



BOSTON COLLEGE

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS

Venice International University 2009-2010 Program Fact Sheet

The Boston College program in Venice allows students to take courses at **Venice International University (VIU)**. VIU is a consortium made up of nine Universities (BC & Duke- from the US, a university from Italy, Germany, Spain, Amsterdam, China, Japan & Tel Aviv) in addition, the Foundation of Venice, the Province of Venice and the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory (IMET). This program aims to provide students with a global perspective of the world.

I. Pre-Departure Planning: Travel Requirements

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 from VIU in order to apply for your visa.

Students involved in Boston College programs make their own flight arrangements. For detailed information on arrival in Venice, visit the University website at <http://www.univiu.org/>. Italian train schedules can be viewed at www.trenitalia.com

What to bring

We recommend you refer to the VIU website, <http://www.univiu.org/> for useful information about what to bring to VIU. By all means it is recommended that you pack light, and remember to leave more room in your luggage for necessities such as medical supplies, toiletries, electricity converter, and camera. Medicines should be in original packaging, labeled and accompanied by a doctor's prescription to ensure easy customs passage. Clothing and almost everything else can be found in Venice. Check airline luggage requirements and weight limits before you begin packing.

Meeting other BC students on the Program

Italy is a very popular study abroad destination for BC students; we recommend that you contact other BC students who will be studying at the VIU. You may wish to plan your travel to Venice together. The Office of International Programs (OIP) will also provide you with a list of all students studying abroad. We recommend that you also speak with returned students prior to your departure.

Suggested readings & websites

We strongly recommend that you carefully review all materials you received with your acceptance letter from VIU.

In addition, you should be familiar with the following websites:

- 1) Venice International University
<http://www.univiu.org/>

Insurance Services

- Please visit the HTH website: **Students need to register online at hthstudents.com**
- See <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html> before you go abroad to view health, safety, and practical information for Italy.

II. Arrival - What to Expect Upon Arrival:

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>

On-Site 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 Boston College students 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)

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. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the dormitories, including individual rooms.

After you settle in, please remember to update your contact information with OIP online at: <https://htmlbprod.bc.edu/cippstudent>

This is very important, so please be sure to do it as soon as possible.

Meals

VIU does have a dining hall located on the premises. BC students 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/>

Please refer to the VIU link above for specific information about how to get to VIU.

The main office of the local public transportation department is located in Calle dei Fuseri, near San Marco and they can answer any questions regarding transportation in Venice. Most vaporetto stops sell daily tickets and passes and they also provide maps. Passes are good for water and land transportation and are the cheapest way of traveling in Venice. Single tickets cost €3.50, but €5.00 on routes on Grand Canal (1, 82). The public boat No. 20 to San Servolo leaves from San Marco in front of the Londra Palace Hotel, Riva degli Schiavoni. A one-way ticket to or from San Servolo costs €1.80. Tickets can also be purchased on board, but at an extra cost. In order to validate your ticket, it must be stamped at the boat landing prior to departure. Other tickets: 24-hour €10.50, 72-hour €22.00. VIU students are eligible for a discounted monthly pass which costs €22.00 for the first month, and €17.00 for subsequent months.

***these prices are an estimate based on last year. The prices may have slightly changed for this year.

TAXIS - Water taxi can cost anything from €40-70. They are the quickest and most expensive form of transportation in Venice. You can either call ahead or get one directly at a taxi stand. The stands can be found at the airport, the train station, Piazzale Roma, San Marco and other places as well. You will get updated schedules once you are in Venice.

Practical Information

Remember that you, as well as every other international student and staff member, are a guest in Italy, and propriety requires good sense, judgment and respect. You are embarking on a major undertaking in cross-cultural living. With this in mind, you should try to learn as much about your own culture, as well as Italian culture before you land in Venice. Please consider important topics like social life in Italy, male-female relationships; religion; cultural adjustment; climate and the environment; crowds, traffic and transportation; be physically and mentally prepared.

Program Orientation

VIU will arrange 4 days of orientation for all of the students. During these 4 days, you will learn about VIU, the resources available to you as well as participate in the Freshman's Fair. At the Freshman Fair, you will meet the professors and learn more about the courses they are teaching.

III. Academic Program Information:

Academic Calendar

Fall 2009

Orientation Week	September 7-11
Freshman's Fair	September 10
Courses begin	September 14
Midterm break	October 26-30
Courses resume	November 2
Courses end	December 11
Exam Week	December 14-18

National holidays: November 1, December 8
Accommodation dates: September 6 - December 19, 2009

Spring 2010

Dates are not posted yet for the Spring 2010 semester.

Refer to <http://www.univiu.org/undergraduate/academiccalendar/>

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

Enchanting night visit to the Basilica di San Marco

Day trip on Venetian Lagoon

Half-day trip to Port of Venice

Site visits related to courses in Venice and its hinterland.

Photographic competition

Study Abroad Course Approval/Academic Policies

Students are responsible for following all BC academic regulations while abroad. See the OIP website for further information on study abroad academic policies

(<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics.html> - see the left hand menu items) and courses approval

(<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>).

IV. Transitioning back to BC

We encourage you to think about your return to BC in the final stages of your study abroad experience. Senior year holds many opportunities for returning study abroad students, such as the Global Proficiency Program, Peer Advising at Hovey House, the Junior Scholars program, internships, special thesis, and much more. Remember also that it is not unusual for you to find adjusting back to BC and American culture a lengthy process.