



Q&A | FAQ – Sustainable Food Systems Admission

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1. BEFORE APPLYING AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Can I send you my CV and transcript before applying to check whether my academic background is suitable for SFS?

Yes. Applicants holding a foreign qualification may request an optional preliminary assessment of their academic background by writing to infosfs@unina.it and attaching a Curriculum Vitae and Transcript of Records. A Bachelor's degree certificate and other supporting documents may also be included where available.

Is the preliminary assessment mandatory?

No. It is an optional service intended to provide an initial indication of whether your academic background appears consistent with the SFS admission requirements. It is not a formal admission procedure.

If I receive a positive preliminary assessment, am I admitted to SFS?

No. A positive preliminary assessment does not constitute admission and does not guarantee a positive outcome of the subsequent formal assessment. Applicants who require a study visa must still complete the University pre-enrolment procedure, and all applicants must satisfy the applicable academic, language and administrative requirements.

Which documents should I send for the preliminary assessment?

Please send your Curriculum Vitae and Transcript of Records to infosfs@unina.it. If available, you may also attach your Bachelor's degree certificate and evidence of English proficiency. Additional documents, such as course descriptions or syllabi, may be requested if they are needed to assess your academic background.

I have not graduated yet. Can I ask for a preliminary assessment?

Yes. A preliminary assessment may be requested on the basis of your current academic record. However, final admission and enrolment remain subject to completion of the required degree and to the formal verification of all admission requirements.

2. UNIVERSITALY AND FORMAL ASSESSMENT

I have already submitted my application through Universitaly. Do I also need to email my documents to SFS?

If you have already submitted a complete Universitaly application, you normally do not need to send the same documents again for a preliminary assessment. The Universitaly application will be assessed on the basis of the documentation uploaded to the platform. If further information is needed, you may be contacted.

What happens after I submit my application through Universitaly?

The documentation uploaded to Universitaly is reviewed for the formal assessment of your application. If the academic assessment is positive and the required conditions are met, the University validates the pre-enrolment application for the subsequent visa procedure. This stage is distinct from final enrolment at Federico II.

I received a positive preliminary assessment before applying. Will my Universitaly application automatically be approved?

No. The preliminary assessment is only an initial indication based on the documents provided at that stage. The Universitaly application is a separate formal assessment based on the documentation uploaded to the platform and the applicable University procedures.

I do not need a study visa. Do I have to apply through Universitaly?

Applicants who do not require a study visa generally follow the ordinary University admission and enrolment procedures rather than the visa-related Universitaly pre-enrolment route. This includes EU citizens and, under the conditions specified by the University, non-EU applicants legally residing in Italy or another EU country. Applicants with a foreign qualification must still have their qualification assessed according to University rules.

Official procedure: [Federico II - International admission regulations](#)

3. DEADLINES

I missed the University deadline for non-EU applicants requiring a visa. Can I still submit a Universitaly application for SFS?

The University sets an annual deadline for pre-enrolment applications from non-EU applicants residing abroad who require a study visa. Applications submitted after that deadline cannot normally be considered for open-access programmes such as SFS. Always check the current deadline on the University's International Admissions page before submitting your application.

Can the SFS Coordinator extend the Universitaly deadline for me?

No. The Universitaly pre-enrolment deadline is established at University level and cannot be extended by the SFS Degree Programme or by the Programme Coordinator.

The scholarship deadline is later than the Universitaly deadline. Does that mean I can still apply for admission?

No. Admission and scholarship applications are separate procedures and may have different deadlines. A later scholarship deadline does not reopen or extend the University deadline for Universitaly pre-enrolment.

The Embassy is still accepting visa applications. Can I apply to SFS after the University pre-enrolment deadline?

The Embassy's visa deadline and the University's pre-enrolment deadline are different. Meeting the visa deadline does not replace the requirement to submit the University pre-enrolment application within the deadline established by Federico II.

Check current deadlines: [Federico II - International admission regulations](#)

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT AND PLACEMENT TEST

Do I need IELTS to apply for SFS?

SFS requires English proficiency at B2 level or higher. For academic admission, applicants may provide a recognised B2-level or higher English language certificate or, where applicable, demonstrate the required level through the placement test provided for by the Degree Programme. Applicants who require a study visa should also check the requirements of the competent Italian Embassy or Consulate, as an international English-language certificate may be required for visa purposes.

I have a Duolingo English Test certificate. Is it accepted?

The SFS regulations require B2 English proficiency but do not specifically identify the Duolingo English Test as an automatically accepted certification. You may submit your certificate for assessment, but applicants requiring a study visa should not assume that Duolingo will be accepted by the competent Embassy or Consulate. Please check the consular requirements and, where necessary, obtain a recognised international certificate such as IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge.

My Bachelor's degree was entirely taught in English. Is a Medium of Instruction certificate enough?

Evidence that your previous studies were taught in English may be submitted as supporting documentation, but it should not be assumed to replace an official English-language certificate in every context. In particular, Italian Embassies and Consulates may require an official international English-language certificate for visa purposes.

I do not have an official English certificate. Can I still meet the SFS language requirement?

For academic admission, the SFS regulations provide for verification of B2 English proficiency through a placement test when the required level is not officially certified. This does not mean that the placement test will necessarily satisfy the separate language-document requirements of an Italian Embassy or Consulate for the visa procedure.

What is the SFS English placement test?

The placement test is used to verify whether an applicant who does not hold an official English-language certificate meets the B2 level required for admission to SFS. Information on the organisation, dates and format of the test is communicated by the Degree Programme when available.

Can I take the placement test online?

The format and available sessions may vary. Applicants should follow the instructions published or communicated by the Degree Programme for the relevant academic year rather than assuming that an online session will always be available.

If I pass the University placement test, will the Italian Embassy accept it for my visa?

Not necessarily. The placement test is intended to verify the SFS academic language requirement. Visa requirements are determined by the competent Italian diplomatic-consular authority, which may ask for an official international English-language certificate.

I need an English certificate for my visa application. Can SFS issue one for me?

No. The SFS Degree Programme cannot issue an official English-language proficiency certificate for visa purposes. If the Embassy or Consulate requests an official certificate, you must provide a certification accepted by that authority.

5. VISA AND PRE-ACCEPTANCE

When is the SFS pre-acceptance letter issued?

The pre-acceptance letter is not issued as part of the optional preliminary assessment. It may be issued after the Degree Programme receives and positively assesses the documentation submitted through University.

Does the pre-acceptance letter mean that I am fully admitted and enrolled?

No. A pre-acceptance letter supports the pre-enrolment and visa process but does not constitute final enrolment at the University. Applicants must still complete all applicable visa, qualification-verification and University enrolment procedures.

Does a pre-acceptance letter guarantee that my visa will be issued?

No. Visa decisions are made exclusively by the competent Italian Embassy or Consulate. University pre-acceptance or validation of a University application does not guarantee that a study visa will be granted.

The Embassy asked me for an official English certificate. Can the University confirm that I was admitted on the basis of English as the Medium of Instruction?

The Degree Programme can only certify or confirm information that forms part of its official admission procedures. It cannot replace an official English-language certificate requested by the Embassy or Consulate. If the diplomatic authority specifically requires an international English certificate, the applicant must provide the documentation requested by that authority.

Official national procedure: [University - International Students](#)

6. ENROLMENT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

What is the difference between pre-enrolment and final enrolment?

Pre-enrolment through University is part of the procedure for non-EU applicants residing abroad who require a study visa. Final enrolment (matriculation) is the subsequent University procedure through which the student is formally registered at Federico II after the applicable admission and visa requirements have been completed.

Where can I find the official University enrolment instructions?

The technical steps, documents and deadlines for final enrolment are established by the University of Naples Federico II. Applicants should consult the official University enrolment pages for the academic year in which they intend to enrol.

Is applying for an SFS scholarship the same as applying for admission?

No. Admission to SFS and applications for scholarships are separate procedures. A scholarship application does not replace the academic admission, University, visa or final enrolment procedures.

If I receive an SFS scholarship, does that guarantee admission or a visa?

No. Scholarship eligibility, academic admission and the visa procedure are separate assessments. Scholarship recipients must still satisfy the admission requirements, complete the applicable University procedures and, where required, obtain a study visa.

Official enrolment guidance: [Federico II - Enrolment and registration](#)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

SFS admission enquiries and optional preliminary assessment: infosfs@unina.it

Federico II - International admission regulations: [International admission regulations](#)

University - International Students: [International student procedures](#)

Federico II - Enrolment and registration: [Enrolment and registration](#)

Sustainable Food Systems - Degree Programme: [SFS Degree Programme](#)

Please note: procedures, deadlines and documentary requirements may change from one academic year to another. Always consult the official University and University pages before submitting an application.