

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



FLORENCE, ITALY
WINTERIM 2019

Program Guide

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Congratulations on being accepted to the Florence Winterim program offered by the Lorenzo de' Medici Institute in Italy. 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 together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information that is valid for all UW-Eau Claire study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with information to assist in your preparation for participating in the program. It is designed to complement the Handbook, the study abroad orientation, additional information from your Peer Adviser, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that although this guide was written to help you better prepare for your time abroad, and that all of the information available at the time of printing has been used, it is impossible for any one resource to answer all of your questions. Your Peer Adviser will e-mail additional information throughout the semester. We also strongly encourage you to contact your Peer Adviser, the study abroad staff, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

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 in English, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other U.S. Americans?

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program

With almost 40 years of experience, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM) is one of Italy's most distinctive and well-established study abroad institutions. Depending on the campus you attend, you can choose from over 400 different courses in 32 subject areas. 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 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 Locations

You will be studying at LdM's original campus in Florence, established in 1973.

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 LdM Academic Catalog and this section of the LdM website: <http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/campuses/florence/>

Program Calendar

The calendar below was current at the time of printing of this guide. Any updates will be posted to the LdM website:

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

Florence, January Intersession 2019

Depart from U.S	Tuesday, Jan 1
Arrive in Italy	Wednesday, Jan 2
Orientation (required!)	Thursday, Jan 3
Classes Begin	Thursday, Jan 3
Final Drop/Add	Friday, January 4
Public Holiday	Sunday, January 6
Classes/Exams End	Monday, January 21
Housing Move-Out	Tuesday, January 22

ACADEMICS

There is information on program eligibility, as well as academic topics such as registration, 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 Winterim**. Please do this as soon as it is available. CIE will then register you for the term abroad under a blanket course number (INTA) for 3 credits, but NOT for the specific course you indicated on your LdM application. This “blanket registration” will appear on your billing statements. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire.

At LdM: You indicated your course choice and alternate on your LdM application. This will be used to register you for a class at LdM. **LdM reserves the right to cancel any classes that do not have sufficient enrollment, and 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: There is a very brief drop/add period upon arrival in Florence. **Any changes depend on academic need and course availability.** Section changes are considered course changes.

Classes

Classes meet Monday-Friday during the January session. Most classes are three credits, although some Italian language classes are four.

Course Load

You may take one class during the session. Please note that LdM also offers some non-credit courses during the January interim. If you choose to take one of these courses, you will pay LdM directly for it, and you must still register for one credit-bearing course, also.

Class Attendance

Attendance is a primary requirement at LdM and missing class will affect your grades. **In general, for January courses, 2 absences will lower your grade by one full letter; 3 or more will result in an “F”.** There is some variation by course. 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.

LdM nor UWEC allow students to take courses pass/fail, nor is auditing of classes allowed.

Complete information on LdM academic policies is in the LdM Academic Catalog.

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.

Academic System

Although your classes will be taught in English, it is important to realize that you are often taking courses from Italian professors and are still 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.

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 or presentation, 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, it can be 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 finals.

Academic Assistance

Each group of students from a particular university is assigned an Academic Advisor who goes through orientation with them 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.

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. You can spend as much money as you have—but you do not need to! Students who spend more time in Florence often have richer interpersonal experiences than those who spend every spare moment traveling.

Past Winterim participants who responded to our survey reported spending between \$150 and \$2,000 dollars on personal travel, with the average being \$565. The person who spent the least reported traveling on just a couple of weekends and spending the rest of the time exploring Florence. The person who reported

spending \$2,000 traveled every weekend and prior to the program.

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 May 15, 2018 was 1 € = \$ 1.16027. You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>. When looking at the costs listed below, 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: If an official cancellation notice is received:

- 45-31 days prior to the beginning of the term, the student will be liable for \$500 of the tuition
- within 30 days of the start of the term, the student will be liable for 50% of the tuition
- After the start of the program, no tuition refunds are available.

Housing: If an official withdrawal form is received:

- 30 days or MORE prior to the check-in date, the housing deposit (US\$300) will be refunded.
- 29-15 days preceding the check-in date, the student will lose the housing deposit (US\$300).

- 14-0 days preceding the check-in date, the student will lose the housing deposit (US \$300) AND is liable for the full term's rent.

The student will be fully liable for the total housing cost and housing deposit if no official notice of the student's cancellation is received by LdM before check-in date.

Please note that you are responsible for paying the charges 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 USA 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 US Consulate/Embassy for further details. Doctors cannot supply it in Italy, and you will not be able to have it sent over. 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:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationList.asp>
[X](#)

UW-Eau Claire's Student Health Services offers immunizations (IG, tetanus, Hepatitis B, etc.) and health education on international travel. Tel. (715) 836-5360.

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. To explore the possibility of any other accommodations, contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

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](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html).

Safety in Italy

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>

The most recent version of the State Department Information is included at the back of this guide. Pay particular attention to the sections on Safety & Security, Crime, and Victims of Crime.

Safety issues specific to Florence will be provided at orientation in Italy.

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 twenty-four hours/day, seven days/week if difficulties arise.

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 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 and 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. Cost was ~19€ in 2017; this amount is charged directly to your credit card at the time of filing. Detailed information will be included in your pre-departure guide from LdM.

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 Florence in January are generally mild, by Wisconsin standards, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. That said, buildings are typically not heated to the temperatures U.S. Americans are used to and interiors may feel cold and damp, particularly in older buildings.

With that in mind, bring clothes that you can wear—or take off—in layers. You will want clothing that is washable and does not shrink easily. Throwing in a set of light long underwear is not a bad idea, and you may also want warm pajamas.

What to Pack

You will receive a suggested packing list from your peer advisor during your orientation 2 in November. LdM will provide additional suggestions in their pre-departure guide.

Appliances

The standard electric current in Europe is 220 volts. US appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110 volts. 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 Florence. 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!

Most past students have either flown directly into Florence (Florence Peretola Airport), or into Rome (Fiumicino/FCO) and then continued to Florence by train. **You must arrive at the housing check-in by 4:30 pm on the arrival day.**

- If you are flying into Florence, allow at least an hour to get from the airport to the check-in point. **To be safe, your flight should arrive by 3pm.**
- If you are arriving by train, the Santa Maria Novella train station is generally a 5-10 minute walk from the check-in point, so **book a train that arrives at SMN no later than 4pm.**

If you are traveling in Europe prior to the arrival day, **you must arrive at the housing check-in point by 3:00 pm on the arrival day.**

You may wish to purchase **travel or trip cancellation insurance** when you purchase your ticket, in case there are changes to your travel plans that are outside of your control. 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.

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.

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 provide a list of possible places to stay shortly before departure.

If you arrive late, proceed to Florence. You must contact either the LdM North American Enrollment Services and Academic Relations Office or the LdM office in Italy to inform them of your arrival time if you are arriving late.

At Orientation 2 in November, you will discuss a back-up arrival plan in case your flight is delayed and you will be arriving outside of check-in hours. If you are arriving in the middle of the night, you should plan to stay in a hotel and contact LdM-Italy the following morning.

Getting to your Apartment

LdM will provide the specific address of the housing check-in shortly before departure.

Arriving by plane: You will take a taxi from the airport in Florence to the LdM housing check-in point.

Arriving by train: the check-in point is usually a short walk from the train station; depending on the amount of luggage you have, you may want to take a taxi.

At housing check-in, you will get a housing orientation and the keys for your apartment from the LdM staff and can go on to the apartment. Plan on 45 minutes to an hour for this process. Again, students often make the

initial trip to their apartment by taxi, due to the amount of luggage.

Luggage Storage

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.

LdM typically holds an orientation dinner at the beginning of the week that classes start. It is a free, buffet-style dinner that is highly recommended by past participants as a great way to meet other LdM students. The dinner is semi-formal, so you will want to have a set of nice clothes to wear.

HOUSING

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 provided by LdM.

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.

Housing is in double rooms in shared apartments. 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.

Your housing assignment will be e-mailed to you one week prior to the beginning of the program.

Explanation of Housing Arrangements

LdM students live in LdM-sponsored apartments. 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 within a 5-20 minute walk from the main LdM 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 Florence is a very old city, and you are 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 is also a very popular city, 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 - 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. None of the apartments have air-conditioning. (Past students note that even if the property has it, the landlords are not allowed to turn it on.)

Living in a Florence 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. This may not seem like the best thing to do in February, when daytime temperatures are generally in the 40s--but it is essential for the health of the building and its occupants!

Average Italian water and electrical use are included in your rent. This means that you are expected to conserve by doing simple things like turning off the lights as you leave a room and taking showers of a reasonable length. If you find a way to trick the thermostat and keep the temperature of the apartment higher than it was set, and you therefore use double the amount of utilities than average, **you will be charged for the difference.**

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 properly in the trash! This will be explained at orientation in Italy, and there is information on the back of the apartment doors--but if you

don't understand, be sure to ask your adviser. Once you get a system down, it will only take a few minutes each week to do it if everyone pitches in.

Apartment Keys

Be aware 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.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The LDM campus provides many activities during the week. Activities are one-time events. You will need to sign up in advance. Some activities are free, and others are no more than \$10. Some examples include making gelato, a boat tour along the river, theatre performances, movie nights, and many others.

COMMUNICATION

Information on inexpensive international calling, as well as 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

Wi-Fi is provided in your apartment; however, the signal may be weak, and you will need your own device (laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc) 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 via any of the shipping services or the U.S. Postal Service. We

recommend that the packages state "For Personal Use Only - No Commercial Value" on them so that additional VAT (value added tax) is not charged.

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

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

<i>Cities</i>	<i>Culture/Travel</i>	<i>Country</i>
Florence Virtual Tour: http://www.italyguides.it/en/tuscany/florence Calendar of Events: http://www.visitflorence.com/florence-events/ What to do and see: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/florence	Culture & Customs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.kwintessental.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/italy-country-profile.html • 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 • http://www.sena.it/Home/78-1-en.html 	Government/ Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.understandingitaly.com/profile-content/government.html • http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Italy-POLITICS-GOVERNMENT-AND-TAXATION.html
Tuscania Information about Tuscania: http://www.bestsmalltownsitaly.com/town/tuscania-lazio-center/ City of Tuscania: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuscania Pictures: 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PAST PARTICIPANT VOICES

WHAT THEY WISH THEY HAD KNOWN BEFORE THEY WENT

- That public bathrooms are hardly ever free in Italy!
- Don't bring actual US dollars to exchange. The rate will be terrible.
- Don't commit to all of the weekend trips until meeting people in Italy.

SAFETY TIPS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

- There is safety in groups - my friends and I came across some creepy men while traveling.
- Pickpockets. Just be smart; use the buddy system and be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't walk around with your phone out all the time. People will take it directly out of your hands.

HOW THEY SUMMED IT UP

I absolutely loved this experience, and loved that I could fit in study abroad through a winterim program.
Christine B., Winterim 18

This was a great experience. I learned a lot and will cherish the memories we made. There is something in study abroad for everyone! *Hannah C., Winterim 18*

Studying abroad challenges you in way that you never thought about. You may think you are ready, but obstacles come at fast and head on. However, you can overcome them if you believe in yourself. At the end, you are amazed in yourself. The experiences made will leave an impact on you forever.
-Kristine M., Winterim 16

I was able to learn so much about my host city, and also about myself as well, during my Italian cultural immersion. It was wonderful being able to travel and experience different parts of Italy. I would do it again, in a heartbeat. - *Hayley M., Winterim 16*

