



Erasmus Student Network
Bologna

presents

the

survival guide

2026-27

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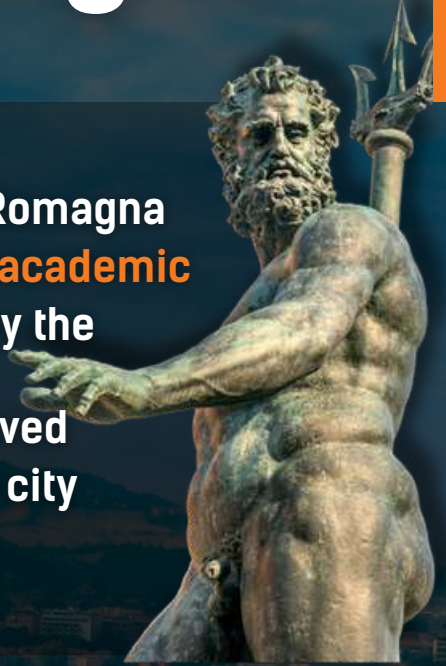
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welcome to Bologna

Bologna, the vibrant **capital** of Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, is a city renowned for its rich **history, academic heritage,** and **culinary excellence.** Founded by the Etruscans over two millennia ago and later a significant Roman center, Bologna has evolved through the centuries into a bustling modern city while retaining its medieval charm.



Home to the **oldest university** in the Western world, the University of Bologna, founded in **1088**, the city has long been a beacon of learning and culture. Its streets are lined with nearly **40 kilometers of iconic porticoes,** providing shelter and a unique architectural character. The historic **Piazza Maggiore**, with its stunning **Basilica of San Petronio**, and the **Asinelli** and **Garisenda** towers, are central to the city's architectural allure.

Bologna is also celebrated as **Italy's food capital.** It boasts a culinary tradition that includes famous dishes like **tagliatelle al ragù** (Bolognese sauce), **tortellini,** and **mortadella.** The local markets and numerous trattorias offer a gastronomic experience that attracts food enthusiasts from around the world.



what to eat?

Bologna is really famous for its traditional food. Here you have a list of the main local dishes you have to taste

lasagne



tigelle



tagliatelle al ragù



crescentine



mortadella



cotoletta alla bolognese



friggione



tortellini *



gramigna con la salsiccia



*Primarily in broth or with cream but NEVER with ragù, would you like a nonna to cry?

supermarkets

The main supermarkets that you can find in Bologna are



Check also the local markets and farmer's markets

where to pre-party?

Enjoy the atmosphere in:

- The Cluricaune Irish Pub (**discounts with your ESN Card!**)
- Piazza Verdi
- Via Petroni
- Piazza Aldrovandi
- Via del Pratello

where to party?

- Millenium (access only with Arci Card *)
- Qubò Club
- Chalet dei Giardini Margherita

Follow us on **Instagram** for updates on our weekly events

*LIMITED SPOTS WITH THE ESN DISCOUNT CODE

* ARCI CARD IS A MANDATORY MEMBERSHIP CARD REQUIRED TO ACCESS MILLENIUM AND OTHER NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES, YOU CAN DO IT STARTING FROM 1ST OF OCTOBER, [MORE INFO HERE](#)



click on the underlined words

how to move inside the city

Bologna is a very well-equipped bike-friendly city with an extense network of bike lanes. It's very common to move around by bike. Check the "bicipolitana" map here

BIKE



Many students buy their own bike (around 50€) from other students, local shops or on facebook marketplace and subito.it

You can use bike sharing like ridemovi.

BUS



Bologna public buses (operated by TPER) can be found all around the city, but there are some intermodal stops you should know inside the walls, stops such as Malpighi, Minghetti, Bologna Centrale, autostazione (for the public buses going far from Bologna) or Rizzoli. Check the circular lines 32 and 33 around the old city walls (viali) – more info next page

TAXI



Taxicat 051 4590
Cotabo 051.372727
App: **taxiclick easy**

 click on the underlined words

how to move

inside the city – Bus Tickets

In Bologna, you can take Tper buses to move around the city.

Exchange students doing their Erasmus at the University of Bologna during their study period, can pay a special price of **€161** and obtain a pass valid for the whole year. For more information you can check here!

Ordinary ticket (90 minutes) 2,30 €

CityPass (10 rides) 1,90 € per ride

Day Ticket 9 €

Eco Ticket 65 €

975 Line– from Central Station to Unipol Arena from 7 €

T>per

Trasporto Passeggeri Emilia-Romagna

 click on the underlined words

how to move

outside the city



Bologna has one of the most important airports in Italy.

You can choose among a lot of different companies and routes!

Other airports nearby are: Rimini, Forlì, Firenze, Pisa, Ancona, Verona, Bergamo, Malpensa, Linate and Venezia.

If you want to move away from the city to national or international destinations you should know the autostazione di Bologna. This bus station is the main and only stop for long-distance buses.



Here you can find different companies such as Flixbus, Itabus (**you have discounts with your ESNCard with both!**) and Marinobus

The autostazione di Bologna also host local mid-distance buses to other towns inside the province of Bologna

If you want to travel Italy by care you have take into account most cities have a Low Emission Zone (or ZTL in italian)



More info about the ZTL Bologna here

To rent a car in Italy you must be at least 21 years old. Some companies allow younger drivers with 1 or 2 years of driving licence for extra price.



click on the **underlined** words

how to get to the centre... from the airport!

As you get out of the airport, you can consider different alternatives for different prices:

- **Linea Q** is the cheapest option available. The price is **€2.30** and runs from the Airport to Ospedale Maggiore and viceversa every 30 minutes. Then you can change bus to the city center using the same ticket. From 00.00 to 05:40 it runs to the central station. Info Here.
- “**Marconi Express**” is the monoray that in 7 minutes brings you from the Airport to the central station everyday from 5.40 to 24:00. The cost is **€12.80** one way. While the round-trip ticket costs **€23.30**. You can pay the ticket directly at the turnstiles by using a contactless card or by using the vending machines. Take a look at the official website for more info.
- A **taxi** can bring you to the city center for about **25€**. Careful, at night the wait can be long!

 click on the underlined words

garbage

If you are a good resident, you would definitely make a separate collection of garbage. There are fines for incivic or non recycling-citizens

Here you have the official guide made by the municipality of Bologna



PLASTIC

yellow



ORGANIC

brown



PAPER

blue



**GLASS
ALUMINIUM**

green



MIXED

grey

In the city center, you need the "**carta smeraldo**" to throw the undifferentiated. Ask for it from your landlord!

If you need to throw away bulky waste or electronic devices, you have to call the HERA service and leave them outside the main entrance for collection. For more information, click here.



click on the underlined words



registration to the municipality

VISA

Non-European citizens must apply for the study visa (for +90 days) and they can do it through this [link](#).

For **European citizens** not required to have a visa: when you arrive you have to do the **Dichiarazione di Presenza** (no more than 8 days after arrival). All info on this [link](#).

If the Embassy/Consulate offers this service, ask for the issue of an official Italian Codice Fiscale (fiscal code).

codice fiscale

The **tax code** is necessary to carry out various activities in Italy, for example: opening a **bank account**, entering into a **rental contract**, registering with the **National Health Service**, receiving payments or reimbursements from the **University of Bologna**, activating a **mobile phone number**, activating an **internet key**.

how to obtain it in Bologna?

After arriving in Italy, you can ask for the **tax code** to be issued by the **Agenzia delle Entrate** by going to either Bologna Territorial Office 1 (**Via Marco Polo, 60**) or Bologna Territorial Office 2 (**Via Larga, 35**) during opening hours and by booking an appointment through the [Agenzia delle Entrate website](#).



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healthcare

If you have some **health problem** you can go to the **Pronto soccorso** in any hospital (like **Maggiore** or **Sant'Orsola**) but it could take a lot of time depending on your problem.



By night you can go to the **Guardia medica**. Bring with you your **passport**, the **codice fiscale** and **residence permit** or its **receipt**, or your **European Health Insurance Card** if you are an EU citizen.

You can find it in **via Montebello, 6**
Phone **051 3131**

pharmacy

To know the opening hours of the pharmacies, [click here](#)



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emergency number

112

Free Single European Emergency Number

- You can call 112 from fixed and mobile phones to contact any emergency service: an **ambulance, the fire brigade or the police**.
- Operators will at first answer the calls not only in Italian, but some can also in English or sometimes French

Info about police stations in Bologna

- polizia locale (local police)
- polizia di stato

what's the difference between CARABINIERI and POLICE?

Carabinieri and **police** are both, in their intent and purpose, police forces. But one way they differ is that the Carabinieri belong to the **armed forces** and, therefore, respond to the **Ministry of Defense**. The Police, on the other hand, is a **civilian structure** that is working under the **Ministry of the Interior**.

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currency

If you come from a country that **uses € (euro)**, payments can be made **without commission** using **VISA** or **MASTERCARD**. You can also withdraw money from **ATMs** paying a commission according to the agreements between banks.



If you come from a country that **doesn't use €**, payments by card can be made applying the **necessary commission**. In this case we advise you to **open an account** with an **international online bank**, with which you can also (once you have requested the physical card) withdraw cash from all ATMs converting your currency directly from the banks app and paying in € without being subject to additional commissions. In some Poste Italiane offices you can change USD, CHF, GBP, YEN and some other

sim card

italian area code is **+39**

The main network operators in Italy which have their own network systems are Vodafone, TIM, WindTre and Iliad.

The other operators are virtual, they function utilizing the network systems of the operators above.



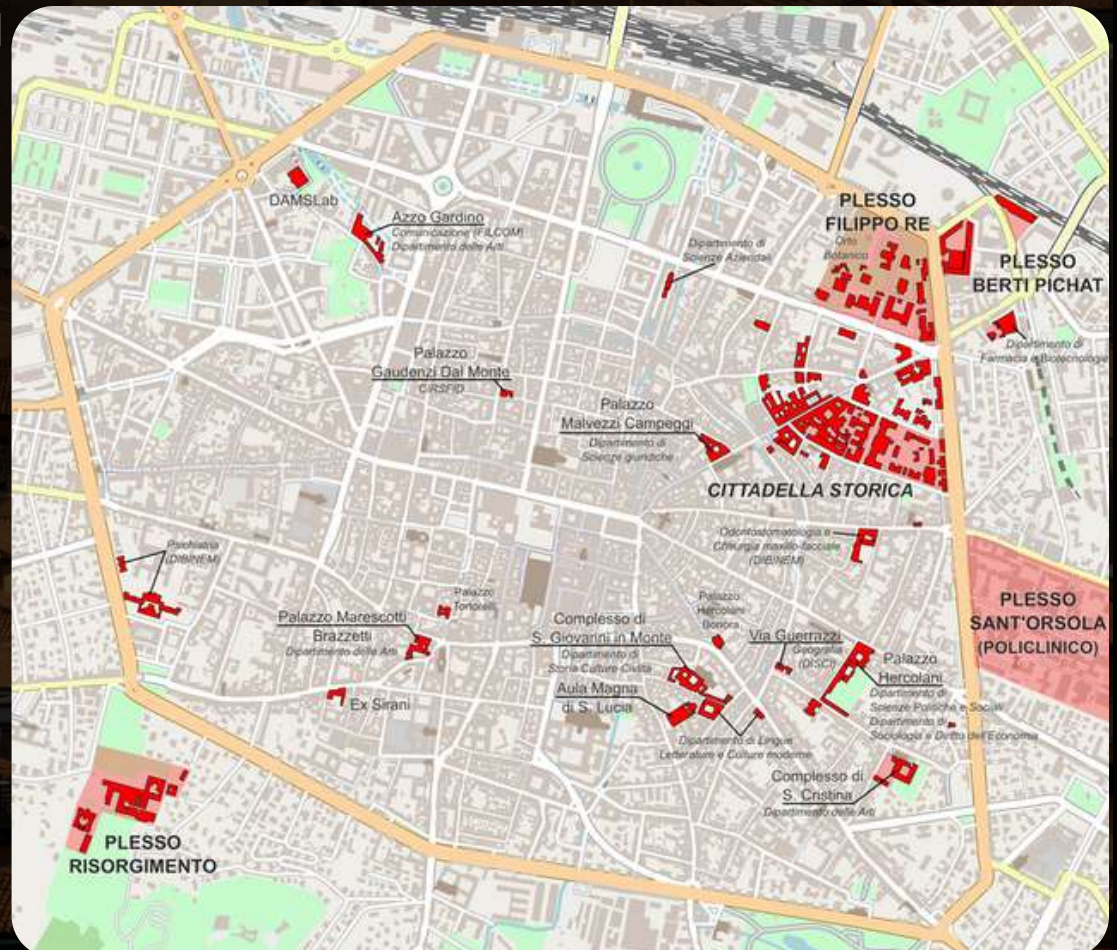
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Alma Mater Studiorum

The University of Bologna is a research university in Bologna, Italy. Founded in 1088 by an organised guild of students (hence studiorum), it is the **oldest university** in continuous operation in the world, and the first university in the sense of a higher-learning and degree-awarding institute, as the word **universitas** was coined at its foundation.



The university's emblem carries the motto **Alma Mater Studiorum** ("Nourishing mother of studies") and the date A.D. 1088, and it has about 86,500 students in its 11 schools. It has campuses in Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini and a branch center abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



places to study

You can study in silent places such as the library of your own district or in

- [Palazzo Paleotti](#)
- [Archiginasio](#)
- [Sala Borsa](#)
- [Bigiavi](#)

For more places and info, [click here](#).

Or, if you want to study in group, a lot of bars in the center give the possibility to study, as well as free Wi-fi and electrical outlets for laptops.



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welcome to ESN

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a **non-profit international student organisation**.

Our mission is to **represent international students**, thus provide opportunities for **cultural understanding** and self-development under the principle of **Students Helping Students**.



ESN members



[Aitor](#)



[Andrea](#)



[Aurora](#)



[Cristiano](#)

 click on the [names](#) to send us an email

ESN members



[Daniele](#)



[Dario](#)



[Davide](#)



[Gabriel](#)



[Giulia](#)



[GiuseppeR](#)



[GiuseppeS](#)



[Greta](#)



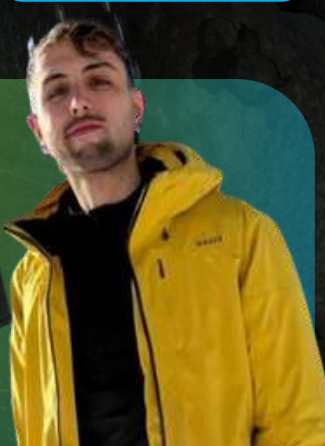
[Julio](#)



[Killian](#)



[Leonardo](#)



[Lele](#)



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ESN members



[Luca](#)



[Lucrezia](#)



[Marta](#)



[Nicola](#)



[Riccardo](#)



[Roberto](#)



[Sahar](#)



[Sara](#)



[Simona](#)



[Vanessa](#)



ESN

Erasmus Student Network
Bologna



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office

Erasmus Student Network Bologna

Via delle Belle Arti, 50

40126 Bologna BO Italy

Opening hours (from September to June) are announced weekly on **Whatsapp** and **Instagram**

For any additional help contact:

welcome@esnborlogna.org



ESNcard

The ESNcard is the membership card of ESN. With it you get:

- European Valid card accepted by any ESN Section
- The possibility to attend all **our activities, parties, trips, and so on...**
- Discounts with our **partners in Bologna** and with **international partners (check esnborlogna.org)**

To save time at the ESN Office we suggest you to fill in the registration module [here](#)

Your **Jupiter** account will be created in a couple days at latest. You will receive your password by email.

For more information click [here](#)

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Jupiter

Once you have created your account in Jupiter, and paid for the ESN Card (office or bank transfer) you'll have access to our site to register into our events.

Jupiter is our event management platform where you'll be able to register to our activities. Take into account some activities are free, others have a participation fee but **most of them have a limited spot.**

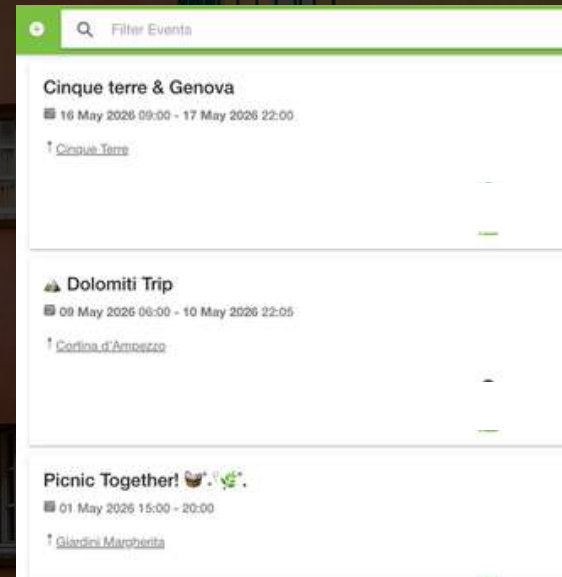
HOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT?

Jupiter is not linked into the payment of an activity so you'll need to wait for our team to check the payments. **It's not an automated process** so please be patient

HOW TO PAY FOR THE EVENTS?

You have two ways;

- in the office (cash or card)
- bank transfer (more info here)



Consider that Jupiter is our internal event management tool, not esncard.org (the website you must register separately to get discounts with your card)

1

Register into Jupiter

2

Wait for your profile to be accepted

3

Register to trips, events and pay to secure a spot



click on the underlined words

weekly events

monday



Speak – Italian lessons



tuesday

Tandem Night



every two
wednesdays

Karaoke Night



thursday

Millenium Party Night



weekend

Trips



*having a valid **ESNcard of Bologna section** is mandatory to join our events

All of our events are ruled by our trip and event policy

trips

Did you know that ESN Bologna is famous for its trips?
Here you can find our most common trips.
Extra info on our [website](#) and Jupiter

Beach Trip



Dolomites



Garda Lake



Tuscany



Cinque Terre



Trento & Bolzano



Snow Trip



Venice Carnival



Dream Trip



Naples



Marche



Spring Break
Croatia



Buddy Programme – Papaya

We are glad to introduce you to **Papaya**, an ESN matching system that will help you to find a **language tandem partner**, with whom you'll be able to practice another languages!

Learning a new language (or improving a known one) can be difficult: thanks to this project we will assign you a **tandem partner** who speaks the native language you'd like to speak or learn. After you'll be matched you'll be able to meet up for a coffee or a cup of tea, **exchanging your own mother languages knowledge**.

- 1.** search “**papaya ESN**”
- 2.** sign up with your **email**
- 3.** complete your profile
- 4.** join the “**Buddy Programme**”



This survival guide was written and updated by a group of ESN Bologna members to help you, international exchange or Erasmus student, enjoy Bologna to the fullest and ease your transition to the city. All being said, let's your experience in this amazing city begin!

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www.esnbologna.org



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[@springbreakcroatia](https://www.instagram.com/springbreakcroatia)



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