COLLEGIO
UNIVERSITARIO
S. CATERINA DA SIENA

Pro Multis Sapientia

Call for applications for the Academic Year 2026-27

THE COLLEGE

The **Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena** is a University College of Merit, recognized and accredited by the Ministry of University and Research as an **"Institution of high cultural qualification".**

Founded in 1973 at the behest of St. Paul VI, it is a non-profit organization that is dedicated exclusively to the **academic and personal training of talented and deserving young people**, with particular attention to those of poor economic conditions.

The College is one of the founding bodies of the **University School of Advanced Studies of Pavia (IUSS),** recognized by the MUR. He is also a member of the Conference of University Colleges of Merit (CCUM) and the European College Association (EUCA).

It is located in the heart of the historic center, a few steps from the Central University, and has 87 places, all awarded through a competition based on qualifications and exams.

SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

The students have **79 single rooms with individual bathrooms**, 2 doubles with bathrooms, 2 pairs of single rooms with anteroom and shared bathroom. The students also benefit from the following services: telephone, free Wi-Fi throughout the building, weekly cleaning, library, lecture hall, chapel, study rooms equipped with IWB, equipped gym, yoga room, music room, relaxation rooms with newspapers and magazines, copy and bookbinding space, self-service laundries, TV room, games room, computers connected to the University of Pavia network, large gardens, dedicated medical assistance. The catering service is carried out in the **internal canteen** and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week, with a wide variety of food also for vegetarian and vegan diets as well as for food intolerances and allergies.

TRAINING

The university curriculum is integrated with **specific internal educational and cultural initiatives**, such as internal courses, conferences, study seminars, conferences, laboratories/workshops, debates, foreign language assistantships, art exhibitions, cultural visits. With the Educational project, which characterizes the membership of the national network of Colleges of Merit, the College offers proposals and stimuli that help the acquisition of personal skills according to individual paths agreed with the Dean at the beginning of each academic year. At the end of the cycle of study, the **College Diploma is issued** , which certifies the achievement of the planned objectives. In its capacity as a founding body, the Collegio S. Caterina collaborates, like the other colleges of merit in Pavia, with the **University School of Advanced Studies of Pavia IUSS** (www.iusspavia.it), which organizes for its students - who must necessarily be students of a College of merit - Ordinary Courses that offer advanced and multidisciplinary training itineraries. At the end of the master's degree course, it provides a legally recognized qualification equivalent to that of a Second Level University Master's Degree, which is added to the College Diploma. Starting from the 2026–27 academic year, the Nexus project will be added—a multidisciplinary advanced studies program that brings together Pavia's merit-based colleges, the IUSS, and the University of Pavia. The College recognizes the fundamental value of **internationalization** in the formation of the academic curriculum and, therefore, annually assigns numerous **financial contributions for personalized projects abroad**, as well as participation in conferences and training events organized by the partners of the national (CCUM) and European (EUCA) network of University colleges.

Pro Multis Sapientia

PLACES AVAILABLE

For the academic year **2026-2027,** the following are available:

- **at least 10 places** for female students enrolling in Bachelor's and single-cycle degree courses (section A).
- **at least 2 places** for female students enrolling in the first year of a Master's Degree Programme or in the year following the first year of any Degree Programme (section B).

Section A - Bachelor's and Single Cycle Master's Degree Courses

1. Available places and selection procedures

In order to encourage the enhancement of talented and deserving young people and to promote free study, especially for less well-off family economic situations, the Collegio S. Caterina has unified its admission competition to that of the IUSS. For candidates in the unified competition, the results of the admission tests, written and oral, are therefore the same. For these, please refer to the announcement on the website: **www.iusspavia.it**

The Collegio S. Caterina combines the IUSS tests with an **introductory interview** with the Rector and a representative of the students, without attribution of points for the purposes of the final ranking, aimed at mutual knowledge in view of a collegial path in which the person has the centrality and merit is not reduced to mere academic performance.

At least 10 places **(5 for the Science, Technology, and Society area and 5 for the Humanities and Life Sciences area)** [1] are to be awarded, with a competition based on exams unified with that of the Ordinary Courses of the IUSS University School of Advanced Studies of Pavia, to female students of Bachelor's Degree Courses or single-cycle Master's Degree Courses of the University of Pavia. Female students who have won a place in the College—and who were deemed eligible for the regular programs but were not assigned a place—may participate in the Nexus project

2. Requirements for the validity of the submission of the application

To be admitted to the unified competition, candidates must:

- have obtained in the State Examination the overall mark of at least **80/100** or equivalent foreign qualification, without prejudice to the reservation by the Collegio S. Caterina to evaluate its validity for the purposes of admission to the competition;
- have correctly completed the registration procedure, within the deadlines, for the Collegio S. Caterina call for applications, available online on the Collegio's website (**www.collegiosantacaterina.it**) and described under point 3A;
- have correctly completed the registration procedure, within the deadline, for the call for applications for the Ordinary Courses of the IUSS University School of Advanced Studies for students of the University of Pavia, available online on the website (**www.iusspavia.it**) and described below in point 3B.

[1] In the event of exhaustion of the ranking list of the IUSS Area, it is without prejudice to the scrolling in the rankings of the other three Areas

This second enrolment is also required for those who are not interested in one of the places advertised by the IUSS University School of Advanced Studies but only those of the Collegio S. Caterina.

3. Application and documents for admission to the competition

Participation in the unified competition between the Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena and the IUSS University School of Advanced Studies takes place through a procedure that involves the completion of the two steps *under* 3A and 3B.

3A: Candidacy to the Collegio S. Caterina

By 4 **p.m. on Friday, August 28, 2026**, candidates must submit the online application for admission to the Collegio S. Caterina through the procedure activated on the www.collegiosantacaterina.it **website**

Within the application registration form, applicants will be required to attach the following documents:

1. legal certificate showing that the candidate has passed the high school exam with a mark of not less than **80/100** or equivalent sworn foreign documentation;
2. ISEE-University **certificate** (other types of ISEE, such as the social-health ISEE or the ISEE Doctorate, will not be taken into consideration).
    - Competitors who live alone or in a family unit other than their family unit are also required to attach the Single Substitute Declaration (D.S.U.) of their family unit.
    - Competitors who are daughters of separated or divorced parents are also required to attach the Single Substitute Declaration (D.S.U.) of their family unit and the tax return of their non-cohabiting parents.
    - Candidates of foreign nationality must submit documentation equivalent to that indicated above.
    - The documentation may not be submitted if the candidate declares that she agrees to pay the maximum contribution (**form**).
3. passport-size photograph of the candidate;
4. any other qualifications or certifications relating to the candidate's preparation and activities.

3B: Application to the IUSS School

The application to the IUSS School is governed by art. 6 of the relevant call for applications.

For the benefit of the candidates, it should be noted that:

- the completion of the procedures provided for in the first and second steps are necessarily also provided for candidates interested in only one of the positions announced by the Collegio S. Caterina;
- it should be noted that the enrolment procedure for the IUSS School will close earlier, i.e. at **12:00 noon on 28 August 2026**, than that of the Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena (**4.00 pm on Friday 28 August 2026**);
- for all information concerning the application for the IUSS University School of Advanced Studies, please refer to the relevant call for applications available on both **www.collegiosantacaterina.it** and **www.iusspavia.it**;
- Inaccuracies and omissions in the declarations necessary for the issuance of the ISEE and DSU certificate may result in exclusion from the competition ranking or the loss of the place conferred;
- Expressly committing to renounce the benefits provided and to pay the Board the maximum fee (**form**), they may not attach the tax documentation.

4. Competition

The admission competition consists of:

a) two in person written tests and two online oral tests (unified competition Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena - IUSS School);
b) an in-person or online interview, at the candidate's choice, according to the calendar published by **4 September 2026** by the Secretariat of the College.

a) Written and oral tests

The written and oral tests are governed by art. 7 of the IUSS School announcement, to which reference is made.

b) The cognitive interview

Necessary for the purpose of inclusion in the ranking, but without attribution of score, is the cognitive interview with the Rector of the College, supported by a student, which is a space for mutual knowledge. The Collegio S. Caterina, in fact, supports and supports the integral development of the person, attributing equal dignity, in the definition of merit, to the result in studies and to personal gifts. The interview gives the College the opportunity to get to know each other for a path of human and academic growth and, to the candidates, the opportunity to develop a more complete awareness of the choice of the institution in which to live the years of training for the profession and life.

5. Formation of the ranking list

The attribution of scores for the written and oral tests of the unified competition Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena - Scuola IUSS is defined by art. 8 of the IUSS competition announcement, to which reference is made. It should be noted that in the ranking of the College, those who have obtained an overall mark of not less than **100 points** will be considered suitable for admission.

For the allocation of free places and further benefits, the Board of Directors of the College has an additional score that it assigns in consideration of the economic conditions of the family, the distance from the university campus and other elements of which it may be informed.

6. Free seats and economic benefits

The Board establishes:

a) **Two free places** renewable from year to year for the entire duration of the cycle of study, if in compliance with the Regulations of the College, named after the **MINTAS Foundation**, which will be assigned to deserving female students who enrol in the first year of a degree course in the biomedical area;

b) **A free place** renewable from year to year for the entire duration of the cycle of study, if in compliance with the Regulations of the College, named after **St. Paul VI**, which will be assigned to a winner of a non-biomedical area and of poor economic conditions;

c) **A contribution of 1,500 euros** for the academic year 2026/27, named after the **Alumna Dr. Paola Pessino**, which will be awarded to a winner of poor economic conditions and, preferably, a first-generation university student.

The winners of the IUSS study award who, based on the family income situation produced, would be required to pay a fee of a lower amount than the same, will be granted the right to pay only the amount of the fee,

withholding the difference as a further benefit by the College (e.g.: IUSS contribution = 5000 euros, tuition calculated on the family ISEE = 4,300 euros, further facilitation by the College = 700 euros).

All candidates are advised that:

- are daughters or orphans of employees or pensioners of the Public Administration that the Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena has entered into a memorandum of understanding with **INPS** (former separate management INPDAP, iPOST and ENAM) in order to grant contributions according to parameters set out in the relevant notice issued by the Social Security Institute (details and announcement on the **website www.inps.it** and updates on the website of the College **http://www.collegiosantacaterina.it**).
- are daughters of **ENPAM members**, that the College is among those affiliated for the purpose of obtaining subsidies relating to the tuition of the University Colleges of Merit (**https://www.enpam.it/comefareper/chiedere-un-aiuto-economico/borse-di-studio/collegidimerito/**)

Candidates in these positions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Admission to the Collegio S. Caterina da Siena, as a University College of Merit recognized by the MUR, constitutes a qualification that can be evaluated for the preparation of the rankings for the granting of contributions from the merit fund established by the MUR (art. 4 law 240/2010).

7. Determination of the tuition fee and the financial contribution required of the student

The Board of Directors grants all the winners of the places in the competition a reduction on the reimbursement of the costs of maintaining the position and sets the fee at **€** 12,000.

If the student is not entitled to any other economic benefit (subsidies and contributions from public or private bodies), the Board of Directors, taking into account the conditions of family income and any other documentation produced, will grant further **benefits up to a maximum of € 7,700**. In particular, the annual fee required of female students in relation to their condition

SASH	I.S.E.E. (€)	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REQUESTED
1°	up to 23,000.00	4.300
2°	from 23,001 to 80,000	4.300+ X
3°	from 80,001 to 100,000	11.500
4°	from 100,001	12.000

$$x = \frac{(\text{I.S.E.E.} - 23.000) * (11.500 - 4.300)}{80.000 - 23.000}$$

(The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of 10)

The total or partial gratuity of the place is subject to compliance with the Regulations and the Training Agreement; it may be revoked by the Board of Directors for serious infringements of the rules in force.

8. Acceptance of the place

The ranking list will be published on the website of the College and the IUSS School, by **Tuesday 22 September 2026**.

The winners must accept the place in the College by **10 a.m. on Thursday 24 September 2026**, by email addressed to **ammissioni@collegiosantacaterina.it**. In the event of non-acceptance of the place within this deadline, the winner will be considered to have withdrawn and the ranking will be scrolled.

The winning students keep their place until they obtain the Master's Degree, provided that they comply with the merit requirements required by the Regulations of the College.

Section B - Master's Degree Courses or years following the first of any Degree Course

1. Available places and selection procedures

To encourage the enhancement of talented and deserving young people who have not had the opportunity to access the College from the first year of studies, the Collegio S. Caterina offers **at least 2 places** reserved for female students who want to enrol in a year following the first year or in a Master's Degree course at the University of Pavia.

The selection of candidates takes place on the basis of an in person or online interview, at the candidate's choice, before the Selection Committee of the College.

2. Requirements for the validity of the submission of the application

To be admitted to the competition, candidates must:

- if they enrol in a year following the first year of a Bachelor's Degree, Single-Cycle Degree or Master's Degree: have passed all the exams of previous years at the time of submission of the application and acquired no less than **45 credits** of the current year, with an average of not less than **27/30**, calculated on all exams taken;
- if they enrol in the first year of a Master's Degree Programme: at the time of submission of the application, they must have obtained a Bachelor's Degree within the three-year period, or undertake to obtain it by **31 October 2026**, and have passed the exams provided for in their three-year study plan with an average grade of at least **27/30**;
- have correctly completed the registration procedure within the deadlines set out in the competition notice of the Collegio S. Caterina, available online on the Collegio **www.collegiosantacaterina.it website**.

3. Application and documents for admission to the competition

By 4 **p.m. on Friday, August 28, 2026**, candidates must submit the online application for admission to the Collegio S. Caterina through the procedure activated on the www.collegiosantacaterina.it **website**

Within the application registration form, applicants will be required to attach the following documents:

1. certification of university career;
2. ISEE-University **certificate** (other types of ISEE, such as the social-health ISEE or the ISEE Doctorate, will not be taken into consideration).

- Competitors who live alone or in a family unit other than their family unit are also required to attach the Single Substitute Declaration (D.S.U.) of their family unit.
- Competitors who are daughters of separated or divorced parents are also required to attach the Single Substitute Declaration (D.S.U.) of their family unit and the tax return of their non-cohabiting parents.
- Candidates of foreign nationality must submit documentation equivalent to that indicated above.
- The documentation may not be submitted if the candidate declares that she agrees to pay the maximum contribution (**form**).

3. passport-size photograph of the candidate;
4. any other qualifications or certifications relating to the candidate's preparation and activities.

4. Competition

For female students who enrol in the first year of a Master's Degree Programme or in the years following the first year of a Degree Course, the selection will be made by the Selection Committee of the College through:

- a **preliminary evaluation of the qualifications presented** (with assignment of up to a maximum of twenty points);
- an **interview** on the most important topics related to the previous career, which will take place in person or online starting from 1 **September 2026** (with assignment of up to a maximum of forty points);
- a **cognitive interview** with the Rector of the College, flanked by a student, who does not assign a score, but is a space for mutual knowledge. The Collegio S. Caterina, in fact, supports and supports the integral development of the person, attributing equal dignity, in the definition of merit, to the result in studies and to personal gifts. The interview gives the College the opportunity to get to know each other for a path of human and academic growth and, to the candidates, the opportunity to develop a more complete awareness of the choice of the institution in which to live the years of training for the profession and life.

5. Formation of the ranking list

For all candidates, the Board of Directors has an additional ten points available, which it assigns in consideration of the economic conditions of the family, the distance from the university campus and other elements of which it can be informed.

The final ranking is in seventieths and candidates who reach the minimum overall mark of **55/70** are considered suitable for admission to the College. In the event of a tie, preference is given to those who are in less well-off economic conditions.

6. Free seats and economic benefits

A free and renewable place in subsequent year, if in compliance with the Regulations, named after **Giannina Sempio** will be awarded to a female student of foreign origin or the daughter of foreign parents, with a family ISEE of no more than 28,000 euro, who enrolls in a master's degree program. Preference for the award of the tuition-free spot will be given to applicants who have prior experience or a strong motivation to engage in the field of human rights or environmental protection.

All candidates are advised that:

- are daughters or orphans of employees or pensioners of the Public Administration that the Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena has entered into a memorandum of understanding with **INPS** (former separate management INPDAP, iPOST and ENAM) in order to grant contributions according

to parameters set out in the relevant notice issued by the Social Security Institute (details and announcement on the **website www.inps.it** and updates on the website of the College **http://www.collegiosantacaterina.it**).

- are daughters of **ENPAM members**, that the College is among those affiliated for the purpose of obtaining subsidies relating to the tuition of the University Colleges of Merit (**https://www.enpam.it/comefareper/chiedere-un-aiuto-economico/borse-di-studio/collegidimerito/**)

Candidates in these positions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Admission to the Collegio S. Caterina da Siena, as a University College of Merit recognized by the MUR, constitutes a qualification that can be evaluated for the preparation of the rankings for the granting of contributions from the merit fund established by the MUR (art. 4 law 240/2010).

7. Determination of the tuition fee and the financial contribution required of the student

The Board of Directors recognizes all the winners of the places in the competition, for the enhancement of the merit demonstrated by reaching the eligibility established for admission, a reduction on the reimbursement of the costs of maintaining the place and sets the tuition in **Caterin euros** .

If the student is not entitled to any other economic benefit (subsidies and contributions from public or private bodies), the Board of Directors, taking into account the conditions of family income and any other documentation produced, will grant further **benefits up to a maximum of € 7,700**. In particular, the annual fee required of students in relation to their income status for the current academic year is as follows:

SASH	I.S.E.E. (€)	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REQUESTED
1°	up to 23,000.00	4.300
2°	from 23,001 to 80,000	4.300+ X
3°	from 80,001 to 100,000	11.500
4°	from 100,001	12.000

$$x = \frac{(\text{I.S.E.E.} - 23.000) * (11.500 - 4.300)}{80.000 - 23.000}$$

(The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of 10)

All winners who have been awarded the residency contribution by the IUSS who, on the basis of the family ISEE, would be required to pay a lower tuition fee, will be entitled to pay only the amount of the tuition, withholding the difference as a further benefit from the College (e.g.: IUSS contribution=5000 euros, tuition calculated on the family ISEE=4,300 euros, further facilitation by the College = 700 euros). This benefit is renewable from year to year, if in compliance with the rules of the regulations of the IUSS and the College.

The total or partial gratuity of the place is subject to compliance with the Regulations and the Educational Project; it may be revoked by the Board of Directors for serious infringements of the rules in force.

8. Acceptance of the place

The ranking list will be published by **Friday 4 September 2026**.

The winners must accept the place in the College by **10 a.m. on Monday 7 September 2026**, by email addressed to **ammissioni@collegiosantacaterina.it**. In the event of non-acceptance of the place within this deadline, the ranking list will be scrolled.

The winning students keep their place until they obtain the Master's Degree, provided that they comply with the merit requirements required by the Regulations of the College.

For more information:
University College of St. Catherine of Siena
Didactic Secretariat – Dr. Antonio La Valle
Via S. Martino 17 A, 27100 Pavia
Tel. **0382 375087 – 0382 375099**
E-mail: **ammissioni@collegiosantacaterina.it**
Website: **www.collegiosantacaterina.it**