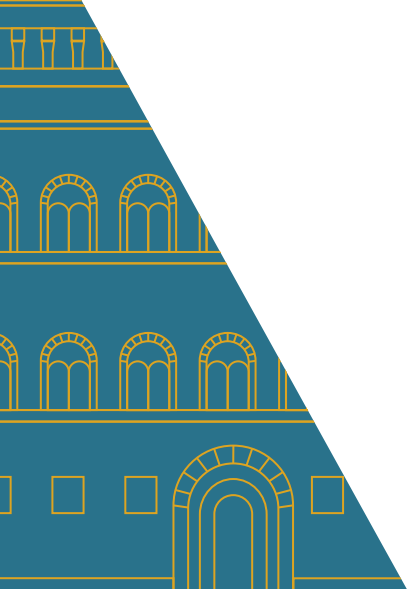


SCUOLA  
NORMALE  
SUPERIORE



**INNOVATIVE  
BY TRADITION**





## A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### *At the forefront by tradition*

Founded by Napoleon in 1810 as a twin sister of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, its mission is to nurture talent.

Created to provide a high level lay preparation for future teachers, and thus to create a new European cultural élite, today the Scuola Normale is a centre of high level education and research, whose primary objective is to train its students towards a scientifically rigorous aptitude for study and work. Students are selected from all over the world to attend undergraduate and post-graduate courses (PhD). In the collegiate life of the Scuola individual skills and particular traits are exalted through exchange, and also through public initiatives aimed at stimulating the cultural and social life of the city.

### *A hotbed of talents*

Celebrities of SNS include three Nobel prize winners (Enrico Fermi and Carlo Rubbia for physics, Giosuè Carducci for literature), one Fields Medal winner (Alessio Figalli), two Presidents of the Republic (Giovanni Gronchi and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi), and numerous scientists, humanists, politicians and prominent exponents of the cultural and civil life of the country. The Scuola Normale Superiore is a hotbed of talents.

### *Excellent connections*

The Scuola Normale is divided into three academic structures: the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Sciences, both based in Pisa, and the Florence-based Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. The Scuola Normale promotes the mobility of its students, through a world-wide network of exchange agreements with foreign universities, and is an active partner of the ERASMUS+ programme. The Scuola has also established prestigious partnerships with universities in Italy and abroad: among others, it is part of a federation with two institutions of excellence (the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and the Scuola Universitaria Superiore IUSS Pavia), it is one of the stakeholders of EELISA (European Engineering Learning Innovation & Science Alliance) and of the consortium TraPoCo (Transnational Political Contention in Europe).



## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES: TRAINING TOWARDS RESEARCH

### *Subjects*

The undergraduate courses of the Scuola Normale correspond to the university syllabuses in three subject macro-areas: **Literature and Philosophy** (with Philosophy, Modern Literature and Philology and Linguistics, Ancient History and Classical Philology, History of Art and Archaeology, History and Palaeography), **Sciences** (with Chemistry and Geology, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Biological Sciences) and - exclusively for the Master's Degree, in Florence - **Political and Social Sciences**.

### *Selection*

An admission competition is held every year, consisting of highly selective written and oral tests. The competition is open to young people from all over the world, specifically to those who hold a valid qualification for admission to Italian universities and who are under the age of 22. Entry tests can be taken in several languages.

### *Studying obligations*

The students selected must follow the courses held by the Normale and the corresponding courses held by the University of Pisa at the same time. They therefore follow two parallel and complementary courses of study respecting strict teaching obligations (the annual average of marks must be at least 27/30, with no marks below 24/30, and going over the course time limit is not permitted).

### *The teaching model*

The special characteristic of the Normale teaching model is the structural intertwining of teaching and research: the students' contact with research starts very early on and constitutes the backbone of their course of study, which will feature constant dialogue with young and senior colleagues, researchers and lecturers. The Scuola also promotes internationalization through exchange and study programmes abroad. Some courses are taught in English.

### *Study free of charge*

College life is an integral part of the education and development of the students, who enjoy free board and lodging in the Scuola's facilities. They also benefit from zero-cost studies: the Normale pledges to reimburse all tuition fees





## POST GRADUATE COURSES: AN INTERNATIONAL PHD SCHOOL

### *Courses*

The PhD programmes offered by the Scuola Normale are, in Pisa: Classics, Philosophy, Italian Studies and Modern Philology, Art History, History (Faculty of Humanities), Physics, Mathematics, Computational Methods and Mathematical Models for Sciences and Finance, Methods and Models for Molecular Science, Nanoscience, Neuroscience (Faculty of Sciences); in Florence Political Science and Sociology, and Transnational Governance (Faculty of Political and Social Sciences).

### *Selection*

The competition for admission to the PhD is based on qualifications and exams and is open to graduates from all over the world: usually competitions for about 90 places are launched, and on average 30% of those admitted come from abroad. With admission you are eligible for a scholarship, as well as additional ad hoc contributions for research activities in Italy and abroad.

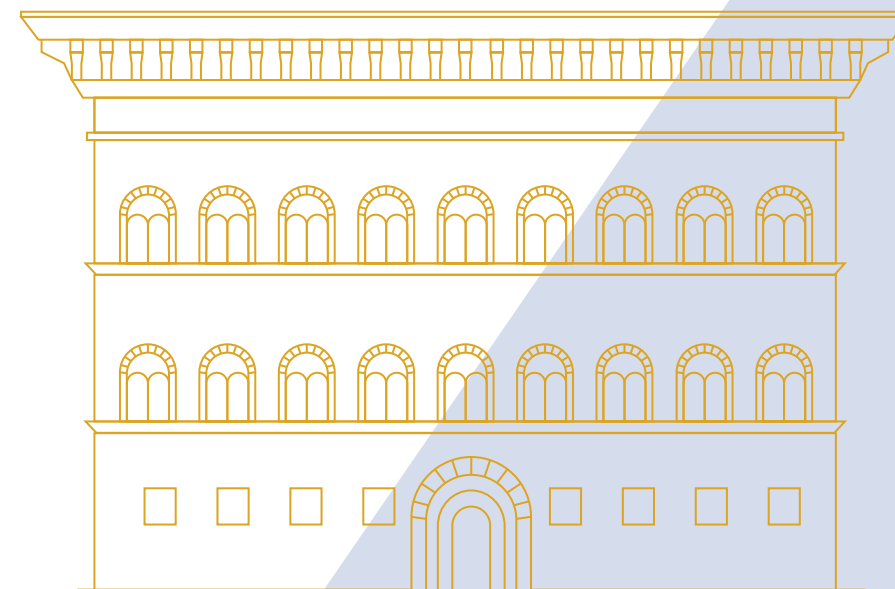
### *The research environment*

Post graduate courses at the Scuola Normale are structured to the specifications of a proper PhD School: students live in a highly specialized environment open to discussion, dialogue and exchange with prestigious research centres and university institutions in Italy and abroad.



## RESEARCH

The Normale has a consolidated tradition in basic research connected with the activities of various centres, laboratories and research groups. The Faculty of Humanities hosts the SAET Laboratory of Archaeology and the DocStar for research on historical-artistic documentation. The Faculty of Sciences hosts the the international NEST laboratory - National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology); the SMART Laboratory - Multidisciplinary Strategies Applied to Research and Technology; the Laboratory of Biology (BIO @ sns. The research centres include the De Giorgi Centre – in which mathematicians from the three university institutions of Pisa cooperate for Mathematics, and research ranges from geometry to applied mathematics to finance – and the "Carlo Azeglio Ciampi" Institute of Advanced Studies, the interfaculty research centre of the Scuola Normale, based in Florence, at Palazzo Strozzi.





### THIRD MISSION: FOR A WIDESPREAD CULTURE

#### *A well informed choice*

Since the 1960s, the Scuola Normale has organized university orientation courses for talented students of the penultimate year of Italian and foreign high schools who, by taking part in intensive residentials with lessons and conferences held by exponents of the most diverse of disciplinary and professional fields, can make informed choices about their future academic studies. In addition, in 2017, the Scuola di Orientamento Universitario (University Orientation School) was inaugurated, thanks to the agreement for a joint initiative between the Normale, the Scuola Sant'Anna and the IUSS in Pavia.

#### *The city life of the Normale*

The Scuola also offers a rich programme of cultural initiatives open to the public, covering a range of fields of knowledge of the arts and the sciences vastly diverging also from an interdisciplinary perspective. These include: the **Venerdì del Direttore** (public conferences with representatives of the Italian cultural, scientific and civic world), the Concerti della Normale, the events of the Ennio De Giorgi Mathematics Research Centre, the seminars and conferences of the academic and research structures, training and refresher courses for teachers organized partly in collaboration with the Accademia dei Lincei, specific lessons and courses for high-school students, public lectures and performances, and guided tours of the Scuola's scientific facilities, as well as meetings and events open to the public.



### THE CAMPUS FACILITIES

#### *The campus facilities*

The main site, in Pisa, has been located since 1846 in the historic Palazzo della Carovana in Piazza dei Cavalieri, which, although of medieval origin, was redesigned in the second half of the sixteenth century by Giorgio Vasari, in the form in which we see it today. The Library is housed in the Palazzo dell'Orologio, the Palazzo della Canonica and the Palazzo del Capitano. The laboratories are located in the Palazzo della Carovana, the Palazzo della Canonica, the Collegio Puteano (which also houses the guesthouse), the Collegio D'Ancona (where the canteen is also located) and the complexes of San Silvestro (seat of the Napoleonic Normale and currently of the Science Laboratories) and Polvani. The students' residences are in the Collegio Enrico Fermi, the Collegio Giosuè Carducci, the Collegio Alessandro Faedo and the Collegio Domenico Timpano.

The main site in Florence is at Palazzo Strozzi. In Florence PhD students also have at their disposal the Aldo Capitini residence. The Scuola also has a site in Cortona (AR), in the historical Palazzone, where workshops and summer schools are held, also organized in collaboration with other academic and research institutions.

#### *Open shelves*

The Scuola's Library – with over one million volumes – houses one of Europe's richest "open shelf" libraries. The **Archival Centre** holds documents and materials about the history of the Scuola, contributions by eminent scholars who studied or taught at the Normale (including Bernardini, Cantimori, Dini, D'Ancona, Garin, Tonelli and Wick), and the precious archive of the Salviati family (with documents from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century). The Scuola is also active in the field of publishing, with the **Edizioni della Normale** and the **Annali** series.



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