



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

## **VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

### **Program Guide**

VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (VIU)  
[www.univiu.org](http://www.univiu.org)

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### **Venice International University**

- Semester and Yearlong programs based at Venice International University (VIU) in Isola San Servolo in Venice, Italy.
- Students will be enrolled in the Globalization Program at VIU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Each semester 120-140 students from the member universities take part in the Globalization Program which addresses globalization and its economic, social, environmental and cultural implications and consequences with an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach.
- Students choose from a course offering of 18-20 courses in Venetian and Italian studies, Globalization, Cultural Heritage and Sustainable development.
- Internships are available to interested students in organizations and companies following the semester of courses. Scholarships are available for internship students.
- A rich co-curricular program offers students the opportunity to discover and relate to the city of Venice and its lagoon and creates opportunities for students to socialize with their peers. The program includes site visits and tours off campus and weekly movie screenings, guest lectures and experimental projects on campus.
- Students are expected to enroll in an Italian language course while in Venice, but do not need prior knowledge of the language.

### **Preparing for Study Abroad**

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, and culture. You might want to begin with: [www.economist.com/countries](http://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/>  
Il Gazzettino: <http://www.gazzettino.it/>  
News on Italy: [www.lifeinitaly.com/news](http://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/www/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](http://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 staff at VIU provides guidance, care and support to international students, offers services and activities that reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of Venice. They will be your home away from home in Venice. The staff at VIU will be available to assist you in case of an emergency on a 24 hour basis: for emergencies that occur during normal office hours (Monday – Friday, 9.00am - 5.30pm), call VIU directly: (+39) 041 2719 511; for emergencies that occur outside normal office hours, call the reception of the residential facilities: (+39) 041 2765100. Request that the reception contact a VIU staff member and leave a number where you can be reached.

### **Travel Information**

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements.
- Transfer from Airport: Students should arrive at Marco Polo Airport. There will not be anyone to meet you at Marco Polo Airport. You must make your way to San Servolo Island by yourself. For specific information about travel to and from the airport please visit: <http://www.univiu.org/viu-quick/how-to-get-viu> For detailed information on arrival Italian train schedules can be viewed at [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)
- 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.it](http://www.consbroker.it) for the most up to date information regarding the student visa application process. You will need your official acceptance letter from VIU in order to apply for your visa.
- Immunizations- No immunizations are required to enter Italy.

### **Academics**

- Program dates and Academic calendar: <http://www.univiu.org/shss/globalization-program/academic-calendar>

### **Fall 2014**

Orientation week	September 8-12
Opening Ceremony	September 11
Courses begin	September 15
Midterm break	October 27 – November 2
Courses end	December 12
Exam week	December 15-19
National holidays	November 1, December 8

## Spring 2015 TBD

- **Orientation week mid-February**
  - **Opening Ceremony February**
  - **Courses begin February**
  - **Midterm break April**
  - **Courses end May**
  - **Exam week late- May**
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- You are required to take an Italian Language course and 4 additional courses, for a total of 5 courses, which equals 15 BC credits.
  - Course selection information at your host university is available at:  
<http://www.univiu.org>
  - Course approval information will be found at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>
  - Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>

## Housing

- Students may choose to live in dormitory style residence halls located on San Servolo Island or in shared student apartments in the city (with limited availability for the apartments). Students will go through VIU directly for housing assignments. Linens, towels, pillows and blankets are provided in both residential halls and apartments. In the residential halls the rooms are cleaned and the linens and towels changed once a week. Students will live in double, triple or quadruple occupancy rooms with another VIU student(s) as a roommate(s). All electrical appliances need adapters, US to Europe, except laptops that have built-in adaptors. Students are advised to bring their own laptop computers since residence halls have cable network connections in the individual rooms. There is wireless connection in the VIU library, in the classrooms and in some other areas of the main building, as well as 20 work stations in the VIU PC rooms. Washing and drying facilities are located on campus. All students must do their own laundry. Each load costs 3 Euro. The apartments have washing machines. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the dormitories and apartments, including individual rooms. VIU will automatically assign you to a room and with a roommate(s).
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910\\_estimated\\_stude.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf)
- Meals- VIU does have a dining hall located on the premises. You will receive vouchers that are valid in the cafeteria on San Servolo, but also in a wide network of cafés, restaurants and supermarkets. This gives many more dining options, as there are many places in Venice where you could choose to eat and pay with your vouchers. Also, as the vouchers are valid nationwide, you can also use them when traveling in Italy.
- Local Transportation: <http://www.univiu.org/viu-quick/how-to-get-viu> VIU is located on the San Servolo Island, 10 minutes by boat from Piazza San Marco. Please refer to the website for accurate details about how to get to VIU. You will purchase a monthly transport pass which will cost approximately 23 Euros a month.

- Cultural Activities: VIU hosts a variety of cultural activities throughout the semester. Below is a snapshot of some of the activities that have been done in the past.
- Movie series- weekly screening of Italian movies with English subtitles
- Day trip to Venetian Lagoon
- Half-day trip to Port of Venice

### **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](http://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://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](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 (outside of normal business hours)

### **Finances**

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: <http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2012-2013%20estimated%20student%20budget%20w%20housing%20Aug%202012.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.
- Below are estimates of some deposits/fees you will be asked to pay upon arrival- you need to pay in Euro:

Deposits made to San Servolo Servizi (housing) - these are refundable when you check out.

- Check-in- 210 Euro room and key deposit
- Internet Access in residential facility- 5 Euro
- Equipment splitter for room- 40 Euro deposit

Deposits made to real estate agency for students who opt for housing in city apartments:

- Check-in – 480 euro, any damage to the apartment will be deducted from the deposit

Deposits made to VIU-these are refundable when you check out:

- Smart card for access to PC rooms, library and for printing and photocopying- 5 Euro

Fees- non-refundable

- Course packets- 50 Euros (approximately)
- Transportation pass administrative fee- 10 Euros
- Monthly transportation pass- 22 Euros
- Residency Permit- 107,50 Euros

### **Returning to BC**

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor at [oipadvise@bc.edu](mailto:oipadvise@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: Venice International University- [www.univiu.org](http://www.univiu.org)
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>

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