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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COVID & STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE, ITALY

## ACADEMICS, HOUSING AND FREE TIME

### WILL COURSES BE IN PERSON AT FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS (FUA)?

Fairfield University and Florence University of the Arts are planning for an in person summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semester in compliance with Italian national and Tuscan regional guidelines. FUA has already offered in person lessons in Fall 2020 and is currently offering in person lessons this Spring semester. Both Fairfield University and FUA will adhere to all Italian national and Tuscan regional guidelines and in the case of a temporary suspension of in person learning, lessons will continue online.

### WHAT GENERAL RESTRICTIONS CAN I EXPECT IN MY TIME ABROAD?

The current measures in effect in all areas of Italy, until March 5th include:

- Face masks must be worn indoors and outdoors (with the exception of one's own home and those circumstances in which the condition of isolation from others is continuously guaranteed, i.e. sports/exercising, eating and drinking).
- Interpersonal safety distance of at least one meter must be respected.
- There is a national curfew from 10pm to 5am.
- Travel is permitted only within one's own region of Italy (until Feb 25<sup>th</sup>). For example: if one lives in Florence, they may travel throughout the region of Tuscany.
- Catering services (i.e. cafés, restaurants, gelaterie, pubs) are open but operate differently depending upon certain risk factors. For specific information, please refer to this [DEFINITION OF COLOR CODED AREAS IN ITALY.pdf](#) Take-away is permitted until 10pm, and delivery is always permitted.

### IF I CHOOSE TO STUDY ABROAD, WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IN MY FREE TIME?

This will be somewhat dependent on the color coding/risk factor for the region but, in general, it is possible to go out and about in Florence.

With that in mind:

- You can go for a run along the Arno River.
- Take a walk to Piazzale Michelangelo, the famous overlook of the city center.
- Explore all of the city's public squares and green spaces.
- Grab a take out cappuccino and sip it on a bench while admiring the church of Santa Croce.
- Visit the historic churches of Florence.
- Explore the trendy, artisan neighborhood of Santo Spirito, San Frediano and the Oltrarno.
- Enjoy take out street food in a public square at a safe distance from others.
- Take part in all Fairfield and FUA virtual and in person sponsored activities such as cooking classes, walking tours, scavenger hunts, conversation exchanges.

### **CAN I TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE AND TUSCANY?**

This will depend on national and regional guidelines. Updated information regarding travel restrictions is expected after February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Travel in and around Tuscany is permitted when coding is in the yellow zone.

### **CAN I TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF ITALY?**

In accordance with Italian national and regional guidelines, EU travel restrictions and the Responsible Engagement policy of Fairfield University, students enrolled in summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semesters will restrict their travel to in country travel. Travel outside of Italy is not permitted at this time.

### **WHAT COVID PREVENTION POLICIES ARE IN PLACE IN PROGRAM HOUSING?**

All housemates will be considered a family unit and will share responsibility for the health and well being of all housemates. A no visitor policy (access is limited to the student residents assigned to the apartment) will be in place for **summer 2021 and Fall 2021** semesters. Students will clean and maintain the housing units and will disinfect high touch surfaces after use.

### **WHAT COVID CLEANING & SAFETY PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO PROGRAM HOUSING?**

All housing units will be cleaned and sanitized before student move in. All units will be equipped with hand sanitizer and cleaning products for Covid prevention. Students will be responsible for maintaining their supply of sanitizer and cleaning products throughout the term. Program staff, landlord and/or maintenance personnel will enter apartments only as needed; will wear personal protective equipment and will sign a register. Program staff will conduct monthly health and safety inspections.

### **COVID TESTING & SCREENINGS**

#### **WILL I BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A COVID TEST UPON ARRIVAL?**

As an international student traveler on a Covid tested flight from New York JFK- Rome, you will take a COVID test 48 hours before boarding your flight to Italy and will then take a second test upon arrival at the Rome airport in Italy.

#### **WILL I BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE UPON ARRIVAL?**

If you travel on a Covid tested flight and are therefore tested before the flight and upon arrival in Rome, you are not required to quarantine.

#### **WILL I BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A COVID TEST BEFORE BEGINNING AT FUA?**

At the present time FUA is not requiring testing.

#### **WILL SURVEILLANCE TESTING BE CARRIED OUT IN FLORENCE?**

At the present time surveillance testing is not required in Florence.

# COVID 19 IN ITALY: RISK CATEGORIES & RELEVANT RESTRICTIONS

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT COVID SITUATION IN ITALY?

The situation is in a continual state of evolution and national and regional guidelines change according to transmission rates and risk factors. Current guidelines are in effect from January 16-March 5 and are governed by the DPCM law signed by President Giuseppe Conte on Jan. 14, 2021 <http://www.governo.it/node/16065>

Restrictions on movement exist within Italy which correspond to different health threat levels. Each region of Italy is classified as red, orange, yellow or white, depending on a variety of risk factors. The current state of emergency gives authority to regional governments to exercise stricter guidelines and movement limitations than those required by the national government. Regions can act autonomously.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT COLOR MY CITY AND REGION FALL UNDER?

The color coding is decided upon each week by the scientific committee in consultation with the national Ministry of Health and the Regional Governors. At the time of preparation of this document, Tuscany and Florence are coded orange. For more information and regular updates, please refer to

<https://covidzone.info/?fbclid=IwAR2pFxLKdJOlrL38J2Yvg2TlxruHOeORaDFfd0pC3-%207ej1YAZPYhL6j3uE>.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5412&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=vuoto>

## WHAT LOCAL AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS MUST I ABIDE BY?

You must abide by all national and local regulations. Restrictions are outlined based on the color coding of the various regions of Italy. Mask wearing indoors and outdoors is mandatory, social distancing is mandatory and there is a national curfew in effect through March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10pm-5am. For more detailed information refer to this document [DEFINITION OF COLOR CODED AREAS IN ITALY.pdf](#) and the website of the [Italian Government, Ministry of Health](#)

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN THE YELLOW ZONE?

Most regions of Italy are now classified as yellow. The yellow zone offers more freedom of movement than the red and orange zones but with some limitations.

National curfew of 10pm–5am is in effect.

Grocery stores and retail stores are open for business. Malls and large shopping centers are open Monday through Friday and closed on weekends.

Traveling is allowed within your region (Tuscany).

Museums are open from Monday to Friday, with the exception of public holidays (reservations are highly recommended).

Theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and gyms are closed.

Restaurants and bars are open for indoor and outdoor dining until 6pm. Indoor dining is allowed for a maximum party of four at one table. After 6pm, take out and delivery are available.

For an infographic and abbreviated breakdown see this [document](#). And refer to this website of the [Italian Ministry of Health](#)

### **WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN THE ORANGE ZONE?**

The orange zone allows for more freedom of movement than the red zone but with specific limitations.

National curfew of 10pm–5am is in effect.

Grocery stores and retail stores are open for business.

Restaurants and bars are only open for take-away and delivery.

Individual physical activity (jogging or walking) is allowed.

Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools, and gyms are closed

Shopping centers are closed on weekends.

Social distancing and mask wearing required.

For an infographic and abbreviated breakdown see this [document](#). And refer to this website of the [Italian Ministry of Health](#)

### **WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN THE RED ZONE?**

The most stringent restrictions will be in effect.

Residents are required to stay home and the national curfew of 10pm-5am is in effect.

You may leave your home only for strictly necessary reasons such as grocery shopping, medical appointments, work responsibilities and you must verify this through a signed declaration if asked for by authorities.

Individual physical activity (jogging or walking) in very close proximity to your home is allowed.

Travel is not allowed to other areas.

Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools, sports centers and gyms are closed.

Shops are closed except for grocery stores, pharmacies, and other first necessity stores.

Restaurants and bars are only open for take-away and delivery.

Social distancing and mask wearing required.

For an infographic and abbreviated breakdown see this [document](#). And refer to this website of the [Italian Ministry of Health](#)

### **WHAT IS THE WHITE ZONE AND WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD MORE ABOUT THIS?**

The white zone is an “open” zone where the only restrictions that apply are the need to social distance and to wear a mask. No region in Italy is yet classified as white.

## SUSPECTED ILLNESS, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

### WHERE CAN I GET A COVID TEST?

PCR and Antigen tests are available through International Health Florence, Misericordia di Firenze, Istituto Fanfani, Medical Service, Villa Donatello and many other private clinics. Costs range from 75-120 euros per test. Tests are covered through CISI only when symptoms are present. Costs are direct to students for preventive testing.

### INTERNATIONAL HEALTH FLORENCE

[www.internationalhealthflorence.com](http://www.internationalhealthflorence.com)

Phone: + 39- 331 636 9001

### MISERICORDIA DI FIRENZE

<https://www.misericordia.firenze.it/Ambulatori/NuovaPrenotazione?idPrestazione=ZZ01&idMedico=COVID>

Contact the Misericordia through the main “green number”: 800927985 (Italian speakers only)

supplying the program’s identification number ID#. Ask program staff for this number.

### FANFANI INSTITUTE

<https://www.istitutofanfani.it/>

Phone: +39 055 49701

### MEDICAL SERVICE

<http://www.medicalservice.firenze.it/services.html>

Phone: + 39 055.475411

### VILLA DONATELLO

<https://villadonatello.com/>

Phone:+39 055 50975

### SYNLAB

Has lab locations throughout the city

<https://syncoda.synlab.it/booking/>

### WHAT HAPPENS IF MY COVID-19 TEST IS POSITIVE?

Once a student results positive to COVID-19, the local health authorities are notified and take the case into their hands. Program staff, therefore, are unable to interfere with the process. Nevertheless, contact staff and continue to monitor your symptoms.

The positive student will be placed in isolation and directions, transportation and recommendations will be provided by the local health department.

Isolation will take place in one of the following: in your apartment with a private bedroom and bathroom, in a separate apartment designated for isolation/quarantine, at a Covid hotel, or at a hospital if hospitalization is needed.

You will continue your classes and activities online in your isolation location.

Follow guidelines and contact tracing protocols given by local health officials and staff.

Maintain contact with your emergency contact and others concerned with your well-being.

Assist health officials and staff with contact tracing of other students, faculty, staff with whom you had contact prior to your first symptoms.

Program staff and/or local health officials will provide a daily check in with the student.

Students will receive a listing of food service providers from which they may order food delivery at their expense. Program staff are available to assist with this process if students are too ill or unable to order food independently.

Close contacts will be notified and will need to quarantine for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 days.

### **HOW LONG MUST I ISOLATE IF I HAVE COVID 19?**

The Italian Government has established three different case scenarios:

- 1) Covid positive but without symptoms- The minimum isolation period is 10 days with a negative PCR test result. You will be released from isolation by the local health department.
- 2) Covid positive with symptoms - The minimum isolation period is 10 days (the last three of which must be without symptoms) with a negative PCR test result. You will be released from isolation by the local health department.
- 3) Covid positive for 21 or more days. The local health department physician will decide when to release you from isolation and will take into consideration the last date in which you had symptoms. Patients are generally released after 21 days if they have not had symptoms for at least 7 days.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE?**

A “contact of a COVID-19 case” is considered to be any person who has been in contact with that person within a 48-hour window before the onset of symptoms. If you had a close contact this means you had high-risk exposure with a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Examples of close contact include:

- Any cohabitant with a COVID-19 case.
- Anyone who had direct body contact with a COVID-19 case (ex. hand shaking).
- Anyone who had direct unprotected contact with any COVID-19 case's discharge (ex. touched used tissues without certified PPE, such as gloves).
- Anyone who had contact face to face, without PPE, with a COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes closer than 2 meters apart.
- Anyone who was indoors (ex. classroom, meeting room, waiting room) with a COVID-19 case without certified PPE.
- Any health professional or COVID-19 case's care giver who did not work with certified PPE.
- Anyone who traveled by train or airplane with a COVID-19 case with a distance of less than two seats apart.

What to do in case of direct contact:

The aim of contact tracing is to prevent the virus transmission trend for this reason close contacts must quarantine.



Quarantine for a total of 14 days from the date of last contact with positive case.

**OR**

Quarantine for a total of 10 days from the date of last contact with positive case and schedule a COVID test for the 10th day of quarantine. If swab is negative, you may return to normal operations.

Contact local doctor and program staff and monitor symptoms.

Follow all the COVID-19 testing and program guidelines.

Notify and maintain contacts with the program's emergency contact.

Program staff will provide a daily check in with the student.

Students will receive a listing of food service providers from which they may order food delivery at their expense. Program staff are available to assist with this process if students are too ill or unable to order food independently.

### **HOW LONG MUST I QUARANTINE IF I AM A CLOSE CONTACT?**

You must quarantine for a minimum of ten days and a maximum of 14 days and can decide whether you prefer to

- 1) Quarantine for a total of 14 days from the date of last contact with the positive case.
- 2) Quarantine for a total of 10 days from the date of last contact with the positive case and schedule a COVID test for the 10th day of quarantine. If swab is negative, you may return to normal operations.

If you develop symptoms and test positive for COVID 19, the isolation procedure will be followed.

## **RESOURCES, LINKS, UPDATED INFORMATION**

### **WHAT RESOURCES WILL I HAVE ABROAD?**

- You will have full access to Fairfield University staff and FUA student service staff. A 24/7 hotline is available. Fairfield program staff respond.
- Program Assistants live in residence in program housing and maintain regular contact with students.
- English speaking health care professionals through CISI insurance.
- Counseling services through FUA.
- English speaking Psychological support through CISI approved professionals.
- English speaking Psychiatric support through CISI approved professionals.

### **WHERE CAN I FIND UPDATED INFORMATION?**

#### **THE ITALIAN NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD**

<http://www.italia.it/en/useful-info/travel-to-italy-travelresponsibly.html>

<http://www.italia.it/en/useful-info/covid-19-updates-information-for-tourists.html>

**ROME AIRPORT – INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID TESTED FLIGHTS**

<https://www.adr.it/web/aeroporti-di-roma-en-/coronavirus#>

**ITALIAN GOVERNMENT – VACCINE DASHBOARD AND INFORMATION**

<https://www.governo.it/it/cscovid19/report-vaccini/>

**ITALIAN GOVERNMENT – MINISTRY OF HEALTH COVID INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAGE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/homeNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english>

**OVERVIEW OF COVID SITUATION IN ITALY BY THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5367&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=vuoto>

[Overview of Covid situation in Italy by Italian Ministry of Health](#)

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN ITALY**

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5412&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=vuoto>

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LOCAL – REGIONAL RESTRICTIONS IN ITALY** <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/domande-frequenti-sulle-misure-adottate-dal-governo/15638#zone>

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPREAD OF THE VIRUS AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES**

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioFaqNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=230#6>

**ITALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH – INFORMATION AND STATISTICS REGARDING COVID IN ITALY**

<https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-dashboard>

**US STATE DEPARTMENT COVID INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO ITALY**

<https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>