

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



LORENZO DE' MEDICI, ITALY
SUMMER 2019

Program Guide

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Congratulations on being accepted to one of the many programs offered by the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute. Living and studying in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field

Increasing understanding of different cultures

Enhancing personal growth

Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture

Gaining self-confidence and independence

Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

This program guide is to be used with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information for all UW-Eau Claire study abroad programs. The guide is specific to Italy. It complements the Handbook, the LdM Academic Catalog and Pre-Departure guide, study abroad orientation, additional information from your peer advisor.

Although the guide was written to help you prepare to go abroad, it is impossible for one resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will e-mail additional information throughout spring semester. Contact them and the study abroad staff with your specific questions and use additional written and web resources.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of student travelers include advancement in a future profession; wish to expand personal and academic horizons; need for a change; and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.
- 2) Given the way the program is set up; how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Italian culture, yet you are going to be studying primarily with U.S. students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publishing, though changes may occur at any time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program

With 40 years of experience, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM) is one of Italy's most distinctive and well-established study abroad institutions. Courses fall under four main academic divisions: Arts and Sciences, Creative Arts, Design, and Italian Language and Culture.

There are many details about the various programs offered by LdM on their webpage:

<http://www.ldminstitute.com/>

Throughout this guide, you will be referred to the LdM academic catalog and calendar for additional information:

<http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/academics/academic-calendar/>

There will also be references to the LdM Pre-Departure Guide. You will receive a site-specific guide from LdM about a month prior to the beginning of your term.

The Location

LdM's original campus in Florence was established in 1973. In recent years, they have begun to offer programs in Rome and Tuscany. For Summer 2019, UWEC students plan to go to Florence or Rome in June or July.

Florence/Firenze

For centuries, travelers have fallen in love with this city bursting with the arts. Florence was the cradle of Renaissance civilization; her

thinkers changed forever the way we see the world.

Although rich in history, as a thriving economic center with particular strengths in the fashion, design, luxury goods, and tourist sectors, Florence also offers students the chance to investigate a myriad of aspects of the contemporary Italian world.

The Florence "campus" consists of 12 buildings located in the San Lorenzo area. Over time, the program has developed strong connections in the community that help students experience a variety of aspects of Italian life.

For a more complete description of Florence and the LdM facilities there, see page 12 of the LdM Academic Catalog and this section of the LdM website:

<http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/campuses/florence/>

Rome

An extraordinary synthesis of cultures from the Mediterranean region, North Africa, Europe, and an increasingly global community, Rome is a city with unparalleled history. It is home to world recognized monuments and locations that have been celebrated throughout the world. The hills, piazzas, fountains, cobbled streets, and churches are testimonies to a great heritage but at the same time provide a contemporary setting for the active social and cultural life of the thriving modern city.

LdM Rome was founded in 2007 and is located in the center of the historic city. The facilities

form part of an elegant Umbertine palace constructed at the end of the 19th century, located on Via XX Settembre, one of the most important streets of the city. This central location can be easily reached from any part of the city by public transportation. See the LdM catalog and this page of their website for details:

<http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/campuses/rome/>

Academic Calendar

Summer Session 1

Depart from U.S.	Wednesday, May 29
Arrive in Italy	Thursday, May 30
Orientation (required!)	Friday, May 31
Classes begin	Monday, June 3
Last day to add/drop	Tuesday, June 4
Holiday: Rome only	Monday, June 17
Holiday: Florence only	Monday, June 24
Classes end	Thursday, June 27
Housing Move-Out	Friday, June 28

Summer Session 2

Depart from U.S.	Wednesday, July 3
Arrive in Italy	Thursday, July 4
Orientation (required!)	Friday, July 5
Classes begin	Monday, July 8
Last day to add/drop	Tuesday, July 9
Classes end	Wednesday, July 31
Housing Move-Out	Friday, August 1

This calendar was current at the time of publishing. Any updates will be posted to the LdM website:

<http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/academics/academic-calendar/>

ACADEMICS

There is additional information on maintaining program eligibility, as well as topics such as

registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Registration

At UW-Eau Claire: All you need to do for registration at UW-Eau Claire is **sign your online PPA for Summer 2019**. Center for International Education (CIE) staff will work with the Registration Office to enroll you in the Italy program under a **temporary course number (INTA 428 for Florence, 429 for Rome or 430 for Tuscany)**. This "blanket registration" will appear on your billing statements and will be replaced by specific courses once your transcript from LdM arrives. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire.

At LdM: You indicated your course choices and alternates on your LdM application. This will be used to register you for classes at LdM. Please note that LdM reserves the right to cancel any classes that do not have sufficient enrollment, and that this notification may take place only a few weeks prior to the beginning of the term. If this happens, you will automatically be enrolled in your alternate course, so **choose those alternate courses carefully**.

Drop/Add: Once course selections have been made (including alternatives), you may request **only one course or section change**. There must be an academic rationale for the change, and it will depend on course availability. This variation to the course schedule can be done

only once and only during the FIRST WEEK of classes and before Final Registration.

Course Load

You are allowed to take one or two courses during an LdM summer session. In past summers, roughly 2/3rds of UWEC students have taken six credits. **If you plan to use UW-Eau Claire summer financial aid, you must enroll in six credits over the course of the summer.**

Most classes are three credits, although some Italian language classes are four.

Class Schedule

Classes typically meet Monday-Thursday, but some Fridays are used for **required** make-up classes to replace time lost to holidays. See the academic calendar for details.

Class Attendance

Attendance is a primary requirement at LdM and **missing class will affect your grades**. Please see the complete attendance policy in the Academic Policies section of the LdM Academic Catalog or in the Learning Content section of your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad application.

Grades

The following grading system applies to all LdM courses:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%

C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below
W	Withdrawal
W/F	Late Withdrawal

Regardless of the percent grade earned, the class attendance policy applies.

Neither LdM nor UWEC allow students to take courses pass/fail, nor is auditing of classes allowed. Grades from LdM are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.

Transcripts

LdM will send transcripts to UW-Eau Claire within one month of the end of the academic term. LdM reserves the right to withhold a transcript if a student has violated contract agreements related to housing and/or academic and financial policies.

Certificates and Professional/Advanced Certificates are awarded by Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici. This is a European credential and the certificate will be issued by LdM upon completion of all course requirements.

Academic System

Although your classes will be taught in English, you are often taking courses from Italian professors and are learning within the Italian academic system. The teaching methodology differs from that in the U.S. Use of PowerPoint is not common, and in larger classes (20-25 students), the professor may lecture for most of the class period, so good note-taking is essential. (Note that in Rome and Tuscania,

classes rarely have more than 10 students in them.)

Lots of reading is expected, and not all of it will be specifically assigned. You may get a suggested reading list of 8-10 books from your professor. You are not expected to read all of them, but you are expected to read some, which, along with the class lectures and required readings, will inform the exams and papers you will write.

Small homework assignments and short quizzes are uncommon. In most classes, your grade will be based on the mid-term, the final, and a major paper, as well as on attendance and class participation, as noted earlier. Both the mid-term and the final exam are generally in essay format and are comprehensive.

Because there is little of the “checking up” you are used to in the U.S. system, you may find it easy to get behind in the assigned readings or put off the other suggested readings to the last minute. Don’t do it! If you keep up with your work on a weekly basis, you will be much less stressed when it comes to mid-terms and finals.

Academic Assistance

In Florence, each group of students from a particular university is assigned an Academic Advisor who goes through orientation with you and is available for both academic and cultural questions throughout the term. Past students report that this person has been very helpful and recommend keeping in touch with in person and via email with any questions you may have.

Because the student groups in Rome and Tuscany are small, there is one student adviser for the group. That person is readily available to assist with any questions.

MONEY MATTERS

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting, and how to bring money abroad is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Cost Estimate

You can find the most current cost estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [CIE Italy webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term and location. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, to LdM, and directly to other vendors.

Personal Travel

How much money you need for travel is always a difficult and personal decision. Keep in mind that you can spend as much money as you have, but you do not need to! Students who spend more time in the host community often have richer interpersonal experiences than those who spend every spare moment traveling.

Past summer participants who responded to our survey reported spending between \$500 and \$2,000 on extra travel.

Currency Exchange

The currency of Italy is the Euro (€). One euro has 100 cents. There are 8 euro coins, ranging

in amount from 1 cent to 2 euros and have different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.

The exchange rate as of December 11, 2018 was 1 € = \$1.10572. You can find current exchange rates at

<https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

When looking at costs, be sure to convert those listed in euros to U.S. dollars! All costs are estimated and may change due to exchange rate fluctuations.

LdM Cancellation/Refund Policy

In addition to the general UW-Eau Claire cancellation/refund policy stated in the online Study Abroad Handbook, the following applies to LdM:

Tuition: For a cancellation

- 45- 31 days prior to the beginning of the term, you are liable for \$500 of the tuition cost
- within 30 days of the start of the term, you are liable for 50% of the tuition cost
- After the start of the program, you are liable for the full cost of tuition.

Housing: Cancellation must be made on the official LdM Housing Withdrawal Form, available from the CIE. You will be fully liable for the total housing cost and housing deposit if this official form is not received by LdM before the check-in date.

For cancellation:

- 45 days or MORE prior to the check-in date, the housing deposit (U.S. \$300) will be refunded.
- 44-15 days preceding the check-in date, the student will lose the housing deposit (U.S. \$300).
- 14-0 days preceding the check-in date, the student will lose the housing deposit (U.S. \$300) and is responsible for the full cost of rent

Please note that you are responsible for paying the percentages listed above, even if you withdraw from the program before you have paid this amount to UW-Eau Claire.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Additional information on these issues, as well as on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook, as well as in the LdM Pre-Departure Guide.

Important Note on Adderall

The drug Adderall, commonly used in the U.S. for people with ADD or ADHD, is not available in Italy and is, in fact, considered a narcotic and is illegal. If you have a prescription for this drug, please contact the U.S.

Consulate/Embassy for further details.

Doctors cannot supply it in Italy, and you will not be able to have it sent over, so plan ahead. The sharing of Adderall among students is considered a crime according to Italian law and will be viewed by LdM as a serious drug offense.

Immunizations/Health Preparations

In addition to having all routine immunizations up-to-date, you can find the CDC recommendations for Italy or any other country you plan to visit at:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>

UW-Eau Claire's Student Health Services offers immunizations (Tetanus, Hepatitis B, etc.) and health education on international travel. Tel. (715) 836-5360. There is a fee for these services.

Health Services

There are English-speaking medical services available in Florence, close to the main LdM campus building. No appointment is necessary during regular office hours, which you will receive during orientation in Florence. Your CISI insurance will be accepted at this location; no need to file for reimbursement. (If you use other medical offices in Florence, you will need to pay up front and file for reimbursement.)

Counseling Services

The Florence campus has two English-speaking psychologists on staff who provide counseling services at no cost to LdM students. You will receive their contact information and office hours upon arrival in Florence.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The following academic accommodations are available upon official verification of a learning disability: Italian language tutoring, administration of exams in separate

classrooms, and extra time for completion of exams.

In order to be finally approved for the accommodations LdM can provide, you will need to send your SSD VISA in advance, either through the CIE or directly to LdM (contact the CIE Italy study abroad coordinator for the correct address.)

Upon arrival at LdM you will need to request an individual appointment with the LdM Dean of Students. You will receive information at LdM orientation as to how to set up the appointment and are encouraged to do so during the first few days in Italy. **It is your responsibility to set up this meeting; it is not scheduled until the student requests it.** The meeting typically lasts 15 -20 minutes and is an opportunity to discuss anticipated learning challenges, your UWEC accommodations, and how to access services at LdM. Once approved for LdM accommodations, you can decide whether or not you wish to use them. However, you cannot use them until you have met with the LdM Dean of Students and received final approval.

Information on other accommodations that students have requested previously is below.

TESTING BREAKS: while not an official accommodation, if a test is 3 or more hours, LdM test proctors will often permit students utilizing extended testing time accommodations to access the bathroom once or twice for a brief amount of time.

RECORDING CLASSES: Due to European privacy laws, recording course lessons is a

delicate matter. **LdM does not provide Live Scribe or other types of smart pens, but if a student brings their own recording device AND receives permission from the course instructor to record course lessons, then LdM will permit the use of the technology,** so long as it does not create a distraction or disturbance to the instructional or learning environment. Students should assume that they will NOT be able to use a recording device during classes and should instead come prepared to implement a note-taking strategy such as those mentioned below to supplement course comprehension gaps.

NOTE-TAKERS: LdM does not arrange for note-takers. Past students have used several strategies: (a) some faculty provide English-language lecture materials for students electronically following a course lesson (this depends on the instructor and course and is not something that LdM can intentionally "match" a student to, as the instruction methods may vary by instructor/term/course); (b) speaking to a classmate to borrow notes to either photocopy/transcribe/or take a photo for a copy for the student's own records; (c) participating in a self-created study group.

ATTENDANCE FLEXIBILITY: Due to the strict attendance policy, LdM does not provide an "attendance flexibility" accommodation. Depending on provided medical documentation and a meeting with the Dean of Student (see below), some leniency may be offered should student maintain active and timely written notification of challenges with his or her on-site advisor. Such institutional consideration does not provide a student with "carte blanche" to frequently miss

course lessons or exempt them from the Institute's attendance policy appeal process, but rather may provide relaxed documentation standards concerning absence documentation requirements. Like the entire accommodation process, this documentation accommodation is tailored to the individual student's need on a case-by-case basis.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in Italy in general. To find more information on this topic, please see the [State Department Country Specific Information page](#).

Safety in Italy

The most recent U.S. State Department Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Italy is available online at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html> Pay particular attention to the sections on Safety & Security, Crime, and Victims of Crime.

Safety issues specific to your host city will be provided at orientation in Italy.

Summer 2017 students note that there were several apartment break-ins. They recommend always locking doors and windows.

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook. All students at LdM are registered with the local police and are issued with an emergency telephone number which connects them with an LdM staff

member 24/7 if difficulties arise. Please note that the 24-hour number should only be used in true emergencies.

You will receive an emergency contact card at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. Information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport

General passport information is found in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Declaration of Presence

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information. If you are a U.S. citizen, you can stay in Italy for up to 90 days without a visa or Permit of Stay. However, all non-EU citizens who come to Italy for a period of less than three months for visits, tourism, business or study require either a **stamp in their passport from Italian immigration upon arrival in Italy, or a Declaration of Presence**, which you need to file within eight days of arrival in Italy.

STEP 1: Please read the following and see which situation below applies to you:

a. If you flew directly to Italy (that is, you did not touch down in any other country), and you did get a stamp in your passport at the Italian end when you landed, then you do NOT have to do this Declaration of Presence. Stop reading.

b. If you flew directly to Italy (that is, you did not touch down in any other country), BUT you did NOT get a stamp in your passport at the Italian end when you landed, then, YES, you MUST do the Declaration of Presence. See STEP 2 below.

c. If your flight stopped in either a Schengen* country (see list below in italics) or England or Ireland, then YES, you MUST do the Declaration of Presence (unless your passport was stamped in Italy in which case you do not have to do the Declaration). See STEP 2 below.

** The Schengen Countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.*

STEP 2: If you have determined that b. or c. above applied to you, you MUST do the Declaration of Presence:

Upon arrival, LdM staff will instruct you on the procedure. You will be assisted by Eduitalia. This service cost 18 euro in 2018 and is charged to your credit card when you turn in your documents. You will get details about registering with Eduitalia from LdM.

Once you have registered with Eduitalia, you will be required to bring the following documents to an official meeting (place and date to be disclosed during orientation in Florence):

1. A copy of the front photo-page of your passport
2. A copy of the Student Visa page
3. If you did receive a stamp at border control, bring a copy of that page with the stamp on it

STEP 3: You may be contacted by your LdM advisor if a meeting at the public office Questura will be necessary.

PACKING TIPS

In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about Italy.

Clothing & Weather

Temperatures in June are generally warm, with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. July may even be a bit warmer.

Because you will deal with a range of temperatures, bring clothes that you can wear or take off in layers. You will want clothing that is washable and does not shrink easily.

Italian young people generally dress casually jeans, casual pants/skirts, casual tops. However, Italian casual is more formal than U.S. casual, sweatshirts and sweatpants are uncommon outside of athletic activities.

What to Pack

You will receive a suggested packing list at Orientation 2. LdM will provide additional suggestions in their pre-departure guide.

Appliances

The standard electric current in Europe is 220 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy **both a converter and plug adapters for the various countries**. Travel hair dryers and razors, which are relatively inexpensive, usually are convertible and need only a plug adapter.

ARRIVING IN ITALY

Travel Arrangements

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to your host city, arriving on the date listed in the calendar section of this guide. A list of student-oriented travel agencies and instructions for booking a flight are included in your Study Abroad Handbook. Consider traveling with another program participant. A travel companion can make arrival in a new country much less intimidating!

You may wish to purchase **travel or trip cancellation insurance** when you purchase your ticket, in case your plans change unexpectedly. Discuss your options with your travel agent and be sure you know exactly what the policy covers. Many policies are very restrictive in what they will reimburse.

Flights

Florence students have either flown directly into Florence (Florence Peretola Airport), or into Rome and then continued to Florence by train.

Florence students must arrive at the housing check-in by 4:30 pm on the arrival day. **LdM recommends that you book a flight that arrives in Florence by 2pm at the latest**, give you time to travel from the airport to the housing check-in. **If you are arriving in other Italian airports, they recommend flights that arrive by 9:30 am.**

Those who arrive in Florence before the official arrival date are asked to check-in for housing by noon.

Rome students will fly into Leonardo de Vinci International Airport (known as Rome-Fiumicino, abbreviated Rome-FCO). **Your flight should arrive by 2:30 pm at the latest on the arrival date**, to allow time to get through immigration and baggage claim, then take a taxi to the housing check-in point. There will be an LdM staff member at the airport until 4pm to assist students in getting taxis to housing check-in.

Early, Late or Delayed Arrival

If you arrive before the stated arrival date, you will need to book a room in a hotel or hostel for your stay. LdM will send a list of possible sites. Please note that **if you arrive in Europe prior to the stated arrival date, you are expected to arrive that the LdM Housing check-in point by 3pm on the arrival day.**

If your travel is delayed, contact the LdM office in Italy to inform them of your new arrival time, then proceed to your host city.

Have a back-up plan in case your flight is delayed, and you will be arriving in the middle of the night. In this case, you should plan to stay in a hotel and contact LdM-Italy the following morning.

Getting to your Apartment

Florence: You will take a taxi from the airport to the housing check-in on the LdM campus. The specific address will be provided by LdM the week before departure.

At housing check-in, you will get keys for your apartment from the LdM staff and can go on to the apartment. Again, this is typically done by cab, due to the amount of luggage.

Luggage Storage

Please note that it is not possible to store luggage or other belongings at LdM or in your apartment prior to or after the program.

Orientation

Upon arrival, the LdM staff will orient you to the program and the city before classes begin. Be sure to arrive with enough cash (in Euros) to buy immediate necessities, such as soap and toilet paper for your apartment.

HOUSING

In Florence or Rome, you will live in shared apartments. (While Florence does have a homestay option, it is reserved for students in the Intensive Italian Language program.)

Application and Placement Process

Once you are accepted to LdM, you will submit a Housing Selection Form and pay a \$300 housing deposit to LdM to secure your housing. Instructions on how to complete the form and make the payment will be posted to your BlugoldsAbroad account.

You are asked to complete the form carefully and to give as much detail as possible, so that the housing coordinator can attempt to place you with compatible roommates.

If you would like to room with another student from UW-Eau Claire, you can indicate this on the form. LdM will make every effort to honor such requests, as long as both students indicate their wish to room together on their Housing Selection Forms.

Please note that if you do not want to live with other students from Eau Claire, you must also state this specifically on your housing form. If you do not, it is very likely that you will be placed in an apartment with other UW-Eau Claire students.

You may request a single room for an additional fee; **that fee will be due with your housing deposit.** There are a limited number of single rooms available, and assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Your housing assignment will be e-mailed to you one to two weeks prior to the beginning of the program. You will receive your specific address upon arrival.

Explanation of Housing Arrangements

Most LdM students live in LdM-sponsored apartments. All three cities where LdM is located are very old, and the LdM apartments come in all shapes and sizes.

While these are “student apartments,” in the sense that you will be living with other LdM students, they are not in “student housing.” Rather, they are in regular apartment buildings in your host city, and your neighbors will be Italian citizens.

The apartments are typically the most affordable and most convenient option, being within a 5-20 minute walk or a short bus ride from the main LdM building in all three cities. All of the campus buildings are relatively close together, and the apartments are typically near one of the main buildings. Please note that ALL apartments are NON-SMOKING.

At the beginning of the term you will be asked to fill out a very detailed form about the condition of your apartment. Take this seriously and fill it out completely! It will be used immediately to correct anything that may not be working right away, and it will be used at the end of the term to assess damages.

Although LDM facilitates the housing process, you are renting the apartment directly from a landlord. If there are any problems with the apartment, the washing machine is not working, for example, or there is no hot water, you will contact your landlord directly to report the problem. (Note that no hot water is

different from slow hot water. It is normal for it to take several minutes for water to get warm.) However, you should always copy your LDM adviser on the email, so s/he can assist if necessary.

Because these are very old cities, and in Florence & Rome in particular, you are usually living in the central neighborhoods of the city, it is likely that you will be living in an old building. If something goes wrong, it may take a while to schedule a professional to do the specific repair work that needs to be done.

In addition, Italians in general have a very different expectation from Americans of how quickly such repairs will take place. Be patient. The problem will be resolved, but it may not be resolved in a day or two!

Florence & Rome are also very popular cities, and housing is at a premium. If you do have issues with your housing, whether they are problems with the building or with an apartment mate, **focus on resolving the problem rather than asking to be moved to a different apartment.** It is unlikely that anything will be available.

Apartment Description

As mentioned previously, LdM apartments come in all shapes and sizes. All apartments are single-sex. Most will house four to six people in a combination of double and/or single rooms. (Note that single rooms are at additional cost.) Bedrooms are furnished with twin beds, a desk, nightstands, and lamps. There will be some form of closet storage with hanging space. Sheets, blankets and towels are provided.

All occupants of the apartment share bathroom/s, as well as the kitchen and living room. The kitchen will have a stove top, cooking and eating utensils; some may also have a microwave or oven in addition.

The apartments have a TV and Internet service; phones are NOT provided. They have washing machines, but not dryers: hanging clothes to dry is more common than dryers in Italy. Central heating is rare, and none of the apartments are air-conditioned. (Past students note that even if the property has it, the landlords are not allowed to turn it on because it would result in very high utility charges that would need to be charged to the apartment inhabitants.)

Living in a Decades-Old Apartment

Given the age of the buildings, the climate, and the reality that central heating and air conditioning are unlikely, mold can be a problem. It is essential that you open your windows every day to ensure good ventilation, which will in turn prevent mildew.

Average water and electrical use are included in your rent. However, **this is average Italian water and electrical use.** This means that you are expected to conserve whenever possible by doing simple things like turning off the lights as you leave a room and taking showers of a reasonable length. **In the summer, if you turn on the ventilators in every room and keep them running all day, whether anyone is home or not, you will incur extra charges.**

Rather than focusing on making the environment comfortable for you, **think like a**

European and focus on making yourself comfortable in the environment, by adjusting the layers and types of clothing you wear.

Recycling

Recycling is required by law. There is a fine of 180 Euro for not separating your recyclables out properly in the trash! This will be explained at orientation in Italy, and there is information on the back of the apartment doors, explaining what you need to do. If you don't understand, be sure to ask your adviser. Once you get a system down, it will only take a few minutes if everyone pitches in.

Apartment Keys

Another thing to be aware of is that you are responsible for your apartment key at all times during the term. Keep it on your person, not in your purse or backpack. **For security reasons, a lost key means that the locks must be changed immediately at your expense.**

Charges start at around 150 euro. And remember that Florence is a big city, never leave your apartment door unlocked, and never loan your key to anyone else.

Guests

Overnight guests are NOT allowed in your apartment. If you have friends or family coming to visit, they will need to stay in a hotel or hostel.

FOOD

Your apartment will have an equipped kitchen, and the most economical way to eat will be to shop for groceries and cook at home. Often, roommates plan shopping and meals together,

sometimes even with a rotation of who is cooking which days.

ACTIVITIES

The LDM campuses provide activities during the week. You will need to sign up in advance. Some activities are free, and most are no more than \$10. Some examples include making gelato, a boat tour along the river, theater performances, movie nights, and many others.

COMMUNICATION

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire e-mail address, which you need to check while abroad, is in your Study Abroad Handbook. There is additional information on computers, mail, etc., in the LdM Pre-Departure Guide.

Computer/Internet Access

Internet service is provided in your apartment; however, you will need a laptop to access it. Be sure you have the proper electrical converter and adapter. If you do not have a laptop, there are computers for student use on the LdM campus during regular office hours.

Telephone Information

LdM requires all students to have a telephone that works in Italy. You can use your own phone under an international plan or with an Italian sim card. Otherwise, you can take advantage of a discounted Italian cell phone/SIM card through Telecom Italia Mobile

(TIM). There will be more information about this in the LdM pre-departure guide.

From the US to Italy: If you want to call someone in Italy before you arrive, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 39, the country code for Italy, then 055, the city code for Florence, and the rest of the number.

Snail-mail

International airmail takes seven to ten days to cross the Atlantic in either direction.

LdM recommends that family and friends send regular letters via the U.S. Postal Service. Any packages can be sent from any of the shipping services or the U.S. Postal Service. They recommend that the packages state "For Personal Use Only - No Commercial Value" so that additional VAT (value added tax) is not charged.

You should have your family and friends address your letters and packages as follows:

For Florence:

(Student Name)
C/O Lorenzo de' Medici
Via Del Melarancio, 6/r
50123 Firenze, ITALIA

For Rome:

(Student Name)
C/O Lorenzo de Medici
Via XX Settembre, n° 4
00187 – Rome, ITALIA

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Organized Travel

LdM offers weekend excursions led by qualified LdM staff that enable you to visit some of the most famous Italian cities and sites, including Venice, Rome, Cinque Terre, Alps and the Garda Lake, Capri, Sorrento and Pompeii as well as others outside of Italy. **These trips are optional and at additional cost.**

Buses, Metro, and Taxis

There will be information on buses and taxis specific to your host city in your LdM Pre-Departure Guide.

WEB RESOURCES: ITALY

Cities	Culture/Travel	Country
Florence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.italyguides.it/en/tuscany/florence • http://www.visitflorence.com/florence-events/ • http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/florence 	Culture & Customs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Italy.html • http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student.php?id=102 	Italy Map http://www.big-italy-map.co.uk/
Rome Information about Rome: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/rome Top Locations to Visit: http://www.rome.info/ OMNI Travel Pass: http://www.omniakit.org/en	Public Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.raileurope.com/index.html • http://www.italiarail.com/trenitalia-network • http://www.ataf.net/it/ataf.aspx?idC=2&LN=it-IT 	Government/ Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.understandingitaly.com/profile-content/government.html • http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economics/Europe/Italy-POLITICS-GOVERNMENT-AND-TAXATION.html
Tuscania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuscania • http://www.romeartlover.it/Tuscania.html 	Italian Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/guide/ • http://www.italianlanguageguide.com/ 	Newspapers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.theflorentine.net/ • http://www.ansa.it/english/index.html
Lorenzo de' Medici http://www.ldminstitute.com/		

CONTACT INFORMATION

LdM Florence Main Campus and Headquarters

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ph: +39 055 287203 or 287360
LdM Emergency Line (24/7):
+39 346 0150060
info@lorenzodemedici.it

U.S. Embassy Rome

Via Vittoria Veneto 121,
00187 Rome, Italy
Telephone: 39-06-46741 (also
after hours)
Facsimile: 39-06-4674-2217
Email:
uscitizensrome@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Florence

Lungarno Amerigo Vespucci 38,
Florence, Italy
Telephone: 39-055-266-951
Facsimile: 399-055-215-550
Email:
uscitizensflorence@state.gov

Center for International Education

3 Schofield Hall
University of Wisconsin-Eau
Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702
Phone: (715) 836-4411
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Cheryl Lochner-Wright
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UW-Eau Claire After Hours Numbers

(715) 839-4972 or (715) 577-
9045

