Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies
A research university, a school of talent, for a more sustainable and inclusive world
Let me introduce the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies

Since its establishment, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies has distinguished itself as a learning community where faculty and students closely interact to address cutting-edge research topics with an interdisciplinary approach. The two Academic Faculties, one of Social Sciences and the second of Experimental Sciences, enable a true blending of knowledge-bases and expertise that is crucial to providing innovative and concrete answers to complex problems.

The mission of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is to be a high-quality public institution where talent is carefully sought, nurtured and implemented to take care of the world and society and to contribute with a strong sense of responsibility to its cultural growth and sustainability, while respecting our constitutional values and equal opportunities; at Sant’Anna School, equal opportunities are not merely a statement of principle but are fully a part of the School’s daily practice.

Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is a highly stimulating scientific community, where research is the training ground to education, and is open to both external and local contacts through initiatives that seek a constant dialogue with society and with public and private companies and institutions willing to jointly contribute to the development of science and culture. The public value generated by Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, through its many initiatives, is the basis for developing a more inclusive and sustainable world and benefits the whole community.

Sabina Nuti
Rector
Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is a special-statute public university that conducts its research and educational work in the fields of applied sciences: Economics and Management, Law, Political Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Plant Biotechnology, Medicine, and Industrial and Information Engineering, and also, from the interdisciplinary perspective, Data Science, Health and Environmental Sustainability. Established in 1987 to continue the tradition of study associated to the city of Pisa and the history of its university and colleges, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies has established itself - both nationally and internationally- as a dynamic and highly innovative academic institution, ready to face the challenges of advanced research while maintaining the prerogatives of a university institution dedicated to fostering merit training programmes characterised by an interdisciplinary approach, interaction with research and an international outreach.

The School stands out in the Italian academic context as a young and small university, that has been steadily growing in recent years and is now the largest special-statute university in Italy.

Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2022

Ranking first in Italy (17 universities surveyed)
Ranking seventh in Europe
Ranking 14th worldwide (790 universities surveyed)

Times Higher Education Small University Rankings 2022

Ranking second in Europe
Ranking sixth worldwide
Academic faculties

- Scientific areas

6

- Academic Faculty of Social Sciences with the areas of Economics and management, Law and Policy
- Academic Faculty of Experimental Sciences with the areas of Industrial and Information Engineering, Agricultural Science and Plant Biotechnologies, and Medicine

2

- Institutes
- Interdisciplinary Research Center
- Research Centers

26%

- The percentage of foreign PhD students

229

- Post-doc and research fellows

259

- Administrative and technical staff

1:7

- The relation between prof/students in the Honor Courses

164

- Professors and researchers

37%

- Of Sant’Anna budget comes from external research and training funding

72

- Spin-off companies established since 1994

126

- Patent families

326

- Honor students (274 live in the colleges)

333

- PhD students

160

- Participants in the Seasonal Schools (ay. 2021/2022)

More than 1900

- Participants in the Advanced Courses

Data as at 31 December 2022
Figures that speak for themselves

As a public university institution called upon to create value for the community through research, education, outreach and impact activities, the School is naturally devoted to foster cultural and scientific development and the common good. We are aware that we have a responsibility toward future generations sharing knowledge in order to foster innovation. We firmly believe that the changes that the world requires, are calling for new ideas and strong skills. Merit - based on quality, skills, and commitment - is the true driver to develop social mobility, and the lever to be deployed to tackle the challenges of sustainability and equity that the world is facing today.

Special-statute schools of advanced studies

The prestigious European tradition of the Schools of Advanced Studies is today represented in Italy by six institutions: Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna (SSSA), Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), Scuola IMT Alti Studi (Scuola IMT), Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori (Scuola IUSS). Recently the number of special statute schools increased up to seven with the establishment of the Scuola Superiore Meridionale seated in Naples. The Schools of Advanced Studies share the same values and are defined as “learning communities”, i.e., public institutions that enhance merit and are characterized by the small dimension of faculty and students, by a strong research orientation, by interdisciplinarity, and by a system of consolidated national and international relations.

In January 2021, the Schools of Advanced Studies signed a collaboration agreement that is intended to build a “Network of excellence in research and higher education” through the implementation of joint initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of the Schools in research, in high merit and cutting-edge training, in the exploitation of research results, in the management of intellectual property and more generally in outreach and social impact.
Pisa: a university campus, a research hub

The main premises of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies are located in the heart of the city of Pisa, in an ancient abbey surrounded by gardens. This large complex houses the rector’s office, central administration offices, the library, the student affairs office, the cafeteria, the teachers’ offices, classrooms and student housing. The School is truly a campus, which fully reflects the key values of a learning community where faculty, researchers and students study, work and interact together sharing knowledge and experiences.

Over the years, the School has steadily expanded and now counts more than 30 facilities for training and research activities, in line with the real needs of a residential and research university. The institutes and research laboratories are located in different areas: close to the main campus for social sciences, and for experimental sciences in areas outside the old city centre (CNR, National Research Council, and La Fontina) and in Pontedera.

In the coming years the School is planning a major building development to expand teaching and research facilities and residential services such as the renovation of the Santa Croce in Fossabanda campus (with new sleeping accommodation for students) and the construction of a new science park in the neighbouring municipality of San Giuliano Terme, with an extension of over 40,000 square metres with lecture rooms, laboratories and studies for professors and researchers.
The Pisa University System

With three university institutions (the University of Pisa and the two schools of advanced studies, Sant’Anna and ‘Normale’) and advanced research centers such as the National Research Center and the National Institute for Nuclear Physics, the Pisa university system is a unique model for education and research in Italy, which attracts students and researchers from all over Italy and abroad, thus raising the position of Pisa to an internationally renowned city of studies, research and innovation.
Experience the vitality of our campus

Collegiality is the core value of the School’s educational model. By living together, students can exchange experiences, support each other, study, share ups and downs, and develop very strong relations that are an essential part of their study life at the School and that will be with them for years throughout their lives.

Students attending Honors Courses live in the School’s residences, organised as a university campus. The School’s three colleges (Sede Centrale, Alessandro Faedo and Tiziano Terzani) are located in the old city centre of Pisa, close to the main premises and cafeteria. The facilities host single or double rooms, study rooms and common recreational spaces (gym, music room, refreshment corners, etc.) and a 24-hour concierge service.

The main premises, with the library, the canteen, and the Sant’Anna Café, is the main gathering and meeting place and also the venue for key institutional events: matriculation days, researchers’ night, the States General and the Inauguration of the academic year.

Students of PhD Programmes conduct research activities in research laboratories and take part in the activities of the institutes and research centres, constantly sharing experiences and skills.

Indeed, collegiality does not just mean providing students, teachers, and researchers with spaces for cohabitation and social life: it means assured an environment where experiences and skills can develop since talent does not grow in isolation, but requires constant exchanges and sharing with others. This is why we call ourselves a learning community.
The Sant’Anna Shop has a wide variety of branded products that are mainly aimed at the internal community of students, lecturers, visitors and administrative staff to increase the sense of identity and belonging to the School.

We select our suppliers very carefully and promote products “made in Italy” and from the School’s spin-off companies, also co-branding with Italian brands such as Unoaerre, Zegna for the School tie and Locman which has created a watch in four variants, specially designed for the School.
Our values, our mission

Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is a community that promotes and fosters the dissemination of critical knowledge, aimed at social and personal development. It is an institution constantly inspired by the values of social and environmental sustainability, inclusion, social mobility and responsibility.

The School is founded on the indivisible link between training, research and outreach and social impact activities, a mission it has developed throughout its history and reaffirms nowadays as a criterion for orientation of its actions, fostering the interdisciplinary approach, and interaction with the cultural, social and economic context, plus the experimentation of new educational, organisational and administrative solutions.

An essential feature that distinguishes Sant’Anna is the steadily acknowledgement of collaboration and the sharing of institutional objectives pursued by all the community members (students, faculty, researchers, research fellows, post-docs, and the technical-administrative staff). In the exercise of their functions and responsibilities, all these players are required to adopt conduct in line with the values and mission of the School and the university community's code of ethics.

These founding principles represent the School’s mission in today's national and international university system. They direct and characterize the Sant’Anna Strategic Orientation Plan 2020-2025, which identifies sustainability, inclusion, social mobility and gender policies as priority areas of intervention.

Gender policies are constantly a topic of study, analysis and careful reflection, through the supporting and proactive role of the Committee for Equal Opportunities (CUG) which optimises productivity at the School by fostering an environment that cultivates equal opportunities and organisational well-being, and counters all forms of discrimination, direct or indirect (regarding gender, age, challenged abilities, ethnic origins, language, political opinions or sexual orientation).

Since 2021, the School has adopted the Gender Report to measure and assess the gender distribution of the various components within the School as well as in its governing bodies, in order to define the actions to be taken in favour of gender equality in all the University's policies.

The Gender Report is complemented by the Gender Equality Plan that stems from recent EU provisions and sets the School's strategy for gender equality by indicating integrated actions to identify gender distortions and inequalities, to implement innovative strategies to eliminate any disparities, setting goals and monitoring their attainment through appropriate indicators. The plan is part of a systemic strategy pursued in strict relation with the Committee for Equal Opportunities (Comitato Unico di Garanzia).
Many areas of research and training at Sant’Anna are involved in encouraging sustainability and sustainable development since long time. With the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, these issues have become priority areas of intervention for the entire institution, inspiring research and training programmes and policies. In order to account and give evidence to its commitment, Sant’Anna publish a yearly **Sustainability Report**, which transparently provides the in-house community and all stakeholders with data and results pointing out its involvement in accomplishing through research and training SDGs and social responsibility for developing a “more sustainable and inclusive world”, as recalled in the School’s motto.

Sant’Anna School subscribes to the **Manifesto on an Inclusive University** promoted by UNHCR (the UN refugees agency) to foster refugees’ access to university education, social integration and active participation in academic life.

The School joins **Scholar at Risk Italy**, an international network of universities founded in 1999 at the University of Chicago to promote academic freedom and protect endangered scholars whose work is severely compromised.
Strategic projects

The focus on social mobility is a key identifying element of Sant’Anna School, whose role in the university system is to provide education of excellence for talented students, regardless of family and social background. For Sant’Anna merit and social mobility are indivisible, and represent a strategic priority and the precondition for attainment of the School’s institutional mission.

ME.MO.: Merit and Social Mobility

ME.MO. is a special guidance program designed for enhancing merit and social mobility. It aims to impact on the socio-cultural, economic and personal barriers that do not offer all talents equal opportunities to access to university education.

As shown by the data published each year by AlmaLaurea on the profiles of Italian graduates, the family of origin plays a significant role in educational, work and life options. Family and background have an increasingly marked influence especially at the delicate stage of choice for the continuation of studies after the high school diploma, strongly limiting the affirmation of the central role of education and training in the development process of the Country System.

After a special selection process, the project involves around 300 high school students enrolled in the fourth year coming from all over Italy. The guidance program begins every year in January and finishes in October consisting in regional meetings, teamwork, distance learning activities and a residential internship in Pisa, at Sant’Anna. Throughout the entire course the students, are supported by Sant’Anna tutors who play an active and significant role within the entire project which is based on a peer-to-peer approach. Since 2021, students from the Colleges of Merit have joined the group of student-tutors, and the team has grown further since 2022 with the involvement of students from the Scuola Normale Superiore.

STEM: girls get in the game!

In 2021, the program of guidance and social mobility activities has been enriched by a new initiative that aims to counter the limited access of female students to scientific studies, a phenomenon that severely limits the affirmation of and talent and the development of the Country. STEM: girls get in the game! is a residential guidance course which involves talented girls whose parents are without a university degree. It aims to break down barriers and stereotypes and attract talented young women toward science studies, with
a total immersion in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) through lectures, lab experiences and group activities.

**AfricaConnect for developing safer, and more inclusive and sustainable communities on the African continent**

AfricaConnect is a participatory, transdisciplinary, and applied initiative that Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies has launched in July 2021 in order to streamline the research and educational activities that different groups have been conducting in Africa for over ten years.

With the AfricaConnect project, Sant’Anna pursues its mission to promote excellence in education and research, coupled with a strong international vocation and proposes itself as an aggregator of cross-cutting and interdisciplinary skills.

Through its consolidated experience in the broader Mediterranean region and in sub-Saharan Africa, Sant’Anna believes it can play an important role in this context as a reference point to connect European universities, governmental and non-governmental actors who are pursuing a systemic action of collaboration and partnership with Africa.

AfricaConnect develops under five lines of intervention and fundamental themes: human rights, sustainability, health, territorial impacts and partnerships (in order to fairly and sustainably reflect the enormous developmental potentials of the African continent in regard to its environmental, economic and social characteristics, and to ethically approach research for the benefit of local communities).
The vocation for research

Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies stands out as a research university and is internationally affirmed and recognised as such. The results achieved in research guarantee a fertile context for training and for the development of innovation in both social and experimental fields. Research is conducted in institutes, interdisciplinary centres and research centres. In this context undergraduate, graduate and post graduate students have the opportunity to train and being involved in challenging projects and applied research activities form their earliest years of study.
Our research institutes

**Social sciences, particularly law and politics**

**Economics, macroeconomics, econometrics, dynamic-system models**

**Management, organisation and management of innovation, sustainability and health**

**BioRobotics, biomedical and robotic engineering in medicine and biology**

**Smart systems for automation, virtual and augmented reality, optical-fibre sensors, and integrated photonic subsystems**

**Telecommunications, computer science and photonics**
In the WoS database, the School has over 7,000 scientific products with an H-index value of 136 and an average of 18 citations per publication. During 2017-2021, the School gained over 30,000 WoS citations, with an average of 9.7 citations per product.

Sant’Anna has secured 6 ERC and is involved in more than 70 Horizon 2020 projects (17 of which coordinated by the School as lead institution).

In 2022 the value of revenues from research and training projects amounted to 33 million euros + about 36 million from PNRR projects (National Recovery and Resilience Plan).

**Evaluation of Research (VQR) 2015-2019**: The School ranks as one of the top institutions nationwide for scientific production and research enhancement (Third Mission) and ranks first in the overall ranking for scientific production of faculty and research staff in the fields of biological sciences (Area 05), agricultural and veterinary studies (Area 07), law (Area 12) and economics and statistics (Area 13a).
Interdisciplinary research centers

Foreseeing what is not yet there and imagining, today, what the global challenges of the coming years will be.

The research activities carried out at Sant’Anna School aims to tackle complex issues driving the innovation and the changes that the world needs. This is possible thanks to Sant’Anna interdisciplinary approach, and its interactions with cultural, social, scientific and economic players and stakeholders. Interdisciplinary research centers are structures aimed at planning and managing research activities with an interdisciplinary approach pooling professors and researchers belonging to other research institutes with a constant contamination between social sciences and experimental sciences.

Health science is a multi- and interdisciplinary research area working in the medical, bioengineering, computer, economics and management, social and legal sciences. The Center aims to overcome the rigid schematics of scientific-disciplinary fields, allowing dialogue and synergies on the topic of Health to develop joint research projects and training activities and attaining the mission of the Strategic Plan 2019-2025, namely “to care for the world and contribute responsibly to its cultural growth and sustainability.”

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Sustainability and Climate is a transdisciplinary research area that operates in the fields of Social and Experimental sciences. The Centre utilizes the integrated framework of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the 2030 Agenda, in conjunction with the European Green Deal, to further the development of both people and the planet. Furthermore, it strives to facilitate the achievement of shared prosperity, social equity, and peace for present and future generations. As a means to fulfill these objectives, the Centre fosters research, teaching, and the development of innovative solutions to issues related to sustainability and the pressing challenge of climate change.
When merit counts

Established as a college of excellence for undergraduate and postgraduate training of outstanding students and graduates, the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, making the most of its distinctive autonomy and flexibility, has increased its educational offerings with a constant focus on the development of innovative training programmes able to tackle to the needs of the social and productive context, such as the Seasonal Schools recently introduced in Sant’Anna didactic offering.

Sant’Anna offers training programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level referred to the School’s disciplinary macro-areas (Economics and Management, Law and Political Sciences for the Social Sciences Faculty; Industrial and Information Engineering, Medicine, Agricultural Sciences and Plant Biotechnology for the Experimental Sciences Faculty). Students are admitted to the programmes after a highly selective entry examination and are involved in programmes characterised by a distinctly interdisciplinary approach, an openness to international exchanges and close links with cutting-edge research.

Guidance and social mobility

Guidance is an institutional prerogative of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies: it performs a twofold strategic function aimed at the dissemination and the affirmation of a public institution dedicated to excellence fostering and enhancing merit and personal talents and, at the same time, at the recruitment of the greatest number of outstanding students to be involved in advanced training programmes.

Orientation has always played a central role at Sant’Anna and over the years its activities have been consolidated with an increasing diversification of interventions and constantly updated in terms of content and tools.

In particular, we would like to mention the Orientation Summer School, which every year offers a group of fourth-year high schools students, selected through a rigorous process, the opportunity to attend a one-week residential orientation course at the School.

The yearly plan for orientation activities offers also Open Days for the presentation of the School’s single areas of studies and research with lectures, panel discussions, and a strict interaction with Sant’Anna students. Prospective students may also participate to online meetings focused on the admission to the Honor Courses.

Guidance activities are complemented with specific actions to promote social mobility such as the ME.MO. (Merit and Social Mobility) Project and the STEM Project – Girls get in the game! illustrated on the previous pages.
Honors Courses (Corsi ordinari)

Sant’Anna offers Honors Courses at undergraduate and graduate level for deserving, capable students. After a highly selective entrance examination honors students are enrolled at Sant’Anna School for Advanced Studies and attend a double-degree program. Honors students attend Bachelor and Master's degree courses at the University of Pisa and at the same time follow a parallel and integrative path at the School and have to accomplish rigorous didactic requirements based on merit. The School’s students reside on the campus where they receive their meals and accommodation free of charge, attend supplementary courses, seminars and language courses, engage in research activities at labs/workshops, can study and conduct research abroad, and complete their training with internships at Italian and foreign companies and organisations.

After the completion of the double-degree program and the accomplishment of the didactic requirements, Honors students are awarded the Diploma di Licenza equivalent to the II level university master's diploma.

Master's degrees

The Master’s Degree Courses are jointly offered with the University of Pisa and the University of Trento and are based on high specialization educational projects, geared toward interdisciplinarity, internationalization and innovation. Courses are taught for the most part in English and focus on cutting-edge educational programs with the goal of developing innovative professional profiles. Sant’Anna MSc Degrees Courses offering is the following:

- Bionics Engineering – jointly offered with the University of Pisa
- Innovation Management – jointly offered with the University of Trento
- International Security Studies (MISS) – jointly offered with the University of Trento
- Economics – jointly offered with the University of Pisa
- Molecular Biotechnologies – jointly offered with the University of Pisa

Seasonal Schools

The Seasonal Schools are training programmes “of excellence”, which are strongly interdisciplinary, and focused on the School's frontier research topics. They are open to University students enrolled in Bachelor Degree, Masters' Degree and PhD courses, and who have the same advancement characteristics as the School’s students. The Seasonal Schools are also opportunities for meetings and exchanges with other high-performing students from all over Italy as well as from abroad, to be experienced “inside” our facilities and laboratories.

The Seasonal Schools have a duration of one week; they are held preferably in English and may be held on-site or online. Participants will be awarded a certificate of attendance at the end of the program after passing a final examination, with full recognition of the credits (CFU) indicated in each call.
PhD Programmes

PhD Programmes of Sant’Anna School aim to link basic and applied research in dynamic fashion, with a strong focus demands for innovation by industry and public institutions. Sant’Anna PhD programmes last three or four years: they are designed for bright young graduates, from Italy and abroad, who are admitted after a selective examination which values candidates’ educational background and their attitude for scientific research and interdisciplinary approach. All positions are fully-funded: the PhD student scholarship is renewed annually following a successful assessment. There are no tuition fees for the enrolment to the PhD.

The programmes entail – in different proportions according to the different disciplines – structured courses and supervised research. Periods of visiting fellowship in other Italian and foreign institutions are encouraged by the School which financially supports them with integrations to the basic grant.

Important features of the programmes offered by the School are the early introduction to research activities with intensive training at Sant’Anna research labs, and, the steady interaction between students and the faculty members.

The completion of the programme requires the successful discussion of a dissertation presenting original results, publishable on the major international journals in the respective fields.

The catalogue includes ten PhD programmes in:

- Agrobiodiversity
- Agrobiosciences
- BioRobotics
- Economics
- Emerging digital technologies
- Health science, technology and management
- PhD in Human Rights, Global Politics and Sustainability: Legal and Philosophical Perspectives
- Law
- Management innovation, sustainability and healthcare
- Translational medicine

Furthermore the School participates to national and industrial doctorates in the following fields: Transnational governance, provided by special arrangement with Scuola Normale Superiore; Artificial intelligence; Sustainable development and climate change; Gender studies; Scientific, technological and social methods enabling circular economy; Space science and technology; Robotics and intelligent machines; Cybersecurity; Theoretical and applied neuroscience; Analysis and control of structures and infrastructural works.
University Master’s Diplomas

Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies provides advanced training courses aimed at deepening knowledge in innovative fields and professional skills, aligned with the new needs of society and of the labour market. Master’s Diplomas are focused on cutting-edge research areas greatly affecting science, technology and society.

The catalogue offers a rich panel of courses which is constantly updated. This is the offering for the a.y. 2022/2023

- Percutaneous interventional treatment of structural heart diseases
- Percutaneous treatment for coronary diseases
- Underwater and hyperbaric medicine “Piergiorgio Data”
- Theory and practice of vascular access in haemodialysis patients (VASED)
- Clinical echography and applications in nephrology
- Clinical physiopathology and management of cardiac decompensation
- Human rights and conflict management
- Italian wines and global markets
- Management and control of the environment: circular economy and efficient management of resources (GECA)
Advanced Education Courses

Sant’Anna School has a consolidated experience in the field of continuing education through courses aimed at qualifying for entry into the world of work, professional updating and lifelong-learning for high potentials and senior managers in public and private institutions. Courses are offered in a constantly updated, extensive catalogue, articulated in six areas: Medicine & Health Services Management; Agricultural Sciences & Biotechnology; Human Rights; Conflict Management; Development Cooperation & Migration; Management, Innovation & Sustainability; Law, Welfare & Public Management and Engineering. Some courses are conceived and realized in collaboration with national or international companies, associations, and organisations.

Since 1995, the **ITPCM - International Training Program for Conflict Management** has been implementing training programmes in Human Rights and Conflict Management, including a master’s degree and several intensive courses aimed at international professionals and officials. Over the years, the project has steadily expanded in numbers, objectives and destinations. In its first 25 years of operation, more than 350 courses have been organised, in Italy, Europe and other continents providing training for more than 8,000 people, including professionals from international bodies and NGOs.

The **Management and Health Laboratory (MeS Lab)** plans and delivers management training courses for high potentials and senior managers employed in regional healthcare systems. It is accredited by the Region of Tuscany and offers training courses for the performance of tasks relating to corporate health management functions and management of complex structures (physicians, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists, biologists, chemists, physicists, psychologists). About 3,300 professionals have been trained since 2005.

The School joined the “**PA 110 e Iode**” program promoted by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Universities and Research and aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of Italian public administration staff with a wide range of courses covering fields from the no-profit system to robotics and artificial intelligence (plus the legal, ethical and economic implications).
Naturally Global

Internationalization is an absolute must for full development of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies in its local and global context. The School presents as an articulated think tank capable of offering concrete solutions, seen from a variety of angles (ethical, economic, legal, technological and scientific), on a number of key issues for Italy and the world as a whole. The complexity of today’s society will increasingly require global answers, to be identified through cooperation with the best Italian and foreign partners.

Our students, from their earliest years of attendance, are urged to study and/or conduct research activities abroad, taking advantage of the Sant’Anna network of contacts and partnerships with prestigious universities and major research centres around the world. The School’s internationalization strategy encourages staff and faculty exchanges in order to learn from international best practices and academia’s most innovative challenges.

The focus of the partnerships that have been started up is to create and strengthen a network of cooperation among scientific institutes in leading-edge countries, and at the same time to actively support the development of emerging countries through specific channels and projects in the cultural, scientific, educational, and economic fields.

- 120 special agreements or MOUs with universities and research centres
- International agreements and programmes in strategic areas: Africa, the Middle East, and developing countries
- Talent@Work: an Erasmus+ Mobility Consortium project managed together with Scuola Normale Superiore and Scuola di Alti Studi IMT (Lucca) to support internships at European companies, institutions and research centres.
- Since 2020, the School has been a part of Scholars at Risk, the international network of universities working for academic freedom and shielding imperilled scholars.
- The School has subscribed to the Erasmus+ projects dedicated to developing countries, with more than 218,000 Euros allocated to support AfricaConnect within the ambit of the K171 2022 action.
The School participates in the European Universities programme promoted within the Erasmus+ actions. The EELISA Alliance – the European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance Project – is a network that brings together nine European university institutions with the aim of setting forth and implementing a shared model of European engineering rooted in contemporary society.

The Alliance led to the establishment of a network of research and higher education institutions from seven different countries in Europe with more than 180,000 students, 16,000 lecturers, researchers and around 11,000 technical and administrative staff.

The EELISA Alliance is a dynamic and constantly evolving project which is not limited to the field of education, but aims to strengthen the links between education, research and innovation. Since June 2021, the project has in fact expanded and strengthened with the launch of the EELISA InnoCORE (INNOvation and COMmon REsearch), and EELISA UNFOLDS (Unlocking Full innOvation capacity buiLDing and entrepreneurShip) projects.

EELISA InnoCORE, funded under the Horizon 2020 programme, focuses on harnessing the Alliance’s unique joint research and innovation capabilities, promoting the sharing of different competences, resources, infrastructures, tools and best practices. EELISA UNFOLDS, funded by the European Institute of Technology (EIT), has as its overall objective to contribute to the transformation of higher education institutions into key players in the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem by involving the academic community in specific programmes for innovation-oriented research, promoting advanced training, entrepreneurial mentoring, new collaborations with external partners and the creation of start-ups and venture builders for spin-offs.

Starting from 2023 the Alliance enlarged up to 10 members with the participation of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZAHW).

Partners:

- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
- Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem
- École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées
- Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi
- Scuola Normale Superiore
- Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies
- Universitatea Politehnica din București
- Université Paris Sciences et Lettres
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences
Our commitment to innovate and improve society

Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is committed to strengthening its ability to produce value for the community, acting as a driver of socio-economic, cultural and technological development and designing the future for humanity. This means going beyond the knowledge enhancement and transfer components, including public engagement and lifelong learning initiatives, partnerships, placement, support to institutions, communication and many other efforts aiming at generating value for the community throughout a close-synergy policy with research and education.

Pursuing this challenging goal our strategic point of reference is the United Nations 2030 Agenda, with its 17 goals, 169 targets and 240 indicators.

Knowledge Transfer

The valorisation of the results of scientific research is one of the institutional tasks of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies. Over the time, this activity has generated important and consolidated collaboration with companies and public institutions. The School’s laboratories and research centres have raisen a large number of spin-off companies and an extensive patents portfolio consisting of national and international titles, some of which are shared with other public and private institutions or are licensed to companies.

The School ranks among the best universities in Italy in terms of the ratio of patents to the number of faculty/researchers in Science & Technology. Sant’Anna has a leading role in innovation thanks to its long and extended experience in spin-off companies. The first spin-off was set up in 1994 and since than more than 70 companies were created in high-tech or very high-tech sectors such as robotics, photonics, microengineering, biomedicine, as well as environmental, financial, technological and legal consultancy.
JoTTO - Joint Technology Transfer Office

The Joint Technology Transfer Office was set up by Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Scuola Normale Superiore, Scuola IMT Alti Studi (Lucca), and Scuola IUSS (Pavia) with the goal to identify new promotional strategies for the exploitation of research results, by means of protection of intellectual property, development of start-up and collaboration with enterprises and corporations. JoTTO promotes the direct application, enhancement and use of knowledge to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of society, by means of a common strategy involving:

- intellectual property management in international or national projects or in research agreements with other partners;
- exploitation and dissemination of university research results, encouraging their use in enterprises and corporations;
- strengthening the relationships with enterprises and corporations making available new technologies, knowledge, research personnel and equipment;
- supporting teachers and researchers in pointing out productive and commercial implications of their inventions/discoveries, including the creation of new “spin-offs” companies.

The School is a founding member of the ARTES 4.0 Association, which provides partners and industry (particularly SMEs) with technologies and services dedicated to meeting their needs (through guidance, training, innovation projects, industrial research and trial development).

Social impact

Since its establishment Sant’Anna fostered a strong rooting in the territory. There are many public engagement initiatives that the School carries out to share and develop the results of academic training and research, through a constant connection with university and research institutions, manufacturing companies and innovation poles which are disseminated in the surroundings, in a particularly rich, lively and receptive territory, in order to emphasizing the importance of a development linked to environmental sustainability and the increasingly widespread forms of circular economy.

During the year the School promotes several events for the involvement of the local community and stakeholders. Some of these events have been consolidated over the years to the point
where they have become an integral part of public life in town, such as Bright-Night “The European night of researchers” or the Internet Festival: two events that take place every year between September and October presenting to a wide public and to the citizenship particularly innovative research topics with demonstration open to everyone.

Pisa and its citizens are often involved in Sant’Anna institutional events, such as the arrival of new professors which takes place with the organization of meetings or seminars open to the internal and external community. Openness to civil society is also combined with constant attention to new forms of digital communication on social platforms with videos or post dedicated to present the School to a larger public as in the successful initiative “Fantastic researchers and where to find them”, a new series of videos designed to bring the new generations closer to the world of science.
Placement

A further area of intervention in the field of outreach and impact is represented by the Placement Service, which deals as a strategic hub fostering the connection between the world of education and the world of work. Sant’Anna students are offered customised services aimed at enhancing the training course they have undertaken, their aptitudes, knowledge and skills. The Career Service advice and supports the students in organising internships in Italy or abroad both in companies, or in institutions or and NGO’s. At the same time the Career Service supports companies and institutions in recruiting brilliant and rigorously trained graduated and post-graduated students.

Outplacement data

- 98% of the Honor Students graduate with a mark of 110/110 cum laude and at an average age of 23.4 years, i.e. four years earlier than the national average
- 60% continue their studies with a PhD or specialisation course, and 40% is employed in multinationals, Italian and EU public bodies, non-governmental organisations and high-tech companies

JOBfair - the job meeting of Italian Schools of Advanced Studies

JOBfair is an initiative conceived and promoted by the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies and is realised in collaboration with the six Italian Schools of Advanced Studies. It is an event which brings together the world of education and research with a selection of the most qualified and promising Italian companies.

Established in 2015, in order to meet the growing demand from companies and organisations, since 2023 JOBfair has doubled the number of editions, scheduling twice: the first is an online edition and takes place in May; the second is scheduled in October and is entirely face-to-face. JOBfair represents a unique initiative that enhances merit as a lever for entry into the world of work. Talent on the move!... as recalls its motto pointing out the importance of boosting synergies and networks bridging the world of education and the world of business.
A sure perspective on the future

Sant’Anna School is a dynamic and constantly growing reality. Its strategic development plan envisages a significant increase in the number of students, and the strengthening of research activities. This means getting new spaces to be dedicated to residential services and research facilities.

A new campus for many young talented students

In 2021, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies obtained a free loan from the Municipality of Pisa for the former convent of Santa Croce in Fossabanda to be used, with substantial restoration and adaptation work, as a residential college for its students. This is a very large complex with considerable potential: it is accompanied by outdoor spaces and paths for a total area of approximately 3,800 square metres, for a total extension of spaces (covered and uncovered) of approximately 7,200 square metres. Inside, there are five conference rooms and an auditorium, common reception areas and approximately 70 rooms. The renovation of the Santa Croce in Fossabanda complex, carried out with the support of the Fondazione Il Talento all’Opera, is an ambitious, innovative project with a high social impact, an investment in the future to give back to the city of Pisa a complex with considerable artistic and architectural value that is now abandoned.
A new Science Park

The scientific-technological park of Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies is a major project which will bring together in a single area the research activities of the School that today are distributed throughout the territory. The new pole will be located in the municipality of San Giuliano Terme, not far from the centre of Pisa, in an area where are now concentrated buildings for university and research activities, such as the Chemistry Department of the University of Pisa, a university residence of the Azienda del Diritto allo Studio and the large complex of the CNR Pisa Area. The entire complex extends over an area of more than 40,000 square metres and consists of four buildings to be equipped for laboratories, teaching and study spaces, teachers’ and researchers’ offices, common areas, exhibition spaces and classrooms for events or symposiums. From an architectural and urban planning point of view, the project is particularly innovative due to the attention paid to environmental impact, the use of renewable materials and energy, the availability of parking areas and large green areas with hanging gardens and experimental greenhouses. Sant’Anna Science Park is conceived as a point of aggregation and services like the most prestigious international realities, as a place where Sant’Anna will be able to further enhance its role of a centre of excellence for teaching and research. Thanks to large spaces dedicated to shared work, the scientific activities will be able to coexist and contaminate each other, and laboratories for prototypes and technology transfer will find their rightful place giving the path to spin-offs or incubators for new companies originating from young researchers and the collaboration with private companies in high-tech sectors.
Investing in talent is investing in the future

Sant’Anna is committed to looking beyond its own sphere of action, seeking partnerships with companies, institutions or organisations that share and pursue the same goals, namely:

• to valorise talent and merit as engines for the development of social mobility and fundamental resources to meet the challenges of sustainability, equal opportunities and equity that await us;
• to recognise and support the training and research pathways of male and female students and young researchers, regardless of the economic and social background;
• to build advanced research contexts that are sensitive to the innovation needs of public and private institutions, for the development of the country and the community.

Fondazione Il Talento all’Opera Onlus

Il Talento all’Opera is one of the first philanthropic foundations to emerge within the third sector, a private non-profit entity established in 2020 by a group of entrepreneurs and associations to support a project to bring about a convergence of public and private resources to support the activities conducted by Sant’Anna School to foster talent and merit.

The Foundation operates along three main lines, ranging from guidance initiatives to support prospective students in the university choice phase, to contributions dedicated to enhancing advanced training and research projects and to the specific commitment in the renovation of the Santa Croce in Fossabanda complex, building a new campus in the hearth of Pisa where students, researchers and teachers will share the experience of training and professional growth. Starting from the academic year 2022/2023, the Foundation funds a place of one student of the Honors Courses.

Founders: Acque, Dedalus, Forti Holding, List, Unione Industriale Pisana, Toscana Aeroporti.
Supporters: Asso Werke, EY Foundation, Galli Torrini Comunicazione, Reale Foundation, Marble Foundation Onlus.

Check out the Foundation’s website for more information and an updated list of participants and supporting companies.
**Fondazione Luca Cavallini Onlus**

Founded in 2016 by Enrichetta Colombi in Cavallini to honour the memory of her son Luca who died prematurely, the Foundation, a third-sector non-profit body since 2021, supports Sant’Anna School with an ongoing project to foster education and leading-edge training, to disseminate culture, and to promote the intellectual, cultural and ethical growth of young people, with special attention paid to particularly deserving students in conditions of socio-economic hardship. The Foundation provides the School with a number of apartments for students of the Honors Courses. As from A.Y. 2021-2022, it funds a place of one student of the Honors Courses.

**Fondazione Giovanni Spitali**

Fondazione Giovanni Spitali is linked to Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies since 1992 and was established to fostering talent and merit by the appointment of scholarships or awards to Sant’Anna students which distinguish in study and scientific research.