



**Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree
Programme in
Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis**

UBonn – UCSC - UCLouvain – SLU

Handbook for AFEPA Students
Academic Year 2023-24

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1. Introduction

This handbook sums up the programme details of the AFEPA Master's programme and is accessible on the website of the programme (www.afepa.eu). The handbook aims at informing current students as well as those interested in the AFEPA Master's programme for future editions about the content of the AFEPA Master's programme and about its partner universities and organisations.

We particularly welcome any feedback from AFEPA students in terms of content so that we can improve future versions of this handbook.

2. Information on the AFEPA Master's Programme

2.1 Contact information

For the AFEPA coordination office at the University of Bonn, please contact: info@afepa.eu

Table 1: Contact persons at the main and associated academic partners

University	Name	Contact
Coordinator		
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn , Germany	Prof. Thomas Heckeley, Dr. Nicolas Gerber	+49 (0)228 73-3036 afeco@ilr.uni-bonn.de
Main Academic Partners		
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore , Italy	Prof. Paolo Sckokai	+39-0523-599290 paolo.sckokai@unicatt.it
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences , Uppsala, Sweden	Dr. Ruben Hoffmann, Dr. Jens Rommel	+46 (0)18 - 67 17 37 ruben.hoffmann@slu.se jens.rommel@slu.se
Université catholique de Louvain , Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium	Prof. Frédéric Gaspard	+32 10 47 36 78 frederic.gaspard@uclouvain.be
Associated Academic Partners		
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya , Spain	Prof. José M. Gil	+34-935521210 chema.gil@upc.edu
Pontificia Universidad Católica , Chile	Prof. Gustavo Anriquez	gustavo.anriquez@uc.cl
African Economic Research Consortium	Innocent Matshe	innocent.matshe@ercafrica.org

2.2 Programme Description

The Master's programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis (AFEPA) aims at providing a high-quality education in designing and assessing public policies targeted to the agricultural and food sector as well as the rural environment to excellent students from all over the world. It responds to the increasing need to better understand and anticipate the various and often complex socio-economic and environmental effects of these policies either in a functioning market economy as in the European Union or in economies in a development or transition phase world-wide.

The programme focuses on economic analysis, but with a strong multidisciplinary component. By the setting of criteria of admission and by courses in advanced microeconomic theory and quantitative methods, the programme provides the basis for applied policy analysis founded on state-of-the-art economic models and econometric tools. The AFEPA Master's programme offers complementary, specialized teaching and research expertise of professors from several universities for the analysis of agriculture, food and environmental policy issues within a unified framework exposing students to policy traditions in different European countries.

The AFEPA Master's programme offers a two-year academic curriculum with integrated and advanced theoretical, methodological and empirical courses in economics and quantitative methods as well as in the five subject areas proposed below. To connect theory and methodology to practice, a problem-solving project is developed and presented as a Master's thesis at the end of the two-year curriculum.

The AFEPA programme is jointly organized by four European main partner universities and three associated partners. The AFEPA partner universities are recognized worldwide for the quality of their educational programme and scientific achievements in agricultural, environmental and economic sciences.

The AFEPA main partner universities are:

- [Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore](#) (UCSC) in Milano, Italy
- [Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität](#) (UBonn) in Bonn, Germany
- [Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#) (SLU) in Uppsala, Sweden
- [Université catholique de Louvain](#) (UCL) in Louvain-la-neuve, Belgium

The associated AFEPA partner universities are:

- [Pontificia Universidad Católica](#) (PUC) in Santiago, Chile
- [Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya](#) (UPC) in Barcelona, Spain
- [African Economic Research Consortium](#) (AERC) in Nairobi, Kenya

Structure

The 120 ECTS credits required to obtain the Master's degree of the AFEPA programme are structured into three blocks:

- a minimum of two semesters of studies (60 ECTS credits) at a **first main partner university**
- two semesters of studies (54 ECTS credits) at a **second main partner university** (including Master's thesis)
- two joint **summer schools** (6 ECTS) at partner universities

Some of the ECTS credits can also be earned from an associated partner university during the second academic year of the programme.

Major

Besides the **mandatory courses of min. 30 ECTS credits** in theory and methods, optional courses can be selected to form a **major of 30 ECTS credits** in the following thematic fields:

- Agri-food and trade policy
- Environmental and natural resource policy
- Agribusiness and market analysis

- Market and consumer research
- Development policy

An internship related to the Master's thesis during the second year of study can also be taken for a **6 to 15 ECTS credits** depending on the main partner university.

Language

The language of instruction is:

- English for: all the courses at SLU, UBonn and UCSC, most of the courses at UCLouvain and UPC
- French for: some of the courses at UCLouvain
- Spanish for: most of the courses at PUC

Examination can be organized in English at all partners.

Because a sufficient number of courses at UCLouvain and UPC are taught in English, knowledge of either French or Spanish is not necessary. Because most of the courses at PUC are taught in Spanish, knowledge of Spanish is necessary. Students speaking either French or Spanish, respectively, at the three universities not only have a wider selection of courses to choose from, but can also facilitate everyday life.

2.3 Programme Objectives

Studying at two of the four main partner universities, students from Europe and from the rest of the world have the opportunity to establish a rich professional and academic network involving fellow students and teachers associated with the programme. In this and other ways the programme assists students to obtain access to universities in Europe and beyond in the pursuit of further academic qualifications to undertake agricultural, food and environmental policy analysis. Students have also the possibility to spend a short study or research period at the three associated partner universities and may be able to integrate their academic credits earned into their academic curriculum at one of the two main partner universities. A professional exposure can be obtained with an internship at an associated non-academic partner organization during the second year of the Master's programme.

Academically the programme distinguishes itself from existing programmes in Europe by:

- being policy oriented,
- being based on state-of-the art training in microeconomics and micro-econometrics,
- combining the analysis of agricultural, food and environmental policy issues within unified economic framework, however also exposing students to multidisciplinary approaches.

Learning outcomes

The Master's programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis trains graduate students that will be:

1. aware of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the performance and competitiveness of the agricultural and food sectors and other profit (market) and non-profit (non-market) activities in rural areas,
2. able to understand the fundamentals of recent economic theory as well as its strengths and weaknesses,
3. able to use and apply adequate methods and tools to address and analyze socio-economic and environmental problems that are observed or anticipated in the agricultural and food sectors and rural areas in different development contexts,
4. able to use complementary approaches from other disciplines when needed,

5. able to perform sound quantitative economic analysis and anticipate possible effects of policy and regulation reforms,
6. able to interpret results and derive policy implications and recommendations,
7. able to draw from European experience and expertise in designing and evaluating policy and regulatory reforms given the economic, social, environmental and ethical dimensions of the issues societies are facing, expressing structural change,
8. able to communicate their methods and results to both specialized and non-specialized audiences, hopefully in at least two European languages.

The main objective of the AFEPA Master's programme is that recipients are qualified to use and apply adequate methods to analyze socio-economic problems, formulate policy recommendations and understand the risks and consequences of any given economic policy measures, especially those oriented towards the agricultural and food sector, rural areas as well as natural resources and their environment. In particular, recipients are expected to be able to use and develop quantitative methods to perform rigorous socio-economic and environmental assessment of these public policies, and provide sound and relevant policy recommendations to a better sustainable development of rural areas.

Career opportunities

Participants are qualified to take responsibilities in international, national and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations, consultancy firms, professional organizations and private companies such as banks, insurances and agricultural, environmental and food business. Because of the research orientation of the AFEPA Master's curriculum, they are also well prepared for doctoral studies.

2.4 Requirements, Application and Admission

Please note, the current funding period by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) ended. For the 2023 intake there will be no EMJMD scholarships available.

2.4.1 Admission Criteria

The AFEPA Master's programme is open to European and non-European excellent students. Candidates must agree to complete the academic curriculum in two consecutive academic years and according to the terms as specified in the student agreement.

To be admitted to the ERASMUS Mundus Master's Programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis candidates need to have:

- A **Bachelor's degree** or an equivalent academic degree of minimum three years of undergraduate study corresponding to 180 ECTS credits with a grade of at least an overall average "B" or equivalent. Students in their final year of their Bachelor's degree may be provisionally admitted in the AFEPA Master's programme on the condition that their Bachelor's degree is awarded prior to enrolment in the programme.
- A **minimum of 24 (ECTS credits) in economics gained in the Bachelor's degree** – including one course in microeconomics and one course in statistics. An additional introduction to agricultural, environmental or food sciences is recommended. Please make sure that your official bachelor's transcript either shows credit points according to the [ECTS credit point system](#) or else attach a diploma supplement that explains the credit point system of your university.
- **English proficiency test** results (not older than two years):

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): 90 on the Internet-based Test (IBT), with a minimum of 20 on the written part.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): an overall band IELTS score of at least 6.5, and no section below 5.5.
- A test deemed equivalent by the AFEPA Management Board (if you want to submit test results other than from the TOEFL or IELTS tests please obtain our confirmation of that particular test prior to sending your application package).

Note: Applicants from English speaking countries must provide an official letter from their university from which they graduated attesting that English is the media of instruction. It is upon the consortium's decision whether an English Test as described above must be submitted additionally.

2.4.2 Application Timetable

Application deadlines for **programme admission** for the following academic year is February 15, 2024 for non-EU applicants and March 31, 2024 for EU applicants.

2.4.3 Application Procedure

STEP 1: Before starting the application procedure, make sure you:

- have read the [admission requirements](#) carefully. The AFEPA consortium will apply the criteria very meticulously. If you have any questions, please contact the AFEPA coordination office at info@afepa.eu.
- are familiar with the [application deadlines](#) before starting your application.

STEP 2: Download the **application form** [here](#) and enter your details.

STEP 3: Be familiar with the first- and second-year **administrative and tuition fees**. Details can be found [here](#).

STEP 4: Make sure you dedicate enough time for this step to gather and prepare all the **necessary documents**, including:

- Copy of **identification** (e.g. ID, Passport)
- **CV**
- Copy of **academic transcripts and diploma** (including copy of original and translated certified copy if original is not in English, attach a diploma supplement that explains the credit point system of your university if it is not according to the ECTS credit point system)
- Copy of **school-leaving certificate** (high school certificate) (translated certified copy if original is not in English)
- Copy of **language certificate** ([see requirements](#))
- **Motivation letter** (no more than 300 words)

At this point, no paper version of any documents needs to be submitted. All documents however will have to be either a copy of an original (if the original document is written in English) or certified translated copy of the original (if the original document is written in a language different than English). The AFEPA consortium may ask applicants at a later date to send paper versions of their application documents including certified copies.

STEP 5: Complete your application form and send it together with the other necessary documents before the deadline to: afepa.application@ilr.uni-bonn.de.

Please send your application documents (application form, transcripts, certificates etc.) as **one single pdf-file**. This file must not exceed **5 MB**.

STEP 6: Wait. All applications will be reviewed by the academic board.

Selection of Applicants

The admission of applicants is based on decisions made by the Consortium Board. The Consortium Board will allocate the students among the four universities for the first semester based on students' preferences and the minimum requirements at each partner university.

The coordinator will conduct an initial filtering (based on minimum requirements) and submit the remaining applications for consideration by the Consortium committee. A preselection among the completed submissions is then made by the Consortium committee. The preselection of these students will depend on the excellence of their studies. A final list of students will be established in accordance with the [admission requirements](#).

The selection process will respect the principles of Euraxess "[European Charter for Researchers](#)" and the "[Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#)" including non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, recognition of qualifications, lifelong development and mobility experience.

Application Result

The result of the admission process for all applicants (from programme and partner countries) is sent out in March to each applicant of a non-European country and between April and June to applicants of a European country via email. The following outcomes are possible: accepted, not accepted.

2.4.4 Appeal procedure

AFEPA applicants have the right to appeal against the selection decision. For doing so, applicants should fill in an [appeal form](#) and send it to the AFEPA coordination office (info@afepa.eu) together with supporting documents (if necessary), within a period of 15 days starting from the day after the notification of selection results. The AFEPA Management Board will respond within one month after reception of the appeal.

2.4.5 Student Agreement

A Student Agreement between the AFEPA coordinator and the student enrolled in the AFEPA Master's programme explicitly indicates any academic, financial and administrative modalities related to the student's participation in the Master's programme and, if applicable, the award and usage of a scholarship. Mutual rights, obligations and responsibilities indicated in such Student Agreement is in accordance with those enforced in the partner institutions.

2.5 Programme Structure and Course List

The Master's programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis is a **two-year programme of 120 ECTS credits** and consists of:

- Compulsory courses, min. 30 ECTS credits
- Optional and supplementary courses, 54 ECTS credits
- 2 summer schools, 6 ECTS credits
- Master's thesis, 30 ECTS credits

The **core courses** provide the students with a shared background in microeconomics (including consumer theory, producer theory, general equilibrium theory, and welfare economics) and quantitative methods (including statistics and econometrics).

The **optional courses** broaden and deepen the student's empirical and theoretical knowledge directly relevant for the economic analysis of agricultural, food and environmental policy issues. Some optional courses require a good command over the subject covered in the core courses of the first year and should therefore be taken during the second year. The optional courses can form a **major subject area** for a minimum of **30 ECTS** credits. Subject areas are the following:

1. agri-food and trade policy,
2. environmental and natural resource policy,
3. agribusiness and market analysis,
4. market and consumer research,
5. development policy.

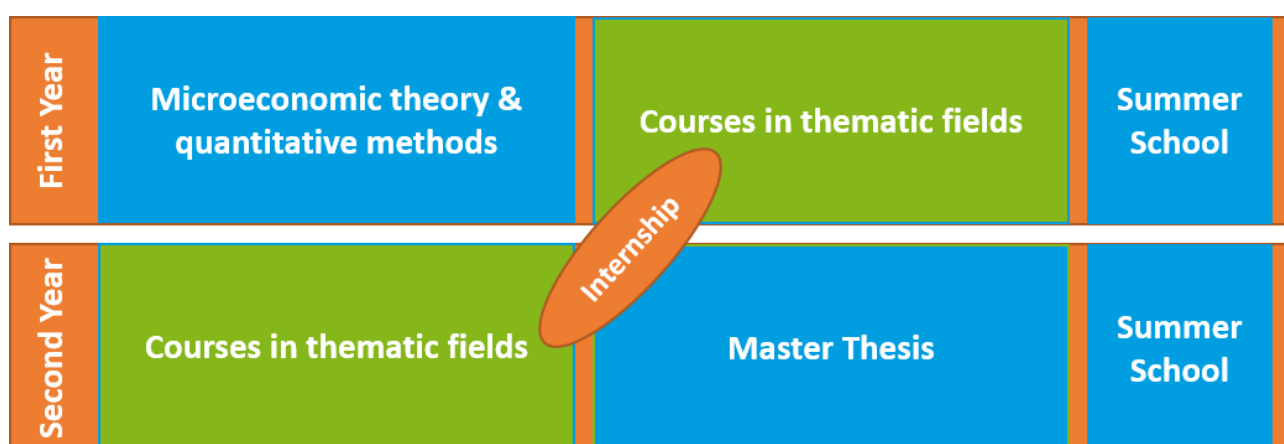


Figure 1. Structure of the Master's programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis

Supplementary courses may be in any other discipline recognized by the AFEPa Management Board to deepen or broaden the academic curriculum. Examples of such courses are Ethics, Environmental Law, Trade Law, Finance, Public Policy, Sociology, Statistics and Geographic Information System. Language courses can be recognized for a maximum of 5 ECTS credits in the academic programme at UCLouvain and 6 ECTS credits in the academic programme at UBonn and UCSC.

An **internship** during the second year of study can also be taken for 6 to 15 ECTS credits depending on the main partner university.

The **Master's thesis** shall draw on and deepen subjects covered in the courses of the programme. It has to be submitted and presented orally by the student at the end of the second year of studies. Students may adopt a theoretical or empirical approach, but are encouraged to address an original policy issue. Students can spend a shorter exchange study period for writing their thesis as part of their second academic year. The master thesis topic needs to be in correspondence with the 2nd year university if an associated academic partner is involved. You can find all the information regarding the Master's thesis below in section [2.8 Master's Thesis](#).

Both at the end of the first and second year, all Master's students are gathered at one of the main partner universities for a **summer school** consisting of a one-week programme of presentations, workshops, lectures and field trips. Please find more information on the summer school in section [2.7 Summer School](#).

Mobility

AFEPa students are associated with at least two of the four main partner universities participating in the

AFEPA Master's programme. In general, students spend their first academic year at one of the four main partner universities which offer the core courses in microeconomics and quantitative methods to obtain 60 ECTS credits. Students then spend their second academic year in one of the three other main partner universities to obtain 54 ECTS credits.

At the start of the Master's programme each student is associated with a faculty member with whom the student establishes a study programme according to the interest of the student, but also to establish appropriate depth, scope and consistency with respect to the courses to be followed.

To pass from the first to the second year of the Master's programme students need in general to have completed the core courses and acquired at least 18 ECTS credits in optional and supplementary courses. A minimum of 48 ECTS credits earned at the first main partner university are required to be accepted in the second main partner university.

Table 2: Specifics on the Academic Structure of the AFEPA Master's Programme

1. Compulsory Courses (30 ECTS): at all main partner universities		
1.1.	Microeconomic Theory (12-22.5 ECTS)	
1.2.	Quantitative Methods (5-15 ECTS)	
1.3.	Other Compulsory Courses (5-15 ECTS)	
2. Optional Courses (40 ECTS): subject areas which are partner specific (see * Not possible at SLU.		
Table 3 and Figure 2)		
2.1.	Agri-food and trade policy (20-37,5 ECTS)	
2.2.	Environmental and natural resource policy (15-42 ECTS)	
2.3.	Agribusiness and market analysis (25-52 ECTS)	
2.4.	Market and consumer research (36-42 ECTS)	
2.5.	Development policy (15-24 ECTS)*	
3. Supplementary Courses (14 ECTS): at all main partner universities		
3.1.	Language Courses (maximum 6 ECTS)	
3.2.	Other Courses (maximum 14 ECTS)	
4. Summer Schools (6 ECTS): at the end of the first and second academic years		
5. Master's Thesis (30 ECTS): at the end of the Master's programme		

* Not possible at SLU.

Table 3: Participation of the AFEPA Main Partner Universities in the Academic Programme

Academic programme	Main Partner University	ECTS
1. Compulsory Courses		30
1.1. Microeconomic Theory	SLU, UBonn, UCLouvain, UCSC	12-22.5
1.2. Quantitative Methods	SLU, UBonn, UCLouvain, UCSC	5-15
1.3. Other Compulsory Courses	UBonn, UCLouvain, UCSC	5-15
2. Optional courses		40
2.1. Agri-food and trade policy	SLU, UBonn, UCLouvain, UCSC	20-37,5
2.2. Environmental and natural resource policy	SLU, UBonn	15-42
2.3. Agribusiness and market analysis	SLU, UBonn, UCSC	25-52
2.4. Market and consumer research	UBonn, UCSC	36-42
2.5. Development policy	UBonn, UCLouvain	15-24
3. Supplementary Courses^a		14
3.1. Language Courses	All	≤ 6
4. Summer Schools	Annual rotation	6
5. Master's Thesis	All	30
Total	All	120

Courses in thematic fields	UBonn	SLU	UCL	UCSC
Agri-food and Trade Policy	x	x	x	x
Environmental and Natural Resource Policy	x	x		
Economic analysis of agribusiness	x			x
Market and Consumer Research	x	x		x
Development Policy			x	

Figure 2. Thematic fields of the AFEPA programme

Between academic years, partner universities organize the mandatory **summer schools** (6 ECTS credits in total).

Courses from main academic partner universities are fully described on the [AFEPA website](#) under the according links, including their title, university code, ECTS credits, study year, study semester, content, learning outcomes, key competences, teaching method, work load, instruction language, and grading organisation.

2.6 Academic Calendar

The official AFEPA Master's programme academic school year lasts from September 1 until September 30 of the following year but may vary due to the differences in academic calendars of the partner universities. If a scholarship is awarded, the maximum duration is 24 months. Students are requested to be present approximately four weeks before the start of the academic year to participate in orientation sessions and fulfil administrative obligations (e.g., registration, insurance, rental contract, residence permit). Click [here](#) to find the links to the current academic calendar of the partner universities.

2.7 Summer School

The summer school is the main programme-related event where all students and many staff members involved in the AFEPA Master's programme meet together for a one-week period at one partner university. AFEPA students have to participate in two summer schools, one at the end of the first academic year and the second one at the end of the second academic year in the AFEPA Master's programme, and earn 6 ECTS credits for these summer schools. These events are organized each July or August at one partner university.

The summer school consists of a one-week programme of workshops, lectures and field trips. At the end of the first year of study students present their thesis's proposal, and at the end of the second year their Master's thesis for discussion by fellow students and participating faculty. These summer schools strictly use English to facilitate communications among students and faculty members from different origins. Find an overview on topics and locations of past summer schools [here](#).

2.8 Master's Thesis

The Master's thesis shall draw on and deepen subjects covered in the courses of the AFEPA Master's programme. It has to be submitted and presented orally by the student at the end of the second year of studies. Students may adopt a theoretical or empirical approach, but are encouraged to address an original policy issue.

At the end of the first academic year during the first summer school AFEPA students present in English a tentative research proposal for their Master's thesis. This research proposal contains a research question with some specific testable hypotheses, a method to test these hypotheses, the dataset that would be eventually used, the anticipated results and conclusions, an outline of the thesis and a bibliography. The

thesis supervisor is a member of the faculty at the student's second-year university. In addition, one member of the faculty at one of the other participating institutions is associated with the thesis project. Students have thus the opportunity to receive comments and suggestions from at least two faculty members as the work on their thesis progresses.

Students write their Master's thesis in English and according to the second-year university regulations on Master's thesis including regulations on length, format, etc.

The final thesis is defended at the end of the second academic year of the AFEPA Master's programme in conjunction with the AFEPA summer school. If, for any reason, the student cannot defend the thesis in conjunction with the summer session, the defence takes place in the partner university where the student attends the second academic year.

Guidelines related to the Master's thesis procedures at the partner universities can be found [here](#).

2.9 Degree Awards

AFEPA students obtain a joint certificate entitled *European Master in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis* and two official Master's degrees, the first Master's degree from their first-year main partner university and the second Master's degree from their second-year main partner university from which they have earned their required 120 ECTS credits.

Earning 60 ECTS credits in each of the two AFEPA main partner universities is the general rule to obtain the official Master's degree from each of the two main partner universities. However, derogation to this general rule can be granted on a student-by-student basis for academic reasons, notably if students wish to participate in a short-term mobility period at an associated partner university during their second academic year and if credits earned during that mobility period are to be integrated into the 120 ECTS credit total.

Students in the double degree pay the respective university tuition fees at each of their two main partner universities. Students who are not Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree scholarship holders, have also the opportunity to benefit from an Erasmus Plus scholarship at their first-year university for mobility at their second-year European university. [Table 4](#) lists the titles of the Master's degree conferred by each main partner university.

Table 4: Title of Master degrees awarded to AFEPA students by main partner university

Partner Institution	Title of Degree Awarded
Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany	Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Agricultural and Food Economics
Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet, Uppsala, Sweden	Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics (120 credits) with a major in Economics (Ekonomie masterexamen med huvudområdet Nationalekonomi) OR Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Economics (Masterexamen med huvudområdet Nationalekonomi)
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy	Master of Science in Agricultural and Food Economics (Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Gestione del Sistema Agro-alimentare)
Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium	Master in Agriculture and Bio-industries, professional focus (Master en sciences agronomiques et industries du vivant, à finalité spécialisée)

The Diploma of the official Master's degree is fully based on the ECTS system and accompanied by an annexe that lists all the courses and the thesis's title along with the ECTS credits earned and the grades received. The accompanying diploma supplement contains more general information on the language of instruction, the institutions delivering the courses, the examination procedures and all other relevant details such as the ECTS system.

The graduation ceremony is organized at the end of the summer school for the AFEPA Master’s programme but also by the respective second-year university in accordance with the rules of that university.

2.10 Fees and Scholarships

2.10.1 Fees

The fees are composed of university tuition fees, language course fees (not mandatory), summer school fees and any other possible fees like small administrative fees. Neither books purchases, nor costs of field trips, travel and accommodation are included in the following fees.

University Tuition Fees

The tuition fees listed in [Table 5](#) to [Table 68](#) are the annual tuition fees which each partner university charges for the admission of a student into the AFEPA Master’s programme for the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The first and second-year university fees vary depending on whether a student spends the first or second year at that specific university. While the amounts listed include all fees related to a student’s one-year attendance at a partner university (mainly registration, login, and library and sport facilities), some partner universities may charge an additional fee for exam and/or thesis registration as well as diploma delivery.

Table 5: First-year university tuition fees and payment deadline per partner university for the 2023-24 academic year

UNIVERSITY	TYPE OF FEE	NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS	EUROPEAN STUDENTS	DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT
SLU	Tuition fee	85.000SEK (≈8.200€) ^a	0€ ^b	August 31-
	Administrative fee	0€	0€	
UBONN	Tuition fee	0€	0€	September 30
	Administrative fee	995€	995€	
UCLouvain	Tuition fee	835€	835€	October 31
	Administrative fee	66 €	66 €	
UCSC	Tuition fee	3.300€ – 6.050€ ^b	6250 €	First instalment due by August 31
	Administrative fee	156€	156€	

(a): Depending on the student’s country of origin. For more information, please check the SLU website

(b): 3.300€ (African students), 6.050 € (Other non-European students)

Table 6: Second year-university tuition fees and payment deadline per partner university for the 2023-24 academic year

UNIVERSITY	TYPE OF FEE	NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS	EUROPEAN STUDENTS	DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT
SLU	Tuition fee	0€	0€	August 31-
	Administrative fee	0€	0€	
UBONN	Tuition fee	0€	0€	September 30
	Administrative fee	660€	60€	
UCLouvain	Tuition fee	835€	835€	October 31
	Administrative fee	66 €	66 €	
UCSC	Tuition fee	3.300€ – 6.050€ ^b	6250 €	First instalment due by August 31
	Administrative fee	156€	156€	

(a): Depending on the student’s country of origin. For more information, please check the SLU website

(b): 3.300€ (African students), 6.050 € (Other non-European students)

Table 7: First-year university tuition fees and payment deadline per partner university for the 2024-25 academic year

UNIVERSITY	TYPE OF FEE	NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS	EUROPEAN STUDENTS	DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT
SLU	Tuition fee	125.000SEK (≈10.500€) ^a	0€ ^a	June 30-
	Administrative fee	900 SEK (≈75€)	900 SEK (≈75€)	
UBONN	Tuition fee	0€	0€	September 30
	Administrative fee	1.000€	1.000€	
UCLouvain	Tuition fee	2505€ ^c	835€	October 31
	Administrative fee	66 €	66 €	
UCSC	Tuition fee	3.300€ – 6.050€ ^b	6250 €	June 30
	Administrative fee	156€	156€	

(a): Depending on the student's country of origin. For more information, please check the SLU website

(b): 3.300€ (African students), 6.050 € (Other non-European students)

(c): Depending on the student's country of origin. For more information, please check the [UCL website](#)

Table 8: Second year-university tuition fees and payment deadline per partner university for the 2024-25 academic year

UNIVERSITY	TYPE OF FEE	NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS	EUROPEAN STUDENTS	DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT
SLU	Tuition fee	0€	0€	August 31-
	Administrative fee	900 SEK (≈75€)	900 SEK (≈75€)	
UBONN	Tuition fee	0€	0€	September 30
	Administrative fee	650€	650€	
UCLouvain	Tuition fee	2505€ ^c	835€	October 31
	Administrative fee	66 €	66 €	
UCSC	Tuition fee	3.300€ – 6.050€ ^b	6250 €	June 30
	Administrative fee	156€	156€	

(a): Depending on the student's country of origin. For more information, please check the SLU website

(b): 3.300€ (African students), 6.050 € (Other non-European students)

(c): Depending on the student's country of origin. For more information, please check the [UCL website](#)

The university tuition fees and other possible university administrative fees are paid directly to the student's first- or second-year AFEPA main partner university according to the deadline indicated in the tables above. Confirmation of the tuition fees and payment deadline are communicated to the admitted students during registration at the main partner university.

While no university tuition fees are charged at associated partner universities, students may incur small administrative fees. They are also expected to cover their travel and accommodation expenses during their study stay.

Language Course Fees

Students interested in taking a preparatory language course prior to the start of their first or second academic year or during the academic year (at UBonn in German, at UCLouvain in French, at SLU in Swedish and at UCSC in Italian) can sign up for a multiple-week intensive course prior to the first semester at a cost ranging from 250-500 Euros depending on the university. Students are not required to take such a language course, but are recommended to do so. Experience has shown that it is a useful way to already become acquainted with a university and the city in which it is located before the official start of the academic year: in addition

to the linguistic aspect, the language course generally also includes applied elements, in which participating students learn about the local culture through field trips or sessions on how to open a bank account, where to register as a student, where to find the cheapest cell phone plan, and other such practical aspects.

The eventual language course fees are paid directly to the organizing institution upon signing up for the language course.

Summer School Fees

For each of the two mandatory [summer schools](#), the AFEPA coordination office may charge a fee of 300€ per student to cover expenses related to the renting of the venue, inviting guest speakers, and organizing field trips and social events. This fee does not cover travel and accommodation for attending these summer schools. The summer school fees are paid to the AFEPA coordination office prior to the beginning of the summer school.

Other Fees

Depending on their country of origin, students may also incur administrative expenses related to application documents, visas and residence permits. Such expenses are not included in the university tuition fees.

2.10.2 Student Scholarships

Please note, the current funding period by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) ended. For the 2024 intake there will be no EMJMD scholarships available.

Erasmus Plus Mobility Scholarships

Erasmus Plus is a European Union student exchange programme, which aims at promoting the intra-European mobility of students. It does so in a variety of ways but the most relevant aspects for potential AFEPA students is that it also offers the possibility to obtain an Erasmus Plus scholarship for their study stay at their second-year partner university. Students planning to attend their second academic year at another European partner university can then request their first-year university to be considered for such mobility scholarship for one semester or the entire second academic year in the programme. Students selected for such mobility scholarship would receive a monthly stipend in the amount of 300€ when attending their second year in Sweden or Italy, 250€ when attending their second year in Belgium or Germany.

Each partner university has its own administrative procedure in selecting students for an Erasmus Plus mobility and therefore scholarship. This generally includes an interview and a test of the language abilities of the interested students. In addition, an important selection criterion is generally the academic performance expressed in a grade point average or academic mean. Note that the country of origin is not a discriminatory criterion. First-year students will be informed about the possibility and the procedure to follow to request such mobility scholarship at their first-year partner university.

More information on third party scholarships you can find [here](#).

2.11 Erasmus Mundus Alumni Club

We encourage all AFEPA students, past and present, to check out the Erasmus Mundus Alumni Club's activities and to connect with alumni of the AFEPA and other programmes at www.em-a.eu.

2.12 Useful Links

- [European Students' Union](#): The ESU is the umbrella organization of 49 national unions of students from 38 countries and through these members represents over 10 million students. The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO.

- [European Association of Agricultural Economists](#): The EAAE brings together agricultural economists and others interested in the problems of the agricultural and food industries and rural development in Europe.
- [International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences](#): The IAAS is at the moment one of the world's largest student organizations and one of the leading agricultural student associations.

2.13 Social Media

The AFEPA Master's programme also maintains a LinkedIn page at the following link: www.linkedin.com/groups/13525801

2.14 Programme and Summer School Evaluations

Each summer, at the end of the summer school, AFEPA students have the possibility to fill in a survey to provide feedback to the AFEPA Master's programme and the current summer school. There is also a short session where AFEPA students and faculty members can openly express their own view on the AFEPA Master's programme.

3. Information on Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany

3.1 Contact Information

Dr. Nicolas Gerber
Institute of Food and Resource Economics (ILR), University of Bonn
Nussallee 21
53115 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +49 (0)228 73-3036
E-mail: afeco@ilr.uni-bonn.de

3.2 General Information on Germany

Germany, officially the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland), is a country in Central Europe. It is bordered to the north by the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic Sea; to the east by Poland and the Czech Republic; to the south by Austria and Switzerland; and to the west by France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The territory of Germany covers 357,021 square kilometers (137,847 sq mi) and is influenced by a temperate seasonal climate. With 83.1 million inhabitants in 2021, it has the largest population among member states of the European Union, and it is also home to the second-largest number of international migrants worldwide.

A region named Germania, inhabited by several Germanic peoples, has been known and documented before AD 100. Beginning in the 10th century, German territories formed a central part of the Holy Roman Empire, which lasted until 1806. During the 16th century, northern Germany became the center of the Protestant Reformation. As a modern nation-state, the country was first unified amidst the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. In 1949, after World War II, Germany was divided into two separate states - East Germany and West Germany - along the lines of Allied occupation. Germany was reunified in 1990. West Germany was a founding member of the European Community (EC) in 1957, which became the European Union in 1993. It is part of the Schengen zone and adopted the European currency, the euro, in 1999.

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of sixteen states (*Bundesländer*). The capital and largest city is Berlin. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, G8, G20, OECD, and the WTO. It is a major power with the world's fourth largest economy by nominal GDP and the fifth largest in purchasing power parity. It is the second largest exporter and third largest importer of goods. In absolute terms, Germany allocates the second biggest annual budget of development aid in the world, while its military expenditure ranked eighth. The country has developed a high standard of living and established a comprehensive system of social security. It holds a key position in European affairs and maintains a multitude of close partnerships on a global level. Germany is recognized as a scientific and technological leader in several fields.

3.2.1 Travel to and in Germany

3.2.1.1 Air

[Frankfurt International Airport](#) (FRA) is the main gateway for transcontinental flights, although [Düsseldorf](#) (DUS) and [Munich](#) (MUC) also receive their share of overseas air traffic. Berlin also has an international airport, [Berlin-Brandenburg \(BER\)](#). There are also sizeable airports in [Hamburg](#) (HAM), [Cologne/Bonn](#) (CGN) and [Stuttgart](#) (STR), and smaller ones in such cities as Bremen, Dresden, Erfurt, Hannover, Leipzig, Münster-Osnabrück and Nuremberg.

Some of the budget airlines – Ryanair in particular – keep their fares low by flying to remote airports, which may be little more than recycled military airstrips. The biggest of these is [Frankfurt-Hahn](#) (HHN), which is actually near the Moselle River, about 110km northwest of Frankfurt.

Airlines

The main airline serving Germany is the national flagship carrier and Star Alliance member [Lufthansa](#) (LH), which operates a vast network of domestic and international flights and has one of the world's best safety records. For contact information in your home country, see the airlines' websites.

Low-budget airlines rule the skies these days with some fares as low as a taxi ride. UK-based Ryanair and easyJet as well as German airline Germanwings/Eurowings offer the most flights to Germany.

3.2.1.2 Train

Long-distance trains connecting major German cities with those in other countries are called EuroCity (EC) trains. Seat reservations are highly recommended, especially during the peak summer season and around major holidays.

[Eurailpasses](#) are convenient and good value if you're covering lots of territory in a limited time. They're valid for unlimited travel on national railways (and some private lines) in 18 European countries and also cover many ferries, e.g. from Finland to Germany, as well as KD Line's river cruises on the Rhine and Moselle. Available only to nonresidents of Europe, they should be bought before leaving your home country, although a limited number of outlets, listed on their website, also sell them in Europe.

In the US, Canada and the UK, an excellent resource for all sorts of rail passes and regular train tickets is [Rail Europe](#), a major agency specializing in train travel around Europe. In Australia, passes are sold by [Flight Centre](#).

Eurostar

Linking the UK with continental Europe, the [Eurostar](#) needs only two hours and 20 minutes to travel from London to Brussels, where you can change to regular or other high-speed trains, such as the French Thalys or the ICE (InterCity Express) train, to destinations in Germany.

Eurostar fares depend on such factors as class, time of day and season. Children, rail-pass holders and those aged between 12 and 25 and over 60 qualify for discounts. For the latest fare information, including promotions and special packages, check the website or contact Rail Europe.

Interrail Passes

Residents of Europe can get an [InterRail](#) Global Pass for travel in 30 countries except the one they live in. Similarly, single country passes are also available, for any destination aside from country of residence. These passes, worthwhile only if you plan to really clock up the kilometers, must be validated at a train-station ticket window before you begin your first journey. The best deals are available to people under 26.

3.2.1.3 Bus

Riding the bus to Germany is slower and less comfortable yet generally cheaper than taking the train. However, fares often can't beat cheap flights offered by the budget airlines. Still, buses have their use if you missed out on those super-low air fares, you're travelling at short notice, or you live in an area poorly served by air or train.

In Germany and throughout Europe, [Flixbus](#) offers relatively cheap bus rides, especially if you book in advance. [Eurolines](#) is the umbrella organization of 32 European coach operators whose route network serves 500 destinations in 30 countries, including most major German cities. Its website has links to each company's site with detailed fare and route information, contact numbers and, in most cases, an online booking system.

If Germany is part of your European-wide itinerary, a [Eurolines Pass](#) may be a ticket to savings. It offers unlimited travel between 40 cities within a 15- or 30-day day period. From mid-June to mid-September, the cost is 355/465€ (15/30 days) for those over 26 and 300/385€ for travelers under 26. Lower prices apply during the rest of the year; the website has full details. The pass is available online and from travel agents.

3.2.1.4 Car

When bringing your car to Germany, all you need is a valid driving license, your car registration certificate and proof of insurance. Foreign cars must display a nationality sticker unless they have official Euro-plates (number plates that include their country's Euro symbol). Some German areas are designated as low emission zones, including some districts of Bonn. Therefore, you need a green environmental sticker indicating that the car complies with certain emission standards. The sticker can be ordered [here](#) for usually 15€ and will be sent via post. You also need to carry a warning (hazard) triangle and first-aid kit.

There are no special requirements for crossing the border into Germany. Under the Schengen Agreement there are no longer any passport controls for cars coming from the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Denmark and Austria. Controls do exist, if arriving from Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland, but these are a mere formality.

3.3 Specific Information about Bonn

Bonn is the 19th largest city in Germany. Located in the Cologne/Bonn Region, about 25 kilometers south of Cologne on the river Rhine in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, it was the de facto capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990 and the official seat of government of united Germany from 1990 to 1999. Starting in 1998, many national government institutions were moved from Bonn to Berlin. Both houses of the German national parliament, the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, were moved along with the Chancellery and the residence of the President of Germany.

Bonn remains a center of politics and administration, however. Roughly half of all government jobs were retained as many government departments remained in Bonn and numerous sub-ministerial level government agencies relocated to the former capital from Berlin and other parts of Germany. In recognition of this, the former capital now holds the title of Federal City ("Bundesstadt").

Bonn has developed into a hub of international cooperation in particular in the area of environment and sustainable development. In addition to a number of other international organizations and institutions, such as, for instance, the IUCN Environmental Law Center (IUCN ELC), the city currently hosts 20 United Nations institutions. Among these are two of the so-called Rio Conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The number of UN agencies in Bonn, most of which are based at the newly established United Nations Campus in the city's former parliamentary quarter on the banks of the Rhine, continues to grow. The most recent agency was started in 2007 in Bonn as the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

Bonn is the seat of some of Germany's largest corporate players, chiefly in the areas of telecommunications and logistics, i.e. Deutsche Telekom & Deutsche Post DHL. Simultaneously, Bonn is establishing itself as an important national and international center of meetings, conventions and conferences, many of which are directly related to the work of the United Nations. A new conference center capable of hosting thousands of participants was completed recently in the immediate vicinity of the UN Campus.

From 1597 to 1794, Bonn was the residence of the Archbishops and Prince-electors of Cologne, and is the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven (born 1770).

3.3.1 How to Get Around

Three airports (Frankfurt/Main, Düsseldorf and Köln/Bonn) are connecting Bonn to the world.

From Köln/Bonn Airport

The airport Köln/Bonn is only 35 km away and can easily be accessed by Bus 670 (Airport Bus). The bus departs every 20 to 30 minutes - from the airport directly to Bonn Main Station. The ticket can be purchased at ticket machines or with the bus driver (note: with the semester ticket of UBonn you only have to pay a surcharge of 3,30€; it may only be paid in cash!).

From Düsseldorf Airport

It is easiest to travel to Bonn by train (Deutsche Bahn). Trains depart about every 20 minutes. The ticket price is between 14, 20 ("NRW-Tarif") and 22 Euros (single trip). It takes about one hour.

From Frankfurt/Main Airport

The best way to travel to Bonn from the Frankfurt airport is also by train. Trains depart at least twice an hour. The trip takes between 1:15h and 2 hours. Ticket prices amount to 33 to 60 Euros (single trip).

Travelling by Car

The most important access road is Motorway A 3 Cologne-Frankfurt. (A = Autobahn/motorway). To reach Bonn, use exit Bonn/Siegburg, then follow A 560 and A 59 ("Airport Motorway"). Another alternative is A 61, then A 565. Coming from Belgium, the Netherlands and the region of Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) use A 4 and A 555. Bonn is surrounded by a motorway ring road which facilitates fast access to the city center.

[Parking in the city center](#)

Important addresses for your navigation system are the following:

Institute:

Institut für Lebensmittel- und Ressourcenökonomik
Nussallee 21
53115 Bonn

Examination Office:

Prüfungsamt Landwirtschaftliche Fakultät
Meckenheimer Allee 174
53115 Bonn

Student University Office:

Studierendensekretariat Universität Bonn
Poppelsdorfer Allee 49
53115 Bonn

Studierendenwerk:

Studierendenwerk Bonn
Lennéstraße 3
53113 Bonn

Travelling by Train

DB ([Deutsche Bahn](#)) is the biggest and most famous railway company in Germany. You will probably take one of their trains. Bonn is easily reached by rail. Your final destination is Bonn Central Station (Bonn Hbf). From here you can continue taking either the bus, the tram or the subway to your next destination.

If you want to use the ICE (high-speed train), then you must first go to Siegburg and from there you take tram 66 to Bonn. The suburban railway line 66 links Bonn to the stop at Siegburg of several ICE lines e.g. Frankfurt - Cologne.

Local Transport - Bus, Tram and Suburban Railway

The inner-city public transport company is called SWB. The public transport company of the region including Cologne and Bonn is called VRS. Bonn can also be reached by remote busses such as Flixbus and Co.

All companies offer free and useful apps for planning and checking your connections:

Website DB: www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml

Website SWB:	https://www.swb-busundbahn.de/en/english/
Website VRS:	https://www.vrs.de/en/
Website Flixbus:	global.flixbus.com/
Apps:	DB Navigator App, SWB easy.GO, VRS Auskunft, Flixbus

The **semester ticket**, also called the “**Studiticket**”, is a public transportation ticket for the entire VRS network (VRS ticket) as well as the whole of NRW (NRW ticket). **Your student ID is your Studiticket**. It allows you the use of all buses, streetcars and surcharge-free trains of the regional rail system (SPNV) in the contracted area, which includes subways and suburban railways (S-Bahn), regional trains (RB), regional express trains (RE) and the Mittelrheinbahn. However, it is not valid for traveling First Class as well as for IC/EC or ICE.

The Studiticket is valid for the full six months of a semester, so from April 1st to September 30th in the summer semester and from October 1st to March 31st in the winter semester. It is valid around the clock, on all holidays and during the semester breaks.

Note: Your preliminary student ID is only valid for 14 days within the VRS network starting on April 1st or October 1st each year!

The General Student’s Committee (AStA) informs you about further conditions (e.g. taking additional people with you): Follow [this link](#).

[Here](#) you can find an overview of the railway network (Remember: No IC/EC and ICE!).

Discovering Bonn by Bicycle

Most students of University Bonn use a bike to go around the city. Possible places to buy/to repair used bikes are the following:

- Bike market (organized by AStA): www.asta-bonn.de/Fahrradmarkt
- Bike House (by Caritas): www.bike-house-bonn.de/

You can also search for other bike flea markets (Fahrradflohmarkt) in Bonn or Cologne online or search for bikes online (e.g. [kleinanzeigen](#)).

The national cycling organization ADFC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad Club) provides information about bicycle rentals and service stations in Bonn. The Bonn branch of the ADFC has developed proposals for bicycle outings and organizes tours in and around Bonn.

Local branch of the cycling organization: www.adfc-bonn.de

Rhine Cruises

When visiting Bonn do not miss a boat trip on the Rhine. For individual or group trips contact one of the following shipping lines:

[Bonner Personenschiffahrt \(BPS\) – Köln-Düsseldorfer \(KD\) – Personenschiffahrt Siebengebirge eG](#)

3.3.2 Obtaining a Resident Permit

Registration at the City Bonn Registration Office

Everyone staying in Bonn longer than three months needs to [register with the local Residents' Registration Office](#) (“**Einwohnermeldeamt**”). Registration is required by law:

- Latest two weeks following your move-in date into an accommodation with a valid address (A valid address is a place of residence where you can receive mail and be reached personally. Addresses of hotels, hostels or the like are not accepted.)
- When changing your residence within the same town, you have to update your registration with your new address within two weeks.

- If you move to another city in Germany, a cancellation of your old address will happen automatically after your registration there.
- The registration has to be done personally by the declarant. For the registration you need to make an appointment! (Hint: on weekdays around 7.30 – 8 a.m., canceled appointments are automatically made available again for the same day; Note: If you only receive an appointment later than two weeks after moving in, don't worry, it normally won't be a problem as authorities know about the high demand of appointments in the beginning of the semester. However, be aware that you need the confirmation of registration issued by the "Einwohnermeldeamt" for other purposes, e.g. opening a bank account).

Where to go?	With appointment: Bürgeramt der Stadt Bonn (Registration Office) Berliner Platz 2 53111 Bonn
What to bring?	– Passport – Filled registration form (please see here) – Apartment tenant confirmation "Wohnungsgeberbestätigung" (see here) (This is a written confirmation of your landlord or landlady, stating that you live/have lived at his/her property. The landlord or the landlady has an obligation to cooperate! When you move in or out of one of the student dormitories from the "Studierendenwerk Bonn", the property manager will fill in the "Wohnungsgeberbestätigung")
What will you get?	– Confirmation of registration (Anmeldebestätigung) – Vouchers for free / reduced entrance fees to some attractions in Bonn – Personal tax identification number (send by post after 1-4 weeks)

Registration with the Immigration Office

Persons residing in Bonn longer than three months have to register with the Immigration Office ("Ausländeramt").

- **Students from the EU/EFTA** need a registration with the City of Bonn.
- **Students from non-EU and EFTA countries** must apply for a residence permit with the Immigration Office (Ausländeramt). For more information, check out the [website](#). The DAAD also gives a good overview about visa [here](#).

Where to go?	Ausländeramt (Registration Office) Oxfordstraße 19 53111 Bonn Applying for a residence permit
When to go?	Make an appointment by phone: +49 (0)228 - 77 60 00 or via email: auslaenderamt@bonn.de Mon., Tue., Thu., Fri. 8:00-12:00 am, Tue., Thu. 14.00 -16.00 pm
What to bring?	– Confirmation of registration "Anmeldebestätigung" (see above) – Passport – Letter of admission / your student ID – Proof of health insurance – Two passport-sized photographs

- Proof of financial security while studying in Bonn (This could entail, for example, your ERASMUS grant and a confirmation of support from your parents. As a rule, € 585 per month is required as proof of stability.)
- Money to pay the process fee, between 60-120 €

What will you get? Residence permit

Attention: This list (What to bring) is for guidance only and does not guarantee completeness. It is your responsibility to take care of a visa / residence permit and all necessary documents. Do not enter the country on a Schengen or tourist visa! A tourist visa cannot be converted into a visa or residence permit for education or training purposes.

A residence permit is granted for a limited period of time and must be extended by the *Ausländeramt*. It is valid for at least one year and usually lasts no longer than two years.

TIP: Normally, it takes quite a lot of time to book an appointment at the Residents' Registration Office. Therefore, you should go through the International Office of the University and ask for help. There, documents can be prepared and also translated in English for you.

3.3.3 Health insurance

Students in Germany are required by law to have valid health insurance. In order to enrol at a German university, you must first provide proof that you have valid health insurance.

For students of EU-countries and EEA-countries:

It may be possible to carry over your home country's health insurance if Germany has a social security treaty with your country. Please contact your current health insurance company in your home country in order to be sure that your health insurance will be accepted in Germany. If you already have European health insurance, it should be accepted in Germany as well. If this is the case, a German public health insurance company will confirm the insurance from your home country (exemption letter from the statutory health insurance). This confirmation is necessary in order to enrol at the University of Bonn.

For students of non-EU-countries:

If you do not have valid health insurance, you must obtain a valid health insurance policy through a German health insurance company. As long as you are not 30 years old, and did not pass your 14th semester at university, you can decide between a public health insurance or a private health insurance. The fee of the public health insurance is about 130 €/month and does NOT depend on your financial status.

You find general information about health insurances for example on the following websites:

- [Prepare your studies - health insurance](#) (Source: Deutsches Studierendenwerk)
- [DAAD](#)
- [GermanyVisa](#)

Centrally located in Bonn, you will find the following health insurance companies which also offer special services for students:

TK (Techniker Krankenkasse) - Contact person: Herr Lukas Baumann, Clemens-August-Str. 2, 53115 Bonn, Phone: 040-46 06 51 09-152, E-Mail: Lukas.Baumann@tk.de, [Website TK Lukas Baumann](#)

AOK - Studentenservice Bonn, Heisterbacherhofstraße 2, 53111 Bonn, Phone: 0228 - 511 2450, [Website AOK](#)

Barmer GEK - Welschnonnenstraße 2, 53111 Bonn, Phone: 0800 333 0060 or from abroad +49 202 568 3306 (English speaking service), [Website Barmer GEK Insurance for Students](#)

Students who are older than 30 years, or who have already reached their 14th semester must obtain private health insurance in order to enrol at the university. Usually, a private health insurance is more

expensive than public health insurance because the cost depends on your age and your state of health. [Care Concept](#) and [MAWISTA](#) are recommended insurance companies, but we strongly recommend you to compare the fees of different private health insurance companies. You should also contact a public health insurance provider to ask if a voluntary health insurance policy might be possible.

Please note that it is not possible to change from a private health insurance to a public one!

3.3.4 Opening a Bank Account

We recommend opening a bank account right after your arrival in Bonn in order to directly be able to effectuate transactions such as your monthly rent and your semester contribution fee.

What to bring?

- Passport
- Letter of admission from the university or student ID
- Confirmation of registration "Anmeldebestätigung"
- For Deutsche Bank, find all the information [here](#)

What will you get?

- A bank account that you can use for monthly payments like rent etc.
- A debit card (You can use it to pay i.e. in supermarkets and to deduct money from your account. Be careful to only use the ATM from your bank, it will be marked by the bank logo. Otherwise, you may have to pay (sometimes high) fees.)

How much does it cost?

Sparkasse (Friedensplatz 1, 53111 Bonn):

If you are younger than 25, you might get a bank account for free.

If you are older than 25, costs are 5€ per month and some fees for certain transactions. Please go to the Sparkasse directly to find out the exact costs.

Deutsche Bank (Kaiserplatz 7-9, 53113 Bonn):

As an EU citizen, you might get a bank account for free if you are under 30.

Otherwise, costs are 5.90€ per month and some fees for certain transactions but most of them are included in the monthly fees.

According to new laws, it is necessary to indicate the personal tax identification number (short TIN, German: "Steueridentifikationsnummer" or "Steuer-ID") in order to open a bank account. This TIN is automatically sent to you by post after registration at the city office. However, this process can take some time, depending on the information between 1-4 weeks.

So, if you are planning to open a German bank account, please keep that in mind and be sure to check the options and necessary documents at the bank of your choice. Some banks, such as Deutsche Bank or Commerzbank, accept it when you submit the tax identification number within 6 weeks after opening the account.

Make sure that you have access to money even without a German bank account (or rather until you can open an account), for example to pay the first rent.

If your card ever gets stolen (or lost), please have it locked as soon as possible by calling 116 (24h). If the person does not speak English ask for someone who does.

Blocked Accounts:

Many international students from non-EU countries must open a Blocked Account as proof (at Embassies or Foreigners' Offices) of their sufficient financial funds.

A Blocked Account is a bank account that does not allow any transactions until the day you have arrived in Germany. Per month, one-twelfth (934€) of the total amount (11,208€/year) on the account is available.

For general information, visit the [Study in Germany Website](#).

Service providers include [FINTIBA](#) (with approval by the German Federal Foreign Office) and [expatrio](#).

3.3.5 Other Practical Matters

Visa

Students from non-EU/EFTA countries require a student visa for their stay in Germany. Those students should apply for this at the [German embassy or consulate in their home country](#) at least 6 weeks before their departure.

Budget

To obtain a residence permit in Germany, you will also need evidence of sufficient funds or scholarships that will cover your living expenses during your study period in Germany (about € 585 per month). Upon your arrival, please make sure that you have at least € 600-750 at your disposal for the following costs:

- **Social contribution:** When enrolling at the University of Bonn, all students must pay a so-called social contribution of currently about € 323. This contribution is neither a registration nor a student fee. Among other things, it includes a travel ticket for all public transportation ("[Semesterticket](#)") in Bonn and the surrounding areas and is valid for one semester (April through October or October through March).
- **Rent:** In the first few days of your arrival, you must pay the first month's rent which ranges from € 300 to € 450.

All of the payments mentioned above - except for the first rent at a student dorm - must be paid through bank transfer. It is not possible to pay cash or with credit cards. Therefore, you should open a bank account at a local bank as soon as possible after your arrival.

Living expenses

Although Bonn is not the most expensive city in Germany, the costs of living are relatively high. Of course, this depends on individual rent costs and life style. All in all, you should calculate average monthly living expenses of about € 970.

Arrival

We recommend to arrive at least **one week prior** to the beginning of the semester - or, if you participate in our [Intensive Language and Orientation Course](#), on the **arrival day (1st September)**. Please avoid to arrive on weekends and late in the evening as the availability of contact persons is better on weekdays.

Please note: To make sure that the [international tutor \(Ausländertutor\)](#) of your dormitory will have your keys, you should **contact her or him at least 2-3 weeks before your arrival** and let them know the exact date and time of your arrival. This is especially important if you plan to arrive outside the regular office hours of the Studierendenwerk (Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m.-4 p.m.).

If you arrive outside office hours or on a weekend without having informed your international tutor or if you arrive after 10 p.m. you will not be able to move into your room and will need to arrange an overnight stay yourself.

3.4 Bonn University

The **University of Bonn** (German: *Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn*) is a public research university located in Bonn, Germany. Founded in 1818 the University of Bonn is today one of the leading universities in Germany. The University of Bonn offers a large number of undergraduate and graduate programmes in a range of subjects. Its library holds more than two million volumes. The University of Bonn has 540 professors and 38.043 students. Among its notable alumni and faculty are eight Nobel Laureates, two Fields Medalists, twelve Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize winners, Pope Benedict XVI, Joseph Goebbels, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche and Joseph Schumpeter.

Bonn University is not a campus university – the buildings are spread over the whole city – and most of your lectures and tutorials will take place on “Campus Poppelsdorf”, where the institutes of the Faculty of Agriculture are located.

Further information on the University of Bonn

- The University of Bonn introduces itself: on the [university's website](#), you can find more [information about our university](#), its history and the varied opportunities our university offers for students and scholars.
- [The Academic Calendar](#) informs you about current and upcoming semester terms and other dates at the university.

3.5 The Department of Economic and Agricultural Policy

The chair for economic and agricultural policy focuses its research on analyzing agricultural and food policies. While continuing research on more traditional agricultural policy issues, newer projects cover environmental impacts of agriculture, rural development issues and trade in agricultural and food commodities. Policy impact analysis is an established research field, mainly based on economic simulation models but increasingly enriched and expanded by econometric analysis. Our research is embedded in the thematic concept of the faculty, specifically the areas of "Mathematical Modelling of Agricultural Systems", "Balanced Dairy Systems" and "Agricultural Systems: Ecosystem Services and Risks".

Course Choice

As AFEPA Students in Bonn, you participate in the [Master Programme Agricultural and Food Economics \(AFECO\)](#). Information about each course (such as learning content, learning objectives, ECTS, etc.) can be found in the [course book](#).

You can listen freely to all courses, but taking an examination is only possible after registration on BASIS. There are separate rules for examinations conducted during the semester – a withdrawal of the examination, once you are registered on BASIS, is not possible here. In contrast, for exams at the end of the semester, withdrawal is possible until one week before the respective examination date. There are specific deadlines you have to keep in mind when it comes to the registration of your courses and the registration of your exams.

Click on the following links for further information about:

- [Deadlines registration](#)
- [Examination period](#)
- [Examination office](#)

For more information about your study program, i.e. how to align courses over the whole study program or what specifications can be chosen, please check the [AFECO website](#).

3.6 Student Life

In the following paragraphs you will find general information about living in Bonn as well as specific information about our social support programme for foreign students offered by the International Office. If you have questions regarding your stay in Bonn you can always get help from the help desk! [Click here to get to the Help Desk](#).

IT-Services

UNI – ID: A few weeks after the enrollment, you will not only receive your official student ID card by post, but also your login data (Uni ID + Password) which you will need in order to use most of the online services of University Bonn – i.e. email, BASIS & eCampus or Wi-Fi on the campus. Therefore, keep them well!

In order to manage your account (i.e. changing password), visit this website:

gosa.gosa.uni-bonn.de/gosa/index.php

Further information about the IT-services can be found on this website:

www.hrz.uni-bonn.de/en?set_language=en

Basis & eCampus: On [BASIS](#) you will find the possibility to manage your courses and exams. To set the page to English, just click the little UK-Flag on the top right. Make sure the right semester is selected.

Registration of courses, registration of exams, as well as information about place and time of courses can all be found here. You can also manage your personal data and your contribution account (semester fee). Furthermore, your grades and the Transcript of Records can also be found here.

On [eCampus](#), most of the lecture slides, assignments and other materials of your courses will be uploaded. In some courses the teacher will tell you a password in the first class, which you need to access the specific course. On eCampus, you have access to your internal emails.

Where to go? [basis.uni-bonn.de/](#) and [ecampus.uni-bonn.de/](#)

When to go? - After you received your login information
- You can look up information on BASIS beforehand

What you need? - Uni-ID (first part of your Uni-email; s7.....)
- Password

Email: To access your Uni-Bonn emails visit: [mail.uni-bonn.de](#), enter your Uni-Bonn email address (s7....@uni-bonn.de) and your password. It is also possible to choose the design. (You can also access your Uni-Bonn emails via [eCampus](#); **Attention:** All important emails concerning your studies will be sent to this email. If you do not want to check your account on a regular basis, please use the possibility of forwarding the emails to your personal email account. For that, visit: [gosa.gosa.uni-bonn.de/gosa/](#))

Internet & Wi-Fi on campus: There are wireless areas surrounding the university buildings. Information about how to set up your internet connection and WLAN/Wi-Fi on your computers and mobile devices can be found [here](#). If you experience any **problems concerning the IT-services** of University Bonn, don't hesitate to contact the support from the **HRZ** ("Hochschulrechenzentrum"):

Where to go? Wegelerstrasse 6 (IT-Helpdesk)
53115 Bonn
Support-Hotline: +49 (0) 228 73 2751
info-hrz@uni-bonn.de

When to go? Mon – Fri: 8:00 a.m. – 18:00 p.m.

Library

The University of Bonn has two libraries – the [Main Library \(ULB\)](#) and the [MNL Branch Library](#). The Branch Library for medicine, natural sciences and agriculture (MNL) contains books and periodicals on the specialist areas medicine, natural sciences, IT, and agriculture science. This is most likely your place to go. The MNL is situated on Campus Poppelsdorf.

Addresses:

Main Library (ULB)
Adenauerallee 39-41
53113 Bonn

Telephone: +49 (0) 228 73 7525

MNL Branch Library

Nußallee 15a
53115 Bonn

Telephone: +49 (0) 228 73 3405

Here you can find the homepage of the main library: [www.ulb.uni-bonn.de/en](#).

Studierendenwerk

This independent public institution is running the student dorms, the gastronomic facilities and other student facilities. The Studierendenwerk Bonn is the contact point for students when it comes to the social framework conditions of their studies.

The “**Mensa**” is the number one place to go if you do not want to cook yourself. They offer cheap, good and varied dishes during the week.

During your studies you will most likely eat at CAMPO Campusmensa Poppelsdorf as it is located right next to our institutes.

CAMPO Campusmensa Poppelsdorf

Endenicher Allee 19

53115 Bonn

Mon – Thu: 11:30 – 14:30

Fri: 11:30 – 14:00

AStA (General Student's Committee)

The General Students' Committee (AStA, short for “*Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss*” in German) is the university-wide student representative body. The committee represents student interests before the university, society and politics, and its members are elected by the student government.

You find more information about their tasks and departments (cf. Foreign Students Department) by following this link: www.asta-bonn.de/AStA

Currently, the **AStA office** is situated in a container next to the **CAMPO Mensa Poppelsdorf** (Endenicher Allee 19, 53115 Bonn; open Mon – Fri: 10:00-15:00). Next to it, in the basement of the mensa, you also find the **AStA store** (open Mo.-Fr. 11:00 a.m. – 15:00 p.m.). Here you can buy writing utensils at reasonable prices.

German language classes for international students

The university offers different possibilities for improving and extending their German skills to international applicants and students.

Normally, you have to register online for your language class at the University, as there are huge number of students in Bonn and a limited number of free classes, you should register early.

There are three different **offers by the University** for registered students:

1. [Courses at the University Language center \(SLZ - Sprachlernzentrum\)](#)
2. [Courses offered by the international office](#)
3. [Interactive learning software “Rosetta Stone”](#)

There are usually waiting lists! If you cannot get in, send Ms. Hammer an email to put you on the waiting list.

Contact: Ms. Sonja Hammer
Tel: +49-(0)228 73 77 08
Poppelsdorfer Allee 53
53115 Bonn
Germany

Alternatively or additionally, students may use **apps**, such as Duolingo, Babbel, Rosetta Stone, Memrise, or meet with a tandem partner to improve their German. **Tandem language learning** means that two students with different native languages work together to learn and practice each other's language in a bilateral setting.

The [General students' Committee](#) (AStA) and the [language center](#) (SLZ) at Bonn University help you finding a “*Sprachtandem*”.

International Club

The [International Club](#), run by the International Office, is a great place to meet German and international students. During lecture periods (and also once in a while during the Semesterferien), people from all over the world come to chat, to read newspapers, to use our three Internet terminals or to simply have fun. The International Club organizes student orientation activities as well as parties at the end of each semester, film nights, excursions, visits to companies, concerts, etc. All Students are welcome to participate by paying a small fee. Check out our [current programme](#) online.

You will also find the programme on the faculty's noticeboards, at the International Office and in a leaflet. If you want to sign up for events, please contact the International Club:

Poppelsdorfer Allee 53 (Junction: Argelanderstraße)

53115 Bonn

Opening hours (during the semester): Mo-Thu, 6-11p.m.

Tel: +49-(0)228 739356 or 262875 (answering machine), E-Mail: club@uni-bonn.de

International Student Associations

At the University of Bonn, numerous international student associations exist - and they are looking forward to your contribution! You can find an overview of the various international student associations as well as [student groups](#) in Bonn.

The [International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences](#) (IAAS) is of particular importance for students in agricultural and related sciences around the world. [IAAS Germany](#) has two committees, one at the University of Bonn and another one at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart. If you are interested in joining a meeting, write an email to iaas.bonn@gmx.de. In addition, the German association for students in agricultural and related sciences [VDL](#) offers interesting activities for students in Bonn.

3.6.1 Accommodation

Upon arrival in Bonn and as long as you do not have a permanent place to stay, you can opt for a hotel, hostel or the youth hostel (Jugendherberge), a cheaper alternative.

Tel: +49-(0)228-289970

Fax: +49-(0)228-28997-14

E-Mail: bonn@jugendherberge.de

Website: www.jugendherberge.de/jugendherbergen/bonn-438/portraet

Max Hostel:

Maxstraße 7

53111 Bonn

Tel: +49-(0)228-823578

E-Mail: info@max-hostel.de

Website: www.max-hostel.de

Accommodation during the semester

It can be difficult to find affordable accommodation in Bonn, especially for international students arriving at the beginning of a new semester when many newcomers are looking for a place to stay. However, there are also many different ways to find a room:

1. Student dormitories run by the Studierendenwerk Bonn

All students regularly enrolled at the University of Bonn (as well as those planning to enroll in the forthcoming semester) can apply for accommodation in one of the [Studierendenwerk's dormitories](#). This gives newcomers

the chance to find an affordable place to stay. You just need to fill out the [application form](#) provided by the Studierendenwerk. It is possible to file a general application for all of the dorms, but you can also give a ranking of your preference among the dorms. At present, students are generally allowed to stay in the dorms for a maximum of six semesters. For further information on the individual dorms and on the application procedure, contact the Student Services Agency.

Studentenwerk Bonn AÖR
Department for Student Accommodation (Studentisches Wohnen)
Lennéstraße 3
53113 Bonn
Tel: +49-(0)228-737163
E-mail: wohnen@stw-bonn.de
Office Hours: Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 13 p.m.-16 p.m.

2. Room placement from the AStA

Room offers from private vendors are collected by the Sozialreferat of the AStA.
AStA Sozialreferat
Endenicher Allee 19 (Container, Room 6)
Tel.: +49-(0)228 73 7036
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 12 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Website: www.asta-bonn.de/studienplatztausch-wohn-jobboerse.html

3. Private rooms or flats

If you want to share an apartment or rent a private room or flat, check out the local newspapers, the *General-Anzeiger* and the *Bonner Rundschau*. The city magazine, *Schnüss*, published on Saturdays, might also be a good source, especially for rooms in shared flats (so-called *Wohngemeinschaften* or WGs).

Also try the following links:

- www.wg-gesucht.de
- www.studenten-wg.de
- Facebook Groups like “Uni Bonn WG Börse”, “WG & Wohnung Bonn gesucht”

4. Other dormitories

In Bonn, there are also various other dormitories run by private institutions or the churches. You can apply directly to the addresses that you can find under [this link](#). There you can also find their websites for further information.

3.6.2 Sports

The University of Bonn offers a large variety of different courses and facilities to keep the students and staff active and healthy. If you would like to participate, make sure you get your semester card and book courses immediately when booking opens in the beginning of each semester (You will find the dates online).

Follow this link and click on “Sportangebot” to get an overview of all courses: www.sport.uni-bonn.de/

4. Information on the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

4.1 Contact information

Francesca Lucchi

Tel. +39- 0523-599436

Tel. +39-0372-499162

E-mail: francesca.lucchi@unicatt.it

Professor Paolo Sckokai

Tel. +39-0523-599290

Fax +39-0523-599282

E-mail: paolo.sckokai@unicatt.it

4.2 General Information on Italy

Please consult the following websites for extensive information on Italy:

www.lonelyplanet.com/italy

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy

www.italia.it/en/home.html

4.2.1 Travel to and in Italy

4.2.1.1 Air

Italy's main intercontinental gateways are Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport (www.adr.it/fiumicino) and Milan's Malpensa airport (www.milanomalpensa-airport.com). Both are served by non-stop flights from around the world. Venice's Marco Polo airport (www.veniceairport.it) is also served by a handful of intercontinental flights.

Dozens of international airlines compete with the country's revamped national carrier, Alitalia, rated a 3-star airline by UK aviation research company Skytrax. If you're flying from Africa or Oceania, you'll generally need to change planes at least once on the route to Italy.

Intra-European flights serve plenty of other Italian cities; the leading mainstream carriers include Ita Airways, Air France, British Airways, Lufthansa and KLM.

Cut-rate airlines, led by Ryanair and easyJet, fly from a growing number of European cities to more than two dozen Italian destinations, typically landing in smaller airports such as Rome's Ciampino (www.adr.it/ciampino).

Read more: www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/essential-information#ixzz4aT0avHL1

Airports near Cremona:

- Milano Linate - (140 km from Cremona)
- Bergamo - Orio al Serio - (100 km from Cremona)
- Milano Malpensa

From any of the above airports, take a shuttle bus to Milano Centrale railway station, and then a train to Cremona: please check the train timetable on <https://www.trenitalia.com/>.

The new Campus of Santa Monica, that is located in the city centre (via Bissolati, 74), is a 12-minute walk from the Railway Station.

4.2.1.2 Train

Regular trains on two western lines connect Italy with France (one along the coast and the other from Turin into the French Alps). Trains from Milan head north into Switzerland and on towards the Benelux countries. Further east, two main lines head for the main cities in Central and Eastern Europe. Those crossing the Brenner Pass go to Innsbruck, Stuttgart and Munich. Those crossing at Tarvisio proceed to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. The main international train line to Slovenia crosses near Trieste.

Depending on distances covered, rail can be highly competitive with air travel. Those travelling from neighbouring countries to northern Italy will find it is frequently more comfortable, less expensive and only marginally more time-consuming than flying.

Those travelling longer distances (say, from London, Spain, northern Germany or Eastern Europe) will doubtless find flying cheaper and quicker. Bear in mind, however, that the train is a much greener way to go – a trip by rail can contribute up to 10 times fewer carbon dioxide emissions per person than the same trip by air.

4.2.1.3 Bus

Buses are the cheapest overland option to Italy, but services are less frequent, less comfortable and significantly slower than trains.

[Eurolines](#) is a consortium of coach companies with offices throughout Europe. Italy-bound buses head to Milan, Rome, Florence, Venice and other Italian cities. It offers a bus pass valid for 15/30 days that costs €375/490 (reduced €315/405) in high season and €225/340 (reduced €195/265) in low season.

This pass allows unlimited travel between 53 European cities, including Milan, Venice, Florence and Rome.

4.2.1.4 Car

Aside from the coast roads linking Italy with France and Slovenia, border crossings into Italy mostly involve tunnels through the Alps (open year-round) or mountain passes (seasonally closed or requiring snow chains). The list below outlines the major points of entry.

Austria From Innsbruck to Bolzano via A22/E45 (Brenner Pass); Villach to Tarvisio via A23/E55

France From Nice to Ventimiglia via A10/E80; Modane to Turin via A32/E70 (Fréjus Tunnel); Chamonix to Courmayeur via A5/E25 (Mont Blanc Tunnel)

Slovenia From Sežana to Trieste via SR58/E70

Switzerland From Martigny to Aosta via SS27/E27 (Grand St Bernard Tunnel); Lugano to Como via A9/E35

4.3 Specific Information about Cremona

UCSC campus mainly concerned by the AFEPa Master's programme is organized in Cremona, located about 80 kms south of Milano.

4.3.1 How to Get Around

Cremona can be reached by direct train from the "Centrale" Railway Station in Milano on a regular basis and also by car along the A1 two-lane highway.

For information about train timetables from Cremona call **199 892021**, working 24h, or go to <https://trenitalia.com/en.html>

From Cremona railway station ([map](#)) in order to reach the city center (10 minutes' walk) you may use Arriva Italia public transport, for info call **0372 442011** or **800 070166**, active from 7.00 am to 7 pm on weekdays or go to <https://cremona.arriva.it/en/orari-e-percorsi/>.

Local Transport

By car

Where to leave the car and the camper

[Car parks](#)

[Camping Cremona](#)

[Congestion Charge in the city centre](#) (**Permanent Cremona** gates work every day from 0.00 to 24.00

Temporary Cremona gates work on working days (Monday/Friday) from 9.00 to 16.00, on Saturday and not working days from 0.00 to 24.00.

By bus

You can purchase bus tickets online (download the Arriva Italia ID card), at the bus station (Piazza delle Tranvie) or at any authorized shop (i.e. newsagent's and tobacconist shop). There are different kinds of bus tickets. To see the complete list and the prices check online. For information on timetables and routes please visit: <https://cremona.arriva.it/titoli-di-viaggio>

By taxi

Contacts:

Radiotaxi Cremona: (+39) 0372 801444

For more information please visit: <http://www.radiotaxicremona.net/>

4.3.2 Obtaining a Residency Permit (non-EU students)

If you are staying in Italy for more than 90 days, you must go to a Post Office (see details below) within 8 days since your arrival in Italy (or any other Schengen country you've gone through preceding your arrival in Italy), in order to get the Yellow Kit (Residency Permit application forms) needed to get your Residency Permit (which is a living permit). The Kit contains a series of forms you must duly complete and return to the Post Office together with the following documents:

1. Photocopy of passport (all pages - one page per sheet, only front),
2. VISA documentation and any letter issued and stamped by the Consulate (make additional copies)
3. A certificate of enrolment issued by UCSC and stamped by the Consulate
4. Copy of health insurance coverage

Fill in the form (form 1, form page 1 to page 3) in capital letters with a black pen. Do not close the envelope as the post officer will check all the documents inside.

POST OFFICES IN CREMONA:

- Via Verdi 1 (city centre)
- Piazza IV Novembre (city centre)
- Piazza Fiume 7

When you hand in all the documents, you will have to pay:

- 70,46 € for the Residency Permit electronic card
- 30,00 € for the shipment tax
- 16,00 € for the revenue stamp (marca da bollo)

For more information visit the [website of Polizia di Stato](#).

The Post Office will give you a receipt of payment, duly stamped. You must hand in a copy of the receipt to our International Office. The post officer will also issue a letter giving you an appointment to get your Residency Permit (electronic format). On that date, you will have to bring 4 original passport pictures to the Immigration Office, together with the original documents of the copies previously sent to the Immigration

Office. You will find all the information regarding the procedure and the status of your case file, by inserting your username (codice assicurata) and password (codice ologramma) written on the Post Office receipt on www.portaleimmigrazione.it.

Alternatively, you can also check the status on the [website of Polizia di Stato](#). Once you get your Residency Permit, make a copy and bring it to our International Office. Information will be also given during Welcome Days and orientation sessions.

Please check the detailed information available at the following link <https://international.unicatt.it/ucscinternational-cremona-useful-information> and follow the PDF Guideline [HOW TO APPLY FOR PERMESSO DI SOGGIORNO](#) to fill in the documents for the Resident permit application.

4.3.3 Opening a Bank Account

If you wish to open a bank account, rent an apartment or buy an Italian telephone card you will need a tax code, **codice fiscale**. In order to request your **codice fiscale**, you can either: apply for it at the Italian Embassy in your country before your departure; or go to the Agenzia delle Entrate in Cremona (Via Amilcare Ponchielli, 2 Tel. +39 0372 808111) and submit a valid identity document (passport for non-EU students).

We recommend opening a bank account right after your arrival in Italy in order to be able to make money transactions such as payments of your monthly rent or of the tuition fees instalments.

For opening a bank account, you need the following documents:

- your passport
- your codice fiscale
- your proof of registration with the City of Cremona
- your proof of registration at the UCSC

4.3.4 The Ateneo+ University card

Your ateneo + student card functions as your university ID document and also allows you to access University facilities, take exams, register class attendance, and use the Library services, the university cafeterias and the book-loan services. Among other things, it will also allow you to access the various helpdesks at the University campuses.

An agreement between the University and the Banca Popolare di Sondrio also makes it possible to set up your card as a reloadable pre-paid bank card free of charge. The card will carry an IBAN number, although there is no obligation to open an account. When activated, your card can be used like any other bank card: With no additional charges, it can be used for small contactless payments, e.g. to recharge your phone credit, and pay tuition and university fees. It also allows you to receive refunds due for tuition and university fees, and payment of study grants, Erasmus grants and for on-campus work.

What it looks like

The ateneo+ card looks like a regular bank card. It carries data which identifies you: your photo, your student ID number, your full name and date of birth.

The card also carries the University logo and the and the payment network operator that the card is valid for.

4.3.5 Other Practical Matters

Before your arrival, you will be able to get to know better the town of Cremona and the Cattolica International activities and events through our Facebook Page:

[Study in Piacenza and Cremona at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore](#)

Average Cost of Living

Pizza and Beer: € 20
Ice-cream: € 3
Sandwich: € 5
Coffee: € 1,5
Cinema ticket: € 10

Telephone and Wi-Fi

The most convenient way to keep in touch with your new Italian friends and family back home is buying an Italian SIM card at cell phone providers such as TIM, 3, 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 cell phone (once unlocked) can support an international SIM card. Once in Italy, you may look into signing up for a plan or simply getting 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. Mobile phones shops also provide internet connection plans.

In campus you will benefit from our wi-fi connection. In town (city centre) you can have access to the wi-fi area AEMCOM free of charge: <http://www.wifiareacremona.it/>.

Codice Fiscale

If you wish to open a bank account, rent an apartment or buy an Italian telephone card you will need a Tax Code, Codice Fiscale. It is a code that identifies your presence in Italy. This card is issued by the Agenzia delle Entrate under presentation of a valid identity document and a copy of your Visa if you are not an E.U. student. Obtaining a Tax Code is free of charge. We recommend booking an appointment online by following the online [step-by-step guide](#).

Agenzia delle Entrate

Via Amilcare Ponchielli, 2
Tel.: (+39) 0372 1808111
@: dp.cremona@agenziaentrate.it

Post Offices

-Main Building: via Verdi, 1 – 26100 Cremona (city centre)
For more information please visit: <http://www.posteitaliane.it/>

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday: 8.30 - 19.00
Saturday: 8.00 - 12.30

Temporary Jobs

Cremona offers young people various opportunities for temporary jobs during their studies, including waitressing in restaurants, pizzerias and bars, shop assistant, educator or collaborator at the different harvests in the countryside in Spring and Summer. For more information, please contact:

Informagiovani PiacenzaCremona
Online interviews by appointment
Address: Via Palestro, 11 – Cremona
<https://informagiovani.comune.cremona.it/>
Tel. +39 0372 407950

Request your WELCOME STUDENT CARD at the Sportello Cr-U upon arrival!
Bring your student ID with you!
For more information visit: <https://informagiovani.comune.cremona.it/content/welcome-student-card>

4.4 Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

The Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (English: Catholic University of the Sacred Heart or Catholic University of Milan), known as **UCSC** or **UNICATT** or simply **Cattolica**, is an Italian private research university founded in 1921. Cattolica is the largest private university in Europe and the largest Catholic University in the world. Its main campus is located in Milan, Italy with satellite campuses in Brescia, [Piacenza](#), [Cremona](#), Rome, and Campobasso.

The University is organized into 12 faculties and 7 postgraduate schools. Cattolica provides undergraduate courses (Bachelor's degree, which corresponds to Italian Laurea Triennale), graduate courses (Master's degree, which corresponds to Laurea Magistrale, and specializing master) and PhD programs (Dottorati di ricerca). In addition to these, the University runs several double degree programmes with other institutions throughout the world. Degrees are offered both in Italian and English.

UCSC has been granted five stars by QS Stars, a global university rating system, in the following fields: employability, teaching, facilities and engagement.

The new Campus of the Cremona University, opened in 2020, is located in the city centre and has been realized by the renovation of a historical building, the fifteenth-century monastery of Santa Monica.

4.5 The Graduate School in Agricultural and Food Economics

SMEA-Alta Scuola di Management ed Economia Agroalimentare (Graduate School in Agricultural and Food Economics) at UCSC is one of the leading Italian schools in the field with European-wide reputation. It has a long experience in research concerning agricultural economics and policy, the industrial organisation of the food sector and the analysis of the functioning of the food supply chain. This experience relates both to academic research and to support for policy-makers, since the researchers of the team have developed a long experience of collaboration with international organisations (i.e., European Commission, OECD, FAO and World Bank), government agencies and producer associations. Here a link to the institutional [website of SMEA](#).

4.6 Student Life

Markets

Wednesdays and Saturdays 7.30am - 1.00pm (city centre - [Piazza Antonio Stradivari](#))

Cinemas

In Italy films are dubbed in Italian. Cinemas in Cremona project films mostly in Italian.

Anteo Spazio Cinema Multiplex

Address: Via Castelleone, 108, Cremona (inside Cremona Po shopping centre). Bus Line: C and L

For more information please visit: <http://www.cremona.spaziocinema.18tickets.it>

Theatre

Teatro Ponchielli

The theatre is important from a historical, architectural and artistic point of view and offers both Cremona's citizens and tourists a wide range of musical performances throughout the year, amongst concerts, opera and dancing - with drama, dancing, music performances, the Monteverdi Festival, the Strings of the Soul Festival- literature and music performance, the Festival of stringed instruments.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.teatroponchielli.it/>

Swimming pools, sports centres, and outdoor activities

Cremona was named the '2013 European Sports City.' The city offers many sports centres with indoor and outdoor swimming pools. It is also a great city for cycling.

New Fitness

Fitness gym, wellness house, thermarium

Contacts

Address: Via Antiche Fornaci, 10

Tel. +39 0372 1930456

Visit: new.fitness

Stradivari Sports Centre

Address: Via Milano, 13/G - 26100 Cremona

Tel. (+39) 0372 23461

@: cs.stradivari@csstradivari.it

The centre disposes of:

- Gym
- Solarium and sauna
- 3 swimming pools
- Courts, fields and pitches of the following sports: soccer, football, volleyball, beach volley, tennis, bocce, basketball

For more information please visit: <http://www.csstradivari.it/>

Sports Centre "San Zeno"

The centre was founded in 1991 and offers:

- 5 swimming pools
- 1 skating rink
- Courts, fields and pitches of the following sports: bocce, tennis, rugby, beach volley, soccer, tennis and football

Contacts

Address: Via San Zeno, 53

Tel. +39 0372 462719

@: info@centroportivosanzeno.it

For more information please visit: <http://www.centroportivosanzeno.it/>

Mc Fit

Address: Via Castellone 75

[Visit the website](#)

If you are already a McFit club member in your country, bring your McFit card with you!

Swimming Pool (Forus Cremona)

Address: Piazzale Azzurri d'Italia

Opening Time:

- Winter (October-May)
Monday-Friday: 6.30am - 2.30pm and 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Saturdays and Sundays: 9.00am - 5.00pm
- Summer(June-September)
Monday-Sunday: 9.00am - 7.30pm

Tourism/sightseeing Cremona

Cremona is one of those great Italian towns full of art and music tradition. This is a list of things not-to-be-missed when you are in Cremona:

Museums

The Violin Museum and the Archeological Museum

The Violin Museum is located in Piazza Marconi, one of the main squares of the city centre. From Tuesday to Sunday it offers musical performances in the concert hall and multimedia itineraries in an international atmosphere where the sound of the violin strings will enchant your ears.

For more information please visit: <http://www.museodelviolino.org/en/>

Opening hours:

Tuesday-Sunday: 10.00am – 6.00pm

(closed on: January 1, May 1 and December 25)

Contacts

Tel.: (+39) 0372 801888

@: <mailto:info@museodelviolino.org>

Booking tickets

Tel.: (+39) 0372 080809

@: marketing@museodelviolino.org

Churches

Duomo di Cremona: The Cathedral, its Baptistery and its “Torrazzo” (the highest bell tower in Europe)

For more information please visit: <https://www.turismocremona.it/en/churches-cremona>

Palaces and Squares

Piazza del Comune and Piazza Stradivari, Palazzo Civitanova, Palazzo Trecchi and Palazzo Comunale

For more information please visit:

[http://www.cremonacitta.it/it/itinerari cremona i palazzi/palazzi della citta di cremona arg 86.htm](http://www.cremonacitta.it/it/itinerari%20cremona%20i%20palazzi/palazzi%20della%20citta%20di%20cremona%20arg%2086.htm)

IAT Cremona Tourist Office

Address: Piazza del Comune, 5

Tel. (+39) 0372 406391

@: info.turismo@provincia.cremona.it

4.6.1 Housing

In Cremona you can find different housing solutions.

You can apply for a room at one of the urban residences for students in Cremona or rent a room in a flat.

Updated offers are available at the following links:

<https://universitycremona.com/residing/>

<https://www.cremonauniversity.it/alloggi>

<https://www.fabbricadigitale.com/stuneed/> (Stuneed app, to be downloaded on your mobile phone)

If you are already in Cremona, you can ask for support at the Informagiovani office (**Lo Sportello Cr_U | Cremona Città Universitaria**) in via Palestro 17: <https://www.cremonauniversity.it/contatti>

Temporary Housing

Violino Azul

Via Ugolani Dati, 1/C

Cremona (CR) Tel/: +39 338 4948000

Ostello L'Archetto

–Via Brescia 9 Cremona (CR)

Tel. +39 0372 807755

<http://www.ostellocremona.com/ostello/>

5. Information on the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

5.1 Contact information

Prof. Frédéric Gaspart
Faculté des Bioingénieurs
Place de la Croix du Sud, 2 bte L7.05.15
Université catholique de Louvain
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium
Tél: +32 47 36 78
Fax: +32 10 47 36 75
frederic.gaspart@uclouvain.be

5.2 General Information on Belgium

Belgium is a small country (30.539 km²) with a population of about 10 million. It has been a constitutional monarchy since 1830.

Brussels is the official bilingual capital of Belgium. Practically, this means that all the official indications like names of streets and traffic indications, fire prevention installations, fire exits, etc. are given in both languages: French and Dutch. The majority of the people in Brussels speaks French. The other language is Dutch. Dutch in Belgium is called Flemish but it is the same language as the one spoken in Holland, but with differences in accent, vocabulary and influences from French phrase-structures.

English is rapidly becoming an important language in Brussels because of the numerous international organisations (EU institutions, NATO, international companies, consultancy offices, professional organisations, etc.). In restaurants, hotels, cafés one should not have too many problems getting around in English.

5.2.1 Travel to and in Belgium

A University at the Heart of Europe

UCLouvain is an international university at the heart of Europe. Its headquarters are located in Louvain-la-Neuve, a new university town in the Walloon Region (the French-speaking part of Belgium), 30 km south of the Belgian and European capital: Brussels.

From Brussels, trains will take you to Paris or London in less than two hours and from Brussels National Airport or Brussels South Charleroi Airport you can travel anywhere in the world.

Campuses

All faculties of the Université catholique de Louvain are located on its Louvain-la-Neuve campus.



5.2.1.1 Air

Fly to [Brussels National Airport](#) (Zaventem):

The National Tourist Information Office, situated in the luggage hall of the airport, can help you and provide useful information about getting to Louvain-la-Neuve. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Brussels National Airport (Zaventem) is linked to Brussels by a frequent train service between 5.30 a.m. and 12 p.m. during weekdays and between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. during week-ends. Ask for a ticket to "Louvain-la-Neuve" and get off at the station Brussels Nord (a 12-15 min. ride). Take the Brussels-Namur-Luxembourg line (trains every half hour, week-end included), get off at Ottignies (about 35 min.) and switch to a train to Louvain-la-Neuve (about 8 min.). Some trains go straight from Brussels to Louvain-la-Neuve but take more time.

Timetables are available on the web site of the [SNCB](#), or by phone (+32/2/555.25.25).

Fly to [Brussels South Charleroi Airport](#):

At the airport, go to the desk Ryanair and ask for a **combined ticket bus/train** to Louvain-la-Neuve.

Bus connections are organized according to flights arrivals and departures (every half hour to Charleroi station and return). Take the bus to Charleroi station, from where you can continue by train to Louvain-la-Neuve.

5.2.1.2 Train

Louvain-la-Neuve is easily accessible by train and its train station is located in the very centre of the town. From Brussels, you can get to Louvain-la-Neuve in about 40 minutes.

If you are travelling to Louvain-la-Neuve by train, be sure to ask for a ticket to "Louvain-la-Neuve Université" (NOT Louvain or Leuven, which is a different city!). From any Belgian station, take the train towards Ottignies, a station situated on the Brussels-Ottignies-Namur-Luxembourg line (trains every half hour in both directions).

Get off at Ottignies station and change trains to continue to Louvain-la-Neuve-Université (about 8 min.). Some trains go straight from Brussels to Louvain-la-Neuve but take more time.

Timetables are available on the web site of the [SNCB](#), or by phone (+32/2/555.25.25).

If you need to travel often to Louvain-la-Neuve, the SNCB proposes various attractive formulas, such as a season ticket, the "carte Train Scolaire" or the "carte Campus" (for students only), the "Key-card" (up to a certain distance), the "Go-pass" (until age 26) or "Rail-pass". More information and prices on the [SNCB](#) website.

5.2.1.3 Bus

Buses from TEC serve Louvain-la-Neuve from Bruxelles, Ottignies, Wavre and some other surroundings.

Timetables are available via [TEC](#) website or by phone (+32/10/23.53.53).

5.2.1.4 Car

Louvain-la-Neuve is easily accessible by car as it is located to a major motorway. From Brussels, you can drive to Louvain-la-Neuve in about 25 minutes. However, keep please in mind that Louvain-la-Neuve is a mostly pedestrian town. The town centre is forbidden to motorized vehicles (see below).

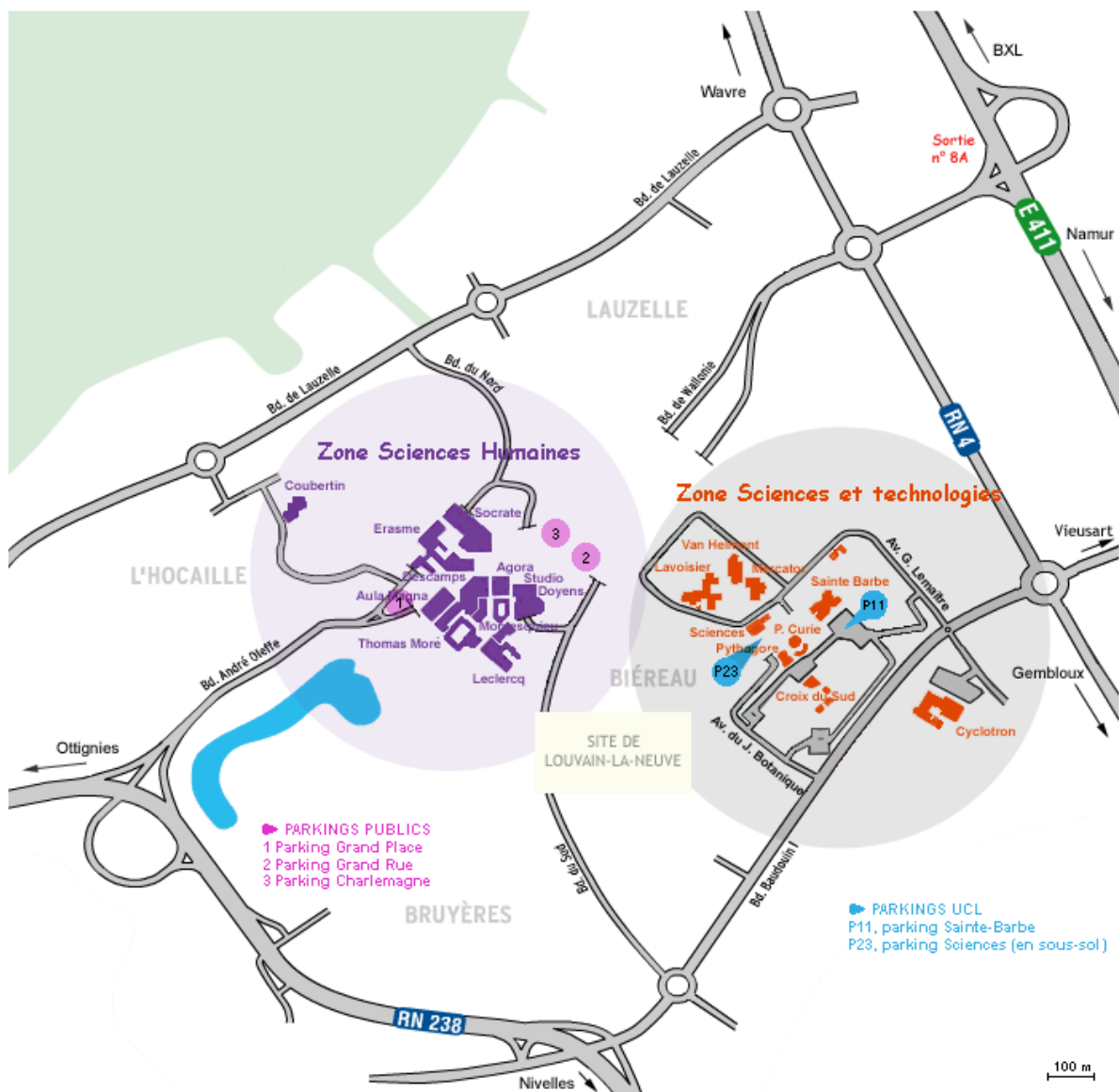
5.3 Specific Information about Louvain-la-Neuve

5.3.1 How to get around

On foot

Louvain-la-Neuve is a pedestrian town. From the centre, its radius measures approximately one kilometre.

The train and bus station are both located in the town centre, as are the underground car parks. From there, you'll often get to your final destination in the space of a few minutes on foot.



By bike

Instead of taking the car, it is preferable to use a bike to get around Louvain-la-Neuve. Bicycle stands are at your disposal on numerous locations.

By car

The town centre is forbidden to motorized vehicles. The only exception made is for deliveries, which must take place between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. If you wish to come to Louvain-la-Neuve by car, you can use the underground car parks.

5.3.2 Obtaining a Resident Permit

To obtain a residence permit, you need to show to the town hall of your residence:

- UCLouvain student registration confirmation,
- financial confirmation (either proof of scholarship or blocked account, etc.) for Visa students,
- rental agreement (with UCLouvain or other service provider),
- passport and visa for Visa students,
- a passport picture,

- 5 Euro in cash.

To follow legal requirements, Visa students have to sign up with the city where they reside within 8 days after arriving in Belgium.

The local AFEPA coordination office can assist you in this procedure and accompany you to the town hall.

5.3.3 Opening a Bank Account

You can open an account at a Belgian bank. Before leaving, ask your bank to send you beforehand a certain sum of money on your name, along with your passport number. Your bank certainly has an agent (a correspondent) in Belgium. Consult it before coming. You can find different banks on the campus where you can open an account and make transactions. Most banks are opened from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, from Monday to Friday.

To open a bank account in Belgium, you will need to show your registration certificate delivered by the town hall of your residence.

5.3.4 Other Practical Matters

Cost of living

- A campus room: approximately 250-400 € per month
- Food: approximately 250-300 € per month
- Books and class material: approximately 200 € per semester

Religion

Belgium is a predominantly Catholic country (75% of the population) but most other religions are also practiced here, such as Islam, Judaism and Protestantism. In Louvain-la-Neuve, you will find a Catholic parish, a mosque and a Protestant community. In Brussels, all religions are represented. The contact addresses are in the student's guide that you will receive enrolment.

Food in Belgium

Belgian cooking is varied. In all seasons, you can find fruits and vegetables, also exotic ones coming from all over the world. On the campus of Louvain-la-Neuve, there are a lot of shops and three supermarkets. An open-air market takes place every Tuesday and Saturday. A new Mall (shopping center) has also opened next to the railway station.

The university restaurants (Le Galilée and Le Sablon) offer a complete meal for about 3 to 5 €: <https://uclouvain.be/fr/decouvrir/resto-u>

Water and electricity

Water is drinkable everywhere, if not it will be indicated "Eau non potable". Electric current is 220 volts. Wall plugs are similar as those used in France.

Ways and customs of Belgium

Ways and customs are different from a country to another. In Belgium:

- Prices cannot be discussed
- If you have an appointment for example at 10.00 o'clock, it is important to be in time
- Public holidays are:
 - New Year (January 1)
 - Easter Monday

- Labour Day (May 1)
- Ascension Day
- Whit-Monday
- National Day (July 21)
- Assumption Day (August 15)
- All Saints' Day (November 1)
- Armistice Day (November 11)
- Christmas Day (December 25)
- University holidays: September 27, Christmas break (2 weeks), Easter break (2 weeks)

5.4 Université catholique de Louvain

The creation of Universities as an institution was one of the best things to come out of the Middle Ages. The institution's commitment to extending the boundaries of human knowledge, transmitting this knowledge, and thereby increasing the humanity of the human race has kept it at the forefront of civilization in the 21st century. The Université catholique de Louvain has played a part in this process with pride since 1425.

But above all, UCLouvain's mission to be a great European university is directed towards the future. It takes in teachers, researchers and students from far and wide and the need for strict quality control has never been higher. The internationalization of tertiary education brings new challenges. Inspired by a long history of welcoming others, the university campuses are developing into living communities.

UCLouvain is a microcosm of the world it serves. It is a centre of knowledge and innovation, a place of cultural celebration and invention, of achievement and extending the limits of human accomplishment.

Mission Statement

UCLouvain, a university:

- with an international reputation in the fields of education and research,
- that promotes the international mobility of people and knowledge,
- where innovation in the field of education is highly valued,
- with humanist values, both by choice and by tradition,
- that actively contributes to regional development,
- in a privileged environment.

Facts and Figures

In 2015-2016, UCLouvain is a large, international community:

- 29,933 students of 127 different nationalities,
- a 5,836-member teaching, research, administrative and technical staff,
- 150,000 alumni worldwide.

UCLouvain is responsible for the education of nearly one out of two French-speaking academics in Belgium and proposes courses in all possible disciplines:

- 42 Bachelor's programmes,
- 56 minors and additional modules,
- 93 120-credit Master's programmes,
- 33 60-credit Master's programmes,
- 63 advanced Master's programmes,
- 23 teacher training certificates,
- 200 life learning programmes.

Research, performed in close collaboration with the private and public sector and international institutions, is one of UCLouvain's main activities:

- 3,025 researchers,
- 2,033 doctoral students, half of which are foreign visitors,
- 2,500 research projects,
- 1 Noble Prize winner: Prof Christian de Duve (medicine, 1974),
- 21 Prix Francqui winners,
- 23 European Research Council grants.

The UCLouvain proposes a variety of services to society and the academic community:

- 3 science parks (Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels, Seneffe),
- 2 university hospitals (Saint-Luc Brussels and CHU UCLouvain-Namur),
- 2 museums,
- 2.8 million books in the libraries.

5.5 The Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics

The research group of agricultural and resource economics is part of the [Earth and Life Institute](#) of the Université catholique de Louvain. Research topics of this research group can be seen at on the website. They cover:

- agricultural and trade policy,
- environmental economics and policy,
- development economics and policy.

To study these three thematic fields, theoretical and applied modelling tools are designed and developed using a microeconomic approach

5.6 Student Life

UCLouvain Welcome guide: <https://uclouvain.be/en/study/international-welcome-guide.html>

5.6.1 Accommodation

Most of the student accommodation on campus disposes of a kitchen where you can cook your own meals. In order to make day-to-day life easier, the [university restaurants](#) serve well balanced, high-quality and varied menus at very democratic prices.

There are many restaurants of various European and international cooking in the town of Louvain-la-Neuve. There are also many cafés and fast food places in Louvain-la-Neuve.

A room will be booked for the students who benefit from a scholarship.

If you don't benefit from a scholarship you are invited to register for your accommodation, please check the links below.

We invite you to book your accommodation **as early as possible**. Indeed Louvain-la-Neuve is saturated regarding the requests of accommodation.

In Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels, the University has a total of 4,600 lodging possibilities (4,050 rooms and 550 studios and apartments) for students, but it is possible to stay elsewhere in the town or the city, be it through real-estate companies or private owners.

Most of the housing managed by the University and private companies are communal apartments. The student lives in an individual room, but shares with other students the kitchen, the living room and the sanitary installations (shower and toilets). The room is equipped with wash-basin, bed, mattress, chair, table, cupboard and shelf space. The tenants must buy their bedding and cutlery themselves. Communal apartments have six, eight and ten tenants.

Studios generally have one living room, including a kitchen area and a shower. Apartments have up to four rooms.

More information here:

UCLouvain accommodation: <https://uclouvain.be/en/study/accomodation>

“Private owners” accommodation: <https://www.kotalouvain.be/>

Temporary housing:

the Kot Erasmus (student association) offers temporary housing for some days only, in case of need: koterasmus@gmail.com. Another option is Kaleo proposing temporary housing as well: <https://www.kaleo-asbl.be/en/gites/louvain-la-neuve/>.

5.6.2 Cultural Activities

At UCLouvain,

- we welcome those with creative talents. That’s why we ask [artists in residence](#) to give classes and seminars, so that they can share their talent and vision with the community and the town.
- Culture can be the key component in the student’s training, as is the case with the [Minor in Culture and Creation](#), which gives students the opportunity to put their cultural knowledge to use as part of their curriculum.
- We really want to contribute to the cultural process. This is why the university is investing money in sites that act as a link between the university and the region: the [Ferme de Biéreau](#), *l’Aula Magna* and the Forum des Halles. Add to this the [Midis en Musique](#) on the Brussels Campus and you’ll see that music lies at the very heart of what we do.
- Culture is something that students also get a chance to shape, with the active support of the institution.

5.6.3 Sports

For sports, please consult the following site of the main sport facilities of the university

<http://www.blocry.be/st/>

<https://uclouvain.be/en/study/sport>

6. Information on the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

6.1 Contact Information

Education Administration at the Department of Economics

E-mail: econ-edu@slu.se

Postal address:

Department of Economics, Box 7013

75007 Uppsala

Visiting address: Ulls väg 27, 756 51 Ultuna, Uppsala

6.2 General Information on Sweden

Sweden stretches 1,500 kilometres from white sand beaches in the south to snow-covered mountains in the north. Sweden has the largest population of the Nordic countries. Mountains to the west mark the border with Norway. It shares a border with Finland along the Gulf of Bothnia at the northern end of the Baltic Sea.

The people of Sweden are trendsetters and are quick to embrace international ideas, so its art, music and design industry are vibrant and innovative. Multinational companies such as IKEA and H&M began here and still have their headquarters in Sweden. Sweden exports cars (Saab and Volvo), engineering products, steel, electronic devices, communication equipment, and paper products.

Sweden has a rich history dating back to the legendary Vikings, who were one of the first people to travel the world. All over Sweden there are remains from this time, including rune stones (engravings) and Viking villages that have been restored so the visitor can gain an impression of what life was like in the Viking era. Sweden remained neutral in both World Wars, so did not suffer the hardship and devastation that occurred elsewhere in Europe. Historical architecture from different eras is well preserved.

Sweden is an environmental pioneer and has a strong commitment to sustainability. Consistently ranked high according to the Environmental Performance Index, UN Sustainable Development Report, Global Innovation Index, and Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index, it is considered as one of the world's most sustainable countries.

The official language of Sweden is Swedish, but everyone studies English from the age of nine and television shows and movies are sub-titled, not dubbed. As a result, Swedes speak very good English and you will manage very well without being able to speak Swedish. If you do want to learn the language, most universities offer language courses for international students.

The Swedish cuisine is known for its Smorgasbord (a buffet of savoury delicacies), Baltic herring, meatballs, pea soup and pancakes.

As a student in Sweden, you will have ample opportunity to make new friends. A good part of your social life will revolve around your student union and "nations", which are historical social clubs managed by students. The union and nations can often help you with finding accommodation and other practical matters.

6.2.1 Travel to and in Uppsala and Sweden

6.2.1.1 Air

Arrival

Uppsala is 30-40 minutes from Stockholm by train and can easily be reached from Stockholm-Arlanda International airport and there are frequent communications from the three other international airports in or around Stockholm. Cashless payments are strongly preferred in Sweden and in some places, e.g. on buses,

you cannot pay cash. Nevertheless it is a good idea to have some Swedish Krona (SEK) when you arrive in Sweden as Euros are not accepted in Sweden.

Arrival into Stockholm-Arlanda International Airport, Stockholm

Stockholm-Arlanda International Airport is 42 km north of Stockholm and 31 km south of Uppsala.

Bus 801 (Arlanda - Uppsala city):

Frequency: 1 or 2 buses/hour 04.00-02.00

Journey time: 45 minutes

Cost: about 150 SEK, you can buy a ticket at Arlanda before entering the bus, from the driver with credit card (more expensive) or use the [UL app](#). NOTE! You cannot pay with cash on the bus.

Check updated information at www.ul.se

Trains leave Arlanda for Uppsala Central Station directly from Sky City, between Terminal 4 and 5.

Journey time: 20 minutes

Cost: about 250 SEK if purchased in advance. Ticket Desk: Tickets can be bought from SL Access ticket machines, service desk in Sky city Arlanda or through the SL app or UL app www.sl.se

Taxis leave from outside the arrivals hall:

Journey time: 30 minutes

Cost: About 675 SEK - ask the driver for a fixed price (*fast pris*) in advance, you can pay by credit card or cash.

<https://www.uppsalataxi.se> <https://www.taxikurir.se/uppsala>

Arrival into Stockholm-Skavsta Airport, city of Nyköping Skavsta Airport is 100 km south of Stockholm.

Flight shuttle buses run between Skavsta Airport and Stockholm Central Station:

Frequency: 30 minutes after every Ryan Air flight arrival, please consult the timetables online www.flygbussarna.se.

Journey time: approximately 80 minutes.

Cost: about 220 SEK

Ticket Desk: you can buy a ticket from the ticket desk in the main hall of the airport.

Train: From Stockholm Central Train Station to Uppsala Central Station:

Frequency: at least one per hour from 5.00 to 00.00

Journey time: 40 minutes

Cost: between 75-135 SEK

Ticket Desk: You can buy a ticket from the ticket desk in the main hall of the station or at www.sj.se

Arrival into Stockholm-Västerås Airport, city of Västerås:

Travel from Västerås Airport to Västerås city centre and the Central railway and bus station by bus (bus number 3, cost about 30 SEK, takes about 15 minutes) or taxi. Timetable after every Ryan air flight, www.taxivasteras.se

From Västerås central station to Uppsala Central Station, you can choose to take a train or regional bus number 773 or 774.

Train:

Frequency: During daytime about once/hour

Journey time: 1-2 hours.

Cost: about 145-195 SEK

www.sj.se

Bus 773 or 774:

Frequency: 2 buses per hour from 6.00 to 22.00.

Journey time: 90 minutes

Cost: about 130 SEK

www.ul.se

6.2.1.2 Train

Sweden has an extensive and reliable railway network and trains are certainly faster than buses. However, many destinations in the northern half of the country cannot be reached by train alone.

The biggest train company in Sweden is called SJ. To read more about trains in Sweden or to make a reservation, please see www.sj.se.

The prices can vary a lot but the sooner you make your reservation the cheaper the tickets usually are. SJ do also have student prices. If you buy a cheaper student ticket you must be able to show that you are a student, i.e., with a student card, which you can get when you sign up in [MECENAT](#) or as a member of a student union or student "nation" ([STUK](#)).

6.2.1.3 Bus

Uppsala Lokaltrafik (UL) is responsible for buses in and around Uppsala. The bus centre is at the train Station, *Resecentrum*. You can buy various bus cards at Resecentrum and at different stores. You can buy single fare tickets at ticket vending machines or by sending a text message from your Swedish mobile phone or through the [UL app](#). Read more about the buses at: www.ul.se

A monthly pass for public transport for students costs 640 SEK in Uppsala, see <https://www.ul.se/en/tickets/travel-card/student/>. NOTE! Be sure that your valid student card (from MECENAT or STUK) has an [SL logo](#) to be eligible for the discount, otherwise you may get fined.

To travel to another city by bus, please see Flixbus at www.flixbus.se

6.2.1.4 Car

Sweden, like most European countries, has right-hand traffic. The legal driving age is 18 and you are expected to have your driver's license with you when driving. A foreign driver's license is valid for a maximum of one year. The laws on drinking and driving are very strict and such behaviour is generally not socially accepted. The motorways in Sweden are called E4 (Torneå in Finland to Helsingborg in Sweden), E18 (Oslo in Norway to Stockholm in Sweden) and E20 (Stockholm to Malmö). It is easy to get around with car in Sweden but be careful, the weather conditions can change easily and during winter it is snowy and icy on the streets. Winter tires are required from November to April.

6.2.1.5 Ferry

Ferry connections between Sweden and its neighbours are frequent and straightforward. Most lines offer substantial discounts for seniors, students and children, and many rail-pass holders also get reduced fares.

Finnlines - <http://www.finnlines.com/ferry-trips/>

Stena Line - <http://www.stenaline.co.uk/ferry/>

Tallink / Silja line - <http://www.tallinksilja.com/sv/>

TT-line - <http://www.ttline.com/templates/CountryIndex2.aspx?id=3530&epslanguage=EN-GB>

6.3 Specific Information about Uppsala

Uppsala is the capital of Uppsala County (*Uppsala län*) and the fourth largest city of Sweden. The city is the seat of the Uppsala municipality (*Uppsala kommun*) which has approximately 240 000 inhabitants. Uppsala is located about 70 km north of the capital Stockholm.

Since 1164, Uppsala has been the ecclesiastical center of Sweden, being the seat of the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden. Uppsala does also have the oldest center of higher education in Scandinavia, *Uppsala University*, which was founded in 1477.

The Fyris river (*Fyrisån*) neatly divides the city into two different parts: the historic quarter to the west of the river and the administrative, residential and commercial area to the east. Most of the features of interest are in the western part, dominated by the cathedral, and with its old streets, river views and parks.

The most outstanding building in Uppsala is the Uppsala Cathedral (*Uppsala Domkyrka*), Scandinavia's largest church (118.7 m high), which is visible from most parts of town and from the motorway. Facing the west end of the cathedral is the *Gustavianum*, built in 1625 to be the main building of the University, and served as such through most of the 19th century. It contains the Museum of Nordic Antiquities, the Victoria Museum (of Egyptian antiquities) and the University's cultural history collections. It also houses a perfectly preserved 17th-century Anatomical Theatre (used in its time for public dissections). Across the street from the Gustavianum stands the new main building of the Uppsala University, built 1879–86 in Italian Renaissance style. In this building is the University auditorium (*universitetsaulan*).

Not very far from the University stands the Uppsala University Library (*Carolina Rediviva*), the largest library in Sweden, with over 5 million volumes and some 60,000 manuscripts. The building was built in 1820–1841.

On a small hill to the southwest of the University Library stands Uppsala Castle (*Uppsala slott*). Its construction was initiated in 1549 by King Gustav Vasa, founder of the Wasa royal dynasty and the first Swedish monarch to inherit the crown. Today the castle holds several museums, and is the residence of the Governor (*landshövding*).

Old Uppsala (*Gamla Uppsala*) is situated 5 km north of Uppsala city lays at what was the location of the pre-Christian town Uppsala. There are few remains, with the exception of several huge burial mounds of pre-Christian monarchs and the previous cathedral from 1164 A.D., traditionally said to be built over the old heathen temple (and recent archaeological investigations seems to support this notion). After the church burned down around 1240 only parts of it were restored.

6.3.1 Obtaining a Residence Permit

Passport

You need a valid passport for entry into Sweden. All overseas students will need a student residence permit or visa. It is important you have this in place before you enter Sweden. For further information contact the Swedish Embassy or Consulate in your country. Please consult www.swedenabroad.com for addresses and office hours of Swedish embassies and consulates. Citizens of the EU countries and Iceland and Norway can travel freely into Sweden with documentation that supports their citizenship, for example photo ID that state citizenship.

Residence Permit, Visa

If you will study at SLU for more than 3 months and you are NOT a citizen of an EU/EES country or Switzerland, you will need a residence permit (*uppehållstillstånd*) for studies in Sweden. You will need to have paid the first installment of your tuition fee before you can apply for the residence permit. Read more and apply directly on the [Swedish Migration Agency's website](http://www.sve.migrationsverket.se).

It can take several months for a decision, so be sure to apply early.

If you are about to start AFEPA you should apply for a resident permit for the full two years of the programme (even though you will study the second year at one of our partner universities).

Please also note that when applying for a residence permit, you must prove to the Swedish Migration Board that you will have a guaranteed sum of money at your disposal throughout the entire period of your studies.

Work permit

All foreign students, who are registered students at a Swedish University, are allowed to work, as long as they have a valid residence permit. For further information please see <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Working-in-Sweden/Employed/If-you-are-in-Sweden/Students-who-have-a-job.html>. Please be aware that it may not be easy to find a part time job.

Civic Registration

A Swedish Civic Registration number also called Swedish Identification number (*personnummer*) is used as an identification code not only in population registration but also in other administrative areas: taxation, national insurance, and driver's license. It is also used in company accounting procedures and the registers of insurance companies and banks. If you will be staying more than 12 months you have to get a Civic registration number and must register with the Tax Office upon arrival. For questions regarding civil registration matters or taxation, please turn to the [Tax Office \(http://www.skatteverket.se/\)](http://www.skatteverket.se/). Students, who are temporary residents in Sweden, i.e. less than 12 months, are normally not required to register with Tax Office (*Skattemyndigheten*) and normally cannot get a Swedish Civic Registration number (*Personnummer*). However, you will get a temporary one through the university.

6.3.2 Opening a Bank account

Swedish banks are generally open from Monday to Friday, between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Many branches have extended opening hours at least once a week (until 6.00 p.m. in larger cities). Banks are closed at weekends. You will normally need to be able to show that you will stay in Sweden for at least one year to open a bank account. To open an account, you are required to show: (1) a valid passport, (2) a letter stating that you are a student, like your acceptance letter from SLU, (3) your residence permit, and (4) your Swedish ID with personal number (*personnummer*). Be sure to book an appointment as soon as you fulfill the requirements.

Cash & Credit Cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in Sweden, much more so than the rest of Europe (many Swedes do not use cash at all). Commonly accepted cards are Visa, MasterCard/Eurocard and American Express. Cash-machines/ATMs are called *Bankomat* and you can withdraw money from your bank at home if you have VISA or MasterCard. Withdrawing money using a foreign card entails a fee of around 50 SEK.

6.3.3 Cost of Living

Though most students live on a tight budget, there are ways of making your money last longer. You can use your student card for discounts and on-campus restaurants are good value. You can also cook your own food; student accommodations have some form of kitchen facility open to residents. In most restaurants and bars, a beer will cost you SEK 40-60 (EUR 4-6), a glass of wine perhaps a little more. Dinner starts at around SEK 100-150 (EUR 10-15) drinks not included. Eating out at lunchtime is cheaper; expect to pay somewhere around SEK 65-95 for a meal including a soft drink, salad and tea/coffee.

An average student budget

In the table below, you find an example of a feasible monthly student budget in Swedish crowns (SEK) as estimated by [Study in Sweden](#)

Items	Month
Food	2,500
Accommodation	4,500
Phone, internet	400
Local travel	550
Hobbies, leisure	1500
Total:	9450

Please note that you will have to cover some extra expenses (Student Union and the Student Nation fees, text books, etc) during the first months every semester. Even if clothes are expensive in Sweden it is recommended that you buy winter clothes here because it might be hard to know what to get beforehand. You will need winter clothes from October-November to March. The cost of food is considered to be fairly high.

Second hand goods markets are quite developed in Uppsala and you can have more than 70% discounts for some goods in different occasions. There is a second hand bazaar established near the city center almost every Saturday offering good values. Another important source for good value goods and services are some webpages. Especially, www.blocket.se offers a lot of good opportunities with a huge diversity, covering accommodation, bike, car, electronic device offers.

Student Discounts

To get student discounts in Sweden you need to have the [Mecenat Card \(Mecenatkortet\)](#), and/or the [Student Card \(Studentkortet\)](#). Opening an account in Mecenat is free, and you only need to upload your certificate of registration which can be downloaded from the university system (Ladok). The student card (STUK) can be opened by being a member of a student union (i.e., [Ultuna Student Union](#) at SLU) or [student nation](#). Membership fees range from 250-350 per semester. These cards give you discounts on public transportations, (on-campus) restaurants, supermarkets, cafes, pubs, and hundreds of stores anywhere in Sweden. To know more about student union and nation, see section [6.6.1](#)

6.3.4 Other Practical Matters

Information for new students

Information for new students is available at the SLU web page at <https://student.slu.se/en/studies/new-student/>. There you will find updated information about orientation week, student life and, importantly, a check list for international students.

Postal service

Mail and packets sent through the Swedish Post Office can be picked up at a number of places, including gas stations, supermarkets and kiosks. Look for the blue and yellow sign above or by the entrance of outlets providing this service. You can also buy stamps and conduct most other errands at these outlets, many of which stay open late in the evening and on weekends. Yellow post boxes are for national and international letters and blue boxes for regional letters.

Currency

The Swedish krona (plural kronor), is denoted by the international currency symbol SEK. One krona contains 100 öre. Bank notes are available in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 kronor, coins in 1, 2, 5 and 10 kronor. 1 Euro corresponds to approximately 10-12 SEK.

Medications

Medications that require a prescription can be purchased at local pharmacies called *Apotek*. These are open during normal shopping hours. 24-hour service is usually only available at one pharmacy per city. If you take medication, it is a good idea to make sure that you have an adequate supply before leaving for Sweden. Medications which do not require a prescription may additionally be available at supermarkets or gas stations.

Emergencies and SOS calls

In case of emergency, dial 112 to contact the police, fire brigade or medical services.

ID cards

An identity card, or an ID card (*legitimation*), is a card on which the bearer's photo and personal number are showed. Having an ID card will help in any contact you may have with Swedish authorities. It will also make it easier for you to open a bank account. To obtain a Swedish ID card you must be registered as a resident (see section [6.3.1. Residence Permit](#)) but in most cases you can just use your ID card, your passport or your driving license from your home country.

Opening hours

Shopping hours are generally between 10 a.m. and 19 p.m. on weekdays. Shops usually close at 4 p.m. on Saturdays and a few are also open on Sundays between 12 noon and 4 p.m. At big shopping centres the stores are usually open longer, until 8 p.m., every day. Shops generally close early on the day before a public holiday and are not open on public holidays. Supermarkets in Sweden are usually open from 7-8 a.m. to 8-10 p.m.

Telecommunications

Most international students in Sweden choose to use Skype, Whatsapp and mobile telephones with prepaid SIM cards from companies such as Telia, Tele2Comviq, Telenor, 3 and Halebop. If you don't want to buy a mobile phone in Sweden it is often possible to use a phone from your home country with a Swedish SIM card. Make sure that the phone is not locked to your previous operator. Another option is to subscribe to a mobile phone contract, but this is rare for international students as it requires a Swedish Civic registration number.

Alcohol

The only place to buy wine, beer and liqueur, except at a restaurant or a bar, is stores called *Systembolaget*, which is state-owned. It is generally open Monday through Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. and on Saturdays between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. Some stores stay open longer. The age limit for buying wine and spirits at Systembolaget is 20. If you are under 25, you may have to present some proof of your age. In bars and restaurants, the legal drinking age is 18.

Right of common access

Allemansrätten, or the right of common access, gives everybody the right to use private as well as public land and waterways for certain activities such as hiking, jogging or boating provided that no damage is caused to the nature. You must also show consideration to other people and animals and respect the wishes of private landowners.

This means that you cannot walk or sail too close to houses and private gardens. It is also a good idea to ask the landowner if you plan on pitching a tent for more than a short period of time.

Dates

Dates are often written in the order: year, month, day. For example, October 12, 2013 is written 2013-10-12, 131012 or 12 October 2013.

Drugs

Drug laws are very strict in Sweden. Foreign citizens in possession of any type of illegal drug may be arrested and expelled from the country. What are sometimes referred to as soft drugs, for example marijuana and hashish, are illegal in Sweden

Electricity is standard European 220 volts and 50 cycles (Hz).

Time zone

Sweden has Central European Time (CET), GMT +1. Daylight saving time (GMT +2) applies from the last Sunday in March until the last Sunday in October. Clock time is written according to the European system, e.g. 1 p.m. is written 13.00.

Tipping

Tipping (in restaurants and taxis) — Service charge is included in the price. But it is normal practice to leave a small tip (around 10%) if you feel you have been treated well.

6.4 Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences, SLU (Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet), is a university with a clearly defined role in society: to take responsibility for the development of learning and expertise in areas concerning biological resources and biological production. This responsibility stretches over the wide-ranging fields of agriculture, forestry and food industry to environmental questions, veterinary medicine and biotechnology. A comprehensive viewpoint, inter-disciplinary approach and applicability are keywords in SLU's research and teaching and in the contacts with industry and society.

SLU is one of its kind in Sweden with its blend of unique educational programmes. As a student you come to a university with old traditions and a long history of education. The education is conducted in small groups and you are in close contact with your teachers. Education at SLU is stimulated by research, which is the essence of SLU's activities.

University activities are spread between several departments in four faculties:

- the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Science
- the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agriculture Sciences
- the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science
- the Faculty of Forest Sciences

SLU has four main campuses and they are located at Alnarp, Skara, Ultuna (Uppsala) and Umeå. Research and teaching activities are carried out throughout the country.

Facts and Figures

- 3,000+ full-time equivalent staff
- 4,000+ full-time equivalent students
- 500+ doctoral students

Scientific publications at SLU increased by almost 4 per cent between 2019 and 2020. Nationally, the number of articles published remains more or less the same. In 2020, over 1,950 articles/reviews were published.

SLU's share of the total scientific publication in Sweden is more than 5 per cent. More than 2/3 of the publication at SLU has international co-authors.

In 2020, SLU had 4,216 full-time equivalent students (FTEs). Approximately 1,100 new students registered on undergraduate programmes and more than 500 on master's programmes. In 2020, approximately 1,000 students graduated at Bachelor's level and Master's level.

For more information see: <https://www.slu.se/en/about-slu/>.

6.4.1 The Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

The Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences is the largest of the four faculties at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU); with 13 departments, about 1,700 students, and 1,300 employees. The Faculty contains a wide range of disciplines spanning over agriculture, food and biotechnology to natural resources, environment and landscape planning.

The mission of the faculty is to advance and impart knowledge that will lead to management of our natural resources in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable manner. This goal is pursued through our research, educational programmes, and outreach activities. We are also responsible for a number of

environmental monitoring programmes that are designed to describe and assess the condition of the Swedish environment.

Most of the departments and the faculty offices are located in Uppsala, but important activities are also carried out in Umeå, [Öregrund](#), [Drottningholm](#), Karlskrona, Skara, [Lysekil](#), and Grimsö.

6.4.2 Ultuna Campus

SLU's Ultuna campus is set in spacious and verdant surroundings in Uppsala – a fitting setting for Sweden's only agricultural university. Ultuna Campus is the biggest of SLU's campuses. Here you find most of the central administration as well as three of the faculties; the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agriculture Sciences, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science and the Faculty of Forest Sciences.

The Ultuna campus lies six kilometres south of Uppsala city centre. Cycling is the favoured mode of transport among students – it takes about 20 – 35 minutes by bicycle from central Uppsala to Ultuna. Uppsala is a city of bicycles – in winter the bike paths are often cleared and gritted long before the roads.

The campus also houses student accommodation. The surroundings at Ultuna are ideal for walks in the woods and along the river Fyrisån.

The entire Ultuna area is ideal for outdoor recreation, with football pitches, a beach volleyball court, a Frisbee golf course, paths and bike paths for jogging and a Friskis & Svettis gym offering ample keep-fit opportunities. Students are also welcome to visit the two gyms run by the student health centre, [Studenthälsan: Campus1477](#) (<http://www.campus1477.se>) located at Blåsenhus and Uppsala Science Park. At Ultuna campus you can also find the [Uppsala Academic Rowing Club](#) (*Uppsala Akademiska Roddarsällskap*).

6.5 The Department of Economics

The Department of Economics carries out research and teaches at both Undergraduate and

Graduate level. The department welcomes the opportunity to share our teaching and research with students and offer five different Undergraduate and Master's Programmes and a range of courses in Agribusiness and Management, Economics. We also offer qualified supervision of degree projects and papers.

For more information, please see <https://www.slu.se/en/departments/economics/>.

6.6 Student Life

Make the most out of your time at SLU!

Studying at SLU is not just about attending lectures and seminars. There are plenty of things to do in your free-time. The options vary between the different campuses, but all of them have at least one student union which arranges various activities and events. Meet new people, exchange ideas, get to know the Swedes and other exchange students from all over the world.

Get to know Sweden, explore the fantastic outdoors. Enjoy the different seasons. Celebrate the arrival of spring with bon-fires and singing, explore the archipelago in the summertime and see the midnight sun in northern Sweden. Watch the leaves turn into different colours in autumn and try skiing or ice-skating during the cold winter.

Swedes tend to be active and sporting activities are popular among students. Sporting clubs and student unions organize a wide range of activities on Ultuna campus. Taking part in these activities is probably the best way to meet new people and take a break from studying.

Other natural meeting points are clubs and pubs on and around campus. Many of these serve drinks and food at affordable prices. The legal age for drinking in Sweden is 18.

A lot of people go out for a drink at the weekend, and there can be long queues from early on outside the more popular places.

To find out where to go just ask a fellow Swedish student or pick up a copy of your local newspaper. As a student, however, you have an invaluable social resource in your local student union.

6.6.1 The role of the Student Unions and Student Nations

Student unions, formed to represent the social and academic interests of their members, may be found at every university in Sweden. The membership is free of choice and cost about SEK 250-350.

Swedish student unions have traditionally played an important role in university life. Compulsory membership fees have enabled them to improve conditions for students. Student unions are there to make every student's stay as pleasant as possible: they operate restaurants, cafes and bars, arrange parties with live bands, run sports programmes and organize orchestras and student theatricals. But one of the most important responsibilities of the students' union is to represent the members towards the university and the departments and to work in the best interest of the students. Student representatives take part in preparing and deciding organs at different levels at the university. If decisions are made at university level that affects the education, students have the right to be a part of the decision making. The student union for students at the Department of Economics is [Ultuna student union](http://www.ultunastudentkar.se) (*Ultuna studentkår*: <http://www.ultunastudentkar.se>). The first time you will meet the union is probably during the orientation programme, which is being held a few days before the semester starts in August. The Ultuna student union tries to arrange buddy buddies for all exchange students at campus Ultuna. Please contact them if you are interested in having buddy.

If you decide to join the Ultuna student union you will receive a student card that entitles you to benefits and discounts on domestic travel. Many shops also offer student discounts. Other services include updated information on activities on and off campus and help in most matters relating to your stay in Sweden.

In Uppsala you can also find [student nations](http://www.nationsguiden.se/) (<http://www.nationsguiden.se/>). The thirteen student nations are clubs dating back to the 17th century. Each nation bears the name of a certain region in Sweden and historically it was a club for students from that region. The various nations arrange similar activities for their members. These include cafés (fika, meaning a cup of coffee or so) and pubs with discos. Some nations also offer lunches. Formal three-course dinners (gasquer) or balls are arranged at certain intervals, including Ladies' and Gentlemen's dinners, sometimes with a day-before and a day-after-party. Other activities at most nations are a number of musical events with various kinds of orchestras and bands including jazz and classical music, choirs, theatre groups, sports and athletic clubs plus photo labs, art clubs and perhaps a wine- and whiskey-testing club. The sports and other activities vary somewhat between different nations. There are good opportunities for students to work at these events. Many students earn some extra money by working in the pub or at the café.

Uppsala students also have a festival they have made very much their own: Walpurgis Night (Valborgsmässoafton), last day of April. There is much singing to celebrate the coming of spring and the city is transformed into Sweden's largest picnic site.

6.6.2 Accommodation

For many people, studying abroad will be their first experience of living away from home for a longer period. This can be a daunting prospect for anyone, especially in view of the demands associated with being a full-time student while trying to gain a foothold in a new culture.

It is therefore important that your living environment is comfortable and affordable; you should give yourself plenty of time to make all the necessary arrangements before leaving for

Sweden.

SLU helps international fee-paying students and exchange students finding accommodation (see Accommodation in the check list available at <https://student.slu.se/en/studies/new-student/check-list/>).