



STUDIO
ARTS
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL

HOW TO PREPARE TO STUDY AT SACI IN FLORENCE & WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Before you leave, travel, after you arrive, & more...



saci-florence.edu

MISSION

SACI'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH A CHALLENGING, LIFE-ENHANCING EXPERIENCE IN THE CENTER OF FLORENCE IN TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY STUDIO ARTS, DESIGN, CONSERVATION, AND ART HISTORY. STUDENTS DIRECTLY ACCESS CENTURIES OF ITALIAN CULTURE THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. SACI ENGAGES IN LEADING AREAS OF RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION, INTERACTS WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTISTIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, AND PREPARES STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD.

WELCOME TO SACI!

COVER PHOTO: COCOA LANEY, SACI '18

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please leave contact information with your parents or guardian in case of an emergency. Messages can be taken for students in Florence: Tel. (39) 055-289948; e-mail: info@saci-florence.edu. Messages can also be relayed through the SACI office in New York: (212) 248-7225; e-mail: admissions@saci-florence.edu. SACI uses e-mail for correspondence with students. Make sure that your e-mail address is updated with SACI and that you check your inbox frequently! In addition, please make sure that the SACI NY office has a valid mailing address for correspondence with you after the term has ended.

HOUSING

SACI offers apartment living or homestay options.

SACI Apartments

All SACI apartments are non-smoking apartments. Student apartments may have one, two, or three bedrooms (each bedroom with single or double occupancy). Every apartment has a kitchen and bathroom, heating and hot water. They all have Wi-Fi capability and are completely furnished; sheets, blankets, pillows, dishes, pots, etc. are provided. The only things not provided are towels. It is not possible to provide housemate information prior to arrival in Italy; all housing information is given to you the day of arrival in Florence.

Please note that "single room" means a single bedroom in an apartment with other students. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are shared. "Co-ed housing" means that the same apartment will likely be shared by both male and female students, although bedrooms will not be co-ed unless

specifically requested. Single rooms have an additional fee; refer to the SACI website for fee information.

Apartments are situated throughout the city, and you will experience living in Italian neighborhoods where you shop in the area markets and meet the *vicini* (neighbors). All apartments are within walking distance of both buildings (20 minutes maximum). Most apartments do not have elevators, so be prepared for stairs!

Heating in Italian apartments and homes is maintained at a lower temperature than in most US homes and is turned on at a date set by the city authorities. Italy follows energy-saving laws that allow heating to be on for 9 hours a day only. Since utilities are very expensive in Italy, water, electricity, and heating should be used carefully. The housing fees allow for a reasonable use of utilities.

Florence can be cold in the winter, so be sure to bring warm pajamas and a sweater to keep yourself comfortable at home should you be staying in Florence during the winter months. You might also want to bring a pair of slippers since most apartment floors are uncarpeted.

All housing fees must be paid in advance. The housing contract must be signed and returned or housing may not be available upon arrival in Florence. The apartments are exclusively for our students. Italian law prohibits overnight guests in student apartments. SACI staff will help you find guest accommodations if you are expecting visitors.

Homestays

During the Fall and Spring terms, homestays allow students to share everyday life with

an Italian host family in Florence. It is the best housing option for those seeking to understand the Italian culture and the way of life in Florence, and strongly recommended for students who wish to improve their knowledge of the Italian language.

In a homestay double, students share a room with another SACI student. For a supplemental fee, single rooms in the host family's home may also be available. Host families provide breakfast every day and five dinners a week. All homes have internet access.

Some homestays are in the historical center and within walking distance to both buildings (20 minutes maximum), but others may be in the greater Florence area and well-linked by public transportation.

While they will call the homestay "home" for a full semester, students are requested to follow the rules of the host family.

FOOD

The kitchens in student apartments are fully furnished with kitchen utensils to make it possible for you to prepare your own food. SACI is just around the corner from the central market, where you can find on the lower level, an incredible choice of fresh vegetables and fruits, meats, fish, and cheese, while the upper floor is devoted to food and beverages with cafés and restaurants. Most Italians go to the local *alimentari* (food store) to buy their daily milk and bread. These neighborhood stores are not only convenient, but a way of everyday life.

Near the school there are also a number of good inexpensive eating places.

Please see the *SACI Student Handbook* for further information regarding markets and restaurants.

You can expect to spend \$10-\$15 per day on food if you prepare your own meals and pay attention to menu planning when shopping. Eating in restaurants, of course, is considerably more expensive.

CLOTHING

Florence generally enjoys good weather with a fairly mild range of temperatures. However, in the winter months it can get cold, so you should plan to bring warm coats and sweaters. Plan to layer clothing in order to adjust to the different seasons. Be sure to bring one light rain garment and/or umbrella and comfortable walking shoes because you'll be out in the elements more than you may be used to at home.

Average temperature ranges in Florence are:

39-76° F	Spring
60-95° F	Summer
50-83° F	Fall
32-54° F	Winter

MEDICAL CARE

If you require any prescriptions, bring a supply of the medication with you AND the prescription with both the generic and the trade name of the medication clearly written on it, and also an explanation of what the medication is for. Although most medications can be found in Italy, some, such as Adderall, are not available and you should bring supplies from home (not have it shipped). Be sure to pack important medication in your carry-on luggage to avoid problems should your luggage be delayed.

If you have any medical condition that is liable to recur, please bring with you any

important medical records and information that may be necessary during your stay.

Please note that it can be difficult to fill prescriptions not issued by an Italian doctor, and medicine that is mailed to you will almost surely be stopped at customs. Be sure to bring a supply that will last for your entire stay abroad, and pack it in your carry-on.

MONEY

It is a good idea to bring some European currency with you to avoid the hassle of searching for a bank or ATM machine when you first get off the plane. We suggest bringing at least the equivalent of \$300-\$600 in euros to pay for transportation from the airport to your apartment, food, other supplies, and your Permit of Stay, etc. during your first two weeks in Florence. (We recommend bringing or using small bills. It is very difficult to find storeowners who will accept or give change for large bills.) This should also cover the initial expenses for supplies, food, bus tickets, etc. The easiest way to get money while in Europe is to use your ATM or debit card to withdraw money from your home bank account. You may need to obtain an international PIN from your bank prior to departure.

Please see the Money Transactions section of the *SACI Student Handbook* for further information. We do not advise students to open a bank account while in Italy since the costs usually outweigh the benefits.

BUDGETING YOUR STAY

No two people have the same financial needs. Costs vary greatly depending on which courses you take, what kind of (and how much) food you eat, how many films, concerts, and other events you attend, and

how many books you purchase. Also, how much traveling you do while in Italy will affect expenses greatly.

Beyond tuition, fees, and housing, a student's normal monthly expenses for food, books & supplies, toiletries, medicines, weekend travel, cell phones, and entertainment range between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

The penalties for violating drug laws overseas are severe, and your foreign passport cannot protect you if you get into trouble with the law. While you are in Italy, you are subject solely to its laws; you are not protected by the law of your home country. Remember, the least violation of drug laws can mean jail for you in almost every country. Keep away from drugs that you are not authorized to have.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

In Italy, electrical appliances run on 220 volts. If you are bringing electrical appliances that run on different voltage, it's best to take a converter and adapter with you. Though many hair dryers and other appliances advertise built-in adapters for European voltage, often they blow out or short out the apartment's electrical system. It is strongly suggested that you buy a safe Italian appliance in Florence and divide the expense among housemates (price approximately \$25). If you bring a laptop computer, please make sure that you have the proper surge protector and adapter. Wireless computer access is available at SACI, and there are electrical outlets in the SACI library for laptops.

WIFI / TELEPHONES

All SACI apartments have Wi-Fi capability. However, SACI apartments are not equipped with telephones. This decision has been made by the landlords as a result of large unpaid bills left by students in the past. This problem can be resolved by renting or purchasing cellular phones in Italy. Some phones bought in your home country can provide service in Europe, but these tend to be more expensive than phones rented or purchased with plans arranged in Florence. Information on cell phone providers will be provided during Orientation and can be found on the SACI website. Most pay phones in Florence require a *scheda telefonica* (phone card) which can be purchased from coffee bars.



MAILING / SHIPPING / STORAGE

To reduce the hassle of traveling with a heavy load of luggage and having to pay extra for transportation of their bags, some students send seasonal clothing, books, etc. a month or more before leaving. If you need to bring more than your suitcases allow, be warned that the shipping process can take up to a few months and is expensive. Don't pack anything essential in this pre-shipment. DHL and Fed Ex are both mail services that students and their families have used in the past. SACI uses DHL to send all packages between the Florence and New York offices, and many families find this to be the most reliable service. It is usually best to send packages via air mail rather than surface mail, although it is more expensive. (A letter may take 3-10 days to get from Florence to the US. Packages sent surface mail may take 8-11 weeks; packages sent air mail may take 2-4 weeks.) Please be advised that almost all packages mailed from the US will be subject to Italian customs inspection and duties. In order to avoid paying a tax on the value declared, please ask friends and relatives sending you packages from home to claim "personal items" of a value less than 20 euros.

In addition, please note that the following items will automatically a) get stuck at customs, b) be subject to inspection, c) require special paperwork and payment of a tax in order to get released:

- prescription drugs
- over-the-counter drugs
- vitamins, chewing gum, and energy drinks/bars
- any cosmetic item (that includes shampoos, lotions, make-up and toothpaste!)

Packages should be sent to the following address:

Student's Name
c/o Studio Arts College International
Palazzo dei Cartelloni
Via Sant'Antonino, 11
50123 Florence, ITALY

From the US, SACI's telephone number in Florence is 011-39-055-289948. School-related faxes can be sent and received in the SACI front office. From the US, SACI's fax number in Florence is: 011-39-055-2776408. If you wish to send or receive a non-school-related fax, there is a shop for this purpose: Copisteria X, via San Gallo, 72/r, Florence, Italy (tel: 39-055-215367; fax: 39-055-215367). Discounts are available for SACI students.

Please see the *SACI Student Handbook* for more communications information.

Storage space is not available at SACI except for students enrolled in the Fall term who will be continuing at SACI in the Spring term. Only these students are permitted, during the break between the Fall and Spring terms, to store personal items at SACI.

SUPPLIES & MATERIALS

Once in Florence, your instructors will provide you with art supply lists detailing what is required for your SACI courses. A number of these are available on the SACI website in the course syllabi and on the MySACI dedicated website for admitted students.

You may want to bring any special art tools you use. In general, however, art supply stores are very well stocked. Your SACI ID card will entitle you to discounts at many art stores. The *SACI Student Handbook* has a list of recommended shops, as well as a list of supply terms in Italian which will be useful when you purchase your art supplies.

Painters

Bring supplies if you have a specific brand preference, but comparable products can be found for a good price in Italy (with the exception of some less traditional products like oil sticks). Cotton canvas is readily available and good quality linen is surprisingly affordable. Take advantage of the chance to try Italian paints, and avoid lugging your own.

Printmakers

You will find excellent inks and papers available in Italy.

Sculptors

Bring your favorite tools if they are not too bulky.

Jewelers

Bring any jewelers' supplies, tools, drawing and other materials you may already own. The rest can be purchased in Florence.

Photographers

Bring a non-automatic camera. The materials listed below can be found in Italy, but may be less expensive in the US. Make certain that your camera is in good working order—repair work in Italy is costly and slow. If the camera has not been used for a number of years, have it professionally cleaned at a qualified dealer's or repair shop. Do not purchase photo paper in the US because the size differences create problems. In addition, if photo papers are opened for examination by security officials at airports, they may no longer be usable. Recently, film purchased in the US has been damaged by metal detector x-rays in US airports, so it would be preferable to purchase film in Italy.

Photography Equipment List:

- 35mm SLR camera with manual capacity and interchangeable lenses. "Manual" means that the shutter and aperture can be manipulated independently of each other. It would be handy if you can independently change the ISO/ASA overriding DX encoding. You may use autofocus cameras as long as they have a manual exposure system. There are many cameras that fit this description. Your local photo store sales representatives can be very helpful in this area for suggestions.



- 50mm lens or zoom with 50mm setting
- 20 rolls of black and white 400ASA Kodak film (can be bought in Italy for about the same price). Examples are: Kodak Tri-X 400ASA; Kodak Tmax 400ASA; or Ilford HP5 400ASA; DO NOT PURCHASE C-41 or film with the designation CN, such as Kodak T400cn or Ilford XP1. These are specialized films designed to be processed in color chemicals at one-hour labs and are unusable for the courses.
- Ilford anti-static cloth
- Negative sleeves and binder

For Color Photography:

- DSLR (digital single lens reflex) with manual settings or (in case you prefer to photograph with an analogue camera and to scan your negatives) 35mm camera with manual mode.

Video Students

Video production is taught in black and white and in color; you do not need to bring videotape or equipment with you.

BOOKS

SACI's library holdings include over 13,000 books, monographs, periodicals, and exhibition catalogues—virtually all in English—in the areas of art and art history, literature, and criticism. If you would prefer to buy required texts in Italy to avoid having to carry them from the US, you can inquire about prices and reserve texts via e-mail at Paperback Exchange, an English-language bookstore in Florence. You will be responsible for picking up and paying for the books. Remember to tell them you are a SACI student since you will get a discount. The e-mail address is papex@papex.it.

You should check the course syllabi on the SACI website to learn which texts are required and recommended for the courses in which you plan to enroll. In most instances, you will not have to buy texts before classes begin. Usually it's a good idea to wait until the first day of class before purchasing required texts. If you do have to purchase a text before the first day of class, you will be notified by SACI that this is the case.

STUDIOS

Access to studios is available to the fullest extent allowable by Italian law and insurance restrictions. Every term, an open Life Drawing session is offered one evening each week.

PORTFOLIO

Students who wish to register for courses at the Intermediate or Advanced level, who have not previously submitted electronic images during the application process, must bring on the first day of class a minimum of six images or a video of work already undertaken in these areas of study.

FIELD TRIPS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

ACTIVITIES

Weekend field trips are organized both as part of the Renaissance art history courses and as general Italian culture trips. They are obligatory for students taking Renaissance art history courses. Any empty places on the buses are made available to non-class members on a first-come/first-serve basis. A deposit of 50 euros is required from each student to participate in these field trips, and is refunded at the end of the term unless the student does not go on a field trip for which he or she signed up. Each term there are one or two field trips open to all students. Other class trips take place, such as one to Carrara for sculpture students.

SACI organizes exhibitions every term featuring local and international artists. Additionally, evening events are planned which in the past have included lectures, film nights, and food and Italian culture outings.

For the sports-inclined, there are city-run swimming pools, as well as soccer, rugby, and baseball fields. Other activities include boating (crew work or single sculls on the Arno), tennis, skiing, and horseback riding. Students also may become members of one of the many gymnasiums in the city which offer training in karate, judo, kendo, gymnastics, etc.

Most SACI faculty and staff are fully bilingual and will assist you in making your time at SACI and in Florence educationally and culturally fulfilling. SACI's conversation exchange program helps students to meet Italians with interests and hobbies that often parallel their own.

TRAVEL

The US government has detailed information for students studying abroad. Please visit www.travel.state.gov for more information. Students from other countries should check their own government websites for information.

SACI will have Orientation activities planned for your first days in Florence to help you settle in and get to know the city and the school. If you are arriving at the Florence airport, bring a well-stocked carry-on (clothes, toiletries, medication, etc.), since the arrival of luggage to the Florence airport can be delayed for one to four days.

Group Flight Arrivals

If you are traveling on a SACI group flight, you will be greeted at the airport in Florence and given a complete Orientation packet, including your apartment keys (if you are in SACI housing). Students will then be sent in taxis to their respective apartments. Students are responsible for paying the cost of the taxi ride; please be sure to have at least 30 euros on you for the taxi ride into Florence.

The Florence airport is very small. It takes a while to gather an entire group flight and disseminate all of the important information to students. Please remember to be patient once you first arrive.

Independent Arrivals

If you are traveling on your own to Florence, you should plan to arrive on the same day as students on the SACI group flights. Come to SACI (via Sant'Antonino, 11) where you will be given a complete Orientation packet which will include your apartment keys (if you are in SACI housing). You will not be allowed to move into SACI housing before this day. If you plan to arrive earlier, you will need to reserve a hostel or hotel room well in advance.

Regular office hours at SACI are Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. However, the office will be open from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm for Orientation the first two days of the term. If you know that you will be arriving before or after these hours—or after the first day of Orientation—please let the SACI staff in Florence know when you will be arriving so that special arrangements can be made, if possible. Please note: If the hotels are full, the staff at the tourist information center at the train station can help you to find a place to stay that is within your price range.

Useful Travel Information

Train timetables can be found at www.trenitalia.com or www.italotreno.it/en.

Remember that Europe uses military time indications (a 24-hour clock). This means that from 1:00 pm in the afternoon to midnight times are designated as follows: 1:00 pm is 13:00, 2:00 pm is 14:00, etc. Train times will be indicated as such, so be careful

when reading train schedules. For example, a 2:30 pm train arrival will be listed as arriving at 14:30 or a 7:45 pm train departure will be listed as departing at 19:45.

Tickets and supplements for fast trains (*Frecciarossa*, for example) should be purchased before boarding; if purchased on the train from the conductor, you will have to pay an additional fee. Make sure that, before you get on the train, you stamp your ticket in the small validation machine at the beginning of the platform. If you do not stamp your ticket, you will be fined on the train.

Getting to SACI from the Florence Airport

www.aeroporto.firenze.it/en

The school is a 20-minute taxi ride from the Florence Peretola Amerigo Vespucci airport, and taxis wait just outside the terminal (cost: approximately 20-25 euros, depending on the quantity of luggage). The most inexpensive and convenient way to reach the city center from the airport is the T2 tram line. The tram departs approximately every 4 minutes from just outside the airport. Tickets can be bought from automated ticket machines located at the tram stop (the display language can also be set to English). Don't forget to validate your ticket in the machine once you're on board the tram to avoid possible fines. For more information, see: www.gestramvia.it There is also a *Vola in Bus* shuttle bus to the Florence Santa Maria Novella train station, which is a five-minute walk from SACI (cost: 6 euros).

Getting to SACI from the Milan Airport

www.milanairports.com/en

From the Milan Malpensa airport, there are direct shuttle buses to the central train station, Milano Centrale, and the trip takes about one hour (cost: approximately 10 euros; www.malpensashuttle.it/en). From the Milan Linate airport, there are also buses to the central train station. Milan-Florence by train takes approximately one hour and forty-five minutes, and trains are fairly frequent. *Frecciarossa* trains are the fastest. Ask at the *biglietteria* for a one-way ticket to the main Florence train station, Firenze Santa Maria Novella (Firenze SMN). Trains that stop in Florence may have their final destination indicated as Napoli (Naples) or Roma (Rome). Before you get on the train, stamp your ticket in the small validation machine at the beginning of the platform. For train schedules, see www.trenitalia.com or www.italotreno.it/en.

Getting to SACI from the Rome Airport

www.adr.it

From the Rome Fiumicino - Leonardo da Vinci airport, there are trains to the main train station, Roma Termini. Tickets can be bought at the ticket office before you board the train. The trains leave every 30 minutes from outside the terminal where you buy the tickets. From the Rome Ciampino airport (where most charter flights land), there is the local city bus which leaves you at the end of the "A" line of the subway. The subway will then take you to the main train station. Rome-Florence by train is approximately an hour and a half on a fast train. Other trains can take more than 3 hours. Ask at the *biglietteria* for a one-way ticket to the main Florence train station, Firenze Santa Maria Novella (Firenze SMN). Trains that stop in Florence may have their final destination indicated as Bologna or Milano (Milan). Before you get on the train, stamp your ticket in the small validation machine at the beginning of the platform. For train schedules, see www.trenitalia.com or www.italotreno.it/en.

Getting to SACI from the Pisa Airport

www.pisa-airport.com

The Pisa Galileo Galilei airport is just over an hour from Florence, depending on the train. The airport train station is located

conveniently right at the airport where you will catch the People Mover extension to the main Pisa station. If the train is not running from the airport and there is no available bus (*Airport Bus Express* buses run from the airport to the train station and they are cheap and convenient), take a taxi to the main Pisa Centrale railway station, and you will probably be able to catch a train to Florence. Ask at the *biglietteria* for a one-way ticket to the main Florence train station, Firenze Santa Maria Novella (Firenze SMN). Before you get on the train, stamp your ticket in the small validation machine at the beginning of the platform. For train schedules, see www.trenitalia.com or www.italotreno.it/en.

CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Stereotypes

You're all familiar with it. It stalks the dark corners and lit squares of cities all over the world. Camera hanging around its neck, sneakers on its feet, and map in hand—it's the Obnoxious Tourist! As much as this may offend (although, of course, you are not the obnoxious tourist), stereotypes pervade everyone's perceptions. To combat this type of stereotype, don't play into other people's expectations of your behavior. Instead of becoming upset and hostile when things don't go your way, smile and keep your sense

PHOTO: RACHAEL HERRERA, SACI '16





PHOTO: COCOA LANEY, SACI '18

of humor. You'll find it easier to make friends when you are a patient and caring person and not just another "obnoxious tourist."

Buongiorno. Parla Inglese?

Remember, when in Italy, the native language is Italian. Don't worry about speaking Italian fluently. However, when you initiate a conversation with an Italian person, it is polite to initiate the conversation in Italian. Learn how to say a few important phrases in Italian. Often when people hear you struggling in Italian with a foreign accent, they will be happy to speak with you in English (most Florentines understand at least a few basic English phrases). They probably won't mind that you do not speak Italian fluently, and your efforts to speak their language will be appreciated. The *SACI Student Handbook* contains some of the vocabulary you may need on a daily basis to run errands. It's recommended that you bring an Italian phrase book as well. At the beginning of each Fall and Spring term, SACI offers free classes in Survival Italian for students who are not enrolled in Italian language courses.

Culture Shock

The best thing you can be aware of before you travel abroad is that everyone suffers from culture shock in some way, shape, or form. There are four stages in culture shock: euphoria, irritation, adjustment, and acceptance. Typically, first you will be thrilled and exhilarated to be in a new and foreign country. Then you will begin to discover differences in the new culture and find

yourself upset by the smallest of problems. Finally, you will begin to adjust to the fact that many things in the new culture are just different from what you are used to and that learning to live with the differences is part of the international experience. This, in turn, leads to your acceptance of the new culture and your new-found biculturalism.

The most upsetting part of your adjustment will be soon after your initial euphoria wears off and you find yourself annoyed by almost everything in the new culture. To get through this, it is important for you to remember that you are just going through a phase of culture shock and that there are ways to make things easier for yourself.

First, always keep your sense of humor. There is no better remedy for cultural faux pas than to be able to laugh them off. Second, be adaptable and willing to try new things—you may surprise yourself by liking them! Finally, be patient and use your common sense—culture shock cannot be "cured" overnight, but over time you will find cultural differences educational and enjoyable. Also, refresh your memory about the history and current events of your own country.

The above information should give you a good introduction to cultural orientation. Remember, a smile, a laugh, and an open mind go a long way when trying to adjust to another culture. Keep in mind that learning to fit in is a two-way street; you must give as much to your new friends and home as they give to you. This will help you make your experience as enjoyable as possible.

Re-entry

Just as important as culture shock, and in many ways more difficult to deal with, is re-entry; i.e., your return home at the end of the SACI program and your sojourn in Italy. It might seem strange to start thinking about your return even before you've left, but it is a good idea to be familiar with the phases of re-entry: alienation, reversion, and integration.

The first phase is perhaps the most shocking for people returning from an extended period abroad. Before you leave Italy, you may experience mixed emotions—anxiety and apprehension as well as sadness at the prospect of leaving your new home.

Upon your return home, however, you will most likely feel a sense of elation and relief to be back in your native culture where everything is supposed to be familiar. "Supposed to be" is the key phrase here, because you will have become so familiar with your new culture that you may become slightly uncomfortable with your own culture and feel as if you do not belong in it any longer.

These feelings of alienation will begin to slip away as you become able to incorporate both cultures into your life. As with the initial phases of culture shock, keep your sense of humor and be patient, and eventually you will adapt and re-integrate back into your home culture.

Conclusion

Try to take it easy during your first days in Italy! You will be in a different country with a different culture and language, and it is normal that you will need time to adjust. Italians are generally friendly and will make every effort to understand what you are trying to say.

The Italian language is not difficult to learn, and if you make the effort to learn at least basic questions and phrases before you travel, you will be a step ahead and find that your efforts will be appreciated. Keep in mind during your stay in Florence: make an effort to blend in and learn about Italy and the Italians instead of searching for the US in Italy.

SACI instructors and staff will be as supportive as possible as you adjust to your new home and find your footing in your classes. If you need help with something, ask! We look forward to having you with us in Italy and sharing the experience of Italy with you.

Check List

- Make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the end of your stay in Europe.
- If you have not already done so, return all required forms that are on your MySACI account.
- Visa (required only for Fall and Spring term study)—Begin to apply for your visa as soon as you receive the visa information packet.
- Contact Information—SACI uses e-mail for correspondence with students. Make sure that your e-mail address is updated with SACI and that you check your inbox frequently! In addition, please make sure that the SACI NY office has a valid mailing address for you to which to send your program deposit refund at the conclusion of the term and end-of-year tax documents.
- Reserve a place on the group flight with Advantage Travel or call your travel agent to make independent travel arrangements.
- Payment—Payment for the program must be made according to the payment schedule unless other arrangements have been made with the SACI New York office. Refer to your invoice if you have any questions regarding payment dates.
- Money—Did you set up your bank account for international withdrawal and confirm that your ATM PIN will work?
- Do not forget your:
 - Airline tickets;
 - Valid passport with student visa (if attending in the Fall or Spring terms);
 - Packet of the stamped documents you received along with your passport from the Italian Consulate (Fall and Spring terms only)—you must obtain these from the Italian Consulate prior to your departure for Italy.
- Bring at least the equivalent of \$300-\$600 in euros to pay for transportation from the airport to your apartment, food, other supplies, and your Permit of Stay (Fall & Spring terms), etc. during your first two weeks in Florence.
- ALWAYS keep copies of documents in a separate and safe place and leave a set at home! Share this and all information with family members or a contact person at home.
- If you have any questions, contact:
admissions@saci-florence.edu
See the SACI website for detailed information:
www.saci-florence.edu

SACI IS

A United States non-profit 501(c)(3) educational entity incorporated in 1976

A directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Affiliated with Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools



Recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry of Universities as a foreign non-profit university-level program

Students who would like to receive a copy of SACI's accreditation, licensure, and/or approval should send a signed request for such material to SACI's Dean.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

SACI is an equal opportunity educational institution and employer and does not discriminate or permit discrimination by or against any applicant, employee or student on the basis of an individual's

race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, age, disability, religion, political beliefs or veteran status or other basis prohibited by law in matters of recruitment/admissions, financial aid, housing, institutional services, programs or policies or terms and conditions of employment.

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