

EPLUS_UNISTRASI

Intensive Language Courses for ERASMUS students in Italy

WHY THE UNIVERSITY FOR FOREIGNERS OF SIENA?

The University for Foreigners of Siena is a public university involved both in teaching Italian as a foreign language and in scientific research activities concerning the diffusion of the Italian language and culture all over the world.

The University for Foreigners of Siena has an exceptional tradition of research. Amongst the many sectors in which it excels one finds studies on Teaching Italian as a Second/Foreign Language (Lifelong learning, Language Testing, E-learning methods and approaches), as well as Philology and Linguistics, thanks to our many different research centres: the CLUSS Centre - the Language Centre of the University, where courses of Italian Language and Culture are available for foreign students; the CILS Centre for the Certification of Italian as a Foreign Language; the DITALS Centre that certifies practical and theoretical competence in the field of teaching Italian as a foreign language; the FAST Centre for on-line activities; the CLASS Centre for Foreign Languages.

All courses, research activities and facilities (our audiovisual and multimedia centres, IT facilities, computer centres, linguistic and computer laboratories, and library) of the institution are located in our highly modern building in Piazza Rosselli 27-28, Siena, inaugurated in 2008.

We offer **EPLUS Italian language courses in both forms: in remote (online synchronous) and in attendance.**

The University for Foreigners of Siena has adopted a quality management system in accordance with UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 and has achieved the Certification for “Projecting and providing formative activities for undergraduate and postgraduate level”.

WHY SIENA?

Siena, World Heritage

Surrounded by the olive and wine groves of Chianti, Siena is one of the most beautiful cities in Tuscany. Situated at the top of three hills, the city is rich in narrow side streets, all of which lead to the heart of the city, Piazza del Campo, the Civic Palace and Mangia Tower, as well as all other buildings of cultural significance such as the Duomo and the Santa Maria della Scala Museum.

It is also famous for its Palio, the historic horse race that is held every July 2nd and August 16th. Siena has been declared World Heritage by UNESCO.

In addition to the daily ongoing that animate the streets and piazzas of the city, Siena offers numerous cultural events like concerts, cinema, theatres and a wide range of sporting activities.

EPLUS_UNISTRASI COURSES

The first day of classes students will take a placement test. Upon test results, students will be enrolled in the appropriate level for their knowledge of Italian language.

Level A1 Beginner - The student learns to converse about concrete subjects with one or more other people, provided that they speak with him slowly and clearly, using a standard or neo-standard version of the language. He learns to communicate his needs and to furnish personal information and talk about his family. He knows how to introduce himself and give basic information about himself, at times with some assistance from the other interlocutors. He learns to thank others and to apologize, but also to ask for and give explanations regarding vocabulary and grammar rules.

Level A2 Elementary - The student learns to understand and use common expressions to speak about the personal sphere (family and friends) and the social sphere, in order to fulfill immediate linguistic needs. Often written texts are presented with images: maps, weather forecasts, ads, or comics. The classroom activities create an atmosphere in which students make brief presentations for their peers on topics prepared ahead of time.

Level B1 Intermediate - The student is able to understand and to produce simple and coherent texts on familiar subjects and ones of personal interest. He is able to narrate events and experiences in some detail, managing to explain, briefly, his motivations and actions. He can discuss both concrete and abstract topics. He is able to speak about himself, to express needs and desires, feelings and states of mind, intentions and the ability to act.

Level B2 Upper Intermediate - The student is able to speak of herself, to express agreement and disagreement, to express personal opinions and speak of her own tastes and interests. He is able to oblige or convince someone to do something, or prohibit them from doing it. In telling about an experience or narrating a story, he has the necessary tools to discuss cause and effect. He is able to write clear, fluent texts on an ample range of topics related to her own field of study, and to compose texts from notes taken during a class, seminar, or conference.

The class will deal with various topics which centre upon a single subject, while experimenting with different textual genres (biography, monographs, newspapers, literary texts, song lyrics, etc.) with the additional goal of underlining the typologies of the texts themselves (narrative, explanatory, argumentative, regulatory, descriptive).

Level C1 Advanced - The student gains a mastery of the language and is able to draw upon a rich vocabulary necessary to modify his style according to the topics discussed, which may regard professional and personal life or leisure time. His communicative competence becomes yet more refined, as he learns to recognize allusive and humorous shades of meaning, and manage his use of intonation and pauses during speech. He is able to understand even non-standard native speakers. His ample knowledge of the language in many fields permits him to work professionally in Italy without professional or communicative difficulty.

Level C2 Proficiency - The student at this level understands implicit and implied meaning in varied textual genres and confidently navigates the different sociological and sociocultural levels of the Italian language. He has an excellent command of all linguistic functions and textual genres. He fully comprehends Italian grammar and syntax and is familiar with the complex architectonic structure of the Italian language.

SERVICES

Accommodation

- University dormitories:
accoglienza@unistrasi.it - <https://www.cercoalloggio.com/toscana/siena>
- Guest house “Villa il Pino” (single, double, three- bed and four-bed rooms, small flats):
info.siena@rtmliving.com - www.siena.rtmliving.com
Via Berlinguer, 1-53100 Siena - Tel. (+39) 0577 1515701
- Accommodation in private houses:
<http://alloggi.unistrasi.it>

More information at this link:

<http://www.unistrasi.it/165/526/Alloggio.htm>

For further information, please contact our **Housing Service**:

Area Management Didattico e URP – Accoglienza

Email accoglienza@unistrasi.it

Tel. +39 0577 240149

Didactics and cultural activities

The welcome service gives the students the possibility to go on trips and excursions at convenient fees. Programs, destinations and fees are published each month at www.unistrasi.it - accoglienza@unistrasi.it. Students are free to use the multimedia facilities and the language laboratory for self-learning, and have free access to the services offered by the Library as well as other activities organized by the Linguistic Centre and by other Departments.

University Canteens

Ristorante “Sallustio Bandini” - Via Sallustio Bandini, 47

Monday – Friday lunch 12.00 – 14.30, dinner 19.00 – 21.15

Ristorante “S. Agata” Via S. Agata, 1

Monday – Sunday, lunch 12.30 – 15.00, dinner 19.30-21.30

Unistrasi Tensostruttura Piazza Fratelli Rosselli, 27/28

Monday – Friday, only for lunch 12.30 – 14.30 (by reservation only)

The cost of a meal:

€ 8,50 (Main Course + Second course + side order + fruit or dessert or yogurt + bread + beverage)

Price can vary according to the type of lunch or dinner chosen by the student.

Health care

The **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** is a free card that gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 28 EU countries, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country.

Cards are issued by your national health insurance provider.

Important – the European Health Insurance Card:

- is **not an alternative to travel insurance**. It does not cover any private healthcare or costs such as a return flight to your home country or lost/stolen property,
- does **not cover** your costs if you are **travelling for the express purpose of obtaining medical treatment**,
- does **not guarantee free services**. As each country’s healthcare system is different services that cost nothing at home might not be free in another country.

Sport

The University for Foreigners of Siena promotes sport activities, in cooperation with ARDSU and with CUS (University Sport Centre of Siena).

To participate, students are required to have a medical certificate for practising sport a medical certificate stating you are fit to practice sports: *the medical certificate (from your family doctor, in English if possible) must certify that you are in good health to practise sports (just in case you were interested in doing it while you are here). In Italy it is obligatory to practise every kind of sports.*

HOW TO GET SIENA AND UNIVERSITY FOR FOREIGNERS

The University for Foreigners of Siena is located just in front of the **Siena Train Station**, and next to **Porta Siena Shopping Center**, a new urban area where public utilities and offices, shops and meeting spaces merge in an ideal location not only for shopping but also for fun, social, and cultural activities.

- **From airports:**

Firenze-Peretola (Amerigo Vespucci airport)

- Bus from the airport to Santa Maria Novella Train Station (Florence) every 30 minutes
- Bus from Santa Maria Novella bus station to Siena (1h 10min)
- Train from Santa Maria Novella train station to Siena (1h 30min)

Pisa airport (Galileo Galilei airport)

- Train from the airport to Siena via Pisa Centrale and Empoli train stations (2h)

Roma-Fiumicino airport (Leonardo da Vinci airport)

- Bus from Roma Tiburtina bus station (near the train station) to Siena (3h 30 min)
- Train from the airport to Roma Termini or Roma Tiburtina train stations (45h)
- Train from Roma Termini to Siena, via Chiusi-Chianciano Terme (3h 40 min)

Bologna airport (Guglielmo Marconi airport)

- Bus from the airport to Bologna Central Train Station (20 min)
- Train from Bologna to Florence (45 min), bus or train from Florence (1h 30min)

- **By car:**

- From the North

By motorway: Autostrada del Sole A1, exit Firenze Certosa, link road Firenze-Siena. From the Siena western ring road, exit at North Siena, follow Via Fiorentina, turn on Viale Sclavo and continue until you reach Piazza Carlo Rosselli.

- From the South

By motorway: Autostrada del Sole A1, exit Valdichiana-Bettolle, link road Bettolle-Siena. From the Siena eastern ring road, exit at East Siena and continue along Viale Toselli and then Viale Sardinia until you reach Piazza Carlo Rosselli.

Further information (transport service)

Bus: www.baltur.it (national connections); www.trainspa.it (regional connections)

Train: www.trenitalia.com

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How much is it?

Budget: purely as an indication, here are the principal expenses you will incur during your stay in Siena (prices are approximate):

City-bus ticket	€ 1,70
A newspaper	€ 1,50
Breakfast in a bar	€ 3,00
Cinema	€ 8,00
Disco	€ 20,00
A piece of pizza	€ 2,00
A meal in pizzeria	€ 20,00
A meal at a fast-food or spaghetti house	€ 8,00-10,00

Bank's opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.30-13.30; 14.30-16.00.

Post offices

Post offices are open from 8.15 to 13.30 Monday through Friday; some services are available until 19.00 at the main office in Piazza Matteotti, 37.

On Saturdays offices close at 12.30, while on Sundays are closed all day.

Hello, who's speaking?

The city code for Siena is 0577.

To call a number in Italy from abroad, first dial the country access code, then the code for Italy (39), the city code and finally the number of the receiver.

To call your country from Italy, first dial 00 then the code for your country, the city code and the number.

CONTACTS

Università per Stranieri di Siena

Piazza Carlo Rosselli 27-28

53100 SIENA / ITALY

GENERAL INFO

Tel. +39 0577 240 115

E-mail info@unistrasi.it

SECRETARY OFFICE

Tel. +39 0577 240 106 / 345

E-mail segrstud@unistrasi.it

LINGUISTIC CENTER (CLUSS)

Tel. +39 0577 240 314 / 303

E-mail cluss@unistrasi.it

ACCOMMODATION

Tel. +39 0577 240 149

E-mail accoglienza@unistrasi.it

ERASMUS AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Tel. +39 0577 240 / 217

E-mail erasmus@unistrasi.it