Merrimack in Perugia, Italy A Partnership with the Umbra Institute and CISabroad

http://www.umbra.org/
http://www.cisabroad.com/study-abroad/italy/semester-in-perugia

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Umbra Institute

- Offers a wide array of courses, and hosts nearly 400 students from more than 100
 North American colleges and universities annually, including Italian students from
 the local Universita' degli Studi di Perugia.
- **Perugia** is located about halfway between Florence and Rome in Umbria, a region known as the "green heart of Italy" for its lush natural treasures and central location Nicknamed the "University City," Perugia is home for tens of thousands of students
- Academic programs are available for all students regardless of language level
- Students take part in comprehensive orientation designed to acclimate them to their surroundings and provide them with essential information about life in Italy.
- 4 programs are offered at the Umbra Institute:
 - o General Studies Program
 - Direct Enrollment Programs
 - o Programs with a Focus in Community Engagement
 - o Food Studies Program

CIS abroad

- To help you acclimate to your new surroundings, each term begins with a 3-day orientation starting with airport pick-up. The orientation includes sessions on academics, living in Perugia and exploring the surrounding areas, and health and safety issues. Plus you will take part in Italian-language workshops to teach you practical terms and phrases you can use in everyday life in the city, as well as walking tours of the city.
- The Umbra Institute has put together an interesting compilation of videos on YouTube titled UmbraVIEWS. You can view videos on academic programs, visits to classrooms and class field trips, visits to apartments and sites throughout Perugia, and other aspects of a semester abroad in Italy. Get a feel of what life will be like for you during your semester before you even arrive!

PROGRAM DATES

Spring 2014
January 3rd- Departure from U.S.
January 4th - Arrivals in Rome/Transfer to Perugia
January 5-6th - Orientation

January 7-10th - General Studies Week of Intensive Italian

January 13th - General Studies Classes Begin

February 17-20th - General Studies Midterm Exams/Assignments

February 21-March 2nd - General Studies Semester Break

March 3rd - General Studies Classes Resume

April 10th - Last Day of Regularly Scheduled General Studies Classes

April 14-17th General Studies Elective Course Review Sessions, Italian Final Exams, Special Academic Events

April 21st - Easter Monday - Italian Holiday Umbra Closed

April 22-24th - General Studies Elective Course Final Exams

April 25th - All Student Early Morning Buses to Rome Airport; Return Flights Depart Rome for US

APPLICATION

Visit the Office of International Programs for more information. Applications are online through CISabroad (http://www.cisabroad.com/apply-now).

- Submit the following documents to CIS to complete your application:
 - Academic Reference Form
 - Course Selection Worksheet
 - Official Transcript from your Home College or University
 - Personal Statement
 - Applicant Profile
 - CIS Scholarship Application (optional)

ACADEMICS

COURSES ABROAD

- Students will take **five 3-credit** courses. To view courses offerings for this program visit: http://www.umbra.org/semester/spring/
- Before you go abroad, it is best to get 7–8 classes approved for your semester program. This gives you some flexibility in setting up your class schedule. Think about courses required for your major, but also courses that fulfill your elective requirements.
- Please note that you will not be registered for your courses at the Umbra Institute until you arrive in Italy and go through the registration process in orientation. You will, however, be pre-approved for your course choices and will be informed if any of your courses will be unavailable for any reason.

CLASSROOM

• The Umbra Institute offers a variety of distinctive academic programs designed to serve the needs of a diverse range of students that want to study abroad in Italy.

A general studies program provides students from any discipline or major the
opportunity to choose liberally from a selection of courses taught by Umbra faculty,
during the regular semesters or our summer session. For those students eager to
pursue deep integration within the local community, academic internships, service
learning, independent research and honors courses are available to challenge even
the most academically ambitious.

TRANSCRIPT AND GRADES

• On successful completion of the program, an official copy of each student's transcript is sent to Merrimack College.

HOUSING AND MEALS

HOUSING

- As a CIS student in Perugia, you will live with other students in apartments in the historic center of Perugia. You will share these apartments with up to four other students, who can be other Americans or international students, but all apartments will be in close proximity to the Institute's facilities and other resources.
- Each of the student apartments will be fully furnished with both kitchen and bathroom facilities. The kitchen will include a refrigerator, stove, sink, pans, pots, cutlery, and dishes and students will be provided with sheets, blankets, and pillows. Some apartments may also include a microwave, full oven, desk, washing machine, or a television.
- Studying abroad in Perugia will be a unique experience for everyone and living in a neighborhood with Italian neighbors will allow you to gain insight into the local life and culture.

MEALS

- Meals can be made at home, purchased at the three university cafeterias, or in one of the many Perugino restaurants, trattorias, cafes, or pizzerias.
- After paying their study abroad bill to Merrimack, students will receive a meal stipend in the amount you pay for a meal plan here at Merrimack to go towards your meals abroad.
- Learn about the host countries Dining Etiquette
 http://etiquettescholar.com/dining etiquette/table-etiquette/europem_table_manners/italian_dining_etiquette.html

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

PASSPORT

- You **must** have a valid passport in order to travel abroad
- You need to renew your passport if it will expire in less than a year.

VISA

- All students holding a non-European Union passport are required by law to obtain a student visa before departing from their home country. Without a valid student visa students can not apply to obtain their Permit to Stay.
- AUR Admissions Office will send each accepted student a visa letter which along with all other necessary documents
- As part of the pre-departure process, a visa workshop will be held by the Office of International Programs for all Merrimack students studying in Italy.
- Please note that the student visa should be obtained prior to leaving one's home country. It is not possible to apply for such a visa in Italy.

TRAVEL

• Students are responsible for **booking their own transportation** to and from the host country; however, a representative will greet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation when you arrive in Italy.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Students should make photocopies of all their important documents, such as
 passport, visa (if applicable), credit cards (front and back), ID cards, medical
 insurance cards, etc. Bring one set of photocopies abroad and leave another set at
 home with your parents. In addition, you should pack a photocopy of your passport
 in each of your suitcases.
- Students should bring their driver's license to use as a form of everyday ID while abroad and carry a photocopy of their passport at all times. It's not a good idea to carry your passport with you unless you are traveling. While you're not traveling, keep your passport locked in your suitcase.

FINANCES

Students who study abroad for semester or year program at UCD will continue to pay tuition, room and board to Merrimack College and will keep all financial aid.

Additional study abroad costs include:

- Airfare
- Spending Money for personal expenses and travel
- Books
- Visa application (if applicable)
- \$800 study abroad fee

ATM Cards

• The best and easiest way for you to get cash on a regular basis while you're abroad will be to use your ATM card. Withdrawing cash with your ATM card gives you a better exchange rate than exchanging travelers checks or U.S. cash. Purchases made with your credit card or ATM/debit card will get you the best exchange rate of the day. Since many ATMs abroad will only access a checking account, do not leave your funds in a savings account before departure.

- The ATM withdrawal fee is usually higher abroad and depends on your bank, so check with your bank before you go. Also, you must notify your bank that you'll be using your card abroad; sometimes banks have to remove a hold on the card to make this possible. If you do not notify your bank, sometimes banks will simply cancel your card if they see purchases or withdrawals from outside the U.S. because they've assumed your card has been stolen.
 - Bank of America, has affiliated banks in Italy (they are called BNL). So if you have an account with Bank of America you will not be charged to use BNL ATMs. This something to keep in mind if you are planning to open a new bank account before going abroad.
- Make sure your ATM card has a 4-digit PIN number. Foreign ATM machines
 usually do not accept 5-digit PIN numbers. Your bank can issue you a 4-digit PIN,
 but be sure to request this at least 4-6 weeks before departure. If your ATM card
 says Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard or Visa, it should work at foreign ATM machines
 that display these logos.
- Check with your bank AND your credit card company to inquire if they charge a foreign transaction fee. This is also called a currency conversion fee and is usually 1-3% of your purchase. Ask your bank if you can avoid this fee by making purchases using the debit function.

Credit Cards

- Credit cards are widely used abroad; Visa and MasterCard are the most widely accepted. American Express is not accepted as frequently. Discover Cards are usually not accepted abroad. Check with your credit card company to see if they charge a foreign transaction fee.
- Notify your credit card company that you will be using your credit card abroad.

HEALTH AND SAFTY

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In the event of an emergency, Romina, CISabroad's Site Director in Perugia, should be your primary contact. Romina will be present in Italy and available to students for activities, emergencies, issues or concerns around your program, or just if you're feeling out of place and need some support. All students will be formally introduced to her prior to the start of the program and she will maintain contact with you throughout the program, to ensure that everything is going well.

Italy 113 Emergency, 115 Fire, 118 Medical

Merrimack College (978) 837 - 5000 Office of International Programs (978) 837 - 5210 Merrimack College Police Department (978) 837 - 5555

VACCINATIONS

It is a good idea to let your doctor know that you are planning to live abroad. They will make sure you have had all your **Routine Vaccinations**. Additional vaccinations are usually not required to travel to Europe.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

- If you take prescription medication, you must bring enough to last the duration of your program. It is difficult to fill prescriptions while abroad. It is also not possible to have medication mailed to you because it will not get through customs, so make sure you bring enough for your entire stay. Students may not be able to find the exact equivalent of their medication. Medications shipped abroad may be blocked by customs, making it impossible to retrieve them.
- All prescription medication and copies of the prescriptions should be packed in your carry-on luggage, in case your checked luggage is delayed. Prescription medication must always be carried in the original container so it can be clearly identified as belonging to you.

INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE

All students will be covered through **HTH Worldwide:** www.hthstudents.com

EMBASSY

- Find out where the LOCAL EMBASSY is located: http://www.usembassy.gov/
- **REGISTER** with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/