus lines, timetables, and GPS-based real-time tracking of vehicles. This is especially useful for reducing waiting times and navigating the network more efficiently.

- **Metro:** The Metro is a small but useful underground line that connects several important points across the city. It is especially convenient for avoiding road traffic during busy hours.



For travel outside the city, Catania is well connected regionally, nationally, and internationally.

- **Airport:** Catania–Fontanarossa Airport is one of the biggest airports in Italy and the main international gateway to eastern Sicily, located just a few kilometers from the city center. It offers frequent flights to major Italian and European destinations and is easily reachable by bus or taxi. It is also an important intermodal hub, integrating air travel with ground transport: it has a bus and rail terminal with frequent connections to the main



cities across Sicily, making onward travel across the island more convenient and

coordinated. The [ALIBUS](#) connects the airport to the city center with frequent trips.

- **Trains:** The central railway station provides connections especially along Sicily's eastern coast, including routes to Messina, Syracuse, and other major towns. From Catania, rail services also connect (via regional and national networks, including ferry links across the Strait of Messina) to the rest of Italy, making train travel a viable option for longer domestic journeys. You can check info and timetables from the Italian's national railway line: <https://www.trenitalia.com/en.html>
- **Intercity buses:** Several bus companies operate services connecting Catania with other cities in Sicily and to Mount Etna (Rifugio Sapienza), as well as other cities in

Italy and abroad. These buses are often a flexible and affordable alternative to trains or flights. The most important companies working in Catania include *SAIS*, *Interbus*, *Etna Trasporti*, *FlixBus*.

- **Harbor:** The harbor of Catania is one of the city's most dynamic waterfront areas, where commercial ships, cruise liners, sailing schools, and creative urban spaces all meet beneath the view of Mount Etna. From here, ferries and cargo routes connect Sicily with destinations such as Naples, Malta, Salerno. Along the marina area, the CUS Catania canoe and sailing school brings students and athletes onto the water for vela and canoa activities.



One of the harbor's most distinctive visual features is the row of colorful graffiti-covered shipping containers, an informal urban art landmark that reflects Catania's creative and industrial character at the same time. The historic building of Customs (Vecchia Dogana) has been transformed into a cultural and social hub, hosting events, study spaces, and nightlife, making the harbor a

surprisingly good place to work or spend time outdoors thanks to cafés, sea breezes, and long promenades with the stunning panorama of the city skyline with Etna rising in the background.

Codice Fiscale

The Italian Fiscal Code (Codice Fiscale) is a 16-character alphanumeric code used to uniquely identify individuals in dealings with Italian public authorities and private entities, such as for banking, leasing or renting contracts. It is not mandatory for Incoming students, but it can be asked in some occasion during your mobility, such as the registration of the renting contract.

Please remember that the code created from the student portal is only useful for accessing the University student services and the Urban Transport Ticket. If you need the official code with a legal validity for any other purpose, you should either ask for it at the Italian embassy of your country or get it at the Public Office called *Agenzia delle Entrate*.

- For all the EU students, it is possible to ask an appointment at the "Agenzia delle Entrate" through the link: <https://prenotazioneweb.agenziaentrate.gov.it/PrenotazioneWeb/prenotazione.action?gruppoServizi=IDEN&languageId=it>. Please bring ID and Acceptance Letter/Learning agreement as a proof of your Erasmus status.
- Non-EU students should reach the Cultural Mediator (Dott. [Maria Sanfilippo](#)) for obtaining it.

Health&Safety



Italy offers both public and private healthcare services. The public healthcare system, known as the *Servizio Sanitario Nazionale* (SSN), provides medical assistance

through hospitals, clinics, and local healthcare centers.

Hospitals in Catania are equipped to handle emergencies and are located in several areas of the city. For non-urgent medical assistance and general healthcare needs, students can refer to the *Presidio Territoriale d'Assistenza*, located in Via A. Fleming, 24. Students are also encouraged to keep a copy of their health insurance documents and emergency contacts with them during their stay in Italy.

Pharmacies (*farmacie*) are widely available throughout the city and can provide medicines, basic medical advice, and assistance for minor health issues. Many pharmacies also operate on a rotating emergency schedule during nights, weekends, and holidays. Please note that some medicines can only be purchased with a valid medical prescription issued by a doctor in Italy or recognized within the European Union.



In case of emergency, the national emergency number in Italy is **112**, which can be contacted for police, medical, or fire emergencies.

All the useful numbers active in Italy can be found at this [link](#).

Main events & fests in Sicily

Autumn



Sagra del Pistacchio — Bronte

Famous pistachio festival with Sicilian desserts, pasta, street food, and local products.



Cous Cous Fest — San Vito Lo Capo

International Mediterranean food and music festival centered on couscous.



Taobuk — Taormina

International literature, arts, and culture festival.



Ottobrata Zafferanese — Zafferana Etnea

Every weekend in October with wine, honey, mushrooms, chestnuts, and Etna specialties.



Catania Fringe Festival

International fringe festival featuring independent theatre, dance, music, experimental performances, and street art. Inspired by the Edinburgh Fringe model, it brings together Italian and international artists with performances spread across theatres, historic spaces, and public venues throughout the city.



ChocoModica

A popular chocolate festival celebrating Modica's chocolate, known for its ancient Aztec-inspired cold-processing method and grainy texture. The event includes chocolate tastings, pastry workshops, cooking demonstrations, street performances, cultural events, and artisan

markets throughout the historic Baroque town of Modica.

Winter

-  Christmas markets and nativities in several cities and villages
-  Festa di Sant'Agata — Catania
Major religious festival with processions, fireworks, and historic traditions
-  Carnevale di Acireale — Acireale
One of Italy's most beautiful carnivals with giant papier-mâché floats and flower parades.
-  Carnevale di Sciacca — Sciacca
Historic carnival famous for masks, music, and satirical floats.

Spring

-  Mandorlo in Fiore — Agrigento
Spring folklore festival with music, dance, and almond blossoms.
-  Settimana Santa di Enna — Enna
Among Sicily's most important Easter celebrations.
-  Infiorata di Noto — Noto
Spectacular floral street mosaics in the Baroque center.
-  Corri Catania
A popular annual charity running event held in the city centre. The event promotes sport,

community spirit, and solidarity, as proceeds are donated to local social and health projects.



Palio d'Ateneo UNICT — Catania

The largest university sport event in Sicily, organized by the University of Catania. The festival brings together students from different departments for sports competitions, concerts, parades, cultural activities, and team challenges across the city.



Festival Internazionale degli Aquiloni

International kite performances by the sea.



Etna Comics — Catania

Comics, cosplay, anime, gaming, and entertainment festival.



Taormina Film Fest — Taormina

International cinema festival hosted in the ancient Greek Theatre.



Greek Tragedies of Syracuse — Greek Theatre of Syracuse

One of the world's most important classical theatre events, held every spring at the ancient Greek Theatre of Syracuse. Actors perform ancient Greek tragedies and comedies in an extraordinary open-air archaeological setting dating back over 2,000 years.

Summer



Festa di Santa Rosalia — Palermo

Palermo's most important religious and cultural celebration, held every year on July 14–15. The festival honors Saint Rosalia, the patron saint of Palermo, with huge street processions, fireworks, music, theatrical performances, and a historic parade featuring an enormous triumphal float moving through the city center to the sea.

Useful websites to check updates about the many events and activities:



<https://www.agenda.unict.it/>



<https://fondoambiente.it/eventi-fai-sicilia/>



<https://www.visitsicily.info/>