



**UNIVERSITÀ  
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## **Regulations of the Foundation Course in Engineering and Science**

**Department of Information Engineering and Mathematics**

**Web Site: [fc-engineering-science.unisi.it](http://fc-engineering-science.unisi.it)**

**University of Siena**

**AY 2025/2026**

### **Art. 1 - Activation and Admission Procedures**

1. The Foundation Course in Engineering and Science is established at the Department of Information Engineering and Mathematics of the University of Siena. The course is instituted pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1 of Ministerial Decree No. 270/2004, which allows universities to organize preparatory educational activities for admission to degree programs.
2. The program is subject to restricted enrollment and has a limited number of places, which are determined annually. Admission procedures and required documents are defined in a specific call for applications published by the University of Siena on the University's official online notice board (Albo online, <http://albo.unisi.it>).
3. Participation in the selection process and submission of applications require the payment of an admission fee, which is set annually by the University. Applications must be submitted through the online portal for international admissions: <https://apply.unisi.it>.

### **Art. 2 - Admission Requirements**

1. The following candidates are eligible for admission to the Foundation Course:
  - Students holding a secondary school diploma (or an equivalent qualification in accordance with current regulations) obtained abroad after a minimum of 11 years of total schooling, which grants access to higher education in the educational system of the issuing country.
  - Students holding a U.S. High School Diploma (HSD) who have not completed the three Advanced Placements (APs) required for admission to Italian universities.



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- Students holding a General Certificate of Education (GCE) or an International General Certificate of Education (IGCE) from the United Kingdom who do not meet the requirement of three A-levels for admission to Italian universities.
2. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in the English language at a minimum B1 level (or higher) according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
3. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age (or turn 17) by December 31, 2025, to be eligible for enrollment in the Foundation Course. Students who have not yet turned 18 by July 31, 2025, must provide additional documentation. This following documentation must be submitted upon request by the university:
- A parental or legal guardian consent form authorizing enrollment in the Foundation Course.
  - A copy of the identity document of the parent or legal guardian.
  - A declaration appointing a legal guardian residing in Italy for the duration of the Foundation Course, until the student reaches the age of majority.
  - A copy of the identity document of the appointed legal guardian in Italy, valid until the student turns 18.
  - A proxy authorization to request the student's Italian tax identification code (codice fiscale).

All documents must be original copies, signed and stamped by the relevant authorities, and must be translated into Italian or English.

### **Art. 3 - General Educational Objectives**

1. The Foundation Course in Engineering and Science is a multidisciplinary program that includes courses in Mathematics, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry, as well as English language instruction (B2 level) and Italian language instruction (A1 and A2 levels). All activities are designed to provide or strengthen fundamental knowledge in specific subject areas at a pre-academic level, in order to prepare students for a successful start in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) degree programs.

2. Among the activities offered, students may choose from a set of elective courses, which include English and Italian language enhancement and Computer Science.



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#### **Art. 4 - Mandatory STEM Subjects**

1. The Foundation Course includes a set of compulsory STEM subjects intended to provide students with essential pre-academic preparation in scientific and technical disciplines.

2. The educational objectives of the compulsory subjects are as follows:

- **Mathematics:** Strengthen the mathematical foundations necessary for academic success in technical and scientific fields. Develop logical-deductive thinking and problem-solving skills. Support the transition from secondary school to university by addressing gaps and harmonizing preparation levels.
- **Chemistry:** Reinforce the fundamentals of general chemistry to prepare students for scientific academic courses. Promote theoretical understanding of core chemical concepts through an applied, exercise-based approach, without laboratory activities.
- **Physics:** Consolidate basic knowledge of physics and provide essential theoretical and methodological tools. Develop the ability to analyze physical phenomena using both quantitative and qualitative approaches, with an emphasis on applied problem-solving.
- **Biology:** Introduce the fundamental concepts of biology relevant to future academic studies in science. Provide a basic understanding of life and its processes, with attention to key concepts and scientific terminology. Stimulate curiosity toward life sciences through practical and applied examples.

#### **Art. 5 - Mandatory Italian Language Activities**

1. The educational objective of the Italian language and culture activities is to enable students to achieve A2-level proficiency, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). These activities also aim to provide students with a general understanding of Italian cultural and social aspects—fostering integration into both the national and local context—through language learning and, where applicable, additional initiatives.



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### **Art. 6 - Mandatory English Language Activities**

1. The educational objective of the compulsory English language teaching activities is to enable students to achieve B2-level proficiency according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

### **Art. 7 - Elective Activities**

1. Elective activities allow students to personalize their learning path according to their interests, goals, and individual aptitudes.

2. Elective Italian language courses enable students to reach B1 and B2 proficiency levels, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). B2 level is required for admission to bachelor's degree programs taught in Italian at the University of Siena.

3. The elective English language course aims to support the development of more advanced language proficiency.

4. The introductory programming course aims to provide basic programming knowledge for students with little or no prior experience; to develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills through coding; and to introduce fundamental programming concepts applicable across different programming languages.

### **Art. 8 - Language of Instruction**

1. All core courses are taught in English. Italian language courses are taught in both Italian and English.

### **Art. 9 - Assessment Methods**

1. Student performance is assessed using one or more of the following methods: oral examination, written test, written or oral report on completed activities, open-ended or multiple-choice tests, laboratory work, or computer-based exercises.

2. Language skills are evaluated according to the following competencies, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): listening comprehension, reading comprehension, spoken interaction, spoken production, and written production.



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3. Each course includes a final assessment and at least two resit opportunities, spaced at least two weeks apart.

4. For language courses and elective activities, assessment verifies whether the student has attained the required language proficiency level (pass/fail). For the mandatory subjects, assessments are graded on a scale of 30 points, with a minimum passing grade of 18/30.

**Art. 10 - Study Plan**

1. The educational activities are quantified in sixty Foundation Course Credits (CFC). One CFC corresponds to twenty-five hours of total student workload, including individual study, possible classroom exercises, and no fewer than eight hours of lectures or laboratory activities.

2. CFCs are not equivalent to university credits. They cannot be recognized for the purpose of shortening future academic programs, nor can they be replaced by any university credits previously earned at foreign institutions.

3. The study plan is reported in the following table:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>CFC</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<i>Mandatory Language Courses</i>		
Italian Language and Culture – Level A1	6	48
Italian Language and Culture – Level A2	6	48
English Language – Level B2	6	48
<i>Mandatory STEM Activities</i>		
Mathematics 1	5	40
Mathematics 2	5	40
Mathematics 3	5	40
Physics	5	40
Chemistry	5	40
Biology	5	40
<i>Two elective activities from the following options</i>		
Italian Language and Culture – Level B1	6	48
Italian Language and Culture – Level B2	6	48
Advanced English Language	6	48
Introduction to Programming	6	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>480</b>



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4. Language courses are preceded by a preliminary assessment to determine the student's level of language proficiency. Students who demonstrate a level equal to or higher than the target level are exempted from attending the corresponding teaching activities and will automatically be granted recognition for those activities.

5. For students who are not granted an exemption, attendance is mandatory, with a minimum requirement of 75% of the total hours for each activity. Students who fail to meet this requirement due to documented health issues or other exceptional circumstances may access make-up options. However, make-up options shall not compensate for absences exceeding 5% of the total hours.

6. Failure to meet the attendance requirement will prevent students from fulfilling the course completion requirements.

7. Students are required to select the composition of their study plan by Friday, 23 January 2026. The study plan may be modified until Friday, 6 February 2026. After this date, no further modifications will be permitted.

### **Art. 11 - Final Certification**

1. Students who obtain the required language qualifications and successfully completing all assessments outlined in the study plan will be awarded:

- the final Foundation Course certificate;
- the minimum curricular requirements for admission to Italian universities.

2. The final certificate will indicate the student's overall grade, expressed on a 100-point scale, calculated as the weighted average (based on CFCs) of the grades obtained in mandatory subjects, rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **Art. 12 - Academic Calendar**

1. Classes will begin on Monday, 24 November 2025, and will end on Tuesday, 30 June 2026.

2. Examinations will be held during the teaching period and will continue, including resit opportunities, until Friday, 24 July 2026.



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3. Academic activities will be suspended during the following periods:

- 22 December 2025 to 6 January 2026 – Winter holidays
- 2 April to 8 April 2026 – Easter holidays
- 25 April 2026 – Liberation Day
- 1 May 2026 – Labour Day
- 1 June 2026 – Holiday (extended weekend preceding Republic Day)
- 2 June 2026 – Republic Day
- 2 July 2026 – Local holiday (Palio di Siena)

### **Art. 13 - Orientation, Student Support and Mentoring**

1. For the academic year 2025/2026, a total of 200 hours of peer tutoring activities will be offered, carried out by student tutors selected through a public call for applications. The call is open to students enrolled in bachelor's, single-cycle master's, second-level master's, and doctoral programs at the University of Siena.

2. Student tutors provide guidance and support to Foundation Course students throughout their academic journey, fostering integration and promoting academic success. Their activities include orientation for new students, study assistance through clarification of course content and learning strategies, and help with administrative and bureaucratic procedures.

3. This peer support also plays a key role in enhancing the inclusion of international students by facilitating their adaptation to the university environment and encouraging active participation in academic life.

4. The Department of Information Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, in collaboration with the offices of the University Student Services Area, will organize a welcome and orientation event for Foundation Course students within the first week of the program.

5. Additionally, the Department, in collaboration with the same university offices, will organize an outgoing orientation event no later than May 2026, aimed at promoting the academic programs offered by the University of Siena.



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### **Art. 14 - Enrollment Costs**

1. The minimum total cost to enroll in the Foundation Course in Engineering and Science is €4,065.90, which includes the following non-refundable fees:

- €49.90 Admission Fee – Required to submit the application and take the English TOLC-I test organized by the University of Siena (apply.unisi.it).
- €500.00 Enrollment Confirmation Fee – To be paid upon receiving an offer for a place in the program. This fee is required to confirm the assigned place; otherwise, it will be offered to the next candidate on the ranking list.
- €3.500.00 Tuition Fee – To be paid in a single installment at the time of official enrollment.
- €16.00 Revenue Stamp – A mandatory administrative fee required under Italian regulations, to be paid in a single installment at the time of official enrollment.

2. Students are supposed to complete their enrolment before the beginning of the teaching activities and no later than Friday, November 28, 2025

3. If, due to force majeure (for example, a delay in obtaining a visa), enrollment is completed after Friday, 28 November 2025, an additional non-refundable fee of €100.00 per week will be charged to cover catch-up classes and personalized tutoring. This additional fee will be applied at the end of each Friday.

### **Art. 15 - Teaching Committee**

1. The role of the Teaching Committee (Comitato di Gestione) is to coordinate the educational and organizational activities of the course, monitor its progress, ensure that the educational objectives are met, propose any modifications or improvements to the curriculum, evaluate student outcomes, and maintain ongoing dialogue between faculty, students, and academic bodies in order to support the successful implementation of the course.

2. The Teaching Committee can be contacted at the following email address: [fc\\_es@diism.unisi.it](mailto:fc_es@diism.unisi.it).



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### **Art. 16 - Administrative Management of Student Records**

1. The office responsible for the administrative management of student records for the Foundation Course is the Student and Teaching Office (*Ufficio Studenti e Didattica*) of the Department of Information Engineering and Mathematics ([didattica.diism@unisi.it](mailto:didattica.diism@unisi.it)).