Università di Pisa – Dipartimento di Ingegneria dell'Informazione Corsi di Laurea Magistrale in *Computer Engineering* e in *Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering*

MSc Program in Computer Engineering and MSc Program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering

Call for Applications Academic Year 2025/26

Founded in 1343, the University of Pisa is a renowned public institution with twenty departments and innovative research centers across various disciplines. According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), it consistently ranks among the top 200 universities worldwide and is one of the top three institutions nationally. Globally, it holds a position between 151st and 200th in the most prestigious rankings, securing its place in the top 1-2% of universities worldwide.

The Department of Information Engineering (DII) at the University of Pisa is a center of excellence for research and teaching in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Robotics, and Bioengineering. It includes about 120 professors/researchers and 100 postdocs. The Italian Ministry for University and Research also awarded it the title of "Department of Excellence" in 2018 (CrossLab project) and 2023 (ForeLab project).

DII currently offers two MSc Degree Programs in English on topics related to the broad field of Computer Systems Engineering (class LM-32 according to Italian law):

- MSc Degree Program in Computer Engineering
- MSc Degree Program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering

Admission to such programs for the Academic Year 2025/26 is also **open to applicants holding a foreign qualification** (i.e., obtained from a non-Italian institution), and the relative applications must be received according to the rules and dates stated in this call. Admission is granted only after successfully passing the preliminary selection process, which is managed by the Evaluation Committee. Admission is strictly required to proceed to the official enrollment.

All the applications for both programs undergo the same selection process. Applications not meeting the admission requirements will be immediately rejected.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a **Bachelor of Science (BSc)** or equivalent first-cycle degree obtained after completing a three-year (minimum) course of study. The requested degree **must** include courses on subjects related to computer hardware and software comparable to those typically found in the background of a graduate in Computer Engineering or Computer Science (i.e., exams in algorithms and programming, computer architecture, operating systems, computer networks, and database systems). **Lack of any of the above exams makes an application not eligible**. A strong background in



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mathematics is also required. Proficiency in related engineering subjects (e.g., electronics, telecommunications, automation, or management) is also favorably considered. Merely technical or professional degrees, like a Bachelor of Computer Applications or equivalent, are not acceptable for the application. Please note that:

- Students expected to get their BSc degree before their pre-enrolment deadline (set by the Italian embassy or consulate in their country) are allowed to apply. Their admission is contingent on their successful graduation by the specified deadline;
- The judgment by the Evaluation Committee on the applicant's degree refers exclusively to its suitability for the two target MSc programs for this call. Qualifications issued in a non-EU country are subject to verification and recognition of legitimacy by the Italian deputy diplomatic authorities at a later stage.

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

Application Procedure and Due Documentation

Applicants must apply online on the dedicated portal at https://applymscenglish.unipi.it (it is recommended to take note of the credentials obtained during registration for future access). No more than two applications to MSc programs at the University of Pisa can be filed through the portal.

An application fee must be paid for each single application. Payment must be made directly on the application portal, immediately after completing the application. Details on the fee amount and payment options are reported below in the dedicated section.

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 (if your bachelor's degree program was taught in English, you may upload a document certified by your university attesting the teaching language instead of the language certificate);
- the academic degree they possess (or plan to obtain by the pre-enrolment 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.

All the documents must be in Adobe PDF format.

Applications missing any required document 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:

- submission of applications: by February 9, 2025, 23:59 (GMT) [strict deadline]
- online tests and interviews (if needed): scheduled from February 10, 2025, to February 28, 2025 [tentative]
- notifications of admission/rejection: by March 14, 2025 [possibly earlier]

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).

Selection Process

All the applications received by the deadline will be evaluated to determine possible admission. The evaluation procedure consists of the following steps:

- 1. Admission requirements are verified for each application; invalid applications are rejected.
- 2. Applicants are further selected according to their graduation study performance (also considering country-specific contexts), the affinity of exams in their graduation transcript with the target MSc programs in this call, and any additional education or working experiences reported in their CV. In carrying out this selection step, the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to ask each applicant to undergo possible online tests/interviews aimed to better characterize his/her potential. Applicants will be personally informed about the required tests/interviews by email.

What to Do upon Admission

A few days after the admission email, admitted candidates receive a formal admission letter, required in the next step.

- 1. Admitted candidates **must pre-enroll** on the "UNIVERSITALY" website. Pre-enrollment is required to start the Student Visa application process. Please read and follow the information available at: https://www.unipi.it/index.php/enrolment/itemlist/category/555-pre-enrollment-at-the-italian-embassy
- 2. 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 a long time** (often several weeks or months, depending on the Italian Embassy/Consulates) and **the University of Pisa cannot liaise with the Embassy/Consulate on the applicant's behalf under any circumstance**.



Information on Application Fees

Fee amount: The application fee applies exclusively to applicants holding a foreign qualification. The amount depends on the applicant's country of origin, according to the World Bank's income level classification (reported also online in this <u>Table</u>):

Low income and Lower-middle income countries: €10.00

Upper-middle income countries: €20.00

• High income countries: €30.00

Payment Method: Via PayPal, directly from the application portal. Only in case this option was not available, alternate solutions might be used (not recommended). Details for alternate options are reported on the application portal.

Important Note: Submission of the application will only be finalized upon payment of the required fee. Candidates with missing payments will not be evaluated.

Information on University Fees and Possible Financial Support

University fees are to be paid each academic year and are determined annually by the Board of Directors. These fees are usually announced in June for the following academic year. For the 2024/25 academic year, fees ranged from €356 to €2,530 per year, depending on the student's country of origin.

DSU scholarships: Financial support is available for students, including the DSU scholarship, offered by the "Agenzia Regionale Diritto allo Studio Universitario" (DSU) of the Tuscany Regional Council. This grant provides benefits such as free accommodation, meals at the University dining halls, and exemption from university tuition fees.

For more details on the DSU scholarship, please visit the webpage dedicated to DSU scholarships.

MAECI scholarships: Each year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) offers scholarships to international students and Italian students residing abroad. For more information, please visit https://www.esteri.it/en/opportunita/borse-di-studio/

Invest Your Talent (IYT) scholarships: This Master's Degree program also participates in the "Invest Your Talent in Italy" scholarship program, which aims to support students from selected countries and is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). Scholarships will be awarded to selected students admitted to the master's program. Additional information will be published as it becomes available on the <u>webpage dedicated to IYT scholarships</u>.

For further financial support opportunities for the 2025-2026 academic year, please refer to updates on www.unipi.it/tuition-fees/.