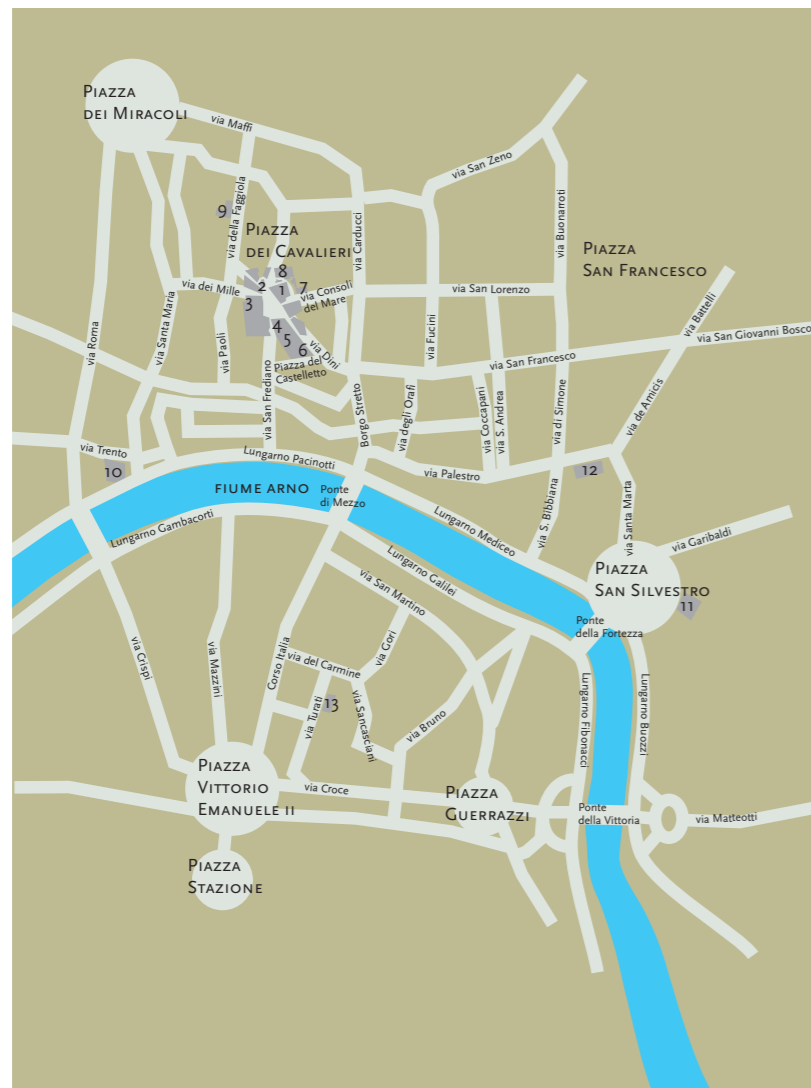


- 1 Palazzo della Carovana
- 2 Palazzo della Gherardesca
- 3 Collegio Puteano
- 4 Palazzo della Canonica
- 5 Palazzo del Capitano
- 6 Palazzo del Castelletto
- 7 Collegio D'Ancona
- 8 Collegio Fermi
- 9 Complesso via della Faggiola
- 10 Complesso Timpano
- 11 Compedio di San Silvestro
- 12 Collegio Faedo
- 13 Collegio Carducci



SCUOLA  
NORMALE  
SUPERIORE  
PISA

Palazzo della Carovana  
Piazza dei Cavalieri, 7  
56126 Pisa  
Telephone: +39 050 509111  
Fax: +39 050 563513  
[www.sns.it](http://www.sns.it)



## – THE FOUNDATION

The Scuola Normale Superiore was founded in 1810 by Napoleon I, as a twin institution of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. A new-born network of Écoles was aiming to train a new European intellectual élite, which was no longer meant to be based on birth or social status, but on the talent and merits of the individual. Today the Scuola Normale goes on with its challenge of selecting and training the best intellects in Italy and in the world, through a model of education that blends teaching and research, a world-leading teaching staff and high-quality structures at the student's disposal.

## – THE NORMALE METHOD

The intellectual curiosity and the critical faculties of the students are challenged by an interdisciplinary approach. Unlike other undergraduate students, the students of the Scuola are immediately placed into contact with laboratories and other research structures: upon their first steps their didactic path quickly becomes a blend of direct field experiences, tutorials and experimentation. The quality of this educational model has been proven by the achievements of distinguished former students of the Scuola: let us just mention the Nobel laureates Giosuè Carducci, Enrico Fermi and Carlo Rubbia and the Heads of State of Italy Giovanni Gronchi and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

## – COLLEGE LIFE

At the Scuola Normale teachers, researchers and students live in the same environment, switching between teaching activities and research in the labs and attending the cultural events organised by and

within the Scuola. An optimum teachers to students ratio (about 1 to 10), the seminar method of teaching, the prevalence of interaction and discussion within the academic environment, as opposed to more traditional lectures: these are the basic ingredients of the typical college life of the Scuola Normale. In order to make possible and maintain the exchange of knowledge and experience, the Scuola provides each student a) free accommodation in a single room in one of the 5 college dormitories owned by the Scuola; b) free meals in a cafeteria accessed by the teachers and the administration and freelance workers of the Scuola; c) free admission to the Library of the Scuola (800 thousand volumes and 4 thousand periodicals) with free check out of library resources; d) free access to the laboratories and the research structures of both the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Sciences of the Scuola.

## – ADMISSION AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

You may not enrol at the Scuola. But you may apply for the admission exam, which all students are required to pass in order to be admitted to the Scuola. The exam is challenging: it is made up of both written and oral tests and takes place between August and September every year. Neither your school marks nor your curriculum, but only the results of your admission tests will be taken into account. Moreover, every summer the Scuola Normale organizes pre-university vocational guidance courses, which are unparalleled in Italy and take place for one week in five Italian resorts. The courses represent a moment of education and in-depth analysis: they aim not simply to introduce the most worthy students in secondary schools and high schools to the education possibilities offered by the Scuola Normale, but rather

to show them a broader range of choices and possibilities for their lives and careers. With this goal, the courses are given and attended by scholars, teachers, researches and leading experts in several fields of knowledge, fields not limited to those provided by the Scuola. In the past few years the Scuola has promoted also vocational guidance courses to introduce the Master courses at the Scuola, oriented towards students who are about to receive a Bachelor degree in other Universities.

## – TWO COURSES, TWO FACULTIES

The research and teaching activities at the Scuola Normale are divided into two different paths, the Undergraduate Course and the Graduate Course. The Undergraduate Course accompanies the Bachelor and Master courses provided by the Italian Universities. Since 2002, following the reform of the Italian University system, it is also possible to apply for the admission to the fourth year of the Scuola (Master course). Within the Undergraduate Course, both during the Bachelor years and the Master years, the students of the Scuola must be enrolled at the University of Pisa as well, where they attend courses and take the compulsory exams. The students must have an average mark of 27/30, and no marks lower than 24/30. In 1927, in addition to the Undergraduate Course, the Scuola was the first institution in Italy to create a Graduate Course (PhD). When the PhD was later introduced in Italy, in 1980, the Graduate Course of the Scuola was stated by law to be equivalent to it. Within the Scuola, the research and teaching activities are further divided into two main areas: the Faculty of Arts, which includes the areas of Ancient History and Classical Philology, Italian Literature and Linguistics, Art History and Archaeology, History and Paleography,

Philosophy, and the Faculty of Sciences, which includes Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Information Science.

## – NO FEES, NO EXPENSES FOR THE STUDENTS

The Scuola Normale aims to guarantee a high-quality education to the most worthy aspiring students. In order to keep education and talent development from being biased by the social and economic status of the students, the Scuola Normale is a no-fee and no- expense institution. The tuition fees paid to the University of Pisa are fully refunded by the Scuola. Moreover, the Scuola further contributes to the study expenses of students attending the Undergraduate Courses by providing a small monthly salary. Graduate Course students are provided with economic support higher than that which the PhD students are usually given: it includes a contribution for the accommodation and meals and funds for mobility and research.

## – LABS AND RESEARCH CENTERS

The many research structures of the Scuola Normale are up to the highest standards of quality and are part of a dense and effective network of collaboration and exchange among important institutions in the world. The labs which depend upon the Faculty of Arts are: the Linguistics Laboratory, the Laboratory of Visual Arts, the Laboratory of History, Archaeology and Topography of the Ancient World, the LARTTE (Interdisciplinary Center for the Research, Planning and Management of Cultural Heritage), the Signum (Center for Computer-Based Humanities Research), the CTL (Center for Data Processing of Texts and Images in the Literary Tradition), the Lila (Laboratory

of Computer Sciences for Ancient Languages), the Archives Center, the Center for Medieval Culture, the Research Groups for Ancient Greek Music and on Private Modern Philosophy Collections. As for the Faculty of Science, the labs where pupils, PhD students and researchers can work are: the NEST (National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology) Center, the Neurobiology Laboratory, the Molecular Biology Laboratory, the Ennio De Giorgi Mathematical Research Center, the Research Groups in Astrophysics, in Elementary Particle Physics, in Calculus of Variations and Geometric Measure Theory, in Harmonic Analysis, in Infinite Dimensional Analysis, in Theoretical Physics, in Condensed Matter Theoretical Physics, in Diophantine Geometry, in Dynamic Systems, in Complex Analysis and Analytic Geometry, and in Algebraic Geometry.

## – THE BUILDINGS

The main buildings of the Scuola (see map) are: Palazzo della Carovana, head office of the Scuola, Palazzo della Gherardesca (also known as Palazzo dell'Orologio), which houses the main part of the Library, Palazzo del Capitano, which houses another part of the Library, Palazzo della Canonica, which houses some laboratories and which is planned to house a part of the Library as well, Collegio Puteano, which houses the Ennio De Giorgi Mathematical Research Center and the Scuola's guest rooms, Complesso di Via della Faggiola and Compendio di San Silvestro, recently renovated to house the NEST Center and other structures. Let us also mention five college dormitories, named after Alessandro D'Ancona, Enrico Fermi, Giosuè Carducci, Alessandro Faedo and Domenico Timpano, where the students live. Out of Pisa the Scuola uses for its activities

Palazzone di Cortona (Arezzo), a sixteenth-century villa donated to the Scuola by count Lorenzo Passerini in 1968. Since 2006 the activities of the Scuola Normale are supported also by Fondazione Conservatorio Santa Chiara, whose head offices are in San Miniato.

## – THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Scuola Normale offers the town, its students, researchers and professors a variety of cultural activities, pertaining to a wide range of fields within the arts and sciences. Among them, let us mention the Venerdi del Direttore (guest speakers on Friday afternoons): coherently with the dialogue-based spirit typical of the Scuola, outstanding figures, whose fields of interest range from arts and sciences to economy and politics, lend themselves to an open confrontation on current affairs issues with students and teachers of the Scuola and the citizenship of Pisa. Moreover, the concert season organised by the Scuola Normale since 1967 takes place every year from October to June: talented international music acts are invited to perform at concerts whose various repertoires include both traditional music and contemporary innovations. The Ennio De Giorgi Mathematical Research Center and the Scuola organize an annual lecture series on Mathematics, Culture and Society, concerning the relationship between Mathematics and other fields and its applications on Nature and Social Sciences. Let us lastly mention the series of lectures and seminars organised by the two Faculties of the Scuola, held by outstanding figures of University, research and culture, and oriented not only towards the students and teachers of the Scuola but also to a broader audience of scholars and thinkers.