Department of Physics and Astronomy
"E. Majorana"
University of Catania

VADEMECUM STUDENTS

A.A. 2024/2025

Edited by the Department's Quality Commission

Dear student, welcome to the Department of Physics and Astronomy "Ettore Majorana" of the University of Catania!

This handbook contains some information that may be useful to face your studies at best and fully experience our Department.

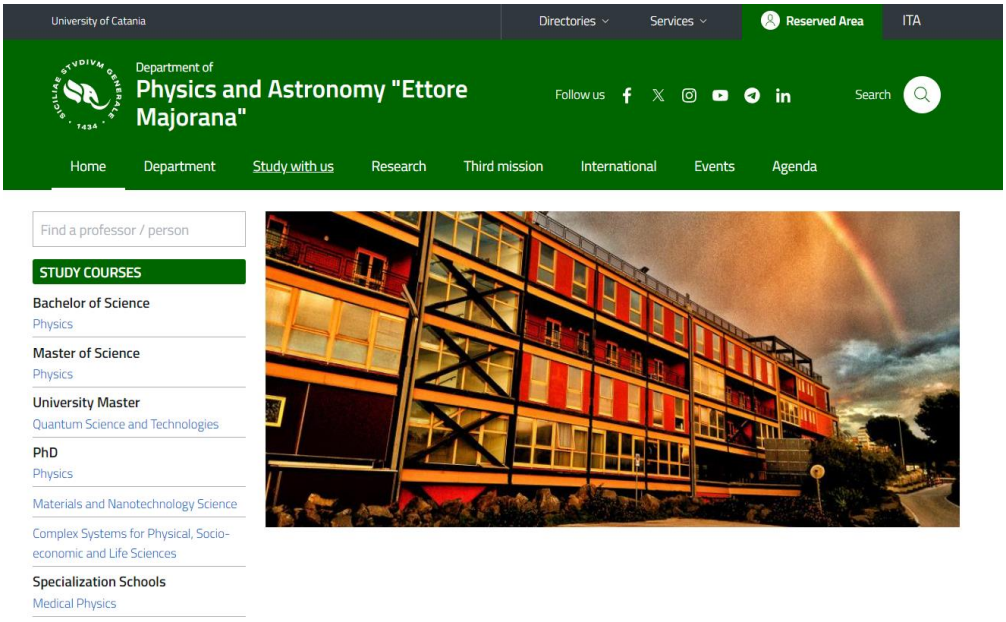
Happy reading, enjoy the DFA!

Index

1. WEBSITE

As a first step we invite you to browse our website:

https://www.dfa.unict.it/en



here you can find a lot of useful information about the DFA and teaching (Bachelor's Degree Courses, Master's Degrees, Research Doctorates, and Specialization Schools).

In the following paragraphs, we will give you some suggestions to identify the information of interest to you on the DFA website.

2. LOGISTICS

2.1 Find Us

The DFA is located in Building 6 of the University Campus, in via Santa Sofia 64, 95125 Catania (Google Maps). The Catania Astrophysical Observatory (OACT) is also part of the DFA, located in Via Santa Sofia 78 (piazzale Rodonò) - 95123 Catania.

More details on how to reach the DFA can be found on our website under the heading "Find Us" at the bottom of the homepage.

2.2 Parking at the University Campus

In addition to public transportation, it is possible to reach and access the University Campus by car, but keep in mind that parking spaces inside the Citadel are limited and mostly available with a payment fee (you will find some parking meters near the parking spaces).

2.3 Bar and cafeteria at the University Campus

There are 2 bars at the University Campus, one at the Department of Engineering and the other at the CUS (University Sports Center). Also near the CUS is the university canteen. Access to the university canteen is regulated by the ERSU, you can find more information in Section 9.

2.4 Classrooms, laboratories, and library

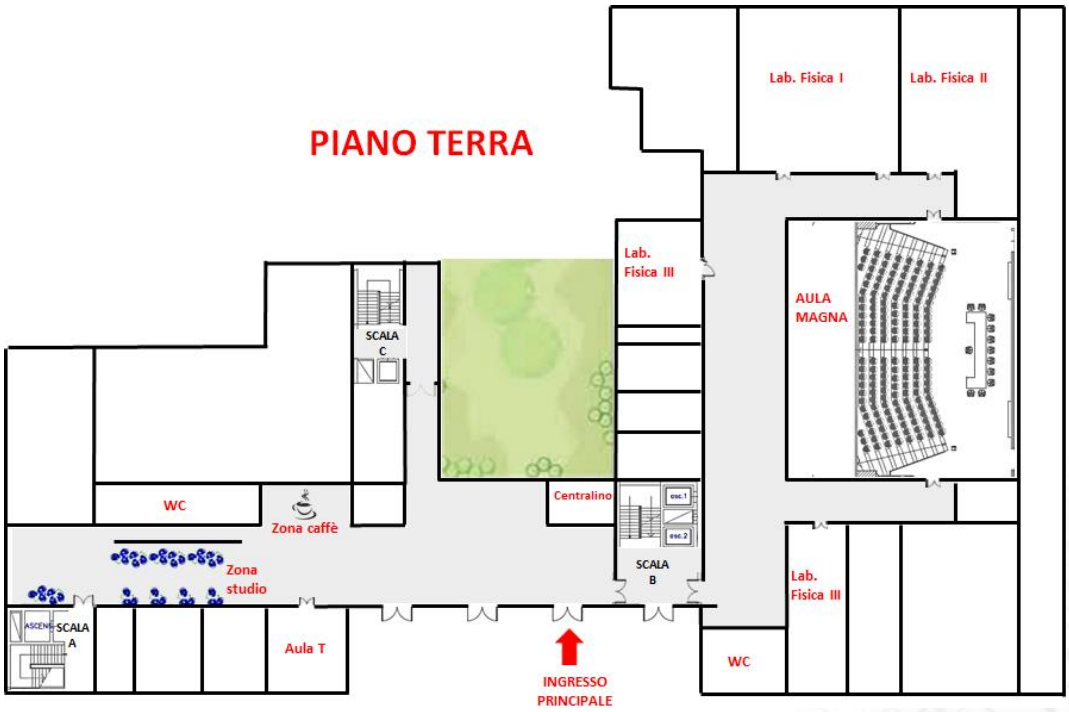
Most classrooms at DFA are located on the first floor and can be reached using the stairs (staircase B) that you find to the right of the main entrance of the building; the exceptions are classroom T, which is located on the ground floor to the left of the main entrance, in front of the coffee machines, and classroom A which is located on the second floor, also reachable by stairs (staircase B) to the right of the main entrance. The teaching laboratories of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year are located on the ground floor and can be accessed by going through the 2 red doors that you find to the right of the main entrance. The Computer Science lab is located on the second floor (always use staircase B).
The library is on the first floor (use staircase C).
The Great Hall is accessible both from the ground floor (near the teaching laboratories) and from the first floor (staircase B).

2.5 Secretary's Office

On the second floor, you will find the Secretary's office (Dr. S. De Francisci room no. 232, Dr. R. Barbato room no. 222), it is advisable to use the stairs at the end of the hall, to the left of the main entrance (staircase A).

2.6 Studying areas

The study areas are located on the ground floor (on your left as you enter from the main entrance), on the first floor in the glass corridor near the classrooms, on the outside terrace on the south side of the building, in front of the library and inside the library itself.

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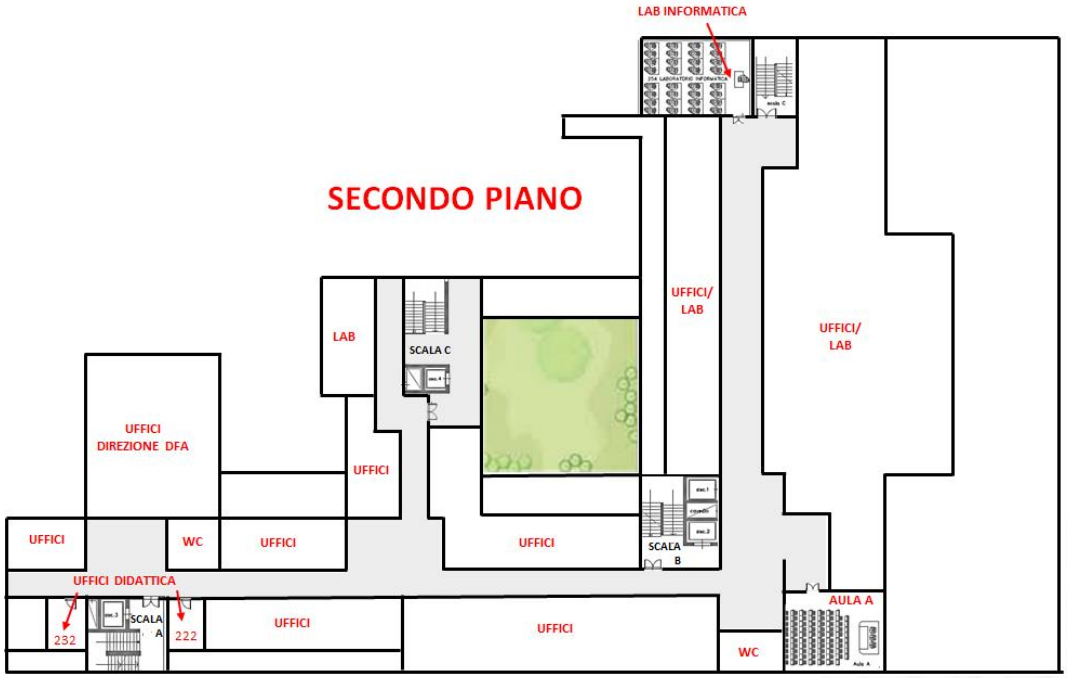
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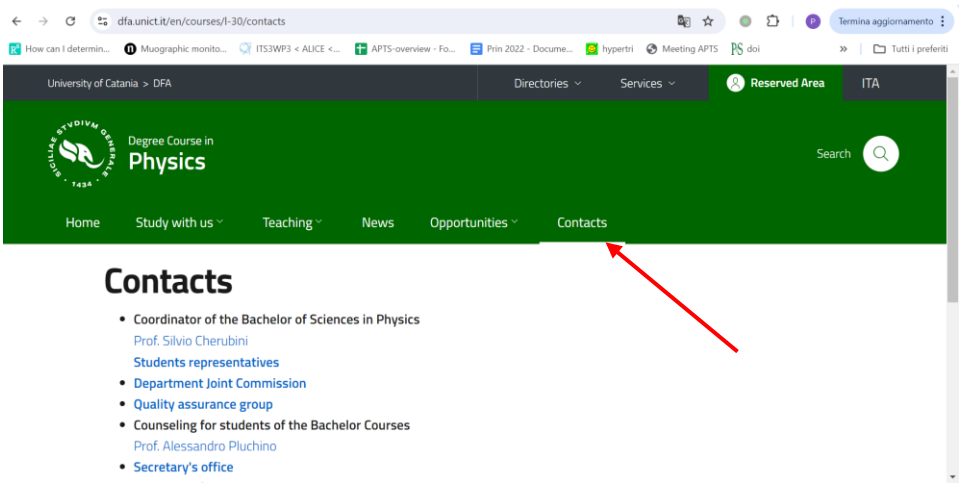
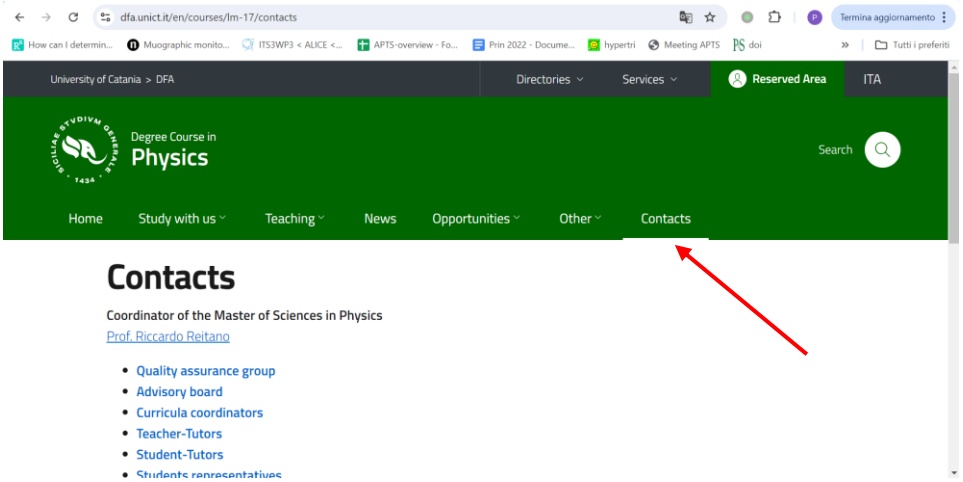
3. USEFUL CONTACTS

Useful contacts are available on the respective websites of the bachelor's and master's degree courses, in the menu on the right.

Bachelor of Science: https://www.dfa.unict.it/courses/L-30



Master of Science: https://www.dfa.unict.it/courses/LM-17



Secretary's office: dfa.didattica@unict.it, Dott.ssa Sara De Francisci (room n.232), Dott. Raffaele Barbato (room n. 222) on the second floor

Students representatives:
https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/l-30/rappresentanti
https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/LM-17/rappresentanti

Coordinators of Degree Courses:
Prof. Silvio Cherubini (silvio.cherubini@dfa.unict.it) for Bachelor of Sciences e Prof. Riccardo Reitano (riccardo.reitano@dfa.unict.it) for Master of Sciences

Students Ombudsman: Prof. G.G.N. Angilella (garante.studenti@dfa.unict.it)

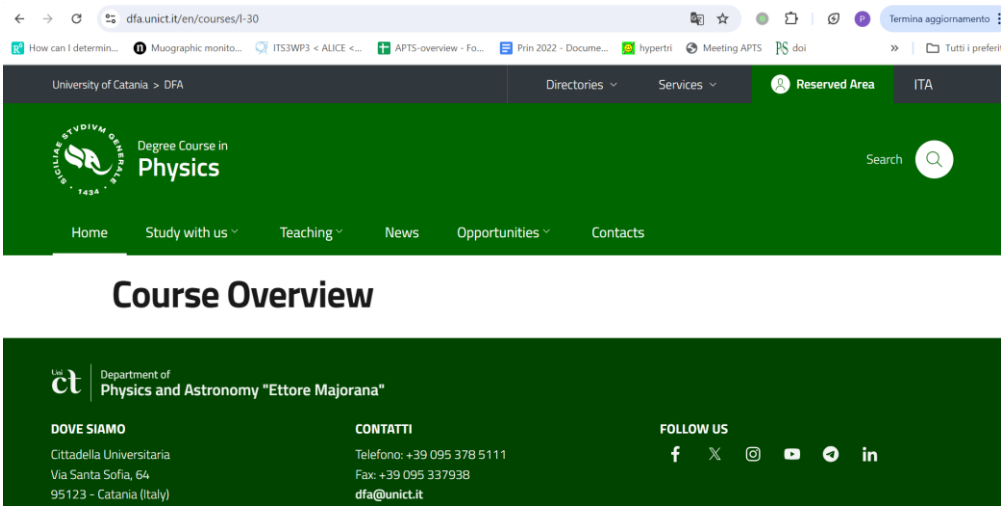
Counselling for students of the Bachelor Course: Prof. Alessandro Pluchino (alessandro.pluchino@dfa.unict.it)

Helpdesk:
helpdesk@dfa.unict.it
https://t.me/HelpDeskDFA_bot (bot telegram)

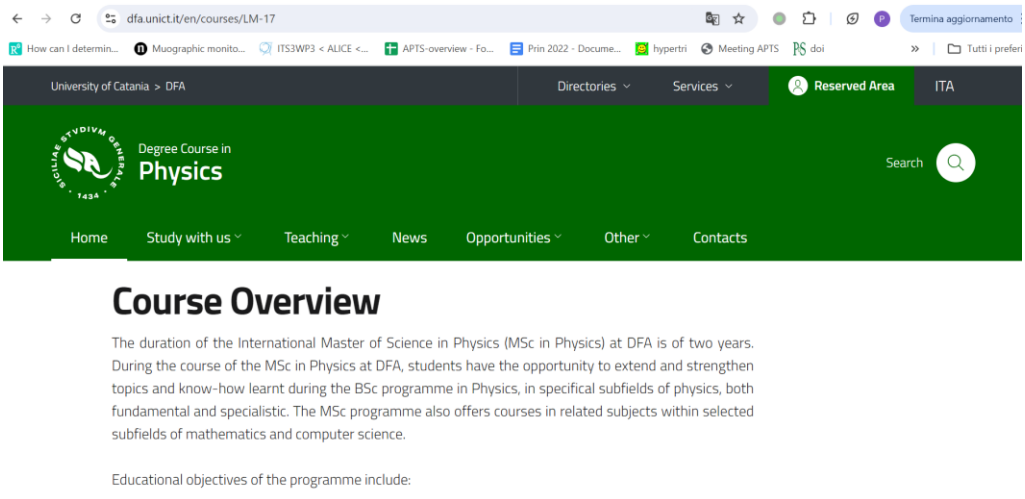
4. INFO ON LESSONS AND EXAMS

On the DFA website, you can find pages dedicated to general notices (concerning the Department, degree courses, events, etc.) and specific ones (from individual professors regarding lesson organization, exams, office hours, etc.), lesson timetables, professors affiliated with a degree course (and from which it is possible to trace the profile of the professor of interest and his/her contacts), teaching programs divided by degree course and year of the course, calendar of profit and degree exams, classroom and much more concerning the life of/in the Department. You will find this information both on the main page generally dedicated to the Department and on the specific pages dedicated to the two degree courses established in the Department (Bachelor's Degree in Physics and Master's Degree in Physics).

Bachelor's Degree in Physics:



Master's Degree in Physics:



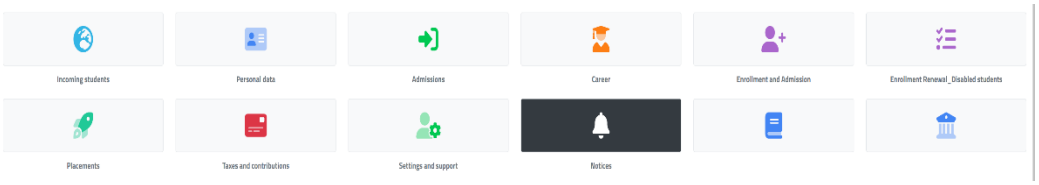
Under Teaching Calendar you will find all the dates of lessons and exams for each academic year.

5. EXAM BOOKING PROCEDURE

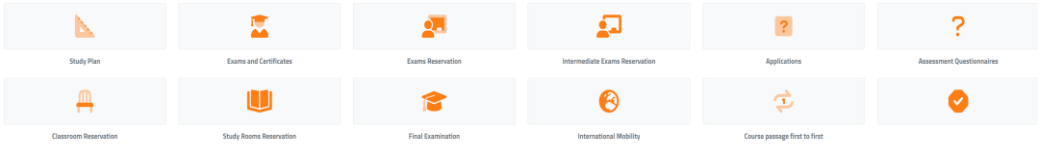
For everything concerning the student's career, the procedures take place through the student portal:

studenti.smartedu.unict.it

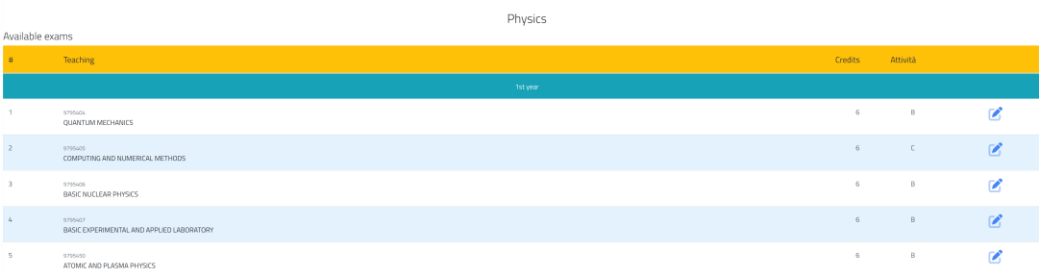
In particular, for booking exam sessions, the path to follow begins with accessing the student portal, obviously after having authenticated yourself. Once you have entered, select "Career, Study Plan, Exams":



Then select “Exams Reservation”:



Here you will see the list of sustainable subjects and the available sessions :



Select the subject from the list by clicking on the icon

The first time you press the icon for a given subject, you will be asked to fill out the OPIS form for that subject (see Section 6). Once filled out, you will see the list of exam sessions available for booking.

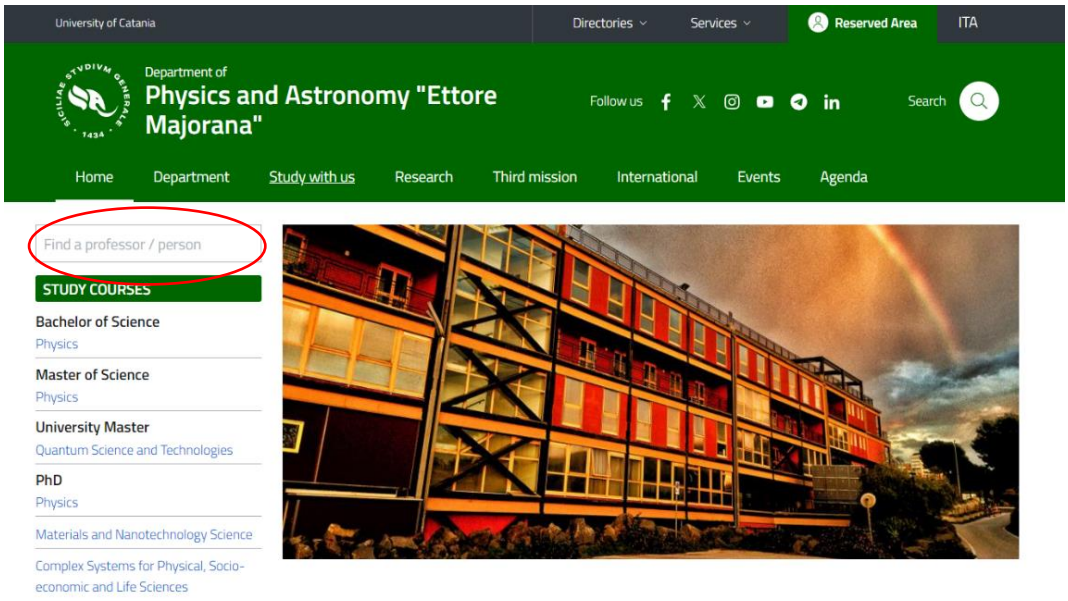
6. OPIS FEEDBACK

OPIS forms are a fundamental tool through which you can express your opinion completely anonymously on the teaching you have followed during the year. The questionnaires are processed and published online in aggregate form every year and are analyzed by the University and by various departmental commissions. The opinion of the students is important because through this tool the University builds a picture of the student's perception of the quality, in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, of the teaching provided and of the services supplied by the university, to identify possible improvement actions. Filling out the OPIS for ms is mandatory before taking the exam for each course.

SUGGESTION: The University suggests filling out the OPIS forms at the end of each course, during specific time windows (at the end of the semesters). In this way, the data can be promptly analyzed by the University to provide an updated vision. Therefore, avoid filling out the OPIS a long time after the end of the courses, otherwise the data provided could be obsolete and unusable!

7. PROFESSORS AND TUTORS

Each professor affiliated with the Department of Physics and Astronomy is associated to a professor profile containing contacts and information on teaching and research activities. The profile of a specific professor can be consulted using the search box on the right of the homepage of the DFA website, typing the professor's surname.



The bachelor's and master's degree courses have identified some professors, who are available to support the students of these degree courses as "Tutors", guiding them in the formulation and optimization of their individual study plan, as well as providing support for the resolution of any problems that may arise during the study path.

Within the first few months of enrollment, each Student is required to communicate to the President of the Course of Studies and to the Student Secretariat the choice of their Tutor Teacher, through a specific form that will be made available to students at the beginning of the Academic Year.

Bachelor's Degree in Physics:

https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/lm-17/elenchi/docenti-tutor-l-30

Master's Degree in Physics:

https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/lm-17/elenchi/docenti-tutor-lm-17

8. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

For more information on all administrative procedures concerning student careers, from access to courses of study to obtaining a degree, including student contributions (fees, deadlines, payment methods, exemptions and refunds), please refer to the "Student Guide" published by the University:

https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/documenti_sito/guida_studenti_2023_24.pdf (ITA)

or, for international students:

https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/files/International_students_guide.pdf

Other useful information, including the forms to be used when necessary, is provided at the following link:

https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/immatricolazioni-e-iscrizioni (ITA)

or, for international students:

https://www.unict.it/en/education/international-students

9. UNICT SERVICES

As a UNICT student, you can access a series of services and benefits guaranteed by your university. The list of services is as follows:

- Student's card
- Study and work orienteering counseling
- Psychologic counseling
- Impairments and DSA
- IT services
- Sports / Free membership at Cus Catania
- Transportation and mobility
- CLA | University Language Center
- ITALSTRA | Italian language and culture school

For more information on each service, please visit the following web pages:

https://www.unict.it/it/servizi#Servizi (ITA)

https://www.unict.it/en/university/services-and-facilities

10. ACCOMMODATION, RESIDENCES AND CAFETERIA

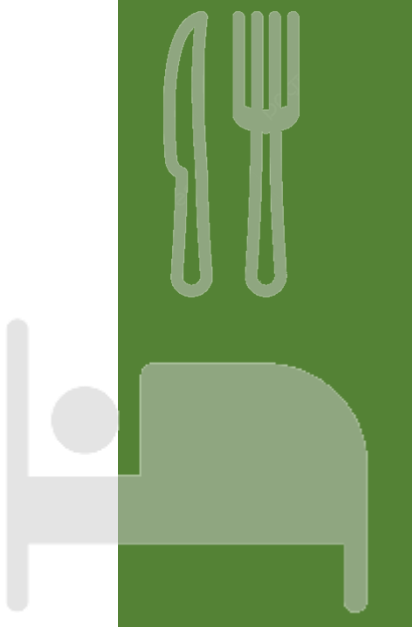
There are 3 canteens available (Cittadella in Via Santa Sofia n. 107/109, Oberdan Centro in Via Oberdan n. 174, Vittorio Emanuele in Via Vittorio Emanuele n. 36/38). You can take advantage of the canteen services using the ERSU App.

Accommodation and residences are provided to university students by the Sicilian Region through the assignment of specific scholarships provided by the ERSU (Regional Agency for the Right to University Education).

For more information:

https://www.ersucatania.it/ (ITA)

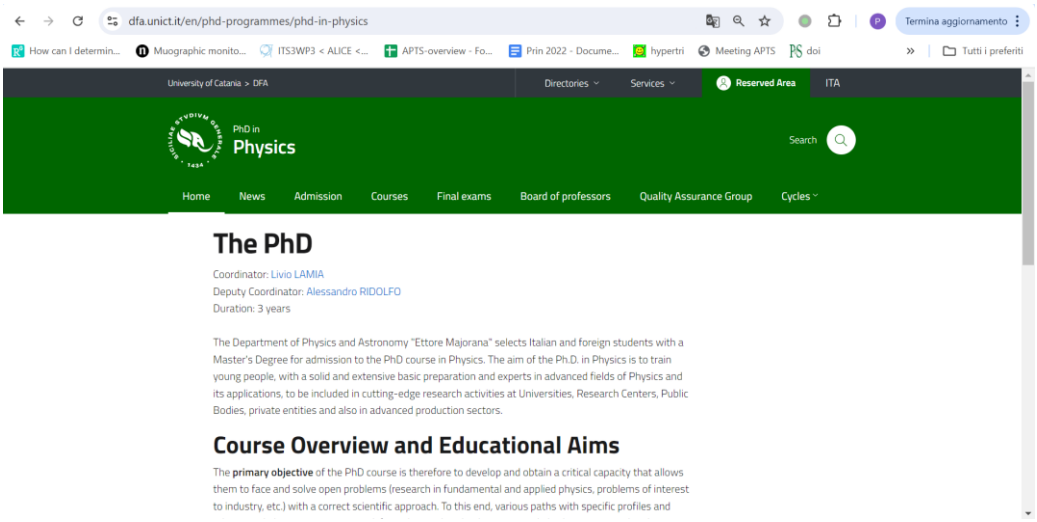
https://www.unict.it/en/international/acommodation-and-meals



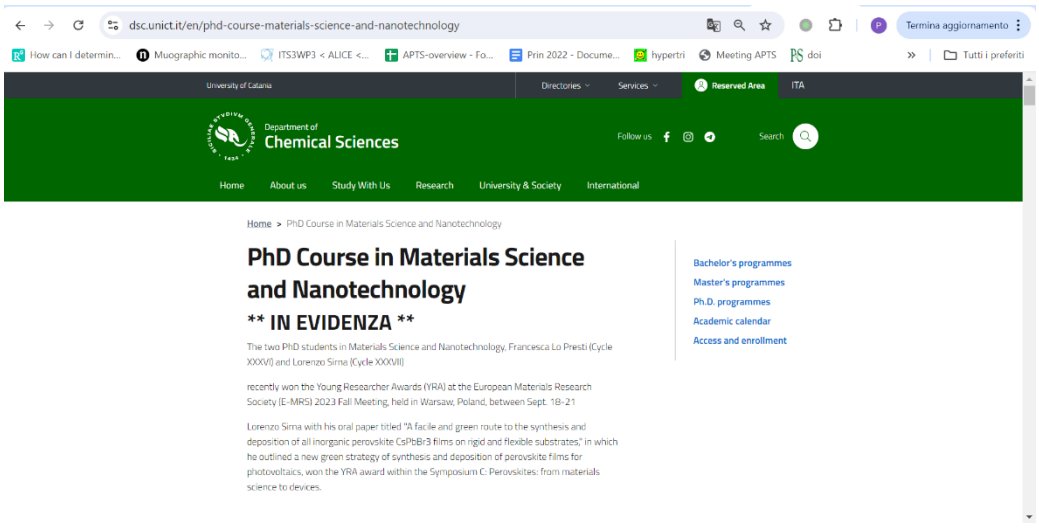
11. AND MUCH MORE… WEBSITE NAVIGATION TIPS

The Department takes great care in training its students up to the highest level required by Italian legislation. In this sense, it offers three PhD courses: PhD in Physics, PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology (at the Chemistry Department), PhD in Complex Systems for Physical, Socio-economic, and Life Sciences. Thus, on the Departments website, you can find pages dedicated to each of these, which report essential information, always updated with notices, news (publication of specific admission notices, etc.), declination of the teaching courses cycle by cycle, and everything you need to know to undertake the path of scientific research at the highest levels.

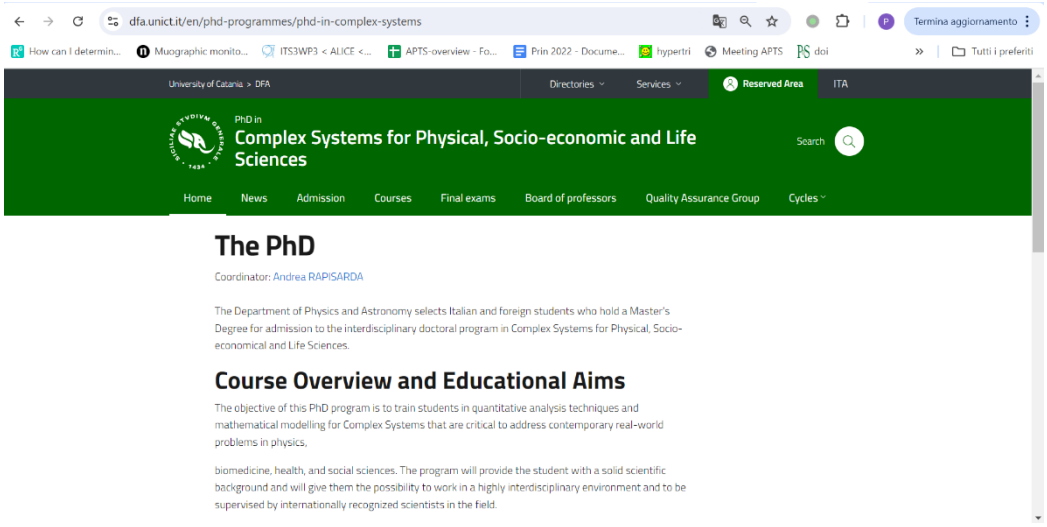
For the PhD in Physics:



For the PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology:



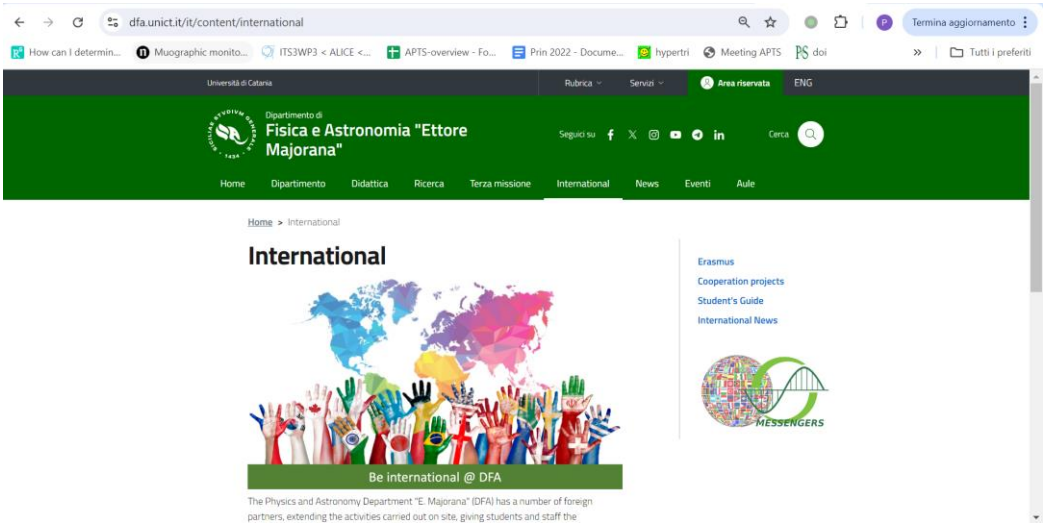
For the PhD in Complex Systems for Physical, Socio-economic and Life Sciences:



The Department aims to specialize the training of its students by also establishing the School of Specialization in Medical Physics, for those students who want to specialize their knowledge in this field and aspire to a career opportunity in it.

The Coordinator and the Vice-coordinator of the School are, in fact, teachers of the Department.

Finally, the Department aims to complete the training of its students at an international level by offering and encouraging international mobility within ERASMUS projects and, more generally, international cooperation projects, also thanks to the numerous international scientific collaborations upheld by its professors.



In addition to training, another objective pursued by the Department's professors is precisely that of scientific research at the highest national and international levels. You will find pages dedicated to the various areas of scientific research in which the Department's professors are involved, divided into the following sectors: Experimental Physics of Fundamental Interactions, Theoretical Physics of Fundamental Interactions,

Experimental Physics of Matter, Theoretical Physics of Matter, Astrophysics, Applied Physics, Digital Methods and Technologies for Physics. You will also find information on the research laboratories within the Department as well as a page dedicated to scientific collaborations established with research institutions such as the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) - Catania Section, the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) - Southern National Laboratories, the Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems (IMM) of the National Research Council (CNR), the Astrophysical Observatory of Catania, and many others.