

# VERTO PREMIUM HOUSING IN FLORENCE

Welcome to your home away from home! Below is more information about what to expect and what is expected of you in your **Aparto Student Residence Florence Premium** housing. [Click to jump](#) to optional Meal Plan information.

## What can I expect?

### Aparto Student Residence & Manifattura Tabacchi

The Aparto Student Residence at Manifattura Tabacchi in Florence is a contemporary student residence situated within a redeveloped cultural and creative district open to the public just beyond the historic city center. Manifattura Tabacchi hosts cafes, restaurants, art spaces, a medical center, and shops.

The Aparto Student Residence is in a local residential area outside of the historic city center. Students will experience the modern comforts of this Student Residence option in addition to living in a real Florentine neighbourhood. It's important to understand that your neighbors will consist of regular Florentines who work every day, have families, and expect the neighborhood to be respected in regards to noise. You are expected to be respectful of all residents living in your building and buildings around you.

In the local area, walking distance from Aparto, there are parks, a cinema, theater, gym, supermarkets and a lively shopping area with further restaurants and cafes.

### Single Occupancy bedroom

- Twin bed
- Desk for conducive, distraction free study
- Wardrobe
- Private ensuite with shower, toilet, sink and bidet.
- Bed linens are provided

### What amenities are included?

- Air conditioning
- 24-hour Reception Desk
- Use of shared kitchen with Kitchen Pack
  - Shared fridges, freezers, stove tops and microwaves
  - Lockable cupboard space for food storage
- Communal Study Spaces and Lounges (TVs are located in communal lounges)
- Use of 24-hour Laundry Room (cost not included, accepts card payments)
- Wifi
- Cinema Room

- Fully equipped Fitness Area
- Personal post box to receive mail, and the reception can accept packages on your behalf.
- Bed Linens
- Room Cleaning and Bed Linen change (every two weeks)
- Utilities
- Experience Program
- Maintenance Service
- Mental Health Support
- Secure bike storage

## What will be different at the Student Residence that I might not expect?

The Aparto Student Residence does not only house Verto Florence Participants but also students from other Universities and study programs in Florence. The Student Residence also has a hotel option for non-students, perfect for visiting friends and family!

The Student Residence has rules for residents which students will learn about when they check in, for example:

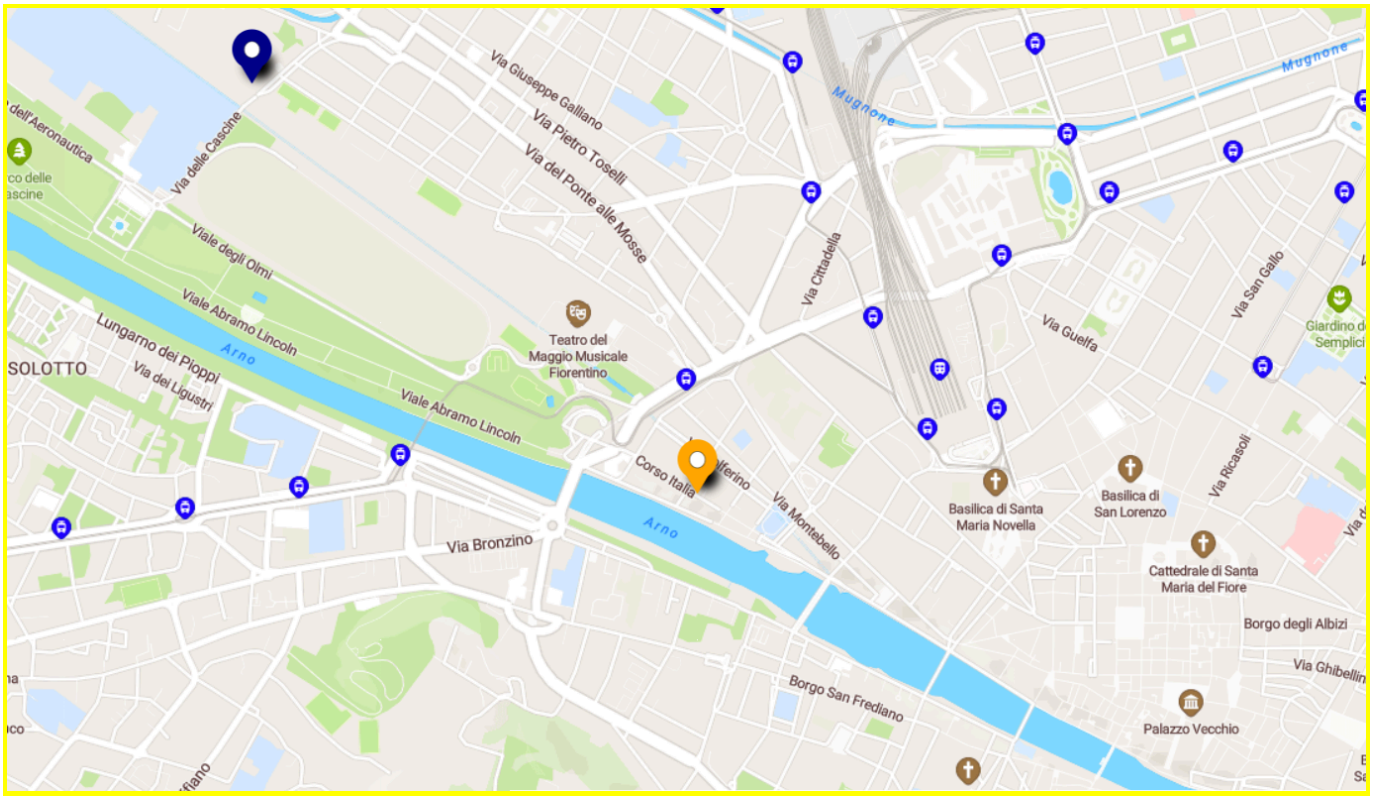
- Respecting quiet hours
- No overnight guests
- No candles
- Use of pinboard only in bedroom to prevent damage to walls

**GROCERY SHOPPING.** Because food is fresh and has fewer preservatives, you'll find that items like produce spoil quickly. Additionally, with shared fridge space in the shared kitchen, you'll find that buying in bulk is not very feasible. As such, you should plan for more frequent and smaller shopping trips throughout the week.

**TOWELS.** Towels are not included due to rental regulations in Florence. Students can bring their towels from home or buy ones during discovery week. We recommend bringing a travel towel with you in your carry-on in case of delayed luggage. Your Student Success Advisor will help you locate the shop closest to your apartment.

## Where is the Aparto Student Residence located?

The Student Residence is located in Manifattura Tabacchi in Florence. The Student Residence is within a 30 minute walking distance of the Verto Study Center with public transportation options also available to arrive at both the Study Center and the Historical City Centre. Once you have adjusted to your new environment, staff onsite will be able to assist you with navigating the public transportation services.



*Blue Pin: Aparto Student Residence, Orange Pin: Verto Study Center*

## Is my housing location safe?

Yes, the Aparto Student Residence has a 24-hour reception, security staff and key card access to residents only. 24 hr CCTV is located in both common and external areas. The Student Residence also has a strict “No Overnight Guests” policy, so you can be sure that only residents are in the Student Residence at night.

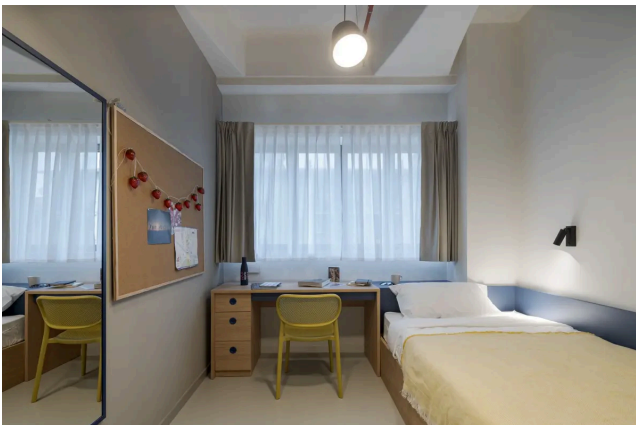
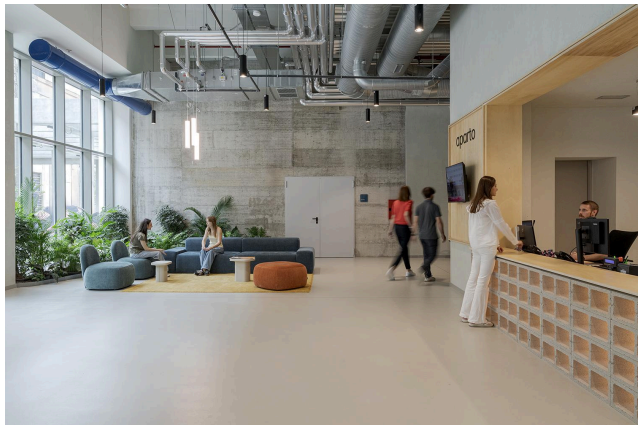
Manifattura Tabacchi is open to the public and students should follow general safety tips whilst living abroad, and concerning their commute to and from the residence. Students are also responsible for maintaining safe behavior throughout the program and not engaging in practices that may put themselves or others at risk.

## What if something in my room breaks?

If you have any maintenance issues, you can log into the portal and select the “maintenance” option at the top, to report your issue.

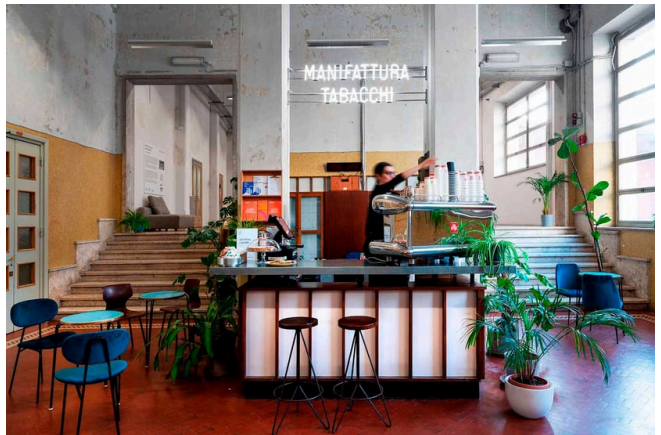
## Your housing will feel like home before you know it!

*Please see below for example photos of what housing may look like. Photos & floor plans are for illustrative purposes. Room sizes & layouts may vary and do not represent the exact room you will personally be assigned.*





## Manifattura Tabacchi



## What can I expect of the optional meal card plan?

The Meal Card Plan is a great add-on option for students who may need assistance with budgeting their finances and ensuring they have a set amount of funds to spend on food each week.

75 euros worth of vouchers are added weekly to the card. Each voucher is worth 3 euros, and students can use up to 8 vouchers per transaction - it's not possible to split a voucher or get change from a partially used voucher. For example:

- a cappuccino and pastry at the cafe next to the Study Center costs 3 euros, so students would use 1 voucher.
- A pasta dish at a cafe near to the Study Center, costs 6 euros and students would use 2 vouchers.
- A few days of food shopping at a supermarket could amount to 22.45 euros, which would mean students could use 7 vouchers amounting to 21 euros and pay the remainder in cash or card, as students will not receive change in cash for unused vouchers.

It's beneficial to plan shopping in order to maximise voucher use. Unused vouchers will accumulate every pay period and can be used throughout the semester. It is important however, to ensure vouchers are used by the end of the semester, as no refunds are given.

The Meal Card works differently than a credit card or prepay card- it can only be used to purchase food from designated cafes and supermarkets that are located around Florence, both near the Study Center and student housing. Please see our current map of grocers and restaurants that accept the card [here](#) as a guide. The map is updated each semester and there may be places not on that map that do accept the card, so it is always advised to ask before making a purchase at a restaurant or grocery store not on the map.

In case of lost Meal Cards, students should report the loss immediately, so the Meal Card can be blocked and a new card can be issued. Any vouchers used after the card is lost and before it is reported lost are unrecoverable. Due to administrative processes, replacement Meal Cards can take approximately a week to arrive and in the meantime, students will need to use their own funds to purchase food.

**How do I enroll in the meal card plan?** During the onboarding process, students will have the option to add a meal card plan in their housing preference form.

### Examples of Meals that can be purchased with the Meal Card:

- **Breakfast:** Cappuccino and Pastry from the café next to the Study Center
- **Lunch:** There are many options near the Study Center where students can purchase their lunches, ranging from sandwiches, pasta dishes and salads! There is also a supermarket where students can purchase microwavable meals that can be heated up at the Study Center in the student microwave.
- **Dinner:** Students should expect to purchase ingredients from their local supermarket to prepare evening meals in their apartments.