Dear Student,

We would like to welcome you to the University of Messina and the city of Messina. We are very happy that you have chosen to study with us. Moving to another country, studying and living in another culture pose great challenges as well as rewards. Please be aware that at the beginning things will seem difficult, you will feel homesick and disoriented, but we guarantee that in a while you will adjust and Sicily will become your home. This brochure will help you to carry out some of the important organisational details for your life here.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Messina and we hope that your time here will be an important part of your academic and professional career!
The city of Messina was founded by the Greeks in 724 B.C. It was originally called Zancle, then Messanion, and finally Messina. Messina experienced many wars, earthquakes and destruction but always overcame these difficulties due to the indomitable spirit of the Messinese people. Nowadays, even if only a few things are left of its ancient heritage, the enchanting restored Cathedral (Duomo) can still be admired in its original form dating back to the 12th century. Montorsoli’s Fountain of Orion, the Arabic style Church of the Catalans and the 19th century Vittorio Emanuele III Gallery are some of the attractions. In the distance the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Letter, Madonna della Lettera - the Patroness of Messina, guards the port.

Messina historically has been a crossroads between cultures as well as a major transport and trade center. It continues to be an important gateway between the mainland and the island of Sicily. Messina offers a safe and welcoming environment for tourists and students alike who are amazed at the beautiful scenery and excellent food. It is particularly known for its welcoming people and famous granita (a delicious iced drink) celebrated all around Italy.

Video presentation of the city of Messina
HOW TO REACH MESSINA

Messina is situated in the eastern part of Sicily, in the South of Italy. Although Messina does not have its own airport, it can be easily reached by flying direct to the Catania, Palermo or Reggio Calabria airports.
The University of Messina (UniME) is one of the oldest universities in Italy. It was founded by the Jesuits in 1548. Although it has ancient origins, it is a University in continuous growth.

The University is one of the main reference points for the city of Messina, the 13th largest city in Italy, known as the “gateway to Sicily”. UniME has a strong international component, with agreements with universities from all over the world. Exchange programmes, double-degree and joint-degree programmes are all part of the international opportunities available to students.

Because of the ECTS system students may earn credits and take exams while they are studying abroad.
UniME at a glance

- **23,316** Enrolled students
- **150** International students enrolled every year
- **535** Cooperation agreements with foreign universities
- **85** Degree programmes
- **53** Visiting scholars
- **12** Departments
- **500** Students on international mobility every year
- **5** Double degree programmes
- **535** Cooperation agreements with foreign universities
- **500** Students on international mobility every year
- **23,316** Enrolled students

**Academic calendar**
The academic year is divided into two semesters. Autumn semester usually begins in September and lasts until December, while spring semester courses start in February and finish in May. Exams can be taken at the end of the course attended or during designated times during the academic year. Please note that some Departments may have different calendars and differences might exist among the starting dates of the courses. The timetable is available on each Department page.

**Academic offer**
First cycle degrees (Laurea triennale) and Second cycle degrees (Laurea magistrale / Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico)

Courses taught in English

Aakash Arneja
Master in Banking and Finance

Messina is a place where nature flaunts its beauty—mountains and sea in the same place with such pleasant weather does not give you any chance but to fall in love with it.

— Aakash Arneja
Master in Banking and Finance
BEFORE ARRIVAL

The following list will help you as you prepare to come to Messina.
Documents to acquire:
1. Italian identification number (see page 11)
2. Family income statement to determine the price of your meals and to use for scholarship applications
3. Health insurance policy for non-European students issued until the end of the current year.

ON ARRIVAL IN MESSINA

Please come to the Welcome Office in the city centre, Via Consolato del Mare, 41, 1st floor, during the opening hours within 3 days of your arrival. 
You will be given instructions and assistance to complete all necessary documents related to your enrolment and stay permit.

University facilities provided to students including discounted meals in the canteen, the bus pass, the possibility to participate in exchange programmes around the world.

Ibrahim Sayed
Master’s degree in International Management
Accommodation
Living in a student residence hall provides students with a good living situation, close to other students, as well as being near the University.

University Residences are located at:
• ERSU Annunziata Campus
  Contrada Battaglia, SS. Annunziata
• ERSU Papardo Campus
  Contrada Papardo, Ganzirri (Engineering Department)

Since the number of rooms for foreign students and visitors is limited, assignment of rooms is subject to availability. For further information please contact the Welcome Office.

For further housing options, the Erasmus Students Network, an association of former Erasmus students, can help you to find the right private accommodation in Messina. ESN provides regularly updated lists of private flats and houses and helps students in their search.

Messina is quite a beautiful city. My experience here has been really good—great university, great people, great food, and also great weather!

Deny Adi Prabowd
Master’s degree in Methods and Languages of Journalism
Meal card for University canteens
International students have access to four main University canteens located in different areas, all close to Departments. In order to have access to the canteens, students must apply for a CARD available at ERSU (Via Ghibellina, 146).

Here is a list of University canteens:
• Central canteen (Via Ghibellina, 146)
• Papardo canteen (C/da Papardo, Ganzirri)
• SS. Annunziata canteen (C/da Battaglia, SS. Annunziata)
• Policlinico canteen (Via Consolare Valeria, 1)

Opening a bank account
You are not required to open an Italian bank account as you can take money from your home country account with your ATM (Automated Teller Machine) card or credit card from any ATM in Messina. However, it simplifies your daily life and saves money in exchange rates and banking fees if you open an Italian account.

If you want to open a bank account you can do it in any bank/post office with your Italian identification number. You will receive more information when you arrive in Messina.
SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Transport
University students can buy a bus/tram pass at a reduced price. (QR-1)
UniME offers free shuttle bus services to the Annunziata and Papardo Campuses. (QR-2)
“P.I.S.T.A Mobility on demand” is an experimental car sharing service that students can use. (QR-3)

Libraries and reading rooms
UniME has a well-stocked library with the best scientific and academic publications. The on-line integrated library database (S.B.A.) and updated information on academic and research activities and services (LISI–SCOPUS) are freely available at the University website. (QR-4)
Each Department has its main library as well as specialised libraries.
Discovery Service UniME Libraries provides integrated access to all library resources of the University.

Wi-fi connection
All University premises are equipped with free wi-fi connection. (QR-5)

Italian language courses
The Department of Ancient and Modern Civilizations (DICAM) provides courses of Italian language for the students. (QR-6)
Sports facilities
UniME-CUS offers one of the most modern sports facilities in Italy. Students can participate in sports and take courses in all main indoor and outdoor sports. Sports facilities include indoor and outdoor pools, a dance room, a large multi-gym area, rugby, baseball, tennis, soccer and hockey pitches, and more.
For further information see QR-9

International mobility
UniME promotes international student exchange programmes at the European and international levels. For more information please visit the web page dedicated to specific mobility programmes (QR-7)

Video presentation QR-8

Erasmus Students Network Messina
ESN Messina offers many services like accommodation, tutoring and the buddy system to assist students.
The purchase of the ESN card gives you many local, national and international discounts; access to conferences at UniME and the Welcome day; local, regional and national trips and city tours, events, parties and many other opportunities for integration such as tandem night and international dinners.

Moreover, ESN provides pick-up service at the Messina railway/bus station upon your arrival. You are strongly recommended to contact ESN before your arrival in Messina by e-mail: pick-up@esn-messina.it; messina@esn.it.
SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Disabled students’ services
The UniME Office for persons with disabilities offers technical support to improve access to courses, facilities, buildings and social life. They also assist the various departments with programming and instructional issues. The Office also oversees the counselling activities of each department counselor as well as the coordination of free transportation.

Online services
• Web mail Studenti is an institutional email account for student communications;
• “Chat UniME” provides information and assistance with a chat operator;
• “Telegram UniME” is an official message system that communicates news about calls, competitions, deadlines, appointments, etc.;
• “App UniME” is the official University app to manage student personal careers;
• “Google apps” is a set of useful automated office applications for UniME students.

ERSU Scholarship
Scholarships for enroled students are awarded on the basis of the personal/family income of the applicant. The Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education (ERSU) publishes a yearly call for applications for scholarships, free accommodation, scholarships for international mobility and awards for high achievement.

Infopoint
Infopoint will provide any further information you may need concerning your academic life.
Italian identification number

The Italian identification number (*codice fiscale*) is a card with a personal code that identifies each person in the Italian State. It can be issued by the Italian Diplomatic/Consular Authority. It can also be issued directly by the Italian Revenue Agency (*Agenzia delle Entrate*) in Messina. This identification number is necessary to open a bank account, buy an Italian sim card or rent a flat.

Health card

The health card (*tessera sanitaria*) is a personal document issued to individuals entitled to benefits from the Italian National Health Service (*Servizio Sanitario Nazionale – SSN*). It contains biographical data and an identification number.

Health insurance for EU citizens

EU students must be sure to have made arrangements for health coverage before arriving in Italy. They need to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from their local Health Authority, which enables them to register freely with the Italian National Health Service. Enrolment in the Italian Health Service also entitles students to register with a family doctor and have special discounts. Alternatively, EU citizens may be covered by a private health insurance policy.
Health insurance for non-EU citizens
Health insurance coverage is required in order to obtain your visa and your residence permit in Italy. In order to register with the SSN, non-EU students need to go to the nearest Local Health Unit (Azienda Sanitaria Provinciale – ASP). Alternatively, you can obtain a private health insurance policy.

Residence permit
Within 8 working days of arrival all non-EU students intending to stay in Italy for more than 90 days must apply for a residence permit for study purposes (**Permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio**). The residence permit is issued by the local Police Department - “**Questura-Ufficio Immigrazione**”.

You can apply directly for the “residence permit for study reasons” by obtaining a kit from any qualified post office (**Poste Italiane - Sportello Amico**). The kit is an envelope containing the forms and instructions on how to fill them in. We advise you to go to the authorised CAF office where they will help you start the procedure of obtaining the residence permit.

Working as a student
It is possible for students to work under special conditions. A residence permit for study purposes allows the holder to work for a maximum of 1040 hours per year (20 hours per week) with a contract as an employee (**lavoro subordinato**). For further information, contact local labour unions.
UniME - GRADUATION DAY in the ancient Greek Amphitheatre of Taormina
“To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily
is not to have seen Italy at all,
for Sicily is the clue to everything.”

(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)