



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**2009-2010**  
**Program Guide**

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

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### **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/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](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 reflects and celebrates 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: Venice International University Central Office Phone: +39 041 2719511 (drop the 39 when calling in Italy)

### **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/campus/howtogettoviu> 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.consoston.esteri.it](http://www.consoston.esteri.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:

Spring 2010

Orientation Week	February 22-26
Freshman's Fair	February 25
Courses Begin	March 1
Midterm Break	April 5-9
Courses resume	April 12
Courses end	May 27
Exams	May 31-June 4

National holidays: April 5, April 25, May 1, June 2

Accommodation dates: February 21 - June 5, 2010

- 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/undergraduate/spring\\_2010/](http://www.univiu.org/undergraduate/spring_2010/)
- 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

- All students are required to live in dormitory style residence halls located on San Servolo Island. Students will go through VIU directly for housing assignments. Linens, towels, pillows and blankets are provided and changed once a week. Students will live in double or triple 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 adapters. Students are advised to bring their own laptop computers since residence halls have network connections in the individual rooms. There is wireless connection in the Reading Room on the VIU network as well as 20 work stations in the VIU PC rooms. Washing and drying facilities are located on premises. All students must do their own laundry. Each load costs 3 Euros. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the dormitories, 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/campus/howtogettoviu/> 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 22 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
- Cell phones- if you want, you can get a phone once you are in Venice. You can get a cheap phone and get a plan when you add minutes to them as you need them.

### **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/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910\\_estimated\\_stude.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf)
- Banking information- in the past students will use their US bank, ATM card. Check with your local bank for international fees, etc.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:  
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)
- Below are estimates of some deposits/fees you will be asked to pay upon arrival- you need to pay in Euros:  
Deposits made to San Servolo Servizi (housing) - these are refundable when you check out.  
Check-in- 200 Euros  
Internet Access in residential facility- 5 Euros  
Equipment splitter for room- 40 Euros  
  
Deposits made to VIU-these are refundable when you check out  
Key Card for access into PC rooms and reading room- 5 Euros  
  
Fees- non-refundable  
Course packets- 50 Euros (approximately)  
Transportation pass administrative fee- 10 Euros  
Monthly transportation pass- 22 Euros  
Residency Permit- 72.50 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, Rita Piccolo at [piccolr@bc.edu](mailto:piccolr@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>