



Learning Agreement. 2019/20.

Collegio Volta strives to provide you with an environment in which you will develop your personality and academic interests to the best of your capacity during your studies at the University of Pavia. At Volta you will find tools and facilities that will underpin your academic progress and a community spirit in which every student is accepted, respected and valued regardless of age, gender, religious beliefs and political views. In exchange Volta asks you to share the values of our learning community. Volta is an international College with a strong graduate component to support in-house teaching and is determined to ensure that every student - Italian or foreign - has the means to fulfil his/her potential. Time-honoured habits and rituals, frequently found at Italian Universities and referred as *goliardia*, have no room at Volta. The duties of mature students is to lead by example: attend Courses and produce top level dissertations and job applications and freshers have a duty to report to College bullying of any kind and shape that they may face in order to enable College to act accordingly.

The work of Volta extends far beyond the provision of shelter, pastoral care and basic learning facilities. Volta offers you a comprehensive programme of teaching that widens and enriches your academic progress and puts you in the strongest position to pursue research or graduate employment after graduation. The programme consists of extra-curricular and curricular components. Extra-curricular activities include courses in personal development, computer studies and modern languages. These are available to all students and College expects you to engage in this work. Curricular activities, namely College supervisions or tutorials are not yet available to all students but only to a proportion, although Volta is committed to provide teaching to every student in future. If you have access to College supervisions, though, you are expected to engage actively in the curricular work.

The themes and topics addressed by the College lecture and seminar programmes are wide but selective. A key mission of Volta is to promote the public understanding of science and the impact of science on society through education, communication, engineering, medicine, etc. The approach of the College to these themes is global because their nature is universal and because the interests of Volta in science, technology and human progress reach out to the world. Outlines of the College activities follow below. You are asked to read them carefully and sign and date acceptance of these academic rules.

Annual General Assembly

It is held on the first Monday of October at 6.00 pm in the College lecture theatre. Important for every College student and compulsory for freshers. During the assembly the College Director introduces new members, presents key data about past work and illustrates the College work plan for the new academic year (Freshers' Week, Courses, Supervisions, Seminars, etc).

Freshers' Week

An intense, week-long set of College activities in the first week of October (Monday to Friday). Starts with the Annual General Assembly and continues with meetings about Welfare support, Health & Safety rules and further meetings with Directors of Studies or Course Coordinators of the main University Courses studied at Volta. Freshers' week may also involve films, concerts, a city tour and a general welcome party. Freshers must attend all events of Freshers' week.

Personal Development

Volta runs three Personal Development Courses of 6 hours each: one on how to develop a *Personal Development Plan*, one on how to plan and write your *Dissertation* (compulsory for final year undergraduates) and one on *Graduate Careers* (compulsory for final year students of every degree course: undergraduate, MSc, MA and PhD). Freshers must attend the PDP Course and final year students must attend the Dissertation and Graduate Careers Courses.

Computer Courses

The College offers three computer Courses of 12 hours each in order to promote computer skills and computer science among the members of Volta. The first Course offers an introduction to the basic of *Web Design*, the second cover the use of *Latex*, a powerful document-creating application ideal for dissertations, reports and basically any document. The third Course offers an introduction to *Computer Coding*. Students choose and enrol in one of the three Courses.

Language Courses

The College offers two levels of English (typically B1 and B2 or B1 and C1) to its students. These Courses are based on Cambridge English and lead to the IELTS examination. Further, College offers a single-level German Course (DSH 1), a single-level French Course (DELF B2) and a single level Italian Course for foreign students. These enable Volta students to apply for Erasmus placements at German or French Universities (except Berlin and Tübingen, which require DSH2 grade).

Supervisions

Volta cannot offer supervisions in every subject but has an extensive programme of in-house teaching (14 courses in 2016/17). The programme is published each year in October and students for whom supervisions are available are contacted in due course by the tutors in charge of the course. Students with access to College supervisions have to attend at least 3/4 of this teaching.

Seminars and Lectures

Volta has a very strong programme of lectures and seminars. Lectures are open, public events in line with the College mission in the area of public understanding of science; they number between two and four each year and are given by scholars who have made outstanding advances in their field that have impacted on the whole fabrics of contemporary culture. Seminars at Volta are typically organised in 'seminar series' devoted to major and broad cultural themes and are given by scholars who made original contributions to their field of research. Seminars are a thorough test of students fitness to College life. A Physics student does not need to be a College student in order to attend Physics seminars. What is asked from College students is an extra step, namely the willingness to engage in meetings and discussions outside their narrow field of study. This is probably the major legacy of College culture and a strong basis for the future life and careers of College graduates. Volta offers such a cultural environment and expects, in exchange, a commitment from its students, ie the attendance of half or more the seminars/lectures available.

Clubs & Societies

Volta offers a number of students' Clubs and Societies, whose interest ranges from the organisations of social events to quantum computing. College expects that each student engage in several Clubs & Societies in order to expand their interests and, in the process, make Volta a College in which students feel that they are key actors of their life and work.

Sports

College sports have developed extensively in the last few years. Volta has been home to individual sportsmen of world stature (rowers and archers). Team sports have also grown strongly: College teams have come first in volleyball and basket ball inter-collegiate tournaments for the last two years. Each student at Volta is expected to engage in individual and/or team sports.

Acceptance of College Academic Rules

I _____ have read and understood the College Academic Rules and I will engage them during my stay at Collegio A Volta. I also authorise the College to use my personal data in the pursue of its institutional and educational role.

Signed

Pavia