
Merrimack in Italy

A partnership with The American University of Rome

<http://www.aur.edu/american-university-rome/>

Program Overview

The American University of Rome, Rome Italy

- The American University of Rome has been combining the **excellent academic attributes** of higher education in the U.S. with the **historic and global reputation** of European institutions for 40 years making it the oldest institution of its kind in Europe.
- The **16-to-1 faculty ratio** at American University of Rome gives students the opportunity to gain the **best possible international education experience**, with instruction from both local and international professors.
- Study abroad students **interact with peers from Italy and all over the world**, given the mix of Americans, local Italian students, and international students.
- Rome constantly conjures up **vivid reminders of its glorious past** as the city that built the greatest Empire the World has ever known. With its **sunny climate, stately umbrella pines, and an unparalleled wealth of history** around every corner, Rome's beauty quickly overtakes all who enter its ancient walls.
- A **walk or bus ride through even the most commonplace quarters** of the city yields encounters with **innumerable monuments, towering pillars, and major imperial buildings** that still stand imposingly just as they have for **2,000 years!**

Program Dates

Fall Semester 2011

Updated January 2013

Monday August 29 th 2011	Arrival Week Activities
- Saturday September 3 rd 2011	
Monday September 5 th 2011	Classes begin. Add/Drop session starts
Friday September 9 th 2011	End of ADD period and last day to DROP without a "W" recorded
Monday October 31 st 2011	Fall break week begins
Monday November 7 th 2011	Classes resume
Monday November 14 th 2011	Last day to DROP a class with a 'W' recorded
Thursday November 24 th 2011	Thanksgiving Day. Classes held.
Wednesday December 8 th 2011	Immaculate Conception. University closed, Italian National Holiday
Monday December 12 th 2011	Last day of classes
Tuesday December 13 th 2011	Final exams begin
Friday December 16 th 2011	Final exams end
Saturday December 17 th 2011	Housing check out

Application

- Please visit the Office of International Programs (OIP) Sakowich, 340 to pick up an application.

Cultural Activities

- Men and women soccer teams
- The Amazing Grace Gospel Choir
- Cooking lessons with authentic Italian chefs
- Trips to Tuscany, Capri and Pompeii
- Running, rowing, yoga, zumba and more
- Italian language exchange
- Community service, student clubs and peer-led activities

Academics

Courses Abroad

Learn about the latest **course offerings**:

- Archeology & Classics
- Art History

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Film and Digital media
- Fine Arts
- International Relations and Global Politics
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Italian Studies
- Religious Studies

Classroom

- AUR has adopted an **interdisciplinary approach** to a liberal arts and professional education. Our academic departments and degree programs emphasize the intellectual connections among fields of study.
- At AUR students take a wider, more interdisciplinary and holistic perspective on their university education. All degree-seeking students complement their major with a well-established General Education program. These courses are rooted in the mission of the university: **to develop practical skills that can lead to successful careers and professions, draw on the rich instructional resources of Rome, enhance understanding of ethics and multiculturalism in our society and identify and address social issues of diversity.**

Transcript and Grades

- On successful completion of the American University of Rome, an official copy of each student's transcript will be sent to Merrimack College.
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Housing & Meals

Housing

- Students electing university-facilitated housing are placed in **furnished apartments** in areas surrounding the university campus.
- The apartments are **located in traditional, well established neighborhoods**.
- There is generally only one (or a small number of) student apartment unit(s) per building and neighboring residents are typical Italian families who own their apartments.
- Most apartments have **2-3 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom**. Bedrooms are typically **double-occupancy**. Each apartment is equipped with basic furnishings and supplies, including one single bed per student, bed linens and towels, closet/clothing storage space, typical basic Italian cookware and kitchenware, a table and chairs and furnished sitting area. Desks, when available, are to be shared by all occupants. Each student is expected to provide his/her own paper and cleaning products as well as replace light bulbs. Most apartment units are provided with a washing machine.
- It is anticipated that most apartments will be equipped with a personal computer (PC) and have unlimited, **no additional cost access to the Internet as well as wireless access for those with wireless-ready laptops**.
- All apartments are **same-sex, non-smoking environments**.
- All apartments are **either within walking distance or conveniently located to public transit routes relative to the university**.
- Travel times to the university vary but generally range **between 15 and 35 minutes**.
- A single-name roommate request will be taken into consideration but is not guaranteed in any way.

Meals

- After paying their study abroad bill to Merrimack, students will receive a meal stipend from Merrimack College to purchase groceries abroad.
- Learn about the host countries **Dining Etiquette** at www.etiquettescholar.com

Travel Requirements

Passport

- You **must** have a valid passport in order to travel abroad.

- You need to renew your passport if it will **expire in less than 6 months**.

- **First time passport applicants** should visit: Travel.state.gov

- Click "Passport"
- Click "Apply for a Passport"
- Click "First Time Applicant"

The closest Acceptance Facility (where you will turn in your forms) to Merrimack College is :

Town of North Andover-Clerk
120 Main St North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 688-9502

- If you need to **renew** your passport, please visit: Travel.state.gov

- Select passport
- Select renew passport

It will take **at least 6 weeks** so please plan accordingly.

- You need to have **at least four extra visa pages**, if you need to add more:

Travel.state.gov

- Select "Passport"
- Select "Change or Correct Passport"
- Select "Add Pages"

- **Passport Photo Requirements**

Scans are not acceptable!!! Consulates will not accept scanned, photocopied, or pixilated photos, despite what their websites say.

- **Where To Get Passport Photos**

The closest places to Merrimack College are:

Walgreens

800 Waverly Rd
North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 681-1530

CVS

110 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA

(978)686-6110

Rite Aid

525 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 794-8720

Visa

- All students holding a **non-European Union passport are required by law to obtain a student visa before departing from their home country**. Without a valid student visa students can not apply to obtain their Permit to Stay.
- AUR Admissions Office will send each **accepted student a visa letter which along with all other necessary documents**
- Please visit the consulate General of Italy in Boston's website for help with your visa
- Please note that the student visa should be obtained **prior to leaving** one's home country. It is not possible to apply for such a visa in Italy.

Travel

- Students are responsible for **booking their own transportation** to and from the host country.
- For travel information please visit the American University of Rome's website: **www.aur.edu**
 - Click "Discover AUR"
 - Click "Map & Directions"
- Students may arrive and/or leave their host country before and/or after their program of study is complete however, it will not be part of their Merrimack study abroad program.

Travel Preparations and Resources

Learn about your **Host Country**

- **www.cia.gov**
- Click "Library"
- Click "The World Factbook"

Learn about the **Political Conditions and Foreign Relations**

- **www.state.gov**
-

Learn about the **Time Zone**

- www.timeanddate.com

Learn about the **Weather**

- www.weather.com
- Search for “Rome, Italy”

Learn about the **Local News** in your host country

<http://news.google.com/news/search?aq=f&pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&hl=en&q=italy>

Learn about the **Local Newspaper**

<http://www.lifeinitaly.com/news/italy-news>

<http://www.corriere.it/english/>

<http://www.theamericanmag.com/>

Learn about **Culture and Customs**

www.kwintessential.co.uk

- Select Italyu

Learn about your host countries **Electricity**

electricaloutlet.org

Learn about your host countries **Holidays**

www.earthcalendar.net

Questions about **Voting While Abroad**

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/living/overseas_voting/overseas_voting_4754.html

Finances

As a reminder, students will **pay Merrimack room, board, tuition and a program fee.**

Extra costs that are not included:

- Airfare
- Passport & Visa
- Books and supplies
- Local Transportation
- Personal Items
- Travel while abroad

Learn about the **local currency and currency conversions** at:

<http://www.xe.com/>

ATM Cards

- **The best and easiest way for you to get cash on a regular basis while you're abroad will be to use your ATM card.** Withdrawing cash with your ATM card gives you a better exchange rate than exchanging travelers checks or U.S. cash. Purchases made with your credit card or ATM/debit card will get you the best exchange rate of the day. Since many ATMs abroad will only access a checking account, **do not leave your funds in a savings account before departure.**
- **The ATM withdrawal fee is usually higher abroad** and depends on your bank, so check with your bank before you go. Also, **you must notify your bank that you'll be using your card abroad;** sometimes banks have to remove a hold on the card to make this possible. And, sometimes banks simply cancel your card if they see purchases or withdrawals from outside the U.S. because they've assumed your card has been stolen.
- **Make sure your ATM card has a 4-digit PIN number.** Foreign ATM machines usually do not accept 5-digit PIN numbers. Your bank can issue you a 4-digit PIN, but be sure to request this at least 4-6 weeks before departure. If your ATM card says **Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard or Visa**, it should work at foreign ATM machines that display these logos.
- **Check with your bank AND your credit card company to inquire if they charge a foreign transaction fee.** This is also called a currency conversion fee and is usually 1-3% of your purchase. Ask your bank if you can avoid this fee by making purchases using the debit function.
- Find the closest VISA ATM:
<http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPage.jsp>
- Find the closest MasterCard ATM:
<http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html>

Credit Cards

- Credit cards are widely used abroad; **Visa and MasterCard** are the most widely accepted. American Express is also accepted but not as frequently as Visa or MC. **Discover Cards are usually not accepted abroad. Check with your credit card company to see if they charge a foreign transaction fee.**
- **Notify your credit card company that you will be using your credit card abroad.**

Foreign Currency

- Many U.S. banks offer currency exchange for before you leave. This way, you will already have currency of your host country when you arrive to study abroad.

Travelers Checks

- Don't rely on traveler's checks as your only source of cash because exchanging them can be inconvenient, and you will get a **better exchange rate by withdrawing cash using your ATM card**. You are usually charged a commission for exchanging traveler's checks.
- However, traveler's checks may be **useful in case of emergency, i.e. your credit or debit card is lost or stolen**, because it can take several weeks for you to get a replacement card. Traveler's checks can always be used as American dollars upon returning home. **Keep your travelers checks a safe place at your residence, with the receipts and photocopies of checks in a different place than the actual checks.**

Health and Safety

Emergency Contacts

The American University of Rome Emergency Number: 348-0809-357

The American University of Rome

Via Pietro Roselli, 4

00153 Rome, Italy

tel: +(39)06-5833-0919

fax: +(39)06-5833-0992

Email: admissions@aur.edu

toll free to Rome from the US: (877)592-1287

toll free: (888)791-8327

toll free fax: (866)287-2025

Italy 113 Emergency, 115 Fire, 118 Medical

Merrimack College (978) 837 - 5000

Office of International Programs (978) 837 - 5210

Merrimack College Police Department (978) 837 - 5555

Cell Phones and Calling Abroad

- Most US Cell Phones will not work in Italy (check with you provider)
www.cellularabroad.com

How to call United States from Italy:

Dial 00 + 1 + area code + phone number

How to call England from the USA/Canada:

Dial 011 + 39 + area code + phone number

Medical Insurance

All students will be covered through **HTH Worldwide:**

www.hthstudents.com

- Italian law requires all visiting students to **obtain mandatory state emergency health coverage for the duration of their study in Italy**. The University facilitates this process by **arranging the purchase of the insurance and the compilation of the applicable documents for the authorities**. This insurance coverage gives the student complete access to emergency public medical care. The individual study abroad programs often require additional medical coverage, inclusive of emergency medical evacuation.
- Private U.S. medical insurance **will only be accepted if the Italian Consulate issuing the visa attaches a cover letter in Italian stating the conditions of the policy and indicating that there are no restrictions**.
- Italian health insurance (e.g. Generali or Assitalia) that complies with the applicable standards can be **purchased on campus after arrival**.
- The cost for the Italian insurance is 48 Euro for 4 months and 144 Euro for 12 months.
- Pharmacy closest to **AUR is on Via Carini, near the corner bar in front of the first 44 bus stop on Via Carini**
- The International Pharmacy has **English speaking pharmacists 06 48 25 456**
- There are **24-hour pharmacies located at the main train station, Piazza Risorgimento 44 and Via Nazionale 228**

Vaccinations

Learn about the Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule to make sure you have had all your **Routine Vaccinations**. It is important to contact your health care provider to ensure that you are up to date before you depart.

Learn about the health information for you host country to find **Recommended Vaccinations:**

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

-Click vaccinations or country to find the list of necessary vaccinations

Prescription Medication

- **If you take prescription medication, you must bring enough to last the duration of your program. It may be difficult and expensive, or impossible to fill prescriptions while abroad.** Students may not be able to find the exact equivalent of their medication. Medications shipped abroad may be blocked by customs, making it impossible to retrieve them.
- All prescription medication and copies of the prescriptions **should be packed in your carry-on luggage**, in case your checked luggage is delayed. Prescription medication must always be carried in the original container so it can be clearly identified as belonging to you.

Embassy

- Find out where the **Local Embassy** is located:
<http://italy.usembassy.gov/index.html>
- **Register** with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:
<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Important Documents

- Students should make photocopies of all their important documents, such as **passport, visa (if applicable), credit cards (front and back), ID cards, medical insurance cards**, etc. Bring one set of photocopies abroad and leave another set at home with your parents. In addition, you should pack a photocopy of your passport in each of your suitcases.
- **Students should bring their driver's license to use as a form of everyday ID while abroad** and carry a photocopy of their passport at all times. It's not a good idea to carry your passport with you unless you are traveling. While you're not traveling, keep your passport locked in your suitcase.

Re-Entry

- Upon returning from study abroad, students are encouraged to enroll in: **"Telling Stories: Exploring and Enhancing the Study Abroad Experience (WLC4000)**, a 4-credit course designed specifically for students who have studied abroad
- The **syllabus** can be found at:
<http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/EngagedLearning/StudyAbroad/Pages/default.aspx>
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience

“reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:

<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>

<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>