REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO THE SERVICES OFFERED

FURTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

Students are at the heart of SISSA’s institutional mission, so the School provides a variety of services and facilities which focus not only on research and study, but also on students’ well-being and extra-curricular activities.

Welcome and support services

SISSA provides support services to students either directly or through the Welcome Office FVG http://www.welcomeoffice.fvg.it/. The Welcome Office offers centralized services to foreign researchers and students in all research institutions in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

The services covered by SISSA and the Welcome Office assist students and researchers comply with immigration procedures in Italy. Pre-arrival information for visas and other immigration bureaucracy is provided by the Students’ Secretariat, which maintains contacts with Italian embassies around the world to directly support visa applications.

Upon arrival, on-site support helps with the residence permit application and renewal, residence permit conversion and related issues such as requests for family reunification and taking out health insurance. The secretarial staff work with the Police Headquarters of Trieste to provide an efficient service and ensure the timely issue of residency permits. Staff also provide information about visas for subsequent scientific trips to countries outside of the Schengen area.

Staff are also available to support with finding accommodation and registering the contract, tax code applications, registration with the national health service and so forth. Qualified staff help students contact the other public administration offices that they may need during their stay, such as regional government offices, police headquarters and other local authorities. Staff provide practical help in filling out forms in Italian, information and suggestions for networking possibilities for international mobility.

The School’s accommodation service has a wide portfolio of rooms and flats available for rent. For support regarding how to choose a property, register a contract and for help in understanding deposits, charges, utilities, maintenance and other issues see: https://www.sissa.it/housing

Cultural, sport and public engagement activities

As part of its institutional mission, every year SISSA offers students and the entire academic community a rich programme of events, activities, seminars and conferences organised by the School together with the Interdisciplinary Laboratory and SISSA Medialab. Many of these initiatives are also open to the public, such as:

**SISSA Summer Festival in 2018 - Art and Science**: a cultural festival entwining music, theatre and science to introduce SISSA to the local community. In the scientific and beautiful setting of the SISSA campus, art and music created opportunities to foster and promote relations among scientists and non-scientists alike.
**UFO, artistic residency project:** The project ‘UFO - centre of residences, study and participation’, designed by actress, director and playwright Marcela Serli for La Contrada theatre of Trieste, forms part of a wider range of activities carried out by the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region to increase the opportunities for performing artists to visit the region. The purpose of UFO is to explore the relationship between science, nature and culture with the aim of facilitating a creative dialogue between artists, and with the scientific and cultural communities in Trieste. This is especially apt considering that the EuroScience Open Forum will be held in Trieste in 2020 “ESOF 2020”, making Trieste the Capital of Science.

**SISSA Colloquia 2018:** As part of the celebrations for its 40th anniversary, SISSA invited some of the world’s leading scientists to speak at a series of seminars designed to forge interdisciplinary dialogue, and strengthen the students’ sense of belonging to a wider scientific community. Students are active members of the Colloquia commission itself which is in charge of organizing the activities. Other initiatives that provide an opportunity for students to enjoy and partake in cultural events include “Pint of Science”, “Famelab”, “Scienza e Virgola” and “Meetings with the author”.

As well as the cultural initiatives managed directly by the School, SISSA also provides financial and logistical support to **SISSA Club**. This association is made up of members from the School’s community who organise cultural and sports activities, from the “Welcome Party” to music and dance lessons, Cinema club, SISSA Games and language courses during term time. For more information, go to [https://club.sissa.it/](https://club.sissa.it/)

Other facilities available for students include a **music hall**, a **gym**, an open-air **theatre** and the **gardens**. SISSA has formal gardens with lawns and fountains, perfect for unwinding. Students also have outdoor seating and tables for studying, reading and relaxing. The gardens are surrounded by woodlands open to the public with pathed walkways. In the summer, the open-air theatre hosts many public events, including concerts and lectures.

SISSA also provides support for staff and students with young children. Financial support for maternity-paternity can be requested and the School runs a **kindergarten** service to ease the balance between study/research commitments and family life. The day-care centre for young children provides a caring atmosphere for children to socialise and develop their cognitive, emotional and social potential.

The School encourages students to actively participate in science promotion initiatives, and in public engagement activities, such as:

**SISSA for Schools:** Each year SISSA welcomes approximately 2000 students from elementary, middle and high schools. The visits help pupils to become familiar with the research SISSA carries out in the fields of mathematics, neuroscience and physics, and to meet the protagonists of this research. SISSA’s young researchers collaborate as guides and speakers to explain the most interesting aspects of their work to this eager and curious public.
The programme of visits is a collaborative project, seeing the involvement of many types of personnel, from the administrative and technical staff, the catering staff, the researchers and the PhD students.

**Student day:** the fourth edition of this annual event was held in 2018. The initiative involves 500 students enrolled in the last two years of high school and aims to promote science, its challenges, and its effects on employment and on society. The initiative is made possible thanks to the collaboration of PhD students, postdocs, researchers, and administrative and technical staff.

**The well-being system**

In 2014, SISSA started planning improvements to its well-being system by implementing and/or strengthening existing services. A new, **free psychological counselling service** was set up in March 2018, open to everyone in SISSA with a psychotherapist present at SISSA on a weekly basis. Other free counselling and psychological support services for students are organised by the regional students office ARDiSS at the University of Trieste.

Building on the best international practices, the School also counts upon the presence of **Ombudspersons**, whose task it is to provide students and junior research personnel with an interlocutor to resolve disputes within research groups and manage personal and academic relationships.

SISSA also has **Trusted Advisors** (external counselors) whose institutional task is to provide free information, counselling and assistance to any person who feels discomfort or believes that s/he is a victim of discrimination, harassment or mobbing.

Documents and explanatory texts uploaded in the SUA_Scuole database are available on the Quality page of SISSA website, in the section relative to accreditation: [https://www.sissa.it/cevs](https://www.sissa.it/cevs)