



MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE, DELL'UNIVERSITÀ E DELLA RICERCA
ALTA FORMAZIONE ARTISTICA E MUSICALE



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME / KA1

ECTS STUDENT GUIDE

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
A.A. 2014/15

Part 1: INFORMATION ON THE INSTITUTION

1.1 Name and address

Conservatorio di Musica – Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini”
Via Squarcialupo, 45 – 90133 Palermo, Italy
tel. +39 091 580 921 – fax +39 091 586 742

1.2 Academic calendar

The academic year begins on November 1st and ends on October 31st. There are three examination sessions:

1. Summer session: June-July
2. Autumn session: September-October
3. Winter session: February-March

1.3 Academic authorities

Prof. Daniele Ficola, Director of the Conservatory, head of the teaching staff and responsible for all educational and artistic activities – e-mail: danieleficola@yahoo.it

Prof. Giuseppe Silvestri, President of the Board of Administration
e-mail: presidente@conservatoriobellini.it

Dr. Raimondo Cipolla, Administrative Director
e-mail: raimondo.cipolla@conservatoriobellini.it

1.4 General description of the institution (including type and status)

The Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” in Palermo Italy belongs to a system called AFAM (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale – Higher Education in Art and Music) which is part of the Italian higher education system. AFAM includes:

- Fine Arts Academies
- Music Conservatories and recognized (private) music institutes
- Higher Institutes for Applied Arts
- National Academy of Dance
- National Academy of Drama.

The institutions carry out teaching, production and research in visual arts, music, dance, drama and design. Since the 1999 reform, AFAM’s educational offering has been structured in three cycles, in accordance with the Bologna Process objectives. See §2.1 for courses articulation.

1.5 List of programmes offered

Courses of first and second level

One-to-one disciplines

See complete list at §2.10

Group disciplines

MUSIC HISTORY

OPERA POETRY AND LITERATURE

GENERAL MUSIC CULTURE

THEATRE

SUBSIDIARY ORGAN AND GREGORIAN SINGING

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER MUSIC

CHAMBER MUSIC FOR WINDS

CHAMBER MUSIC FOR STRINGS

CHAMBER MUSIC

CHOIR

SCORE INTERPRETATION

MUSIC THEORY, PITCH READING, MELODIC AND RHYTHMIC DICTATION

1.6 General admission requirements

First cycle admission requires a high school diploma issued after a total of 13 years of schooling and successful completion of the required diploma exam, or an equivalent or comparable foreign qualification. Admission also requires candidates to pass an entrance exam to assess an adequate level of knowledge, in accordance with institutional regulations.

There may also be preparatory educational activities carried out in collaboration with high schools. The maximum number of places available is determined by each individual institution. Study programmes last three years.

Second cycle admission requires either a first level diploma, a university degree or a comparable foreign qualification. There may also be specific requirements as defined by the different institutional regulations.

Admission requirements to third cycle, specialization, advanced and master courses are determined by institutional regulations.

1.7 General arrangements for the recognition of prior learning

The Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” recognizes two types of prior learning: formal and non-formal. Formal learning is achieved through a formal education process, to which the level of credit awarded can be mapped towards the course unit learning outcomes determined in the study programmes.

Non-formal learning is achieved through life, artistic and working experiences, workplace learning, continuing professional development, independent learning.

The purpose of the accreditation of prior learning process is to enable learners to gain credit within a particular programme, for specific unit courses.

Learners are eligible to apply for accreditation of prior learning providing the following criteria:

- learning acquired through previous accredited study equates with the learning outcomes of the course unit for which exemption is being claimed (for formal learning);
- learning outcomes of the course unit for which exemption is being claimed have been achieved through prior informal or experiential learning (for non-formal learning);
- learning outcomes arising from previous study or experience can be demonstrated;
- the credit for the previous study being considered as evidence for the accreditation of prior learning claim is not simultaneously double counted towards an award from the Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini”.

The maximum exemption allowed will not exceed 50% of the total credit.

1.8 General registration procedures

Exchange students

Incoming students for study purpose

A required application package for study must consist of:

- Erasmus Student Application Form (for study)
- Learning Agreement (for study)
- Motivation Letter in English, French or Italian explaining why the student wants to study at our Conservatory and with a chosen teacher
- Student’s CV in English, French or Italian, preferably on Europass Form
- Recording audio or video with an attestation certifying its authenticity for instrument players
- A portfolio with compositions for composers
- A detailed paper explaining past research work and a project for studying at Palermo Conservatoire for students in Musicology
- A didactic project and a transcript of records for Didactics and Music Education students

Incoming students for traineeship

We welcome students for Erasmus Traineeship in any music subject or area.

A required application package for traineeship must consist of:

- Erasmus Student Application Form (for traineeship)
- Motivation Letter in English, French or Italian explaining why the student wants to study at our Conservatoire and with a chosen teacher
- Student's CV in English, French or Italian, preferably on Europass Form
- Recording audio or video with an attestation certifying its authenticity for instrument players
- A portfolio with compositions for composers
- A didactic project and a transcript of records for Didactics and Music Education students

Application deadlines

1st semester: June 1st

2nd semester: December 1st

Degree students

Programmes and calendar of entrance examinations, application deadline and procedures are published every year before June 1st on our website.

International students applying for bachelor degrees are requested to submit certified copies of original certificates of the highest level of education attained, including an official Italian translation.

International students applying for master degrees are requested to submit the following documents:

- a) the certificate of achieved foreign degree;
- b) the official university document listing all the subjects of courses completed for the foreign degree (transcript of records);
- c) the Diploma Supplement, attached to the degree or, if not available, the so-called *Dichiarazione di valore in loco* (DV) i.e. Statement of Validity, issued by the competent Italian diplomatic authorities abroad – embassies or consulates.

More information for international students can be found at: www.study-in-italy.it

1.9 ECTS credit allocation based on the student workload needed in order to achieve expected learning outcomes

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to facilitate planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning as well as student mobility. ECTS is widely used in formal higher education and can be applied to other lifelong learning activities.

The Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” introduced the ECTS system in 2005.

Each study programme at the Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” is based on study plans which include 60 ECTS credits for one academic year (1.500 hours). One ECTS credit is assigned to 25 hours of student's individual work. Credits are assigned to all components of the study programme, that is, to obligatory, elective, optional courses and student training.

The allocation of ECTS credits to course units has been based on student workload required to achieve the learning outcomes of the course units. Learning outcomes describe what a learner is

expected to know, understand and be able to do, after successful completion of a learning process. They relate to level descriptors in national and European qualifications frameworks. Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as workshops, performances, lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.

The allocation of ECTS reflects the quantity of work that each course unit requires in relation to the total quantity of work, necessary to successfully complete a course.

To obtain the first level diploma (Diploma accademico di primo livello) the student must have acquired 180 credits.

To obtain the second level diploma (Diploma accademico di secondo livello) the student must have acquired 120 credits.

Advanced or Master courses (Corsi di perfezionamento o master) of first and second level give a minimum of 60 credits.

1.10 Grading Scheme

The Italian grading system is based on a maximum of 30 points with 18 as the lowest passing grade. 30 *cum Laude* may also be awarded.

Correspondence with ECTS grades: 30, 30 cum Laude (grade A); 27 to 29 (grade B); 24 to 26 (grade C); 21 to 23 (grade D), 18 to 20 (grade E).

<i>Italian system grades</i>	<i>ECTS grade</i>	<i>Percentage of successful students achieving the grade</i>	<i>Definition</i>
30 - 30 c. L.	A	10	EXCELLENT outstanding performance with only minor errors
27-28-29	B	25	VERY GOOD above the average standard but with some errors
24-25-26	C	30	GOOD generally sound work with a number of notable errors
21-22-23	D	25	SATISFACTORY fair but with significant shortcomings
18-19-20	E	10	SUFFICIENT performance meets the minimum criteria
	FX	–	FAIL some more work required before the credit can be awarded
	F	–	FAIL considerable further work is required

1.11 Hours of lessons and ECTS credits

One-to-one disciplines – lesson percentage from 6% to 24%

<i>CFA/ECTS</i>	<i>Hours from</i>	<i>... to</i>
1	1.5	6
2	3.0	12
3	4.5	18
4	6.0	24
5	7.5	30
6	9.0	36
7	10.5	42
8	12.0	48
9	13.5	54
10	15.0	60
11	16.5	66
12	18.0	72
13	19.5	78
14	21.0	84
15	22.5	90
16	24.0	96
17	25.5	102
18	27.0	108
19	28.5	114
20	30.0	120
21	31.5	126

Group disciplines – lesson percentage from 12% to 48%

<i>CFA/ECTS</i>	<i>Hours from</i>	<i>... to</i>
1	3	12
2	6	24
3	9	36
4	12	48
5	15	60
6	18	72
7	21	84
8	24	96
9	27	108
10	30	120
11	33	132
12	36	144
13	39	156
14	42	168
15	45	180

Theoretical - practical group disciplines – lesson percentage from 24% to 60%

<i>CFA/ECTS</i>	<i>Hours from</i>	<i>... to</i>
1	6	15
2	12	30
3	18	45

4	24	60
5	30	75
6	36	90
7	42	105
8	48	120
9	54	135

Laboratory – lesson percentage from 32% to 80%

<i>CFA/ECTS</i>	<i>Hours from</i>	<i>... to</i>
1	8	20
2	16	40
3	24	60
4	32	80
5	40	100
6	48	120

1.12 Arrangements for academic guidance

The Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” entrusts the department coordinators with the task of academic guidance. Under their supervision students can more efficiently compile the study plan and choose the optional subjects.

Part 2: INFORMATION ON THE COURSES

2.1 General description

The Italian AFAM system (see §1.4) takes students who have successfully completed the thirteen year Italian schooling period formed by Primary School (5 years), Lower Secondary or Middle School (3 years) and Upper Secondary or High School (5 years) and have obtained the high school diploma, or an equivalent or comparable foreign qualification.

First cycle diploma courses aim to provide students with adequate mastery of artistic methods and techniques as well as with specific professional sector skills. To obtain the first level diploma, the student must have acquired 180 credits. The diploma gives holders access to competitive exams in the public sector, as well as to artistic careers and further studies in the second cycle.

Second cycle diploma courses offer students an advanced level of education for a complete mastery of artistic methods and techniques as well as a high level of professional competency. Study programs last two years and require the acquisition of 120 credits.

Third cycle is made up of research and training courses. Their goal is to provide the competences to plan and carry out high-level research activities.

AFAM institutions may also offer:

- **Specialization courses**, providing high level professional competences in specific areas;
- **Advanced or Master courses**, providing in-depth study in specific sectors as well as professional development, re-training and continuing education.

2.2 Qualification awarded

First Level diploma (Diploma accademico di primo livello),

Second Level diploma (Diploma accademico di secondo livello),

Advanced or Master courses I (Corsi di perfezionamento o Master I),

Advanced or Master courses II (Corsi di perfezionamento o Master II).

2.3 Level of qualification

First cycle (level 6 of European Qualifications Framework – bachelor degree),

Second cycle (EQF level 7 – postgraduate diploma),

Master I (EQF level 7 – postgraduate certificate),

Master II (EQF level 7 – master).

2.4 Specific admission requirements

First cycle

To apply for first cycle programmes of study it is necessary to hold a secondary school qualification. Admittance will be based on the entrance exam results and place availability.

Students holding a secondary school qualification issued by foreign secondary schools can be admitted if their diplomas meet the following general requirements:

- a) they have been awarded by a secondary school institution officially recognized by the national education system;
- b) they are valid for admission at university in the country where they have been issued;
- c) they have been awarded after at least 12 years of studies, including primary and secondary school.

Second cycle

To apply for second cycle programmes of study it is necessary to hold a first cycle degree (bachelor). Admittance will be based on the entrance exam results and place availability.

Students holding a first cycle qualification issued by university or university-level institution can be admitted if their diplomas grant access to second cycle courses in the Higher Education system of reference.

2.5 Qualification requirements and regulations

First cycle

The entrance examination to first cycle courses requests that the candidate student has achieved an adequate artistic and technical level in the main discipline (usually the main instrument) according to the examination test's requirements. Candidates failing one or more tests, while successfully passing all the others, will be assigned one or more educational debts, they will have to honour within the first academic year. Similarly candidates who do not have an adequate instruction in music theory, pitch reading, melodic and rhythmic dictation, will also have to honour the corresponding debt(s).

Second cycle

The entrance examination to second cycle courses requests that the candidate student has achieved a high artistic and technical level in the main discipline according to the requirements.

Candidates showing some weaknesses, while passing satisfactorily most of the tests, will be given an educational debt they will have to honour during the first year of attendance.

2.6 Profile of the programme

???

2.7 Key learning outcomes

First cycle

Students completing required courses for the first level Academic Diploma will have acquired the technical ability and specific competences that will allow them to express their interpretative personality. To meet this goal, students will study closely the performance techniques and repertoire that are most representative of their instrument. They will also learn to play in ensembles composed of various instruments. Aural training, memorization and specific knowledge related to the organizational, compositional and analytical concepts of music, and their interaction, will also be studied. Considerable attention will be paid to the student's acquisition of proper emotional and postural control. Upon completion of the three-year degree, students will have attained in-depth knowledge of the general stylistic, historical and aesthetic aspects related to their specific area. In addition, they will be able to carry out improvisation and will possess adequate skills in the use of computer technology for music. The ability to use a second European Union language will also be obtained.

Second cycle

Students completing required activities for the second level Academic Diploma will have acquired the technical and cultural competences that will allow them to express their interpretative personality. To meet this goal, students will study deeply a specific instrumental repertoire – soloistic, chamber and with orchestra – and the related performance practices. Upon completion of the two-year degree, students will have attained in-depth knowledge of the general stylistic,

historical and aesthetic related to their specific area. In addition the students will attain specific expertise in the performance practices and repertoires of similar instruments.

2.8 Occupational profiles of graduates with examples

First cycle

Name of the qualification: Diploma Accademico di primo livello

Title conferred: Diplomato

Second cycle

Name of the qualification: Diploma Accademico di secondo livello

Title conferred: Diplomato

2.9 Access to further studies

First cycle

Second level diploma courses

Specialization academic courses I

Advanced or Master courses I

Second cycle

Research training programmes

Specialization academic courses II

Advanced or Master courses II

2.10 Course structure diagram with credits

One-to-one disciplines

	<i>First cycle</i>		<i>Second cycle</i>	
	<i>CFU</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>CFU</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
HARP	32	18	24	12
RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE HARP	32	15	24	12
ELECTRIC BASS	32	12	24	12
BASS TUBA	32	15	24	12
JAZZ DRUMS AND PERCUSSION	32	12	24	12
SINGING	32	15	24	12
JAZZ SINGING	32	15	24	12
RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE SINGING	32	15	24	12
CLASSICAL GUITAR	32	21	24	12
JAZZ GUITAR	32	12	24	12
CLARINET	32	15	24	12
JAZZ CLARINET	32	12	24	12
BAROQUE CLARINET	32	15	24	12
HARPSICHORD AND HISTORIC KEYBOARDS	32	15	24	12
COMPOSITION	32	21	24	12
DOUBLE BASS	32	15	24	12
JAZZ DOUBLE BASS	32	12	24	12
CORNET	32	15	24	12
HORN	32	15	24	12
NATURAL HORN	32	15	24	12
DIDACTICS OF MUSIC	32	9	24	12
CHORAL CONDUCTING AND CHORAL COMPOSITION	24	12	24	12
ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING	32	21	24	12
EUPHONIUM	32	15	24	12
BASSOON	32	15	24	12
BAROQUE BASSOON	32	15	24	12

ACCORDION	32	21	24	12
FLUTE	32	15	24	12
RECORDER	32	15	24	12
GERMAN FLUTE	32	15	24	12
LUTE	32	15	24	12
TEACHER ASSISTANT	32	18	24	12
MANDOLIN	32	18	24	12
ELECTRONIC MUSIC	36	9	24	12
VOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC	32	21	24	12
OBOE	32	15	24	12
BAROQUE AND CLASSICAL OBOE	32	15	24	12
ORGAN	32	18	24	12
PIANO	32	18	24	12
JAZZ PIANO	32	15	24	12
SAXOPHONE	32	15	24	12
JAZZ SAXOPHONE	32	12	24	12
WIND ORCHESTRA	32	18	24	12
PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS	32	15	24	12
ELECTRONIC KEYBOARDS	32	12	24	12
TRUMPET	32	15	24	12
JAZZ TRUMPET	32	12	24	12
RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE TRUMPET	32	15	24	12
TROMBONE	32	15	24	12
JAZZ TROMBONE	32	12	24	12
RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE TROMBONE	32	15	24	12
VIOLA	32	15	24	12
VIOLA DA GAMBA	32	15	24	12
VIOLIN	32	15	24	12
BAROQUE VIOLIN	32	15	24	12
JAZZ VIOLIN	32	12	24	12
CELLO	32	15	24	12
BAROQUE CELLO	32	15	24	12

2.11 Examination regulations, assessment and grading

The final grade is based on a scale of 110, with 60/110 as the lowest passing grade. To the highest grade of 110/110 “cum Laude” may be added but only with the unanimous decision of the examining board. The final test consists of a performance with or without the presentation of a written essay.

2.12 Graduation requirements

The final grade is based on the curriculum as well as the final test grade.

2.13 Mode of study

Full time – One-to-one teaching

2.14 Programme director or equivalent

Prof. Daniele Ficola, Director

Prof. Massimo Bentivegna, Erasmus Coordinator

2.15 Description of individual course units

All the first level degrees are published:

www.conservatoriobellini.it – “Studying at the Conservatory” – “First level degrees” – “Studying Plan”

All the second level degrees are published on

www.conservatoriobellini.it – “Studying at the Conservatory” – “Second level degrees” – “Studying Plan”

Part 3: GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

3.1 Costs of living

Palermo is not an expensive city.

Sicily offers a wide choice of fruit and vegetables which are very cheap, generally €1.50 per kg.

If one wants to eat fresh meat or fish there are trattorias where prices are accessible to everyone.

There are lots of restaurants and pubs very close to the Conservatory. There one can have a full meal paying about 5 euros, but it is possible to spend even less eating the “street food” Palermo is worldwide known for. Students can give it a try for as much as 2-3 euros.

3.2 Accommodation

A room (in a flat shared with other students) might cost about 150,00/20,00 € per month. Students will find that the cost of heating is low because of the warm climate in Sicily.

3.3 Meals

Low cost self services and restaurants are available near the Conservatory. A student will pay about 5 to 12 euros for lunch or dinner.

3.4 Medical facilities

There are two important hospitals close to the Conservatory:

Policlinico <http://www.policlinico.pa.it/portal/>

Ospedale Civico <http://dominoweb.ospedalecivicopa.org/>

Medical and pharmaceutical assistance for foreigners in Italy is regulated by international agreements and treaties. To benefit of such assistance, foreign students, are required a specific documentation.

Normally EU students must have a certificate (E111 or E128 model) issued by their National Health Authority that will cover first-aid and medical assistance in Italy. When they arrive in Italy this certificate must be validated by the local health agencies (ASL).

Non-EU students must have a health insurance policy; this may be made either at their arrival in Italy with a private Italian insurance company, or before their departure with an insurance company of their respective countries; in this second case, students had better contact the Italian Embassy or Consulate in their home countries for further information on existing agreements on medical assistance.

3.5 Facilities for students with special needs

All students are welcome at the Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini”. In particular our teaching and administrative staff provide students with special needs with all the support and aid the student might require in order to attend the lessons.

3.6 Insurance

Registration at the Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” includes accident and third party liability insurance during educational and recreational activities in Conservatory buildings and during excursions approved by the Conservatory.

3.7 Financial support for students

All international students are entitled to the same student assistance services as Italian students, on basis of the same requisites of financial means and/or merit. All the students may obtain a scholarship.

3.8 Students Affair Office

The Student Secretary Office and the Erasmus Office give the students all the information and help they need; information is also given in English.

3.9 Learning facilities

The students can get all the information they require by the personnel and by the Heads of the Departments. The Director receives the students on a regular basis.

3.10 International programmes

The Conservatory of Music “Vincenzo Bellini” is involved in several international programmes and artistic and cultural cooperation activities which all the students are allowed to participate.

3.11 Language courses

All foreign students are allowed to attend the Italian language course at the “Centro Linguistico d’Ateneo”, belonging to the University of Palermo. These courses are free and students will attend the class matching their level of knowledge.

See <http://portale.unipa.it/amministrazione/area1/uoa02/>

3.12 Internships

Foreign students are allowed to take part in our orchestra and to participate in all the rehearsals and performances.

3.13 Sports and leisure facilities

Palermo offers many sports centers. The most important are:

CUS: <http://www.cuspalermo.it/>

Polisportiva Palermo: <http://www.polisportivapalermo.it/>

Piscina Comunale: Viale del Fante s.n.c., Tel. +39 091 7408000.

3.14 Student associations

Within the Conservatory, students are represented by “La Consulta degli Studenti” , an organ composed by seven students. Foreign students are allowed to address their needs to the “Consulta degli Studenti”. The representatives of the “Consulta degli Studenti” have their office at the ground floor of the Conservatory.

3.15 Study facilities

Library

Computer room

Listening room

Recording room

Auditorium

Musical instruments

Food and drink dispenser