



UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

ERASMUS STUDENTS HANDBOOK



Erasmus+



Dear Erasmus Student,

welcome to the University of Messina!

We are sure you have chosen to take part to the *Erasmus Plus Programme* aware that mobility is one of the keys to improve the quality of European competitiveness. Mobility contributes to build up a knowledge-based society where awareness of cultural diversity and traditions is an incentive, rather than an obstacle, to innovation and international cooperation.

Within the framework of the Erasmus Plus Programme, the University of Messina is strongly committed to create the “European Higher Education Area” and foster innovation throughout Europe. In particular, studying at the University of Messina not only will enrich your study experience but will also broaden your cultural background and improve your professional skills.

Your time at the University of Messina will be both exciting and challenging if you are away from home for the first time. This handbook aims to assist you in the preparation for studying in Messina and to advice you on how to organize your stay.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Messina and we hope that your time here will be an important part of your academic and professional career.

The ERASMUS Mobility Unit

The Town of Messina

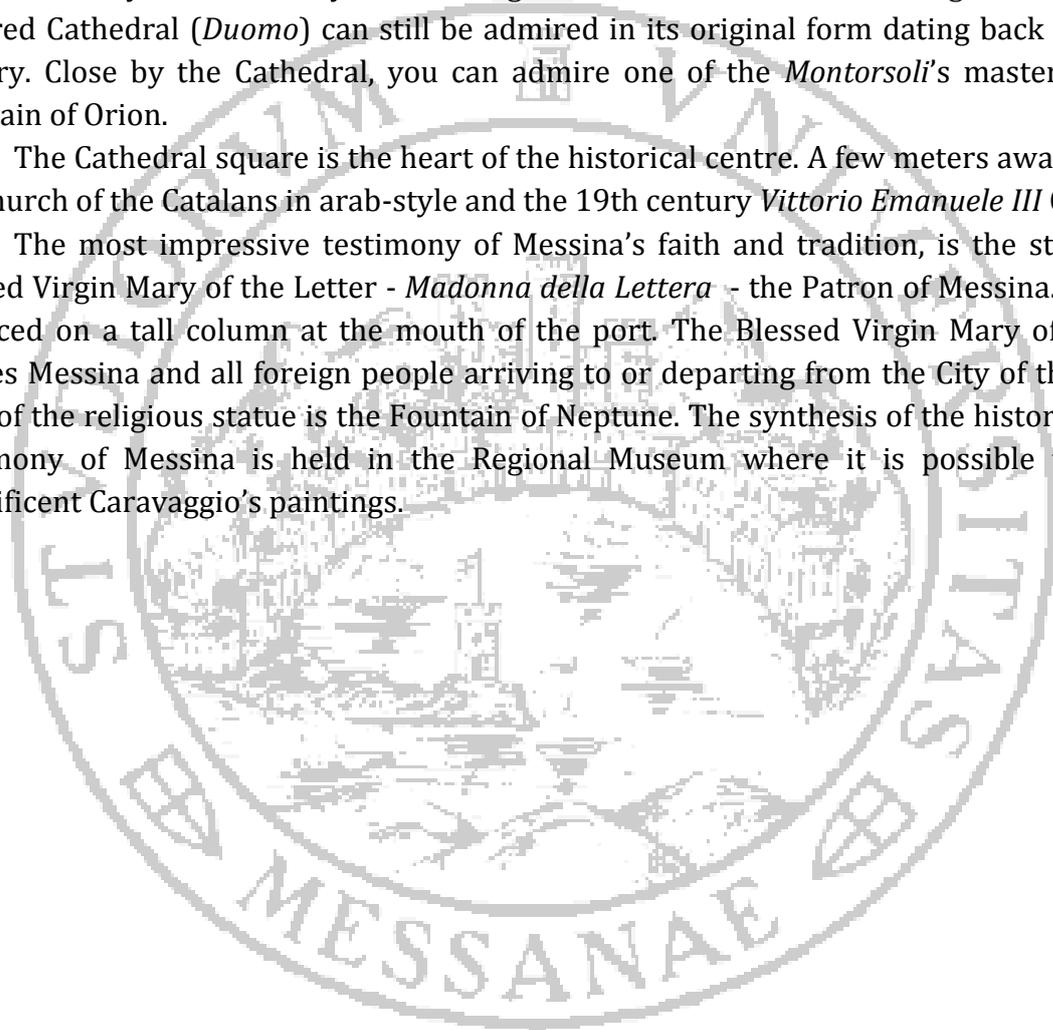
Many times destroyed, many times rebuilt, the ancient *Zancle* later called *Messanion*, was stubbornly reconstructed always there in the same natural "arm of land" where wars, earthquakes and destructions changed its look but not its inhabitants' determination.

History tells us that the City of the Strait was always enriched by some elegant buildings. Among them was the courtly *Palazzata* along the port. The first terrible 1783 earthquake reduced it to dust and the same happened in 1908 when there were more than hundred thousand victims. After this earthquake the new Messina was rebuilt using some anti-seismic systems and a modern urban design.

Nowadays, even if only a few things are left of its ancient heritage, the enchanting restored Cathedral (*Duomo*) can still be admired in its original form dating back to the 12th century. Close by the Cathedral, you can admire one of the *Montorsoli's* masterpieces: the Fountain of Orion.

The Cathedral square is the heart of the historical centre. A few meters away, there are the Church of the Catalans in arab-style and the 19th century *Vittorio Emanuele III* Gallery.

The most impressive testimony of Messina's faith and tradition, is the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Letter - *Madonna della Lettera* - the Patron of Messina. The statue is placed on a tall column at the mouth of the port. The Blessed Virgin Mary of the Letter blesses Messina and all foreign people arriving to or departing from the City of the Strait. In front of the religious statue is the Fountain of Neptune. The synthesis of the historical-artistic patrimony of Messina is held in the Regional Museum where it is possible to see two magnificent Caravaggio's paintings.



The University

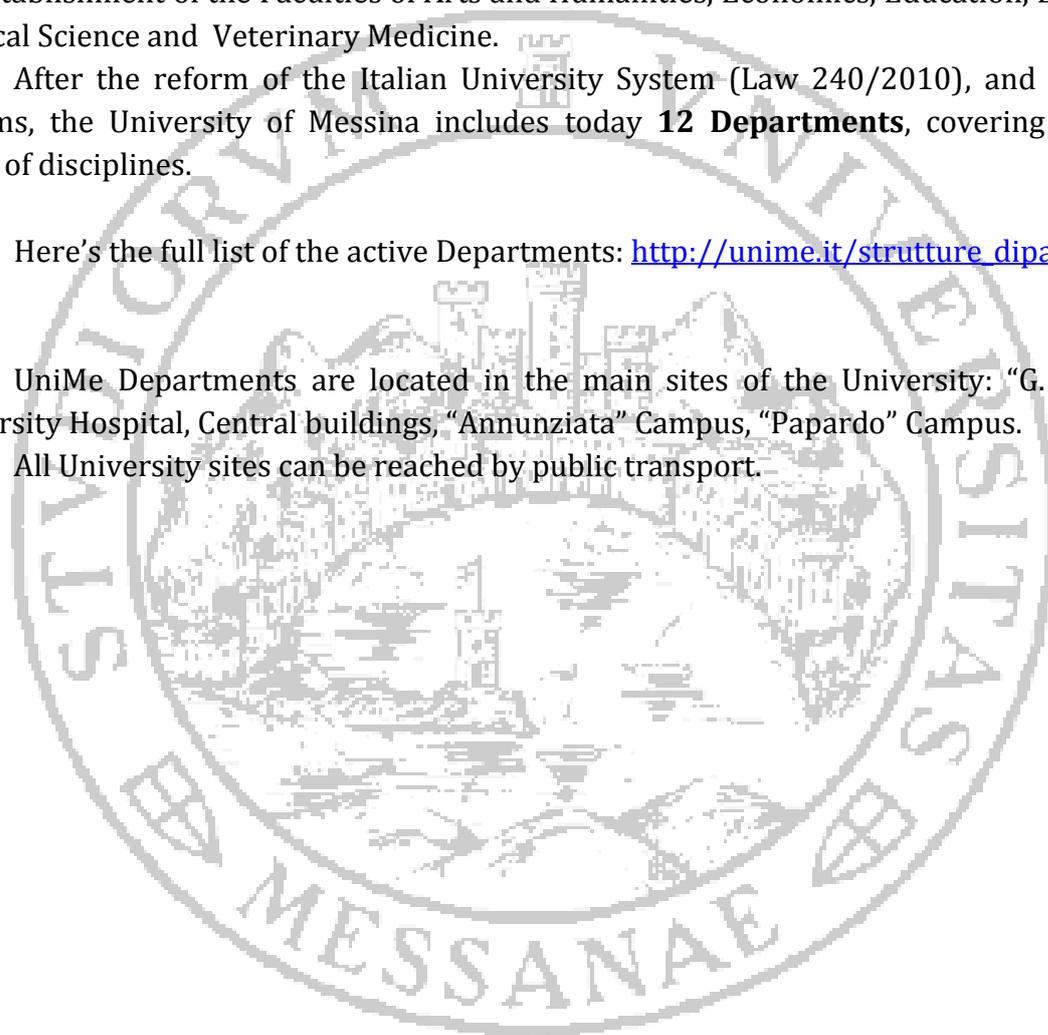
The foundation of the University of Messina dates back to the XIII century with the establishment of a School of Law. Over the centuries the University underwent through turmoil, facing challenges and evolutions. In 1838 the University was finally refunded by King Ferdinando II.

The earthquake in 1908 destroyed a great part of the University including its famous library and the scientific equipment. But only a year later in 1909 the Faculty of Law was reopened, while the Faculties of Science, Pharmacy and Medicine reopened in the years 1914/15. In the following decades the University of Messina enriched its academic offer with the establishment of the Faculties of Arts and Humanities, Economics, Education, Engineering, Political Science and Veterinary Medicine.

After the reform of the Italian University System (Law 240/2010), and other inner reforms, the University of Messina includes today **12 Departments**, covering the widest range of disciplines.

Here's the full list of the active Departments: http://unime.it/strutture_dipartimentali

UniMe Departments are located in the main sites of the University: "G. Martino" – University Hospital, Central buildings, "Annunziata" Campus, "Papardo" Campus. All University sites can be reached by public transport.



Practical information

Erasmus Mobility for Study (SMS)

Nomination

Foreign Universities have to e-mail the list of the Erasmus nominees for the current academic year to the ERASMUS Mobility Unit of the University of Messina (UniME) enclosing the following details:

- full name and e-mail address;
- period of stay (1st semester/ full academic year/ 2nd semester);
- **subject area code of the exchange.**

Only students of the study area indicated in the agreements or at least of similar areas can be selected.

The above mentioned information have to be sent **by 15th May**, for fall semester and by **15th October** for spring semester.

Application

Erasmus selected students have to fill in the Application Form and Learning Agreement which will be sent by mail when nominated.

Please note that the application deadlines are: **30th May**, for the 1st semester and the full academic year and **30th October** for the 2nd semester.

Then, the nominated Erasmus students have to:

- print the Application Form and Learning Agreement;
- sign the forms, also by the Institutional Coordinator;
- send a copy of Application Form and Learning Agreement by e-mail at: erasmus@unime.it
- send the original copies to the ERASMUS Mobility Unit by ordinary mail at the following address:

Unità Operativa Mobilità Erasmus
Unità Organizzativa Relazioni Internazionali
Università degli Studi di Messina
Piazza Pugliatti 1
98122 MESSINA - ITALY

What to do before leaving home

Erasmus incoming students are enrolled at the University of Messina as Italian students and have the same advantages and duties as established by the Erasmus Student Charter. Before leaving your country, you have to **make sure** you have:

- already arranged the Learning Agreement with the Erasmus coordinator of your home University;
- the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for medical assistance;
- a valid passport or identity document;
- two passport-size photographs;
- an accident insurance certificate (often provided by home University).

What to do when you arrive in Messina

You have to go to the ERASMUS Mobility Unit **within two days of arriving** in order to register at the University of Messina and gather all the useful information related to your study stay. In order to be registered you have to show your passport or any other valid identification document and **hand in** the followings:

- Two passport-size photographs

Moreover you have to:

- Send the confirmation of arrival issued by the ERASMUS Mobility Unit to your home University.
- Search for your Coordinator in the arriving Department, to discuss your Learning Agreement and possible changes in it.

Welcome Days

In order to provide you with complete information on your study stay at the UniMe the ERASMUS Mobility Unit, along with the International Exchange **Erasmus Student Network**, organizes Welcome Days for exchange students.

The Welcome Day usually takes place in October whereas for the 2nd semester it will be organized in March.

A detailed programme of the event with time and venue will be sent individually and posted on the ERASMUS Mobility Unit's website.

What to do before leaving Messina

At the end of your mobility period, the ERASMUS Mobility Unit will issue an official certificate (**Transcript of Records**) listing the activities such as examinations, laboratory activities, etc. recorded in the ESSE3 System. The Office will also issue a certificate attesting the official end of the period spent at UniME.

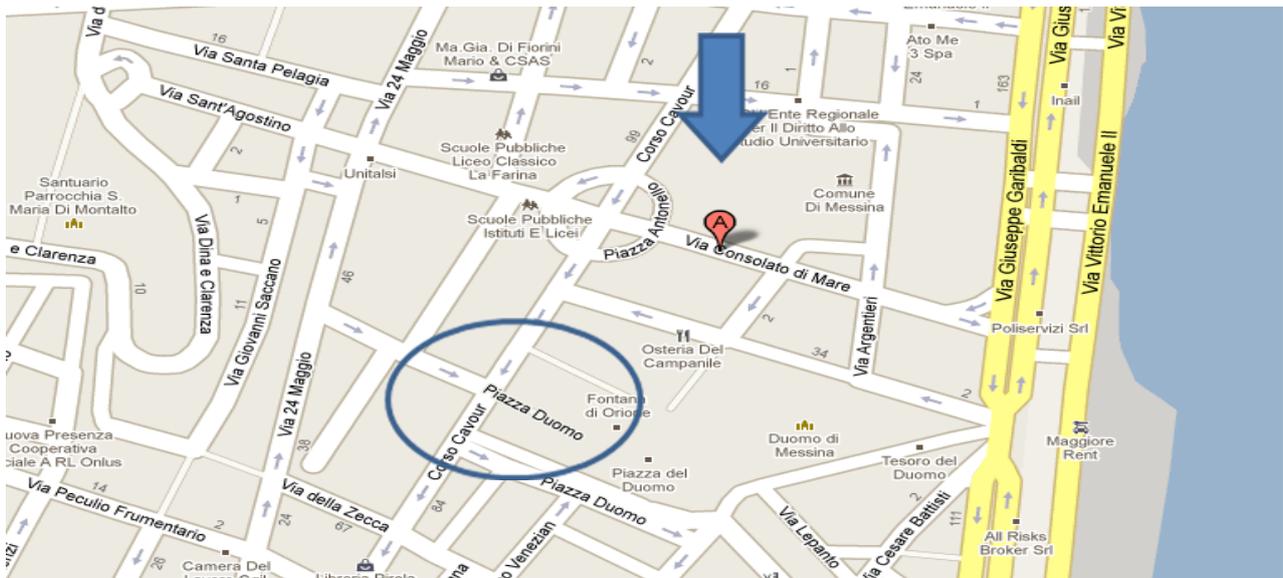
ERASMUS Mobility Unit

The ERASMUS Mobility Unit belongs to the International Relations Unit of the University of Messina.

The office is the link between yourself and your Departmental coordinator at the UniMe, who is responsible for academic counseling and supervision of your studies.

Please inform the office of any change that may occur during your stay in Messina (change of address, of email address, telephone number, etc.) You are strongly recommended to check your email inbox regularly since it will be used for all kind of important information.

The ERASMUS Mobility Unit is placed in "Palazzo Mariani", one of the oldest buildings in the city centre of Messina, close to the Cathedral (marked in the circled in the below map).



The ERASMUS Mobility Unit is easily reachable on foot from the central train station or by car if you are coming from the motorway. Do not hesitate to contact us should you require any information or have any doubts or problems.

Front Office opening hours are: Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 13:00 and Wednesday from 15:00 to 16:00.

Our contacts:

Unità Operativa Mobilità ERASMUS

Unità Organizzativa Relazioni Internazionali

Via Consolato del Mare, 41 – 2nd floor

98122 Messina - ITALY

Webpage: <http://unime.it/en/international>

Erasmus+ Incoming informations:

<http://relint.unime.it/en/mobilita-in-entrata/studio/erasmus-studio/>

Head of the International Relations Unit:

Dr. Giuseppe Lucchese

Phone: +39 090 6768534 e-mail: glucchese@unime.it

Head of the ERASMUS Mobility Office

Dr. Domenica Siddi

Phone: +39 090 6768531; email: dsiddi@unime.it

Vice-Head of the ERASMUS Mobility Office (Incoming contact person)

Dr. Monica de Cesare

Phone: +39 090 6768320; email: mdecesare@unime.it

Academic information

Academic calendar

First semester courses usually start at the beginning of October and last until January, while second semester courses start at the end of March and finish in June. Exams can be taken at the end of the course attended. Please note that some Departments may have **different calendars** and differences might exist among the starting dates of the courses.

National and local holidays are:

1st January - New Year's Day

6th January - Epiphany

Early April - Easter Monday

25th April - Liberation Day

1st May - Labour Day

2nd June - Italian Republic Holiday

3rd June - Patron saint's day, *Madonna della Lettera*

15th August - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1st November - All Saints Day

8th December - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

24th December - Christmas Eve

25th December - Christmas Day

26th December - Boxing Day / St. Stephen's Day

Academic fulfillments

We suggest you to go to the Department and meet the Erasmus Coordinator who will provide you with information about courses, lectures and subjects agreed in the Learning Agreement. Remember you have **one month**, since your arrival, to work the changes you need for your Learning Agreement. All changes to Learning Agreement must be approved first by your home Institution, and then by Host Institution (UniMe).

Before enrolling at the exams, Erasmus students **have to do a compulsory registration for each exam by ESSE3**, the operating system that manages students' career at UniMe.

We wish to remind students not to take examinations without booking by ESSE3 or that are not included in their Learning Agreement.

Information on lectures and/or exam timetables are available at the Didactic Secretariat of each Department and on-line, at: [www.unime.it/strutture dipartimentali](http://www.unime.it/strutture_dipartimentali)

Courses of Italian language

The University of Messina provides Erasmus students with free Italian language courses at the beginning of each semester, held by CLAM - Centro Linguistico dell'Ateneo Messinese.

The attendance of the course and the final exam assure the student to **get till 2 ECTS credits** (reported in the Transcript of Records) and the certificate of Attendance, at the end of

40 hours of lessons/semester. Please note that only the 25% of absence on the total hours is accepted.

Facilities

Libraries and reading rooms

The University of Messina has a well-stocked library including the best scientific and academic publications. On-line integrated library database (S.B.A.) and updated information on academic and research activities and services (LISI- SCOPUS) are freely available at the University website: <http://www.unime.it/biblioteche/index.html>. Moreover, each Faculty has its main Library as well as individual Departmental specialized libraries.

Internet access

Each Department provides students with reading rooms and computer access. In the University premises there is also a Wi-Fi service. In order to use free wi-fi connection, students must first be matriculated and registered on ESSE3 by the ERASMUS Mobility Unit.

Accommodation

The **Erasmus Students Network**, an association of former Erasmus students, can help you to find the right private accommodation in Messina.

ESN provides regularly updated lists of private flats and houses and helps students in their search. Moreover, ESN provides pick-up service at Messina railway/bus station at your arrival. You are strongly recommended to contact ESN before your arrival in Messina. More info on the ESN Messina are available at the web site: <http://www.esn-messina.it> email: messina@esn.it. Erasmus students can also look for a private accommodation directly logging to the **ERSU website**: <http://www.ersu.me.it/AgenziaCasa/pag1.asp>.

Sports Facilities

Sports facilities are offered by **CUS UniMe** which is committed to promote the growth of practice of amateur sports through beginner or advanced courses as well as recreational sporting tournaments for University students.

Sports facilities includes indoor and outdoor pools, Dance room, a great Multi-Gym area, Rugby, Baseball, Tennis, Soccer and Hockey Pitches, and more.

For further information please visit: www.cusunime.it

Other useful information

How to get to Messina

Messina is situated in eastern part of Sicily, in the South of Italy and is easily reachable:
by plane

Although Messina does not have its own airport, it can be easily reached flying direct to Catania, Palermo or Reggio Calabria Airports. Direct Bus Service connections are available from Catania Airport (<http://www.saisautolinee.it/regionali.htm>) as well as from Reggio Calabria Airport to Villa San Giovanni (<http://www.autolineefederico.it>). From Palermo

Airport there are no direct connections; those who fly to Palermo should go to the Central Railway Station (info on www.gesap.it) and take a bus or a train to Messina.

by train

You can get to Messina by train. Detailed information and timetables are available on <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>. Tickets can be bought at the railway station or booked online.

Postal service

There are many post offices in the city centre of Messina which are usually open from 8 am to 1 p.m. However, some of these are open continuously from 8 am to 6 pm. To find the closest Postal Office visit: <http://messina.paginegialle.it/sicilia/messina/poste.html>

Climate

Sicily is famous for its mild climate, greatly influenced by sea currents. Because of its location, stretching along the sea in the Strait, Messina is windy and in wintertime the average temperature is about 10° C, while the average summer temperature is about 30-35° C, with a high humidity level.

Emergency numbers

Phone numbers listed below are useful in case of an emergency during your stay in Messina:

Carabinieri (Italian Police Officers) 112
Emergency (Pronto Intervento) 113
First Aid (Pronto Soccorso) - University Hospital G. Martino 090/3991
Ambulance 118
First Aid during nights and week-end (Guardia medica) Via Garibaldi Porto Salvo, Tel. 090/45077/ 090/345422
Road accidents (Incidenti Stradali) 116
Fire Brigade (Pompieri) 115
Urban Police (Polizia Municipale) 090/771000
Messina City Hall (Municipio) 090/7721
ENEL(Electricity supply) 800- 011322
Servizio Acqua (Water supply) 090/675505
Servizio Gas (Gas supply) 800- 900999



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41, Via Consolato del Mare
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<http://unime.it/en/international>