Pavia is located on the banks of the Ticino, about ten kilometers upstream from its confluence with the Po. Milan, to the north, is 35 km away; Genoa, to the south, 120 km; Turin, to the west, 150 km.

The city is located in the Po Valley, in the northwest of the Italian peninsula, in the northern part of the province of Pavia, itself in the southwest of Lombardy.

The climate of Pavia is typical of the middle Po plain. Winters are cold and wet, summers are hot and sometimes interspersed with thunderstorms that temporarily cool the atmosphere. Spring and autumn are the rainiest periods.