



# Education Abroad in ITALIAN STUDIES

## Benefits of International Experience for Italian Studies

The Italian Studies Program views education abroad as an integral component to its students' education. Students majoring or minoring in Italian Studies are encouraged to study abroad in Italy for a semester or year, or at least during the summer. By studying abroad, you will be enriched by the Italian people, customs, traditions and language. Imagine seeing the historical sites you read about in books, or practicing Italian on a daily basis with native Italian speakers. You'll also fast-track fulfillment of the major or minor courses, allowing you more freedom with your Italian class schedule on-grounds, and/or the room to fit in another major.

You'll further enhance your academic degree at U.Va., as well as your personal development. Studying abroad helps students develop intercultural skills, such as cross-cultural communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and—of course—language acquisition.

## Student Experiences

### Taylor Wilson, UVA in Siena Fall 2012 (Italian Studies and Art History):

*"Studying abroad in Italy was not just a vacation: it was an incredible experience that shaped me in almost every facet. Experiencing Italian culture allowed me to analyze the art more deeply and obtain an Italian perspective instead of an American professor's. Going abroad also allowed me to learn a language I probably would have never been able to master in the United States. In Siena, not many people speak English because it is such a small town, and that charming factor forced me to speak Italian in order to communicate...I certainly attribute my experience in Siena to the person I am today."*



### Steps to go abroad

1. **Get a passport.**
2. **Complete the online Education Abroad Workshop**
3. **Meet with an ISO education abroad advisor and explore opportunities.**
4. **Talk with your departmental about timing and course requirements.**
5. **Research programs and apply online**
6. **Participate in cross-cultural seminars (CORE).**
7. **Go abroad.**
8. **Participate in events for study abroad returnees.**
9. **Showcase your experience on your resume.**
10. **Share your experience with your peers.**

Contact for academic advising and course approvals for the major/minor:

Adrienne Ward, Director of Undergraduate Programs  
aw7h@virginia.edu  
461 New Cabell Hall  
434-924-7159

For more program information, make an appt. online with an Education Abroad Advisor for Italy.

International Studies Office  
208 Minor Hall  
[studyabroad@virginia.edu](mailto:studyabroad@virginia.edu)  
[educationabroad.virginia.edu](http://educationabroad.virginia.edu)

## Funding Education Abroad

- There is a program for every budget! Speak with an education abroad advisor to learn about your options.
- Financial aid is portable. If you receive any kind of financial aid, or use a program such as VPEP, make sure to inform your advisor early on in your planning.
- Scholarship deadlines are often earlier than program application deadlines—research options and apply early!
- Use the cost comparison worksheet on the Education Abroad website to compare programs. Consider what is included in each program and your budget.

## Academic and Timing Considerations

Depending on the type of education abroad program you select, you may receive direct or transfer credit for the courses you complete abroad. Students who study on a UVA program may count up to fifteen credits per semester of study toward their Italian Studies major, and up to twelve credits toward the Italian Studies minor. Students who study on an outside approved program in Italy may count up to nine credits per semester toward the Italian Studies major, and up to nine credits toward the Italian Studies minor. All study abroad courses for major or minor credit must be pre-approved by the Director of Undergraduate Programs of Italian Studies. Please note that not all approved programs in Italy will satisfy CLAS Foreign Language Requirement credit and Italian Studies major/minor credit. Students can usually receive elective credit for ITAL and/or ITTR coursework while abroad, but for other credit needs you should speak with the Director of Undergraduate Programs listed on the front of this sheet.

To ensure a well-integrated education abroad experience, the Italian Studies program and the International Studies Office recommend planning early in your academic career. Speak with an education abroad advisor and your Italian academic advisor as early as first year to help you find the best program with the coursework better suited for your academic and personal goals while still allowing you to graduate on time.

## Education Abroad Programs for Italian Studies Majors & Minors

### U.Va. Programs

U.Va. programs are designed and operated by the University of Virginia or in partnership with another organization, as is the case with UVA in Siena and U.Va. In Florence. Students in these two programs include students from U.Va. and other U.S. institutions. Most U.Va. Programs offer direct credit, but the UVA in Florence program is transfer credit.

- UVA in Italy: Siena (in affiliation with CET):** UVA in Siena program is designed to give students a broad understanding of Italy's heritage and culture, through courses taught in both English and Italian. The program welcomes art history and Italian Studies majors, as well as non-majors interested in exploring Italy's art history, language, politics, literature, and culture. Students will study in Siena, a medieval city an hour south of Florence well known for its Piazza del Campo and its annual horse race, Il Palio. Available semester, year, and summer terms.
- UVA in Italy: Florence at the Palazzo Rucellai:** Explore the heart of Florence, a UNESCO world heritage site, while attending classes at Palazzo Rucellai. Classes are taught in both English and Italian with field trips, museum visits, and cultural performances frequently complementing formal classwork. Students immerse themselves in Italian culture while walking around Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, in addition to gaining valuable language skills. Available semester, year, and summer terms.
- January Term: UVA in Italy: Love Affair with Tuscany:** This short-term program is a cultural studies course, focusing on perceptions of Tuscany—from the locals and through the eyes of travelers—as well as intercultural issues such as national identity, otherness, travel and tourism. January term programs vary by year, so visit [www.virginia.edu/studyabroad](http://www.virginia.edu/studyabroad) for the most up-to-date offerings.



Jill Bernstein and Virginia Nyce, UVA in Siena

### Outside Programs\*\*

Outside programs are operated by a third party provider or other U.S. institution. Some programs facilitate direct enrollment at another university while others offer their own program for U.S. students. A U.Va. application is required, as well as the program application to the provider. You are not limited to these programs, but an unapproved program requires a petition application found on the ISO website.

### A. Semester & Year Programs

- Cortona, University of Georgia Study Abroad Program:** This program provides a challenging opportunity for the serious art student who wishes to combine international travel with an intensive studio and classroom experience. The program offers a variety of art history, studio art, and cultural studies classes.
- Perugia, Umbra Institute through Arcadia University:** There are multiple options for study at the Umbra Institute for a range of language levels: immerse yourself in the Direct Enroll option to take classes at local universities if you have intermediate to advanced Italian. Improve your language through the General Studies or Food Studies Program, taking a language course and culture classes in English. The Honors Program allows students to conduct original research.

- **Rome, IES Abroad in Rome:** Often called a living museum, explore Italy's political center and visit the Vatican, one of Italy's major religious centers. Enroll in courses on Italian language, art, history and architecture, literature, theatre, political science and more taught in both English and Italian. Participate in field trips to places such Venice, Cinque Terre, and the Amalfi Coast.
- **Rome, Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies with Duke University:** The Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome provides undergraduate students with an opportunity in Rome to study ancient history, archaeology, Greek and Latin literature, Italian language, and ancient art.
- **Rome, Temple University in Rome:** Temple University in Rome offers students the opportunity to choose from a range of courses focusing on Italy through the ages, while immersing themselves in Italian culture and language in Italy's capital. Courses are taught in both English and Italian, and internships are available for credit each semester.
- **Sicily, Intensive Italian Language & Culture Studies with CET:** Experience a side of Italy most tourists never see by studying with CET Sicily. Students explore the beautiful, Italian island while exercising Italian language skills, and learning about "street Italian." In addition to a unique study abroad experience, students also have a mid-semester excursion to Italian mainland to see some of Italy's other famous cities.



UVA in Siena participant travels to Rome, Summer 2013

## B. Summer Programs

- **Perugia, Arcadia: Italy: Umbra Institute:** Enjoy a summer at the Umbra Institute located in the center of Perugia and improve language proficiency. The Institute offers students an intensive, full-immersion Italian language and culture experience. Students work in the classroom as well as participate in local dinners, socials, and cultural activities. Classes are conducted entirely in Italian.
- **Milan, IES abroad in Milan:** A center for business and fashion industries, Milan offers students the opportunity to assimilate fully into the life of modern Italy, while learning about Milan's rich history. Explore the Piazza Duomo and the La Scala Opera House, and take field trips to Lago Maggiore and Cinque Terre. This program offers courses taught in both English and Italian.
- **Rome, IES Abroad in Rome Summer Internship or Language & Area Studies:** Students on the internship program are guaranteed a placement at a local business or organization. Students work at least 25 hours a week and earn 1-6 credits. Students on the Language & Area Studies program take 6 credits: an Italian Language course and an English-taught area studies course. There is no language pre-requisite for either program.

\*\*Students are not limited to these programs. This list is merely a starting point. Programs not approved on the UVA education abroad website will require a petition application.



UVA students at Follonica Beach



Centro Storico, Perugia, Italy