

Guide for International Students



Scuola Superiore
Sant'Anna
di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento

WELCOME TO SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA

History of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, was established in 1967 as the *Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento* after merging the *Scuola per le Scienze Applicate A. Pacinotti* (founded in 1951) and the *Collegio Medico-Giuridico*. The latter was, in turn, the result of a merger between the pre-war Collegio Mussolini per le Scienze Corporative and the Collegio Nazionale Medico.

The previously existing institutions were based on the model of (and administered by) the *Scuola Normale Superiore*. In 1987 the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna acquired complete independence both from the *Scuola Normale* and the *University of Pisa*. *Sant'Anna* replaced *Antonio Pacinotti* as dedication, when the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna gained its current headquarters in Pisa's city center in 1987 and became dedicated to Sant'Anna instead of Antonio Pacinotti.

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna today

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (hereafter Scuola) holds a unique position within the Italian university system. It is both a university in its own right, offering Masters and PhD courses, while for undergraduates it works as the *Honors College of the University of Pisa*. Potential undergraduates undergo a rigorous public examination, and only the very best are creamed off to combine their Pisa University studies with the extra options available at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. Students live at the Scuola and study totally free of charge but have to get top marks in all their exams and show proficiency in two foreign languages.

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna is also integrated with the *Scuola Normale Superiore*, another specialized university of excellence offering different courses. Together, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, the Scuola Normale Superiore, and the University of Pisa make up the *Pisa*

The Scuola: Aula Magna before and after restoration



University System. This is a unique education and research model, which attracts students and researchers from all over Italy and from abroad, giving Pisa an internationally important role as a city of study, research and innovation.

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna is also a renowned research centre in the fields of Experimental Sciences (Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, Medical Sciences) and Social Sciences (Economics and Management, Law, Political Sciences). *Masters* and *PhD* courses are offered, but again only to highly proficient students from all over the world (30% of the PhD students are not Italian).

The location

1 Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna is located in the heart of Pisa, within a fourteenth-century Benedictine monastery, which has been entirely restored and converted into a modern campus.

Pisa, a former Maritime Republic, is one of the most charming towns in Italy. It is world famous for the Leaning Tower, which stands in the magnificent Piazza dei Miracoli. The river Arno runs through the town, which is only a few kilometres from the sea and yet also close to the hills. Pisa is just one of the main attractions in Tuscany, one of the most beautiful regions in all Italy. Tuscany was the birthplace of the Renaissance and of the Italian language, and boasts an artistic, cultural and landscape heritage, which makes it a must for tourists from all over the world.

The main entrance of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and the geographic location.



