COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN
FLORENCE, ITALY

Undergraduate Study Abroad
MFA in Studio Art
MA in Art History
Post-Bac Year in Conservation
Benvenuto!

Studio Arts College International (SACI) is uniquely positioned to provide our students with a rich historical, cultural, and contemporary learning experience. Florence, being the birthplace of the Renaissance, provides more than just exposure to the art and design, but to all disciplines and their vital connections. At their roots, Florentines are artists and artisans with enormous pride in how they make art as an integral part of everyday life. Italy remains to this day the global center for design and artistic innovation.

ACCREDITATION

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

FEDERAL AID

SACI is authorized to administer U.S. Department of Education Title IV HEA Financial Aid for its Graduate programs.
SACI’s Palazzo dei Cartelloni is a Renaissance building in the historic center of Florence. This palazzo—said to be the home of Mona Lisa—provides dynamic and exciting surroundings for study. Rebuilt in the 17th century, its facade commemorates Galileo. It is a landmark building, with light-filled interiors, which includes, in addition to classrooms and studios, an art gallery that leads to a large and lovely garden.

More classrooms—and graduate studios—are in SACI’s Jules Maidoff Palazzo for the Visual Arts, a spacious Renaissance palazzo, just two blocks from Florence’s majestic Duomo. This palazzo is around the corner from Italy’s first opera house, the Teatro della Pergola, and across the street from the Library of the Oblate, which was specially designed for use by university students and features a top-floor café and open-air study area with impressive views of Florence’s historic center.
Palaces

Leonardo's Mona Lisa

SACI Gallery in the Palazzo dei Cartelloni

SACI Garden in the Palazzo dei Cartelloni
SACI offers a wide array of both traditional and cutting-edge studio art and design courses as well as classes in art history, and Italian language and culture. For conservation students, there is the unique opportunity to participate hands-on in the restoration of historic works. In SACI’s Italian Language courses, students are introduced to selected Italian students and young professionals who accompany their SACI partners to interesting local events and activities. SACI students have the opportunity to enroll in performance studies, creative writing, and interdisciplinary courses—and to undertake internships in Florence museums and design firms.

Studio classes normally meet with instructors for 90 hours per term (including field trips). Non-studio classes normally meet with instructors for 45 hours per term (including field trips); one semester hour of credit is awarded for one hour of work in class and at least two hours of work outside class per week. All classes are taught in English, with the exception of Italian language courses.
SACI encourages students to work with the Florentine community on a range of volunteer projects. SACI students teach English at elementary schools, serve as English-language museum guides, and assist at international aid agencies.

As part of their classes, SACI students create artworks for local hospitals, design posters for human rights and slow food organizations, and restore art treasures.

The SACI Artists & Designers Council is a group of internationally renowned artists, filmmakers, photographers, designers, architects, actors, musicians, and other art world professionals who support SACI and its mission. Artists & Designers Council members engage with SACI students in a variety of ways, including: lecturing at SACI; holding solo exhibitions in SACI’s galleries; conducting workshops at SACI; critiquing SACI students’ artworks; participating in symposia hosted by SACI; teaching SACI courses; and visiting SACI as an artist-in-residence. Among others, members include Connie Britton, Christo, Antonio Citterio, Jim Dine, Audrey Flack, Jill Furmanovsky, Ralph Gibson, Paul Karasik, Philip Pearlstein, Beverly Pepper, Daniel Pritzker, Amalie R. Rothschild, Sting, David Tremlett, Rick Valicenti, and Ben Vereen.
FIELD TRIPS

Over the course of the year, students in SACI classes have opportunities to visit Rome, Milan, Bologna, Pisa, Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano, Arezzo, Assisi, Ravenna, Mantua, Carrara, Pietrasanta, Vinci, and the Medici villas—as well as the major museums, churches, and monuments of Florence. Students visit artists’ studios, private collections, galleries, art fairs, professional designers’ studios, theaters, and manufacturers of Italian design products. SACI students have access to modern art collections, research libraries, and contemporary art museums. Optional trips are offered to Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Padua, and Venice. Students have traveled on multi-day trips to London, Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Malta, and, as part of graduate workshops, to Belgrade, Geneva, Havana, and London.

“In addition to working with us in the studio, my instructors at SACI also went to great lengths to expose students to Italy’s contemporary and historical arts by taking us on trips: gallery visits, conventions, local artist studio visits, trips to museums and churches, etc.” - K.H.

Field Trips

SACI Students on a Sculpture Excursion to Carrara
Field Trips

SACI Drawing Students at the Accademia Gallery

SACI Graduate Students at an Exhibition in Prato Curated by a SACI Instructor

SACI Sculpture Students in Pietrasanta
The experiences I had in and through SACI were more than those you get in a school; it was my honeymoon as an art student. My teachers, my classmates, the buildings I studied in, were more like an extended family and home. I simply loved it.”

-A.V.
The 13,000-volume Worthington Library in SACI’s Palazzo dei Cartelloni consists of books, periodicals, digital images, and DVDs. The Blackwell Design Collection in SACI’s Jules Maidoff Palazzo includes numerous architecture and design periodicals. Through ARTstor, SACI students have access to over a million art images and, through JSTOR, they can access thousands of articles in scholarly journals. SACI students can also connect through Questia to the world’s largest online library of books, journals, magazines, and newspaper articles. They are additionally able to use the Luigi Pecci Center for Contemporary Art in Prato and Florence’s renowned libraries, including the Biblioteca Nazionale, British Institute Library, and Library of the Oblate.

Each year, SACI features in its galleries a number of major exhibitions. SACI also hosts many lectures. Speakers include artists, art historians, conservators, museum directors, curators, critics, and scholars specializing in fields across disciplines. Additional activities include life drawing sessions, film screenings, and courses on Italian culture and cuisine. SACI symposia have included a conference on the restoration by SACI conservation students of Florence’s Santa Maria degli Angeli chapel, a forum, featuring David Hockney, on artists’ use of optical devices, and an international symposium, From Galileo to Mars, exploring the interconnected spheres of contemporary art and science.
SACI is extending the classroom into world-renowned museums and institutions with new collaborative projects in art and design. Propelling an already life-changing opportunity to new heights, these initiatives break down boundaries between art, design, fashion, anthropology, science, history and more to develop independent and innovative artists with an unmatched knowledge and awareness of contemporary and historical culture in a rapidly changing world. Following are examples of past collaborations:

**SACI MX: Brand Identity and Wayfinding**

In partnership with some of Florence’s most renowned museums, the SACI MX (Museum Experience) initiative allowed students to partner with the Galleria dell’Accademia, Bargello Musei, La Specola, and Museo del Tessuto to confront problems of mobility and information flow facing many museums today. In a collaborative and professionally-minded environment, students worked with museum professionals to design brand identity and wayfinding solutions, paying particular attention to changing visitor needs and technological advancements. Beyond brand management and wayfinding systems, SACI MX students tackled an even greater task: how to confront issues of accessibility and inclusion/inclusiveness within museums.

**SACI Conservation Students Participate in Groundbreaking Archaeological Discoveries**

SACI students have restored numerous Etruscan, Roman, and Late Antique artifacts using Italian conservation techniques to clean, dry, reassemble, and reconstruct the objects for display. *Wells of Wonders*, a recent exhibition, held in Florence’s renowned National Archaeological Museum, celebrated six years of work by one hundred SACI students who restored 180 artifacts from ancient wells in Cetamura.

**Learning from Leaders of Italian High Fashion and Design**

Fashioning Spaces, a Fashion Design program developed as a collaboration with SACI and Florence’s Ferragamo Foundation and Museum, opens doors to Italy’s unmatched expertise in fashion and design. The initiative focused on
Ferragamo’s year-long exhibition celebrating the 90th anniversary of Salvatore Ferragamo’s return to Italy. The program approached the strategy and implementation of this exhibition as a case-study for effective storefront and museum display and design. Students worked with SACI faculty members and the museum’s director to develop their own team-based designs for possible pop-up installations in Ferragamo’s flagship stores.

**Interdisciplinary Design: Without Limits**

*Without Limits* is an interdisciplinary design course developed in collaboration with Dainese’s D-Air Lab. In the inaugural collaboration, students were challenged to rethink fashion while simultaneously integrating protective technologies for the aging population. Without Limits brings together theoretical and practical approaches through collective interdisciplinary problem-solving in a studio format with a human-centered approach to Design. Students are exposed to the research and development conducted by Dainese, and apply research, design and entrepreneurial thinking to develop their ideas towards the realization of protective clothing for the elderly. Instructors and experts in the area of Fashion Design, Fiber, Industrial Design, Visual Design, and Interaction Design guide students through complex problem-solving and innovating. This is an ongoing collaboration.

**Engaging with Contemporary Art & Artists**

SACI students and faculty members work with the Education Department of the CCC Strozzina at the Strozzi Foundation, Florence’s leading museum for contemporary art. They participate in screenings, workshops, and exhibitions, and engage in city-wide dialogues with artists and curators from around the world. In conjunction with an exhibition at the Strozzi of artworks by Ai Weiwei, SACI students recently participated in private viewings and workshops related to the exhibition and created their own political artworks which were featured in a special publication.

**Body Archives**

Proving that art is often most valuable when it crosses into other fields, students in the *Body Archives* course respond to important themes in science, history, anthropology, and psychology to create engaging, contemporary work. Students in this course regularly exhibit in Florence’s Museum of Anthropology and Museum of Natural History, La Specola and have opportunities to conduct independent research within these museums’ archives. The course concentrates on the representation of the body throughout history, with students utilizing multidisciplinary approaches to complete ambitious art projects in conjunction with these museums and other organizations in Florence.
Since 1975 thousands of students have benefited from a life-changing educational experience offered at SACI. The extensive range of studio arts, design, conservation, art history, and Italian culture and language courses provides our students with the means to meet their individual educational needs while connecting with the rich cultural heritage of Italy.

The student body is largely comprised of students enrolled at US universities and institutions in other countries. In both Fall and Spring, a student can enroll in five classes for a total of 15 credits. Advanced students may be eligible to pursue directed independent study or undertake an internship in a design firm, museum, or gallery. As part of their classes, SACI students often work with local organizations.

Students visit renowned museums in many famous Italian cities over the course of the year. They also visit artists’ and designers’ studios, private collections, galleries, art fairs, and theaters, modern and historic public art collections, research libraries, and contemporary art museums.

Academic Year and Semester Abroad students enjoy many opportunities to exhibit their artwork at SACI. The Academic Year Abroad culminates in a major end-of-year student exhibition which serves as an opportunity for students to display their work to the SACI community and the Florentine public.

Students may use their financial aid to study at SACI.

Study Abroad at SACI
SUMMER PROGRAMS
Florence/Venice

SUMMER STUDIES IN FLORENCE

Students of diverse backgrounds have benefited from the wide range of study possibilities offered during these short terms to make their time at SACI a season of growth and fulfillment. Those who study at SACI in Florence can enroll in classes that visit all of the city’s major museums as well as masterpieces in the city’s churches and monasteries. Field trips to Pisa, Arezzo, Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano, and Fiesole are open to all Summer Florence program students, as are Open Drawing sessions, Film Nights, and presentations by distinguished artists, designers, and scholars.

SACI’s Summer I term runs for 5 weeks from mid May through June and SACI’s Summer II term runs for 4 weeks from the end of June through July. Students may take two three-credit courses during either the Summer I or Summer II term. The Full Summer Florence program allows students to earn 12 credits in a 10-week period.

VENICE SUMMER PROGRAM

During Summer terms, SACI students can enroll in a special 6-credit Venice program in which they study Contemporary Art and Digital Photography. They reside in Venice for the entire term and go on weekend field trips. In years when the Venice Biennale is held, they visit many of the exhibitions and attend Biennale events. Students can also enroll in SACI’s Full Summer Florence & Venice Program in which they spend their first 5 weeks studying in Florence before moving to Venice for 4 weeks.

NON-CREDIT PROGRAM

Those not seeking credits can enroll in SACI’s Non-Credit program, offered only during the Summer II term in Florence. Students in this program attend one SACI course for either two or four weeks.

“I chose SACI for its exceptional photography program, great location, and easily transferable credits. I was looking to go to art school in Italy in a city and it pretty much was the perfect school for me. What I got out of it was even more than I remotely imagined for my year at SACI and it went so far as to make me decide to major in photography.” -N.P.
MFA Program
SACI’s master’s degree students live and work in the city that, during the Renaissance, revolutionized art and has since served as an inspiration and catalyst for generations of artists and art historians. They are part of a community that works in a creative environment of rigorous critical and technical inquiry utilizing the unique artistic and cultural resources of Italy. They travel extensively throughout the country and to major cities elsewhere in Europe. Their training at SACI prepares them for careers as artists, scholars, and university instructors.

Working in their studios in a fully renovated Renaissance palazzo in the heart of Florence, SACI’s MFA students are just steps away from the great works that have drawn artists past and present to Florence to seek inspiration and develop their own pictorial language.

In the MFA in Studio Art program, students pursue a curriculum integrating practical and critical skills that encourages individual innovation and creative collaboration. They benefit from mentoring by SACI’s outstanding faculty as well as through interaction with visiting artists including members of SACI’s Artists & Designers Council, which consists of established artists, designers, photographers, critics, theorists, curators, and publishers, many of international renown.

Students in the MFA in Studio Art program can focus on a wide variety of artistic mediums and studies.

Students enroll for two successive academic years and earn 60 credits. During their first year, they construct a program that balances independent study with classroom learning. In their second year, emphasis is placed upon career options for emerging artists. Students can gain practical experience as SACI Teaching Assistants and their artworks are featured in major exhibitions in Florence.

In their graduate seminars, students explore a range of contemporary art practices, visit artists in their studios, and meet museum curators, critics, and other key figures in the art world.
MA PROGRAM

1-Year MA in Art History

Students in the MA in Art History program attend SACI for one full academic year (September through July) and earn 36 credits. They study historiography and research methodology in special graduate seminars and focus on a broad range of art history topics as well as those specific to their own research interests. Their scholarly endeavors, which are rooted in direct experience of Italian and European art and culture, culminate in the writing of a thesis.

MA in Art History Major Disciplines

- Italian Late Medieval & Early Renaissance Art
- Italian High Renaissance, Mannerist, & Early Baroque Art
- Baroque & Rococo European & Italian Art
- 19th-Century European & Italian Art
- Modern European & Italian Art
- Contemporary European & Italian Art
- Women & the Arts in Italy
- Contemporary Art Theory & Criticism
- History of Italian Cinema
- History of Photography
- Conservation Law, Business, and Management
- Museology

Interior of Florence's Baptistry
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Conservation

This intense and rich year of instruction provides graduate students with a challenging study opportunity in Conservation. All teaching faculty are recognized experts in their field. Students visit artists’ studios, museums, galleries, and conservation laboratories and participate in the Graduate Seminar, which is central to the study experience. The Graduate Seminars explore a wide variety of approaches in conservation and art making—from traditional to cutting edge—and connect students to Italian art, culture, and leading contemporary artists, critics, art historians, and conservators.

Students in the Post-Bac in Conservation program have the rare opportunity to learn traditional and contemporary conservation techniques in the Graduate Seminar in Conservation. After choosing a specialized field, students work hands-on restoring paintings and/or artifacts that are part of Italy’s recognized cultural heritage. They meet in class with Italy’s top conservators, who teach approaches and diagnostic systems for the conservation of paintings, drawings, sculpture, textiles, wood, paper, and archaeological artifacts. Additional classes cover conservation laws and business practices. Students also visit leading state conservation and diagnostics laboratories and learn how to carry out research in libraries, foundations, and conservation centers. Students choose an original topic which they explore in depth and which they present in a thesis at the conclusion of their studies.

SACI’s Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Conservation is well suited to those with some prior training in studio art, art history, or art conservation who decided after completing their bachelor’s degree that they would like to pursue a career in fine arts or conservation.

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Year offers unique opportunities to those who intend to earn an MFA, MA, or PhD, and want to create a significant body of work in their field as a basis for application to an advanced degree program.

The Major Discipline is the area which the student chooses to concentrate on and is at the heart of the program of study. It can be selected from the following:

Post-Bac Major Disciplines:

- Painting Conservation
- Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts
- Mural Conservation
“My time at SACI Florence gave me a compass with which to begin to connect the dots of my contemporary cultural experience within the greater map of Art History. My work is so much the richer for it, and my semester there finds its way into my studio every day.” - J.R.
COURSES OFFERED:

2D STUDIO ART
- Drawing
- Etching
- Fresco Painting
- Painting
- Serigraphy

3D STUDIO ART
- Ceramics
- Sculpture

ART HISTORY, MUSEOLOGY, & CINEMA STUDIES
- Baroque & Rococo Art History
- Contemporary Art
- Contemporary Art Theory & Criticism
- Early Renaissance Art History
- High Renaissance Art History
- History of Italian Cinema
- Modern European & Italian Art History
- Museology
- Museology Internship
- Renaissance Art History Survey
- Women & the Arts in Italy

CONSERVATION
- Conservation Law, Business & Management
- Conservation of Archaeological Artifacts
- Diagnostic Techniques for Conservators
- Mural Conservation
- Painting Conservation

CRAFTS
- Batik
- Book Arts
- Jewelry Design
- Weaving

DESIGN
- Architectural Drawing
- Design Internship
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Infographics
- Interactive Art & Design
- Interdisciplinary Design
- Interior Design
- Italian Fashion Design
- Typography
- Visual Design

GRADUATE SEMINARS
- Conservation
- Art History
- Studio Art

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Italian Language
- Italian for Graduate Research

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIO
- Body Archives
- Installation & Performance Art

SUMMER VENICE
- Contemporary Art: Biennale & Beyond
- Contemporary Art in Historic Venice (alternate years)
- Digital Photography

VISUAL MEDIA
- Animation
- Black & White Photography
- Color Photography
- Digital Multimedia
- Video

Founded in 1975, SACI is a non-profit institution accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

APPLY NOW AT: www.saci-florence.edu