



RELOCATING TO BRA: **Planning your Move – Useful Information**

DISCLAIMER: The University is not responsible for ensuring the absolute veracity of this document. Rather, it is the student's responsibility to verify the information provided directly with the relevant authorities.

Hotels in Bra and Pollenzo

Find [here](#) a listing of most hotels and B&Bs in Bra, and [here](#) the link to the tourist office in Bra. Other accommodation options include [Viot d'I Forn](#), [La Boqueria](#), [Villa Maddalena](#), or [this place in Via Cavour](#).

Please be aware that Pollenzo is a subdivision of Bra with a population of only around 700. It has no supermarket, nor is it served by public transportation on Saturday afternoons or Sundays. For these reasons, **we strongly recommend that students live in Bra.**

Renting an Apartment in Bra

In order to sign an apartment lease agreement, you will need to obtain a fiscal code (*codice fiscale*) from the Agenzia delle Entrate (address below under Contacts). Bring your passport and visa with you. If they ask for your *Permesso di Soggiorno* (Permit of Stay), explain that you are a student renting an apartment and that you cannot apply for your *Permesso* until you have an address.

NOTE: all information presented on your codice fiscale must correspond exactly to your legal name as indicated on your passport (e.g. first and last name(s), date and place of birth). As the Agenzia delle Entrate has sometimes been known to make mistakes, we ask that you double this information is correct.

You can either rent an apartment through an agency or directly through a private individual. The advantage of renting through an agency is that they arrange all the paperwork and ensure that it is done properly. This service comes with a fee, usually equal to one month's rent (plus VAT at 22%).

Renting directly through a private individual will save you the cost of an agency fee, but can take more time and will require greater Italian skills on your part. There is also an element of risk, as you are entrusting your landlord to follow proper protocol in registering your contract. That said, you have more leeway to negotiate with your landlord to have certain expenses included, such as electricity and gas, or even have the contracts kept in their name, which will save you time and money (See "Cost of Rent and Utilities" below).

We recommend starting your apartment search as soon as you are accepted into the program. To get an early idea of the housing market in Bra, check out www.immobiliare.it which aggregates all local real estate listings into an easy to use search engine. If you find an apartment that looks interesting, contact the listed real estate agency directly.



Apartment Agencies in Bra

Please find [here](#) a listing of most real estate agencies in Bra. Luca Gerbaldo (info.immobiliare75@libero.it, phone: +39 340 3301994) at [l'Immobiliare](#) speaks English and has worked with many of our students. Giovanni Iozzo (immobiliaregiovanni@hotmail.com) of [Immobiliare Giovanni](#) is another good agency contact.

Private contacts: Roberto Mollo (robmol57@gmail.com) for lodgings in Bra or Sig.ra Prandi 0172 412708 and [Giovanni Vignola](#) for apartments in Pollenzo

UNISG Student Blog

Additionally, whenever students leave their apartments in Bra, they usually let us know, and we in turn make this information available to incoming students via the [UNISG Student Association Blog](#).

Apartment Contracts

Our contacts at [Immobiliare](#) in Bra consider the “*contratto di locazione transitoria*” as ideal for UNISG students, as it gives them the most flexibility regarding their lease.

The transitory apartment contract or “*contratto di locazione transitoria*” is the best option, as it has a duration of 2 to 18 months, and allows students to end the contract with 3 months’ notice, unless otherwise stipulated.

Students should **avoid** signing a “*contratto di locazione agevolata con canone concordato*”. This type of lease lasts for 3 years with the option to renew for another 2 (“*tre più due*” in Italian), requires students typically give 6 months’ notice, though this may be negotiated down to 3 months, necessitates payment of an annual renter’s membership fee of €50, and requires students to obtain full-time residence in Bra.

Students should also **avoid** signing a “*contratto ad uso abitativo standard*”, also known as “*quattro più quattro*” in Italian, as it is a 4 year contract, renewable for another 4 years. In this case, students must give a minimum of 6 months’ notice to end the contract, which is non-negotiable.

If your landlord offers to pay for household items before your arrival (e.g.: pillows, sheets, towels, etc.), be sure to establish the approximate price/cost limit of these purchases to avoid any surprises.

Non-EU/EEK/UK students: make sure your lease (*contratto*) is officially registered by your landlord. You will each pay a fee of 40 Euros, but it will ensure that you are protected under the law (i.e: have a valid contract) and that you can renew your *permesso di soggiorno*, should you intend to stay in Italy after your studies.

On-Campus Notice Boards

You can also find out about free apartments at the University’s notice boards upon your arrival; one is located next to the copy machine in the Agenzia di Pollenzo building, the other one in the Cascina Albertina.



Cost of Rent and Utilities

The cost of rent will vary depending on where you choose to live, along with the size and arrangement of your apartment. A fully furnished one-bedroom apartment in the center of Bra costs on average 300 Euros per month, a two-bedroom apartment about 500 Euros. **In addition to your rent, expect to pay monthly condominium fees of approximately 30 Euros, but can range as high as 250 Euros**, which cover different costs related to the common areas of your building, as well as maintenance, repairs, and cleaning of the apartment.

Rent does not include utility fees, which can be quite expensive in Italy. Italian utilities are billed every two months and include gas, electricity and water. Expect to receive your highest bills during the winter, which can be as high as 150 Euros per month. You will also be required to pay a garbage tax, known as *TARI*, the value of which could total around €100, and varies depending on the size of your apartment.

Unless students specify in their contract that utility contracts be kept in their landlords' name, **expect to pay account opening and closing fees (around 50 Euro per activation or closure). There are also deposits for both gas and electricity (up to 150 Euro), which in some cases you may opt out of by providing a valid Italian IBAN number at the moment of activation.**

The two largest energy providers in Bra are [ENEL](#) (which shares an office with the TIM phone provider and [EGEA](#)). Their prices are comparable. Water is provided exclusively through [TECNOEDIL](#) (EGEA) with offices in via Marconi 89.

TRANSPORTATION

Airport Shuttle and Direct Commuter Train to Bra

From Turin Caselle Airport:

- (1) Sadem Shuttle Service to Turin **Porta Susa** Station with departures every 15/30 min.: <http://www.sadem.it/media/6355/000268.pdf>. Tickets can be purchased in the airport.
- (2) Direct train from Turin **Porta Susa** Station to Bra (Line SFM4): http://www.sfmtorino.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2013.12.15_sfm4_Ceva.pdf

From Milan Malpensa Airport:

- (1) Sadem Shuttle Service to Turin **Porta Susa** Station with departures every 2hrs: <http://www.sadem.it/en/prodotti/collegamento-aeroporti/milano-malpensa-airport.aspx>

Seat Reservation Must Be Made In Advance Online

- (2) Direct train from Turin **Porta Susa** Station to Bra (Line SFM4): http://www.sfmtorino.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2013.12.15_sfm4_Ceva.pdf

From Bergamo Orio al Serio Airport

- 1) Flixbus Offers 1 direct bus to Bra every day: <https://www.flixbus.it/>



Otherwise, your best option is to take one of the many shuttle services to Milano Centrale train station, and then a train from there to Bra.

Bra – Pollenzo Shuttle

Pollenzo and Bra are linked by a bus route (Linea n. 2). Travel time from the Piazza Roma stop to UNISG is about 20 minutes. The schedule is available [here](#). A one-way ticket can be purchased only on the bus. Special 12-month student passes can be purchased through our General Services Office, however, they will only be activated beginning the second week of classes.

Should you intend on taking the bus more than 3 times round-trip to and from Pollenzo prior to the second week of classes, we suggest purchasing a **BIP transit card in person** from the bus company for €5 and then have it charged with either 10 single rides or an “abbonamento 10 corse”, or a weekly pass “settimanale”. The Bra “Nuova Beccaria” bus company is located [here](#), in Strada Falchetto, 61.

Bringing, Renting or Purchasing a Car

While the public transportation network is quite reliable on weekdays, students sometimes find it difficult to travel independently to and from Bra on weekends and evenings. For that reason, we encourage students who can to bring their cars with them, as they will then have additional mobility during their studies. For those who cannot, there is an AVIS car rental office in Bra. Here is a link to their website: <http://www.avisautonoleggio.it/Autonoleggio/Europa/Italia/Bra/Bra-Autonoleggio>. Some students with sufficient means even consider purchasing a used car at the beginning of the program and reselling it at the end. Know however, that cars may only be registered to EU citizens, or non-EU full-time residents. Lastly, those EU citizens who decide to establish full-time residency in Italy, and only those, must obtain an Italian license plate within 60 days.

Taxi Service: [www.paginegialle.it/ricerca/taxi/Bra%20\(CN\)?rk=0](http://www.paginegialle.it/ricerca/taxi/Bra%20(CN)?rk=0)

Language Learning Opportunities

We strongly encourage all non-native speakers to improve their Italian language skills as much as possible prior to their studies, as the better their abilities, the more satisfying their study experience in Italy will be. Furthermore, Italian language skills are essential for those considering internships in Italy, even in large companies.

Here are five interesting contacts for language learning, unofficially recommended to us through outside sources:

- **Sprachenschatz**: a group of Austrian translators that comes to Bra every summer to offer one-on-one language learning opportunities in Italian, English and German.
- **Emiliano Trucco** of Cooperativa Orso: 338 389 1126. Tell them you are UNISG students.
- **Paola Capellino** pcapellino@yahoo.it, teaches Italian at UNISG, but may be quite busy. Ask her for language contacts in and around Bra.
- **Academy International** Language School in Bra.
- **SIALIP**: An intensive six-week full-immersion course in Italian in the Val Pellice. [Here](#) is the brochure.



ESTIMATED COSTS OF LIVING IN BRA

Economic needs vary depending on the lifestyle of the individual, on the stores or markets and on the season. The following figures should be used as a guide and are based on local knowledge and on UNISG students' experience.

Accommodation & Connectivity

- A single room in an apartment (shared with other students): around 300€ / month, plus utilities
- One-bedroom furnished apartment: around 500€ / month, plus utilities **(30€ - €150 per month, depending on the season; ask landlord for estimate before signing the contract)**
- Condominium expenses: **from 30€ to 250€ per month, depending on the building (check contract before signing)**
- High-speed internet: around 30€ / month
- Mobile phone with a pre-paid-sim-card: 30€. Monthly phone costs around 20€

Food - an estimate of monthly expenses

- Bought at the local and seasonal food market / grocery store / supermarket: approx €200/month

Food

pasta 2,00€ per kilo
rice 3,20€ per kilo
milk 1,20€ per liter
bread 3,50€ per kilo
sugar 1,00€ per kilo
coffee (250 grams) 3,50€
beef 10,00€ per kilo
chicken 6,00€ each
potatoes 1,00€ per kilo
tomatoes 3,00€ per kilo
lettuce 0,80€ per head
carrots 1,50€ per kilo
apples 2,00€ per kilo
bananas 1,60€ per kilo
a coffee 1,00€
a croissant 2,50€
a cappuccino 1,50€ to 2,50€
an orange juice 2,00€ to 3,00€
a beer 1,00€ per bottle
a bottle of Dolcetto/Barbera: wine 10,00€
Meals at a Pizzeria: 20€ per person
Meals at a Restaurant from 25-55€ per person



Facebook page for the local "Community supported agriculture-group"):

<https://www.facebook.com/GAS.La.Credenza/info>

Stores, markets, supermarkets

Food stores in Bra are usually open from Monday to Saturday, from 9:00am to 1:00pm and from 4:00pm to 7:30pm

Supermarkets are usually open from Monday to Saturday, from 8:30am to 7:30pm and also occasionally on Sunday morning until noon.

The Big Store in Via Don Orione 45 is open every day from 9.00 to 20.30.

Night life & Leisure time

- Cinema tickets 5€ to 10€

- 10 entries at the swimming pool, including student discount: 60€

Transportation:

- bus from Torino airport to Torino Porta Susa train station 7,00€

- train from Torino to Bra 4,60€

- train from Milano to Bra 14,15€ or 34,60€ (for high-speed train)

- shuttle bus from Milano to Torino Porta Susa train station 22€ (from Malpensa); 25€ (from Bergamo)

- Shuttle bus from Linate Orio al Serio to Milan Central Train Station: 5€

- Discounted bus card Bra – Pollenzo 50€ for the whole year

- a used bike costs between 50€ and 500€ (depending on model)

- Travel by car round trip from Bra to Savona (200km): 40€ (petrol + highway toll)

- to rent a car in Bra for the weekend: 130€

- a return flight with Ryanair from Turin to London, booked one month in advance 330€

Useful Transportation Websites:

Trains: www.trenitalia.it, <http://www.italotreno.it/EN/Pages/default.aspx>,

Planes: <http://www.skyscanner.it/>

Airport Shuttle: <http://www.sadem.it/en/home.aspx>

Bus Service Bra – Pollenzo: <http://www.viaggisac.com/node/60>

Permesso di soggiorno/Permit of Stay for non-Eu students:

- marca da bollo/revenue stamp 16,00€

- 101,96€ for mailing and processing

Last updated February, 2019 - cw