

Fact sheet – University of Calabria – UniCal

University profile

A Cosmopolitan Campus, of international reputation with over 1309 students from 82 countries, and mobility and exchange programmes. While having a walk along the Ponte Bucci or in the lanes of students' residences, it is quite common to hear people speaking in different languages and meet people from different cultures. The University signed international cooperation agreements with 251 institutions from 54 countries. Since many years, UniCal is selected, among other 30 Italian universities to participate in the largest world expo of Higher Education, NAFSA, that is held in the USA. Since its establishment, the University of Calabria has been oriented toward internationalisation and hosted the first community of Chinese international students in Italy in the late 1970s. UniCal is a lively community where people can come across the cultural esprit from all over the world in an environment that encourages socialisation and integration, thus making the Campus a place where social cohesion and peaceful living are achieved.

University history

The University of Calabria was established in 1968 (Law n. 422 of May 12, 1968) with the aim of rooting in this area a strategic resource for the development of Calabria, capable of creating prospects for cultural, social and economic growth for its students and their families. In its first half-century of life, the University has kept faith with its founding values by making the Campus a place for debate and examination of other experiences and by building an academic community that fully identifies with the mission of contributing to the development of knowledge, cultural education, civil progress and economic development of the area where it operates. The vision that drives the University of Calabria is well summarised by its motto: the "Campus for Excellence". Thus, an important asset of facilities and infrastructures configures the University as a residential Campus and a strategic resource for its considerable size and for the significant social, educational and scientific impact on the territory. An asset that covers over 350,000 square meters, on an area of about 200 hectares, where Departments, Lecture Halls (over 200 with 18,500 seats), Offices, Laboratories, Libraries, Cinemas and Theaters are hosted. The university residences are located in the surrounding area, with about 1,800 beds scattered over the numerous residential areas, sports facilities, canteens with catering services for students and staff (with 1,290 seats), places of aggregation, as well as the "Polifunzionale", the first educational and departmental district of the University.



Higher education system of Italy

The Italian Higher education system of university type, and equivalent, is composed by institutions spread across the country; its training provided is usually organised on three levels. There are 99 university institutes, most of which are public universities, paired with: seven institutes of excellence with a special statute; private universities legally recognised; telematics universities; and the schools for language mediators (SSML) legally recognised and authorised to issue only first and second level degrees. To access university is required an high school diploma either for first cycle and single-cycle degrees; to access master degree is required a bachelor's degree. During the first cycle the objective is to provide students general scientific methods, and the obtaining of specifics professional knowledge. During the master degree an high level knowledge is provided in order to enable the student as a specialist in their sector. The doctorate (3rd cycle) aims to educate the student to methods used in advanced scientific research, and provides internships abroad and the frequentation of research laboratories; to access the doctorate is required a master degree and passing a competition. The doctorate has a 3 years duration and it end with a research thesis prepared by the student.

Departments of University of Calabria

The departments of UniCal are the bearing structure of the university ever since its founding in 1968, anticipating the same organisation system that later would have been applied in Italy. At UniCal there are 14 departments, for a total amount of more than 80 study courses.

The departments are:

- DiBEST – Department of Biology, Ecology and Earth Sciences
- CTC – Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology
- DiCES – Department of Cultures, Education and Society
- DESF – Department of Economics, Statistics and Finance – Giovanni Anania
- DFSNN – Department of Pharmacy and Health and Nutrition sciences
- FIS – Department of Physics
- DIAM – Department of Environmental Engineering
- DINCI – Department of Civil Engineering
- DIMES – Department of Computer, Modelling, Electronic and Systems Engineering
- DIMEG – Department of Mechanical, Energy and Management Engineering
- Demacs – Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences
- DiScAG – Department of Business and Legal Sciences
- DISPeS – Department of Political and Social Sciences
- DISU – Department of Humanistic Studies



Student involvement at University of Calabria

The Student Associations are the beating heart of UniCal: they are able to work effectively in order to provide information and services, and act as a place where students can meet new people and where events are hosted, throughout a peer-to-peer system. At UniCal There are (according to official data from 2023) 26 Student Associations, with more than 13,500 memberships. The community that comes to life inside the campus passes through the various residential neighborhoods that are part of the university, here real cross-cultural families are created among the students who inhabit and color them. Last February 8, representatives of the Associations were invited to attend a meeting where they were told about the EUPeace project and the WorkPackage that UniCal is in charge of; during this meeting the many valuable proposals made by the students were collected in addition to their membership to form the International Student Association dedicated to the project. The university community has, therefore, been active and proactive on the social and topical issues that drive EUPeace projects and activities, aware of the fact that cooperation can make a difference for a better future.

Research focus & number research groups

The University of Calabria (Unical) boasts vast areas of research and interests spanning both the sciences and the humanities. Of particular importance are the research groups in engineering, as well as those in the humanities, linguistics, educational methodology, pharmacology, health care, law and sociology. As a result, there are numerous laboratories and research groups dedicated to the many ongoing projects, which are divided into the following macro-areas:

Computing/Multimedia= 25 laboratories/research groups

Scientific/technological= 173 laboratories/research groups

Work centers= 13 laboratories/research groups

<https://www.unical.it/ricerca/strutture-di-ricerca/laboratori/?lang=en>

More information

The University of Calabria is aware of its roots and the multifaceted nature of the context in which it operates. This is precisely why UniCal acts as an engine of cultural, social and economic development, actively contributing to the growth and progress of the community in which it is rooted. These actions are referred to as the “third mission” and encompass all projects, intents and tools that bring academic knowledge to the benefit of the territory. Among these activities are cultural events aimed at spreading knowledge and enhancing the historical and artistic heritage, promoting public health, information projects and campaigns, and providing training and development opportunities for people to learn new skills and stay updated in their fields. This is done by also considering public engagement, which means the active involvement of the community in academic life.