

When to Arrive

If you are taking pre-term courses, we suggest that you arrive in Bologna between August 09 and August 16 in order to find accommodation and settle in. **Mr. La Ferlita will not be available to show apartments before August 10.**

If you are not taking a pre-term course, we suggest you arrive **at least one week** before orientation to get settled and organized.

When you arrive at school, the receptionist will give you an information sheet prioritizing your first steps. **We strongly recommend that you book a hotel in advance.** You can search for a hotel on www.booking.com or www.venere.com. Please pay special attention to the dates of the Trade Fairs in Bologna this fall as it can be very difficult to find a hotel in Bologna during a Trade Fair. Around the time of your arrival, there will be major Trade Fairs on September 7-8 and September 12-15. Please see the following link for the full Trade Fairs calendar: http://www.bolognafiere.it/calendario/cronologico_corrente - this can be useful also in case your friends and family plan on visiting you during the academic year.

If you wish to use the housing service provided by the Bologna Center, you should sign up immediately upon arrival for a 'housing tour' with Mr. Salvatore La Ferlita. He will have a sign-up sheet posted outside his office on the second floor. **It is not possible to sign up by telephone. Take note of the day/time of your appointment and make sure not to miss it.** For information you may contact Mr. La Ferlita at laferlita.sal@gmail.com. Once you have signed up for a housing appointment, you should visit the Registrar's Office to pick up a preliminary information package. Please take time to read everything carefully!

During the summer months (early-June to early-August), the Bologna Center will be open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 am to 5:30pm. August 15 is a major holiday in Italy (*ferragosto*) and there is very little activity in Bologna around that date.

From August 10 through August 18, the school will be open as follows:

Monday-Friday, August 10-14 and August 17-18: from 9 am to 7 pm

Saturday, August 15: from 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday, August 16: from 12 noon to 5 pm

[Back to top](#)

If you arrive outside the above dates/times, make sure you have booked a hotel room for the night.

Once pre-term begins on August 19, the school will be open from 9 am to 9 pm (Mon-Fri).

The Housing Service

The Housing Consultant, Mr. Salvatore La Ferlita, will be available from August 10 onwards to show you the accommodations he has available. Please understand that you are not required to use Mr. La Ferlita's services. You may also choose to seek accommodation on your own. If you wish to take advantage of the housing service, **sign up for an appointment immediately upon arrival**. You will be charged a one-time finders fee of €100.

Assuming everyone does not arrive on the same day, you should be able to get an appointment with him within a few days.

When your turn comes (make sure not to miss it), Mr. La Ferlita will inquire about the type of apartment you're looking for, what is your preferred location, number of flat mates you wish to have and how much you are willing/able to spend. After that, he will take you on a tour of the available flats. At the end of the tour you can indicate your preference, and there is a chance you will be able to move in the same evening. If you go on a tour of the available rooms/apartments, you are not obliged to make a selection, and you can subsequently choose to seek alternative options.

You may find the following internet web pages useful:

<http://www.postoletto.com/> (in Italian)

www.easystanza.com/ (in English)

www.2torri.it/ (in Italian)

<http://www.sais.ceur.it/> (in English)

www.bakeca.it (in Italian)

Available apartments will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be reserved in advance.

[Back to top](#)

If you are a couple and/or wish to have your own apartment, please inform Mr. La Ferlita prior to your arrival by sending him an email to laferlita.sal@gmail.com. This will help him in procuring the necessary number of single apartments. He will take note of your wishes but will not be able to answer individual inquiries during the summer.

- **Apartment Specifications**

Most apartments have two to six single rooms with a common kitchen and bathroom(s). More expensive individual studios are also available. All apartments have washing machines.

Apartments are furnished with dishes, pots, pans, an iron and blankets. Some apartments may also have sheets, towels and/or other linens. If you wish to bring your own sheets, note that bed sizes in Italy are: 80cm by 190/200cm – single; 120cm by 190/200 – one and a half size; 160cm by 190/200cm – double.

Most single rooms will have one and a half sized or double beds. Sheets can be bought in any department store in Bologna.

Most apartments are located within walking distance (10-30 minutes) of the Bologna Center and are mainly in the city center. Some apartments are located just outside the city walls and will require you to make a 5- to 15-minute bus journey to reach the Bologna Center.

- **Rent and Housing Expenses**

Rental prices vary widely among apartments, depending on size, location, quality of furniture and whether the apartment has been recently renovated. Rent is typically due the first day of the month. If you acquire your apartment through Mr. La Ferlita, you may give your rental payment to him directly, although this can vary from landlord to landlord. Mr. La Ferlita will explain how rent is to be paid when you sign your rental agreement.

If you wish to live alone, you should plan to spend between €500 and €800 per month, excluding utilities. If you choose to share an apartment with one to five roommates, your rent will probably range between €400 and €600, including utilities.

[Back to top](#)

- **Security Deposit**

Remember that when you pay your first month's rent, you will be required to pay an additional sum equivalent to two months' rent as a security deposit (one month will count as security deposit, while the other will go towards the last month's rent). This sum covers any possible damage and will be returned to you without interest upon satisfactory completion of your rental agreement at the end of the academic year.

- **Utilities**

If utility costs are not included with your rent, you will be asked to pay a monthly deposit of €100 toward utility costs. Utility bills are issued every two or three months, depending on the service. However, bills are not based on what you consume during the period covered but on an **estimated consumption based on previous years**. In order to avoid problems of overlapping bills (periods before and after your stay), exact utility costs will be calculated by Mr. La Ferlita based on the readings of the meters. If at the end of the academic year you have paid more than the actual consumption costs, the difference will be refunded to you, and vice versa. This adjustment is known as *conguaglio* in Italian.

In order to avoid misunderstandings regarding utility costs, Mr. La Ferlita will give you an information sheet with your apartment keys. The sheet will indicate the current readings of the utility meters. At any time during the year you can check the meters. Gas and water meters are usually located inside your apartment. Electricity meters are located in the entrance hall of the building.

- **Additional Expenses**

Rent is calculated from the date you are given the keys of the apartment. If you move in during the course of a month, rent will be calculated for the days remaining in the month (monthly rent is divided by the number of days in the month).

Other one-time expenses you will be required to pay when you move into your apartment are: finder fee (€100); final cleaning expenses (€100 per person); garbage tax (€100); and condominium fee (€200).

[Back to top](#)

These charges are estimates as of March 2015, and may vary depending on rent, size of apartment, and number of renters.

The Bologna Center cannot assume responsibility for your relations with your landlord or your roommates, although you may discuss any such problems with Mr. La Ferlita.

Hotels in Bologna

You can search for a hotel in Bologna on www.booking.com or on www.venere.com . To find the nearest hotel, be sure to include our address in your search:

Via Belmeloro, 11
40126 - Bologna

Please note that there will be major Trade Fairs in Bologna next fall on September 7-8 and September 12-15. **If you plan to arrive during these periods you will find that prices are higher than usual, and it is advisable to book a hotel room well in advance.**

If you feel adventurous and you want to save some money, you might search for a hostel in Bologna. These tend to be a 20-minute bus ride from the city center. You can find details of the hostels on this link: <http://it.hostelbookers.com/ostelli/italia/bologna/> . If you are not already a member of the International Youth Hostelling Association, you will likely need to purchase a one-time membership card, which is valid for one year in all hostels.

There are a number of 'bed & breakfast' facilities in Bologna as well. Information is available at:

<http://www.bed-and-breakfast.it/citta.cfm?citta=Bologna&IDregione=5>

Please note that none of these facilities have been tried so we are not in a position to give any guarantee of service.

[Back to top](#)