

# Bologna

## Academic Year 2009-10

### Fall 2009

Read this handbook *now* and again *before* you leave the U.S. Consult it again before you register for classes overseas. **Bring it with you to Bologna.**

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.

If you find erroneous information, please contact [overseas@indiana.edu](mailto:overseas@indiana.edu).



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## PROGRAM ADDRESS

**Address:** Indiana University- BCSP  
Via Malcontenti, 3  
40121 Bologna, Italy

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051-236486 (within Italy)

**Fax :** 011-39-051-274139 (from the U.S.)

**E-mail:** *andrea.ricci18@unibo.it*  
*unibo.bbsp1@unibo.it*

**Resident Director:** Dr. Andrea Ricci  
011-39-340-802-6036 (cell, from the U.S.)  
340-802-6036 (cell, within Italy)

**Housing & Exchange Coordinator:** Ms. Danielle Di Leo  
328-850-6361 (cell)

### Useful Web sites:

*www.indiana.edu/~overseas/bbsp.html* (BCSP Site)

*www.bbsp.unibo.it* (BCSP Bologna Web Site)

*www.unibo.it* (University of Bologna)

*www.comune.bologna.it* (City of Bologna)

*www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html*

(Italian railway with schedules)

*www.bologna-airport.it* (Bologna Airport)

## **THE PROGRAM**

The Bologna Consortial Studies Program (BCSP) is a consortium of Indiana University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Minnesota, the University of North Carolina, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago. The universities jointly set the program's academic standards. Seven other institutions -- Columbia University, Barnard College, Bryn Mawr College, Cornell University, Mt. Holyoke College, Northwestern University and Notre Dame University -- are associate members of BCSP.

This handbook provides general information relevant for academic-year and semester students from all BCSP schools and from non-consortium schools. Contact your school's study abroad advisor regarding school-specific academic program and degree requirements, tuition and program fees, scholarships and financial aid, and contractual arrangements.

## **INTRODUCTION**

You should use this booklet and other supplemental materials now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since many student questions are addressed in this handbook, please consult it before contacting your study abroad office or the IU Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the web: [www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/bologna.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/bologna.pdf)

## Goals and Objectives for Studying Abroad

The goals and objectives of a study abroad program are as diverse as the students, faculty, and administrators involved. Some goals may be common (e.g. language acquisition), while others may be more personal (e.g. becoming independent). Some goals may seem more important to some than to others (e.g. desire for academic integrity in course work vs. desire to travel).

Study abroad programs will provide a more enriching experience if they incorporate a wide range of goals. The first step toward the achievement of these goals is acknowledging and defining them before the program begins. Once you are abroad, the process continues with a structured and cooperative approach to achieving these goals. We've begun the process by outlining some goals for your program.

### **Bologna Consortial Studies Program Goals**

- Competence with the Italian language; knowledge of Italian history, culture, literature and the arts
- Integration into the academic and social environment of the University of Bologna
- Immersion experience in a supportive environment
- Personal development and growth

### **Program Elements that Support these Goals**

- Resident staff to provide personal and academic advising
- Special courses each semester taught by University of Bologna faculty for program participants
- Attendance in University of Bologna courses with Italian students
- Course work integrated into students' academic goals
- Volunteer and extra-curricular opportunities available
- Cultural tours of Bologna and excursions to important but less visited sites in the region
- Independently-arranged housing, primarily with Italian students

# Before You Go

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## DOCUMENTS

### Academic Record

By July 15, Indiana University's Office of Overseas Study needs evidence from academic year participants of completed spring courses with grades. An unofficial transcript or semester grade report is acceptable. Spring semester students do not need to submit additional documentation.

### Passport & Visa

If you do not already have a valid passport, apply for one immediately. You can pick up an application form and instructions at a county clerk's office or post office. You can also download an application from the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Turnaround time can be as much as six weeks, so submit your application promptly.

You are required to obtain a student visa for your stay in Bologna before you leave the U.S. A visa, which is a stamp in your passport that permits you to travel or reside in another country for a stated period of time, is issued by the country's consulate in the U.S. In early summer, the Indiana University Office of Overseas Study will send academic year students documentation and instructions to apply for a student visa. For this purpose, it is essential that you have your passport by mid-May. If you are not a U.S. citizen, immediately contact the nearest Italian consulate for visa instructions. Spring semester students will have a shorter time frame in late fall to make visa arrangements.

**BCSP participants must apply for their student visas at the Italian Consulate of Detroit via the Indiana University Office of Overseas Study. Students who attempted to apply elsewhere on their own in the past experienced disastrous results and ended up withdrawing from the program.**

Italian student visa regulations are getting more complicated and time consuming so **you are advised NOT to leave the U.S. for any international travel before the program begins.** If you

must be out of the country more than a couple of days immediately prior to the program start date, there is no guarantee that the consulate will process the visa in time for your departure.

If you will be abroad prior to the start of the program, please be advised that it is nearly impossible to obtain a student visa outside of the U.S. In addition, consulates and embassies outside the U.S. are generally unfamiliar with student visa requirements as they relate to U.S. students and will often provide conflicting or incorrect information that will ultimately delay the visa application process and jeopardize your chances of obtaining a visa in a timely manner. Therefore, you should return to the U.S. to obtain your student visa.

Finally, keep in mind that you will have to surrender your passport to the consulate anywhere from several weeks to as long as two months or more before the program starts.

When you arrive in Bologna, the program staff will provide assistance for you to register with the authorities and apply for a residency permit (*permesso di soggiorno*). Note that you will not be allowed to leave Italy until your *permesso di soggiorno* has been approved.

## **Health Insurance**

Requirements for health insurance coverage vary among the BCSP member schools. In some cases it is included in the program fee. Be certain that your policy is valid outside the U.S. and that you understand its terms and benefits. Most policies require you to pay for medical care at the time of service and then file for reimbursement from your American insurance company. You will have to demonstrate to the Italian Consulate that you have medical insurance to obtain an Italian student visa.

In addition to the U.S. insurance that is required in order to obtain a visa, the Italian government requires you to purchase Italian medical insurance called *Assitalia* to obtain the *permesso di soggiorno*. This limited policy, which costs about 98 euros (49 for one semester), will cover you in case you need treatment in an hospital Emergency Room, but does not cover outpatient services, office visits, minor illnesses or medications.

## **BCSP Statement of Medical History**

All BCSP students are required to complete the BCSP statement of medical history and return it to Indiana University. If you are on medication or have been diagnosed with a condition that could become serious, it is extremely important that you provide a complete medical report including symptoms to look for, recommended first aid and therapies, etc. This precaution cannot be overstated because the time lag between admission to hospital and treatment is magnified when there are language problems and medical files are in a foreign language—English. The more information you and your physician can provide the Resident Director on your statement of medical history form, the better you can be assisted in case of need.

## **Medications Abroad**

If you currently take medications, talk to your physician or nurse practitioner about arrangements for continuing the medications abroad.

Any medications taken overseas should be left in their original containers and be clearly labeled. You should carry a letter from your physician describing the medical condition and any prescription medications, including generic names of prescription drugs. Be prepared for the possibility of having to see a physician abroad, to authorize continued treatment during your time overseas.

## **International Student ID Card**

Although these ID cards are of limited value in Italy, they do entitle you to discounts in many other countries on transportation, accommodations, and admissions to museums, theaters, historical sites, etc. In addition, ISIC cards purchased in the U.S. provide limited accident, hospitalization, and medical evacuation insurance. They may be purchased in the U.S. (ask your study abroad office for a campus location) or in Europe.

# PROGRAM COSTS

## I. BCSP Fee

The BCSP fee, which covers tuition, initial lodging for the first week in Bologna, day trips, group social activities (and, for some institutions, health insurance), is set by your home university and varies from institution to institution. The fee is paid in U.S. dollars to your school (or, for non-consortium students, directly to Indiana University).

## II. Onsite Costs

In addition to the fee paid to your home institution, you will need funds in Italy for housing (rent, utilities, damage deposit, and building services), groceries, all personal and incidental expenses, and vacation travel. These costs vary significantly from student to student because they are based on individual spending habits and lifestyle, but in general, costs in Bologna are high. The dollar's changing value will also affect costs. Please note that due to the economy these estimates may increase between the time this handbook was updated and your departure for Italy.

Note that setting up an apartment, paying the two-month security deposit and one month's rent, purchasing staple foods, Assitalia insurance and initial bus passes, etc., will require a disproportionately large outlay of funds during your first six weeks in Italy.

### One-time variable cost:

Permesso di Soggiorno: € 175 (AY) € 125 (sem)

### Estimated variable monthly costs:

Apartment rent and housing costs: € 250 - 400

Groceries and meals: € 250 - 350

Incidentals & personal expenses, books: € 200 - 300

Vacation travel: € 200 - 400

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### Total estimated variable cost (TEVC) per month:

€ 900 - 1450

### TEVC for semester (approx. 6 months):

€ 5,400 - 8,700

### TEVC for academic year (approx. 10 months):

\$10,550 - 19,950

## MANAGING YOUR MONEY

The European Union monetary unit is the Euro (€). The euro functions similarly to the U.S. dollar in that it is subdivided into 100 cents. There are eight euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents. Each euro coin has a common European face and a face designed by each country that can be used in every monetary member country. There are seven euro notes that are differently sized and colored, and come in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. The notes, unlike the coins, do not have national sides and are completely uniform.

For more information on the euro and related topics, locate the website <http://europa.eu.int/euro/entry.html>. For current exchange rates, consult [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

**1) Bring at least 500 euros for the first days' expenses.**

**2) Bring a Cirrus or Plus debit card with four-digit personal identification number (PIN)** With it you can withdraw funds directly from your U.S. checking account at ATM machines throughout Europe at the most favorable exchange rates. This the most popular way to obtain cash.

**3) Bring a credit card with a four-digit PIN.** Visa and MasterCard can be used to obtain cash advances from bank ATMs. The credit card company charges a fee for the service, and computes interest from the date of withdrawal. Verify both your cash advance and credit limits before you leave the U.S. Credit cards can also be used to charge major expenses, but they are not widely used for small transactions. You will pay most of your bills, including your rent, in cash.

Keep a record of all credit card numbers and emergency telephone numbers in case of theft. Keep PINs separate from cards.

With an American Express card you can cash personal checks on your U.S. account at American Express offices throughout Europe. Bologna has no American Express office; the nearest one is in Florence. Bring your U.S. checkbook if you plan to use this option.

You should also bring a major credit card for transactions such as purchasing airline tickets or booking seats in a theatre.

We discourage the use of traveler's cheques as they are becoming obsolete with the widespread use of international ATM machines.

## PACKING

Since clothing prices can be high all over Italy, bring your main wardrobe items from the U.S. Plan a compact, flexible, mix and match wardrobe--not a large one. Bologna has a rainy autumn and a cold, rainy, even snowy winter. Warm clothes are absolutely necessary. Italians are extremely fashion conscious, and both men and women dress with style and flair. Students can get away with somewhat more informal clothing, and women may wear both slacks and jeans to class.

Bring a few lightweight clothes for the warm weeks in September and June. Rely on drip dry clothing, especially if you plan to travel.

Any appliance you bring should be compatible with the 220 voltage in Italy. If you plan to use a converter for a radio and tape player, bring one from the U.S. with dual voltage settings.

### **Pack the following:**

- Clothing that is easily washed and drip-dried
- One good outfit for special occasions
- Warm winter coat and sweaters
- Raincoat and umbrella
- CD or MP3 player with 110/220 switch and your favorite music
- Sturdy, comfortable walking shoes (Be prepared for lots of walking!)
- Bedroom slippers
- Washcloths and towels
- Camera
- Travel alarm clock
- Calculator
- Travel backpack
- Diary or journal
- Good Italian grammar book for reference
- Addresses of family and friends back home

### **Student Advice**

“Don’t bring a lot of extra clothes because you won’t use them. Italians dress nicely but often wear the same outfit several times in one week.”

- Telephone, fax and e-mail contacts for your academic advisors
- Copy of your school's current catalog
- \$500 in euros (€) to cover expenses for the first few days
- American measuring cup and spoons (The rest of the world is metric); your favorite recipes
- Medications for colds and upset stomachs
- A copy of all your prescriptions, clearly typed with the generic name of the drug
- Prescription for your glasses or contact lenses.

## SHIPPING

Parcel post packages from the U.S. to Italy can be sent air mail (from 7 to 10 days, but you may experience long delays). Federal Express and UPS packages can take up to a week. If you must ship boxes to Italy, plan to have them arrive after you do. Address them to: Your First Name and Last Name, c/o Indiana University - BCSP, Via Malcontenti, 3, 40121 Bologna, Italy. Please note: There is no one to receive packages at the BCSP office from June 30 to August 15.

To avoid disproportionate fees to be paid for custom clearance by the receiver, **do not declare the value of the content and do not insure it for any amount.** Just put a symbolic value of \$5 on the custom green slip.

Do not expect to have prescription drugs, contact lenses or cosmetics sent from the United States. Clearing them through customs involves major difficulties.

Beware of hidden, automatic warehousing costs added by companies such as Bax Global, and their local subsidiaries (Pak Mail, Mailboxes Plus) that will double the costs of freight air to Italy. Many of these companies utilize the general rubric of "miscellaneous customs charges," especially for packages valued over \$500, as a surcharge. If someone sends you a package from the U.S., please tell them to write that the contents are "used personal belongings." If not, you will be charged approximately 30% of the value of the package and may have difficulty getting the package through Italian customs.

# The Program in Bologna

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## **BCSP CALENDAR, 2009-10**

Fall arrival date .....	August 24, 2009
Fall Orientation .....	August 25-28
Fall Pre-session .....	September 1-October 2
Spring arrival date .....	January 11, 2010
Spring Orientation .....	January 12-15
Spring Pre-session .....	January 18-February 5

## **University of Bologna Classes**

First semester course .....	Late Sept./ early Oct.-late Jan.
Second semester courses .....	Early-February-mid-June

## **Examination Periods**

First semester courses .....	January-April
Second semester courses .....	End of May -late May

## **Holidays**

San Petronio .....	October 4
All Saints Day .....	November 1
Immaculate Conception .....	December 8
Christmas Holiday .....	December 24-January 6
Easter Holiday .....	March 31- April 6
Liberation Day .....	April 25
Labor Day .....	May 1
Festa della Repubblica .....	June 2
Ferragosto .....	August 15

There is no central University of Bologna calendar. The beginning and ending dates of the semester and final exam schedules vary from one department to another.

## **ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION**

Academic year and fall semester participants must arrive in Bologna on **Monday, Aug. 24, 2009**. Spring semester participants must arrive on **Monday, Jan. 11, 2010**.

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Bologna. Look for a ticket with an open return date or a very low fee for changing the return date, because you will not know until next spring the dates of your University of Bologna final exams in June. Indiana University will send you detailed instructions regarding where to go when you arrive in Bologna. Please note that program office staff members' recommend that you fly directly into Bologna.

Your first week in Bologna will be filled with activities designed to help you get acquainted with each other and feel comfortable in your new surroundings. These will include a tour of Bologna; selection of apartments and roommates; group meetings to give you instructions on registering for your *Permesso di soggiorno*; getting acquainted with University of Bologna academic procedures; written and oral language placement examinations; other practical information; and a tour of the University.

Spring-only students may find it challenging to catch up to the level of Italian acquisition by the students who have been in Bologna for the academic year. Students' past experiences have shown that they have found it easier to adjust by staying in Bologna as much as possible and not traveling too widely outside of Italy. It will take more effort on the spring students' parts to catch up to the level of Italian needed to do well in classes. If you have plans to travel extensively, you should consider doing so after your program concludes.

## **BCSP PROGRAM OFFICE**

The BCSP office is the communications center of the program. Here the Resident Director, Dr. Ricci, holds office hours, conducts academic advising and meets with students individually to answer questions and help resolve problems. The Program Coordinator, Marina Zaccarini, and the Housing & Exchange Coordinator, Danielle Di Leo, who lead you through the process of finding housing, provide information about banking, telephones, insurance, *permessi di soggiorno*, and assist with other student needs, keep regular office hours here. Students receive their mail at the program office as well

as notices of program activities, deadlines, and cultural opportunities in the area.

The office is a convenient meeting place, and it houses a modest collection of reference texts in English and Italian for background reading and classes. Alert the Resident Director of additional texts, guide books, etc. that could be acquired for common use. Available for student use are four PCs (with Microsoft Office and Internet connections), wireless network, and a printer.

## **BOLOGNA**

Bologna—the ancient Etruscan *Felsina* and later *Bononia* to the Romans—is known as *la dotta*, for the prestige and importance of the university, *la rossa*, for both its predominant coloration and the long-standing communist government, and *la grassa*, because of the superior quality of its cuisine and the wealth of the population. In 2000 it was ranked both the most livable city in Italy and designated a European Capital of Culture.

Bologna's appearance testifies to its long and important history. Characteristic features include the *centro storico*, whose shape is determined by the last circle of city walls, and *Le Due Torri*, the two tallest towers that remain of the more than 200 that once bristled skyward, proclaiming the wealth and power of their owners. The basilica of S. Petronio, the third largest church in Italy after the cathedral of Florence and St. Peter's in Rome, commemorates the fifth-century bishop of Bologna who is still regarded as the city's most important protector saint. The Piazza Maggiore, with S. Petronio on one side, the adjoining Piazza Nettuno, dominated by the magnificent Neptune fountain by Giambologna, and Piazza Re Enzo, constitutes one of the most gracious and beautiful promenade areas in Italy. But the miles and miles of porticoes give the city its most distinctive character, providing protection from the sun in summer and the rain in winter.

With about 370,000 inhabitants, Bologna is just the right size, small enough to project a friendly and intimate character and large enough to support a rich cultural life of music, both modern and classical (the opera house is among the best known in Italy) and art, with museums and churches containing masterpieces, for example, by Raphael and Michelangelo, and regular exhibitions of contemporary art. The city has never become a tourist center and, consequently, maintains a

distinctively Italian character. Bologna enjoys very high income per person and very low unemployment.

The history of Bologna has been repeatedly marked by conflict: invasions, rebellions, and turmoil instigated by fierce competition among the powerful local families. Off and on for centuries the city belonged to the Pope. It was ruled by papal legates until 1859 when it passed by plebiscite to the Kingdom of Savoy, thus to become part of unified Italy.

### **Student Advice**

“Read some Italian history and a survey of literature before you come. It is not an advantage, it is necessary.”

Overlapping this ancient city, many of whose buildings and monuments still bear papal coats-of-arms, is a sophisticated and prosperous modern city with boutiques whose windows display elegantly tailored apparel and exquisitely fashioned leather goods, food shops filled with still-life arrangements of fruits and

vegetables, and stores that display the finest in Italian housewares. Bologna is one of the cities in Italy where people dress most elegantly.

Because of its position at the foot of the Apennines in the broad plain of Emilia, Bologna has been since its founding a major crossroads. Today, it serves as a railway hub, providing easy access to Florence and Ravenna (only one hour away) or Venice and Milan (about one and one-half hours) or Rome (three hours).

## **UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA**

The University of Bologna, located in the city center, mainly around Via Zamboni, is the oldest institution of higher learning in Europe. Established at the end of the 11th century primarily as a law school, it soon afterward developed its ancient tradition of humanistic studies. Petrarch, Copernicus and Tasso studied there. In 1988 the University celebrated its 900th anniversary with great pageantry. It has repeatedly been ranked as the most prestigious university in Italy.

# THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

## Preession

The required preession is designed to enhance your language skills so that you can manage linguistically in a classroom with native speakers of Italian. It is also designed to familiarize you with some of the history and cultural heritage of Bologna. There will be a total of approximately 50 contact hours.

You will not only learn how to improve your knowledge of the Italian language but you will also be taught about the history, the architecture, the art and the culture of Bologna, its university and its surroundings. **Class attendance is mandatory.** This Preession will be graded according to the academic courses grading scale.

## Academic Advising

The Resident Director has responsibility for all academic matters. You will meet with him to determine which University of Bologna and BCSP courses you will take. Previous course evaluations prepared by BCSP students are available in the program office. You should use these prudently, remembering that many personal factors enter into the remarks offered by students of varying skills and expectations.

Check carefully with academic advisors on your home campus prior to departure to determine which courses or types of courses will meet your degree requirements. Use the University of Bologna website ([www.unibo.it](http://www.unibo.it)). Check various *dipartimenti* and *facoltà* for course listings. The use of these listings, in conjunction with the advising sheet you submitted before departure, will result in a more effective advising session onsite. Course schedules for the academic year at the University of Bologna are not released until very shortly before classes actually begin in the fall term, so you will not be able to select courses until late September or even early October. There will be little time to write home for enrollment advice before classes begin.

The Resident Director cannot be expected to be familiar with the academic requirements of a dozen or more institutions, so you are responsible for knowing as much as possible about your own degree requirements. **BRING A COPY OF YOUR SCHOOL'S CURRENT CATALOG (HARD COPY OR ELECTRONIC) AND THE E-MAIL ADDRESS OF YOUR ADVISOR(S).** You should also consult with advisors on your home campus about registration procedures for the fall term following the program.

**All students will be required to take the BCSP Advanced Grammar Course offered each semester. However, the Resident Director, at his discretion, may choose to exempt students from this requirement who performed consistently above average during the Pre-session. Students should take the improvement of their fluency and accuracy in the Italian language as one of their primary goals during their year or semester abroad.**

## **University of Bologna Calendar**

Courses for most *facoltà* begin toward the end of September or beginning of October. Each *facoltà* of the university operates according to its own calendar. There is no common *Schedule of Classes* containing all the information about the academic year. Not all classes begin at the same time: the schedule depends on the particular *facoltà* and on the individual professor. Nevertheless, most University of Bologna courses begin in late September or early October.

All courses in Scienze Politiche, Lingue e Letterature Straniere, and Lettere e Filosofia are now semester-based, as are most courses in Scienze della Formazione.

As you can imagine, the lack of a common schedule of classes may create difficulties when you are trying to put your schedules together and when BCSP is scheduling program courses, so flexibility is often needed.

## **Course Load**

In addition to the three semester hours of credit earned in the Pre-session, students must choose a combination of BCSP courses and the University of Bologna (UB) courses. The number of credits you are required to take will depend on whether you are studying in Bologna for the academic year or spring semester only.

**Academic year students** are required to take a minimum of 27 credit hours (**NOT** including Pre-session) during the year and must take at least 3 UB courses (usually 6 credits each). Most academic year students will enroll in one UB course during the fall semester along with two courses at BCSP and then during their spring semester enroll in at least 2 UB courses. This combination has been helpful in getting students gradually acclimated to the mainstreamed courses at UB.

**Spring only students** are required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours in addition to the Pre-session, including at least one UB course (usually 6 credits).

*Note: Comparable figures for students from institutions on different academic calendars are one semester unit for the pre-session and 8 semester units for the academic year (4 for a semester), or 4.5 quarter credits for the pre-session and 36 for the academic year (18 for a semester). Again, the course load will include a combination of University of Bologna and BCSP program courses.*

Most courses at UB are taught in a single semester and meet six hours per week. With the approval of the Resident Director, BCSP students may enroll in courses offered by Lingue e Letterature Straniere, Scienze della Formazione, Lettere e Filosofia, Scienze Politiche, or under special circumstances, Economia e Commercio. While Italian students are restricted to courses offered by the one *facoltà* in which they have matriculated, you may select courses from any of the *facoltà* listed.

## **Grading Policies**

In the early summer following the spring semester the Resident Director sends all grade reports and course titles to Indiana University, which in turn forwards them to your home institutions, each of which has its own system for reporting program courses and grades on its transcripts.

Students from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Indiana may take a limited number of classes on a pass/fail basis, but only with approval. Those who select the pass/fail option must complete the appropriate paperwork with their home institutions (according to their own university regulations) and with the Resident Director by March 25 for academic-year courses and by the deadlines established by the Resident Director for the one-semester courses. Illinois students make pass/fail arrangements on their home campus prior to their departure from the U.S. The pass/fail option is not available through North Carolina or Chicago.

Many students used to the American system of grade bartering are surprised to discover that such a system not only does not exist in Italy, but that Italian university professors find the practice

somewhere between amusing and insulting. Part of the lesson of studying at the University of Bologna in the Italian educational system is to learn also the different ways things are done in Italy. You will quickly learn that both in University of Bologna and BCSP classes, you must assure the positive evaluation you expect of your work through the convincing quality of your performance before the assignment of the final grade.

**Grading Scale for BCSP Students:** Italians use a grading scale of 1 to 30. BCSP will apply the following scale\* to these numerical grades for U Bologna courses, depending on the grading policies of your home institution:

UB grade	US grade equivalent*
29-30	A
28	A- or AB
27	B+ or AB
26	B
25	B- or BC
24	C+ or BC
23	C
22	C- or C
21	D+ or D
20	D
18-19	D- or D
Below 18	F

\* Note: this is a general scale and may vary slightly depending on the grading policies of your home institution. You should check with the Director on-site for your specific university's grading scale.

## Incompletes

All coursework must be completed and submitted by the end of the term and prior to your departure from the host country. No incomplete grades are permitted for overseas courses. Unfinished course work

will result in a grade of F for the course. Only documented illness is considered a legitimate excuse for missing a final examination.

## **BCSP PROGRAM COURSES**

The BCSP offers a limited number of special courses for its students. These courses are taught in Italian by University of Bologna faculty. Although program courses are similar to those taught at the University, professors are sensitive to the special needs of BCSP students for background material which Italian students have already mastered. Each BCSP course meets for approximately three months and is equivalent to three semester credits.

All students will be required to take the BCSP Advanced Grammar Course offered each semester. However, the Resident Director, at his discretion, may choose to exempt students from this requirement who perform consistently above average during the Pre-session.

**Advanced Course in Italian Language and Society (Fall and Spring)** This course is dedicated to the improvement of students' skills in Italian language, vocabulary, and syntax for daily conversation and introductory academic writing. An intensive course with numerous writing exercises and extensive oral practice in class, "Italian Language and Society" should be taken by all students and must be taken by those students coming directly from second year and/or Italian conversation courses in the States. Students who perform consistently above average during the pre-session may not be required to take "Italian Language and Society" but only at the Resident Director's discretion.

**For all of the BCSP course syllabi and descriptions, please see: [www.bcsp.unibo.it/BCSPcourses.htm](http://www.bcsp.unibo.it/BCSPcourses.htm)**

## **UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA COURSES**

The University of Bologna offers a wide range of courses in the humanities and the social and natural sciences. The general course and professor rarely change, but the content of the monographic course can change radically from year to year, even if the Italian title remains the same. The list below illustrates courses taken by BCSP students in recent years.

•**Italian literature:** *Dante, Letteratura dalle origini al '500, Letteratura moderna e contemporanea, Poesia, Storia della lingua italiana.*

•**Anthropology:** *Antropologia culturale, Antropologia sociale, Istituzioni afro-asiatiche, Antropologia della religione, Storia africana, Archeologia medievale.*

•**Art and Archaeology:** *Arte romana, Storia dell'arte fiorentina e senese, Storia dell'arte rinascimentale, Storia dell'arte moderna, Storia dell'arte del '500/'600, Arte italiana del Quattrocento, Arte europea dell'Ottocento, Arte contemporanea, Arte bizantina.*

•**Classics:** *Lingua latina, Letteratura latina*

•**Film:** *Filmologia, Storia del cinema, Semiotica dello spettacolo*

•**History:** *Storia romana, Storia del Rinascimento, Storia del fascismo, Storia americana, Storia moderna, Storia contemporanea italiana, Storia delle donne e della famiglia.*

•**Languages:** Since courses in languages other than Italian may vary greatly in level and content, BCSP does not permit participants to begin a new foreign language in Italy. Students who absolutely need to take courses in a foreign language must get previous approval from their advisors and notify the resident director on their first meeting.

•**Linguistics:** *Semiotica, Semantica, Linguistica, Dialettologia*

•**Political Science:** *Relazioni internazionali, Scienza politica, Organizzazione internazionale, Filosofia morale, Storia e Istituzioni dell'Europa Orientale, Storia dei movimenti politici, Storia dell'America del Nord.*

•**Psychology:** *Psicologia dell'età evolutiva, Psicologia sociale, Psicologia dell'arte, Psicologia dell'infanzia, Psicologia generale*

•**Sociology:** *Sociologia della famiglia, Sociologia dell'educazione, Criminologia, Sociologia economica, Sociologia della conoscenza, Sociologia della religione, Comunicazione di massa*

•**Theater and Drama:** *Drammaturgia, Storia del teatro*

•**Comparative or Foreign Literature** (always taught in Italian): *Letteratura anglo-americana, Letteratura dell'infanzia, Letteratura francofona, Letteratura tedesca*

### Student Advice

“Really be sure of what the professor expects of you. Make sure he knows you have a mutual understanding of what is expected of you. Check out courses, go to many and then decide.”

## ITALIAN UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

Part of the year's experience will be learning to operate in the much less centrally organized Italian university system. In the U.S. students take courses in several disciplines each semester, and rely on a university-wide schedule of classes distributed well in advance of the academic year to plan courses. The absence of such a schedule in Italy may give the impression that the University of Bologna is disorganized and chaotic. It is important to realize that Italian students specialize early in their academic careers and typically take a fixed sequence of courses in a single discipline. They are unlikely to experience scheduling conflicts even if their professors wait to announce which courses they will teach by posting notices on department bulletin boards just before classes begin, or set class meeting times and exam schedules individually. Because the *facoltà* operate independently, the university does not function according to a single calendar. Classes in different disciplines do not begin at the same time or on the same date.

You will have to take the initiative in locating class schedules. Information about class offerings is available 2-4 weeks before classes begin. All schedules are posted on the university's web page. In addition, you can check bulletin boards in the various *facoltà* for schedules and ask in department offices for course syllabi. Most

Italian faculty use a formal lecture format and seldom encourage student discussion or questions in class. Instructors expect to be addressed as *Lei*, and greeted with *Buon giorno* or *Buona sera*, never *Ciao*.

## Two-Part Courses

Most University of Bologna courses are divided into two parts: a *parte generale* and a *parte monografica*. The *parte generale* and the professor for each course change rarely, although the content and direction of the *parte monografica* can change radically from year to year. Classes usually meet three times weekly for a total of six hours.

The division between the two parts is most clear-cut in the Department of Italianistica where many, if not all, BCSP students enroll in a course (or courses). For the general part of the course, you will first consult with the professor to select books you will master for the final exam. Then, while studying those texts on your own, you will also attend seminars/review sessions taught one or two hours a week by an *assistente* on the general material. For the monographic portion of the course, you will attend lecture classes on a concentrated subject with the professor six hours a week for one semester, and write a paper, which will be corrected by the professor and discussed at the final exam. During the final oral exam (which covers both the seminar and monographic portions of the course), the paper is usually the starting point for questions.

## Oral Exams

Although some courses also require written papers, the course grade in most University of Bologna classes rests on a brief final oral exam. It is critical, therefore, to determine early in the term what material the professor expects you to master for the exam. All professors provide reading lists and will suggest a variety of works from which you are expected to compose your own reading list. You will be responsible for these works at the final exam. Do not expect the professor to distribute a syllabus with day-by-day reading assignments or homework. Meet with your professors early in the course to determine specific course requirements. Some professors hold BCSP students responsible only for material covered in the monographic section, others require you to master a manual or general textbook in addition to material covered in lectures, and still

others enumerate specific texts over which you will be tested.

## **Pacing Yourself**

Without daily assignments you will be tempted to postpone coursework. It is important to begin reading seriously from the beginning of the course. Trying to cram a year's worth of university-level reading in Italian into the last two months can be traumatic. In the preparation of courses in Italianistica you can count on help from the *assistenti*, who are University faculty members. The *assistenti* organize weekly meetings (*seminari*) with students to answer questions about the courses they are taking. You will find most University of Bologna professors helpful and accessible during their office hours (*ore di ricevimento*).

## **LIBRARIES**

The extraordinary resources of the University of Bologna's main library (via Zamboni), the Archiginnasio (Piazza Galvani), the Sala Borsa (p.zza Maggiore), and numerous departmental libraries are linked and accessible via the city-wide on-line catalogue known as the Polo (<http://sbn-ubo.cib.unibo.it/>). Students should keep in mind that many books cannot be checked out. Rather, many works they will use during their studies must be consulted in the library. Brief loan periods are available for students with a valid university i.d., however, the number of books is normally limited to three at a time. Some students find the small departmental libraries scattered throughout the city easier to use once they learn the sometimes limited schedules for these collections concentrated in particular areas of interest (art history, Italian literature, political science). The BCSP office has a small collection of frequently consulted reference works and some primary and secondary source materials. In the past, the Johns Hopkins University library (in via Belmeloro) has extended consultation privileges to BCSP students.

## **COMPUTERS & E-MAIL**

The BCSP office has four IBM compatible computers (with Microsoft Office) connected to the Internet and a printer for student use.

The BCSP office is also equipped with free wireless service which allows you to use your own laptop to connect to the Internet. Computers must be switchable to 220 VAC, that is, built with their own internal or powerpack conversion capacity, handling both volts

and cycles.

The University of Bologna will provide BCSP students with free e-mail accounts. Many University of Bologna buildings and libraries are provided with wireless service. If you bring your own laptop, internet service may not be available in your housing. It may be possible to set up high speed internet service with your landlord's approval for an additional fee.

## **GRE**

# Life in Bologna

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If you intend to take the Graduate Record Exam in Italy, make inquiries at the Bologna campus of Johns Hopkins University soon after your arrival. The exams are administered at the Hopkins Center, but applications must be completed and mailed well in advance.

## HOUSING

Upon arriving in Bologna, students will be housed for about two weeks in a hotel in central Bologna. Both before your arrival and during the first weeks in Bologna, the BCSP staff will assist you in finding an apartment. In addition, your BCSP Housing Guide is a valuable tool in assisting you in your search. You can download the guide at [www.bbsp.unibo.it](http://www.bbsp.unibo.it)

Your search for an apartment in Bologna will be a great introduction in getting to know the city. You will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in speaking Italian when calling for appointments to see apartments and in visiting and meeting your potential roommates and landlords. Finding housing in Bologna is not easy because the demand usually exceeds the supply. This results in fierce competition for available housing and high rent. This does not mean that finding an apartment is impossible: all the students who have participated in the program have always found a place to live and were happy with the results.

Some students start their online housing search from the U.S., although this is not necessary or required by BCSP. It is simply up to the student. Students may create their own profiles on the websites suggested in the BCSP Housing Guide, or they may try to get to know potential future roommates through Facebook or Skype. Starting early allows students to set up appointments as soon as they arrive in Bologna. It is very important to see the apartment and meet the roommates in person before committing to any agreement!

### **Independent housing search tips**

- Look for notices (*annunci*) on University boards or posted throughout the University district

- Refer to classifieds on the web (*www.postoletto.com*; *www.easystanza.it*)
- Choose from a regularly updated list of apartments available at the BCSP office
- Utilize the SAIS/BUSSOLA office (*www.bussola.ceur.it*)

Rooms may be single (*singole*) or double (*doppie*). Usually it is easier to find a "posto letto" (a bed/space in a double room) than a single.

## **Finding a room/an apartment: what to expect**

•**Rent contracts:** All rental agreements should be formalized by a legal contract between owner and tenant, but unfortunately this is rarely the case in Bologna. If there is only a verbal agreement ask if it is possible to receive a written receipt of any amount you pay. However, in recent years the Italian government has passed more stringent regulations and forms of control and penalties to reduce illegal rentals. This—along with the implementation of different and more flexible forms of contracts—has convinced many apartment owners to offer regular contracts also to foreign students. Once the contract is signed, the landlord and the tenant should contribute 50% each to the payment of the *Imposta del Registro* (State Registration Fee), which varies according to the amount of the monthly rent. All landlords (even those who do not provide contracts) are required to report to the local *Questura* (*police station*) that they are hosting foreign students. Landlords must provide the names and addresses of these students according to the anti-terrorism laws. This must be done no later than eight days after arrival.

•**Deposits:** You will be asked to pay a security deposit corresponding to one or two months rent. This amount is usually returned at the end of your stay if there are no damages (or unpaid bills) during the year/semester. Please note that if you want to vacate the apartment earlier than agreed, you will need to give a one or two month notice (*preavviso*), depending upon your agreement with the landlord. Otherwise you could lose your deposit. It is best to avoid apartments that require that you find a replacement before your departure in order to get your deposit back, you could lose your deposit.

•**Utilities:** Utility bills are usually included in the price of your rent. This simplifies arrangements since dividing the bills among roommates can be very difficult. Utilities include water, gas, electricity, heating, internet and condominium expenses. Final

cleaning costs are usually not required.

•**Furniture:** Generally all student apartments are furnished, including kitchen appliances.

•**Laundry:** Most apartments have a washing machine. Laundromats available in Bologna, , but it may be difficult to find one close to your apartment.

## PHONES

Expect to purchase a cell phone as soon as you arrive in Bologna. This is a critical means of communication with your family, in your housing search, contact with your fellow students and the BCSP staff. You may be able to purchase a phone in the U.S. that is compatible with European standards, but this is not always guaranteed to work in Italy. Therefore, we advise you to purchase an inexpensive cell phone in Bologna (prices start at €50). The BCSP staff can assist you in choosing your calling plan.

## FOOD

The food in Bologna is among the best in all of Italy, and it is difficult not to eat well, although non-student restaurants can be quite expensive. In October, after you are formally registered with the University of Bologna, you will be issued an identification card (*tessera*) for the student cafeterias (*mense*), the least expensive and most filling places to dine. These cafeterias are heavily subsidized by the Italian government and a full meal costs about five euros. Most of them do not open until November, although one or two begin serving in late September. Each *mensa* offers a different atmosphere, and the quality of the food is better than the average college cafeteria at home. The *mensa* serves lunch from noon to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 7 to 9 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

Other relatively inexpensive eateries include *pizzeria*, self-service restaurants, and bars serving *panini*. See our "*Guide to Living in Bologna*" for more detailed information available online at ([www.bcspace.unibo.it/living/pdf/Guide\\_to\\_BO.pdf](http://www.bcspace.unibo.it/living/pdf/Guide_to_BO.pdf)). Also, try the fairly inexpensive *trattorie*. *Rosticcerie* and *tavole calde* in some neighborhoods offer very reasonably priced food or even meals, which can be taken out. In nearly all sit-down eating establishments (except the *mensa*) a cover charge is added to the check. Tipping is not expected.

## GROCERY SHOPPING

Bologna has many grocery and department stores: Coin and Upim (department), PAM, Coop, and Conad (for groceries). The Coop and Conad are probably the cheapest grocery stores, although some students prefer to buy their produce from outside stands. The market off Via San Vitale in Piazza Aldrovandi has good buys on fruits and vegetables, as also do the downtown markets (Via Caprarie), and the *mercato delle erbe* off Via Ugo Bassi.

Hours of store operation vary, and there are two schedules, one for food and another for other types of stores, but almost all close for a period during the day from about 1 to 3:30 or 4 p.m., when they reopen until about 7 or 7:30 p.m. There are no 24-hour groceries. Most of the larger supermarkets such as Coop and Conad stay open all day long and a few are open on Thursday afternoon when all other food stores are closed. All close on Sunday.

Since most apartment refrigerators and freezers are small, expect to shop every day or so and stock up for Sunday. The expiration date is never more than several days and is frequently the same day for meat. Food is sold by the hectogram (*etto*, about 1/4 pound) or kilogram (2.2 pounds). In some stores you must purchase plastic shopping bags; save them for reuse. Bring a tote bag or shopping cart to avoid having to buy bags.

Paper, aluminum cans and glass are recycled in Bologna. You can identify these colored containers throughout the streets of the city.

Pharmacies rotate being open on Sundays. You can find out which ones are open in the Sunday newspaper or posted on the door of your local neighborhood pharmacy. The Farmacia Comunale in piazza Maggiore is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## PERSONAL SHOPPING

Bologna, like all Italian cities, offers a wide variety of shopping options for clothes, shoes or accessories. In central Bologna you can find flea markets to old, charming, family run shops alongside new, cutting edge, high fashion couture houses. Outside of the center, you can find American-style malls.

Be advised that most stores will not accept returns. Some stores accept returns within 15 days, usually for store credit. Otherwise,

there is no option to return merchandise.

## **MEDICAL CARE**

Bologna is known for its sound and innovative health care system. Its University clinic (Ospedale Sant'Orsola) is one of the top European medical institutions. The BCSP office has the names of competent doctors, dentists, and psychologists if you need help. Many speak English. The Resident Director and Program Coordinator are available to accompany you to medical facilities whenever necessary.

## **MAIL**

Have all mail from the U.S. sent to the BCSP office address by priority mail. Stamps are sold at *tabaccherie* as well as at the Post Office. All *tabaccherie* are equipped with postal scales for weighing letters and small packages. Several commercial mailing companies, such as Mail Boxes, have offices in Bologna where you can send packages by Federal Express or UPS.

## **BANKING**

Due to the bureaucracy of the Italian banking system, it is advisable not to open a bank account in Bologna without a strong reason. Students typically rely on withdrawals at ATM machines from their home bank accounts. If it is necessary to open an account in an Italian bank, please consult with the Program Coordinator.

Banks are open 8:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and many re-open in the afternoons from 2:40 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are all closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Bologna has an excellent bus system. A single ticket (*corsa semplice*) costs one euro, or you may buy a 10-ride ticket called a City Pass for a discount. The ticket, valid for 60 minutes on any number of buses, must be machine-stamped as you enter the bus; if a *controllore* catches you without one, fines range from 40 to 150 euros. Tickets can be purchased on board (from the red machines) or from *tabaccherie*, *edicole* (newsstands) and bars displaying the ATC sign.

Buses are crowded during peak hours: early morning, lunch hour, and evenings. Expect to stand at these times. Senior citizens and the handicapped should always be given seats. When you need to get through the crowd to get off at your stop, ask “*deve scendere?*”

or say “*permesso*.”

A student pass valid for the entire year is also available.

The city map you receive upon your arrival contains information on the bus lines. For more information about bus routes and timetables visit the ATC website: [www.atc.bo.it](http://www.atc.bo.it)

## **WORKING & VOLUNTEERING IN ITALY**

It is difficult to earn money while you are in Italy, and your student status will not give you the authorization to work legally for more than 20 hours per week. However, BCSP does encourage and assist students to engage in volunteer work activities, and in finding job opportunities such as baby-sitting or tutoring in English.

Some examples of volunteer activities in which students have participated are: projects in local schools (from the kindergarten to the high school level), guided tours in English or other foreign languages in local museums, and working with various populations of people (i.e. working with children at the hospital, elderly people, immigrants, and/or people with disabilities).

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

During the year BCSP will arrange excursions to cities of interest such as Ravenna, Urbino, Padova and a two-day trip to Tuscany. These trips usually include orientation by a guide and a group meal at a restaurant typical of the area. Trips are included in program fees. There is no refund for those who do not participate. The program also organizes pizza parties, Thanksgiving dinner and other social activities.

Bologna offers a great variety of musical, artistic, literary and cultural events, which are well publicized through newspapers and posters and announced on the bulletin board in the BCSP office. If you are interested in season tickets for opera, chamber music or symphony concerts, inquire about their purchase as soon as you arrive in Bologna. You will quickly learn where the best discotheques are. You can arrange language *scambi* with Italians through the Program Coordinator. Look for the special nights when English films are shown in their original versions at movie theaters in town.

# TRAVEL

## Trains

In general, Europe has an excellent railroad system that is inexpensive and reliable. Tickets are available at first and second class prices. Barring couchettes for long distance travel, comfort in the two classes is so similar that first class is not worth the extra cost. Rather than waiting in the long lines at the train station, buy your tickets in advance for the same price at a travel agency. A number of guidebooks are available in the BCSP office. Check the website [www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html](http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html) for information.

There are several classifications of trains in Italy. Starting with the fastest, the EC (*Eurocity*) travels between cities in Europe and the ES (*Eurostar*) operates within Italy. Both require a reservation and are very fast. For example, the trip from Bologna to Florence is less than an hour, Bologna to Rome is about 2 1/2 hours. The IC (*Intercity*) is also quite fast. All of them require a *supplemento* which you purchase along with your ticket. If you fail to do so and are forced to buy the supplement or the ticket on the train, you will pay an amount substantially over the regular price. The local trains (IR - *Interregionale* or R - *Regionale*), which tend to make more frequent stops, are the least expensive and good for shorter trips. There is no savings in buying a round-trip ticket (*andata e ritorno*), except in time saved standing in the ticket line. In Italy, one must always *timbrare*, that is, machine-stamp your ticket, before getting on a train. If you have a round-trip ticket, you will have to stamp it a second time, at the opposite end, when you use it to return. There is a fine for not doing so. The machines are easy to find; they are yellow and they are distributed throughout the stations.

A train schedule (*orario*) may be purchased at a newsstand, train station or travel agency. They are also available online ([www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html](http://www.trenitalia.com/trenitalia.html)). Schedules give times of departure, destinations, and train classifications.

A student may buy the Biglietto Ferroviario Transalpino, which offers up to a 40% discount on European travel and can be purchased at a student travel agency, or the Carta Verde, which can be purchased by those younger than 25 at the train station and is valid for one year. It entitles the bearer to a 20% discount on tickets.

If you travel overnight in an unlockable compartment, keep credit cards and passports in a safe place, such as a money belt or pouch around your neck.

The various Eurail passes provide periods of prepaid travel throughout Western Europe (except Britain and Northern Ireland). In addition, each European country offers passes for various periods of unlimited travel within its borders. The Eurail passes must be purchased in the U.S., but you can have one bought and mailed to you here. The national rail passes can be purchased in Europe. After a six-month residency, you can purchase an Interrail pass which is also honored in Britain and is generally superior to the Eurail pass.

## **Automobiles**

Only Italian citizens and foreigners who are resident aliens may own cars in Italy. Renting a car in Europe can be expensive, and gasoline costs about three times as much as it does in the U.S.

## **Bicycling**

Many students have bicycled in Europe and found it to be a very rewarding experience. With advance arrangements you can take bikes onto the trains, and in many countries (most notably France, Belgium, the Netherlands and England) people and roads are quite friendly to cyclists. You can camp in numerous campgrounds, or bike from hostel to hostel. Some students purchase bicycles for transportation in Bologna.

## **Hostels**

Youth hostels provide clean, inexpensive, albeit spartan accommodations throughout Western Europe. You must have a hostel card in order to spend the night. Cards cost \$25 for the year and are available from Hostelling International on the web at *www.hiayh.org*. You can also purchase memberships at any youth hostel overseas.

## **Air Travel**

The Aeroporto Guglielmo Marconi (airport code BLQ) is an international airport served by many European and charter airlines (*www.bologna-airport.it*). You can reach the airport by taxi or using the Aerobus, a shuttle bus that runs every 30 minutes from the train station to the airport (€ 5). Some discount airlines advertise flights to Bologna-Forlì. Note that this is not the BLQ airport, but rather the Forlì one, 45 minutes from Bologna by car or bus.

# Safety and Responsibility

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BSCP will work to protect your health and safety overseas, but you must take responsibility for the results of your decisions, choices and behavior. Before the program, read carefully and consider the information given to you by your study abroad office regarding your health and any special needs; and together with your family, review your university's safety and responsibility guidelines. You are also encouraged to consult the State Department Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings at <http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html> and the Centers for Disease Control web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). While BCSP can provide information about health and safety issues, we cannot eliminate all risks from a study abroad environment or ensure that U.S. standards of due process will be applied in legal proceedings outside this country.

## LEGAL ISSUES

### Student Responsibilities

By your signature on the BCSP Agreement and Release form, you have agreed 1) to respect the laws and customs of the host country, your university's Code of Student Ethics, and all other reasonable standards of conduct promulgated by BCSP, its agents and consortium partners, and 2) to participate fully in the academic program by attending classes and remaining at the host institution for the full academic year. You have acknowledged that if the Resident Director, with the concurrence of the Managing Director of BCSP, determines that your conduct is detrimental to the best interests of the program or the BCSP and its member institutions, your participation in the program may be terminated.

The University of Bologna has the primary responsibility for discipline in connection with violations of its regulations. Although University officials may consult with BCSP representatives concerning student

misconduct, final disposition rests with the University of Bologna and in extreme cases may also become a matter of concern to the Italian government. For example, student demonstrations that start out on a peaceful basis can rapidly escalate into confrontations with the police.

## **Illegal Drugs**

Avoid illegal drugs. Drugs can impair your judgment in situations that require increased awareness. In Italy, possession brings three years in prison; trafficking, three to eight. Persons arrested on drug charges are not eligible for bail. Neither the University of Bologna nor U.S. officials can intervene.

## **SAFETY ISSUES**

Please be especially alert to the following aspects of living abroad, which may not at first appear to you as safety or health issues:

### **Alcohol**

One of the best ways to protect yourself abroad is to avoid excessive drinking. Although alcohol may be more accessible at your program site than in the U.S., if you drink alcohol at all, do so in moderation. Not only may inebriation be culturally offensive, more importantly, it can impair your judgment in critical moments when you most need to be alert (e.g., driving, finding your way home late at night, socializing with strangers, etc.).

### **Hazardous Activities**

Students abroad sometimes participate in new activities in which they are not well-practiced or proficient. Be cautious if you're attempting any activity that has an element of danger or risk, particularly if you are far from assistance. These activities can include but are not limited to rock climbing, cliff jumping, snorkeling, bungee jumping, skydiving and skiing.

### **Emotional Health**

You are likely to experience some form of culture shock during your time abroad, but this should not be confused with a serious emotional crisis. If you feel withdrawn or detached and cannot cope with your environment, ask the program director on site for guidance and/or a recommendation for a skilled health care provider.

If your problem involves an eating disorder, we urge you to disclose this on your medical form so that the staff can assist you with making appropriate contacts with health and therapy providers in Bologna. Should such a disorder emerge during the program, share your burden with someone before you become seriously weakened.

Any medication that you take for a mental health condition should be listed on your medical form. You should also continue taking your medication abroad since any interruption in medication can produce serious consequences.

## **Political Disturbances**

In the event of anti-American activity abroad, maintain a low profile. Avoid places known for attracting Americans (fast-food restaurants, American Express office, etc.), dress to fit with the local culture, and avoid clothing that will quickly identify you as American. Do not approach unattended packages in public places. Be cautious and report any unclaimed object.

Be sure to stay in frequent touch with the staff during periods of political unrest or turmoil. It is critical for you to keep your cell phones on so that the staff can reach you with instructions or information.

## **Sexual Harassment**

If you feel you may be the victim of sexual harassment, consult the program administration immediately. They can help you sort out the difference between unacceptable harassment and culturally acceptable behavior which is nonetheless uncomfortable for you. In the case of sexual harassment, you may need to file a report at the local police station with the assistance of the program administrator on site.

## **Dating and Sexual Behavior**

A survey on dating and sexual behavior while abroad was recently conducted of IU study abroad returnees. Although each person will make individual choices regarding relationship(s) while abroad, knowing the experiences of some of your peers might provide some useful insights.

In terms of whom students date, they report dating more host nationals than program participants, and men seem to be involved in a greater number of relationships than women. Students also

reported that sexual norms differed from the United States. It is important to understand the norms of the country where you will be studying. You can learn about these through various sources - books, guidebooks to some extent, discussions with program staff, host nationals, and observing the behavior of others. Many students reported that their relationships abroad gave them access to a greater understanding of the culture in which they lived. Others reported that by not engaging in serious relationships they were able to gain more since they could focus on other activities. Consider all these issues if you plan on being involved in a relationship, sexual or otherwise, while studying abroad.

The survey also indicates that the patterns students form while at IU in terms of (a) being sexually active or not, and (b) using methods of pregnancy prevention and STD protection largely carry over when they study abroad. If you anticipate being sexually active while abroad, consider bringing a supply of the pregnancy and STD prevention protection you currently use.

## **Travel Safety**

### **Air Travel**

Recent increased security measures at airport facilities and on aircrafts will require that you take additional precautions when flying. You should be prepared to comply with multiple document checks, baggage searches, and inquiries. Be patient — these steps are being taken for your protection.

**Packing:** Examine everything that you normally pack in your suitcase and evaluate whether an object could be scrutinized by airport security. (This includes items found in manicure kits, etc.) Consider removing anything that could be perceived as threatening, or may raise suspicion at a security screening checkpoint. No knives of any size will be accepted. Avoid over-packing so that carry-on luggage and checked suitcases can be opened and closed with ease.

**Airport etiquette:** Arrive at the airport early (at least two to three hours before scheduled departure). Be sure to have your ticket, paperwork and passport available. Be prepared to demonstrate the operation of electronic equipment such as laptops, cell phones, etc.

**In transit:** Maintain your sense of awareness and keep your possessions with you at all times.

**Upon arrival:** Have your luggage receipts available for verification when retrieving luggage.

## **Car Travel**

Everyday traffic accidents are the main cause of injury to students traveling abroad. The road-safety standards and risks for Western Europe are similar to those in the U.S., but the more adventuresome a destination you choose, the more primitive the roads, automobiles, trucks, buses, emergency medical resources, safety equipment, and licensing standards inevitably become. In developing countries you may be exposed to narrow, winding roads with no guardrails on hairpin turns, poorly maintained vehicles, and dangerously overcrowded buses. Even in developed countries drivers may be more aggressive than in the U.S., and speeding and passing may be more common.

- Keep track of local holidays that increase traffic. Exercise the same caution you would on a holiday weekend in the U.S.
- Don't rent or ride in a car without a seat belt.
- Demand that taxi and bus drivers drive safely. "Slow down," "Stop," and "Let me out," are three of the most powerful phrases you can learn.
- Do not hitchhike. You risk accidents, theft, and personal assault.

The Association for Safe International Road Travel ([www.asirt.org](http://www.asirt.org)) offers statistics, tips and articles about road safety around the world.

## **Pedestrian Travel**

- Avoid crowded areas where you are most likely to be robbed: crowded subways, train stations, market places, festivals. Don't use narrow alleys or poorly-lit streets.
- Avoid travel alone at night.
- Beware of pickpockets. They often have an accomplice who will jostle you, ask for directions or the time, point to something spilled on your clothing, or distract you by causing a disturbance. Vagrant children may create a distraction while picking your pocket.
- Try to seem purposeful while you move about. Even if you are lost, act as if you know what you are doing

## **Train Travel**

Well organized, systematic robbery of passengers on trains along popular tourist routes is a serious problem. It is more common at night and especially on overnight trains.

- Lock your compartment or take turns sleeping in shifts with your traveling companions. If that is not possible, stay awake.
- Don't accept food or drink from strangers. Criminals have been known to drug food or drink offered to passengers. Criminals may even spray sleeping gas in train compartments.

# Preparing for Change

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## SELF REFLECTION

You naturally expect to learn a great deal about Italian history and culture while you are abroad, but you may also grapple with personal issues while you are away from home. All students experience growth and change during this period of self awareness, but some of you may face unique challenges and adaptations abroad. Living abroad can mean leaving behind important social, physical and legal supports that you will not find in Italy; but most of you will find Italy comfortable and welcoming. For bibliography and more information on the topics described below, consult your study abroad administrators.

## Student Advice

“Keep an open mind and have lots of patience.”

## Different Abilities

The passage of legislation such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act has spurred schools in the U.S. to accommodate students with varying abilities. Other countries are not bound by U.S. legislation, of course, and physical facilities and academic resources vary significantly from one overseas site to another.

The BCSP endeavors to provide reasonable accommodation for students with documented disability conditions (e.g., physical, learning, etc.), but only if you disclose your needs to us well before the program begins. If you are currently receiving disability-related accommodations at your home school or anticipate needing them at your program site, send documentation that confirms the disability, information about the accommodation currently provided, and details about accommodation requested abroad. The BCSP will then be in a position to work with you to seek appropriate responses for your needs.

## Race/Ethnicity

U.S. citizens often identify strongly with their family's cultural and ethnic heritage and refer to themselves as Asian-American, Italian-American, African-American, or Hispanic-American. In other countries such ethnic differences are often overlooked, and U.S. students report that for the first time they have been identified (and have identified themselves) as simply "American."

Race and ethnic relations vary widely from country to country. Ask your study abroad office to put you in contact with a student or faculty member who has experience with race and ethnicity issues in Italy.

## Sexual Orientation

Living in another culture provides an opportunity for self-exploration and individual growth. You may question your sexual identity for the first time while you are abroad, or you may already have identified yourself as gay, lesbian or bisexual. In any case, it is important to know the attitude of the host country toward sexual orientation issues. *The Gay and Lesbian Legal Guide for Overseas Travel* gives a brief summary of how homosexuality is viewed in each country worldwide. An excellent web site on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues is located at [www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/index.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/index.html). If you have concerns about this issue, contact your study abroad office and the program staff abroad regarding the situation Italy.

## PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT

Part of your success abroad will depend on how well you have prepared the logistics covered earlier in this handbook, but it is even more important for you to prepare yourself for cultural adjustments and personal growth.

### Your expectations

Take a personal inventory of your expectations. What do you hope to get out of the experience overseas? Identify your goals—in terms of language acquisition, academic growth and career. How are you going to achieve them? How will you track your personal growth during this experience? Outlining your goals now and then keeping a

#### Student Advice

"Develop an excess of patience for bus trips, post offices and train stations."

journal abroad will help you map both your inner and outer journeys. Indeed, daily writing, which attempts to interpret and reinterpret the cross-cultural meanings of your experiences, may be your most powerful learning tool.

## **After You Return**

Give some thought to the way you will integrate your experiences abroad into your life back in the U.S. Once you have successfully integrated into Italian culture you will need to be intentional about picking up the threads of your American life after the program ends. Some advance planning will make the process smoother.

## **AMERICAN IDENTITY**

Before you can understand another culture, you should understand your own. What does it mean to be American? What characteristics, values and attitudes define American culture? What generalizations can you make about American attitudes towards education, gender, family, money, politics, race, relationships, religion, success, time, work? How do American values affect your attitudes toward others, your friendship patterns, your work habits, the way you spend your time and money? How do Americans measure success in life? What role does tradition play in our culture? A clear understanding of what is characteristically American (and the many variations) will give you a better chance of appreciating similarities and differences in another culture.

### **Student Advice**

“I found the Italian people to be enthusiastic and considerate in their willingness to help me learn their language.”

How flexible are you? Once you have identified your American values, patterns and habits, think about the strategies that will help you adjust to different ways of dating, dressing, eating, shopping, banking, relating to professors, and studying.

## **Learn about the United States**

Every student abroad is inevitably put in the position of having to explain (or even defend) the home country’s political or economic system or its stance on global issues. If you begin now to keep abreast of the U.S. role in global activities, you will be more articulate when you are questioned about U.S. policies and reactions to world issues. In addition, students often report that they wish they had brushed

up on such basics as how a bill becomes a law in the U.S. or the composition of the European Union before going abroad.

Remember, however, that you probably don't want to get into a hostile debate with questioners or automatically defend everything that is American. What are some strategies for deflecting potentially hostile questions so that they lead to conversations in which everybody listens and everyone learns?

## Your Appearance

Carefully consider how you will dress. American students often comment that their clothing gives them away instantly as foreigners and can make them more vulnerable to derogatory remarks and as potential targets for petty thefts. While you shouldn't expect to buy a new wardrobe while abroad, you may want to plan to wear items of your own clothing that fit in better with the local culture. You'll discover that shorts, halters and skimpy tops are mainly worn near seaside towns, rarely in urban centers except by tourists. You'll also

### Student Advice

“Expect cultural differences and different social customs. Go with the flow if you can, and ask your Italian friends about them—they are just as curious about the States.”

discover that casual lounging clothes--including oversized t-shirts with humorous logos and flannel pants that are very common on college campuses--are not worn in big cities abroad or at urban universities. And before you don what many cultures might interpret as

‘revealing’ clothing (i.e. low-rider jeans, exposed midriffs, plunging necklines, exposed underwear) observe what native citizens who are your age in that country are wearing. You may also discover that flip flops and sneakers are not necessarily the norm for footwear outside of the U.S., at least not for all occasions. Part of the acculturation process is trying to blend in so that you minimize your role as an outsider. Be prepared to be as flexible about your clothing as you are about other aspects of your behavior.

## CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Acceptable behavior in the U.S. may cause embarrassment, frustration or amusement in Italy. American women, for example, often discover that Italian males display what would be considered very aggressive behavior and that female responses considered

to be merely polite here—direct eye contact, smiling, saying “Hi” as you pass on the street—can be interpreted as “come-ons” in Italy. For some women, the best technique is to ignore or pretend not to hear the unwanted advances, while moving purposefully and soberly toward a destination. A woman in short shorts

or skimpy top on the street is likely to draw unwelcome attention. For safety’s sake, follow the same self-defense precautions you use in any large U.S. city: walk with a companion after dark, avoid deserted or dangerous areas, refuse rides from people you do not know, etc.

It is very bad form in Italy to show signs of overindulgence in alcohol. Shopkeepers and waiters should be addressed formally, as *Lei*, and greeted with *Buon giorno* or *Buona sera*, not *Ciao*.

An excellent introduction to cultural differences is *Survival Kit for Overseas Living* by L. Robert Kohls (Intercultural Press, P.O. Box 768 Yarmouth, Maine 04096, 1984).

## **Learn about the host country**

Learn as much as possible about Italy before you go, since understanding the culture will facilitate your adjustment to living there. How do you plan to inform yourself about Italy before arrival? Taking courses is one method, but you can also independently explore histories, periodicals, novels, travel books, videos, and tapes that inform you about the differences in daily life you will encounter overseas.

## **Gender Roles**

Both male and female students abroad will discover that growing up in the U.S. has prepared them for different roles in society than the ones their contemporaries in other countries expect. Many events in recent decades have heightened U.S. awareness of gender stereotypes, sexism and the limitations of traditional male-female roles. However, it may not be politic to suggest to your host country friends that U.S. patterns are appropriate for their culture. Instead, look at gender difference in the host culture from its historical and sociological perspective. Since you will be viewed according to the gender expectations of the host culture, you may feel uncomfortable

### **Student Advice**

“Practically nothing works the way you would expect it to. A casual attitude toward everything is essential. Getting frustrated will only make matters worse.”

at times. This is particularly true for female students who may find themselves the targets of unwanted attention.

## Religion

Few countries have the religious diversity and pluralism that you find in the U.S. and few have such a strong tradition of separation of church and state. As a result, you may be struck by the number of public holidays that are based on a religious calendar and the extent of public prayer and public religious ceremonies. You will have to probe to understand the relationship between the external, ritual manifestations of religion and individual beliefs or the role of religion as a political element or an active social force.

If you wish to be affiliated with a religious community abroad, check with your local place of worship for contacts or discuss your interests with program staff overseas. Former students may also be able to advise you regarding your options.

## CULTURE SHOCK

“Culture shock” is the term used to describe the disorientation that every student experiences to some degree when spending an extended period in a new culture. The common symptoms include homesickness, boredom, withdrawing from the culture by spending excessive amounts of time alone or with other Americans, excessive sleeping, compulsive eating, irritability, stereotyping of or hostility toward host country nationals, weepiness or even some psychosomatic illnesses.

Although you will probably experience some degree of culture shock, you certainly won't have all these symptoms. If you recognize what is happening, keep busy, and ask friends and the BCSP office staff for help when you need it, culture shock will not last long.

During your period abroad, you may move through several natural stages of cultural adaptation. These include:

### Student Advice

“Immediately begin going out with Italians. Don't insulate yourself. Don't be too quick to criticize. They think your behavior is just as peculiar as you think theirs is.”

**1) Initial euphoria.** When you first arrive in the new culture, everything seems wonderful and exciting, and you are struck with how similar people around the world can be.

**2) Irritation and hostility.** Your focus changes from the similarities between cultures to the differences, and the differences become irritating and frustrating. Small problems loom as major catastrophes.

**3) Gradual adjustment.** The crisis of adjustment passes. The new culture seems more familiar and you move more confidently in it. You make friends. You learn to interpret some of the subtle cultural clues and cues.

**4) Adaptation and biculturalism.** You are able to function in two cultures with confidence. You are so well adapted to the new culture that returning to the U.S. will provoke a “reverse culture shock.”

There are several ways you can minimize the impact of culture shock:

1) Make a point of learning as much as you can about Italy before you go--its history, art, literature, current politics. Explore periodicals, novels, travel books, videos and tapes that inform you about the differences in daily life you will encounter overseas. Understanding the culture will facilitate your adjustment to living there.

2) In Bologna, look for the reasons behind the things in Italian culture that are different. Relax your grip on American culture; ours is not the only way of doing things.

3) Resist looking down on or making jokes and comments about Italy or Italians. Avoid others who do so.

4) Identify an Italian who is sympathetic and understanding and speak to that person about your feelings.

5) Have confidence in yourself and in the good will of the Italians. Maintain confidence that your year in Italy will be a positive experience.

## **RE-ENTRY: REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK**

Once you have adapted to life in Italy, coming home will require readjustment to U.S. culture. You will have to integrate what you have learned abroad into your U.S. life. You will cope with re-entry at various levels:

**1. Family:** You may be expected to fit back into your family but find it difficult to communicate effectively because they have not shared your international experiences. They may have difficulty adjusting to your new independence and changed values.

**Strategies:** Try to share your experience with your family (slides, stories, etc.) and let them know how much you appreciate the chance they have given you to grow in new ways by studying and traveling overseas.

**2. Friends:** You and your friends may no longer be as close. Be sensitive about discussing your experience with them. You may also miss the new friends you made in Italy.

**Strategies:** Ask and listen to what your friends experienced while you were in Bologna. Ask them to bring you up to date on local events. Try to do new things together to get the relationship on a new footing. Maintain contact with your Italian and BCSP friends.

**3. School:** You are likely to look at your home campus in a new light, and you may miss being part of a close-knit group of BCSP students.

**Strategies:** Talk over your academic experience with your advisor, especially if you are considering new career goals. Make contacts with international students on your campus through your school's office of international student services. Contact the study abroad office and volunteer to talk to students who plan to study abroad. Seek out other students on campus who have studied overseas. Investigate the possibility of living in an international dormitory or take part in activities for international students.

**4. Country:** Aspects of the U.S. may no longer be entirely to your liking and you may have the sense that you no longer fit in. You will probably evaluate ideas and events in the context of the broader cultural perspective you acquired in Bologna.

**Strategies:** Recognize that we all tend to look past the shortcomings of our home culture when we are away, and to criticize it on the basis of changed perceptions when we return. Seek out others on your campus who are interested in international and intercultural matters. Keep up your interest in Italy through newspapers, literature, music, friends, etc.

**5. Self:** You have become accustomed to a level of activity and anticipation that your home and campus probably cannot match. It is natural to feel a little restless or a bit depressed for a while after your return.

**Strategies:** Recuperate from the physical journey. Think over the ways you have changed: Which of those do you like? What did you learn about yourself? How have your family and friends reacted to the new you? Keep a journal so you can see your thoughts evolve. Talk with other returning students.

## **Publication on Cultural Learning**

As part of your BCSP orientation resources, you will receive a publication entitled: *Maximizing Study Abroad: A Student's Guide to Strategies for Language and Culture Learning and Use* by R. Michael Paige, Andrew Cohen, Barbara Kappler, Julie C. Chi and James P. Lassegard. August 2002 (University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition).

Overseas Study will also provide you with a syllabus to guide your reading of this user-friendly book designed to help students identify and use a wide variety of language and culture learning strategies. You can use the guide as you prepare for the program, during the experience and once you return.



# **APPENDIX A**

## **BCSP SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY GUIDELINES**

No set of guidelines can guarantee the health and safety needs of each individual involved in a study abroad program, but the following address issues of general concern and the responsibilities of all parties. It is not possible to account for all the inevitable variations in actual cases, so those involved must also rely upon their experience and thoughtful judgment while considering the unique circumstances of each situation.

### **A. Responsibilities of the BCSP**

1. Conduct regular assessments of health and safety conditions for BCSP, including program-sponsored accommodation, events, excursions and other activities, prior to program. Monitor possible changes in country conditions. Provide information about changes and advise participants and their parents/guardians/families as needed. Develop and maintain emergency preparedness and crisis response plans.
2. Provide guidelines for program directors and staff with respect to managing emergencies abroad.
3. Provide orientation materials to participants prior to departure for the program and onsite, which include appropriate information on health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country. In addition to dealing with health and safety issues, the orientation should address potential health and safety risks, and appropriate emergency response measures. Ask students to share this information with their parents/guardians/families so they can make informed decisions concerning preparation, participation, and behavior while on the program.
4. Consider health and safety issues in evaluating the appropriateness of an individual's participation in BCSP.
5. In the participant screening process, consider factors such as disciplinary history that may impact on the safety of the individual or the group.
6. Provide students with information on the role of and assistance provided by the on-site resident director or program coordinator.

7. Discuss with students, following their selection but prior to their participation in BCSP, individual health and disciplinary history issues that may impact on the safety of the individual or the group.
8. Verify that students have adequate health insurance coverage, or assure that participants receive information about how to obtain coverage. Adequate health insurance coverage is necessary to obtain a student visa. Policies should include emergency evacuation and repatriation. Students will be required by Italian law to purchase additional hospital insurance within Italy.
9. Direct on-site program staff to provide information for participants and their parents/guardians/families regarding available medical and support services, and to help participants obtain the services they may need.
10. Hire vendors and contractors (e.g. travel and tour agents) that have provided reputable services in the country in which the program takes place. Advise such vendors and contractors of the program sponsor's expectations with respect to their role in the health and safety of participants.
11. Communicate applicable codes of conduct and the consequences of noncompliance to participants. Take appropriate action when participants are in violation.
12. In cases of serious health problems, injury, or other significant health and safety circumstances, maintain good communication among all program sponsors
13. Provide these guidelines to participants and their parents/guardians/families regarding when and where the responsibility of BCSP ends, and the aspects of participants' overseas experiences that are beyond the control of BCSP. In particular, BCSP generally:
  - a) *Cannot* guarantee or ensure the safety of participants or eliminate all risks from the study abroad environment;
  - b) *Cannot* monitor or control all of the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants;
  - c) *Cannot* prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous or unwise activities;
  - d) *Cannot* ensure that U.S. standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for participants

e) *Cannot* ensure that home-country cultural values and norms will apply in the host country.

f) *Cannot* fully replicate home campus support services at the overseas location;

g) *Cannot* assume responsibility for the actions of persons not employed or otherwise engaged by BCSP, for events that are not part of the program, or that are beyond the control of BCSP and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.

## **B. Responsibilities of Participants**

*Students can have a major impact on their own health and safety abroad through the decisions they make before and during the program and by their day-to-day choices and behaviors.*

### **Participants should:**

1. Participate fully in all orientations before departure and onsite, and read and carefully consider all information provided by BCSP that relates to safety and health conditions in host countries.
2. When applying for or accepting a place in a program, consider carefully their health and other personal circumstances, and assume responsibility for them after acceptance.
3. Make available to BCSP accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data that are necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience.
4. Obtain and maintain supplementary health insurance coverage and liability insurance, if necessary, and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
5. Inform parents/guardians/families, and any others who may need to know, about their participation in the study abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed on an ongoing basis.
6. Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of academic and ethical conduct, and emergency procedures of the program, and obey host country laws.
7. Once onsite, be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and

decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff or other appropriate individuals.

8. Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining health and law enforcement services in the host country.

9. Avoid substance abuse of all kinds.

10. Follow the program policies for keeping program staff informed of their whereabouts and well-being, especially when traveling away from the program site.

11. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.

12. Accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.

## **C. Recommendations to Parents/Guardians/Families**

*Parents, guardians and families can play an important role in the health and safety of participants by helping them make decisions and by influencing their behavior overseas.*

### **When appropriate, parents/guardians/families should:**

1. Through their student participants, obtain and carefully evaluate health and safety information related to the program, as provided by BCSP and other sources.

2. Be involved in the decision of the participant to enroll in a particular program.

3. Engage the participant in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.

4. Be responsive to requests from BCSP for information regarding the participant.

5. Keep in touch with the participant.

6. Be aware that some information may most appropriately be provided by the participant rather than the program.

*These guidelines are based on those recommended by the Interorganizational Task Force on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad (May 2002), as approved by Indiana University's Overseas Study Advisory Council.*

# APPENDIX B

## AIDS AND STUDY ABROAD

AIDS, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a viral disease which breaks down the body's immune system and leads to infections and cancers that may be fatal. There are no known vaccines to prevent AIDS. AIDS is a chronic illness which is almost always fatal.

### Transmission of AIDS

The World Health Organization states that "AIDS is not spread by daily and routine activities such as sitting next to someone, shaking hands, or working with people. Nor is it spread by insects or insect bites. And AIDS is not spread by swimming pools, food, cups, public transportation, plates, toilets, water, air, touching, hugging, coughing or sneezing."

### Transmission occurs through:

- intimate sexual contact—the virus can be transmitted from any infected person to his or her sexual partner, when semen, blood or vaginal fluids are exchanged.
- infected blood and blood products. This includes blood transfusions in which the blood donated either is not screened or is improperly screened for HIV antibodies.
- contaminated needles or any other HIV contaminated skin piercing instruments. This applies to acupuncture, illicit drugs, steroid injections, medical and dental procedures, ear & body piercing, and tattooing.
- an infected mother to her infant before or during delivery, or possibly while breastfeeding.

### You and AIDS Overseas

**Sexual Activity** If you are sexually active, **USE A CONDOM**. Take a supply with you. It may take time to develop the language skills and confidence necessary to purchase condoms in a new culture, and in some countries the manufacture and storage of condoms cannot be trusted. Condoms can reduce the risk of acquiring AIDS, but they do not eliminate that risk.

**Getting Medical Care** If you need medical care overseas, ask your program administration for recommended physicians, hospitals and dentists. Make clear that you expect high standards of hygiene (use of disposable gloves by care givers, etc.).

While many countries such as the U.S. and parts of Europe have mandatory screening of donated blood for the AIDS virus, not all do. In some locales, ascertaining the availability of HIV screened blood and blood products may be difficult. Because of obvious uncertainties, consider these precautions:

- If you are injured or ill while abroad, avoid or postpone any blood transfusion unless it is **absolutely necessary**.
- If you do need blood, try to ensure that screened blood is used.

**Injections** In some countries even disposable equipment is reused. In some places, if an injection is required, you can buy needles and syringes and bring them to the hospital for your own use. Avoid injections unless **absolutely necessary**.

The Center for Disease Control recommends that diabetics or other persons who require routine or frequent injections should carry a supply of syringes and needles sufficient to last their stay abroad. But carrying needles and syringes without a prescription may be illegal in some countries. Take a note from your doctor.

**The risk of getting AIDS depends on you.** Here are some general precautions against AIDS you can follow anywhere in the world:

- Avoid the exchange of semen, blood, or vaginal fluids with anyone. Either abstain from sexual activity or practice safer sex.
- **USE A CONDOM.** Men and women should both carry their own condoms.
- Use water-based lubricants/jellies containing a spermicide, in addition to a condom, during vaginal or anal intercourse.
- Do not use illicit injectable drugs. Do not use needles and syringes that may have been used previously.

### **Additional Information**

CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease, HIV & AIDS Helpline  
1-800-342-AIDS or 1-800-227-8922

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Indiana University Health Center  
812-855-7338