



EMPLOYABILITY & STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad is widely recognized as an experience of personal, academic, and professional growth that gives recent graduates an edge in the job market. For this reason, ISI Florence recently launched its **Global Leadership Program**, a semester long initiative in Fall and Spring, that aims to continue the Institute's commitment to encouraging student growth and engagement within the local community. Open to all academic partners, every student brings a diverse educational and professional background to the program. Each global leader participates in multiple reflective initiatives that will allow them the chance to gain insight into their progress through group discussion and brainstorm new goals as they move forward.

Many employability skills are developed while students are in Florence, such as:

- Team work
- Customer focus
- Diligence
- Quick thinking
- Learning agility
- Creative insight

ISI Florence alumni find that their study abroad experience has contributed to their development of cultural competencies (e.g. valuing diversity and improving intercultural understanding). Furthermore, it has cultivated listening and problem-solving skills and helped them become more self-aware and independent.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The **International Studies Institute** makes full use of Florence as a living laboratory. Students walk the same medieval cobblestones as Dante, gaze upon the stunning masterpieces of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, and practice their Italian in the shadow of Brunelleschi's dome. ISI Florence offers academic programs rooted in the liberal arts tradition and boasts a distinguished faculty and world-class student services team. At ISI Florence, students flourish in a safe, stimulating environment, **savoring an exceptional educational experience in a truly exceptional city.** The Institute offers a variety of programs, perfect for any student who is eager to experience Italian life, culture and language, as well as:

- State-of-the-art centrally located facilities
- Expert and dedicated international faculty and staff
- Pre-departure and arrival assistance
- Comprehensive orientation program
- Informative student handbook
- Fully-equipped student apartments in historic center
- Extra- and co-curricular field trips
- Practical Italian language courses and workshops
- Wi-Fi access in apartments and at the Institute
- Emergency hotline available 24/7

For more information, visit www.isiflorence.org or write to us at info@isiflorence.org.



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GET INVOLVED FLORENCE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



GETTING INVOLVED



YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT. At ISI Florence, students are encouraged to dig deep into their adopted home, dissolving the false boundary between **"engaged student"** and **"engaged citizen."** Community Engagement at ISI Florence offers students an unprecedented opportunity to connect with Italians and integrate themselves into the local community, receiving course credit and an invaluable cross-cultural learning experience.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. At ISI Florence we firmly believe the study abroad experience should include more than just taking classes. In addition to regular classroom instruction and tutorials, the program offers a variety of co-curricular activities to support the coursework. Students enjoy field trips to world-renowned destinations such as Milan, Rome, Venice, and Chianti, as well as local venues like the Uffizi Gallery, Accademia, and other historic museums and churches in Florence. Many courses, architecture in particular, also visit European cities such as Paris, Berlin, and Rotterdam. See the web page at isiflorence.org/this-month-at-isi/ for the latest list of exciting trips and co-curricular activities.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. In addition to the many course-related field trips and excursions, ISI Florence offers students an extensive range of extra-curricular activities designed to supplement and enhance their time abroad. The Student Services staff organizes optional activities such as cooking lessons, aperitivo social mixers with international and Italian students, a Florence-wide soccer tournament with other academic institutions, a night at the opera, a 10k charity run, local fairs, food tastings, and much more. Each semester the list expands as new activities are added, enriched and augmented by the seasonal festivities and what's happening around town.



There were cultural barriers... language barriers. We were able to move past that with this experience & build authentic relationships.

The credit-bearing **Internship & Practicum Courses** are ideal for students who would like to give back to the community, to further broaden their cultural perspectives and intercultural awareness, and to see different communities from a more comparative, global standpoint all through dialogue and hands-on experience.

Internships are increasingly valuable to employers—they show an unparalleled level of engagement, practical knowledge, and professional skill. They're also one of the best ways for students to immerse fully in Italian life, crafting an unforgettable study abroad experience while strengthening core competencies in their chosen field.

“One of the most important things that I can take away from this experience is the self-confidence that I derived as a student, traveler, and educator. My life abroad began as one of many unknowns and uncertainties, and further translated into a time of self-discovery.”
 — Jaclyn Mann, Spring 2018



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As part of our initiatives to help students gain valuable cross-cultural experience in an international environment, we promote many opportunities for volunteer work and service learning experiences in Florence. These projects give students hands-on experience and extraordinary out-of-classroom exposure to Italian culture, language, and people.



No matter what your field of study is, ISI Florence offers tailor-made opportunities to get involved in the following areas:

- VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDE
- SERVICE & COMMUNITY PROJECTS
- JOURNALISM & STORYTELLING
- EDUCATION
- ATHLETICS

GIVING BACK TO THE FLORENTINE COMMUNITY

At ISI Florence we are **passionate about immersion!** Volunteering is not only one of the best ways to meet locals and delve into this city's culture and society, but it also allows you to give back to the host city that will be your home for the next four months. Your assistance, skills, and abilities will be greatly appreciated as you learn from the Florentine community.

Volunteering has many rewards for you as well. It provides a growing sense of satisfaction, confidence, and belonging as you take part in something worthwhile. Moreover, you can demonstrate to potential employers that you used your time abroad in a meaningful way to grow and learn about yourself. And of course, you will meet interesting people and build deep friendships through what many students have called a “must-do altruistic experience”.

For a detailed list visit:
www.isiflorence.org/academics/community-engagement/volunteer-activities

TOUR GUIDE AT PALAZZO VECCHIO

Accompany English-speaking tourists through the magnificently decorated rooms of Florence's most prestigious palazzo built in the thirteenth century and home of the city government for nearly 700 years. This is a demanding yet rewarding semester-long experience, and all students must commit to a one-month-long training session and twelve hours per week of guided tours.

PRACTICA

SPEAKING IN PUBLIC PRACTICUM – Tour guide for Ars et Fides Association. Most people report that speaking in public is their greatest fear. And yet the ability to give a speech is one of the most cherished skills today. With this practicum you will learn how to lead a variegated international audience of tourists and introduce them to the art within the main Florentine churches and museums like the Duomo and Santa Croce.

ASSISTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PRACTICUM – I Ragazzi di Sipario co-operative is a social cooperative that employs young adults with intellectual disabilities. Interaction and support to these special workers will lead the students to create an incredible cultural and human exchange.

TEACHING ASSISTANT PRACTICUM – Local kindergarten & primary schools. Students are placed in local kindergartens and primary schools to assist English-language teachers, enhancing a creative learning environment. The teaching assistants are often asked to create lesson plans, propose activities, and lead class discussions.

