

# Florence2022



## Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your  
summer study abroad experience



**OVERSEAS STUDY**

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.  
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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Address:               | Indiana University Summer Program in Florence<br>Hotel Villani<br>Via delle Oche, 11<br>50127 Firenze, ITALY |
| Telephone:             | 011-39-055-23-96-451   |
| Fax:                   | 011-39-055-23-53-48  |
| Program Directors:     | Professor Andrea Ciccarelli<br>Department of French and Italian<br>aciccare@indiana.edu                      |
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## PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

For six weeks each summer Indiana University faculty transform the city of Florence into a classroom for IU students. Italian language classes use Florentine markets for vocabulary practice and classes on Renaissance Florence take place in museums and artistic sites. Undergraduate students are housed together in a centrally-located small hotel and all instruction is provided by Indiana University professors.

This booklet is a supplement to the Getting Started handbook. While it contains specific program information, Getting Started contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before contacting the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the Web:

<https://overseas.iu.edu/docs/handbooks/florence-iu-sum.pdf>

## ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



### Helpful Program Information

Information to help prepare you for study abroad



### Student Advice

Suggestions from study abroad returnees



### Savvy Traveler Tips

Traveling tips to get you where you're going

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Florence Program is to offer students the opportunity to study the art, history and literature of the Renaissance in the city where the Renaissance began. Students take language classes and cultural classes on Renaissance Florence. Students will be immersed for six weeks in one of the most spectacular artistic cities in the world, surrounded by medieval and renaissance masterpieces.

The goal of the program is multifaceted. On the one hand, the program is conceived to introduce students to art and Italian culture, not excluding contemporary life-style and events; on the other hand, it also focuses upon Renaissance culture and art. Students will visit some of the best museums of the world, such as the Uffizi Gallery, The Accademia, and The Palatine Gallery; churches and monuments, such as the Duomo, S. Croce, S. Maria Novella, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti. They will also view Italian films, study language in specific cultural settings, and visit artisan shops and "botteghe." Cultural excursions to medieval and renaissance towns in central Italy (Assisi, Orvieto, Siena, Bologna...) are an integral component of the program.

# The Program in Florence

## Tentative Calendar 2022

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|                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| May 8 (Sunday) .....     | Arrive in Florence by 6 p.m.         |
| May 9 (Monday).....      | Classes begin (9 a.m.)               |
| May 13 (Friday) .....    | Excursion to Siena & San Gimignano   |
| May 20 (Friday) .....    | No excursion                         |
| May 26 (Thursday).....   | Excursion to Assisi                  |
| June 3 (Friday).....     | Excursion to Vallombrosa             |
| June 10 (Friday) .....   | No excursion                         |
| June 15 (Wednesday)..... | Excursion to Bologna - Monte Senario |
| June 16 (Thursday).....  | Final exams (varies by course time)  |
| June 17 (Friday) .....   | Last morning in the Hotel Villani    |

## Arrival in Florence

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May 8 is the official arrival day. You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements so that you are at the Hotel Villani by 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 8. Rooms will be assigned on arrival day and every effort will be made to accommodate roommate preferences.

Florence has a small but active airport and you can fly directly there from a number of European cities (Paris, Amsterdam, London, Frankfurt, etc.) and Italian cities (Rome, Milan). Change some money at the airport and then take a cab from the Florence airport to the Hotel Villani, which will cost about 30 Euros or ~\$35, adding a small supplement per suitcase and a tip of 10%.

There is also a convenient tram/ train that for about 8 Euro takes you to the train station. From there, you can take a taxi to Hotel Villani.

It is also possible to fly into Milan or Rome and take a train to Florence. Instructions for these options are as follows:

If you land in Milan: Take a bus from the Milan airport (rather far from the city) to the main train station in the center of town (Stazione Centrale) and then a fast train to Florence (there are two train companies: Trenitalia and Italo, both have fast trains. Trenitalia's are called "Freccie"; Italo does not have specific names as it has only fast trains. Both have special discount and fares, according to routes, times and ages of passengers. Upon arrival at the Milan airport take these steps: 1) use a debit card to withdraw Euros at an ATM machine or use directly a credit card; 2) buy a bus ticket at the ticket counters or at the automatic ticket kiosks (cash or credit card) from the Milan airport to the Milan train station (roughly \$10); 3) across from the bank, buy a train ticket from the Milan train station to the main station in Florence, Santa Maria Novella (to avoid long lines in the Milan train station); 4) proceed with your luggage to the bus that will take you from the airport directly to the train station in the center of town. We recommend that you not take a taxi into town unless you are sharing with another student, as the fare is expensive—about \$80.

If you arrive in Rome: At the Rome airport, use your debit card to obtain Euros at an ATM machine or use a credit card, look for the signs to the trains, and there purchase a ticket at the ticket counters or at the automatic ticket kiosks (cash or credit card) for the 45-minute ride to Rome's central Termini station (the last stop on the local or the only one on the direct train from Airport to Train Station, called "Leonardo," departure every 45 minutes). At Stazione Termini or, even better, at the airport (counter or automatic kiosk), purchase a ticket for the less than two-hour train trip to Florence's main station, Santa Maria Novella.

When you arrive at the Florence train station, exit to the left of the train tracks for the taxi stand; the trip to the Hotel Villani will cost about 10-15 Euros, including the charge per bag. We recommend that you take the taxi. Hotel Villani is within walking distance, about 15 minutes from the station, but not with a large suitcase.

## Visits from Family and Friends

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Encourage family and friends to visit you after the program ends in June so that they do not interrupt classes, excursions, and trips associated with the academic program. For security's sake, and legal reasons, the hotel rooms are not available for visitors during the program. Family members may enter only after the owner or staff on duty is notified and cannot stay overnight in the Hotel Villani.

## Academic Program

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On the Florence program you will earn a total of six Indiana University credit hours by completing two of the following courses.

### Italian Language Courses

All language courses are taught in Italian.

- M100 Elementary Italian I, 3 credits
- M150 Elementary Italian II, 3 credits
- M200 Intermediate Italian I, 3 credits
- M250 Intermediate Italian II, 3 credits
- M300/301 Italian Conversation, 3 credits

Required texts:

- M100/150/200/250: Sentieri, Vista Higher Learning 2nd edition (ISBN: 978-1-62680-803-4 or 978-1-62680-775-4). Package Components: Supersite Plus Code (w/WebSam + vText)
- Each course will also include a variety of readings from various rhetorical and stylistic genres, provided in Canvas or in a course packet that will be provided to you in Florence.
- All language students should bring an Italian-English dictionary.

Note: You may take only one of the language courses above. All Italian language texts are available only at the IU Memorial Union Bookstore.

## M234 Renaissance Florence

Prof. Andrea Ciccarelli, 3 credits

This course is designed to explore the main aspects of Renaissance civilization, with a major emphasis on the artistic developments, in Florence (1300's – 1500's). We will focus on:

- The passage from Gothic Architecture to the new style that recovers ancient classical forms (gives birth again = renaissance) through Brunelleschi's and Alberti's ideas
- The development of mural and table painting from Giotto to Masaccio, and henceforth to Fra Angelico, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli and Raphael.
- Sculpture, mostly on Ghiberti, Donatello and Michelangelo.



We will study and discuss, of course, other great Renaissance artists, in particular, for architecture: Michelozzo; for sculpture: Desiderio da Settignano, Cellini and Giambologna; for painting: Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Castagno, Filippino Lippi, Bronzino and Pontormo.

Classes will be mostly taught in place, in museums, churches and sites, but there will be a few recap classes that will be in the form of regular lectures. The visits during the out of town excursions, although not part of the syllabus, will be considered a complimentary part of M234, as sites are chosen for their relation to the Florentine artistic developments.

Required texts:

- The M234 course reader will be provided by e-mail to all participants.
- A good guide book of Florence (the instructor will recommend several that are available in Florence during the first class period)

## Textbooks

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Textbooks and readers for the language and culture courses (see course description on previous pages) should be purchased in the U.S. and taken with you to Italy. Language textbooks are available at the Indiana Memorial Union Bookstore. Ask at the information desk for Florence program texts; they will not be shelved under individual course numbers with summer session books.

## Class Schedule

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Classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 7:20 p.m. There are no classes on the days of the excursions — an integral part of the program. The Italian language classes meet daily and Renaissance Florence schedule vary from day to day. This schedule may look a little chaotic at first, but it allows the program to accommodate shifts in museum open hours and the blocks of time that classes require for



travel to churches and outlying towns.

Depending upon the final course enrollment, the schedule may be adjusted upon arrival in Florence.

The classes are held either in the dining room of the hotel or in classrooms at a nearby institute. The environment is relaxed, but the academic program is rigorous; you are expected to arrive at class on time with your textbook in hand and your assignments completed. Renaissance Florence classes are mobile. It requires that the group reaches museums and sites in a timely fashion (most of them are within a 10-15 minute walk from Hotel Villani).

## Excursions

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The excursions are one of the most popular features of the Florence program. Attendance is required. Excursions begin early morning and last the entire day (including supper). An air-conditioned bus picks up the group and takes you to interesting towns and cities in the Tuscan countryside, such as Siena, San Gimignano, Lucca and Pisa, or cities in nearby regions. The exact destination of each year's excursions is determined by available accommodations at the time. The hotel provides lunches and water, and the program covers all fees, museum entrances, and hearty suppers at picturesque country inns or at restaurants in Florence at the end of the day. There will also be some optional walking excursions around Florence, designed so that you can visit places you may not otherwise visit.

| Time       | Monday       | Tuesday      | Wednesday    | Thursday     |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 9:00-11:00 | M100<br>M150 | M100<br>M150 | M100<br>M150 | M100<br>M150 |
| 11:10-1:00 |              | M234         | M234         | M234         |
| 1:15-2:15  | Lunch        | Lunch        | Lunch        | Lunch        |
| 2:20-4:20  | M250         | M200         | M250         | M250         |
| 4:20-6:10  |              | M200         |              |              |
| 6:20-7:30  | M300         | M300<br>M200 | M300         | M300<br>M200 |
| 7:45       | Supper       | Supper       | Supper       | Supper       |

# Life in Florence

## Housing

The Hotel Villani is a family-run hotel located just a few steps from the Duomo. Undergraduate students will share double or triple rooms with bathrooms. Every effort will be made to accommodate your roommate preferences. Living in a palazzo has both advantages and disadvantages, but one purpose of the Summer Program in Florence is to teach you to understand, appreciate, and tolerate different customs and ways of life. You must be willing to live and work with a group of students for a brief period of time in a spirit of cooperation. Students will get the keys to the front door (do not lose them!), and need to remember that when they come back late at night (past 11pm is late during the weekdays), they need not to slam doors or speak aloud in corridors, have loud WhatsApp calls outside of the room in the hall, etc.

There are no washing machines but there are several laundromats located within a few blocks of the hotel.

If you have valuables (cameras, jewelry, excessive amounts of cash, important documents), the hotel will assume responsibility for their safety if they are deposited with the manager, who will give you a receipt. You will have access to these items at all times or you can deposit them in a safe in the room.

The two Italian Department associate instructors will reside at the hotel and will be on hand to help with problems. Faculty members live in apartments elsewhere. (Professor Ciccarelli is on call for emergencies at any time, and the managers of the hotel are also very useful in case of need.) Your housing arrangements with the hotel (room plus breakfast and supper on weekdays) begin with the evening meal on Sunday, May 8, and end with breakfast on the morning of Friday, June 17, unless you make previous arrangements with them directly to extend your stay there. However, the hotel will likely charge you a higher rate than the special group rate.

For security's sake, and to obey the Italian law, hotel rooms are not available for program visitors during the program. Guests may enter only after the owner or staff on duty is notified.

## Meals

Your housing fees cover a continental breakfast of bread, croissant, jam, butter, nutella, cereals, etc., plus coffee and milk, cappucino, and a supper served Monday to Friday at 7:45 p.m. Suppers consist of a first course or primo (usually a pasta or rice dish), a second course or secondo of chicken, beef or cold cuts, with contorno of vegetables or salad, and fruit, pudding or ice cream for dessert. A half bottle of mineral water per student per day is included in the housing fee. It is the standard custom in all hotels in Italy to charge separately for drinks at meals. Only tap water is available at no additional charge. You must purchase extra beverages and additional mineral water directly from the hotel, both at meals and during the rest of the day. IU rules apply to any program abroad, and if you purchase any alcohol it cannot be brought to dinner or consumed in the Hotel.

You will arrange your own daily lunches and weekend dinners. Most students prefer to eat light lunches, sandwiches or snacks outside the hotel at midday, since you are usually out during these hours. Program faculty can help point out the locations of reasonably priced restaurants, snack bars, and pizza parlors near the program residence.

Students who are vegetarians or vegans, or who have special dietary problems will be accommodated. It is preferable to know as soon as possible what your special needs are. If there is any particular food that you must have on a regular basis, there are various health food stores in Florence with the same kinds of foods that one finds in American health food stores, and Italian supermarkets and grocery stores carry natural and specialty foods.

## Medical Care

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Program staff will help you find Italian physicians (most of whom speak English). If you have medical problems, you will be in good hands. There is a clinic a few blocks from the Hotel, as well as a major Hospital. An English doctor, Dr. Stephen Kerr, will see students in his office at Piazza Mercato Nuovo 1, not far from the Hotel. His website is [www.dr-kerr.com](http://www.dr-kerr.com), his e-mail is [kerr\(at\)iol.it](mailto:kerr(at)iol.it) and he accepts credit cards. You can also WhatsApp or message him at +39 335 836 1682. if you need a doctor please talk to Prof. Ciccarelli or one of the AIs or the Hotel managers.

## Money & Banking

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The European Union monetary unit is the Euro (€). The Euro is divided into 100 cents. There are eight Euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 Euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents. Each Euro coin has a common European face and a face designed by each monetary member state. All coins can be used in every monetary member country. There are seven Euro notes that are differently sized and colored, and come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. The notes, unlike the coins, do not have national sides and are completely uniform.

## Telephones

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Prepaid cell phones can be rented and they are not expensive (approx. €15-20 month). Some students actually purchase them and use them throughout Europe. Many American cell phones will work, but the calls are more expensive, unless you make special agreements with your phone provider. There is Internet in the Hotel, as well as in most cafes', and in many other areas in Florence, and WhatsApp is the way to go if you do not want to make regular phone calls. Many students purchase a new SIM card when arriving in Florence. In this way they can keep their cell phone and pay for calls at the local rate. For iPhones you may want to make arrangements with your provider before leaving and ask for special travel rates.

You may place international calls from the hotel with a U.S. calling card, you may prefer to use any public phone for that purpose.

Florence is six hours ahead of Eastern daylight time, so unless there is a genuine emergency, calls from home should be preferably placed between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. EDT so that they reach the Hotel around supper time in Florence (7:30-9:30 p.m.). Calls placed after 5 p.m. in the U.S. (11 p.m. in Florence) will disturb the other students and guests, and the AIs.

## E-mail & WiFi

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WiFi is available at Hotel Villani for an additional fee (about 60 Euro for the duration of the program). There are also numerous Internet places throughout Florence.

## Mail

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Air mail letters normally take about one week to reach Florence from the United States. Do not plan to receive money from home by mail. It is forbidden by the law in Italy to send cash through the mail.

## Weather

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In general, May in Florence is characterized by moderate temperatures and occasional rain. Temperature excursion is noticeable in May: it can be 80 in the early afternoon and 50ish in early morning. June is more consistent and can be hot, although normally not before the very end of the program. However, the early summer weather is as unpredictable in Florence as it is in Bloomington, so bring clothing you can wear in layers when the weather is cool and peel off a layer at a time as the weather warms up. During the excursions, we will go to some hill towns and in the evening it will be chilly, so bring a sweater and a rain/wind proof jacket. The uncomfortable hot summer weather usually does not begin until July. There is air conditioning at the Villani, but you should plan to use it only when necessary, as it cools off considerably at night, and opening the window, in May, is almost certainly better. Please turn off your AC if you leave your room for a while.

## Safety in Florence

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The U.S. Embassy in Rome reports that American visitors are generally safe in Italy and are not singled out or targeted based on nationality, but rather for looking like a tourist. Americans tend not to experience crime in any large numbers and are safer from violent crime in Italy than in most large American cities. This does not mean that people and visitors are immune from crime. Most of the crimes committed against American tourists and visitors fall in the category of petty theft, such as pick pocketing and purse snatching. Only a handful of reports of violent crime were received in the past years.

General advice from the U.S. Embassy for safeguarding valuables is as follows:

- **While on Foot:** Be cognizant of your surroundings. Know where you need to go and walk with a purpose. Do not give the impression that you are off balance in your walking style or appear to be lost or wandering. There is evidence that criminals will observe these vulnerabilities and target these types of individuals. Also, do not walk close to the street or too close to the buildings. Care should be given to walk, as much as possible, in the middle of the sidewalk. Whenever possible, walk against the traffic. If you are wearing an earbud, make sure that the volume is low enough to hear everything around you.



#### STUDENT ADVICE

Summer in Florence was an amazing experience. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to live and study in Europe with a group of strangers that I came to know as my friends.

• **Public Transportation:** Be attentive to your surroundings and keep control of your personal items. While waiting in line, keep your luggage close to your person, or put the luggage straps through your arm or one of your legs to keep control of your personal belongings. All authorized taxis are yellow or white and have meters - take only these taxis or Uber. Do not use a private or unlicensed car service.

It is recommended that travelers review the U.S. Embassy website at <https://itembassy.gov> for all updated and special information.

## Eurail Pass

Traveling by train is a popular way to see Europe. In most countries the trains are comfortable and they go nearly everywhere. If most of your summer travel will be within Italy, an Italian rail pass or individual rail tickets may be most economical. If you have ambitious plans for travel outside Italy after the program ends, one of the well-known Eurail passes may be worth the investment. They offer unlimited travel in Western Europe (except Britain and Northern Ireland) for fixed periods of time. There are a number of Eurail options; check with your travel agent to find the one that best suits your travel plans. All Eurail passes must be purchased in the United States. Read carefully the booklet that accompanies your rail pass so that you understand how to use it correctly.

The fast trains in Italy, called "Eurostars" (Freccia Rossa/ Argento) by "Trenitalia" ("Italo" has only fast trains) are more expensive but very convenient; the Trenitalia "intercity" trains are also fairly fast, although they stop more frequently. Regional trains are good to go around Tuscany, but not for greater distances, as they stop in most towns. The Rome-Florence fast train takes an hour and a half; the intercity takes two hours. On major distances, the time saved is more significant (Florence -Venice is 1 hour faster by fast train, Rome -Milan 1 hour and 30 minutes).

## Packing

Pack light. Bring versatile, mix and match clothing that minimizes care and weight. Emphasize comfortable (but not sloppy) clothing you can wear repeatedly. Take no more luggage than you can easily carry by yourself. Save space in your suitcase to take gifts and souvenirs home. All bedding is provided by the hotel. (Did we stress, "Pack lightly?" It is the single most common recommendation from

### Take with you:

- Cotton sweater or sweatshirt
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Windbreaker or light rain coat
- Umbrella

- Slacks, jeans, skirts (at least one long), blouses, shorts (primarily for hotel and beaches)
- Something to cover your shoulders when you enter churches. (all genders)
- Several nice outfits (Florentines dress well)
- Bathing suit
- Shower shoes
- Cosmetics, shampoo, antiperspirant (available but more expensive in Florence)
- Vitamins, aspirin, cold/flu remedies (more expensive in Italy)
- First aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen
- Backpack or small bag for weekend travel
- Towel, washcloth
- Money belt or neck purse
- MP3 player/iPod
- Travel alarm clock
- Address book, diary, photo of family and friends

If you take any kind of medication or vitamin supplement, bring an adequate supply. Almost everything imaginable is available in Italy, but you do not want to waste the time and money required in obtaining a new prescription. Over-the-counter remedies and contact lens supplies are readily available in Italy. Best prices for cosmetics and personal items are found at Upim or Standa, where you can also find "Vape," an electric bug repellent that is the best method of battling insects.

Because of differences in voltage, current and plugs, most U.S. electrical appliances do not work well in Italy. Plan to purchase an inexpensive hair dryer in Florence if you need one.

## Predeparture Reading

Read/ watch videos as widely as possible about Italy. Your visit will be greatly enhanced if you know something about Italian history, culture and art. A good guide book will also give you tips about Italian social customs and polite behavior as well as practical advice about electrical current, weather, getting around the country, changing money and packing. Read also about the cities where the group will go on Friday excursions. They are small places, but treasures of history and art. Arrange with a friend to purchase different books and share the information.