

JOSEPH S. BRUNO AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY

Ariccia, Italy

*A Unique Opportunity to
Live and Learn in History*

Offering programs
Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters



For more information:

(334) 844-3748

Megan Elliott, Program Coordinator (in Auburn)
Lacey Armstrong, Executive Director (In Italy)
Dr. Kate Thornton, Director, Office of Global Education

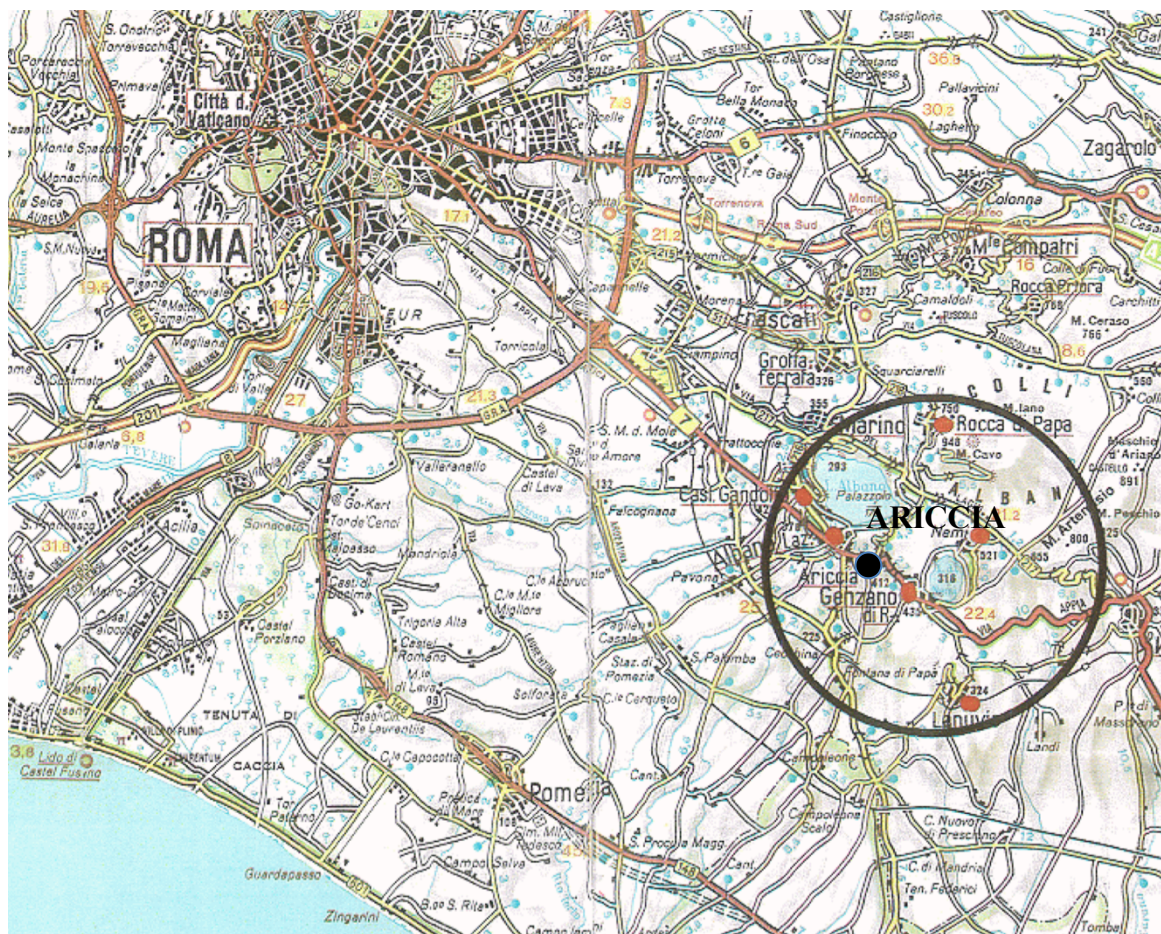
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Revised March 5, 2018
contents are subject to change or further revision

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Ariccia, Italy
ah-REE-cha

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy is located in Ariccia, Italy -
20 miles southeast of Rome in the beautiful Alban Hills.

WHAT IS THE JOSEPH S. BRUNO AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY PROGRAM?

Today, in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn University, students have the unique opportunity to participate in a 21st century Grand Tour through Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy. This semester-long program is conducted completely in English and is based in the small town of Ariccia located in the Alban Hills near Rome in the Lazio region of Italy. The program offers more than a dozen excursions to a variety of cities and regions throughout Italy, including multiple trips to Rome, a tour of the neighboring towns of the Castelli Romani, and visits to the regions of Campania, Umbria, Tuscany, and Veneto to visit cities such as Pompeii, Orvieto, Assisi, Florence, and Venice. The program also organizes an optional travel opportunity to Positano along the Amalfi Coast.



While living and studying in the footsteps of the legendary 17th century Grand Tourists in Italy, students are immersed in an authentic Italian lifestyle while studying Italy's rich history, as well as modern lifestyles and customs. A structured and coordinated mix of field trips and classes allow students to earn 16 credits and an International Minor in Human Sciences. Classes include lectures and presentations by notable Italian speakers and scholars in a variety of areas such as Italian art, architecture, history, food, wine, fashion, music, and language.

Through thoughtfully selected trips, unique learning opportunities, and research projects, students from diverse academic majors gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of today's world. Through activities that reflect the academic focus areas within the College of Human Sciences, (fashion and interior design, human development, family studies, nutrition, and hospitality management), students broaden their knowledge within their academic major by studying its relationship to other fields of study and to global concerns. Like the original Grand Tour, Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy fosters academic, professional and personal growth and creates long-lasting friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Visit us online at <http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/global/italy> to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

WHAT WILL AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY DO FOR YOU?

A study abroad experience is invaluable in preparing college graduates to compete successfully in today's global economy. Students who participate in a study abroad program reap benefits and rewards far beyond the actual experience itself. Studying abroad enhances communication and foreign language skills and improves a student's ability to work as a member of a cross-cultural team and function in unfamiliar environments. Studying abroad also increases a student's chances of getting noticed by employers and graduate schools. As a university with a strong international focus, Auburn offers a variety of options to all students to study abroad or be placed in international internships.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL MINOR IN HUMAN SCIENCES?

Auburn undergraduates are eligible to earn the International Minor in Human Sciences in one semester by participating in Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy. When an Auburn student enrolls in the Auburn Abroad in Italy program, he/she also will enroll in the following four courses for a total of 16 credit hours: HUSC 3383, 4940, 4380 and 4010 (see page 11 of this booklet). The completion of these four courses will meet the requirements for the International Minor. Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) students may choose to use the Auburn Abroad in Italy experience to meet their internship requirement in lieu of receiving the International Minor.



Views of Ariccia and the Chigi Palace

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL IN THE JOSEPH S. BRUNO AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY PROGRAM?

If you are at least 19 years of age and have a minimum 2.25 GPA you are eligible to apply. Students from all Auburn University schools and colleges, as well as students from other universities, are welcome to apply.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Prior to departure, students complete a required on-line course designed to prepare students for the study abroad experience. In Italy, the Executive Director, an Auburn University faculty member, coordinates the integrated curriculum. While in Italy, Italian lecturers present topics such as:

- Survival Italian
- Art and architectural history
- European history
- Philosophical underpinning of Italian culture
- Italian educational system
- Italian music and opera
- Italian literature
- Interior design and fashion industries
- Mediterranean diet
- Italian wine and olive oil industries
- Regional food
- Italian culture
- International non-profit work
- Art restoration



WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

More than a dozen field trips, some that change seasonally to take advantage of weather conditions and special events, are planned to enhance the value of the lectures and discussions. These trips may include visits to:

- Florence
- Rome neighborhoods, art museums, fountains and sculptures, churches and ancient archeological sites
- Castelli Romani towns of Frascati, Nemi, Genzano and Castel Gandolfo
- Pompeii
- The hilltowns of Assisi and Orvieto
- The American World War II cemetery
- Wineries and olive oil production facilities
- Italian elementary and high schools



Additionally, ample time is built into the schedule to allow students to travel on their own. During past semesters, students have traveled to other European locations – *Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Interlaken, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, and Vienna, to name just a few.*

ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

Yes, scholarships are available each semester. Scholarship deadlines are listed (see the Table of Contents) and a scholarship application can be found at the end of this booklet. You must submit a program application, the deposit (non-refundable/non-transferrable to another participant), and a scholarship application to be considered for a scholarship.

CAN YOU USE EDUCATIONAL LOANS AND FINANCIAL AID?

Yes. Contact the Auburn University Financial Aid Office, 203 Martin Hall, 844-4634, for additional information.

WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY?

For more program information, please contact one of the following:

Megan Elliott, Program Coordinator (in Auburn)
Lacey Armstrong, Executive Director
Dr. Kate Thornton

mme0018@auburn.edu
lacey.armstrong@auburn.edu
kate.thornton@auburn.edu

A program and scholarship application can be found at the end of this booklet. This booklet is available for download at: <http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/italy/handbook.pdf>

To place a non-refundable deposit, please contact Megan Elliott in the office of Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy, 334 Spidle Hall, Auburn University, Alabama, 36849; (334) 844-3748.



JOSEPH S. BRUNO AUBURN ABROAD IN ITALY

Watch, Read, and 'Like' us!



Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy
CURRICULUM AND ITINERARY

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy is a semester program and includes an online preparation class (HUSC 3383) before you depart for Italy, as well as 12 weeks in Italy. Upon successful completion of the program, undergraduate students earn an International Minor in Human Sciences. (Some programs within the College of Human Sciences allow students to receive internship credit in lieu of the International minor.) The following courses comprise the program of study.

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
1) HUSC 3383	Study Abroad Opportunities in Human Sciences (online) (aka. the Prep class)	2
2) HUSC 4940	CHS@AU in Italy: Directed Field Experience	6
3) HUSC 4380	Auburn Abroad in Italy Study and Travel	2
4) HUSC 4010	CHS@AU in Italy: Integrated Global Studies	6
Total Credit Hours		16

COURSE POLICIES

Students participating in Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy are expected to participate in ALL planned activities, excursions, lectures, etc. Absences are permitted only for illness or family emergencies. If one of these situations occurs such that a student is not able to attend and participate in the planned activities, the on-site Auburn University College of Human Sciences faculty must be notified in advance.

Students are ambassadors for the College of Human Sciences, Auburn University, and the United States. They are expected to be professional and responsible at all times. Any student who does not follow guidelines established by the Auburn University College of Human Sciences faculty, who puts another student or faculty member in jeopardy from a health or safety perspective, damages property at the Palazzo Chigi or other Italian sights, or otherwise breaks the law, will be sent home immediately at the student's expense. Detailed policy statements can be found online at:
www.humsci.auburn.edu/italy/learnmore.php

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy **PROGRAM COSTS**

Program costs are determined by semester of participation regardless of the date the application and deposit are submitted. All costs and fees associated with this program are subject to change based on currency exchange rate and program increases.

PROGRAM FEE (includes lodging in the Palazzo Chigi)

For AU College of Human Sciences Majors:

Resident (in-state): 10,300 Euro*

Non-Resident (out-of-state): 12,400 Euro*

For Non-AU College of Human Sciences Majors:

Resident (in-state): 12,400 Euro*

Non-Resident (out-of-state): 14,500 Euro*

* For the up-to-date exchange rate of the U. S. dollar to Euro, go to: www.xe.com

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 is due with the application.

The deposit secures a place in the program for your selected semester and is non-refundable and non-transferable to another student.

Make your check payable to:

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy

and bring it to the Office of Global Studies / Spidle Hall 334

The Program Fee is determined by the current Euro exchange rate at the time of the first billing. Billings for the remainder of the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy Program Fee (fee minus the \$1500.00 deposit) will appear on your AU e-bill. See http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/global/files/Program_Fee_Payment_Schedules.pdf for the policy and payment schedules regarding the payment of Program Fees.

For both Human Sciences majors and non-majors the Program Fee includes:

- Pick up at Fiumicino – Rome airport and return to airport (on the designated arrival and departure dates)
- Two excursions that include overnight stays and approximately 15-20 field trips per term
- Instruction in English provided by international lecturers and teachers
- Lodging - shared bedrooms in Ariccia's Palazzo Chigi

Overnight excursions include:

- Transportation
- Hotel (with breakfast)
- Entrance fees and guides

Field (day) trips include:

- Transportation
- Entrance fees and guides



COSTS NOT COVERED IN THE PROGRAM FEE

Auburn Abroad Fee (In-State OR Out-of-State Residents): **\$604**

- Based on current tuition costs; subject to change with future tuition increases
- Paid to Auburn University; billed separately on ebill
- Replaces regular tuition and fees; includes required medical evacuation and repatriation insurance

International Airfare: **up to \$ 2,000**

Cost of airfare depends on factors such as pre-planning for advance purchase, frequent flyer availability, and time of year travel is scheduled. Students do not travel as a group to and from Italy and are responsible for providing for their own air transportation.

Passport: **\$135 - \$195**

A visa is not required.

A valid passport is required.

- For a new passport, the passport application fee is \$135
- For a passport renewal, the passport renewal fee is \$110
- For an expedited service, the fee is an additional \$60

Four Passport Size Photos (2" x 2"): **\$20 - \$30**

Italian Cell Phone (provided by Program) Usage Fee **\$10**

The actual costs for necessities and extras are highly influenced by personal choices and habits. On surveys of students who recently completed the program, the following amounts were reported:

Necessities **\$2,500**

While amounts between \$800 and \$6,000 were reported, the most common amount reported is shown above. This includes food, laundry supplies, phone talk/text time, toiletries, pharmacy needs, journal and school supplies. A kitchen is provided in the housing area of Palazzo Chigi and available to the students 24/7. This allows students to reduce the amount spent on food by eating-in as often as they wish.

Extras **\$3,500**

While amounts between \$1,000 and \$8,000 were reported, the most common amount reported is shown above. This includes weekend travel, activities, and concerts that are not part of the program, gifts, and souvenirs.

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy PAST PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

What do former students say about the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program?

I learned more about the importance of becoming a well-rounded global citizen. I also learned that regardless of how different a culture may be from your own, if you are willing to appreciate that culture and learn from it, you will be able to thrive in that culture. I believe that this sense of cultural appreciation can be applied to many different professional and personal situations.
Cassandra Kirkland, Human Development and Family Studies

The program influenced me greatly with my time management skills and building my budget. I also learned so much history and exposed myself to another culture, opening my eyes greatly to how diverse this world really is. All these lessons I learned have prepared me greatly for my career.
Will Parker, Interior Design

This experience helped me gain confidence in areas that I struggled in before, and I feel upon returning home I can make it through anything that comes my way. It has also ignited a desire for learning in areas I once had no interest in. This experience as a whole has impacted my life in ways that will forever change me. Italy has given me a sense of freedom and an excitement for what the future holds. I am not held back by fear anymore and I am completely open and ready for any adventure that lies before me now.

Alex McCall, Hotel and Restaurant Management

The Italy program was not only a once-in-a-lifetime experience, it was also a significant tool in my education as a designer. The professors in Ariccia presented everyday places and activities of society in such a way that forced cultural assumptions to be stripped away. In my design career, I have been able to use this method when studying a client's needs and creating a "tailored fit" environment for the client. The staff members began as teachers and guides and became friends and family that have helped shape my career path.

Brenna (Loyd) Bennett, Interior Design



This program absolutely changed my life. It gave me such a passion for the country of Italy, anything Italian, as well as the love of traveling. I am yearning to return so badly, but I know it won't compare to what I experienced through the Auburn program. I found a quote once that says "one who has not been to Italy should feel inferior, for he has not seen what the world truly holds." That's so true!

Mary Kate Coleman, Interior Design

My whole life perception changed after being in Italy. To this day, I find myself grateful for the experience I was able to have with my . I'm so thankful to my parents who supported me financially and emotionally. Italy was the most amazing experience of my life, and people still ask me about my time in Ariccia, and every day, I can relate situations to my lessons learned and experienced during my studies abroad. I have been beyond blessed in my life, and looking back, I realize most people don't experience in their lifetime what I experienced in a summer. Thank you to the College of Human Sciences for providing such a unique opportunity to your students. I will forever be thankful.

Chasley Bellomy, Hotel and Restaurant Management

The Italy program was the best thing I did in college! It was an incredible journey from Ariccia to Rome, from Venice to Pompeii, from Capri to Florence, and Milan to the Amalfi Coast and I was able to take this journey with 7 other wonderful girls and the incredible program. We all left Italy wanting to learn more, travel more, see more, experience more--the direct result of education at its best.

Colleen Williams, Human Development and Family Studies

Studying abroad gave me the opportunity to learn a kind of independence I had never had before. It gave me the confidence to move back to Italy and do my internship with an amazing designer.

Libby Brackett, Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production



Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PARENTS**

The following list has been compiled to provide more detailed answers to many frequently asked questions about the program. Hopefully, these questions will assist you in finding out more about the experience that your student is about to undertake.

What benefits does a student receive from participating in this program?

The benefits of this program are endless because a study abroad experience is something that impacts a student's world view for the rest of his or her life. The students who have participated in the Ariccia, Italy program often speak of how their semester abroad was the best experience of their lives. Many come away from this program with an awareness of how they matured over the semester abroad. Their views of the world broaden, and they appreciate the differences between their culture and those cultures that are different from their own.

Will this program result in student delaying graduation beyond the normal four years?

Many students matriculate in the normal four year term. The credits that your student will receive from the program can translate into an International Minor in Human Sciences. For some majors in the College of Human Sciences, these credits can fulfill some or all of the professional elective requirements needed in order to graduate. For example, Human Development and Family Studies majors may be able to use the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program to fulfill their internship requirements instead of receiving the International Minor. All students should speak to an academic advisor as soon as they start thinking about the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program in order to determine the most effective way this study abroad experience can be incorporated into the student's curriculum requirements. Advisors will do everything they can to help create a workable schedule for the student.

Is a passport required?

Yes! All students need a passport in order to leave the country. Your student will need to apply for a new passport if he or she has never had one before, if the passport was issued before his or her 16th birthday, or if the passport is more than 10 years old. In Auburn, you can [apply for a passport](#) at the Lee County Justice Center, 2311 Gateway Drive, Opelika (Phone: 334 737-3526). To apply for a new passport, the following information will be needed:

- Application Form
- Proof of citizenship (an original birth certificate or a previous passport)
- Proof of identity (driver's license or a previous passport)
- Two identical 2" x 2" passport photos taken within six months**
- Fees (\$100 for a new passport or to renew)

Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for processing. (This should be taken care of as soon possible after submittal of the application). If your passport's expiration date is any earlier than 6 months after your planned return date, you will need to renew your passport before departure. This can be done by mail - see the State Department Passport Web Site for a downloadable form to renew by mail. This site also contains information about how to expedite the passport if needed more quickly. (This information was taken from the Auburn Study Abroad web page at www.auburn.edu/international. Please contact Auburn University's Office of International Programs if you have any questions about how to apply for a passport for your student – and for yourself if you plan to visit!)

** For the program application, 2 more copies of passport size/type photos are suggested. These do not need to be the same exact photo that is in the passport. In order to save money, it is recommended that you have the first set of passport photos taken and then take those two photos to a Wal-Mart or drugstore photo-center and then duplicate them on one of the self-service photo-copier machines.

What will the program cost?

See pages 9-10 of this booklet for information on program costs.

Can scholarships help cover the cost of the program?

Entering Freshman Scholarship, General University Scholarship, and External Scholarship funds can be applied during terms in which students are participating in study abroad. Scholarship funds are paid at the beginning of the term assuming the student plans to enroll for a minimum 12 credit hours. PACT, prepaid college tuition, can also be applied towards the study abroad semester. To determine how these scholarships will apply, in your student's case, please contact the University Scholarship Office at 334-844-2320. Please keep in mind that your student's scholarships may be for a set number of semesters and that if your student takes longer to graduate because of participation, the number of eligible scholarship semesters may still remain the same.

What is the process for paying the Program Fee?

Once the **non-refundable** deposit is made, the remainder of the program fee (minus the deposit) will be billed through the Auburn University Bursar's office in two installments; beginning approximately 5 months prior to the start of your semester in Italy. The exchange rate on the date of the first bill will be used to set your Program Fee in Euros and to determine the outstanding remaining amount. For the details, see [Program Fees & Payment Policy](#) on the program's website.

Are there costs in addition to the program fee?

The amount of money students spend outside of program fees varies widely. When looking at a recent semester, the average of expenses outside of the program fee was around \$6,000 (excluding roundtrip airfare to Italy). This average was taken from amounts reported by students in the areas of food, travel, phone, gifts, and miscellaneous. Most often, the largest amount of extra expenses was spent on optional travel. Some students spend far less and some students far more. This amount is also affected by the current exchange rate. It is suggested you work out a financial spending plan with your student before he/she departs.

How is money handled in Italy? What arrangements should I make before leaving the U.S.?

We strongly recommend a debit or ATM card AND a credit card, both with a 4-digit numerical pin. However, it should be noted that many places in Italy do not accept any kind of plastic or traveler's checks. There are different systems by which debit and credit cards are issued. These are distinguished through small icons on the backside of a card. The most commonly found systems in Italy are CIRRUS and NYCE, so it is helpful to have cards issued that are on these systems, otherwise, the cards are useless for ATM withdrawal. Students should NOT bring traveler's checks because they are very difficult to cash in a small town such as Ariccia. It is also required that arrive in Italy with 150 Euros that they have received either through a bank, or at an exchange booth at the airport. This will cover the usage fee for the Italian cell phone that they will receive upon arrival (10 Euro) and leave them with some money on hand when they arrive for any purchases that they may need to make before they find an ATM in Italy.

What precautions have been taken to ensure the students' safety?

The security system at the campus in Italy where the students live and study was designed by Auburn University's Department of Campus Safety and Security. Students are provided the same rigorous level of monitoring and security that is provided with on-campus housing in Auburn.

Whenever a student is traveling away from Ariccia on personal travel, he/she is required to file all information on their travel (accommodations, flight numbers, train numbers, and other) with the Auburn faculty member before their departure. Daily online announcements are made by the U. S. State Department on the status of safe travel in countries outside of the United States. The faculty member accompanying your student abroad is aware of these announcements and is advised as to what she needs to do if the safety of your student is compromised because of a change in political/social/terrorist activity or natural disaster.

Will my normal medical insurance cover my child while he or she is abroad?

Part of your student's program fees cover enrollment in United Healthcare Global – a mandatory health care insurance to cover your child while he/ she is abroad. United Healthcare Global is not a substitute for a U.S. health care policy.

What immunizations are required before entrance into Italy?

Students are required to have a medical check-up before studying abroad. If immunizations are not current, plan to have those inoculations administered at least 4-6 weeks before departure. The web page: www.cdc.gov/travel/ provides current general health precautions and vaccinations recommended for any countries that your student plans on visiting.

Recommendations for immunizations include Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Boosters for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Measles, and Hepatitis B may be required for students choosing travel on their own to specified countries. **A flu shot is strongly recommended for Fall and Spring semesters.** Also, make sure to have an ample supply of the prescription/over-the-counter drugs possibly needed for the duration of the study abroad experience.

What can I expect with regard to health care in Italy?

If your student needs medical care while abroad, he/she should contact program staff who will set up both medical appointments and UnitedHealthcare Global insurance file. An incident form then needs to be filed with Auburn's Office of International Education through the Auburn University resident faculty member in charge of the program.

If a parent or family would like to visit during the program, can they stay with the student? What accommodations do you recommend? When is my student free from class to travel independently with family?

Your student will share space with other students in an arrangement of bedrooms that will be shared between 4 to 7 students. Thus, staying with your student is not an option. Instead, you can make reservations at the Hotel Villa Aricia, which is within walking distance to the students' accommodations or use one of the properties available in Ariccia through AirBnB. It is suggested that you make these reservations as soon as possible in order to find the best availability. Students are free to travel independently on most weekends or during semester breaks. Weekends available for personal travel can be determined after the publication of the semester's Calendar of Activities. Family and friends are encouraged to visit during the midterm break. However, extended stays and/or visits while the program is in session are strongly discouraged as they tend to interfere with the student's availability to become fully immersed independently in the experience.

How do I contact my student while she/he is abroad?

The best methods that students have been using to contact home are via web-based communications software (i.e. Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime, etc.). These methods are free of charge when both parties are connected to the internet. Each student will also be provided an Italian cellphone which can be called directly from the U.S.

How can I contact the faculty on the trip in the case of an emergency?

You will be given the phone numbers for all of the faculty members, the Palace, and the Auburn Abroad Coordinator in the Office of International Education before your student departs.

What is my student's mailing address?

For packages and routine mail:

Student's name - Auburn
c/o Palazzo Chigi in Ariccia
Via del Parco 149
00072 Ariccia (Rome) ITALY

For credit/ATM cards only:

Interlinea srl
Via Vittorio Veneto 146
00187 Rome, Italy
Attn: Roberta Londi and student's name

How can I ship packages to Italy and how long should it take them to arrive?

Letters and cards from home are always appreciated by students. The mailing address for students is listed above. Mail in Italy, however, is not always reliable. Large and heavy packages are often assessed fees which the student will have to pay when the package arrives in Ariccia (even if you are told in the U.S. that all fees have been paid). There have been instances of packages being lost in the mail, significantly delayed, or returned to the sender. Because of these obstacles, it is recommended that you do not send any items of sentimental or monetary value to Italy. If you must send a package, it is recommended that you limit packages to small dimensions and weights. In the past, many students have requested large packages of clothing to be sent because they had not packed appropriately for the weather they were experiencing. In an instance such as this, if a family member or friend will be visiting Ariccia during the semester, perhaps they can bring an extra piece of luggage with them. As for the length of shipping time, in Italy, it is unpredictable regardless of the delivery service you choose. Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee any arrival time of packages shipped from the United States to Italy or vice versa. Shipping services such as FEDEX, UPS, or DHL can give approximate arrival dates, however, these have not proven to always be reliable.

All packages sent to students should be marked **"PERSONAL ITEMS—NOT FOR RE-SALE"** on the customs form to increase the chance that the package will be expedited through Italian customs and approved for final delivery.

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY STUDENTS**

Do the students travel over together on the same flight or on their own?

The student will book his or her own flight. Students are free to choose any flight(s) and itinerary that will put them in Rome on the beginning date of the program as required. This allows the freedom to purchase flight using either points, miles, or websites offering lower fares. Standby flight status is not recommended because of the unreliability of arrival times and dates associated with this kind of travel. Upon arrival at Fiumicino airport (FCO) in Rome, students are met by JSB staff or private drivers. Transportation from the airport to Ariccia is arranged and provided by the program.

Flights that arrive in Rome before or around noon are not required, but they are recommended as they have the advantage of allowing students to unpack, settle in, and participate in the optional afternoon group activities that begin around 3:00pm.

Students arriving in Italy before the official starting date of the program or staying beyond the official last day of the program are responsible for arranging and covering the expenses of any additional transportation or lodging that is required.

Within Europe, there are also different discount flight options for travel within Europe. Some of these sites are: www.easyjet.com, www.ryanair.com, www.windjet.com. http://wikitravel.org/en/Discount_airlines_in_Europe offers a very convenient and comprehensive list of discount airlines in Europe and links to their websites. We do not recommend these airlines as connectors when flying from or to the U.S. because they have very restrictive luggage requirements that, in the end, may result in paying larger fees.



What are the classes I will be taking while I am in Italy?

See page 8.

Will these classes be applied to my degree and help in approaching graduation?

After completion of this program, you will receive 16 semester hours of course credit. By completing these hours, most undergraduate students (except for CHS students who use the experience for internship credit) receive an International Minor in Human Sciences. It is quite uncommon to be able to do one semester abroad, receive a minor and not have to take any additional classes for the minor after you return. If you are in the College of Human Sciences, these hours may count towards your required professional electives, as well. See the Academic Affairs Office for specific information.

Will the classes be in English?

All classes are taught in English. If a lecturer is not fluent in English, a translator will be present. We are fortunate to have the luxury of being taught by Italians who speak English well.

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY STUDENTS**

Is it necessary to know any Italian before beginning the program?

No. You do not need to speak Italian for this program. You will learn a few Italian phrases in the pre-departure sessions before you leave for Italy and once there, you will continue building a basic vocabulary in Survival Italian classes. Most students do well with this amount of Italian language skills. However, we strongly encourage you to use the time before your semester in Italy to study the Italian language. This is not a requirement, but any learning of the language that you can do beforehand will greatly enhance your experience and allow you to more quickly adapt to your new environment. Along with Italian language classes that are offered at Auburn University, there are many excellent language learning programs that are commercially available and also have apps for use with smartphones and tablets. Some programs are rather pricey, so choose carefully. Duolingo, in particular, is an online & app product that students have found useful.

How much does the average student spend while in Italy?

The amount of money students spend outside of program fees varies widely. The most commonly reported figures from past students is \$2,500 for necessities and \$3,500 for personal travel and souvenirs. Some students spend less than this and some students spend three times more. This amount is also affected by the current exchange rate. It is suggested that you develop a financial spending plan before leaving for Italy. This is discussed further in the Prep class.

Will I need an Italian cell phone?

Cell phones are an important part in enhancing the safety and security of students participating in Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy. Students who participate in the program are required to have a functioning cell phone with an Italian SIM card with them at all times. Students pay a nominal fee of 10 Euro for the provision and use of an Italian cell phone equipped with an Italian SIM card and charger while they are in Italy. The phones provided work very well throughout Italy, as well as in other European countries and can also be used for calling and receiving calls from the United States. The phones work on a pay-as-you-go plan so that students don't return home to a large unexpected phone bill. Cell phones with 25 - 30 Euros of credit already installed will be issued upon a student's arrival in Ariccia and the payment of the 10 Euro usage fee.

What if I decide not to travel during the midterm break or on a particular weekend?

Although almost all students travel during the midterm break, and many travel on weekends, there are circumstances in which students might choose to remain in the housing facility during these periods. Students who remain in the housing facility during weekends and/or the midterm break should be aware that they might be in the facility alone or with only a few other students and that a graduate assistant might not be overseeing the housing facility during these periods.

What is the best semester to participate in the program?

All three semesters are wonderful times to visit Italy. They each have their own charms. In Fall semester, the grape harvest occurs and olive oil production is in full swing. Students often 'tailgate' in the palace to watch the afternoon Auburn football games via the internet. Spring semester students have the opportunity to experience Venice's famous Carnevale and tourist crowds are at the lowest of all three semesters. Summer students get to attend an Italian opera presented in the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla; an unforgettable venue and experience. However, this semester has the most tourists and can result in long lines at some of the sights. Surprisingly, the weather during the summer session is often quite nice throughout most of the semester although it does get warm toward the end. The hottest months in Italy are typically August (when we are not in session) and September (the first month of the fall session). These months can be quite warm and air conditioning is very limited, especially in the smaller towns. However, during the hot months, Italy draws vacationers from around the world with beautiful beaches and blue water.

Will I be okay if I don't already know anyone going during my semester?

Numerous students have taken part in the study abroad experience without having known anyone else in their group. That is the true advantage of our program. The small size allows you to meet and form close friendships with the other students on the trip. Many classes still stay in close contact after returning to the States, having reunions just for the fun of it!

Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY STUDENTS**

What are the accommodations like?

Accommodations for students will be in shared bedrooms of 4 – 7 people at the historic Chigi Palace. Male students share a bedroom that has a separate entrance from the other bedrooms and have their own private bathroom area.



In addition to a sleeping area, all students have a kitchen available to them 24/7 for preparing meals/snacks and laundry facilities that are located within the Chigi Palace campus area.

How should I dress while in Italy?

Students are asked to dress respectfully and modestly at all times. It is also important from a security stand point for you to fit into the Italian culture and to not stand out. Students must come to class dressed in street clothing that is respectful of the Italian culture. You will learn more about appropriate dress in your pre-departure online class.

How many bags am I allowed to take with me?

This depends on your airline. You **MUST** check your individual airline's bag and weight restrictions for international flights. It may differ and the fees may be exorbitantly priced if you exceed the allowed limit. Keep in mind that after returning home many students believe that they took too many things with them to Italy.

Additionally, it also is important for students to know baggage size and weight restrictions for European airlines for independent travel because they differ from international restrictions and large penalties are imposed for luggage that is too large and heavy.

What if I arrive early or depart later than the designated dates of the program?

You may schedule your flights as you wish, however, the housing accommodations for the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy will only be open from the first scheduled date of the program until the last day of the program. If your travel arrangements require lodging prior to, or after, the schedule dates of the program, it is the student's responsibility to secure and cover any expenses required for any lodging and transportation needs.



Will I be able to stay longer than the program dates?

Auburn University will not accept responsibility for you staying in Italy longer than the length of the program (official arrival and departure days). You will be traveling on a simple tourist visa that is valid for only 90 days. The Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy accounts for 84 of those days. By law, you are not allowed to remain in any of the European countries that are known as Schengen countries for more than 90 days in any given six month period.