



Quick Survival Guide for CS & Networking students

Guidelines for a good journey in Pisa

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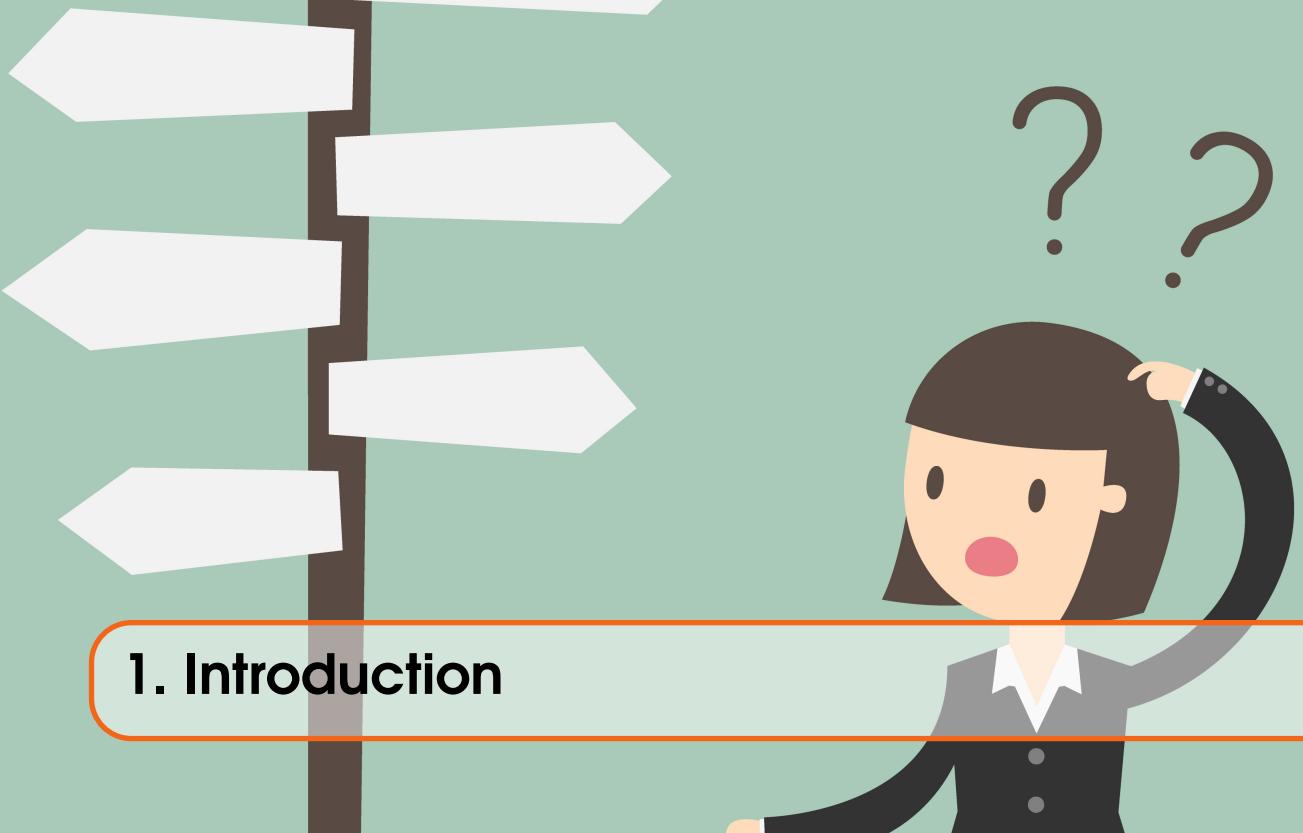
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1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome!

Dear new student of the Master's in Computer Science and Networking, Firstly, congratulations on being admitted! This guide was born from the idea of providing new students of the Master's in Computer Science and Networking at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and at the University of Pisa with all the information needed for a kick-start into this study course. We representatives personally felt a bit "lost" at the very beginning of our Master's and it was not always easy to find all information needed for a smooth beginning of our Master's (just as an example: to find out if we were entitled to use the Sant' Anna mensa, we had to go through three different secretaries, and same thing with the Sant' Anna library. Such piece of information is not written on any website!) We hope to make a good favour to new students of the Master's in Computer Science and networking by compounding in a single place all relevant information for a brilliant start!

1.2 Master's Courses organization

The Master's in Computer Science and networking is a two-year study program. Generally, the first year is somewhat "tougher", as you will be exposed to subjects very different from one another offered at different departments. You will also need to get accustomed to the courses' structuring and you will need to find your own method to cope with the demanding study load. However, if you manage to manage to pass all first-year exams on time, you will have developed very good hard-working and organizational skills. Furthermore, first-year courses are more theoretical than second-year courses, in general. This is a very characteristic of our Master's: it provides students with a very solid theoretical background during the first year, then each one of us is left free to specialize in their own field of interest. Trust me, it is highly **NOT RECOMMENDED** to take second-year courses before passing first-year courses, because 2nd-year courses often leverage the theoretical knowledge you acquired during the first year (e.g. it is very useful to know about the Map-Reduce paradigm from a theoretical point of view before studying a framework implementing it).



2. Enrollment

2.1 Secretary Office

Upon arriving in Pisa, and possibly before lectures begin, you will have to enroll at the University of Pisa at the “Segreteria Studenti” of the Polo Fibonacci in Largo Bruno Pontecorvo 3. It may be very crowded upon beginning of the lectures’ period, so it is highly recommended to go there as soon as it opens. Remember to bring all the documents listed in your enrollment invitation, and ask for “Signora Bigi”. She is the only one that knows something there about our Master’s, whereas. The student secretary will hand you the Student booklet (libretto dello studente), which you will need for registering an exam once you accept an exam’s grade and the Student card, which you can use for paying in any university mensa of Tuscany. The student secretary is your contact point for everything that concerns university taxes and grades’ registration (e.g. I once had to go there for having a grade registered manually, as the professor could not do it because of a bug in the system).

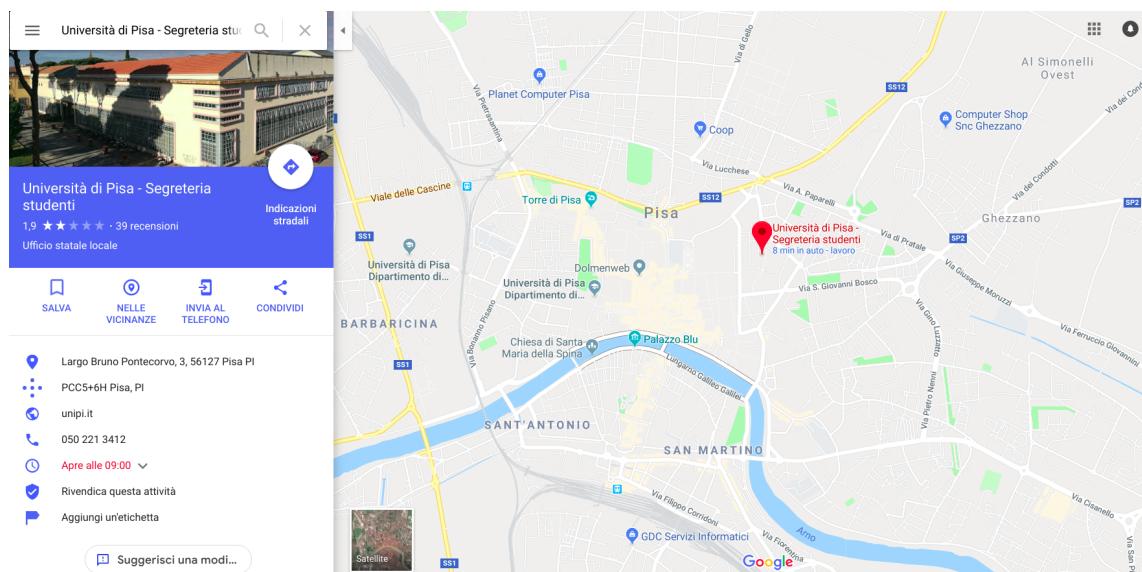


Figure 2.1: Location of the Student Secretary. Opening hours: 9-12 AM. Monday-friday



3. Scholarships and Awards

3.1 International Students' Scholarships

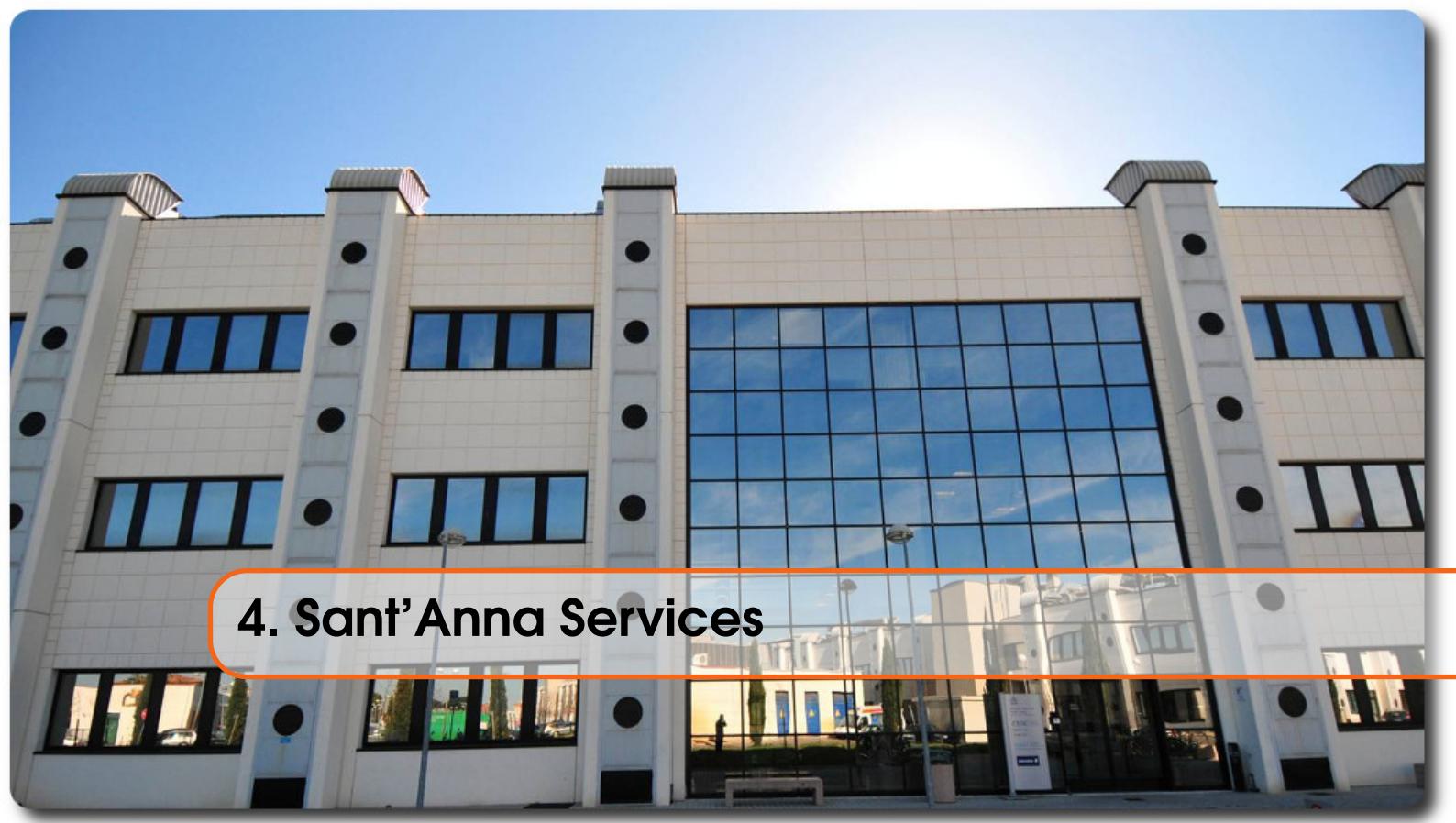
TODO

3.2 Need-Based Scholarships

The DSU provides need-based scholarships for all students meeting the requirements set by the DSU. This involved your family's economical condition and, starting from the second year, the amount of exams passed. For all official information, please refer to the official DSU website: <https://portale.dsu.toscana.it/>

3.3 Merit-based Study Awards

Currently, about 3-4 awards are assigned yearly to the students having passed the highest amount of exams before October 1 of the following year for an amount of EUR 2000 each. In case of tie on the amount of CFUs, the award is assigned to the student with the highest GPA. For the exact amount of awards and the value of the scholarship, please refer to the official call published each year around the end of July. Merit study awards are taxed by 25% IRPEF as by the time of writing. So, if you won a EUR 2000 scholarship, you would actually get EUR 1500 in practice. Minimum Requirements: 45 CFU and 27/30 GPA So, studying hard is worth it not just for your own personal convenience, but also from an economical point of view ;). You can get this award even if you got the DSU scholarship or the international students' scholarship.



4. Sant'Anna Services

4.1 Badge

At the beginning of the academic year, usually around the beginning of October, you will be provided with: a Sant'Anna Badge, a Sant'Anna shopping bag, a Sant'Anna guest account for printing in the central library and a TeCIP account for printing at the TeCIP institute.

4.2 Others

Currently, we are entitled to the following services from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna:

- Sant'Anna Mensa in the central Sant'Anna building in Piazza Martiri della Libertà at the cost of: EUR 6.29 for a full meal, EUR 4.2 for a half-meal. It's not very convenient wrt. DSU canteens, but for further information, please refer to the official Sant'Anna mensa website: <http://www.sssupmensa.it/> Opening hours:
- Free Coffee: We are allowed to get free coffee at the Sant'Anna mensa during the mensa opening hours at the automatic machine just at the entrance.
- 2000 free photocopies per year at the TeCIP: you are allowed to use the printer at the entrance of the TeCIP both for scanning and printing up to 2000 pages per year with recycled paper by using an 8-digit account you are provided by the TeCIP didactic secretary. These 2000 copies are renewed on December 1 of every year. How to print: Bring a USB stick formatted in FAT32 format, or format the USB stick at the printer itself, then put the file. NB: It only supports printing of PDF format files either in one-sided or two-sided way, so make sure your files are in the right format before printing.
- EUR 50 printing credit per year at the Central Library: You are entitled to EUR 50 credit to. Printing a single sheet costs EUR 0.05, so that makes 1000 copies. This is not recycled paper, so print with more care than I do. Again, this EUR 50 credit is renewed every year on December 1. How to print: Log into the computers at the Sant'Anna library with your Sant'Anna guest account, starting with gxxx, then submit a print job by going to File → Print → Xerox or HP Laserjet printer. You may print files in any format, as they will be converted to PDF automatically when you submit the print job.

- Usage of the Central library in the standard opening hours: You may use the central library in Piazza Martiti della Libertà during the standard opening hours. Outside the opening hours, you may still stay in the library, but you won't be able to open the front door without an enabled badge. For further information: <https://www.santannapisa.it/it/biblioteca> Opening hours: from 8.00 to 18.00. Monday – Friday.
- Usage of the Computers at TeCIP: You may use the computers in the PC Room at the TeCIP that currently run Linux. Use the password: master
- Usage of the Wi-Fi: You may use the “Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna” Wi-Fi Network by entering your guest username and password.
- Sant’Anna Language courses: You are theoretically allowed to attend Sant’Anna italian language courses for free if you would like to attend. For further information, ask the central secretary at the main Sant’Anna building in Piazza Martiri della Libertà.



B

5. CNR Services

5.1 Mensa

Theoretically, we are allowed to use the mensa at the CNR with the Sant'Anna card, although I do not know how much this costs or whether one can also pay cash. I will try to get more information in the next weeks as I'm about to start working on my thesis there

5.2 Scientific Library

We are allowed to use the CNR library close to the Sant'Anna building at the CNR Research area.

For further information, refer to the official library website: <http://library.isti.cnr.it/index.php/it/>. Opening hours are 8.30 – 19.30. Monday to Friday.



6. UniPi Services

6.1 GAP

GAP stands for “Room Management Pisa” and is available as bot on telegram. When instructed it reveals current empty rooms in whatever department around the city: very useful when you are looking for a peaceful place to start studying!

6.2 Software

- Microsoft Office 365 license, online Microsoft Office 365. You have Linux and cannot install Microsoft office? UniPi lets you use Microsoft Office 365 online
- MATLAB is also available under a license for academic use on a maximum number of 4 machines. Visit the site: http://doc.sid.unipi.it/Campus_Matlab

6.3 UniPi Services

The University of Pisa offers several different services to its students. I would like to summarize the most important ones as follows:

- Libraries all around the city.
- 5 Canteens around the city, both for lunch and dinner at a convenient cost (see Figure 6.3).
- CUS Pisa: sport activities and sport tournaments of any kind all around the year. Web site: <http://cuspisa.unipi.it/index.php/corsi-e-tornei.html>. You may attend tennis, swimming, kung-fu courses, just to mention a few. You may also book a football field for 55 EUR an hour including lightning (slightly less than 5.5 EUR each, if you play 5 vs 5). If you want to attend a sport course, you will need a “certificato medico”, which you can get from an ASL doctor in Pisa for 20-30 EUR, who will make sure you are able to carry out sport activities¹ and the CUS pisa card “tessera”, which costs 10 EUR per year.
- Language courses: <http://www.cli.unipi.it/>

¹ see also: <http://cuspisa.unipi.it/index.php/lista/certificato-medico.html>

- Erasmus+ semester / year: if you want to apply for Erasmus, you will need to have either an official certificate or one released by the CLI of the University of Pisa of the language of your target institution where this is a requirement. You must have passed 3 exams in order to apply for an Erasmus exchange. Erasmus calls are usually published at the beginning of the 2nd semester, but remaining places may still be assigned in September <https://unipi.erasmusmanager.it/studenti/>
- Thesis abroad: if you want to do your thesis abroad, the university of Pisa provides 40 grants of 2000 EUR (lordo) that are assigned yearly based on your grades' average and amount of exams passed. At least one grant per department is guaranteed. Even though the university of Pisa has 50.000 students, not so many students from the department of computer science actually apply for such grants. The issue is that the calls are published in April and the final ranking list is published at the end of May, so it's kinda hard to organize your stay abroad at such a late point in time. (What if you organize everything with your supervisor abroad and then you don't even get a grant at the end of May? You would have to cancel your thesis plan halfway through it!). So, if you want to do this, my suggestion is to make sure you have passed all exams before leaving. Also, you will have to find both an internal and external supervisor, and the course council will have to approve your activity.
- Erasmus+ traineeship: the University of Pisa provides grants of 350 EUR / 400 EUR per month to undertake an internship at a different European country. You will be responsible for finding a company wanting to host you (ex: for Summer). Note that such activities do not count as curricular activities and won't provide you with any credits, however you may exploit such chance to write your thesis in a company. The calls are usually published in March. <https://unipi.erasmusmanager.it/studenti/>

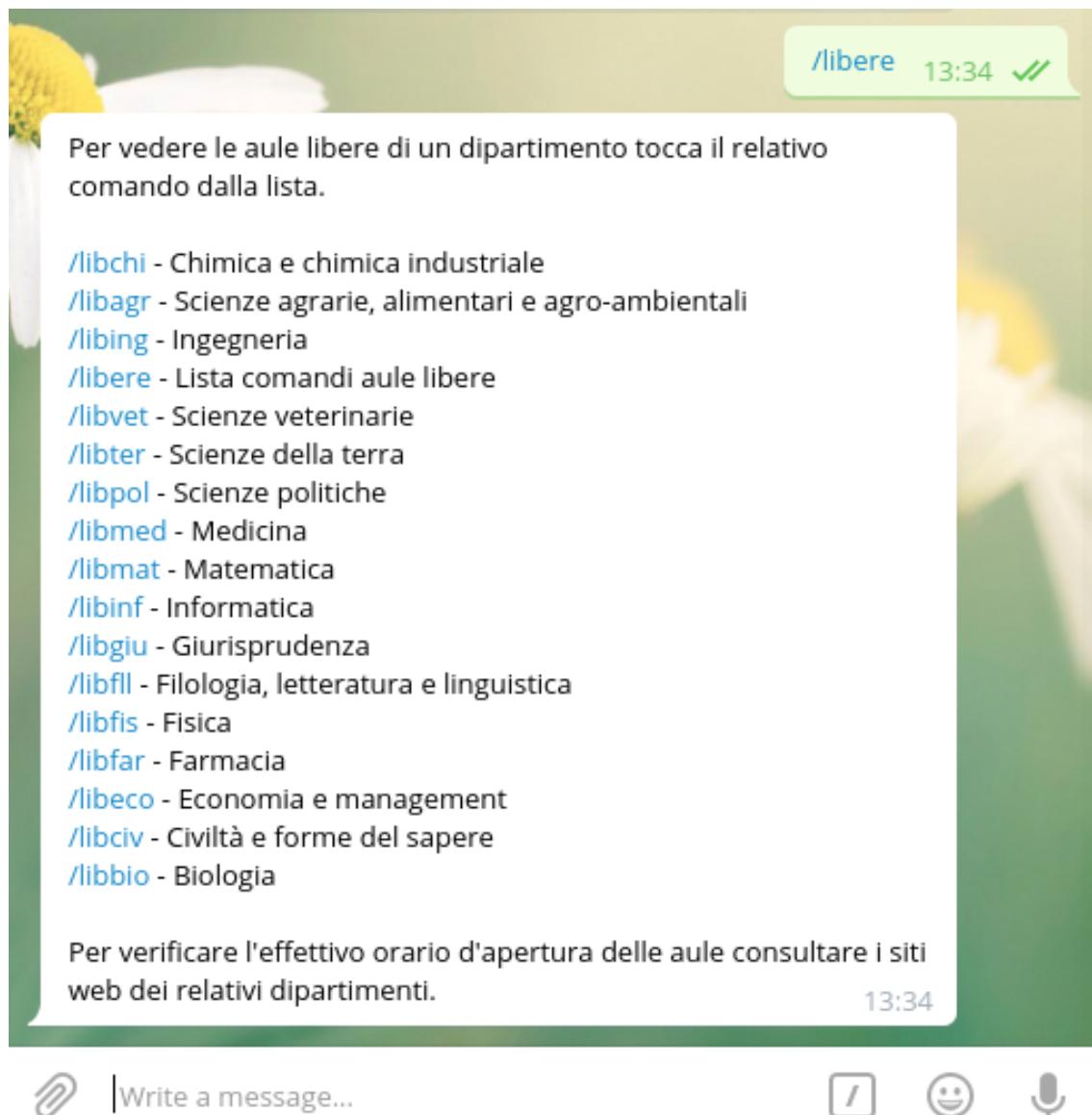


Figure 6.1: GAP provides different commands that allow you to find empty rooms in Pisa in every UniPi department.

Mensa	orario servizio Mensa	modalità di pagamento	menu												caffetteria	sala studio	internet
			contanti	borsellino elettronico	classico	piatto unico	vegetariano	piatto freddo	insalateria	insalatone	prendi e vai	pizzeria	pasto break	gluten free			
Martiri via Martiri, 7 tel. 050567397	lun.-ven. 11:45-14:30 19:00-21:15 sab. e dom. 12:00-14:30 dom. sera 19:00-21.15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Betti via Betti, zona Cisanello tel. 050541781	lun.-ven. 12:00-14:30 19:00-21:30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cammeo via Cammeo, 51 tel. 050 567784	lun.-ven. 11:40-14:30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Rosellini c/o Residenza Rosellini via Ippolito Rosellini, 6	lun.-ven. 12:15-14:15		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 6.2: University canteens in Pisa. The fifth canteen (not listed here) is inside the residence *I Praticelli* (very close to TeCip institute and CNR area) and it's always open (every day, both for dinner and lunch).



7. Logistics

7.1 Ciclopi

During your first year, you will surely have to attend a few courses at the Engineering department and at the Computer Science department. To move quickly between these two departments, I strongly recommend getting a bike or getting an account on Ciclopi (bikesharing Pisa) for 25 EUR per year, including 5 EUR credit on the card with no risk of having your bike stolen. Ciclopi lets you get a bike at any of the stalls around the city for free, as long as you return it to any other stall within 30 minutes. The next 30 minutes cost 0.5 EUR. Only warning: some of the bikes are really broken and poorly maintained. In case you buy your own bike, get a strong chain. Me and each one of my peers have very good stories to tell on how our bikes were stolen. Visit the official page: <http://www.ciclopi.eu>

7.2 Bus services

Bus services are also available around the city. The current price for a single (urban) run is 1.50 EUR¹. Visit the official page: <http://www.pisa.cttnord.it>

¹updated: 27th february '19.

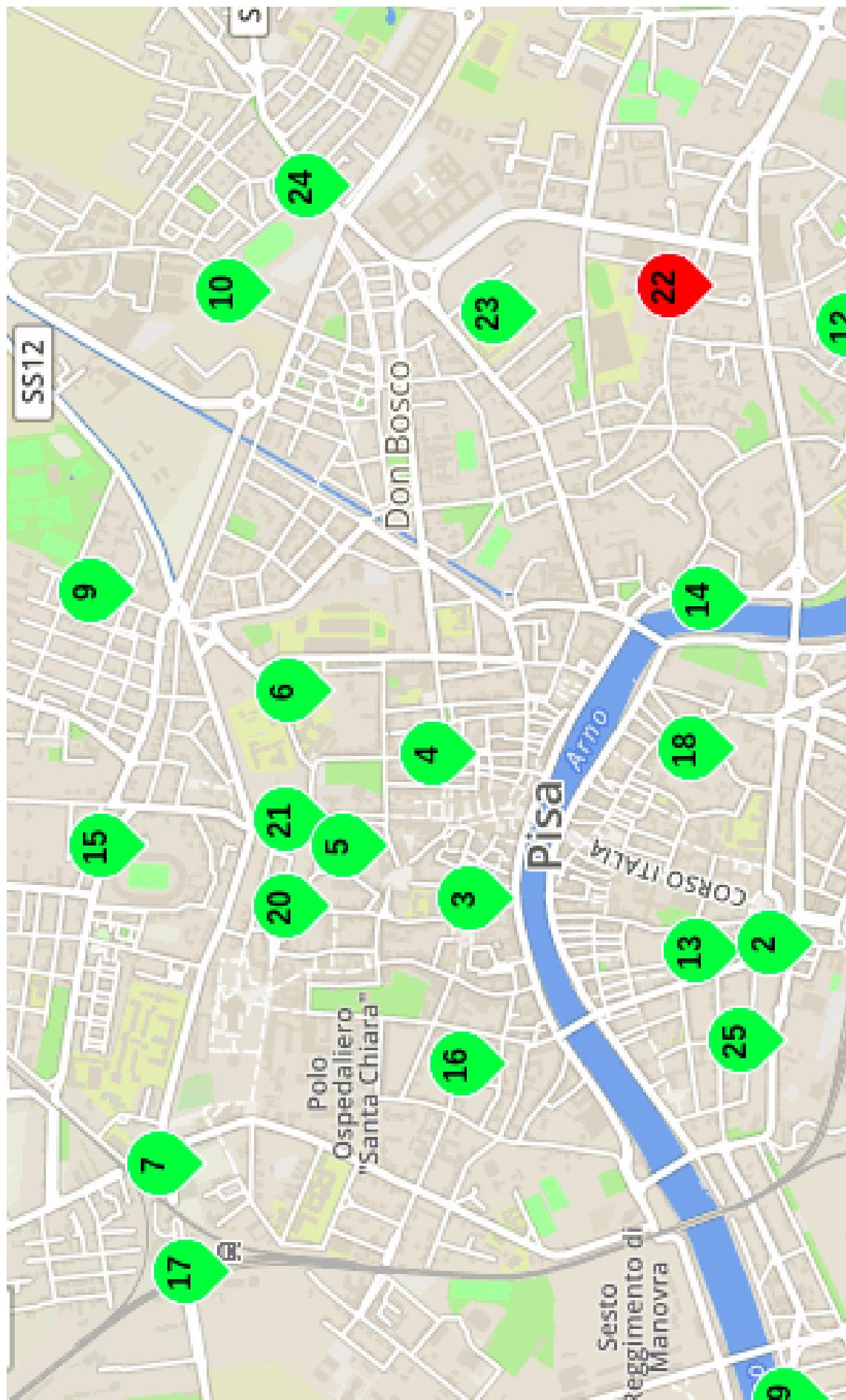


Figure 7.1: Some of the locations where you can find a CicloPi bike.

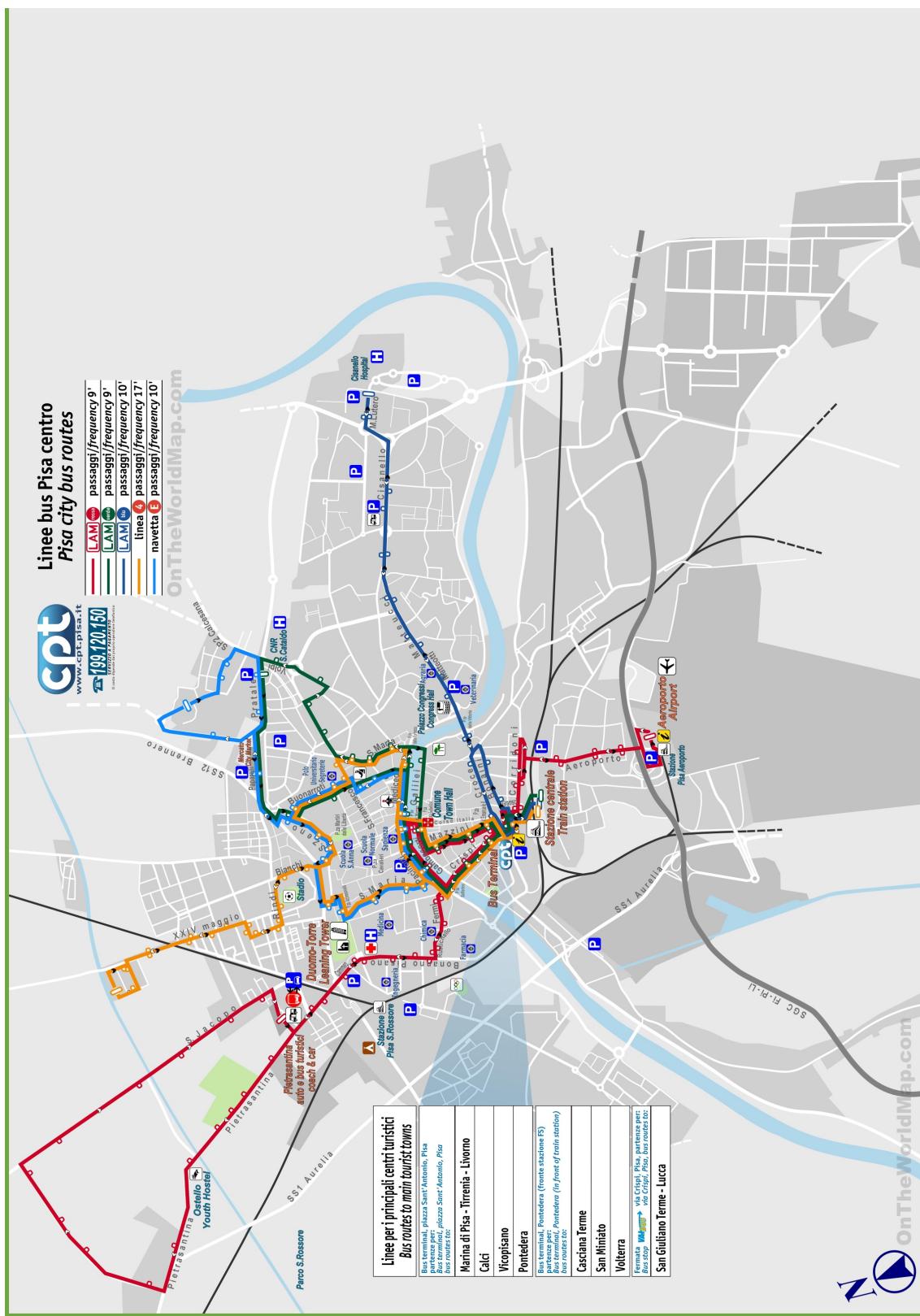


Figure 7.2: The Pisa bus routes map.



8. Contacts

If you have further questions, we remind you that Prof. Marco Danelutto, the president of the Master's course, is always available for helping you out! Feel free to ask your student representatives too in case of doubts or if you need further clarifications. We will try to help you as much as possible.

Some students

- DANIELE GADLER (student representative): daniele.gadler@yahoo.it
- FRANCESCO TOSONI (student representative): f.tosoni@studenti.unipi.it