ARRIVING TO UNICAL

Upon arriving to UNICAL there are a series of things that students must bring with them and do in order to be fully registered along with obtaining housing. It is important to read and follow this carefully to minimize possible problems that a student may face. Below are listed locations and tasks separated in 2 days in chronological order that the student must follow to complete the housing process. However, note that it will take more than 2 days to complete the tasks below.

1. DATES OF ARRIVAL: Students are advised by the university to arrive around the third week of September. This is when the apartments for students usually are available. Please contact the Welcome Office to confirm a date (welcomeoffice@unical.it). It is strongly recommended that students arrive on a week day as opposed to the weekend to guarantee that the offices are open.

2. LOCATIONS OF ARRIVAL: Students are advised to arrive to the nearest possible airport/train station to UNICAL
   a. Plane: Lamezia Airport is the nearest airport to UNICAL (~45 miles from UNICAL)
      i. There is a shuttle bus (€1.50 if you buy a ticket at the edicola inside the airport or €2.50 on the bus) that will take you to the train station Lamezia Terme Centrale from the airport. From there you can take a train to Castiglione Cosentino, then a bus to the university.
      ii. There are busses that run directly from the airport to the university terminal. You can buy a ticket (€5-6) on the bus. You can find the schedule here: unical/lamezia
      bus.pdf
   b. Train: Castiglione Cosentino Train Station (~1.5 miles from UNICAL)
      i. From Castiglione you can take a bus (136 or 138) directly to the terminal at UNICAL
         **NOTE:** Tickets must be purchased at a tabbachi prior to boarding**
   c. PICK-UP Information: UNICAL offers a
      i. Free student pick-up service from Castiglione Cosentino Train Station
      ii. Pick-Up Service (€30) from Lamezia Airport
         **NOTE:** If students intend to use this service, they need to inform UNICAL on their arrival date, arrival, time and flight number (if student arrives by plane to Lamezia Airport)**
            *Please note that no student has used this in the past*
   d. Flying into Rome:
      i. Train: From Roma Termini to the train station Castiglione Cosentino (approx. 30-60€)
      ii. Bus: Through Baltour, from Roma Tiburtina bus station to via Marconi in Quattromiglia, Rende (approx. €30)
         i. Drops you off at a bus stop near UNICAL, can then take a 136 or 138 bus to UNICAL bus terminal
**NOTE:** Tickets through Baltour need to be printed, so print at home or you will need to find a Copisteria in Rome **

3. Filling out the Pre- Arrival Form [WHAI1] (Mandatory): Students need to fill out a pre-arrival form at least two (2) week prior to their arrival to UNICAL. This question form is primarily used to let UNICAL know when and where you will arrive once in Italy. Email the welcome office (welcomeoffice@unical.it) to acquire the form, but be sure to CC Michelangelo La Luna and Sigrid Berka if necessary to ensure that both URI and UNICAL understand your arrival date and times.

  - Below are four (4) documents that must be attached along with the Pre Arrival Form in a PDF file.
    a. Certificate of General Health: Students must present a Certificate of General Health that states the absence of any infectious diseases and/or contagious illnesses. The certificate can be in English or Italian.
      **NOTE:** it is up to the discretion of the person in Residenziale whether or not this document will be accepted in English**
    b. Visa: Copy of the student’s Visa
    c. Passport: Main page of the student’s passport
    d. Acceptance Letter: Students need to present their acceptance letter, stamped by the Italian Diplomatic Representation

4. Overnight Stay: Due to UNICAL’s at least 2-day process for students’ registration, students are expected to find housing for the first night. Fortunately, they do provide housing on-campus. However, it is up to the student in choosing where to stay. Some options include
  a. Socrates Residence (On-Campus): €35 for a single or €40 for a double (€20/person). Visit the welcome office for assistance.
  b. Hotels/Motels (a close and good one is Fattoria Stocchi): Prices vary.

**DOCUMENTS & HOUSING:**

Once arriving to UNICAL, students need to follow a series of steps in order to apply for housing and be officially registered as a student at the university.

1. Welcome Office: Upon arriving to UNICAL, students need to go to the welcome office, which is near the building, “Aula Caldora.” There a faculty member will assign living accommodations and help with questions you will have.

2. Centro Residenziale: Once the student has a place to stay, they will be escorted to the “Centro Residenziale” building and given a form called “Room Contract.” The room contract is very important because it is needed for obtaining the “Permessi di Soggiorno” (Living Permit) and the “Codice Fiscale” (Social Security Number). It also officially states your rooming accommodations.
3. **Post Office (End of Campus Bridge):** Once having filled out the room contract, students are directed to the post office, which is located at the end of the bridge on campus. There, students are given the “Permesso di Soggiorno” packet with an unsealed envelope. A faculty member at the welcome center must help you fill it out. You will also need copies of your ENTIRE passport, visa, and housing contract (consider making copies of your passport and visa before arriving). You will also need a manca de bollo (type of official stamp, €16) that you can purchase at the bar in the middle of the bridge. Once complete, the packet and documents must be returned to the post office along with a payment of ~€100.

4. **Codice Fiscale:** Located near block 13 there is a building with tall black windows. Enter the door near the parking lot and the first door on the right is the office where you can find someone to help you sign up for a codice fiscale.

   **NOTE:** this is only available on Thursday mornings and location may have changed – for current whereabouts please ask the welcome office

5. **La Questura (Police Station):** When you submit the packet for the “Permesso di Soggiorno,” the post office will give you a sheet with an appointment with the police at the police station in the nearby town of Cosenza (reachable by bus) where the student finally receives his/her official living permit. The earliest appointments will be in 4-5 months from submission so be sure to turn in the packet as soon as possible. Be sure to bring copies of documents and your passport to the appointment.

**ONCE AT UNICAL**

**MEAL PLAN**

At UNICAL, there are no month-to-month meal plans available for students. Instead, students must pay for every meal they have in the cafeteria (mensa). A meal costs ~€5. If a student is in need, he/she will receive financial aid and will not pay for the meals.

**OTHER OPTIONS**

Most student apartments have kitchens and are equipped with a sink, refrigerator, freezer, and stove top, which means that a student also has the option to go grocery shopping at one of the nearby supermarkets. Also, there are a couple food locations around campus that a student can go to, instead of paying for a meal at a mensa.

**HOUSING**

**ON CAMPUS:**
- Housing will cost €140/month for a double room or €170/month for a single room, utilities included
- The rooms in Molicelle and Masionettes are the oldest and present some problems. If a student can afford to pay more, it is advised to request a room elsewhere.
• Monaci and San Gennaro are the nicest, most recent housing complexes. These can cost about 250€ per month and come with all amenities.

OFF CAMPUS:

• Students can also rent full houses in Arcavacata, Rende, or Quattromiglia (downtown) for good prices. You will have to contact a private landlord regarding this option. There are many posters around the area advertising rentable properties.

CHOOSING COURSES

Once students have completed their rooming process and have successfully obtained housing, they can continue onto obtaining their schedules for their semester. Students need to go to the Administration building where they will be aided by faculty in the process to obtaining their schedule. The courses that are available to take will be on Unical’s website, at the following link: http://www.unical.it/portale/didattica/offerta/catalogo/.

This is what was done in the past: simply find the course online you need to take and go to the assigned times and locations. There was no need to register for the courses in the beginning, but eventually you will need to tell the Welcome Office the courses you are taking/did take.

REMEMBER: Students already have their classes picked prior to leaving for the year abroad. The administration building is important for the student to pick up their schedule and finalize all the credits they are taking for the semester.

Course taken by past students:

Letteratura Italiana I
Cultura e Letteratura Italo-Americana
Archeologia degli etruschi
Archeologia e storia dell’arte greca e romana
Storia dell’architettura
Modellistica e simulazione dei sistemi meccanici
Italiano Livello B2

CREDITS

For the semester at UNICAL, students are suggested to take 15 credits (minimum of 12 required to be considered a full time student at URI). However, students can only take up to 19 credits per semester. It’s important to note when selecting courses, the UNICAL credits are double the amount of what they are here. For example, a 3 credit course at URI is equivalent to UNICAL’s 6 credit courses. If awarded a Six URI Italian credits are granted to the students after their internship or research, during their 2nd semester. A meeting with Professor La Luna and an
engineering advisor is mandatory before leaving to fill out course documents and the “Intent to Graduate” form.

**NOTE**: It is strongly recommended that students follow their respective curriculum sheet to ensure that they stay on track upon the return of their year abroad**

**OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

*On Campus Groups:*
There are several groups on campus composed of international students who will be willing to help you. The ERASMUS group is a great group to help you get started, meet people, and go on trips. Additionally, OneWorld is another excellent resource for meeting people and going on economically priced trips.

*Phone Plan:*
Take the 136 or 138 bus to Quattromiglia and get off at when you see the store “Fashion Club.” Down the street is a WIND store where you can purchase 20GB of data (no minutes) for approx. €10. Be aware the startup fee is €25. The Trony store near the McDonalds offers other options, however multiple people have experienced issues with this plan, so WIND is recommended.

*WiFi:*
San Gennaro and Monaci have reliable Wifi connections. If you plan to stay elsewhere, it is likely that the Unical Wifi will not be accessible. Speak to Paolo at the Welcome Office about getting a WiFi login. It will work in some cubes (Cube 4) and in most places along the Ponte. WiFi is also reliable at the OneWorld office under Socrates. There is also an option (though frowned upon by staff) to get a router. It costs €149 for 4 months (including router, set up and monthly fee). It works well and it saves your data for when you really need it. You can set this up with Vodafone.

*Laundry:*
There are no washers/dryers in Molicelle, and there are only 2 of each in every other building complex. Be prepared to wash clothes by hand or wait to use the machines (€4 total for one wash/dry cycle)

*Recommended items to bring:*
- At least 2 adapters (most of Europe uses 2 prongs but they will still work in Italy even though Italy uses 3 prongs)
- A portable charger
- Filtered water bottle (in Calabria it is not recommended to drink the tap water, in fact there are free water taps around town and water stations around campus for a small price, but in most bigger cities it is ok to drink tap water)
- At least 2 cards you can use in an ATM, in case one does not work
Useful websites/apps:

- MyCicero: bus – app that provides bus schedules for Italy, most useful when in Rende and Cosenza. Bus numbers 136 and 138 will always take you to campus.
- GoEuro: train, bus, plane – compares travel routes and informs you of the cheapest and fastest options. It is used best for finding trains and buses.
- Skyscanner: plane - compares prices of many airlines and times to get you the best, cheapest flight for which you are searching
- Ryanair: plane - an airline company with (usually) reasonable prices. Suggestion: use Skyscanner to find the flights, but book through Ryanair’s app or website
- FlixBus: bus - coach bus company that’s very comfortable. They have charging ports (usually), WiFi, and seats that recline a decent amount. The prices are usually cheaper than a train but note that the time to get to your destination will be longer.