

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



LORENZO DE' MEDICI, ITALY
SPRING 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 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 your program. It is designed to complement the handbook, the LdM Academic Catalog and Pre-Departure guide, 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 it is impossible for any single 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 more than 40 years of experience, Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM) is one of Italy's most well-established study abroad institutions.

Depending on the site you attend, you can choose from more than 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 semester.

The Locations

LdM's original campus in Florence was established in 1973. In recent years, they have begun to offer programs in Rome and Tuscany. For Spring 19, all UWEC students are planning to go to Florence.

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

Rome/Roma

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

All Campuses

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Depart from U.S | Monday, Jan 28 |
| Arrive in Italy | Tuesday, Jan 29 |
| Orientation (required!) | Jan 30-Feb 1 |
| Classes Begin | Monday, Feb 4 |
| Last day to add/drop | Friday, Feb 8 |
| Mid-Terms | March 18-22 |
| Spring Break | March 23-31 |
| Classes Resume | Monday, April 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Friday class day-required | Friday, April 12 |
| Holidays | Apr 22, Apr 25, May 1 |
| Friday class day required | Friday, May 3 |
| End of Semester Event | Saturday, May 11 |
| Final Exams | May 13-17 |
| Housing Move-Out | Saturday, May 18 |

This calendar was current at the time of printing. Any updates will be posted to the LdM website: <http://www.ldminstitute.com/en/main/academics/academic-calendar/>

ACADEMICS

There is additional 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 Spring 2019**. You will then be registered by the CIE for your term abroad under a blanket course number (INTA) but NOT for the specific courses you indicated on your LdM application. 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. **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 semester.** 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 alternates), **only one course can be changed. 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. Section changes are considered course changes.

Italian Language Classes

All LdM semester students are required to take an Italian language class at an appropriate level. LdM Italian classes are taught with an immersion philosophy, meaning that only Italian is spoken in the classroom. This is a widely-accepted method of language education and is logical at LdM because there may be many first languages represented in any given Italian classroom, so using one specific language, such as English, as a reference point, would disadvantage some students. However, it will require an adjustment if you have previously studied a language using English as a reference point.

LdM offers one free tutoring session/week for Italian classes. Past students strongly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity. Other suggestions from past students include:

- **Form small study groups** with a few classmates. Since some people understand some concepts, and others understand others, regularly getting together to practice and review is very helpful.
- **Use Italian as much as possible outside of class.** Several students mentioned that even though it is easy to speak English in Florence & Rome, people really appreciated it when they tried to speak Italian and often explained things to them/corrected them if

they were saying something incorrectly, which helped them learn.

- **Arrange for additional tutoring**, either through LdM or with a U.S. student in a more advanced Italian level.
- **Use an on-line language resource** to supplement your classwork.

It is interesting to note that students studying in Tuscany reported fewer difficulties with the Italian courses, and larger language gains, even if they had not studied any Italian prior to arriving. They attributed this to the fact that ***they regularly used their Italian outside of the classroom.***

Internships

The LdM Florence & Rome campuses offer credit-bearing internships in limited areas such as business, communications, and graphic design. Offerings vary each semester; specific internships are publicized approximately three months in advance of the term. Internship placements in Florence are quite competitive, while in recent semesters, Rome has had more internships than applicants in certain areas.

In three-credit internships (minimum of 135 contact hours), students will be expected to work 10-12 hours/week. A limited number of six-credit internships (minimum of 260 contact hours) are available. These internships require 20 hours of work per week. In either case, students must maintain a full academic schedule.

Because the work must be scheduled around the intern's class schedule and at times convenient for the business, some **hours are often scheduled on Fridays, and interns may be required to work some Saturdays, also, depending on the needs of the company.** Interns are expected to treat their internship as they would any professional employment opportunity and need to be on time and at work as scheduled. Therefore, if you are considering applying for an internship, **you need to weigh the academic and career benefits of**

completing an internship against the reduced flexibility you will have for weekend travel.

Each internship has specific pre-requisites, which may include certain majors and/or pre-requisite courses. You apply for internships separately from regular course enrollment. The process requires a resume, an application essay, two reference letters, and if relevant, a portfolio. Internship placements in Florence are competitive. You must have an alternate course selection listed on your course registration form, in the event that you are not placed in an internship.

You will typically be notified with your course registration confirmation if you have been placed in an internship. If you have been, your final step is an on-site interview after arrival. LdM reports that it is very rare for a student who has been placed in an internship to not be allowed to continue after the interview.

If you are placed in an internship, please keep in mind that you are there to learn, not to lead the company. LdM reports that they have lost some internship sites because the intern thought that the fact that s/he spoke English gave them license to tell their supervisors how to do their jobs.

Course Load

Semester students may take 12-16 credits per semester. Most classes are three credits, although some Italian language classes are four. If you are enrolled in a certificate program, you may take up to 18 credits per semester.

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. **In general for semester-long courses, 2-3 absences will lower**

your grade by one full letter; 4 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.

Neither 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.

Please note that 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, 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. (Note that in Rome, 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 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.

Because the student groups in Rome 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 semester participants who responded to our survey reported spending between \$2,000 and \$4,000 dollars on personal travel. Those who spent less said they traveled outside of their host city about every other weekend; the person who reported spending \$4,000 traveled every weekend and extensively during spring break.

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 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, 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: For a cancellation

- 45 days or MORE prior to the check-in date, the housing deposit (US\$300) will be refunded.
- 44-31 days preceding the check-in date, the student will lose the housing deposit (US\$300).
- 30-11 days preceding the check-in date, the student is liable for the housing deposit (US \$300) plus \$1200 in rent.
- 10-0 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 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 review the [CDC recommendations](#) for Italy or any other country you plan to visit.

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.)

In Rome, the LdM staff will help you access medical care as necessary. In all cases, you will need to pay up front and file for reimbursement with CISI.

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.

For mental health assistance in Rome, the on-site staff will assist you in identifying appropriate providers as necessary.

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](#).

Safety in Italy

Review the [U.S. State Department Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Italy](#). 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 the required 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 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.

Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. The CIE will post basic information about the current visa options for U.S. citizens for study in Italy to the Learning Content section of your online BlugoldsAbroad account during the semester prior to departure. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for Italy, and to apply for and receive a visa from an Italian consulate or embassy in a timely manner. This involves travel to St. Paul, Milwaukee, or Chicago, depending on your state of residence.**

Please read the "Visa" section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

PACKING TIPS

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

Clothing & Weather

In September, expect average highs in the 80s and lows around 60. Temperatures will drop gradually throughout the fall with highs around 70 in October 60 in November, and 50 in December, and lows in the 50s, 40s and 30s, respectively.

In February, expect average highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. Temperatures will rise gradually throughout the spring, with highs in the 60s in March and April, and the 70s in May.

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.

What to Pack

You will receive a suggested packing list from your peer advisor 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 120 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 host city, arriving on the date listed in the calendar section of this guide. Note that to get a student visa for a semester in Italy, you must purchase **a roundtrip ticket**. Students going for the full year may be allowed to purchase a one-way ticket. See the visa information in your Learning Content for details.

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!

Those of you going to Rome will fly into Leonardo de Vinci International Airport (known as Rome-Fiumicino). Most past Florence 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.

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 during the semester prior to departure.

If you arrive late, proceed to your study city. 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.

Florence:

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.

Rome: An LdM staff member will meet you at the airport on the specified arrival day, give you your housing assignment/address, and assist you in getting a taxi to the apartment.

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.

There is also a departure dinner with a formal dress code. You will need to register for the dinner in advance. Past students report that it is a free, all you can eat buffet in a very nice restaurant, and a nice way to enjoy time together before final exams.

HOUSING

Application and Placement Process

Whether you are going to Florence or Rome, you will live in shared apartments. 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.

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; you must pay this fee with your housing deposit.** The 2018-19 single room supplement in Florence is \$740; in Rome is it \$920. There are a limited number of single rooms available, and assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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 within a 5-20-minute walk from the main LdM building. 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, 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 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 it is a very old city, you are usually living in the central neighborhood 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 house four to six people in a combination of double and/or single rooms. (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. 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 all 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. 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 whenever possible by doing simple things like turning off the lights as you leave a room and taking relatively short showers. **In the winter, 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.** Similarly, in warmer weather, 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 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 and Rome are big cities. **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

LdM provides many options for getting involved. Be sure to join early; the semester will be gone before you know it!

Clubs

LdM Florence offers a number of on-going clubs. You may only join one for the semester and are expected to attend club meetings. Past participants highly recommend the walking club as a great way to get to know Florence and the surrounding area.

Activities

Activities are one-time events and are offered at all campuses. You will need to sign-up in advance. Some activities are free, and others have a small fee. Some examples include making gelato, a boat

tour along the river, theater performances, movie nights, and many more.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering, be sure to ask about this during orientation. There are a number of opportunities available in Florence and there may also be options in Rome for motivated students. If you choose one that requires at least 15 hours of service, you may be able to count it for half of your UWEC service-learning requirement, but you would need to get approval in advance. You can find details on the Service-Learning website:

<http://www.uwec.edu/SL/students/index.htm>

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 in designated LdM buildings 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

Pompeii, as well as others outside of Italy. **These trips are optional and at additional cost.**

Information will be emailed about a month before the beginning of the semester.

The Rome campuses may offer some weekend fieldtrips, also, if there is enough student interest. The staff is also very helpful in assisting students with planning independent travel.

Buses, Metro, and Taxis

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

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TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Organized Travel

LdM Florence offers several weekend excursions led by qualified LdM staff that enable you to visit some of the most famous Italian cities and sites. These usually includes Venice, Rome, Cinque Terre, Alps and the Garda Lake, Capri, Sorrento,

WEB RESOURCES: ITALY

| Cities | Culture/Travel | Country |
|---|---|--|
| 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.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 |
| Lorenzo de' Medici http://www.ldminstitute.com/ | | |

CONTACT INFORMATION

LdM Florence Main Campus and Headquarters

Via Faenza 43, 50123
Florence, Italy
ph: +39 055 287203 or 287360
LdM Emergency Line (24/7): +39
346 0150060

LdM Rome Main Campus and Headquarters

Via XX Settembre, n° 4
00187 – Rome
Tel: Tel: 06/42016903
LdM Emergency Line (24/7):
0039.348.5739948

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
Fax: (715) 836-4948

Cheryl Lochner-Wright
Study Abroad Coordinator
E-mail: lochnecb@uwec.edu

UW-Eau Claire After Hours Numbers

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

PAST PARTICIPANT VOICES

WHAT THEY WISH THEY HAD KNOWN BEFORE THEY LEFT

- More Italian! Learn and practice at least the basics!
- That even though lots of people travel every weekend, you don't have to. There's lots to do in –and-around Florence!
- That homesickness is a real thing, and it's tough to get out of that rut if you are on social media with people at home all the time.
 - That public bathrooms are hardly ever free in Italy!

THE BEST PART OF THEIR EXPERIENCE MID-WAY THROUGH

- Exploring Florence and meeting new people from around the world.
 - Learning first-hand about another culture.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS THEY HAD TO MAKE

- Coffees are really small, and they don't eat big breakfasts.
 - The language barrier can be a struggle sometimes.
- Living in a city—I've never lived anywhere this big. I had to get used to not seeing grass and learning to deal with everyone smoking cigarettes.
 - Grocery shopping.

SAFETY TIPS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

- There are pickpockets. Be smart; use the buddy system and be aware of your surroundings.
 - Don't walk around with your phone out. People will take it directly out of your hands.
 - You are living in a city. Doors must be locked at all times.
- There is safety in groups - my friends and I came across some creepy men while traveling.

HOW THEY SUMMED IT UP

How can you sum up the four most unbelievable, indescribable, undreamt of months of your life into a paragraph? You simply cannot. You need to go abroad, make your own experiences, and live this life of travel, culture, food, learning and love. You will 100% come out of this a different person!

Florence is hands down the most beautifully vibrant city I was lucky to call home for four months. I want every single human being I know to get a chance to spend even a week here. LDM was such a great school, the professors were the sweetest, most intelligent professors I know. The small classes made it so easy to meet other students and really made it easy to form a good relationship with your teacher.