



Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering

Call for applications Academic Year 2024/25

The University of Pisa, founded in 1343, is among the leading institutions in most international rankings. According to the latest Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2023, the University of Pisa is ranked between 151st and 200th in the world and is 4th in Italy. According to the QS World University Ranking 2024, the University of Pisa is ranked 349th worldwide and 7th in Italy.

The University of Pisa announces a public competition for admission to the Master of Science degree programme in **Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering** (Laurea Magistrale, class LM-32), open to non-EU citizens not resident in Italy, for the Academic Year 2024/25. The competition aims at admitting the applicants who will successfully pass the evaluation procedure.

Merit scholarships granted by the University of Pisa are foreseen for this MSc programme (see below).

Admission requirements

Applicants must either hold:

- a **Bachelor of Science (BSc)**, or equivalent first-cycle degree, obtained abroad after the completion of a three-year (minimum) course of study, providing a suitable background in both mathematics and computer engineering. **Please note that exclusively technical/professional degrees (like, for example, Bachelor of Computer Applications) are not valid for the purpose of the application.** Please also note that:
 - we also consider applications from students expected to get their BSc degree by their pre-enrolment deadline (which is set by the Italian embassy or consulate in their country). Their admission is contingent on their successful acquisition of the degree by the specified deadline;
 - the Evaluation Committee will evaluate the suitability of the applicant's degree only for the purpose of this competition. The admission of candidates holding a qualification issued in a non-EU country will be subject to verification and recognition of legitimacy by the Italian deputy diplomatic authorities.
- any Italian **Laurea degree** in any of the following classes (under D.M. 270/04): L-8 Ingegneria dell'Informazione, L-31 Scienze e tecnologie informatiche, L-30 Scienze e tecnologie fisiche, L-35 Scienze matematiche, or any other Italian Laurea degree with: at least 36 ECTS in SSD MAT/02, MAT/03, MAT/05, MAT/06, MAT/07, MAT/08, MAT/09, FIS/01, FIS/03; at least 9 ECTS in SSD ING-INF/05, INF/01; at least 9 ECTS in SSD ING-IND/35, SECS-P/08.



Knowledge of the English language, comparable to the level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, is also required.

It is strictly required for applicants to hold a CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) **equal to or above 75% of the maximum grades** (e.g., 3 in a scale of 4, or 15 in a scale of 20; please note that no institution-specific grade-to-percentage conversion rule is considered for this purpose). The CGPA must be computed over all the exams (including elective ones) during all the years of the first-cycle degree and must be substantiated by the submitted official documentation. **Any application with a CGPA below the 75% threshold will be automatically excluded from the competition.**

Further conditional requirements

AIDE is a two-year degree programme, with compulsory activities taught in English, and elective ones either in English or in Italian. The total of ECTS credits given in English is sufficient to complete the programme and obtain the degree, hence knowledge of the Italian language is not a necessary requirement. However, elective activities on basic computer engineering subjects, which are meant for admitted students lacking a strong computer engineering background, are only taught in Italian. Therefore, applicants **must demonstrate one of the following requirements**:

1. a strong computer engineering background, comparable to a graduate in Computer Engineering or Computer Science (i.e., having passed exams in algorithms and programming, computer architecture, operating systems, computer networks, and database systems) in his/her transcripts
2. a proficiency in the Italian language comparable to the level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (which would allow an applicant to include elective exams taught in Italian to compensate for missing background in Computer Engineering).

Applications of non-Italian speakers whose transcript fails to demonstrate proficiency in **all** the subjects listed at point 1 will be considered not eligible.

Application procedure and due documentation

Applicants must apply online at <https://applymscenglish.unipi.it> (it is recommended to take note of the credentials obtained during registration for future access).

In the application form, applicants must include:

- a declaration of knowledge of the English language, specifying the duration of studies and the type of certification held;
- the academic degree they possess (or planned to obtain by the above-mentioned deadline), with an indication of the legal duration of the course (at least three years), along with a copy of the degree certificate and transcripts (translated to English or Italian);
- a copy of a valid passport;
- a copy of their complete Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum covering their education program, as well as any other relevant cultural and professional experience that might help the EC to evaluate the applicant.



Applicants can also include other documents (e.g., letters of reference, other certificates). All documents must be in Adobe pdf format.

Applications missing any of the required documents are not considered valid and will not be processed further. Applications cannot be integrated after the call deadline.

Application deadlines and selection schedule

The following deadlines have been set:

- applications are open from the publication date of this Call to January 31, 2024, 12:00 pm (GMT) [strict]
- interviews are scheduled from February 12, 2024, to February 22, 2024 [tentative]
- notifications of admission/rejection are delivered by March 1, 2024

Please note that no information about the evaluation outcomes will be available before the end of the selection process.

In case of problems with the online application, please contact our international office (international@ing.unipi.it).

Evaluation procedure

The evaluation procedure consists of the following steps:

1. The applicant's background and education, potential skills, and attitude to attend an interdisciplinary and innovative educational programme will be assessed and graded on a scale of 60 points. Applicants scoring 42 or more will be shortlisted for an online interview. Applicants scoring less than 42 points will be rejected.
2. Applicants shortlisted for the interview will be notified by e-mail (sent to the account given in the application form) about the time, date, and the platform for the online interview. The applicant is responsible for properly setting up his/her device for the online interview and will be asked to show the same ID document submitted in the online application. No-show applicants will be excluded.
3. Applicants will be interviewed with the purpose of evaluating their motivation, expectations, and technical skills, as well as their mastering of the English language. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points. Shortlisted applicants scoring less than 28 points will be rejected. Those scoring 28 points or more will be eligible for admission.

Notification of admission/rejection will be delivered to applicants by March 1, 2024.

What to do upon admission

- 1) A few days after the admission email, admitted candidates receive a formal admission letter,



required in the next step.

- 2) Admitted candidates **must pre-enroll** on the UNIVERSITALY website. Pre-enrollment is required to start the Student Visa application process. Please read and follow information available at: <https://www.unipi.it/index.php/enrolment/itemlist/category/555-pre-enrollment-at-the-italian-embassy>
- 3) Upon getting their Student Visa, students will be able to come to Italy and finalize the enrollment procedure at the University of Pisa. Enrollment instructions are available at: <https://www.unipi.it/index.php/enrolment/item/18770-second-cycle-degree-programmes>

Please note that completing the Student Visa procedure might take several weeks, depending on the Italian Embassy/Consulates, and that the University of Pisa cannot liaise with the Embassy/Consulate on the applicant's behalf under any circumstance.

Fees and Financial Support

University fees need to be paid annually, in multiple instalments. Fees are determined by the Board of Directors and usually announced in the month of June for the following academic year. As reference information, the fees for the a.y. 2023/24 varied from € 356 up to € 2,556 (including € 140 of regional tax), depending on the student's country of origin.

Possible financial support to international students can be obtained from several bodies:

- The University of Pisa grants Merit Scholarships to the best international students admitted to some master's degree programmes, including the MSc degree programme in Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering (see <https://www.unipi.it/contribution>). In the evaluation procedure for admission, applicants will be ranked also for the purpose of possible awarding of scholarships, considering CV, interview results, CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average), and country of origin. Awardees will be notified in the first half of March 2024. The scholarship will cover two years. More information will be posted on the web portal of the University of Pisa (see <https://www.unipi.it/contribution>).
- The DSU regional programme (DSU stands for "Diritto allo Studio Universitario," i.e. "Right to Education") offers financial support to students at universities in Tuscany - please be aware that DSU is a regional agency, independent from the University of Pisa. A DSU Grant can include:
 - tuition waivers or reductions;
 - a full scholarship including free accommodation, meals, and a monthly allowance to cover extra expenses (e.g., sporting activities, books, etc.).

International students can apply for a DSU Grant on-line at: <https://www.dsu.toscana.it/es/>

More information on DSU Grants can be found at: <https://www.unipi.it/index.php/tuition-fees-and-financial-support/item/2275-dsu-scholarship>

- This master's degree programme is part of the "Invest your Talent in Italy" scholarship programme, aimed to support students from the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brazil,



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Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Computer Engineering**

Colombia, South Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Mexico, People's Republic of China, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam. Scholarships are awarded to students admitted by the master's degree programme and are funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). To apply, please visit the webpage <https://postgradinitaly.esteri.it/postgradinitaly/en/how-to-apply> .

- The government of the applicant's country may have programmes to support studying abroad, or specific bilateral agreements with the Italian university system, or the University of Pisa in particular, may exist (see <https://www.unipi.it/index.php/opportunities-and-exchange-programmes> for further information).

Other information on fee waivers, extraordinary contributions and scholarships can be found at <https://www.unipi.it/index.php/tuition-fees-and-financial-support> .