Master’s Programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis

Bonn – Milano
Louvain-la-Neuve – Uppsala

Handbook for Students

2017 Version
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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 (http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook/). This 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 programme and about its partner universities.

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 Programme

2.1 Contact information

For the central AFEPA office at the coordinating institution, the Université Catholique de Louvain, please contact

AFEPA Master’s Programme
Economie rurale
Faculté des Biogingénieurs
Place de la Croix du Sud, 2 bte L7.05.15
Université catholique de Louvain
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium
Tél: +32 10 47 29 47
Fax: +32 10 47 36 75
www.afepa.eu
master-afepa@uclouvain.be

For your contact persons at the partner universities, please consult the respective chapter in this handbook for the contact information

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. This Master’s programme 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 AFEPA 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 organised by four European main partner universities: the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) in Milano, Italy, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Sweden, the Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn (UBonn) in Germany, and the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) in Belgium. The partnership also includes three associated partners: the Pontifica Universidad Catolica (PUC) in Chile, the University of Alberta (UAlberta) in Canada and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in Spain. These seven partner universities are recognised worldwide for the quality of their educational programme and scientific achievements.

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, as well as two semesters of studies (54 ECTS credits) at a second main
partner university, and 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. Besides the mandatory courses of 30 ECTS credits in theory and methods, optional courses can be selected to form a major of 30 ECTS credits or a minor of 15 ECTS credits in the following thematic fields: 1) agri-food and trade policy, 2) environmental and natural resource policy, 3) agribusiness and market analysis, 4) market and consumer research, and 5) development policy. The language of instruction and examination is English for all the courses at SLU, UAlberta, UBonn and UCSC, and for most of the courses at UCL and UPC, but in Spanish for most of the courses at PUC. Examination can be organized in English at all partners.

The language of instruction and examination is English for most of the courses at the AFEPA partner universities. At UCL a sufficient number of courses are taught in English so that knowledge of French is not necessary. At UPC and especially at PUC, most courses are taught in Spanish and a sufficient knowledge of that language is therefore necessary. Students speaking French or Spanish, respectively, at the three universities not only have a wider selection of courses to choose from, but it also facilitates everyday life. In any case, because professors at these two latter institutions are fluent in English, examinations can be organised in English at the specific request of the international students.

**Learning outcomes**

The European Master 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 analyse 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 facing societies expressing structural change,
8. able to communicate their methods and results to both specialised and non-specialised audiences, hopefully in at least two European languages.

The main objective of the AFEPA programme is that recipients be qualified to use and apply adequate methods to analyse socio-economic problems, formulate policy recommendations and understand the risks and consequences of any given economic policy measures, especially those oriented towards 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

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http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook
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policies, and provide sound and relevant policy recommendations to a better sustainable
development of rural areas.

Recipients are qualified to take responsibilities in international, national and regional agencies, non-
governmental organisations, consultancy firms, professional organisations and private companies
such as banks, insurances and agricultural, environmental and food business.

**Main area**: Social sciences (including economics)
**Second area**: Agricultural and forestry sciences
**Third area**: Geography, earth and environmental studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Contact person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator</strong>: Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Belgium</td>
<td>Prof. Bruno Henry de Frahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Partners</strong>:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Italy</td>
<td>Prof. Paulo Schokai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden</td>
<td>Prof. Yves Surry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bonn (UBonn), Germany</td>
<td>Prof. Ralf Nolten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Associated Partners</strong>:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alberta (UA), Canada</td>
<td>Prof. James Rude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Chile</td>
<td>Prof. Oscar Melo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain</td>
<td>Prof. José M. Gil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.3 Programme Objectives

The Master’s Programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis 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. The programme is policy oriented,
focused 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. Drawing on complementary, specialized teaching and research
expertise of professors from several universities the Master programme offers teaching relevant for
the analysis of agriculture, food and environmental policy issues within a unified framework
exposing students to policy traditions in different European countries.

Students are required during their studies for the Master degree to be associated with at least two of
the four main partner universities involved in the programme. This gives students from Europe and
from the rest of the world 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 institutions.
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.

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 analyse 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 facing societies expressing structural change,
8. able to communicate their methods and results to both specialised and non-specialised audiences, hopefully in at least two European languages.

The main objective of this Master’s programme is that recipients be qualified to use and apply adequate methods to analyse socio-economic problems, formulate policy recommendations and understand the risks and consequences of any given economic policy measures, especially those oriented towards 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.

2.4 Requirements, Application and Admission

2.4.1 Admission Criteria

The AFEPA Master’s is open to European and non-European excellent students having acquired a Bachelor’s degree or an equivalent academic degree of minimum three years of undergraduate study corresponding to 180 ECTS credits. 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 before they enrol the programme. All candidates also need to have followed
courses in mathematics, statistics and economics at an introductory level. An additional introduction to agricultural, environmental or food sciences is recommended.

Candidates must agree to complete the academic curriculum in two consecutive academic years and according to the terms as specified in the student agreement.

2.4.2 Language requirement

Candidates from English speaking countries must provide an official letter from their university from which they graduated attesting that English is the media of instruction. All other candidates will have to provide evidence that they master English at a level corresponding to the minimum scores on one of the following tests. Please note that we have to receive an applicant’s language certificate directly from the testing institutions in the case of the TOEFL test. So applicants should contact the TOEFL test center and have them send a copy to the AFEPA coordinating institution, the Catholic University of Louvain (Applicants have to mention to the testing institution the specific code for the Catholic University of Louvain, which is 8823). If an applicant choses to take the IELTS test, we can accept a certified copy of test results. The IELTS test result copy should clearly indicate the “test report form number”, which will then enable us to contact the testing institution and verify the results. We require the following minimum scores for the TOELF and IELTS results:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): at least 550 on the Paper-based Test (PBT) or 80 on the Internet-based Test (IBT).
- 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).

Learning support in local language is offered free of additional fees at SLU, UBBonn, UCL and UCSC. This support is provided to facilitate the integration of the international students in study and local social life. Language courses can be recognised for a maximum of 5 ECTS credits in the academic programme.

2.4.3 Application Timetable

Application deadlines for general programme admission:

- **March 15, 2017** for non-EU students (see below the definition).
- **May 15, 2017**: for all EU students (see below the definition) with the exception of those wanting to study at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences during their first year. In that case the deadline is **April 5**.

The entire application package must arrive by postal mail at the AFEPA coordination office on the day indicated at the latest. Applicants are informed about their status during the month of April and June 2017, respectively.
We consider as EU applicants nationals or long-term residents of the 28 EU Member States (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Bulgaria, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania).

We consider as non-EU applicants nationals of a third country other than those from a Member State of the European Union or non long-term residents of any of the Member States.

2.4.4 Application Procedure

The following is a list of the documents that applicants need to submit electronically (see below section 2.4.5; Note that applicants can only complete their online application of all the documents have been uploaded) and then sent by regular post with your signed application form to the AFEPA coordination office. To submit and upload a document applicants have to scan it. Please respect the following general guidelines for scanned documents: i) the scan should be in color and ii) the scan should be in a .pdf or .jpg file type.

- A recent photo, preferably in passport format
- Officially certified copies of the following academic certificates received by the applicant:
  - school-leaving certificate giving the right of entry to higher education in the candidate’s home country (with individual grades)
  - all university end-of-year exam certificates with individual grades
  - University diploma or degree certificate indicating the final grade(s) and ranking if available

  NB: All certificates must be accompanied by an explanation of the grading system in English. Copies of certificates must be officially certified and submitted preferably on DIN A4 or A5 paper. Copies of documents may be certified as true copies of the originals with a stamp and signature by the university which conferred the degree. Original certificates will not be needed until registration with the AFEPA main partner universities. At that time main partner universities have to receive original diplomas or degree certificate and original academic transcripts that are being sent directly from the university, from which an applicant graduated.

- Language certificates as evidence of English proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge; if the applicant would prefer to submit another English test, please check with the AFEPA coordination office first). Applicants from English speaking countries or with a degree from an academic programme taught in English must provide an official letter from their university from which they graduated attesting that English is the media of instruction. Please note that we have to receive an applicant’s language certificate directly from the testing institutions in the case of the TOEFL test. So applicants should contact the TOEFL test center and have them send a copy to the AFEPA coordinating institution, the Catholic University of Louvain (Applicants have to mention to the testing institution the specific code for the Catholic University of Louvain, which is 8823). If an applicant choses to take the IELTS test, we can accept a certified copy of your test results. The IELTS test result copy should clearly indicate the “test report form number”, which will then enable us to contact the testing institution and verify the results.

- Proofs of work, training or research experience, if related to the AFEPA domain (this does not need to be upload electronically, but applicants can submit it with their paper application.
- A letter of motivation
• A student of purpose

Reference form: On the application page, applicants are asked to name two referees of their choice. The two referees will be contacted automatically by the AFEPA application platform and they have to upload their reference directly to that platform.

Applicants need to sign their application form and send it together with the required documents listed above to the AFEPA coordination office at the address listed below. Any incomplete application file will be rejected. Any official document in language different from English, French or Spanish has to be accompanied by a translated version in one of these three languages certified by an official authority. Otherwise it will not be considered as part of the application.

AFEPA Master’s Programme
Économie rurale
Faculté des Bioingénieurs
Place de la Croix du Sud, 2 bte L7.05.15
Université catholique de Louvain
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium

2.4.5 On-line Application and Downloadable Forms

To apply for the AFEPA Master’s programme, please fill out the online application, available under this link: http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/application/

2.4.6 Candidate Selection

The selection for admission to the AFEPA Master’s programme is based on academic merit, language skills, professional and volunteer experience, expression of motivation, recommendations, and other credentials (reputation of the school of origin, the referees, etc.) to guarantee the selection of high-quality and motivated students.

It is expected that the successful candidates have succeeded their Bachelor degree with an average equivalence of a A score in the ECTS grading scale and be ranked within the ten top percent of their class. Successful candidates also have to have demonstrated a strong interest in economic policy analysis related to agricultural, food and environmental issues. Their university transcripts, letter of motivation, statement of purpose, letters of their referees and their extra-curriculum activities will be thoroughly examined for that purpose.

2.4.7 Student Agreement

A Student Agreement between the AFEPA consortium and the student enrolled in the AFEPA Master’s programme will explicitly indicate 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 will be in accordance with those enforced in the partner institutions. Generic versions of the student agreement are accessible on http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/agreements/
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. The academic programme consists of a number of compulsory courses for 30 ECTS credits, a number of optional courses and supplementary courses for 54 ECTS credits, two short summer schools for 6 ECTS credits and a thesis for 30 ECTS credits (see Table 1).

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 students’ 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 or a minor subject area for a minimum of 15 ECTS. Subject area are the following (see Table 2):
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.

Supplementary courses may be in any other discipline recognised 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. Languages courses should not exceed a maximum recognition of 5 ECTS credits.

The Master’s thesis shall draw on and deepen subjects covered in the courses of the programme. It shall be 40-60 pages long. Students may adopt a theoretical or empirical approach, but are encouraged to address an original policy issue. Students prepare their thesis under the joint supervision of two faculty members, one from each of the two main partner institutions awarding their Master’s Degree. The final thesis is preferably defended at the end of the second academic year of the AFEPA Master’s programme in conjunction with the AFEPA summer session. If, for any reason, the student cannot defend the thesis in conjunction with the summer session, the defence takes place in the partner institution where the student attends the second academic year. After the defence, the examiners send an evaluation report to each partner institution awarding their Master’s degree. This evaluation is used for calculating the final graduation mark, if any, following the internal rules of each partner institution.

Both at the end of first and second years all Master’s students are gathered at one of the main partner universities for a summer school consisting of a two-week programme of workshops, lectures and field trips. At the end of their first year of study students present a research proposal, and at the end of their second year their Master thesis for discussion by fellow students and participating faculty.
AFEPA students are associated with at least two of the four main partner universities participating in the AFEPA Master’s programme with the possibility to have a study stay of one quarter or semester at one of the three associated partner universities participating in the AFEPA Master’s programme (see Figure 1). 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 with the possibility to have a short study stay at one of the three associated universities to obtain 60 ECTS credits.

At the start of the Master’s programme each student is associated with a faculty member who with 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 institution are required to be accepted in the second main partner institution.

Table 1: Specifics on the academic structure of the AFEPA programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Compulsary Courses (30 ECTS): at all main partner universities</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Microeconomic Theory (12-22.5 ECTS)</td>
<td>SLU, UBonn, UCL, UCSC</td>
<td>12-22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Quantitative Methods (5-15 ECTS)</td>
<td>SLU, UBonn, UCL, UCSC</td>
<td>5-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3. Other Compulsary Courses (5-12 ECTS)</td>
<td>UBonn, UCL, UCSC</td>
<td>5-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Optional Courses (40 ECTS): subject areas which are partner specific see Table 2:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Agri-food and trade policy (20-30 ECTS)</td>
<td>SLU, UBonn, UCL, UCSC</td>
<td>20-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Environmental and natural resource policy (15-42 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Agribusiness and market analysis (25-52 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4. Market and consumer research (36-42 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5. Development policy (15-24 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Supplementary Courses (14 ECTS): at all main partner universities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1. Language Courses (maximum 5 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2. Other Courses (maximum 14 ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Summer Schools (6 ECTS): at the end of the first and second years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Master Thesis (30 ECTS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2. Environmental and natural resource policy  SLU, UBohn  15-42
2.3. Agribusiness and market analysis  SLU, UBohn, UCSC  25-52
2.4. Market and consumer research  UBohn, UCSC  36-42
2.5. Development policy  UBohn, UCL  15-24
3. Supplementary Courses\(^a\)  14
3.1. Language Courses     All  \(\leq 5\)
4. Summer Schools  Annual rotation  6
5. Master Thesis     All  30
Total     All  120

Figure 1. Master students’ mobility of the Master’s programme in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis

The list of courses offered by the main and associated partner institutions can be seen thanks to the following electronic links. Courses from main partner institutions are fully described, 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.


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Academic Courses Offered at the University of Bonn (UBonn):
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/bonn_courses/

Academic Courses Offered at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL):
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/ucl_courses/

Academic Courses Offered at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC):
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/ucsc-courses/

Academic Courses Offered at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/upc_courses/

Academic Courses Offered at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC)
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/puc_courses/

Academic Courses Offered at the University of Alberta (UAlberta)
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/ualberta-courses/

2.6 Academic Calendar

The official AFEPA Master’s programme academic schoolyear last from September 1 until August 31 but may vary due to the differences in academic calendars of the partner universities. Students are requested to be present approximately four to five week days before the start of the academic year to participate in orientation sessions and fulfil administrative obligations (e.g., registration, insurance, rental contract, residence permit).

The Current Academic Calendar can be seen in:
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/academic-calendar/

2.7 Summer School

Both at the end of the first and second years all AFEPA students are gathered at one of the participating universities for a summer school consisting of a two 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 thesis for discussion by fellow students and participating faculty. These summer schools strictly used English to facilitate communications among students and faculty members from different origins. The two summer schools combined contribute to 6 ECTS credits to the overall 120 ECTS total.

The 2017 summer school is organised in Barcelona at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya:
http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/2017-barcelona/

2.8 Master’s Thesis

The Master’s thesis shall draw on and deepen subjects covered in the courses of the AFEPA 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 year of study 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. On this basis AFEPA students are allocated a thesis supervisor at the institution where they spend the last semester of their Master’s programme. 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 thesis](http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook) in English using a common AFEPA cover page and format. The Master’s thesis shall be 40-60 pages long. Subject to the approval of their thesis supervisor, students could also write their thesis either in French or Spanish.

The final thesis is preferably defended at the end of the second academic year of the AFEPA Master’s programme in conjunction with the AFEPA summer session. If, for any reason, the student cannot defend the thesis in conjunction with the summer session, the defence takes place in the partner institution where the student attends the second academic year. After the defence, the examiners send an evaluation report to each partner institution awarding their Master’s degree. This evaluation is used for calculating the final graduation mark, if any, following the internal rules of each partner institution.

### 2.9 Degree Awards

The AFEPA Master’s programme offers two degree options. These two options have implications for university tuition and administrative fees and Erasmus Plus mobility scholarships.

**The Double Degree Option**

Under this degree option AFEPA students obtain the 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.

In that case, AFEPA students start to earn their first 60 ECTS credits during their first academic year at any of the four main partner universities and then continue to earn their additional 60 ECTS credits during their second academic year at any of the three other main universities they did not select during their first year. In addition, students can add a shorter study period at any of the associated partner universities and integrate the credits earned into the 60 ECTS credits of their second academic year in the programme.

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.

In that case, students opting for the double degree have to pay the respective university tuition fees at each of their two main partner universities. They may incur small administrative fees at their associated partner university.

The Single Degree Option

Under this degree option AFEPA students obtain the joint certificate entitled *European Master in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis* and the official Master’s degree of their first-year main partner university.

In that case, the mobility of the AFEPA students described in the previous section on the double degree option is the same in terms of attending courses at and earning 60 ECTS credits from their partner, including the associated partner universities.

In that case, students opting for the single degree have to pay the university tuition fees for both academic years at their first-year university. They can also requested an Erasmus Plus scholarship at their first-year university for mobility at their second-year European university.

Table 3 lists the titles of the Master’s degree conferred by each main partner university.

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

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. An example of the diploma supplement for a student who went to SLU and UCL is available under this link.

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. An example of the AFEPA certificate delivered during the graduation ceremony is available under this link.
2.10 Fees and Scholarships

2.10.1 Fees

Fees include university tuition fees, language course fees, summer school fees and any other possible fees, except for books and manuals purchases, field trips, travel and accommodation.

*University Tuition Fees*

The tuition fees listed in Table 4 are the annual tuition fees that each partner university charges for the admission of a student into the AFEPA Master’s programme. 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 4. University tuition fees and payment deadline per partner university for the 2016-17 academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Institution</th>
<th>Per Non-European Student(a)</th>
<th>Per European Student(a)</th>
<th>Deadline for payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLU</td>
<td>85,000SEK (≈10,000€)(^b)</td>
<td>0(^b)</td>
<td>August 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubonn</td>
<td>816€</td>
<td>816€</td>
<td>September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>835 and 4,175€(^c)</td>
<td>835€</td>
<td>October 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCSC</td>
<td>5,000 to 8,540€(^d)</td>
<td>3,700 to 8,700€(^e)</td>
<td>July 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a): See section 2.4.3 for the definition of student categories
(b): Depending on the student’s country of origin (see https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/All-you-need-to-know1/Applying-for-studies/Fees-and-scholarships/EUEEA-citizens-exempt-from-fees/List-of-EUEEA-countries/)
(d): Depending on the availability of scholarships for non-European residents
(e): Depending on the student’s family income

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 Table 4. 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 (at Ubonn in German, at UCL 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 300-500 Euros depending on the university. Students are not required to take such a language course, but are been recommended for it. 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, because in addition to the linguistic aspect, the language course generally also includes applied elements, in which participating students learned 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**

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 two-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.

Alumni from the AFEPA Master’s programme generally find that the summer school is one of the highlights of the programme, because of the international atmosphere and the potential for networking but also due to the academic topic of the four-day workshop that is organized each time and varies from summer to summer. For each of these 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 organising field trips and social events. This fee does not cover travel and accommodation for attending these summer schools. If this is the case, the summer school fees are paid to the AFEPA coordination office by May 1 of each academic year.

**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

**Scholarships**

**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.

For more information on third party scholarships, see: http://sites.uclouvain.be/afepa/scholarships/

2.11 Health Insurance

Students interested in acquiring a comprehensive health insurance package during their stay in the AFEPA Master’s programme can contact the AFEPA coordination office. Please note that the insurance coverage is not included in the tuition fees, but has to be paid separately at approximately 400 Euros per academic year.

The coverage concerns:
- accidental death
- permanent invalidity due to an accident
- costs of treatments following an accident / sickness
- costs of urgent dental care
- assistance to persons
- civil liability

For specifics on the coverage, which is identical to that required under Erasmus Mundus guidelines, please go to www.marsh.be/emis2.

2.12 Erasmus Mundus Alumni Club

As a former programme under the Erasmus Mundus programme, we encourage all AFEPA students, past and present, to check out the club’s activities and to connect with alumni of the AFEPA and other programmes at www.em-a.eu

2.13 Useful Links

- European Students’ Union: the ESU is the umbrella organisation 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 a European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO.
2.14 Social Media and Intranet

The AFEPAn Master’s programme maintains two Facebook pages, one private one for the alumni and current students of the programme, available here and a public one for general communication and information, available here.

The AFEPAn Master’s programme also maintains a LinkedIn page at the following link:

The AFEPAn Master’s programme also uses an Intranet for students and faculty which is available here.

2.14. Programme and Summer School evaluations

Each summer, at the end of the summer school, AFEPAn students have the possibility to fill in a survey to evaluate the AFEPAn Master’s programme and the current summer school. There is also a short session where AFEPAn students and faculty members can openly express their own view on the AFEPAn Master’s programme.
3. Information on the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

3.1 Contact information
Professor Paolo Schokai
Tel. +39-0523-599290
Fax +39-0523-599282
e-mail: paolo.schokai@unicatt.it

3.2 General Information on Italy
Please consult the following websites for extensive information on Italy:
https://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy
http://www.italia.it/en/home.html

3.2.1 Travel to and in Italy

3.2.1.1 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 en route to Italy.
Intra-European flights serve plenty of other Italian cities; the leading mainstream carriers include Alitalia, 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: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/essential-information#ixzz4aT0avHL1

3.2.1.2 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.
3.2.1.3 Bus
Buses are the cheapest overland option to Italy, but services are less frequent, less comfortable and significantly slower than the train. 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.

3.2.1.4 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

3.3 Specific Information about Milano and Piacenza

Please consult the internet for information on Milano. Here we focus on Pizcenza, because the UCSC campus mainly concerned by the AFEPA Master’s programme is organised in that city located about 60 kms south of Milano.

3.3.1 How to Get Around

Piancenza 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 Piacenza call **199 892021**, working 24h, or go to [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)

From Piacenza railway station ([map](http://maps.google.com)) in order to reach the city center (10 minutes’ walk) you may use Seta public transport you, for info call **0523 327523** or **840 000216**, active from 7.00 am to 7 pm on weekdays or go to [www.setaweb.it](http://www.setaweb.it)

Local Transport

**By car**
Where to leave the car and the camper

- **Car parks**
  - Sostafacile
  - **Car Bus** (shuttle buses to the city center from the car parks)
  - Area camper Piacenza

  **Congestion Charge zones in the city centre** (surveillance cameras active everyday, including holidays, from 8 am to 7 pm)

  **Electronic cars charge stations** ([Enel Drive](http://eneldrive.com))

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1) via Cavour, 7 (map), close to Libreria Feltrinelli and
2) via Cavour, 60 (map) at the junction with vicolo Serafini.

By bus
public transport: company SETA
ticket office: piazza Cittadella (map) - tel. +39.0523.327523
information: tel 840 000216 (active from 7 am to 7 pm on weekdays)

By taxi
Contacts:
daily service, from 5 am to 1 am: radiotaxi tel. ++39.0523.591919
night service, from 1 am to 5 am: tel. 348.4485155

By bike
Public bikes:
Mi muovo in bici - regional bike sharing system
Bike rentals by the railway station manned parking in P.le Marconi (map)

3.3.2 Obtaining a Resident Permit
Please contact the International Office at UCSC Piacenza for the specific administrative steps regarding the resident permit (ucsc.international-pc@unicatt.it).
Please note that within 8 days from your arrival, you will have to start the process to get the Italian Residency Permit.

3.3.3 Opening a Bank Account
We recommend opening a bank account right after your arrival in Italy in order to directly be able to effectuate transactions such as your monthly rent and your semester contribution fee.
For opening a bank account, the following are needed:

- your passport
- your proof of registration with the City of Piacenza
- your proof of registration at the UCSC

3.3.4 Other Practical Matters
The UCSC Piacenza Facebook page, available here, has been designed to provide a lot of general information and to address specific questions incoming students often pose.
Please do not hesitate to raise any question on that page and the UCSC staff or other international students will reply to your inquiry. Such questions can concern the visa procedure, cost of living, housing, etc.

Residency Permit (for 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.

**Average Cost of Living**

Pizza and Beer: € 20
Ice-cream: € 2.50
Sandwich: € 4.50
Coffee: € 1
Cinema ticket: € 8

**Telephone and Wifi**

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 you can have access to the wi-fi connection provided by the municipality by following two steps:

1. Go to the Informagiovani Office in Piazza Cavalli, 2 (Goticco Palace) with a valid ID
2. Make your registration and receive a personal card (one for each electronic tool) with username and password

**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. To obtain a Tax Code you won’t have to pay any money.

**Agenzia delle Entrate**

Via Modonesi, 16
Tel. +39 0523 601 211

**Opening hours:**

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

**Post Offices**

- Main Building: via Sant’Antonino, 40 (city centre)
For more information please visit: [http://www.posteitaliane.it/](http://www.posteitaliane.it/)

**Opening hours:**
Monday-Friday: 8.00 - 18.30  
Saturday: 8.00 - 13.00  

The post office “PIACENZA 6” is located in via Emilia Parmense 24, 5 minutes from the University campus.  

**Opening hours:**  
Monday-Friday: 8.30 - 13.30  
Saturday: 8.00 - 12.30  

**Temporary Jobs**  
Piacenza 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 Piacenza  
Address: Piazza Cavalli, 2 – Piacenza  
infogiov@comune.piacenza.it  
http://informagiovani.provincia.pc.it/  

**Opening hours:**  
Monday-Saturday: 8.30 - 18.00  
Sunday: 9.30 - 13.30  

### 3.4 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.

### 3.5 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.

3.6 Student Life

Markets
Wednesdays and Saturdays 7.30am - 1.00pm (city centre)

Cinemas
Movie theatres or cinemas in Piacenza screen films in Italian only. You can either go to our cosy cinemas in the city centre or to our multiplex located next to the Galassia shopping mall.

UCI Cinemas multiplex
Inside the cinema you will find some restaurants, bowling alleys, videogame machines and pool tables.
Address:
Via Terenzio Visconti, 1
Bus Line: 8
For more information please visit: http://www.ucicinemas.it/uci_piacenza/index.php

Theatre
Teatro Municipale
For more information please visit: http://www.teatripiacenza.it/

Swimming pools, sports centres, and outdoor activities
In Piacenza there are many sports centres with indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

Riverpark (Summer)
Enjoy a day at the park located only 15 Km from Piacenza. After classes or on the weekend relax by pedaling your bike along the countryside by the shining corn fields, poppies and tomatoes. At sunsets, have a stroll through the paths of the Galleana Park located in the south-west part of the town (via Manfredi) and discover the fascinating fauna of the surrounding area. Take a bus to Rivergaro from the Bus Station in Via Cittadella and you will reach the park in 20 minutes. For more information please visit: http://www.riverpark.it/
Address: Via Meucci, 37 - 29029 Rivergaro (PC)
Tel. +39 0523.952332
Mobile: +39 348.4751434
E-mail: info@riverpark.it

Piacenza on-ice (Winter)
December and January are the coldest months of the year. To warm up your winter afternoons, the municipality of Piacenza offers an ice-skating rink located just outside the city centre in via f.lli Alberici, next to the Sports Palace.

Opening Time:
End of November - mid-January
Monday-Saturday: 14.30pm - 11.00pm
Sundays and holidays: 10.00am - 11.00pm
Clubs and discos
http://www.discotechepiacenza.it
Some of the most famous discos in Piacenza are:
Avila (Tuna and Rivalta, Piacenza)
Paradise (Piacenza)
Free buses for Paradise are usually provided in Summer: from Piazza Cavalli at 11.30pm - 12.30am - 1.30am, Back: 3.30am - 4.30 am
Village 2.0 (Piacenza)
Altro Village (Piacenza)

Tourism/sightseeing Piacenza
http://www.atlanteguide.com/
Piacenza is a small town but it is so rich in art, culture and history. Here is a list of things not-to-be-missed when you are in Piacenza:

Museums
Civic Museum in Farnese Palace and Modern Art Gallery Ricci Oddi
For more information please visit: http://www.comune.piacenza.it/benvenuti/citta/cosavedere/musei

Churches
Cattedrale, Basilica di Sant’Antonino, Basilica di Santa Maria di Campagna, Chiesa di San Francesco, Chiesa di San Savino, Chiesa di San Sisto. For more information please visit: http://www.comune.piacenza.it/benvenuti/citta/cosavedere/chiese

Palaces and Squares
Palazzo Gotico, Palazzo Farnese, Palazzo dei Mercanti, Palazzo del Governatore, Piazza Cavalli, Piazza Duomo. For more information please visit: http://www.comune.piacenza.it/benvenuti/citta/cosavedere/citta-storica

Castles
Piacenza's countryside is dominated by the castles and fortresses of the ancient Duchy of Parma and Piacenza. The province of Piacenza is a territory to discover. From the Appennines to the River Po you will discover fairytale locations and an enchanting atmosphere that connects history, tradition, food and wine. For more information please visit: http://www.castellidelducato.it/castellidelducato/IAT Piacenza Tourist Office
Address: Piazza Cavalli (Gotico Palace)
Tel. (+39) 0523 492223
For more information please visit: http://www.comune.piacenza.it/benvenuti/iat-piacenza-1

3.6.1 Accomodation
Università Cattolica offers two on campus residence halls and two in the city center. Moreover, the university collaborates with good estate agencies that help students finding the right place to stay, according to your needs and expectations.

Residenza Gasparini (on campus)
Located right behind the University’s cafeteria lies the on campus Residenza Gasparini, with 52 single rooms, private bathrooms, and three common kitchens, this residence is a very comfortable
place to stay. The price includes breakfast, bed linens, blankets, bath towels, weekly room cleaning and Wi-Fi connection. There are also several common rooms in which you can study and spend your time with other international students.

Contacts:
Segreteria Operativa Piacenza EDUCatt
Email: reception.piacenza@educatt.org
Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11
Fax: +39 0523 579416
For more information please visit: http://educatt.unicatt.it/educatt-residenza-gasparini-il-collegio

Collegio Sant’Isidoro (on campus)
The Residence was built in 1995. With 165 single bedrooms, the Residence provides many services, including heating, air conditioning, sports facilities, common study rooms, tv room, Wi-Fi connection, private bathroom, room cleaning, all included in the accommodation fee. Inside the Collegio you will find the University cafeteria, open to students, administrative and teaching staff and to external guests. Collegio Sant’Isidoro will be closed from July 25 to August 25 for Summer Holidays. Please note: a few bedrooms will be set aside for Exchange Students - for deadlines and application procedure please contact:
For more information please visit: http://collegi.unicatt.it/collegi-collegio-sant-isidoro-presentazione

Collegio Morigi (off campus) & Collegio Orsoline (off campus)
Alternatively, you can apply for a private room at one of the other residences for students.
For information about application procedure and deadlines please refer to:
Contacts:
Segreteria Operativa Piacenza EDUCatt
reception.piacenza@educatt.org
Tel. +39 0523 62 11 11
Fax: +39 0523 579416
If you prefer to choose your apartment directly in Piacenza, you can easily book a room at a hotel or hostel and take an appointment with one of the Real Estate Agencies that support our international students:

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

Soluzione Casa
Mr Massimo Corbellini (English and Spanish Speaking)
Tel. + 39 0523 490818
info@soluzionecasapc.it
www.soluzionecasapc.it

Tecnocasa
Ms. Umbra Carini (English speaking)
Once in Piacenza, you will also find various offers on the notice boards located inside the campus.

**Temporary Housing**

**BED & BREAKFAST L’ANTICA TORRE**  
Str. La Motta Vecchia, 31 - 29122 Montale (PC)  
Tel/Fax: +39 0523 615267  
Mobile: +39 392 3958926 - +39 348 4590725

**DON ZERMANI HOSTEL**  
Mrs Daniela Ponzini  
Via Zoni, 38/40 - 29121 Piacenza - Italy  
Tel. and Fax: +39 0523 712319  
[www.ostellodipiacenza.it](http://www.ostellodipiacenza.it)

**PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII HOSTEL**  
Mrs Daniela Ponzini  
Cantone San Nazzaro 2/A - 29122 Piacenza (PC)  
Tel. +39 (0)523 337989  
info@ostellodipiacenza.it

**PETIT HOTEL**  
Via Pennazzi, 5 - 29122 Piacenza (PC)  
Tel. +39 0523 590405  
[www.hotelpetit.it](http://www.hotelpetit.it)

4. Information on the Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn, Germany

4.1 Contact Information

Dr. Ralf Nolten  
Institute of Food and Ressource Economics (ILR), University of Bonn  
Nussallee 21, D-53115 Bonn, Germany  
Tel. +49 (0)228 73-3036  
E-mail: freco@ilr.uni-bonn.de
4.2 General Information on Germany

Germany, officially the Federal Republic of Germany (German: 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 81.8 million inhabitants in January 2010, it has the largest population among member states of the European Union, and it is also home to the third-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 centre 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 seventh. 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 recognised as a scientific and technological leader in several fields.

4.2.1 Travel to and in Germany

4.2.1.1 Air

Frankfurt International Airport (FRA; 01805-372 4636; www.frankfurt-airport.de) is the main gateway for transcontinental flights, although Düsseldorf (DUS; 0211-4210; www.duesseldorf-international.de) and Munich (MUC; 089-975 00; www.munich-airport.de) also receive their share of overseas air traffic. Berlin has two international airports, Tegel (TXL; 0180-500 0186; www.berlin-airport.de) and Schönefeld (SXF; 0180-500 0186; www.berlin-airport.de). There are also sizeable airports in Hamburg (HAM; 040-507 50; www.ham-airport.de), Cologne/Bonn (CGN; 02203-404 001; www.airport-cgn.de) and Stuttgart (STR; 01805-948 444; www.stuttgart-airport.com), and smaller ones in such cities as Bremen, Dresden, Erfurt, Hanover, 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; 06543-509 200; www.hahn-airport.de), which is actually near the Moselle River, about 110km northwest of Frankfurt proper.

**Airlines**
The main airline serving Germany is the national flagship carrier and Star Alliance member Lufthansa (LH; 01805-838 426; www.lufthansa.de), which operates a vast network of domestic and international flights and has one of the world’s best safety records. Of the many other national and discount carriers also serving Germany, the main ones are listed here along with their telephone numbers in Germany for reservations, flight changes and information. 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 airlines Air Berlin, Germanwings and HLX offer the most flights to Germany.

### 4.2.1.2 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 (www.eurail.com) 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, eg 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 (www.raileurope.com), a major agency specialising in train travel around Europe. In Australia, passes are sold by Flight Centre (www.flightcentre.com.au); in New Zealand try www.railplus.com.au.

**Eurostar**

Linking the UK with continental Europe, the Eurostar (www.eurostar.com) 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 origin.
residence. These passes, worthwhile only if you plan to really clock up the kilometres, must be validated at a train-station ticket window before you begin your first journey. The best deals are available to people under 26.

4.2.1.3 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.

**Eurolines** ([www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com)) is the umbrella organisation 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. Children between the ages of four and 12 pay half price and there’s a 10% discount for teens, students and seniors. In Germany, Eurolines is represented by **Deutsche Touring** (069-790 350; [www.deutsche-touring.com](http://www.deutsche-touring.com)).

If Germany is part of your European-wide itinerary, a **Eurolines Pass** ([www.eurolines-pass.com](http://www.eurolines-pass.com)) 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 €329/439 (15/30 days) for those over 26 and €279/359 for travellers over 26. Lower prices apply during the rest of the year; the website has full details. The pass is available online and from travel agents.

4.2.1.4 Car

When bringing your car to Germany, all you need is a valid driving licence, 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). 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.

4.2.1.5. Mitfahrgelegenheit

You can use the service called “Mitfahren”; it likes some one has a car and want to travel to Berlin from Bonn, he can ask for up to 3 passengers to travel with him; in turn each passenger has to pay for their seat; it often costs 25-30 euro to travel to Berlin/Munich from Bonn; however, if you travel alone, it might not be a good option as you do not know the driver.

4.3 Specific Information about Bonn

**Bonn** is the 19th largest city in Germany. Located in the Cologne/Bonn Region, about 25 kilometres 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 centre 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 17 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. Simultaneously, Bonn is establishing itself as an important national and international centre of meetings, conventions and conferences, many of which are directly related to the work of the United Nations. A new conference centre capable of hosting thousands of participants is currently under construction in the immediate vicinity of the UN Campus.

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

### 4.3.1 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 costs 5 Euros and can be purchased at ticket machines or with the bus driver (note: 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**

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AFEPA Guidebook
http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook
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Also from the airport of Frankfurt, it is best to travel to Bonn 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 Rail**
Bonn is easily reached by rail. Its Central Station is connected to the network of ICE/IC/EC trains. Suburban railway line 66 links Bonn to the stop at Siegburg of the ICE line Frankfurt - Cologne. 
Homepage of Deutsche Bahn. URL: [http://www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

**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 centre.

Regional map of Bonn with motorway overview [PDF, 2149 KB]
Parking in the city centre : URL: [http://www.citypark-bonn.de](http://www.citypark-bonn.de)

**Local Transport - Bus, Tram and Suburban Railway**
An efficient bus and rail network makes it easy to get around in Bonn. 
Local bus and rail, URL: [http://www.stadtwerke-bonn.de/](http://www.stadtwerke-bonn.de/)
Timetable of local and regional lines, URL: [http://www.vrs-info.de](http://www.vrs-info.de)

**Discovering Bonn by Bicycle**
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, URL: [http://www.adfc-bonn.de](http://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 Personenschifffahrt (BPS). URL: [http://www.b-p-s.de](http://www.b-p-s.de)
-Köln-Düsseldorfer. URL: [http://www.k-d.com](http://www.k-d.com)
-Personenschifffahrt Siebengebirge eG. URL: [http://www.siebengebirgslinie-bonn.de](http://www.siebengebirgslinie-bonn.de)

**4.3.2 Obtaining a Resident Permit**
Everyone staying in Bonn longer than three months needs to register with the local Residents' Registration Office (Meldebehörde) within a week of moving to Bonn. To register, you will need a registration form which you can get during the Orientation Programme of the International Office (or [download it here](http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook)).

Bürgeramt (Meldestelle) im Stadthaus 
Berliner Platz 
53111 Bonn 
Tel.: 0228-77-1 (Zentrale)
Opening hours:
Monday and Thursday 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Please note: The registration copy issued by the "Bürgeramt" is needed for opening a bank account.

Information about registration form
Registration form

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 so-called "Aufenthaltsanzeige". You can receive this document at the Immigration Office (Ausländeramt) after your registration with the City of Bonn.
- **Students from non-EU and EFTA countries** must apply for a residence permit with the Immigration Office (Ausländeramt). You will need the following documents for the registration at the Immigration Office:
  - your ID/passport
  - a copy of your registration with the City of Bonn (Meldebehörde)
  - proof of health insurance
  - proof of enrolment at the University of Bonn
  - documents to prove 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
  - 2 passport photos (applies only to non-EU students)

Erasmus + students do not have to pay any fees.

Ausländerbehörde der Stadt Bonn
Oxfordstraße 19, 53111 Bonn
For the registration with the immigration office "Ausländeramt", you have to make an appointment by phone under:
Tel. 0228 77 6000, Monday & Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m or Wednesday, 8 a.m to 4 p.m

Please note: The International Office of the University of Bonn cannot issue any of the above mentioned certificates as it does not have access to information dealing with the financial support situation of ERASMUS students.

Application form "Aufenthaltsanzeige"
Residence permit (non-EU students)

A 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. It can prepare documents and also translate it all into English for you.

4.3.3 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.

For opening a bank account, the following are needed:
4.3.4 Other Practical Matters

Visa
Students from non EU/EFTA countries require a student visa for their stay in Germany. These 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 € 500 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 € 216. 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 € 150 to € 320.

All of the payments mentioned above - except for the first rent - 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. Due to the difficulty of withdrawing large amounts of money with a Master or Visa card, which may also be very expensive, we advise you to bring travellers’ cheques.

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 € 620.

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 (Ausländer tutor) 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 Studentenwerk (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.

4.4 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 programs in a range of subjects. Its library holds more than two million volumes. The University of Bonn has 525 professors and 27,800 students. Among its notable alumni and faculty are seven Nobel Laureates, two Fields Medalists, twelve Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize winners, Pope Benedict XVI, Joseph Goebel, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche and Joseph Schumpeter.

4.5 The Department of Economic and Agricultural Policy

The chair for economic and agricultural policy focuses its research on analysing 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".

Cooperations

The chair links via various international projects to the German and European research area. A close co-operation with EUROCARE, a consulting specialising in quantitative policy impact analysis, supports access of graduate students and post docs to applied research projects, and helps transferring our scientific findings to stakeholders.

4.6 Student Life

- With your teacher at your home university and the departmental ERASMUS co-ordinator of your degree course in Bonn, you coordinate your timetable. Your ERASMUS co-ordinator will provide you with all relevant information concerning your studies and is responsible for issuing all certificates and transcripts. As soon as your home university nominates you for the Erasmus programme, the departmental Erasmus co-ordinator will send you further information.
- Please find the Course Catalogue of the University of Bonn here.
- Courses offered in English: The main (particularly in most of the Bachelor courses: the only) course language at the University of Bonn is German - some master programmes present exceptions, especially in the natural sciences. Please consult the Course Catalogue about the conditions of admission and contact your ERASMUS co-ordinator, particularly if you plan to attend a course which is different from your major subject.

Further information on the University of Bonn
The University of Bonn introduces itself: on the following pages, 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.

The Studienkompass provides you with lots of useful information on studying at the University of Bonn.

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

German language classes for international students without DSH
These courses are open to regular students who were not required to present a German language certificate upon enrolment. These courses are free of charge. The online application will be at www.pro-integration.de

Study Buddies
The Study Buddy Program was very recently launched by the International Office. It is designed to provide information to international newcomers and to help them adjust to the new environment of the University of Bonn. The program proved a great success last semester and will thus be continued. "Study Buddies", i.e. German students who are familiar with the university's structures, will give you a helping hand during your first semester.

Most of the German students participating in the Study Buddy Program have spent a year abroad themselves and are aware of the problems that might arise and possible solutions. Your personal "Study Buddy" will provide valuable advice on everyday life in Bonn. By participating in the Study Buddy Program, you will not only be able to cut red tape but will also come into contact with German students more easily. In the past, we ascertained that the program really helped to foster friendship and mutual understanding and broadened the cultural horizon of all participants.

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 organises 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: www.uni-bonn.de/unibonn/studying/experiencing-german-culture/international-club.

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:

International Club
Poppelsdorfer Allee 53 (junction: Argelanderstraße)
4.6.1 Accommodation

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

Youth Hostel:
Jugendgästehaus Venusberg
Haager Weg 42
53127 Bonn
Tel: +49-(0)228-289970
Fax: +49-(0)228-28997-14
bonn@jugendherberge.de

Max Hostel: Maxstraße 7
53111 Bonn
Tel: +49(0)228-823578
info@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, the Studentenwerk has more than 1,000 rooms available for international students. You can apply directly to the Studentenwerk. The Studentenwerk has 40 student dorms to house 4200 students of the University of Bonn and the Hochschule (Fachhochschule) Rhein-Sieg. An additional 500 inexpensive rooms or apartments are offered by various other student dorms, of which some are private and others are run by religious institutions. There is also the private housing market. Offers for apartments or rooms can be found on the university's bulletin boards, in local newspapers or on the notice-boards in the University.

1. Student dormitories run by the Studentenwerk Bonn

All students regularly enrolled at the University of Bonn (as well as those planning to enrol in the forthcoming semester) can apply for accommodation in one of the Studentenwerk'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 Studentenwerk. 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

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http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook
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Department for Student Accommodation (Studentisches Wohnen)
Nassestr. 11
53113 Bonn
Tel: +49-(0)228-737164 up to 7167
e-mail: wohnen@stw-bonn.de

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday additionally 2 - 4 p.m.

2. Room placement from the AStA

Room offers from private vendors collect the Sozialreferat des AStA.
AStA
Sozialreferat
Nassestr. 11
Tel.: 73-7043
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Friday 12 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Homepage: http://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

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 given below.
- Studentenheim Althaus: Adenauerallee 129, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 213972
- Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus: Königstr. 88, 53115 Bonn, Tel.: 9119915 (Postanschrift: Venusbergweg 4, 53115 Bonn)
- Newmanhaus: Adenauerallee 63-69, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 9144527
- Cusanushaus: Hainstr. 52, 53121 Bonn, Tel.: 625820
- Stella Matutina Studentinnenwohnheim: Gudenauer Weg 128, 53127 Bonn, Tel.: 910260
- Oscar-Romero-Haus: Heerstr. 205, 53111 Bonn, Tel.: 635094/651215
- Augustinushaus: Eduard-Pflüger-Str. 56, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 9239330 und 9144527
- Döllinger-Haus: Baumschulallee 9-13, 53115 Bonn, Tel.: 0228/737496
- Studentenwohnheim Westmark: Rheinaustr. 130, 53225 Bonn, Tel.: 471410
- Collegium Albertinum: Adenauerallee 19, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 2674-0 (informal application with a letter of recommendation by a priest/minister, male students only)
- Herz-Jesu-Kloster Studentenwohnheim: Lindenstr. 62, 53227 Bonn, Tel.: 440657
- Studentenwohnheim des Baltischen Christlichen Studentenbundes: Annaberger Str. 400, 53175 Bonn, Tel.: 316244
- Evangelisch-Theologisches Studienhaus Clarenbach: Goebenstr. 32-36, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 261185 (Theology Students only)
- Hans-Iwand-Haus Evang.-Theolog. Stift: Humboldtstr. 42, 53115 Bonn, Tel.: 73-2200 (Theology Students only)

**Internet**
There are wireless areas surrounding the university buildings. If you want to access the internet by your laptop or cellphone, just go to the HRZ (the university’s computer center) where you can easily get the necessary software (for free)

**Learning German**
The university offers international applicants and students different possibilities for improving and extending their German skills.
The German courses organised for this purpose are held by the "ProIntegration e.V." association and are subject to a fee. There are preparatory courses for the "DSH German Language Proficiency Test for Admission to Higher Education" or Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber, which is necessary to pass prior to enrollment at the university. German courses are also offered for students who have already enrolled to act as an accompaniment to their studies. Please read the following pages for more details.

*Description of ProIntegration e.V.*
*DSH German Language Proficiency Test*
*International Summer Course of German language, literature and culture*

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 class, thus you should quickly register online. More information: [https://www.uni-bonn.de/studying/international-students/german/german-courses](https://www.uni-bonn.de/studying/international-students/german/german-courses) Usually classes fill up quickly. In case you cannot register or a class is full already contact Mrs Hammer to enter a waiting list

*Contact:*
Ms. Sonja Hammer
Tel: +49-228/73 77 08
Fax: +49-228/73 59 66
Poppelsdorfer Allee 53
53115 Bonn
Germany

Uni Bonn also offers a language exchange, called “Sprachtandem” where interested students can search for other students to exchange their language in a bilateral setting: [http://www.asta-bonn.de/Sprachtandem](http://www.asta-bonn.de/Sprachtandem)

**4.6.2 Cultural Activities**
[to be completed]
4.6.3 Sports

Please consult the following page for sports information at the university: http://www.sport.uni-bonn.de/ (only in German)
5. Information on the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

5.1 Contact information
AFEPA Master’s Programme
Economie rurale
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 10 47 29 47
Fax: +32 10 47 36 75
www.afepa.eu
master-afepa@uclouvain.be

5.2 General Information on Belgium

Belgium is a small country (30,539 km²) with a population of slightly less than 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 speak 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 organizations (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

UCL is an international university at the heart of Europe. Its headquarters are located in Louvain-la-Neuve, a brand 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 train service: 4 trains/hour 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-Luxemburg 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 organised 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 motorised 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

In stead of taking the car, 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 motorised 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

The local AFEPA coordination office will assist you in this procedure and accompany you to the city 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.

5.3.4 Other Practical Matters

Cost of living

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

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 enrollment.

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://www.uclouvain.be/restaurants-universitaires.html

Water and electricity

Water is drinkable everywhere, if not it will be indicated “Eau non potable”. Electric current is 220 volts.

Ways and customs of Belgium

Ways and customs are different from a country to another. In Belgium:
- Prices can not be discussed
• If you have an appointment for example at 10.00 o’clock, it is important to be in time
• Public holidays are:
  o New Year (January 1)
  o Easter Monday
  o Labor Day (May 1)
  o Ascension Day
  o Whit-Monday
  o National Day (July 21)
  o Assumption Day (August 15)
  o All Saints’ Day (November 1)
  o Armistice Day (November 11)
  o Christmas Day (December 25)
  o 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, UCL'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.

UCL 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
UCL, 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,
UCL 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 world wide.
UCL 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 UCL’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 UCL 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 UCL-Namur),
• 2 museum,
• 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 (www.uclouvain.be/eli) of the Université catholique de Louvain. Research topics of this research group can be seen at https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/eli/elia/recherches.html. 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

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 café and fast food places in Louvain-la-Neuve.

Under normal circumstances, the AFEPA coordination office will take care of booking housing for in-coming AFEPA students. So, you do not need to register for any of the following links.

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.

The procedure to obtain a room or apartment is different depending on the type of international student:

- accommodation for degree students
- accommodation for exchange students

### 5.6.2 Cultural Activities

At UCL,

- 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 et creation, which gives students the opportunity to put their cultural knowledge to use as part of their curriculum.
- We really want to make a contribution 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 (unfortunately, up to now only in French):

http://www.blocry.be/st/
http://www.uclouvain.be/sport.html
6. Information on the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

6.1 Contact Information

Emma Arias Olsson
Education Administrator at the Department of Economics; Institutionen för ekonomi
Telephone: 018 - 67 17 86
E-mail: emma.arias.olsson@slu.se

Postal address:
Inst For Ekonomi, Box 7013
75007 Uppsala
Visiting address: Ulls hus, Ulls väg 27, 756 51 Ultuna, Uppsala

6.2 General Information on Sweden

Sweden stretches 1,500 kilometers 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.

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 savory 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 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. Please be sure to obtain 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: 2 buses/hour 04.00-00.00
- Journey time: 35 minutes
- Cost: about 90 SEK, you can buy a ticket from the driver.

**Trains** leave Arlanda for Uppsala Central Station directly from Sky City, between Terminal 4 and 5:
- Journey time: 15-20 minutes
- Cost: about 120 SEK if purchased in advance. Tickets can be bought from the conductor on board to an additional fee.
- Ticket Desk: SJ Resebutik/Travel Office, in Sky City (next to Terminal 5).

**Taxis** leave from outside the arrivals hall:
- Journey time: 30 minutes
- Cost: About 600 SEK - ask the driver for a fixed price (fast pris) in advance, you can pay by credit card or cash.

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

**Flight shuttle buses** run between Skavsta Airport to Stockholm Central Station:
- Frequency: 30 minutes after every Ryan Air flight arrival, please consult the timetables online [www.flygbussarna.se](http://www.flygbussarna.se).
- Journey time: approximately 80 minutes.
- Cost: about 100 SEK single ticket or about 200 SEK return ticket
- Ticket Desk: you can buy a ticket from the ticket desk in the main hall of the airport.

From Stockholm Central Train Station to Uppsala Central Station:
- Frequency: 2 trains per hour from 6.00 to 23.00
- Journey time: 40 minutes
- Cost: about 70 SEK
- Ticket Desk: You can buy a ticket from the ticket desk in the main hall of the station.

Arrival into Stockholm-Västerås Airport, city of Västerås Västerås:
Travel from Västerås Airport to Västerås city centre and the Central railway and bus station.

Timetable after every Ryan air flight, [www.taxivasteras.se](http://www.taxivasteras.se)
- Journey time: 15 minutes
- Cost: 50 SEK
From Västerås central station to Uppsala Central Station, you can choose to take a train or regional bus number 804:

**Train:**
- Frequency: During daytime about once/hour
- Journey time: 1 hour if the train is direct, 1hr 30 min if there is a departure with change.
- Cost: about 100-120 SEK

**Bus 804:**
- Frequency: 2 buses per hour from 6.00 to 22.00 during weekdays and 1 bus per hour during the weekend from 6.00 to 22.00.
- Journey time: 90 minutes
- Cost: 30-60 SEK

### 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](http://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, for example with a student card, which you will get when you sign up as a member of a student union.

### 6.2.1.3 Bus

Uppsala Lokaltrafik 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. Single fare tickets cannot be bought at the bus. You can by single fare tickets at ticket vending machines or by sending a text message from your Swedish mobile phone. Read more about the buses at: [http://ul.se/en/](http://ul.se/en/).

To travel to another city by bus, please see: Swebus - [http://www.swebus.se/SwebusExpress_com/](http://www.swebus.se/SwebusExpress_com/)

A monthly pass for public transport costs SEK/month 690 in Stockholm and often less in smaller cities. It costs 500 SEK/month in Uppsala and for students it is 375 SEK/month

### 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 behavior 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 neighbors are frequent and straightforward. Most lines offer substantial discounts for seniors, students and children, and many rail-pass holders also get reduced fares.

Stena Line - [http://www.stenaline.co.uk/ferry/](http://www.stenaline.co.uk/ferry/)

### 6.3 Specific Information about Uppsala

**Uppsala** is the capital of Uppsala County (**Uppsala län**) and the fourth largest city of Sweden with approximately 190,000 inhabitants. Uppsala is located about 70 km north of the capital Stockholm. The city is also the seat of the Uppsala Municipality (**Uppsala kommun**).

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, 70 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**).

5 km north of Uppsala city lays Old Uppsala (**Gamla Uppsala**), 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 Resident Permit

**Passport**
You need a valid passport for entry into Sweden. All overseas students will need a student visa. Citizens of the EU countries and Iceland and Norway need only an ID card provided that the citizenship is stated on the card. 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.

**Residence Permit, Visa**

If you are going to stay in Sweden for more than 3 months you need a residence permit (uppehållstillstånd). Citizens of EU countries and Switzerland applies for their residence permit after their arrival in Sweden at the local Office of the Swedish Migration Board.

Scandinavian citizens do not need a residence permit.

You can make an application on paper, but there is also an electronic application system for residence permits/student visas available at www.migrationsverket.se/. You can use the electronic application system to fill in and send applications, enclose passport copies and other attachments and (if you are a non-EU/EEA or non-Swiss citizen) to pay the application fee on-line. Please note that there is a separate electronic application form for doctoral students.

To obtain a residence permit you must prove that you have a health insurance policy. You must also prove that you have been admitted as an exchange or visiting student and fill out a form confirming that you have enough money for your study period in Sweden (see below).

If you are a citizen of a country outside the EU, Switzerland or Scandinavia you must have your residence permit (also if received electronically) stamped into your passport before entering Sweden. You apply for a residence permit at a Swedish Embassy or Consulate in your home country. Otherwise you may not be allowed entry into the country. In some non-European countries Sweden may be represented by the Embassy or Consulate of another EU country (for instance, Finland or the Netherlands).

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. The amount, SEK 7,300 per month for ten months of the year, is set by the Migration Board. If you wish to bring your family you must show that you have at your disposal an additional SEK 3,000 per month for your spouse and SEK 1,800 per month per child.

**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: www.migrationsverket.se/english.html.

**Civic Registration**

Students, who are temporary residents in Sweden, i.e. less than 12 months, are normally not entitled to register with Tax Office (Skattemyndigheten) and cannot get Swedish Civic Registration number (Personnummer). This is used as an identification code not only in population registration but also in other administrative areas: taxation, national insurance, 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/).

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.

You will need to show a valid passport, and a letter stating that you are a visiting student, like your acceptance letter from SLU.

Traveler's checks can be used at banks.

Cash & Credit Cards
Credit cards are widely accepted in Sweden, much more so than the rest of Europe. Commonly accepted cards are Visa, MasterCard/Eurocard and American Express. Cash-machines/ATM:s are called Bankomat and you can withdraw money from your bank at home if you have VISA or MasterCard.

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 40-50 (EUR 4-5), 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 55-85 for a meal including a soft drink, salad and tea/coffee.

A Feasible Budget

In Table 5, you find an example of a feasible budget for 10 months in Swedish crowns (SEK).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>10 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student fees, books</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone, internet</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local travel</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical care, hygiene</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbies, leisure</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>73,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Table 6 gives a list of some food products and a few other items.

Table 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>SEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>8:-/liter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>15-25:-/loaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
<td>15-18:-/600 gr packet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>60-90:-/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>100-200:-/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>50-80:-/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>18-30:-/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>18:-/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>50:-/packet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>10:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>50-70:-/75 cl bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>12-15:-/33 cl in a liquor store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>100:-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

6.3.4 Other Practical Matters

Postal service
The Swedish Post Office has recently been restructured. Mail and packets can now 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, 500 and 1,000 kronor, coins in 1, 5 and 10 kronor. 1 Euro is approximately SEK 11.

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 Residence Permit, above). You can 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 centers 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 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Telecommunications**
Most international students in Sweden choose to use Skype and mobile telephones with prepaid SIM cards from companies such as Telia, Tele2Comviq, Telenor, 3 and Halebop, which can easily be bought online or at newsstands. 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 will probably have to present some proof of your age when buying. 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.

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**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

**SLU has about:**

- 2,774 full-time equivalent staff
- 3,745 full-time equivalent students
- 604 active doctoral students

Research

Scientific publication at SLU increased in 2016, after two years of slight decrease (see Figure 2). Researchers at SLU published 1,600 papers and reviews in 2016. The highest number of published papers and reviews were within Ecology, followed by Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Plant Sciences and Veterinary Sciences.

About 10.5 per cent of SLU’s publication is among the top 10 per cent cited (in its domain). The three most successful domains (in terms of top 10 per cent-citation) are Plant Sciences, Marine & Fresh Water Biology and Ecology.

SLU’s share of the total scientific publication in Sweden is 5.2 per cent. More than 2/3 of the publication at SLU has international co-authors. Most international co-authors have their origin in USA, followed by Germany and Great Britain.

Figure 2. Number of papers with at least one SLU author 2007–2016*

*The value for 2016 is an estimate based on details taken from Web of Science in January 2017 increased by 6 per cent.

The funding that is not direct government funding is called external funding. SLU’s external funding of research has increased over the last five years. Between 2012 and 2016 external funding has increased by 9 per cent. The main increase is funding from research councils and foundations. International grants have also increased.

Courses and programmes at Bachelor’s level and Master’s level
The courses and degree programmes offered by SLU are based on the professional qualifications that the university is licensed to issue and the research conducted at the university. The number of full-time equivalent students (FTE) has decreased during the last five years, due to a reduction of government grant 2012–2015 (see Table 7). The Government has set a three-year FTE target for SLU (2016–2018). To reach that target, SLU has to increase the number of FTE with 10 per cent the two following years.

Table 7. Full-time equivalents 2013–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full-time equivalents</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s level</td>
<td>2 639</td>
<td>2 601</td>
<td>2 542</td>
<td>2 494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s level</td>
<td>1 198</td>
<td>1 204</td>
<td>1 217</td>
<td>1 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses not classified at a level*</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 879</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 838</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 812</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 745</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mainly outgoing students within exchange programmes.

Vocational education and training form the basis of the courses and programmes beginning on Bachelor’s level. Applicants per place varies between programmes. Animal-related courses and programmes receive the highest number of applicants. With only one exception are all the programmes beginning on Master's level given in English.

In 2016, a total of 851 individuals graduated at Bachelor’s level and Master’s level.

Fore more see: [https://www.slu.se/en/about-slufacts-and-figures/](https://www.slu.se/en/about-slufacts-and-figures/)

### 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 about 1400 students, and 1000 employees, including 300 doctoral students and 90 professors. 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 programs, and outreach activities. We are also responsible for a number of environmental monitoring programs that are designed to describe and assess the condition of the Swedish environment.

Most of the department and the faculty office are located in Uppsala, but important activities are also carried out in Umeå, Skara, and Grimsö. The departments are organized in clusters covering four subject areas:

- Ecology-Crop Production
- Landscape Planning-Social Sciences
- Soil-Water-Environment
- Uppsala BioCenter
6.4.2 Ultuna Campus

SLU’s campus is set in spacious leafy surroundings in Uppsala – a fitting setting for Sweden’s only agricultural university, and possibly the most knowledge intensive of all universities.

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 kilometers south of Uppsala city centre. Cycling is the favored 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. Many SLU students are dog owners, so dogs are allowed in campus 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, Applied Statistics and Mathematics and Agrarian History. We also offer qualified supervision of degree projects and papers.

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 colors 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. Some nightclubs charge an entrance fee, usually ranging from SEK 50 to 150.

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

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 150-400.

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 programs 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 (Ultuna studentkår: http://www.ultunastudentkar.se). The first time you will meet the union is probably during the orientation program, which is being held a few days before the semester starts in August. The Ultuna student union tries to arrange 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/). 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 café (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.

As part of the AFEPA program SLU will try to help you find an accommodation. It is a good idea to have already line up a place to stay before you arrive in Uppsala.

If you decide to try to find an accommodation by your own you can start by looking at: https://www.slu.se/en/education/life-at-slu/Accommodation/
7. Information on the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain

7.1 Contact Information

José M. Gil  
CREDA-UPC-IRTA  
Edifici ESAB  
Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia  
Avinguda del Canal Olimpic s/n  
08860-Castelldefels (Barcelona)  
Tfno: ++34-935521210  
Fax: ++34-935521121  
e-mail: chema.gil@upc.edu

International Mobility Office of Barcelona  
Campus Nord (modul A4-soterrani)  
C/ Jordi Girona 1-3  
08034 Barcelona  
Tel: +34-93 401 69 37  
Fax:+34-93 401 74 02  
Oficina.mobilitat.internacional@upc.es  
Hours: Mon-Fri, 10-14h  
Tue+Thu, 16-18h

7.2 General Information on Spain and Barcelona

Spain, officially the Kingdom of Spain (Spanish: Reino de España), is a member state of the European Union located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Its mainland is bordered to the south and east by the Mediterranean Sea except for a small land boundary with the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar; to the north by France, Andorra, and the Bay of Biscay; and to the northwest and west by the Atlantic Ocean and Portugal.

Spanish territory also includes the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the African coast, and two autonomous cities in North Africa, Ceuta and Melilla, that border Morocco. With an area of 504,030 km², it is the next largest country in Western Europe and the European Union after France.

Because of its location, the territory of Spain was subject to many external influences since prehistoric times and through to its dawn as a country. Conversely, it has been an important source of influence to other regions, chiefly during the Modern Era, when it became a global empire that has left a legacy of over 400 million Spanish speakers today, making Spanish the world’s second most spoken first language.
Spain is a democracy organised in the form of a parliamentary government under a constitutional monarchy. It is a developed country with the ninth or tenth largest economy in the world by nominal GDP, and very high living standards (15th highest Human Development Index), including the seventeenth-highest quality of life index rating in the world. It is a member of the United Nations, European Union, NATO, OECD, and WTO.

Barcelona is the main city in Catalonia, an autonomous region located north east of Spain. It has a surface of 32,000 m² and a population of 7 million people. It is ruled by the autonomous government called Generalitat de Catalunya.

There are many things that make Barcelona a very attractive city to study and live in: its historical and architectural heritage, its cultural activities, its cosmopolitan nature and its privileged location by the Mediterranean Sea.

Most of the UPC schools, departments and facilities are located in Barcelona, but there are some in close towns: Castelldefels, Manresa, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Terrassa and Vilanova i la Geltrú. All of them are very well connected through the wide network of public transportation available in the metropolitan area of Barcelona.

There are two official languages in Catalonia: Spanish and Catalan. Both of them share a common origin and they are spoken by almost everybody.

**Online Guides of Barcelona**

- Barcelona (City Council web)
- Barcelona Youth Guide

**7.2.1 Travel to and in Barcelona**

**7.2.1.1 Air**

High season in Spain generally means Christmas/New Year, Easter and roughly June to September. This varies somewhat, however, depending on the specific destination. You may find reasonably priced flights available to places such as Madrid in August because it is stinking hot and everyone else has fled to the mountains and the sea. As a general rule, November to March is when air fares to Spain are likely to be at their lowest, and the intervening months can be considered shoulder periods.

**Airports & airlines**

The main gateway to Spain is Madrid’s **Barajas airport** (Aeropuerto de Barajas; national flight information 902 40 47 04; [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)), although many European direct flights serve other centres, particularly Barcelona’s Aeroport del Prat, Málaga, Palma de Mallorca and Valencia. Charter flights and low-cost airlines (mostly from the UK) are flying direct into a growing number of regional airports, including A Coruña, Alicante, Almería, Asturias, Bilbao, Girona (for the Costa Brava and Barcelona), Ibiza, Jerez de la Frontera, Murcia, Reus and Seville.
Iberia, Spain’s main national carrier, flies to most Spanish cities (many via Madrid) from around the world but is generally the expensive way to go.

7.2.1.2 Train

Train is the most convenient overland option for reaching Barcelona from major Spanish centres like Madrid and Valencia. It can be a long haul from other parts of Europe, where budget flights frequently offer a saving in time and money. For travel within Spain, information is available at train stations or travel agents. A network of rodalies/cercanías serves towns around Barcelona (and the airport). Contact Renfe (902 240202; www.renfe.es) for information on these services.

The high-speed Tren de Alta Velocidad Española (AVE) between Madrid and Barcelona began operating in 2008 (four years late!). Seventeen trains per day run in each direction, seven of them non-stop (two hours, 40 minutes). One-way prices range from around €40 (on the condition that they are purchased online at least 15 days before travel) to €163 (for an open ticket valid for a year).

Another high-speed AVE train, known as Euromed, runs on standard, wide-gauge Spanish tracks, and connects Barcelona with Valencia and Alicante.

Most long-distance (largo recorrido or Grandes Líneas) trains have 1st and 2nd classes (known as preferente and turista). After the AVE, Euromed and several other similarly modern trains, the most common long-distance trains are the Tren Articulado Ligero Goicoechea Oriol (Talgos). They are cheaper, slower and tend to stop at all stations en route.

A trenhotel is a sleeping-car train with up to three classes: turista (for those sitting or in a couchette), preferente (sleeping car) and gran clase (for those who prefer to sleep in sheer luxury!).

The main international and domestic train station in Barcelona is Estació Sants (Plaça dels Països Catalans; Sants Estació), located 2.5km west of La Rambla. Direct overnight trains from Paris, Geneva, Lisbon and Milan arrive here, as do services from a number of other cities across Spain and France.

Estació Sants is equipped with a tourist office, a telephone and fax office, currency exchange booths open between 8am and 10pm, ATMs and a consigna (left-luggage lockers; small/big locker for 24hr €3/4.50; 5.30am-11pm).

A second train station is being constructed at the other end of the city in La Sagrera.

7.2.1.3 Bus and tram

Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB; 010; www.tmb.net) buses run along most city routes every few minutes from 5am or 6am to 10pm or 11pm. Many routes pass through Plaça de Catalunya and/or Plaça de la Universitat. After 11pm a reduced network of yellow nitibuses (night buses) runs until 3am or 5am. All nitibus routes pass through Plaça de Catalunya and most run every 30 to 45 minutes.

Catalonia
Much of the Pyrenees and the entire Costa Brava are served only by buses, as train services are limited to important railheads such as Girona, Figueres, Lleida, Ripoll and Puigcerdà. Various bus companies operate across the region. All of the following operate from Estació del Nord (902 303222; www.barcelonanord.com; Carrer d’Ali Bei 80; Arc de Triomf), except Hispano-Igualadina and TEISA:

**Alsina Graells** (902 422242; www2.alsa.es) Part of the Continental-Auto group, it runs buses from Barcelona to destinations west and northwest, such as Vielha, La Seu d’Urgell and Lleida.


**Hispano-Igualadina** (902 447726; www.igualadina.net; Estació Sants & Plaça de la Reina Maria Cristina) Serves central Catalonia.

**SARFA** (902 302025; www.sarfa.com) The main operator on and around the Costa Brava.

**TEISA** (972 20 48 68; www.teisa-bus.com; Carrer de Pau Claris 117; Passeig de Gràcia) Covers a large part of the eastern Catalan Pyrenees from Girona and Figueres. From Barcelona buses head for Camprodon via Ripoll and Olot via Besalú.

**Long-distance buses**

Long-distance buses leave from Estació del Nord. A plethora of companies operates to different parts of Spain, although many come under the umbrella of **Alsa-Enatcar** (902 422242; www.alsa.es). For other companies, ask at the bus station. There are frequent services to Madrid, Valencia and Zaragoza (up to 20 a day) and several daily departures to distant destinations such as Burgos, Santiago de Compostela and Seville.

**Eurolines** (www.eurolines.com), in conjunction with local carriers all over Europe, is the main international carrier. Its website provides links to national operators; it runs services across Europe and to Morocco from Estació del Nord, and **Estació d’Autobusos de Sants** (Carrer de Viriat; Sants Estació), next to Estació Sants Barcelona. For information and tickets in Barcelona, contact Alsa-Enatcar. Another carrier is **Linebús** (www.linebus.com, in Spanish).

**Tram**

**TMB** (902 193275; www.trambcn.com) runs three tram lines (T1, T2 and T3) into the suburbs of greater Barcelona from Plaça de Francesc Macià and are of limited interest to visitors. The T4 line runs from behind the zoo (near the Ciutadella Vila Olímpica Metro stop) to Sant Adrià via Glòries and the Fòrum. The T5 line runs from Glòries to Badalona. All standard transport passes are valid.

### 7.2.1.4 Car

**Car Rental**

Avis, Europcar, National/Atesa and Hertz have desks at El Prat airport, Estació Sants and Estació del Nord. Rental outlets in Barcelona include:
Avis (902 248824, 93 237 56 80; www.avis.com; Carrer de Còrsega 293-295; Diagonal)

Cooltra (93 221 40 70; www.cooltra.com; Passeig de Joan de Borbó 80-84) You can rent scooters here for around €20 a day, or as little as €90 a month in low season, plus add insurance. They also organise scooter tours.

Europcar (93 302 05 43; www.europcar.com; Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 680; Girona)

Hertz (93 419 61 56; www.hertz.com; Carrer del Viriat 45; Sants)

### 7.3 Specific Information about Barcelona

#### 7.3.1 Obtaining a Resident Permit

Once in Barcelona, place a phone all to this number 010. It is the service of information of the City Council of Barcelona and they will be able to tell you which administrative you should go to. They will also inform you about the procedure and the documents you should take there.

**EU Students:**

If you are a citizen of any of the countries, which form the European Union or of Switzerland and are going to live in Spain for more than three months, it is mandatory that you ask for a certificate of registration at the Central Register for Foreign People. The International Mobility Office (see “contacts”) can provide you with the forms you must fill in and explain how to do the procedure.

**Non EU Students:**

In your case, it is mandatory to possess a student visa (type D) when you enter Spain. If you have come with your family, they must have a student’s relative visa (also type D). Please bear in mind, in case you had entered Spain with any other kind of visa, that you will not be allowed to remain in the country after it has expired. This is so because it is not possible for a foreign person to obtain a student’s visas once you are already in Spain. You must go back to your country and ask for it. In case you have a student visa but for a period of six months (and stating in it: Estudios hasta 180 dias), your visa allows you to stay in Spain for six months but you cannot extend it nor turn it into a stay card for one year.

Otherwise, the contacts at the International Mobility Office can help you to find the relevant place where you can get registered for your 12 months stay in Barcelona:

- They will provide you with a form to fill out and inform you about the required documents you must hand in with your application
- They will also check the documents for accuracy once bring them in in order to prevent mistakes.
- Every Wednesday morning, a courier takes the student’s records to the Spanish Civil Government. There the documents and the application will be processed and send back to the office with an appointment for you.
- At the date of your appointment, you will then have to go to the police station, where you will obtain a provisional resident card and, after another month, the final definite one.
7.3.2 Opening a Bank Account

Go to any of the banks near or on campus because they are used to help foreign students. Opening an account is an easy procedure; you should bring your Passport and your Visa and some money. If you run into problems, please contact the International Mobility Office of Barcelona (see under “contacts”) and they will help you out.

7.3.3 Other Practical Matters

Costs of living

A 2008 study showed that Barcelona had, in one year, shot from 56th to 31st in a ranking of more than 100 cities by expense. A midrange hotel double room can cost anything from €70 to €250, and a midrange dinner averages €21 to €70. On the other hand, simple, filling set lunchtime meals cost around €10. Many museums have free admission days. Staying in a modest hotel, sticking to set lunches and dining out well (but without splurging), you can bargain on spending €100 to €150 a day. Those on a strict budget, who stay in hostel dorms and survive on entrepans (filled rolls) or make up their own meals, should be able to get by on about €50 to €60 a day.

7.4 The Universitat Politècnica de Barcelona

UPC Facts & Figures

Main indicators - academic year 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>International outreach</th>
<th>Cooperation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,070 bachelor's, first- and second-cycle students</td>
<td>63 bachelor's degrees (2016-2017)</td>
<td>979 new agreements and research projects</td>
<td>34 international double-degree agreements with 62 universities</td>
<td>60 development cooperation projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,832 master's degree students</td>
<td>70 master's programmes (2016-2017) (7 Erasmus Mundus and 23 taught in English)</td>
<td>2,277 articles published in scientific journals</td>
<td>12 international networks with the UPC as a member</td>
<td>19 NGOs and development cooperation projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,322 doctoral degree students</td>
<td>49 doctoral programmes (2016-2017)</td>
<td>47 patents</td>
<td>4 UNESCO chairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,047 lifelong learning students</td>
<td>186 continuing education programmes (UPC-specific master's degrees and postgraduate courses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,325 students participating in educational cooperation agreements with companies</td>
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<td>2,726 students in international mobility programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>6,522 graduates of first- and second-cycle and master's degrees (2014-2015)</td>
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<td>351 doctoral theses defended</td>
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PDI/PAS

3,015 teaching and research staff members

1,832 administrative and service staff members

49,402 UPC Alumni members

UPC Budget for 2016

€274,848,375

Campuses and schools

21 schools in 7 Catalan cities

Departments, institutes and research centres

205 research groups

18 specific research centres

11 TECNIO network research centres

16 associated research centres

International outreach

34 international double-degree agreements with 62 universities

12 international networks with the UPC as a member

4 UNESCO chairs

Cooperation

60 development cooperation projects

19 NGOs and development cooperation projects

AFEPA Guidebook

http://www.uclouvain.be/afepa/handbook

71/76
7.5 The Department of Agri-Food Engineering and Biotechnology

The Department of Agri-Food Engineering and Biotechnology was set up recently, in April 2001. Most of its staff were recruited from the oldest school of agriculture in Catalonia – the School of Agricultural Engineering of Barcelona (ESAB), which was founded in 1911 and had gained wide experience in teaching, research and extension activities in its 90 years of existence.

This multidisciplinary department is involved in a wide range of research activities although its focus is agriculture, the agri-food industry and biotechnological applications for aquaculture. The Department's researchers belong to the Unit of Aquiculture and Quality of Aquatic Products at the Government of Catalonia's Aquaculture R&D and Innovation Reference Network (XRAq), in which other leading Catalan research teams also participate.

The School of Agricultural Engineering of Barcelona is located on the Baix Llobregat Campus, in the Mediterranean Technology Park. The College has 34 laboratories, four study rooms and various computer rooms, an analysis unit, an industrial pilot plant and a food processing plant, among other facilities. In addition to this, students can work in the new Campus library, which offers all sorts of services, such as laptop computer lending, reservation of work rooms, wireless network, etc.

The training offered at the School allows its students to approach the study of biological systems from an engineering perspective. The study programs include a compulsory work placement in industry, which encourages direct contact with the professional sector and facilitates students incorporation into the labor market. Students also have the opportunity to participate in different mobility programmes with other countries in the European Union (the Socrates Erasmus Program) or with other universities throughout Spain (the Sicue Program).

Students can participate each year in international development cooperation projects, under the guidance of the School’s faculty.

The following master’s programs, adapted to the European Higher Education Area, are offered to students who wish to continue postgraduate education: Inter-university Master in Peri-Urban Agricultural Systems, Inter-university Master in Aquaculture and the University Master in Landscaping. The Doctoral program in Agribusiness Biotechnology and Sustainability is also taught wholly by the School’s faculty.
7.6 Student Life

7.6.1 Accommodation
The prices of both buying and renting flats have gone up considerably in recent years, especially in the Barcelona metropolitan area. However, for young people there are special accommodation services that offer more accessible flats along with three other people (mostly students, but also older people) and thus reduce the expenses.

University students often share flats in Barcelona. This is a great choice for local students and those from other countries to establish intercultural relations.

7.6.2 Cultural Activities
Univers is the social and sports club at UPC. It offers access and discounts for several cultural and sports activities, at the Sports center and gymnasium of the UPC. You may ask for this card and get more information about it at:

UNIVERS. Building C-6, Campus Nord
Tel: -93 4016887
Web: http://www.upc.edu/esports

7.6.3 Sports
See point 3.6.2
8. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

[To be completed]
9. University of Alberta

[To be completed]