



FACT SHEET

Academic Year 2017-18



EXCHANGE STUDY PERIODS. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

FIRST SEMESTER Oct. 23rd 2017 - Feb. 2nd 2018

Recommend arrival period	Oct. 9th - Oct. 13th 2017
Welcome day for incoming students	Oct. 13th 2017 (to be confirmed)
Lessons' starting day	Oct. 23rd
Public holiday: All Saints' Day	Nov. 1st 2017
Public holiday: Immaculate Conception	Dec. 8th 2017
Public holidays: Christmas and New Year	Dec. 25th 2017 - Jan. 5th 2018
Lessons' break before exams' session	Jan. 22nd - Jan. 26th 2018
Winter Exams' Session	Jan. 29th - Feb. 2nd 2018

SECOND SEMESTER Feb. 12th 2018 - Jun. 29th 2018

Recommend arrival period	Jan. 29th - Feb. 2nd 2018
Welcome day for incoming students	Feb. 5th 2018 (to be confirmed)
Lessons' starting day	Feb. 12th 2018
Public holidays: Easter	Mar. 30th - Apr. 2nd 2018
Public holiday: Liberation Day	Apr. 25th 2018
Public holiday: International Workers' Day	May 1st 2018
Lessons' break before exams' Session	Jun. 18th - 22nd 2018
Summer Exams' Session	Jun. 25th - 29th 2018

Information required for nomination

The International Office of the home university who wants to nominate an exchange student for a semester in our institution has to inform Abadir Academy sending an e-mail to internazionale@abadir.net with the following information:

- Home university name and Erasmus Code
- Applicant's name (First name / Last name)
- Date of birth
- Gender (female / male)
- Valid e-mail address
- Duration of exchange
- EU subject area at home institution

The nomination deadlines are **May 31st 2017** to apply to the First Semester and **October 31st 2017** to apply to the Second Semester.

Application procedure

The incoming student has to contact our International Office before **June 15th 2017** to apply to the First Semester and before **November 15th 2017** to apply to the Second Semester sending an e-mail to internazionale@abadir.net

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

with the following information:

- Application form Portfolio
- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal motivation letter
- Learning Agreement for Studies (clearly filled and signed by home University)
- Copy of the official ID Copy of European Health Insurance Card or copy of private health insurance

Upon arrival in Italy the incoming student has to present to our International Office the following documents:

- Home University certificate declaring that the incoming student is going to attend a period of mobility in Italy for Erasmus+ programme with declared dates of arrival and departure to/from Italy of the student
- 2 passport-size photos

Abadir Academy International Office will provide the incoming students a university document valid for the mobility period.

This document has to be given back at the end of the mobility, when the students will be provided with a permanence certificate.

THREE-YEAR COURSE IN DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Language of instruction

The **official language** of our courses is Italian. Abadir Academy doesn't ask for an official language certification but we highly recommend the incoming students to attend an Italian Intensive Course before coming to our country. The best way to be prepared to attend our courses would be to achieve B1 level of the CILS Certificate or more.

When necessary the incoming students can switch the language to English with teachers or colleagues.

Study method

The Three-Year Course in Design and Visual Communication is made up of courses which are both theoretical and practical. Over their three years at Abadir, students partake in lessons that range from teacher-centered lectures to student-centered workshops and field trips to relevant companies in order to help them to acquire the necessary theoretical and practical skills.

A typical course consists of a series of lectures and one or more assignments. An assignment can be a written exercise or research, a project or another kind of practical exercise (for example: technical drawings, models on scale, illustrations, etc). Please note that for some courses it is required to buy books or other materials necessary to accomplish the practical exercises/projects. It's responsibility of the teacher to provide a list of what the students will need.

Exchange students are expected to complete between 16 and 25 ECTS per semester. We would like to focus the attention on the duration of our courses, which are mostly annual. This means that incoming students will need to divide the credits of the subject per 2 in case of courses having 6 ECTS or more.

If the incoming students are interested in achieving more credits, it is possible for them to take part to extra activities as workshops or lectures organized by Abadir.

Attendance

The attendance to lessons is scheduled weekly from Monday to Friday in two 4-hour time slots: from 9.00 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 18.00. The First semester will start on October 23rd 2017 and last on February 2nd 2018 while the Second semester will start on February 12th 2018 and last on June 29th 2018.

Attendance is mandatory. The maximum absence average allowed per course is 20%; students exceeding this limit will not be permitted to take final exams.

Exams

There are three examination sessions per academic year: the winter session in February, the summer session in June and the fall session at the end of September. The theoretical exams consist in a verbal explanation of the contents learned and personal researches; the practical exams consist in explaining with a critical approach the personal (or group)

projects developed during the course together with the results of other practical exercises.

Grading scheme

The Italian grading system is based on a maximum of 30 points with 18 as the lowest passing grade. 30 Cum Laude may also be awarded.

Please note that some courses could give only on a pass/fail basis without any further grading. In this case the mark 'pass' appears on the transcript. Every passed course and examination taken is recorded on the student's personal transcript. Failed courses do not appear on the transcript of records. Below is a comparison table with other grade scales.

EU GRADING DEFINITION ITALIAN GRADING SCHEME

A	29/30
B	27/28
C	25/26
D	23/24
E	18/22

If you want to know more about the grading distribution, you can visit [Erasmus+ page](#) on our website where you will find a paragraph named *Grade Distribution System* completed with more detailed information.

Credit System

Abadir Academy has adopted the ECTS credit system. The law DD.M. 23 November N.158/2009 – art. 6, c.3, of the DPR 8 July 2005, n. 212, defines the method through which credits are assigned and it establishes that the study commitment must be measured in hours according to the following scheme:

- Theoretical classes: 1 ECTS from 6 to 9 hours
- Technical-practical activities: 1 ECTS from 10 to 15 hours
- Laboratory activities: 1 ECTS from 20 to 30 hours

The Three-Year Course in Design and Visual Communication (DAPL 06) has 180 ECTS, allocated homogeneously during the three academic years (60 ECTS per year).

Actually, the specific method through which credits are allocated by our institution is the following:

- Theoretical classes: 7,5 hours = 1 ECTS
- Technical-practical lessons: 12,5 hours = 1 ECTS
- Laboratory activities: 25 hours = 1 ECTS

SUPPORT GIVEN UPON ARRIVAL IN SICILY

Student tutor

There will be a student tutor for each classroom in order to make the incoming students integrated in the academy system and in the local territory. Students' tutor will be voluntary and trained to accomplish their responsibility.

The tutors will contact the incoming students before their arrival in Sicily to schedule a meeting. This figure is going to be a reference point for the incoming students and will help them also to manage the academy formalities and other kind of practical issues.

Welcome Day

Welcome days are scheduled at the beginning of each semester to introduce the incoming students at the Abadir community. For the A. Y. 2017-18, the First Semester welcome day will be on October 13th 2017 while for the Second Semester it will be on February 5th 2018.

The participation of the incoming students at the welcome days is mandatory in order to receive all the basic information necessary to attend the school.

LIVING IN SICILY



Baroque in Catania, photo credits Antonio Maria Privitera

Studying in Sicily

Sicily is the largest Italian island, located in the center of the Mediterranean. Throughout its history, diverse populations have occupied and conquered the island, thus bringing about a hybrid of cultures and traditions. Studying in Sicily therefore means working in contact with such a rich complex history which is a unique amount of inputs for our activities as designers.

Sicily offers a myriad of cultural aspects from which to take inspiration; designers can feed off of the island's history, resources, traditions, religious festivals, food, nature, literature and theater. At the same time, Sicily is a place with a strong need for design, as designers can help enhance the island's identity and put it in a contemporary light.

Accommodation

Abadir Academy is located in Sant'Agata Li Battiati, a little

town 10 km far from Catania downtown, and it is hosted in an ancient sicilian mansion built between the late XVIII century and the beginnings of XX century. Our address is Via Giacomo Leopardi, 8 - 95030 Sant'Agata Li Battiati, Catania.

The academy is provided by a little guesthouse located 200 meters far from the main building: single rooms, double rooms and a fully equipped kitchen are available.

To book a room for the First Semester (Fall/Winter) the deadline for the incoming students is **July 31th 2017** while for the Second Semester (Spring/Summer) the deadline is **September 25th 2017**. To receive more information about our guesthouse, write an email to foresteria@abadir.net.

Beside the accommodation offered by Abadir, there are several apartments located nearby the school, in Sant'Agata Li Battiati, which are available to be rent by students. Ask our staff for more information.

We suggest to the incoming students to live as close as

possible to the school during the semester they're going to attend in our academy. In case they prefer to live downtown Catania they can look for other solutions; in this case they will reach the school by public transport. Catania is one of the biggest city in Sicily and it is located in the east coast of the island. It's a lively town on the slopes of Etna volcano and it is mainly renowned for the baroque style of its buildings and the vivid nightlife. For any help to find a good accommodation, incoming students are invited to ask support to our staff.

How to get to the Academy

By car

If the incoming students prefer to move by car, they can use a car sharing service called *Enjoy* which allows people to move in Catania and, paying an extra fee, also in the surroundings of the city.

By bus

Most of our students or teachers use to take a bus to reach the Academy from Catania.

From the airport, there's a bus service called *Alibus* which stops at the Central Rail Station, where other bus services are available. The ticket can be bought on the bus and costs 4,00 €. More information on the [official website of the company](#).

The company who manage the means of transport in the urban area of Catania is called [Amt](#) (Azienda Municipale Trasporti).

The first solution to reach Abadir from the city centre is to take the **BRT line bus** that needs 20 minutes to go from Catania centre (Piazza Stesicoro) to the stop Due Obelischi. Once there, there's a free shuttle connecting the stop Due Obelischi to Piazza Chiesa Madre at Sant'Agata Li Battiati, very close to the school. To check timetable and costs of BRT LINE visit the [official website of Amt](#); to discover the specifics of the free shuttle visit the [website of Sant'Agata Li Battiati district](#).

Another way, maybe the best, to get to our school is to take a direct bus from the **AST LINE** (Azienda Siciliana Trasporti) from the rail station to Sant'Agata Li Battiati centre, without any change. The specific line to take is the one called **Pedara-Trecastagni**. To learn more about this line, visit the [official website of AST](#).

Living's costs

There are some livings costs that international students have to consider before applying to our school, for example food, housing, social life, means of transport expenses, etc.

We estimate that the student livings expenses average is about 350,00 € / 575,00 € per month. Below there's an estimate of the monthly expenses.

Rent a double room	from 175,00 € to 220,00 €
Rent a single room	from 200,00 € to 375,00 €
Food, leisure and other expenses	from 100,00 € to 250,00 €
Means of transport for who lives in Catania	around 50,00 €

Italian Tax Code Card

The Italian Tax Code is a card similar to the *Social Security Number* of other Countries. It's a mandatory document needed to fill a contract, to open a bank account or to activate a new telephone number. Once the incoming student has completed the registration procedures at Abadir Academy International Office, he has to go to the Income Revenue Authority to ask for a free Italian Fiscal Code Card.

The tax code is issued immediately and free of charge. It is necessary to complete the [AA4/8 form](#). EU/EEA citizens must bring a valid passport or another form of ID; non EU/EEA citizens must bring the passport with a valid visa (if requested) and a copy of it (clearly showing personal data and visa) and/or the residence permit.

Alternatively, it is possible to apply for the tax code to the Italian consular authorities in the country of residence. For further information, please visit the [Agenzia delle Entrate website](#).

Mandatory Insurance

Health Insurance

EU citizens can benefit from healthcare only if they are in possession of the European Health Insurance Card. Non-EU students must obtain private health insurance. If health insurance is purchased in the country of origin before departure, it must be brought to the Embassy of Italy along with the documents needed to obtain a visa and must be stamped to certify validity. Without this stamp from the Embassy, once in Italy, the purchase of new insurance may be necessary as foreign insurance that is not validated by the Embassy can not be accepted as a means of obtaining a residence permit.

Accident Insurance

Abadir Academy provides liability insurance to all traveling students and is limited to educational /training activities.

ABADIR Accademia di Design e Arti Visive

Via Giacomo Leopardi 8
95030 Sant'Agata Li Battiati
Catania, Italia

Telephone +39 095 725 23 10
E-mail internazionale@abadir.net

www.abadir.net