



*Planning
your arrival*
A.Y 2018/2019

International Student Guide

Piacenza



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



Dear International Student,

Studying in Piacenza can be an exciting and challenging experience that will broaden your social and cultural horizons.

This guide has been carefully designed to provide essential information about courses, documents, student life and practical advice for your stay in Piacenza and your experience at Cattolica.

Further information about your stay at UCSC Piacenza will be provided during the Orientation event. This guide will give you a good idea of what to expect upon arrival.

We hope your visit to UCSC Piacenza will be a positive and enriching experience.

The UCSC International Staff



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Before you leave home

Visa Requirements

Non-EU residents require a visa for any stay longer than three months (90 days). Students need to apply for a student visa at the Italian Embassy or Consulate of their jurisdiction. You will find below the basic application requirements. However, it is important that students verify their Consulate's web-site for any additional requirement:

- Original Bachelor Degree
- Admission letter issued by UCSC
- Passport and Driver's Licence/ID/Residency Card
- Student visa application to be submitted in person
- Evidence of financial support (of not less than €430 for every month of the academic year)
- Proof of adequate health insurance cover outside your Country
- Flight itinerary
- Proof of accommodation in Italy

Travel Registration

We strongly advise that you register your contact details online with the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) of your jurisdiction. The details provided will be used in the unlikely case of an emergency.

Useful links:

- › <https://travelregistration.state.gov/>
- › <https://orao.dfat.gov.au>

Medical Insurance

If you are a national from either a [EU Member State](#) or an [EEA country](#) or you are of Swiss nationality, you should have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) Italian acronym: TEAM, obtained in your home Country from your national healthcare authority. The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows to receive medical treatment in another member state for free, or at a reduced cost. A patient contribution is required for prescriptions, medical examinations, oral and dental care.

Non-EU residents must arrange International Health Insurance to cover any cost related to medical treatment and admission to hospital. If allowed by the Embassy/Consulate, they can also purchase health cover through the Italian National Health Insurance upon arrival in Piacenza. Please refer to <http://www2.waitaly.net/en/> for further details. The cost is of €71 for 6 months or €120 for a year. Higher levels of cover are also available.

Note:

Medical cover is compulsory when applying for the residency permit.





What to bring to Piacenza

Pre-departure documentation check-list

- A valid passport
- A valid student visa (if applicable)
- Travel itinerary/ticket
- Travel insurance
- Health insurance
- Credit cards & other cards
- Any medical certificates
- Admission letter issued by the host institution
- At least four colour and original passport size photos (3 x 4 cm); they cannot be scanned.

Documentation guidelines

Make additional copies of all your documents, certificates, cards etc. Keep copies in a safe place in your home Country, and bring the rest to Italy. When travelling, remember to keep copies in both your hand luggage and checked-in luggage. Upon arrival keep all documents in a safe place in your apartment.

For further safety measures, scan all your documents, certificates, cards etc. and email them to yourself as attachments.

Bring receipts of any electrical devices that you have with you, such as laptops, cameras, etc., for travel insurance purposes.

Packing

The weather in Piacenza varies considerably depending on the season. December to February are the coldest months, but April usually brings nice spring weather. July and August are the hottest months. Students on campus generally dress informally, but you may want to bring something more formal for special occasions.

You can buy anything you need in Piacenza, so don't worry if you forget to pack something.

You will need to buy adapters for your devices. The voltage in Italy and Europe is 220 V. The Italian plug is a two (sometimes three) round-prongs socket.

Medical Assistance

Medication

You should verify the availability of certain drugs in Italy, but we suggest that you stock up from home on any specific medication you may need during your stay. Check customs restrictions for importing medication from outside the EU, especially anti-depressant drugs as you do not want to have your medication taken away at customs. For safety measures, we recommend that you ask your General Practitioner for a letter indicating the medication you will bring with you.

Pharmacies

Many medications that you purchase over-the-counter in other Countries are available only with a prescription in Italy.

Health Centre at Cattolica

An on campus Health Centre provides all registered students with medical and nursing care as well as psychological counselling.

Opening hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays:
3.00pm - 4.00pm
Fridays: 11.00am - 12.00pm

Location: Room 55, 1st floor
Collegio Sant'Isidoro
Strada dell'Anselma, 7
29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 621111

Specialists

You have access to off campus specialists at special student rates: Centro Medico Inacqua
Via Caffi, 1 (angolo Corso Europa)
29122 Piacenza
baiadelre@inacquapiacenza.it
> www.inacquacentromedico.it

Hospitals

If you require more serious medical assistance you will need to go to the hospital. Remember to always bring a copy of your health insurance with you. If you need an interpreter, please contact the International Student Services who can arrange one for you.

Accommodation in Piacenza

Before your arrival in Piacenza, UCSC International will send you useful information about available options.

For further information please visit:
> educatt.unicatt.it/educatt-residenza-gasparini-il-collegio

Residence Halls

There are two on campus residence halls and two residence halls in the town centre. The University also has agreements with some real estate agencies that can help students find the right place to stay charging a reduced fee.

Residenza Gasparini (on campus)

Located right behind the University's cafeteria lies the on campus Residenza Gasparini. With 52 single rooms, private ensuite bathrooms and three common kitchens, this residence is a very comfortable place to stay. The price includes breakfast, bed linen, blankets, towels, weekly room cleaning and a Wi-Fi connection. Residenza Gasparini also includes common rooms where you can study and spend your time with other international students.

Contacts:

Segreteria Operativa Piacenza
EDUCatt
> reception.piacenza@educatt.org
Tel. +39 0523 621111
Fax: +39 0523 579416

Collegio Sant'Isidoro (on campus)

The Residence was built in 1995. With 165 single bedrooms, the dorm provides many services, including heating, air conditioning, sports facilities, common study rooms, tv room, a Wi-Fi connection, private bathroom, room cleaning - all included in the accommodation fee. Inside the Collegio you will find the University cafeteria, open to students, staff and Faculty as well as external guests.

Collegio Sant'Isidoro will be closed from 23 July to 24 August for the summer holidays. Please note: only few bedrooms will be set aside for Exchange Students - for deadlines and info on the application procedure please contact:

Mil Service (Stefano Zaffiro)
> info@milservice.com

For more information please visit:
> collegi.unicatt.it/collegi-collegio-sant-isidoro-presentazione

Collegio Morigi (off campus) & Collegio Orsoline (off campus)

Alternatively, you can apply for a private room at one of the other student residences. For information about the application procedure and deadlines please refer to:

Segreteria Operativa Piacenza EDU-Catt

› reception.piacenza@educatt.org
Tel. +39 0523 621111
Fax: +39 0523 579416

Real Estate Agencies

If you prefer to stay in a private apartment, we suggest that you book a room in a hotel or hostel for a few days and make an appointment with one of the Real Estate Agencies that support our international students:

Casa IN

Emanuela Anglani (English speaking)
Via Tansini 35/C - 29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 339 4297746
› info@casainpiacenza.it
› www.casainpiacenza.it

Invest S.R.L.

Roberta Sarti
Via Mazzini 31-33 - 29121 Piacenza
Tel +39 0523 384842
› roberta@investimmobiliare.eu
› aginvest@tin.it
› www.investimmobiliare.eu

Piacenza Affitti

Tel. +39 347 6990669
› info@piacenzaffitti.it

Tecnocasa

Ms. Umbrà Carini (English speaking)
Tel. +39 366-2535166
› pccc1@tecnocasa.it
› www.tecnocasa.it

Once you arrive in Piacenza, you can also look at the ads on the notice boards located inside the University building (close to the café) or inside Collegio Sant'Isidoro.

Temporary lodgings

Bed and Breakfast L'Antica Torre

Str. La Motta Vecchia, 31 - 29122 Montale (PC)
Tel/Fax: +39 0523 615267
Mobile: +39 392 3958926 - +39 348 4590725
› <http://www.solo-bed-and-breakfast.com/beb.asp?id=1300>

Mulino degli Orti B&B

Via Colombo, 120 - 29122 Piacenza
› Tel. +39 0523 614272
› celiodiego@gmail.com
› www.mulinodegliorti.it

Ostello Don Zermani

Via Zoni, 38/40 - 29121 Piacenza
› Tel. +39 0523 712319
› www.collegiodipiacenza.it/donzermani/donzermani.htm

Ostello Papa Giovanni XXIII

Cantone San Nazzaro 2/A - 29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 337989
› www.ostellodipiacenza.it
› info@ostellodipiacenza.it

Hotel Petit

Via Pennazzi, 5 - 29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 590405
› petithotelpiacenza@gmail.com
› www.hotelpetit.it

Euro Hotel

Via Cristoforo Colombo, 29/F
29100 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 606 011
› info@hoteleuropiacenza.it



Hotel City

Via Emilia Parmense, 54 -
29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 579752
> www.hotelcitypc.it

Bed and Breakfast Giò

Via Croce 10 - 29121 Piacenza
Tel. +39 327 2892814 or
+39 340 5252402

> bedandbreakfastgio@gmail.com
> www.bedandbreakfastgio.com

Casa del Viaggiatore

Mr Leo Balestrazzi
Stradone Farnese 63/a 29121
Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 1996230
> www.casadelviaggiatore.eu

Mobile +39 348 6376766
> casadelviaggiatorepiacenza@gmail.com

Casa Scalabrini - Collegio di Piacenza

Mrs Stefania
Via Francesco Torta, 14 -29122 Piacenza
Tel. +39 0523 348621
> casamadre@scalabrini.net
> <https://www.casascalabrini.it/casa-piacenza/>

Studying at Cattolica

The Italian Grading System

The Italian Grading System ranges from 18/30 to 30/30.

The highest mark is 30/30 cum laude (with distinction).

All the exams under 18/30 are considered a "fail" and they are not reported on the final Transcript of Records.

1 ECTS corresponds to 1 CFU (Credito Formativo Universitario).

Orientation Events

There will be an Orientation and Welcome event for Every Master's program. You will receive details before the start.

Italian Language course

Your program may already include a compulsory Italian Language Course. If this is not your case and you are particularly interested in improving your language skills, UCSC International organises an Italian Language and Culture Course every semester.

To find out more about the course and the application procedure, please visit our website:
> www.ucscinternational.it/student-services-at-cattolica/students-services-piacenza-cremona/italian-language-culture-course-in-piacenza-cremona





Public transportation in Piacenza

Bus

Buses number 2 and 3 stop outside the University (front entrance).

Fares (subject to change):

- Single: €1,50
- Multi-ride pass: €8 (6 rides/individual - it cannot be shared)
- Multi-ride pass: €12 (10 rides/personal- it cannot be shared and it must report name and photo I.D.-the first time you purchase this ticket you must pay an additional €5 for the card)
- Multi-ride pass that you can share with other passengers on the same ride: €15 (12 rides)
- SETA/bus company I.D. card: €5
- Student one-month pass: €32
- Student 12-month pass: €240/260

You can purchase the SETA ID card from the SETA ticket office in via Colombo 3 - Piacenza.

You will need the following:

- passport-size photograph
- tax code
- passport or ID card

For information on timetables and routes:

› www.setaweb.it/azienda/index.php?azienda=pc

Bike

Sharing "Mi Muovo in Bici!"

Piacenza bike sharing service involves the main towns of the Emilia-Romagna region. To benefit from the service, you will have to register online. You will receive your personal electronic card directly at your Italian address in Piacenza.

You can choose between:

- Daily pass: €5
- Annual pass: €25 (+ daily costs)

Daily costs:

- First 30 minutes: free of charge
 - every 30 minutes: €0.80
 - more than 3 hours: €2/hour
- › www.mimuovoinbici.it/

Hire or buy a bike

Alternatively, you can hire a bike at the Railway Station, or buy a bike at any bike shop.

Hire fees:

- €1,20/hour
- €3,50/day
- €30/month

› www.comune.piacenza.it/temi/muoversi/in-bici/noleggio-biciclette

Bike shop near the University campus:

Ciclo Point Piacenza

Via Caduti sulla strada, 37/A -

Piacenza

Taxi

- Radiotaxi Piacenza:
+39 0523 591919
- Radiotaxi Night:
+39 348.448.5155

For more information please visit

› radiotaxipiacenza.blogspot.it/



How to reach us upon arrival

By plane

Here follows a list of the closest airports to Piacenza:

Aeroporto di Orio al Serio (Bergamo)

110km from Piacenza

› [http://](http://www.milanbergamoairport.it/en/)

www.milanbergamoairport.it/en/

Aeroporto di Linate (Milano)

65 km from Piacenza

› [http://www.milanolinate-](http://www.milanolinate-airport.com/en)

[airport.com/en](http://www.milanolinate-airport.com/en)

Aeroporto di Malpensa (Milano)

120 km from Piacenza

› [http://www.milanomalpensa-](http://www.milanomalpensa-airport.com/en)

[airport.com/en](http://www.milanomalpensa-airport.com/en)

By car

Coming from the A1 Highway towards Bologna, take the 'Piacenza Sud' exit.

Stay on the 'tangenziale' (ringroad) and follow for San Lazzaro/Università.

By train

From Milan Central Station take a train to Piacenza. Shuttle buses to Central station are also available from all Milan airports.

Please check the train timetable at:

› <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>

From Piacenza Railway Station take bus no. 2 or 3 to 'Università'.

Please check timetable at:

› <http://www.setaweb.it/pc/linee#pc1>

You can also catch a taxi outside Piacenza Railway Station or call the following numbers:

Radio Taxi: 0523.591919

Night hours - Taxi service: +39 348.4485155

The average taxi fare from the station to UCSC is about €10 (during the day) and a little higher at night.



Residency permit requirements

Non-EU residents require a visa if their stay is longer than three months (90 days). Within eight (8) days from your arrival in Italy you are required to submit the application for a **Permesso di Soggiorno** (*Residency Permit*) which will be issued by the local police (*Questura*). You will require the following documents:

- An Application Form ('yellow kit')- available from any Post Office or from UCSC International Office.
- Your passport
- The photocopy of every page of your passport (one copy per page)
- Four recent and identical passport size photos
- Your VISA documentation and any letter issued and stamped by the Embassy/Consulate (bring additional copies)

- The admission letter issued by UCSC
- A copy of your health insurance
- A **Marca da Bollo** (*revenue stamp*) of €16 that you can purchase upon arrival in any Tobacconist shop.
- Your address in Piacenza, including the zip code.

The total amount of fees you will have to pay is €116.46 (subject to change).

After submitting the form at any Post Office, you will be given a receipt. Please keep it in a safe place as proof of your application.

A special orientation session will be organised to assist you with the Application forms.



Student life

Being an Exchange student is a life changing experience not only from an academic point of view, but also from a social, cultural and personal perspective.

Adapting to a different culture can be exciting yet sometimes challenging.

UCSC International Office, together with SMINT, the International Student Association at UCSC Piacenza, will assist you from the moment you arrive in Piacenza and throughout your stay.

Some of the activities organised throughout the semester include:

- Language meetings
- International dinners
- Trips
- Aperitivo/drinks
- Cultural events
- Sports activities
- City tours
- Nights out

Useful links:

UCSC International FB page:
› www.facebook.com/Study-in-Piacenza-at-Universit%C3%A0-Cattolica-del-Sacro-Cuore-242177345824590/

SMINT - student association:

SMINT Facebook page:
› www.facebook.com/smintunicatt/



Living in Piacenza

Piacenza is a quiet yet dynamic town. People ride their bike everywhere. The essence of Piacenza is as true today as in centuries past.

Piacenza - from 'placencia': pleasing, welcoming - is a beautiful town, rich in history and hidden culture, that tourists rarely manage to fully discover.

Piacenza is a typical Italian town featuring cobbled streets, piazzas and theatres. In the surrounding countryside, rivers, castles and hills are the perfect location for a pic-nic on the week-end or for local food and wine tasting in the many restaurants or festivals organised throughout the year.

Piacenza is an ideal place to visit the rest of Italy and Southern Europe. Its strategic location makes it very easy to hop on a train to Milan or Rome or drive to the Mediterranean Riviera.

Useful links:

- > <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>
- > www.comune.piacenza.it
- > www.visitpiacenza.it/
- > <http://www.castellidelducato.it/?lang=EN>

Money matters

When withdrawing money from an ATM beware of people around you. We advise that you preferably use ATM machines inside banks rather than the ones along the street. Avoid, whenever possible, ATM machines in or around railway stations.

If you plan on opening a bank account or renting an apartment you will need a **Codice Fiscale** (tax code).

This card is issued by 'Agenzia delle Entrate' - Via Modonesi 16-Piacenza, Bring your I.D. and a copy of your Visa if you are not an E.U. student.

Tel. +39 0523 601 211

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday: 8.45am- 12.45pm
Mondays and Thursdays: 8.45am - 12.45pm and 2.45pm - 4.45pm

Average costs (per semester)

Accommodation*: € 2,400 to €3,300

Food**: €650 to € 1,000

Personal expenses: €200 to €400 per month

Books: € 200

Local Transportation: € 200

*Costs may vary depending on individual circumstances.

** The University will provide you with a **student card (badge)** which allows students to access the cafeteria at discounted prices.

Full meal: €7.70

Light meal (formula lunch): €5

Average food cost (per item):

- Pizza + Beer: €15
- Movie ticket: €8
- Gelato (*ice-cream*): €3
- Panino (*filled sandwich*): €5
- Caffè (*coffee*): € 1.50



Connecting you

Mail

To locate a post office look for the yellow and blue PT sign. For mailing cost information please refer to the Italian Post web-site:

› www.poste.it

If you need to mail important documents we advise that you send them by registered post or courier, or through express mail services, such as DHL, UPS or FedEx. Receiving packages from the US via priority mail can cost a lot in terms of taxes. Postal & customs taxes are very high depending on the weight and the value of the content.

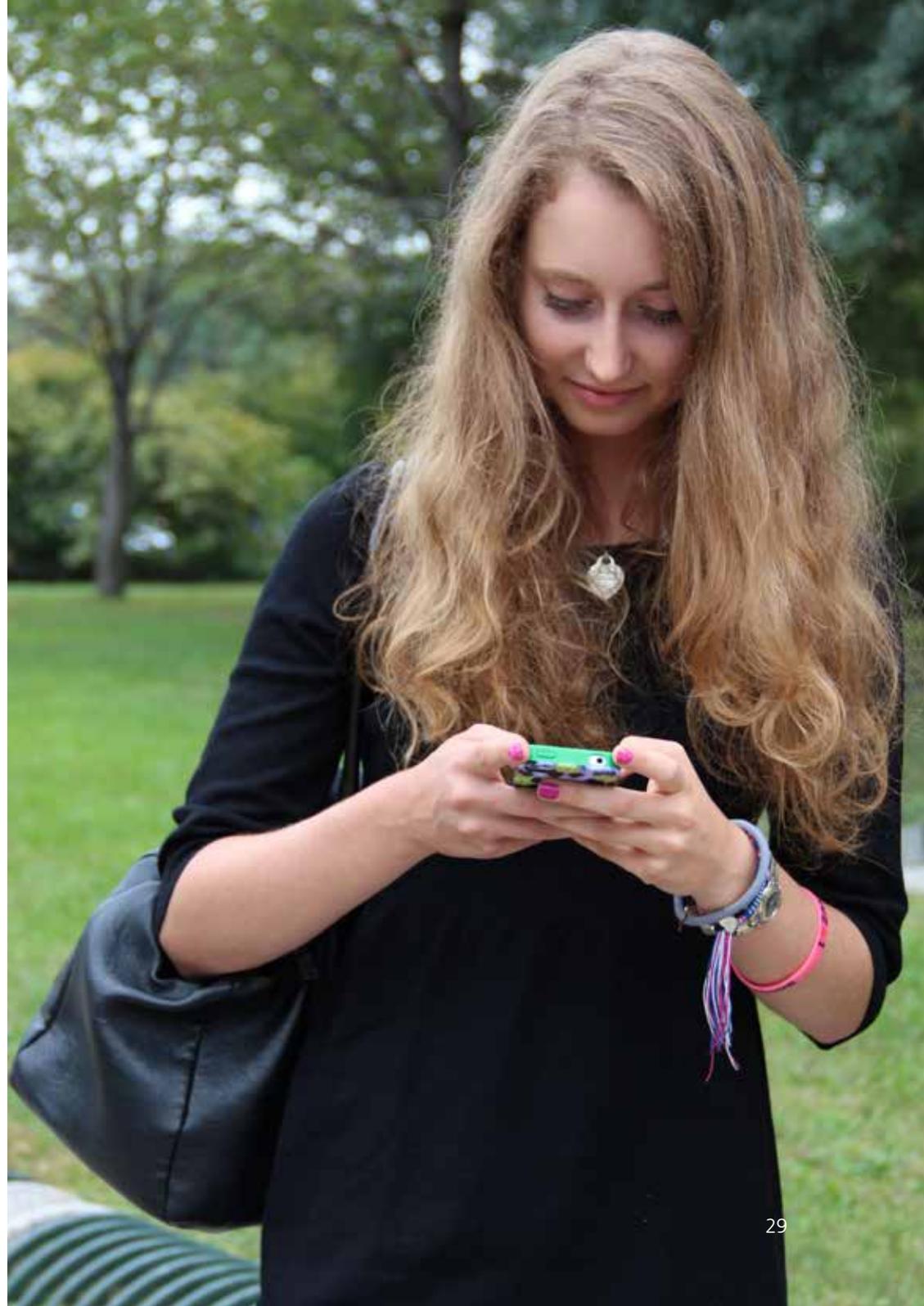
Please note that if you are going to get packages delivered to our office, this is the procedure you are required to follow:

1. Inform us that you are expecting a package at our office and the estimated delivery date.
2. Since our office is not authorised to keep cash you are kindly requested to leave with us the cash amount you are supposed to pay at least a couple of days before the expected delivery date. Please note that if you don't respect this procedure, UCSC International will not accept the package and it will be sent back to the central post office (close to Linate Airport).

Telephone

The most convenient way to keep in touch with your new Italian friends and family back home is the mobile phone. You can purchase an unlocked GSM phone back home and get an Italian SIM card at a provider of your choice, such as TIM, Vodafone or Wind.

Only triband and quadband phones will work in Europe. Check with your home cell phone service provider to find out if your current mobile phone (once unlocked) can support a foreign SIM card. Once in Italy, you may look into signing up for a plan or simply getting a pre-paid/rechargeable service. If you do not have a GSM phone purchased at home you may also buy one at a reasonable cost once in Italy.



UCSC International Office
Piacenza-Cremona Campus
Via Emilia Parmense, 84
29122 Piacenza (PC)
Italy

Tel: +39 0523 599 106

Fax: +39 0523 599 441

› ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it

› <http://www.ucscinternational.it/>