

UW Classics in Italy Program

Summer 2024

IAP Program Handbook

The UW Classics in Italy study abroad program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This program handbook supplements the Study Abroad Handbook (located in your My Study Abroad account) and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of publication. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

This program handbook contains the following information:

Program Preparation	1
Contact Information.....	1
Preparation Before Leaving.....	2
Travel and Arrival Information.....	5
The Academic Program	6
Living Abroad	7

Program Preparation

Prepare Yourself!

One of the biggest regrets that many study abroad students have is their lack of research and preparation before departure. Your study abroad experience is an investment in your education as well as your future. Think about preparing your mind for the journey, as well as your suitcase. A few hours spent researching the history and culture of your host country will pay off. The more you prepare now, the better adjusted you will be when you arrive, and the more you will learn about your host culture and yourself.

Contact Information

On-Site Program Information

Your primary contact in Italy will be UW Professor Andrea Samz-Pustol, the Program Leader (PL). While in Italy, Professor Samz-Pustol will be staying in the same housing as program participants.

[Andrea Samz-Pustol](#)

Assistant Director, Constellations Program, Lecturer, CANES

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Office: 14 Ingraham Hall

For this program, IAP works closely with [CIEE](#), a third-party provider program devoted to facilitating study abroad programs abroad.

Nada Osman

Custom Programs

600 Southborough Drive, Suite 104

South Portland, Maine 04106

email CustomEnrollment@ciee.org

web [Custom Programs](#)

UW-Madison Contact Information

International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
301 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Paige Navis
Study Abroad Advisor
Tel: 608-265-6329
paige.navis@wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information

If an emergency comes up during business hours (8:00am - 4:30pm Central Time), please call our office at 608-265-6329 and an IAP staff member will assist you. If an emergency comes up during non-business hours, parents and students can reach a member of the IAP staff by calling 608-516-9440. This is for **emergencies only**, where the health/safety of the student is an issue.

For program participants only. In the event of an emergency, your Program Leader can be reached during the program on an ITALIAN mobile phone.

If you are calling from within Italy (on an Italian phone): +39 331 333 5163

Professor Samz-Pustol will have the ability to text or receive phone calls using this phone number from any other phone number, regardless of country using WhatsApp, an app that uses WiFi to send messages and make phone calls. She recommends that you download [WhatsApp](#) prior to departure as another way to communicate during the program.

Parents/guardians can contact IAP during business hours (8:00am - 4:30pm Central Time) at 608-265-6329. If an emergency comes up during non-business hours, a member of the IAP staff can be reached by calling 608-516-9440. This is for **emergencies only**, where the health/safety of the student is an issue.

Program Dates

Depart U.S.	Sunday, May 12, 2024
Arrive in Rome (first night in housing)	Monday, May 13, 2024
Departure from housing (in Pompeii)	Wednesday, May 30, 2024 (morning)

****Review the Travel and Arrival Information on page 5 prior to booking your flights.**

Preparation Before Leaving

Immigration Documents

Passport: A passport is needed to travel to Italy. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department [website](#). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa

Students with a US passport participating in this faculty-led short-term program to Italy do not require a student visa. Please ensure that your passport is valid at least 6 months past the program end date.

If you do not have a US passport, please contact your IAP Study Abroad Advisor.

Register with the U.S. Department of State

If you are a U.S. citizen, you are required to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This is a free service provided by the U.S. government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a

foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming international itinerary so that the U.S. Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. Register for STEP [here](#).

U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Italy

U.S. Embassy in Rome
Via Vittorio Veneto 121
00187 ROMA
Telephone (switchboard): +(39) 06.46.74.1
Email: uscitizensrome@state.gov

Consulate General of the US - Naples
Piazza della Repubblica
80122 Naples, Italy
Tel. (+39) 081.5838.111
Email: uscitizensnaples@state.gov

Handling Money Abroad

The currency in Italy is Euros. The exchange rate changes daily and can be checked at www.oanda.com. Begin to familiarize yourself with the currency rates prior to departure.

Be prepared for an adjustment to spending in Euros. Estimated expenses vary widely depending upon the student. How much you spend will depend on your lifestyle, such as how much you eat out and travel during your free time. Basic living in Italy can be done at a slightly higher cost than in the U.S. because prices for goods tend to be a little higher. If you plan on travelling extensively or purchasing costly items, allow for this on top of the suggested amount. Keep in mind that your purchasing power is directly related to the dollar/euro exchange rate.

Banking

- Do not plan to keep large amounts of cash on you. The easiest way to handle your money abroad is often to use the same checking account you have in the U.S., using your debit card as your primary means of payment and cash withdrawal.
- If your bank has a relationship with a bank overseas, they may not charge an ATM fee. Check with your financial institution to see whether they have these relationships, and what kind of charges you will incur on international purchases. Online banking with your U.S.-based account will help you keep track of how much you are spending in U.S. dollars.
- Always have a backup. If you are using your debit card as your primary means of money abroad, make sure you also bring a credit card (Visa, MasterCard are recommended) in case your primary card is lost or stolen. Keep the backup card in a different place from your primary card.
- Inform your bank and credit card companies that you will be abroad so they do not freeze your accounts.

Students can obtain an ISIC (International Student Identity Card) prior to departure. This card entitles the students to discounted rates for the fieldtrip locations you will attend on this program and also to other locations throughout Europe. Details on the ISIC card can be found at www.isic.org.

Students should also bring their UW student ID for discounted admission on a variety of entry fees.

Packing

Essentials:

- **Practical clothes.** Clothes that require minimal care, are comfortable to travel in, and can be layered are best to take. Casual clothing, such as jeans and shirt, is the most comfortable for day-to-day Italian life. If you plan on going out to dinner or to an event at night, dressier clothing would be best.
- **Backpack.** Backpacks are easier to carry than suitcases on longer trips. A small travel bag is convenient for weekend and day trips.
- **Comfortable shoes.** This program includes a lot of walking on uneven, cobble streets (some almost 2500 years old!) and hilly pedestrian walkways. Comfortable shoes will make your experience much more enjoyable. You are advised to bring a comfortable pair of shoes, preferably tennis shoes. Flip-flops are not advised for site visits, but you may want to bring slippers or flip-flops for comfort in your accommodation.
- **Purse/pouch with a zip closure or wallet that is stored NOT in your back pocket.** To keep your ID, and money safe. DO NOT keep your passport in your purse/wallet/day bag. Leave it in your hotel room.
- **Camera/camera phone.** Take some of your memories home!
- **Laptop/tablet.** While it is not necessary, many students find it helpful to have their own computer. Before you bring your laptop, make sure that the battery is in good, working condition and that you have good virus protection software on your computer. Do not bring surge protectors as they can ruin the electrical wiring if combined with electrical converters.
- **Sun gear.** A hat is also good for protection against the strong Mediterranean sun.
- **Smart phone.** Smart phones can connect to Wifi while abroad, or you may choose to get an Italian SIM card, under \$50 for three weeks.

A few tips:

- **Avoid over packing!** Planes can place additional charges on extra or overweight luggage. The vast majority of students surveyed say they wish they hadn't brought so many clothes. Italy is known for its high-quality clothing items, so keep in mind that you will be accumulating many other items during your stay (gifts, artwork, Italian books, etc.) and you'll want to have room in your suitcase for your return. Reach out to program alumni as they can help you decide what to bring.
- **Dressing appropriately.** While clothing styles in Europe are generally the same as those in the US, there are still situations in which conservative clothing is most appropriate, and you are expected to observe and respect these conventions. You are expected to dress in a respectable manner when visiting churches and monasteries. In order to enter a church, men and women are expected to wear shirts that cover their shoulders (no tank tops). You will see tourists entering churches with far less clothing than is required, but it can be considered offensive. Italians do tend to dress up, so you might want to consider that when you pack.
- **"What you can't get in Italy."** Virtually every common daily item, necessity, tool and appliance, as well as all kinds of clothes and accessories, are easily available in Italy- though they may not be in your favorite brand or style. Program alumni recommend bringing a backpack for textbooks, a voltage converter, as well as an Italian-English Dictionary and phrase book. Some favorite/essential products can differ, and it's recommended to bring your preferred brand of good quality deodorant, good quality lip balm, and saline solution for sensitive eyes. Bring your preferred brand of pain relievers, too.
- Professor Samz-Pustol will send you a list of suggested items to pack and packing tips.

Luggage Requirements

Standard international baggage regulations permit one piece of checked luggage. Size and weight restrictions apply. Contact your air carrier for further information about baggage restrictions and the cost of checking baggage. Any charges due to oversized and/or extra pieces of luggage are your responsibility.

It is recommended that you pack a change of clothes and necessary medications in your carry-on bag in case a checked bag should go astray temporarily. If your luggage does get lost, be sure to fill out a lost luggage report before leaving the airport and to notify your Program Leader immediately.

Electronics

Italian electricity runs on 220 volts, while U.S. runs on 110 volts. If you want to use an American appliance that requires 110V, you must use a converter; otherwise the 220V from the outlet will destroy your appliance as well as the electricity in your room. More expensive equipment, such as laptops, already convert voltage in their power adapters. Check your user manual or look at the power adapter for information about the voltage.

Do not bring your US electric hair appliances with you. For smaller appliances, such as hairdryers, it is advisable to purchase one in Italy or one that can switch to 220V. American flatirons do not work properly in Europe, but you can easily purchase them in Italy.

Make sure you bring a plug adapter for your electronics as Italy uses two-pronged plugs in recessed outlets. Both the converter and plug adapter are very difficult to find in Italy, so you should bring them from the U.S. Even with the use of proper adapters, electrical equipment can burn out. If you have a particularly expensive appliance, it is advisable to leave it at home; many appliances are readily available at drug stores throughout Italy, so you can purchase them after you arrive.

Travel and Arrival Information

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements, which includes arranging flights that will allow for appropriate arrival time based on program details below. You may wish to arrange flights with other students on the program or fly on your own. You can find contact information for other program participants in your [MyStudyAbroad](#) account.

The program will officially start on **Monday, May 13th** in Rome. You should choose to arrive in Rome (Fiumicino, also called Leonardo da Vinci – FCO) - www.adr.it. When making travel arrangements, be sure to book a flight that arrives between 9 AM and 2 PM. CIEE will arrange for airport pick-up for students arriving between 9 AM and 2 PM.

IMPORTANT: If you book a flight outside of these parameters, you will be responsible for your own transportation.

The program will officially end on **Thursday, May 30th (AM) in Pompeii**. Please keep in mind that it takes approximately **4** hours to travel from Pompeii to Rome by bus. Students are responsible for making their own departure arrangements.

If you have questions about your flight arrangements, be sure to contact your Study Abroad Advisor prior to booking.

The Academic Program

General Information

There is no better way to learn about the Romans and the Roman Empire than to visit the sites and the museums in the country where their history unfolded. For this course you do not need a textbook. The local guides and your instructor will help you to imagine the course of history against the backdrop of the Eternal City.

Course Information

Instruction for this course is grounded in visits to museums and the sites of Roman civilization. Students will complete a variety of short assignments, some of which must be done during the program, while others can be prepared prior to departure. On top of the three credits, you will receive an educational experience unlike anything else you have ever been through.

Registration

IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

Course Equivalent Requests (CERs)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn 3 UW-Madison credits of *Classics 372: Topics in Roman Culture*. This course cannot be taken for Pass/Fail.

Summer 2024 Tentative Itinerary:

This is a tentative itinerary. You will receive a detailed itinerary from CIEE at program orientation which will include daily activities and field trips. Planned activities and field trips are subject to change.

Monday, May 13: Arrive in Rome (Fiumicino, also called Leonardo da Vinci – FCO) between 9 AM and 2 PM to be included in the CIEE organized airport transfer to accommodations.

Monday, May 13 – Wednesday, May 22 (AM): Program in Rome. Morning departure from Rome on May 22 for Siena.

Wednesday, May 22 – Saturday, May 25 (AM): Arrive in Siena on May 22. Program in Siena. Morning departure from Siena for Pompeii on May 25.

Saturday, May 25 – Thursday, May 30 (AM): Arrive in Pompeii on May 25. Program in Pompeii. Conclusion of program on morning of May 30.

Thursday, May 30 (AM): Program concludes in the morning of May 30. Students are free to depart from Pompeii in the morning. Please keep in mind that it takes approximately 4 hours to travel from Pompeii to Rome by bus.

Living Abroad

Italy is located on the Italian Peninsula in southern Europe, and on the two largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily and Sardinia. Italy shares its northern Alpine boundary with France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. The independent states of San Marino and the Vatican City are enclaves within the Italian Peninsula, while Campione d'Italia is an Italian exclave in Switzerland. Italy has been the home of many European cultures, such as the Etruscans and the Romans, and later was the birthplace of the Renaissance, which began in Tuscany and then spread throughout Europe. Italy's capital, Rome, has been the center of Western civilization, and is the center of the Catholic Church. Today, Italy is a democratic republic. It is a founding member of the European Union and has used the Euro since 1999.

Housing

Housing will consist of double occupancy rooms. Roommates will be assigned based on the Study Abroad Housing Form you complete when confirming your acceptance on the program. IAP typically assigns students in rooms with others of the same sex. In some locations, this is necessary for legal or cultural reasons. We understand that not all students may identify as female or male, and we want to create a welcoming environment for you while you are abroad. We are happy to work with students who identify as transgender, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary regarding life abroad. If you have questions or concerns regarding housing as it relates to your gender identity, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor.

Housing Locations

During the program, students will stay in local hotels. Hotel information is being confirmed; once plans are finalized, accommodation information will be shared out.

Communication

Cell Phones

All program participants must have a working cell phone while abroad so that your Program Leader and/or IAP can reach you in the event of an emergency. Many past participants found it most convenient to use their U.S. cell phone while on the program. Be sure to check with your cell phone company about international calling/texting rates. Many companies have international plan options that may appeal to you. Be sure to do your research so you are aware of the cell phone usage costs while you are abroad.

Important Local Phone Numbers

- Police 113
- Fire Department 115
- Medical Emergencies 118

Useful Italian Phrases and Communication Essentials

How are you?	Come stai?
Very well, thank you.	Molto bene, grazie.
Nice to meet you.	Piacere di conoscerLa.
Where is/are...?	Dov'è/Dove sono?
How do I get to...?	Come si arriva a...?
Do you speak English?	Parla inglese?
I don't understand.	Non capisco.
I'm sorry.	Mi dispiace.
Help!	Aiuto!
Stop!	Basta!
I need a doctor.	Ho bisogno di un medico.
I need an ambulance.	Ho bisogno di un'ambulanza.
Call the police.	Chiama la polizia.
Call the fire department.	Chiama i pompieri.
Yes/No	Sì/No
Please	Per favore
Thank you	Grazie
Excuse me	Mi scusi
Hello	Buon giorno
Goodbye	Arrivederci
Good evening	Buona sera
What?	Come?
When?	Quando?

Transportation

Quite a bit of travel will be done on foot. Walking to the various lecture locations is a great way to absorb your surroundings! Be sure to bring some good walking shoes and a water bottle.

When travel to lecture locations cannot be done on foot, the program will utilize local transportation. Some buses will be chartered for longer distances.

Alcohol Consumption

The culture surrounding alcohol differs significantly between Italy and the United States. Excessive drinking, consumption of alcohol outside of meals and public drunkenness are considered taboos in the local culture. At the same time, there is a deep appreciation for the responsible enjoyment of certain kinds of alcohol in Italy, particularly wine. Students are expected to modify their behavior while in their host country to reflect these norms. Abuse of alcohol consumption will not be tolerated or ignored.

Cultural Readjustment

A good deal of time is spent encouraging you to prepare for your study abroad experience and the adjustment to a new culture. It's important to realize virtually everyone experiences a readjustment period (or reentry or reverse culture shock). Sometimes, coming home can be just as or even more unsettling than going abroad. For more resources, check out the [Returned Student Resources](#) section of the UW Study Abroad website.

