

Syracuse ABROAD

Florence Pre-Departure Orientation Fall 2018



Villa
Rossa



You'll be welcomed by the supportive Syracuse Florence staff:



Dr. Sasha Perugini,
Syracuse Florence
Director



Amy Kleine,
Assistant
Director for
Health and
Wellness



Melanie Honour,
Student Life
Advisor



Jessica Volpe,
Supervisor of
Student Life and
Housing

Visa Update

- All students will need a visa to study in Italy
- Group submission update
- Independent submission
- EU citizens can travel without a visa
- Contact Lucile & Courtney with any visa related issues

*Non-U.S. citizens may be required to obtain additional visas for the Signature Seminars, personal travel, or course/program related trips.



Flights: Departure

Group flight:

- Group flights will leave on Monday, September 3rd from JFK
- Arrive at least four hours before the flight departs
- You'll be met at the airport by an Advantage Travel rep and the Syracuse Abroad group flight leader
- Syracuse Abroad group flight leaders will accompany your flight
- Complete the Travel Information questionnaire in your application portal to confirm your group flight

Independent travelers:

- Complete the travel questionnaire in your application portal and upload your itinerary



Packing

- One large suitcase, one carry-on, and one personal item (tote, purse)
- Be prepared that luggage may arrive in Florence a few days after you do, pack accordingly!
- Valuables/medication(s) should go in personal item (in case baggage is delayed, lost, etc.)
- Check with your airline(s) for baggage restrictions and fees: Too many bags or overweight bags will usually incur fees!
- Check the TSA website (www.tsa.gov) for the most up-to-date security regulations
- Don't bring too much stuff! Most clothing and daily necessities can be purchased abroad
- Leave room in your suitcase for souvenirs that you're going to buy!



Orientation

Mandatory orientation begins on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

- You will spend the first night in a hotel in Montecatini
- Transportation to the orientation hotel will be coordinated by Syracuse Florence for all group flights, and independent travelers who arrive on-time
- At the hotel you will receive an extensive overview of housing, safety, registration, and meet key staff
- You will move to your housing the second day of orientation. Your host family will come to the Center to pick you up.
- An overview of orientation will be emailed to you shortly before departure. Full orientation information will be provided upon arrival



Health Preparations

- Health Check-Up: Discuss continued medical/mental health treatment, and any immunizations
- Dental exam

Medication: Bring enough for your entire time abroad.

- You CANNOT mail medication! Contact us for a letter to your insurance company.
- ISOS resources
- Notify us about special storage requirements.

Traveling with medication:

- Pack all medication in personal item **only**
- Medication must be in original containers

Questions: Contact Assistant Director of Student Services, Bridget Demorest: brhughes@syr.edu

Insurance Abroad

- Review private insurance for international coverage
- Students pay up front for medical visits, then submit claim for reimbursement
- Personal Property Insurance- consider purchasing additional coverage
- For information about Syracuse Abroad Insurance: suabroad.syr.edu/health-and-safety/insurance/



International SOS

Medical & Security Advisory Service

- Pre-departure advice:
 - Prescription medication locally
 - Medical travel recommendations
 - immunization requirements
- While abroad:
 - 24/7 availability phone consultation
 - locally vetted English speaking doctors- locations worldwide
 - Country risk ratings, State Department warnings
 - Emergency evacuation services

Download the free ISOS Assistance app

Technology

Cell phones:

- Bring U.S. phones for use pre- and post-semester travel
- Students can purchase a prepaid cellular phone plan or a SIM card for an unlocked U.S. phone
- Many apps provide free texting, calling, and video chatting with Wi-Fi (Whatsapp, Viber, Skype, etc.)

Using devices abroad:

- Single voltage appliances will need a converter
- All appliances need a plug adaptor



Finances Abroad

- Contact your bank:
 - Let them know how long you will be living abroad
 - Notify them of your travel plans (while abroad)
 - Ask about affiliate banks abroad
 - Ask about international fees
- Do NOT bring large amounts of U.S. dollars
- Create a budget for shopping, traveling, and spending abroad
- Optional: Bring a small amount of local currency (taxi from airport, if needed)
- Be aware of exchange rates: They change all the time!
- Review the financial information section of the online Preparing to Go guide



Academics Abroad

Course registration:

- Online class registration is complete as of May 30th
- Any changes to course schedules will be done in Florence
- Hold off on making personal travel plans until registration is finalized abroad: Required course trips

Academic accommodations (if applicable):

- Complete the Request for Accommodations in application portal
- Contact your office of disability services
- Questions? Contact Assistant Director, Student Services, Bridget Demorest: brhughes@syr.edu

Expectations abroad:

- Students are bound by [Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- Class attendance is mandatory

Internships:

- Fill out the Internship Request Form in your application portal
- Placements will be finalized in Florence



Homestays

- Roommate from the Syracuse program
- All linens provided, family will do laundry once/week
- Housing is not available during fall break (October, 26th-November, 4th)
- Keep an open mind
- Communicate with your host family
- Practice Italian as much as possible
- Bring a host family gift when you are introduced:
 - Small gift representative of your hometown/home state
 - Buy chocolates or flowers in Florence
- Visit the [Syracuse Florence Homestay page](#) for helpful insight on the homestay experience, or connect with a [Global Ambassador](#)!



Apartments

- For architecture and studio arts students
- Groups of 3 to 6 people from the Syracuse program
- Syracuse Florence will pay the landlord directly for rent and utilities
- Apartments are fully furnished and include kitchenware, linens, etc.
- Visit the [Apartments page](#) for more details



Health, Wellness & Living Abroad



Amy Kleine, Assistant
Director for Health and
Wellness

- Dealing with stress, anxiety, and homesickness
 - Get rest
 - Eat well
 - Find a quiet place
- An English-speaking doctor visits the campus twice a week. Visits are free of charge!
- Gym memberships are available, see the Student Life Office for recommendations.

Staying Safe

An extensive on-site overview of local issues & safety resources will occur during orientation. Attendance is mandatory.

General Safety:

- Before departure, students should register travel with ISOS MyTrips travel locator
- Emergency plans in place at all centers
- Call the emergency number provided at orientation immediately if you feel unsafe.
- Keep track of your belongings, be aware of your surroundings, know how to get home at night

Personal Travel Abroad:

- Complete the required travel form for local staff
- Register personal trip(s) with ISOS while abroad
- Students must travel with their cell phones and chargers
- Check ISOS or State Department sites for up to date travel advice on travel warnings or delays



In Case of Emergency

Keep cell phone on and charged at all times. Always travel with phone and charger.

Contacts before departure:

- Group flight questions/concerns: Advantage Travel (315) 471-2222
- Emergencies: Syracuse Abroad 1-(800)-235-3472

While abroad:

- Students: Call the Syracuse Florence emergency number provided at orientation
- Parents: Contact Syracuse Abroad on-call staff 24/7 1-(800)-235-3472

Email:

- All official program information, including emergency information, will be sent to your Syracuse email account, so students must check that account

Final Reminders

- Read and review the online [Preparing to Go](#) guide
- Complete any remaining post-acceptance forms ASAP
- Set up Syracuse email (visiting students)
- Make health care arrangements (medication, insurance, etc.)
- Contact your bank about your travel plans
- Unlock your U.S. phone (*optional - check with provider*)
- Research baggage restrictions and luggage fees for your airline(s)
- Connect with a [Global Ambassador](#)
- Review [Syracuse Abroad Safety Guidelines](#)
- Visit the Syracuse Florence website: suabroad.syr.edu/florence



Contact/Follow-up questions

Lucile Matthews: lpmatthe@syr.edu
Florence Admissions Counselor

Courtney Eppel cspencer@syr.edu
Visa Coordinator

Syracuse Abroad: 315-443-3471 or
suabroad@syr.edu