

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 168 of 9 May 1989;

HAVING REGARD TO: Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 – “Regulations concerning the organization of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to promote the quality and efficiency of the university system”;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Pisa, issued with Rector’s Decree no. 2711 of 27 February 2012, as last amended by Rector’s Decree no. 498/2024 of 4 March 2024;

HAVING REGARD TO the “Procedures for the entry, stay, enrolment of international students and the related recognition of qualifications for higher education courses in Italy, valid for the academic year 2025–2026”;

HAVING REGARD TO: Resolution no. 67 of 21 April 2017 of the Academic Senate and Resolution no. 149 of 28 April 2017 of the Board of Directors, through which a favourable opinion was expressed for the activation, starting from the academic year 2017–2018, of the Foundation Course (FC), which includes two different study tracks: Foundation Course in Humanities (FCH) and Foundation Course in Science (FCS);

HAVING REGARD TO the programme guidelines of the Foundation Course, approved by Resolution of the Academic Senate no. 152 of 7 June 2024, following a favourable opinion of the Board of Directors expressed by Resolution no. 198 of 22 May 2024;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolutions no. 287 of 16 December 2025 of the Academic Senate and no. 536 of 23 December 2025 of the Board of Directors through which the activation of a third study track called “Foundation Course Social Science” (FCSS) was approved;

WHEREAS the University of Pisa aims to constantly strengthen its internationalization policy through the implementation of new strategies to increase the number of international students at our University;

CONSIDERING the international success of the initiative, characterised by an ever-increasing number of applications and enrolments, reaching 197 enrolled students for the academic year 2025–2026, which has allowed the University to position itself among the leading and most important providers of this programme at the national level;

CONSIDERING that admission to the Foundation Course does not require passing an entrance test, but only possession of a final upper secondary school qualification;

CONSIDERING the maximum capacity and the number of classrooms available, as well as the number of places foreseen for each class;

DEEMING IT APPROPRIATE to provide for the acceptance of a maximum of 320 applications divided as follows: 130 for the Foundation Course Humanities (FCH), 130 for the Foundation Course Science (FCS), 50 for the Foundation Course Social Science (FCSS) and 10 for the Foundation free choice modules (FCSM);

DEEMING IT APPROPRIATE for the FCH, FCS and FCSS to require the payment of the first instalment of €1016.00 in order to formalise the acceptance of the application for enrolment in the Foundation Course and to establish the deadlines for the payment of the subsequent instalments of €1000.00 each as follows: 31 January, 28 February, 30 March and 30 April 2027;

DEEMING IT APPROPRIATE to provide for a late payment fee of €100.00 in the event of payment after the above-mentioned deadlines;

DEEMING IT APPROPRIATE for the FCSM to require payment of €85.00 per credit, providing for the payment of 20% of the total to formalise acceptance of the enrolment application and the remaining 80% by 31 January 2027;

CONSIDERING that four separate rankings (one for each track) of eligible candidates will be defined based on the correctness of the submitted documents and the chronological order of submission of the applications;

DEEMING IT APPROPRIATE that the deadlines for the admission procedure shall be as follows:

1. submission of the application from 9 March 2026 until the total number of available places is reached, and in any case no later than 30 June 2026
2. payment of the first instalment and submission of the Responsibility Agreement within 7 working days from receipt of the confirmation of eligibility from the office
3. sending of the acceptance letter within 7 working days from receipt of the documentation requested in point 2;

DECREES

for the reasons indicated in the premises of this act, the Call for Applications for admission to the Foundation Course, a preparatory programme for university education, academic year 2026/2027, is hereby issued and constitutes an integral part of this decree.

The Rector
Prof. Riccardo Zucchi*

**Document digitally signed pursuant to the Digital Administration Code and related regulations*

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE FOUNDATION COURSE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

For the academic year 2026/2027 the University of Pisa intends to activate a preparatory programme for university education called the Foundation Course, aimed at:

- bridging the lack of schooling requirements for admission to Bachelor's and Single-cycle Master's degree programmes of the University for candidates holding a foreign qualification;
- compensating for the absence of certification attesting the passing of academic aptitude tests, where required in foreign systems of higher education and training;
- strengthening knowledge of the Italian language;
- filling educational gaps in subjects characterising the humanities, economic-legal or scientific areas;

The programme is particularly intended for:

- candidates holding an upper secondary school qualification obtained in Italy or abroad who are interested in improving the quality of their basic education in order to successfully attend university courses;
- candidates holding an upper secondary school qualification obtained abroad who have not reached the 12 years of schooling required for enrolment in a Bachelor's degree / Single-cycle Master's degree programme;
- candidates holding a United States High School Diploma (HSD) who have not passed the three "Advanced Placements" (APs) required for enrolment in Italian universities;
- candidates holding the "General Certificate of Education" (GCE) or the "International Certificate of Education" (IGCE) issued by official UK certification bodies, who have obtained at least 1 A-level out of the 3 required for enrolment in Italian universities.;
- students who in the school year 2026/2027 will attend the final year of upper secondary school and who will obtain the relevant qualification by 31/12/2026;

It is important to emphasise that, according to Annex I relating to the "Procedures for the entry, stay, enrolment of international students and the related recognition of qualifications for higher education courses in Italy, valid for the academic year 2025–2026", certificates of completion of preparatory courses cannot in any way compensate for the absence of a "Upper secondary school diploma or other qualification

obtained abroad and recognised as suitable" (Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and Presidential Decree 212/2005).

Art.1

Structure of the programme

The Foundation Course provides for classes from September 2026 to June 2027 for a total commitment of 288 hours of core courses taught in English and an Italian language course up to the maximum level of B2.

In order to obtain the final qualification, it is necessary to achieve 60 credits (CFC) divided as follows: 24 credits of Italian language (minimum level B1), 27 credits of compulsory subjects and 9 credits of optional subjects.

Each credit corresponds to 8 hours of teaching.

The study tracks with the related compulsory subjects and credits are as follows:

1. Foundation Course Science (FCS)
 - Basic Mathematical Language (9 CFC)
 - Physics (6 CFC)
 - Biology (6 CFC)
 - Chemistry (6 CFC)
2. Foundation Course Humanities (FCH)
 - Italian Literature I: an introduction (6 CFC)
 - History of Art: an introduction (6 CFC)
 - Italian Literature II: an introduction A (3 CFC)
 - Greek and Roman Archaeology (6 CFC)
 - Modern European History (6 CFC)
3. Foundation Course Social Science (FCSS)
 - Sociology and Contemporary Society (9 CFC)
 - Media, Technology and Society (6 CFC)
 - History of Citizenship (6 CFC)
 - Introduction to Political Science (6 CFC)
4. Foundation free choice modules (FCSM)

Free choice among all subjects, both compulsory and optional, available in the educational offer.

The optional subjects, available for all tracks and activated if chosen by at least five students, are the following:

- Introduction to philosophical thought (3 CFC)
- Introduction to Film History (3 CFC)
- Introduction to European Union Law (3 CFC)
- Ecology for Agriculture (3 CFC)
- Logic and Reasoning (3 CFC)
- Italian Literature: an introduction II B (3 CFC)
- Physics 2 (3 CFC)
- Aesthetics (3 CFC)
- Principles of Economics and Management (3 CFC)
- Geosciences (3 CFC)
- Globalisation and Contemporary Issues (3 CFC)
- Statistics for Social Sciences (3 CFC)
- Gender Studies, Culture and Society (3 CFC)
- Psychology and Society (3 CFC)

Art.2

Language of instruction

The courses, except for those of the Italian language, are taught in English.

Art.3

Attendance, classes and examinations

The FCH and the FCS are held in person. However, all courses (including Italian language courses) may be delivered in hybrid mode during the first semester for students awaiting the issuance of their study visa.

The FCSS is delivered online.

In order to be admitted to the examinations of FCH, FCS and FCSS, attendance is mandatory for at least 70% of the classes.

Justification of one or more absences is not foreseen except in exceptional cases, assessed from time to time by the directors of the respective programmes.

Art.4

Admission requirements and required documentation

1. Final upper secondary school qualification granting access to higher education in the country to which the school system belongs and obtained after at least 11 years of schooling. In the case of attendance of the final year of secondary school, the above-mentioned qualification may be submitted by 31 December 2026 and, in the meantime, it is sufficient to submit a school enrolment certificate and the report cards of the last two years.
2. English language certificate at level B2 obtained not earlier than 1 March 2024. The accepted certificates with the related minimum scores are the following: IELTS Academic (5.5), TEFL IBT (72), Cambridge English Qualifications (160), Duolingo (100).

The above-mentioned certifications are not required if the candidate:

- is a native English speaker
 - has attended at least the last two years of school in English
3. Declaration of Value relating to the final qualification or, alternatively, CIMEA Statement of Verification and Comparability or only Statement of Verification in the case that the qualification has been issued in one of the countries that signed the Lisbon Convention. The deadline for submitting the above-mentioned documentation is 28 February 2027.

N.B. If the qualification evaluator is able to verify the suitability and authenticity of the qualification by the above-mentioned deadline, submission of the documents referred to in point "3" will no longer be necessary.

4. Valid passport or, in the case of EU citizens, identity card. In both cases the document must have an expiry date not earlier than 31 March 2027.

Art.5

Fees and refunds

The enrolment contribution for the Foundation Course programmes (except FCSM) is €5016.00, divided as follows:

€1016.00 for admission purposes

€1000.00 by 29/01/2027

€1000.00 by 26/02/2027

€1000.00 by 31/03/2027

€1000.00 by 30/04/2027

Fees paid after the deadline will incur a late payment fee of €100.00, except for the FCSM.

The FCSM provides for payment of €85.00 per individual credit chosen. 20% of the total is due for admission purposes and the remaining part by 31/01/2027.

The first instalment is refundable only in case of refusal of issuance of the study visa by the competent Diplomatic Representation and subsequent communication of withdrawal by the student.

The above-mentioned refusal must occur no later than 31/10/2026 and must be certified (together with the date) through an official communication/letter from the above-mentioned Representation, which the student must send by e-mail to studyabroad@unipi.it.

Art.6

Deadlines and selection procedures

Applications for admission may be submitted by accessing the page <https://fcapply.unipi.it/> starting **from 9 March 2026 until 30 June 2026**.

The selection procedures are structured as follows:

1. submission of the application and documentation by the candidate
2. payment of the application fee in the amount of 30 euros within three working days, according to the instructions that will be provided to the student via e-mail.
3. evaluation of the application/documents and possible communication of eligibility and completeness of the same

4. request for payment of the first instalment of €1,016.00 and completion of the Responsibility Agreement, both to be carried out within 7 working days
5. sending of the acceptance letter within a further 7 working days, by which the candidate will be declared admitted to the programme.

Failure to comply with the deadlines referred to in point 2 and point 4 will result in the application being considered void and therefore rejected.

Art.7

Available places

320 places are available divided as follows: 130 for the Foundation Course Humanities (FCH), 130 for the Foundation Course Science (FCS), 50 for the Foundation Course Social Science (FCSS) and 10 for the Foundation free choice modules (FCSM).

After the expiry date of the call (30 June 2026), four separate rankings (one for each track) of admitted candidates will be defined based on the chronological order of submission of the applications.

If the candidate does not properly submit the application (which must result as "submitted"), leaving it, for example, in "draft", "blank", "inactive" mode, it will not be taken into consideration.

Art. 8

Minor students

Minor students must have a parent or legal guardian who stays with them in Italy until they reach the age of majority.

Art. 9

Information

For information about the Foundation Course programme, admission requirements and enrolment procedures, the International Cooperation Unit can be contacted at the e-mail address studyabroad@unipi.it

Art. 10

Person responsible for the procedure

Pursuant to Art. 4 of Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990 and subsequent amendments and additions, the person responsible for the procedure is Paola Cappellini, Head of the International Cooperation Unit of the Directorate for Teaching, Students and Internationalisation – Rectorate and Directorates. Candidates have the right to exercise access to documents according to the methods and terms provided by current legislation, as well as by the relevant University Regulation.

Art. 11

Processing of personal data

Pursuant to EU Regulation no. 679/2016, personal data, including those requiring particular processing, compulsorily provided, will be processed by the University of Pisa with predominantly computerised procedures, exclusively for the purposes and according to the methods described in the information notice attached to this call.

Attachments to the Call:

A) Information notice on the processing of personal data