NYU Florence
Pre-Departure Orientation
Spring 2018
This Guide will focus on specific information that you need to know, tasks that only you can complete, and identify the NYU resources that will be available to you while you are in Florence.

Please read through it carefully!
## Academic Calendar

- **Required arrival**: January 30
- **Mandatory orientation**: January 31 – February 3
- **Classes begin**: February 5
- **Spring Break (no classes)**: April 2 – April 8
- **Classes resume**: April 9
- **Classes end**: May 11
- **Final exam days**: May 14-17
- **Final Day for Departure**: May 18th (at noon)
NYU Florence

- Campus is located on the 57-acre historic La Pietra estate
- Courses are taught by outstanding local and visiting scholar
- A renewed center for international learning and exchange
The Campus

Villa Sassetti
Conference Center, La Pietra Dialogues, Global research Initiatives, Classrooms and Computer Station

Villa La Pietra
Art Collection, Classroom, Formal Gardens, Graduate Program and Immigration Office

Villa Ulivi
Academic Support, Classrooms, Library, Computer Lab and Cafe

Villa Natalia
Student life, Dormitory and Computer Station

Villa Colletta
Dormitory and Classrooms
Main Entrance
Villa La Pietra
(via Bolognese 120)

Student Entrance
Villa Natalia
(via Bolognese 106)

De‘Bruni Entrance
Villa Ulivi
(via De‘Bruni 27)
NYU Florence Staff

Ellyn Toscano
Executive Director

Virginia Cox
Academic Director

Lisa Cesarani
Assistant Director for Academic Affairs

Tanya Di Rienzo
Academic Advisor

Mary Barbera
Assistant Director for Student Life

Sabrina Melillo
Immigration and Facilities Coordinator

Julian Lonsdale
Programming Coordinator

Academics:
florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

Student Life:
florence.studentlife@nyu.edu
Orientation at NYU Florence

† Pre-Arrival: Online modules
  † Deadline: January 29

† Orientation

† Topics include: academics, policies, health & safety, housing, immigration, survival Italian, etc.

† Global Orientations: Italy
  † Creates a common community-building experience for all students
  † Introduces key historical, social, and cultural issues in Italy today
  † Provides a basis to understand and explore these issues
Academics

- **Classes incorporate** on-site learning, lectures, performances, and participation in international conferences

- **Student must take** 12-18 credits,

- **All students must study** Italian Language (cannot be pass/fail)

- Coursework is **rigorous**; attendance is **expected and required**; absence will **negatively** affects grades

- **Course textbooks or e-resources** are available at local bookstore or through campus library

- Plan **Personal travel** only after consulting your syllabi

Registration Question? Contact global.academics@nyu.edu
Global Attendance Policy

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students.

- Classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course.

- The integrity of this academic experience depends on class attendance and therefore is mandatory.

- Unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
La Pietra Dialogues

- Convenes some of the world’s foremost scholars, policy makers, practitioners, business leaders, public intellectuals and artists to confront critical issues of contemporary society.

- Provides students unique access to distinguished guest on campus through small group meetings, breakfast, and workshops that promote one-on-one interaction.

- There are internship positions and volunteer positions through LPD that involve students in the development and organization of events.

For more info: lapietradialogues.org
Get involved and volunteer with LPD: lapietra.dialogues@nyu.edu
Calendar

FALL 2017

Mapping Contemporary Florence | Cultural Policy in Florence: Making Room for the Contemporary
September 6, 2017

Florence Vigil for Peace
September 12, 2017

Contemporary Jewish Studies | Primo: Stage Reading from If This is a Man by Primo Levi
September 13, 2017

Mapping Contemporary Florence | Contemporary Art Gallery Crawl (students only)
September 14, 2017

EU in Focus: What is the EU? How Does It Work? - Fall 2017
September 18 - October 28, 2017
Campus Live & Student Engagement

- Community Engagement opportunities:
  - Reach English in schools
  - Lead tours of Churches and monuments
  - Assist the elderly and people with disabilities

- Star or join a Club!
  - Creative Writing
  - Philosophy
  - Culinary

- On and off-campus activities:
  - Day trip
  - Cooking lessons
  - Theatre and sports events
Getting involved: Work Opportunities

- There is no work-study positions at any on NYU’s global sites but there are limited student employment opportunities on campus

- **Learning Internships**
  - A full list of learning internship opportunities and eligibility information will be given to students on the orientation week.

- **Peer Advisor Positions:** application was due in Oct. 26

- **La Pietra Dialogues**
  - Internship opportunities (paid, non-paid)
Housing

- All students must live in NYU provided Housing
- Housing only available during the program dates (Jan 30- May 18)
- Housing application was due November 17th

- 3 Housing options:
  - On Campus Housing
  - Off-Campus Apartment style (Most upperclassmen will live)
  - Homestays
- More for information about housing, please check the Housing Module
Guest Policy

- Guests cannot stay in NYU housing due to legal restrictions - please tell them in advance!

- All guests must leave NYU Florence facilities by 11:00pm and may re-enter at 7:00am

- Be sure to schedule visits around the semester break and/or Italian holidays
Health and Wellness

- All students are enrolled in GeoBlue int’l insurance

- Students with special needs must contact the Moses Center

- Bring a full supply of prescription medication (in original bottles, with copy of prescription)

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not ship any medications, food or toiletries from outside the EU

For other medical needs information, contact the OSL Asst. Director Mary Barbera: mary.barbera@nyu.edu
Safety at NYU Florence

- Campus is monitored by security guards
- NYU staff member is ALWAYS on duty – emergency number will be provided at orientation
- Emergencies in Europe: Call 112

Help us keep you safe!

- Lock your doors
- Don’t invite new acquaintances inside
- Keep belongings secure at all times
- Ignore/report unwanted attention
- Look out for one another
- Stay aware
- Don’t leave your street smarts at home!
- Take taxis or walk in groups at night – not a good idea to walk alone at night, regardless of gender
Exploring the City

- Florence is a compact and walkable city
- 30-minute walk from campus to central Florence
- The #25 bus stops right next to campus, and it’s a 10 minute ride to central Florence
- Taxis can be found throughout the city and are easy to call
- Don’t walk along at night → take taxis or go in groups
Building Community

Support your peers when they’re in need

Develop relationships with people different than yourself

Take responsibility to educate yourself and do your OWN research

Expand your knowledge and awareness of both domestic and global social issues

Learn what it means to have privilege based on your social identities and social location

Be sincere in your efforts and operate with integrity; recognize your impact, not just your intentions; lean into discomfort

Educate others, including speaking out against oppressive language and behavior
Pre-Departure Recap
Before you arrive in Florence

- Make sure to book your flight only for the program date (Jan 30-May 18)
  - You are required to arrive on **January 30**.
  - **Check in**: 9 am to 5 pm
  - **Free Shuttle bus** from the Florence Airport to NYU Florence (9 am -5pm)
  - Make sure to complete the **flight information** section of the Study Away Confirmation Portal
- Bring you **NYU ID Card** with you
Be strategic with your money!

- Budget before you go and consider ALL of your expenses
- Credit and debit cards (ATM on campus)
- No checks; traveler’s checks not recommended
- Have cash on hand for smaller purchases
- Bring some cash in Euros and be aware of the exchange rate and fees for currency conversion ([http://www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com))
And Finally…

Make sure to have a **communication plan** with your family and friends
Communication Plan

Cell phones
- Purchase a local cell phone and SIM card
- Unlock your smart phone and purchase new SIM card onsite
- Set up international plan with home provider

Create a communication plan
- Skype
- WhatsApp
- MagicJack
- Keep in mind time difference!

IMPORTANT: Share your personal cell phone number with the Office of Student Life as soon as you have it
Items that you should have completed by now:

- Confirmed your Spot
- Complete Study Away Module Part I: Housing
- Upload Copy of your Passport to OGS and complete the Student Information Form
- Review Academics Page
- Complete Study Away Module Part II: Money in Florence
- Review Health & Wellness Page
- Complete Study Away Module Part III: Travel & Safety
- Register for Courses- This week!
- Attend Pre-Departure Orientation
Next deadlines on your checklist:

- Complete the Housing Portal- Deadline Nov. 17
- Submit Flight Detail into NYU Traveler and Study Away Confirmation Portal
- Pay your e-bill
- Register with GeoBlue
- Print your travel and Arrival Cheat Sheet
- Complete Pre-Departure Survey
- Complete Pre-Departure Module
- Arrive in Florence on January 30
Advice from former NYU Florence students:

- There is no “right” way to study away. Don’t feel pressured to travel every weekend or participate in every event – feel out what is right for you and don’t forget to explore Florence!

- Do a homestay! It’s a great way to meet locals, practice your Italian, and eat delicious food!

- Bring warm clothes for winter (it does get cold and Italian law prevents us from turning on the heat early!) and prepare for mosquitos when you first arrive (you can buy a plug-in repellent device, bug spray when you arrive).

- Check with your airline about any baggage fees – don’t be surprised!

- Try to go into this experience being flexible and open to new experiences.

- Try to have a sense of humor. Cultural misunderstandings will happen. Don’t be afraid to laugh at yourself for not knowing something.

More questions? Email your Global Peer Mentors at: global-peer-mentors@nyu.edu.
Visa Questions:
Contact OGS: ogs.outbound@nyu.edu

Registration Questions:
global.academics@nyu.edu or
florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

Housing Questions:
Review Housing Module on the Guide, then
contact me (gps280@nyu.edu)
Have a Great Semester at NYU Florence!