



ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

ENGLISH VERSION



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§ 1 - Scope and definition of the mobility positions offered by the present call

The Scuola Normale Superiore offers, for the academic year 2026-27, student mobility positions regulated by specific agreements with international universities. Hereinafter, such positions shall be referred to as “international exchanges”.

The full list of SNS partner institutions, together with information about the maximum duration of mobility eligible for a grant, and the grant amount for each single position, can be consulted in Annex A. The number of positions assigned will depend on the number of applications received and on the allocated budget.

§ 2 – Motivations

The international exchanges described under §1 can be activated for one of more of the following purposes, as long as allowed by the destination:

1. Individual research activity for writing the final dissertation or the Ph.D thesis.
2. Full-time study with the attendance of courses and seminars to be inserted in the student’s curriculum at the SNS and/or at the University of Pisa or Florence.¹

§ 3 – Prerequisites

With the only exception of any specific limitations introduced by international agreements and listed in Annex A, international exchanges are open to students from the “corsi ordinari” or Ph.D. students regularly enrolled at the SNS at the moment of application and for the whole period of mobility abroad.

§ 4 – Deadlines

Applications may be submitted by different deadlines depending on the period for which candidates wish to apply. In general, the deadlines are as follows:

1. The **15th of January 2026** for mobility to take place in the first semester of the academic year 2026/2027;

¹ The validation of any activities by the University is only possible for those destinations that have previously undersigned a specific multilateral agreement with the SNS and the University. The validation of any activities by the University of Pisa or Florence is not guaranteed, and must be agreed in advance with the relevant Department.



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2. The **15th of June 2026** for mobility to take place in the second semester (or second and third term) of the academic year 2026/2027;

Detailed information on the deadline for the chosen destination and term is available in Annex A.

At the end of each deadline, there will be a meeting of the Interfaculty Mobility Committee.

§ 5 – How to Apply

Applications must be sent online through the applicant's profile on the Esse3 platform by the deadline set for each study term.

Each application must include a motivation letter describing the activities to be performed abroad, to be attached to the application on Esse3 (Annex C);

Each candidate must send to a professor or researcher affiliated with the chosen Institution a letter of support for their application, prepared specifically by the Internationalisation Office (Attachment D). The letter must be completed, signed, and sent by the professor or researcher to support.letters@sns.it by the application deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications for international exchange positions at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris must include the forms redacted by the partner institution, complete with all the required signatures (and available in Annex B), to be attached to the application in Esse3.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates may submit a maximum of two applications to different locations, indicating their order of preference, but only one application will be granted.

§ 6 – Selection Criteria

Following the deadline for applications, the motivation letter (Annex 1) will be sent by the Internationalisation Office to the SNS professor indicated by the candidates for evaluation. The professor will then complete the appropriate evaluation form using Elixform by the **31st of January 2026**.

After each deadline, the Interfaculty Mobility Committee will evaluate the applications received, draw up the ranking lists and establish the allocation of exchange grants for each institution based on the available budget.

Candidates will receive a maximum score of 100 points divided as follows:



- Up to **60 points out of 100** awarded by the SNS professor, indicated by candidates, using the Elixform form based on the criteria listed below:
 - Evaluation of the mobility program (from 1 to 20, where 20 is the maximum)
 - Evaluation of the relevance of the location in relation to the program described by the candidate (from 1 to 20, where 20 is the maximum)
 - Evaluation of the importance of carrying out the mobility in the academic year covered by the call (from 1 to 20, where 20 is the maximum)
- Up to **25 points out of 100** for the year of enrolment assigned in this way:

Year of enrolment when submitting the application	Score
1st year "corso ordinario"	Not eligible
2nd year "corso ordinario"	5
3rd year "corso ordinario"	10
4th year "corso ordinario"	15
5th year "corso ordinario"	Not eligible
1st year Ph.D.	25
2nd year Ph.D.	25
3rd year Ph.D.	15
4th year Ph.D.	Not eligible



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- **15 points out of 100** are assigned to students who have never been awarded any previous long-term mobility period (at least two months) under a call for applications in the current study cycle, or **10 points out of 100** are assigned to those who, in the current study cycle, have not activated any previous international exchange study mobility period.

In cases of tied scores, applications will be ranked according to the following criteria:

1. Budget distribution among Faculties
2. Gender balance
3. Relevance of the proposed program

The final approval of the ranked lists proposed by the Committees as described above and the appointment of each position is competence of the Vice-Rector for International Relations.

§ 7 – Financial details

The amount of the scholarship assigned for each position is specified in Annex A to the present call and is deemed sufficient to cover the costs of the mobility. The scholarship is contingent upon the assignment of a mobility position and is based on the total number of days of mobility abroad plus two days for travel. **PLEASE NOTE: The scholarship based on the daily grant amount does not require the presentation of receipts, it constitutes income and is therefore subject to IRPEF and IRAP taxation (ex art 50 paragraph 1 letter c of TUIR).**

The cost of the round trip for the start and end of the mobility, the costs of any additional insurance policies made mandatory by the university of destination, the costs of any visa expenses related to immigration procedures in the destination country and the costs of any mandatory registration fees will be reimbursed upon submission of the original receipts to the Internationalisation Office and within the limits for each destination as specified in Annex A.

Winners of a scholarship are not allowed to request additional fundings to their Faculty's Mobility Committee.

Students enrolled in the PhD courses of the School with scholarships funded by PNRR funds who wish to have their exchange mobility recognized for the purposes of the international mobility requirements of their position must submit a request for a scholarship increase and will therefore not receive the daily allowance but will be entitled to the expense reimbursements described above.

The scholarship will be paid in different instalments:



1. An advanced payment of the 80% of the scholarship for the total period of mobility authorised by the Mobility Committee will be paid before departure;
2. The final balance composed of the remaining 20%, in case the mobility was completed for the originally foreseen duration, will be paid upon submission of the Exchange Presence Statement duly signed and stamped by the host institution and complete with the actual dates of permanence abroad. In case the total duration is shorter than originally authorised, the equivalent daily amount already paid will be deducted from this payment or a reimbursement of the exceeding amount will be requested (only if the difference between the number of granted mobility days and those actually taken is greater than 5).
3. The reimbursement upon submission of receipts for travel costs, mandatory insurance costs and visa costs will be paid upon submission of receipts before or together with the final balance.

§ 8 - Before Departure

The Internationalisation Office will nominate selected candidates to the partner institutions, which reserve the right to reject the application, request additional documentation and/or define a special procedure for completing the registration or requesting an accommodation. Candidates are directly responsible for following said procedures.

Selected candidates will agree directly with the host institution the details concerning their arrival, making sure the chosen destination will be ready to welcome them.

Each selected candidate is required to fill in a Learning Agreement on Esse3, inserting in their study plan at the SNS and/or the University the activities to be carried out abroad during the mobility, to allow their full recognition in place of internal activities or in addition to them. Full recognition will be authorised upon approval of the Learning Agreement by the teacher responsible for it.

Please note that some universities may have teaching requirements for exchange students (e.g., minimum number of ECTS credits), so it is advisable to check this aspect before submitting your application.

Finally, selected candidates must read and comply by the instructions on safety abroad published on the SNS website.

Depending on their nationality and destination country, selected candidates may have to apply for an entry visa. In this case, the Internationalisation Office will provide the necessary documentation regarding their status at the Scuola Normale and the candidate will then need to



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collaborate with the administrative offices of the host institution in order to fulfil all the formalities necessary to the regularisation of their stay in the host country.

Some institutions may require a language certificate in order to activate the mobility (e.g.: an IELTS or TOEFL certificate is requested by most US institutions).

§ 9 – Insurance Policies

Selected candidates commit to read and accept the conditions of the services provided by the host institution.

The Scuola Normale offers to all its students in mobility abroad a basic health insurance including coverage in case of pandemics. In order for it to be effectively activated, selected candidates must promptly inform the Internationalisation Office of the actual date of departure and arrival and of any variations.

During their mobility, candidates are also covered by a specific insurance against accidents and for civil liability.

Before departure, selected candidates are strongly recommended to contact the competent SNS office to request the certificates of insurance coverage offered by the Normale. These documents might have to be shown in the destination country.

§ 10 – Renouncement

Any renouncement to an assigned mobility, with the only exception of any cases of *force majeure*, must be communicated at least one month before departure.

Any unjustified renouncement or renouncement communicated too late will result in the exclusion from the participation to the next mobility call.

§ 11 - After Returning

At the end of the mobility, selected candidates must submit the documentation issued by the host institution complete with all the information necessary to register the activities performed abroad in substitution of or in addition to internal activities.

Selected candidates must also provide the document stating the official start and end date of the mobility, duly stamped and signed by the host institution and the receipts for travel costs, mandatory insurance costs and visa costs.



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The above-mentioned documentation is necessary to obtain the final payment of the scholarship and to be allowed to discuss the final thesis and obtain the SNS title.

In any case, failure to submit the documentation listed in the present paragraph will result in the exclusion from participation in other mobility calls or in the impossibility to discuss the final thesis.

§ 12 – Contacts

For further information about the conditions provided by exchange agreements, procedures and formalities, interested students can contact the Internationalisation Office (international@sns.it).