



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Università degli Studi di Parma (Advanced Track)
2012-2013
Program Information Guide

Università degli Studi di Parma

<http://www.unipr.it/>

Università degli Studi di Parma (Advanced Track) Description

- Università degli Studi di Parma (University of Parma) is a semester or yearlong program based in Parma Italy.
- Students can study in a multitude of disciplines taught at the university in Italian.
- Students must have completed 4 semesters of college level Italian (up to Intermediate II).
- Students can enroll in 1 or 2 courses at the university, participate in an internship and or enroll in one course at the Istituto Dante Alighieri.

Preparing for Study Abroad

- You should research information about your host country's culture, language, history, food, geography, climate and current events. It is important to have a clear idea of where you will be living for the next 4-9 months so that you have clear expectations before you leave and you know what you're getting into when you're there. By knowing about your host country before you arrive, you are making yourself a more informed traveler, a more receptive student and a better prepared individual. It is also helpful to know about your host country to you can pack correctly.
- You might want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper at: Corriere della Sera: <http://www.corriere.it/>
Gazzetta di Parma: <http://www.gazzettadiparma.it/>
News on Italy: www.lifeinitaly.com/news
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you may want to visit the following website: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/italy-country-profile.html>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- The On-Site Coordinator is Caterina Dacci and the Assistant On-Site Coordinator is Elisabetta Dacci. Both are available to assist you in all aspects starting with adjusting to

life in Parma, getting settled into your housing assignment, registering for courses at the University of Parma and other transitional issues/concerns/questions. Both are available 24 hours a day to assist you with emergency/crisis situations. You should contact Caterina in the event of an emergency.

Caterina Dacci
Via G Dacci, 5
43100, Parma
Italy
Cell phone: 39 347 90 94 964
Email: daccicat@tin.it

Travel Information

- When should I book my travel arrangements?
 - You should book your travel arrangements once you have received final confirmation from your ISA that you have been accepted to your host university.
- How should I book my travel arrangements?
 - There are several ways to book travel arrangements. First, you should confirm your program start and end dates as well as arrival and departure points as some programs begin in different cities than the final destination. Once you have confirmed this information, start doing research on flights, airlines and carriers. There are many online booking agencies such as STA travel and Student Universe. Some students also choose to arrange flights through a travel agency. This can be helpful if your program has a flexible departure date or negotiable exam dates. Please keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to arrange their own travel.
- Who should I tell about my travel arrangements?
 - Please be sure to notify OIP, your host family and your onsite coordinator of your travel arrangements once they have been made, including arrival/departure time, date, location and airline. oipadvise@bc.edu.
- When should I arrive in my host country?
 - Your International Study Advisor will notify you of the earliest and latest date/time of arrival. If you need to arrive early, please check with your ISA and your host family (when applicable) to make sure that you can be accommodated. Please also keep in mind that your entry date into the country may have an effect on your visa.
- When should I leave my host country?
 - Your insurance through HTH only covers you until the last day of your program. You may extend your coverage through the HTH website. Some visas only allow 14 days after the program end date before you are legally required to leave the country. Please confirm with your ISA, your onsite coordinator and your host family (when applicable) should you need to depart on a date other than the program end date. Officially, you may not depart sooner than the latest date indicated to you by your ISA.
- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements.

- Transfer from Airport: You need to arrive in Florence. The On-Site Coordinator will meet you in the hotel in Florence. A Welcome Letter and more specific information will be sent to all of you at a later date.
Plan to arrive in Florence to start the Art History course. A taxi from the airport in Florence will cost you approximately 20 Euros to get to the city center.
If you arrive in another city such as Milan: you can take the shuttle bus from the airport in Milan to the Milano Centrale Train station and then take the train to Florence- Santa Maria Novella. If you arrive in Rome: take the train from the airport in Rome to Roma Centrale Train Station and then take the train to Florence- Santa Maria Novella. At the train station in Rome and in Milan, you can go to the Information Office (they usually speak English) and they will be able to help you purchase your ticket to Florence.
- Italian train schedules can be viewed at www.trenitalia.it A taxi from the main train station in Florence (Santa Maria Novella) to the hotel will cost you approximately 10 Euros. Bring Euros with you so that you can pay the taxi driver. The taxi driver will not accept US currency.
- Passport/Visa information: In order to study in Italy, you must have a passport (valid at least 6 months beyond your estimated return date) and a student visa. You may apply for a passport at any major US post office, but you must apply for your visa at either the Boston Consulate or the consulate nearest your permanent residence. Please visit the Italian consulate's website www.consbroker.net for the most up to date information regarding the student visa application process. You will need your official acceptance letter in order to apply for your visa.
- Immunizations- No immunizations are required to enter Italy.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar:

Fall 2012

September 16 Arrival in Florence
 Sept.17 Art History starts
 Sept.18 Intensive Italian starts
 Sept. 30 Art History ends
 October 3 Arrival in Parma
 October 4-5 Orientation
 October 8 Classes start
 Nov. 1-4 All saints Holidays
 Nov 22-25 Thanksgiving Holidays
 Dec. 8 Holiday
 Dec. 19 last day of school
 Dec.20 End of the program

Accommodation Dates: September 16 December 20

Spring 2013

Arrival in Florence

Mid January

- You will select your 2 University of Parma courses once you are in Parma. The On-Site Coordinators will assist you with this process. You will have the following possibilities:
- 1 course in English through the Dante Alighieri program & 1 course in Italian at the University of Parma.
- 1 course in English through the Dante Alighieri program & 1 Readings and Research+Intenship followed by a University of Parma professor
- 1 course in Italian at the University of Parma & 1 Readings and Research+Intenship followed by a University of Parma professor
- 1 course in Italian at the University of Parma & 1 Readings and Research followed by a University of Parma professor (without the internship component)
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

- While you are in Florence for the Art History course, you will live in shared rooms in a downtown Florence hotel. All hotel rooms have a private bathroom, TV, air conditioning and a telephone. You will be in double or triple rooms, and have breakfast and dinner at the hotel. Room and board during the early start program in Florence are covered by your BC tuition.
- In Parma, you will either live with a local family or in an apartment shared with other students. Housing placements will be made by the on-site coordinator; she will let you know about your specific housing placement before you arrive in Parma. The apartments are completely furnished; some also have laundry facilities, a study room (with a computer with internet access), a television, and DVD player. If you wish to bring your own laptop computer, there is a wireless device in the house. Each apartment will have a shared cell phone (you can also decide to buy your own for approximately \$80 after arrival). The apartments are usually located approximately 10-20 minutes by bus from the city center; a supermarket and some shops are within 3 minutes walking distance.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf
- If you are living in a shared apartment meals are not included. You will be responsible for your own meals. The kitchens in the apartments are fully furnished. If you are living with an Italian family, you will have a partial meal plan. More specifics will be given to you upon your arrival in Parma.
- Local Transportation: Parma is a walking/bicycle riding friendly city. Buses run throughout the city from 6:30am to 8pm. After 8pm you can call the pronto bus. The pronto bus is a night service which needs to be reserved and takes you to your destination. This service is available until 2am. You can also ride your bike or share a taxi late night.
- Cultural Activities: The University of Parma has excellent sports facilities available to all students. You can partake in golf, tennis, horseback riding, volleyball, soccer, aerobics, judo, and other sports activities for a modest fee. Moreover University of Parma has

ASSI, a student association to welcome foreign students in Parma which organizes weekly activities, field trips and parties.

- A highlight of the program is the weekly cooking course taught in an Italian family's home. This is a non-credit course.
- As a requirement of this study abroad program, you will participate in the Tandem project which is a language exchange between a foreign student and an Italian student with the purpose of improving each other's language. In addition to a wide range of clubs and sports available at the University, the BC on-site coordinator organizes monthly activities for you. Typical BC excursions include a weekend in Torino for culture and wine tasting, Venice Carnival, and a day trip to Verona.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- You are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses
- BC emergency contact information:
OIP: 617-552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)
BCPD: 617-552-4444

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf

- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Banking information- in the past students will use their US bank, ATM card. Check with your local bank for international fees, etc.

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor at oiadvise@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- Suggested readings – I strongly recommend that you carefully review all materials you receive with your acceptance letter.
- Useful websites:
University of Parma: www.unipr.it/
Parma City Website: www.parmaitaly.com & <http://turismo.comune.parma.it>
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>

UPDATED BY: Sarah Lynes 3/15/2012