

Dear Students,

In our previous communication we began exploring our new program dates, academic planning for study abroad, issues of health and safety and residential engagement. With this message, I hope to provide you with a brief overview of our program structure and mandatory and elective program components.

Our program is intentionally structured to combine coursework and academic learning with experiential learning and personal growth. Your time abroad represents a unique opportunity to expand upon your knowledge and to step outside of your comfort zone. We seek to foster this process through coursework, residential engagement, intentional programming, community service and field learning.

Coursework at Florence University of the Arts (FUA) has been adapted to a twelve week intensive semester. Students will begin with one mandatory, three credit course entitled Cultural Introduction to Italy which counts as the study abroad Italian culture requirement.* Students will choose an additional four courses from approved course offerings. Ideally, a student should plan on taking some major/minor courses, some core course and one or two electives. Most classes follow a turbo style lesson and meet once a week for approximately three hours. In addition to classroom lessons, many courses have field learning or integrated academic activities. These field learning and integrated activities are a mandatory part of the courses and count towards your final grade. The dates and times of all activities are listed on the FUA course schedule and on the copy of the Official Registration that you will receive once you have registered for courses at FUA.

As part of our program structure all students are expected to participate in orientation events, service days, a Florence Discovery weekend (March 5,6,7), and two field learning trips with faculty of Florence University of the Arts. All of these events are an integral part of the program and attendance is therefore mandatory. Some activities scheduled during the Florence Discovery Weekend include art visits, cooking challenges, conversation exchanges and artisan workshops.

We also consider the residential component a mandatory part of the program, so all students enrolled in the Florence program are required to live in program housing. The housing is shared with other students, some of whom will become new friends. We will take into consideration one roommate request but we cannot guarantee a specific placement so please be prepared to expand your community as you get to know your new housemates and fellow students. We ask students to contribute to a safe, healthy and respectful living environment and to uphold community standards by observing the Student Code of Conduct, the Responsible Engagement Policy and local health guidelines.

Not all events are mandatory! Throughout the semester, the Florence Program Assistants organize spontaneous and planned programming and events to help build community, socialize and discover the city of Florence and its surroundings. We highly recommend attending some of these events, but they are considered elective events, so you can decide how and when to participate.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you continue to consider study abroad in Florence. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and if you are able, please join our zoom meeting on Wednesday August 12th at 8:30am. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Joanne Maddux

* When filling out your global study plan, please remember to list the course title “Cultural Introduction to Italy” under the column entitled “general elective or study abroad requirement.”

