



Information About the CSU IP Florence Italy Program

See also: <http://architecture.calpoly.edu/current/fourth-year-off/florence>

The CSU International Program offers about 20 Cal Poly SLO Architecture students the very rare and wonderful opportunity to live and study for a full academic year in Florence, Italy. <https://csuip.calstate.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=10067>

Italy is incomparable as the country in the “western world” most famous for its long tradition of innovation in art, architecture, urbanism, science, religion, politics, fashion, film, food, and “La dolce vita” (the sweet life) – that combines urbanity, livability, creativity, sensuality, into learning the joys of living well.

Florence, known as the cradle of the renaissance, is itself full of famous museums, buildings and urban spaces, and offers a centrally located and culturally rich urban center in which to live, and because of its central location, from which to easily explore Italy and the rest of Europe and North Africa.

The CSU IP program has been in Florence since 1966.

The program occupies two floors of a nineteenth century palazzo located near Piazza Beccaria, on the edge of the historical center, at **Via Giacomo Leopardi 12** which is about a 10-minute walk from the Brunelleschi’s Duomo (aka Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore) (Here’s a bike ride from near the Duomo to Piazza Beccaria along Borgo La Croce, where you’ll walk every day: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkfZCbaq_P8)

The program is also about a 3 minute walk from Sant’ Ambrogio food market, one of the best food markets anywhere: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23snY0kJjcA> .

Studio spaces, lecture and seminar rooms, computer facilities and a library with more than 4000 volumes are provided. Students have access to the excellent D-Fab facilities at the University of Florence (3 blocks away).

Here’s a map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zDrtZRQgQuIY.kSY9Le9iBsWM&usp=sharing>
Enjoy exploring the neighborhood in Google street view.

The humanities-rich program includes about 30 Architecture students (20 from Cal Poly SLO & 10 from Cal Poly Pomona) plus another 70 students from throughout the 22 CSU campuses studying Classics, Art History, Studio Art, Social Sciences or Italian Language and Literature.

The courses are taught in English by excellent Italian faculty, drawn from both the academic and professional world. The faculty’s prestige and local connections in Italy provide access that is normally unavailable and which students are fortunate to share.

CSUIP Florence Italy Academic Bulletin: https://csuip.calstate.edu/_customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=60745

Because this is a full academic year cultural immersion program, students have the opportunity and instructional support to learn Italian while they are there. The administrative staff is renowned for their knowledge and friendly helpful support for students. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6kxN_-6CWY

The Program Schedule: An Academic Year in Italy

Students arrive in Florence and receive a general orientation to the program on the last Thursday & Friday in August. There are 3 academic sessions during the school year with a break between each + a Winter holidays break + a Spring break = 4 breaks.

Preparatory Language Program (PLP): Sept. 1st – October 27 (8 weeks). Intensive Italian and life drawing (includes Summer quarter credit + summer quarter financial aid)

One week break.

Semester 1: Halloween to Valentines Day, 16 weeks of Design studio + Italian + other courses including 2+ week break for holidays.

One week break.

Semester 2: Last week of February – end of May, 16 weeks including one week Spring break. Design studio + Italian + other courses + Coast2Coast workshop*.

The program ends by June 1st.

*Since 2004, the architecture students have participated each May in the week long "Coast2Coast" design workshop on coastal and urban design issues at the Università di Camerino, Facoltà di Architettura, in (beautiful) Ascoli Piceno, Italy. <https://saad.unicam.it/it/notizie-ed-eventi/coast2coast>

Living in Florence, Housing and Costs

The total costs of the program are very similar to the cost of studying for a year in San Luis Obispo plus of course the cost of travel to and from Italy and any additional travel in Europe.

Food and rent generally cost a lot less than in SLO.

The continued strength of the dollar promises excellent buying power for students.

The program helps students easily rent apartments, either with California roommates, Italian roommates, or alone, in the historic center of Florence within very easy walking distance to the school, markets, other shopping, restaurants, bars, entertainment, museums, parks, and train stations. The cost of Rent is a lot less than in San Luis Obispo. Opportunities to live with a Florentine family are also available.

Most alumni of the program consider their living situation in Florence to be the best they've ever had.

Some videos by past students:

Questo breve video, "Buona sera!," è bellissimo, dolce e divertente, mostra l'umorismo dei giovani che si godono la vita!

This brief video, "Buona sera!." (made by Bree Banducci & Maria McGann) from 2018-19 is beautiful, sweet, and funny and displays the humor of young people enjoying life.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BJpBJtX554b2jIRkquQwV_3J0P6fulWF/view?usp=sharing

Here is a video made by Kathryn Stevens about studying at CSUIP Firenze in 2017-2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o1s2hNuk2g>

Here's two charming and stylishly retro videos in black and white, made by Dominic Aliotti who studied there in 2016-17.

"Quello Che Si Trova" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfXKzVtchC8>

"Ode To Firenze" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jZmWzKzC9M>

Here's the video made by the Architecture students in Firenze 2015-16;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1hQ97SvbtA>

Katherine Liang made a video of 1 second of every day she was in Italy during 2014-2015:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1azljkPsoR5MGJ3TW1rb1Uyck/view>

Karissa Patel put this video together about their 2013 -14 year in Firenze. The sketchbook sequence was a great idea. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0tXJxg7S0I>

Cole Winokur made this EXCELLENT video with wonderful lyrical quality and great music about their 2012-13 year in Firenze. (Cole has since left Architecture and become a filmmaker.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljQ8656vmGQ>

Matt Innins made this one of the 2011-2012 year at CSU IP Firenze with great spirit, especially in the last 2 minutes...) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfmizVxMaDQ>

Unfortunately the video put together by the 2010-2011 group isn't on line but I have it.

Here is the excellent video put together by Yoanna Dakovska about Firenze 2009/10:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICUtV6zV0R0>

(Unfortunately the music was muted by the copyright police. It had an excellent soundtrack: Bedouin Soundclash - "When The Night Feels My Soul", Ligabue - "Un colpo all'anima" David Guetta feat Kid Cudi - "Memories", and Jovanotti - "Baciami Ancora"

Here is the slide show prepared by Daniel Tiraschi of the 2005/06 Florence group for the 2007/08 group.

It has music by Italy's Bruce Springsteen-ish rock star Vasco Rossi's "Senza Parole" and some beautiful pictures, and a sense of the transcendent aspects of living abroad; surprise, wonder, love...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osiPKH20nag>

Program Alumni

CSU Florence architecture alumni continue to be some of the most successful graduates of Cal Poly.

Following are links to web sites or pages that provide information about just a few Cal Poly alumni of the CSU IP Firenze architecture program. This is an incredible network of some of the most interesting architects and academics that you have the opportunity to become part of.

Vivian Lee <http://www.richardmeier.com/?people=vivian-lee>

Craig Steely <http://craigsteely.com/>

Our own Tom Di Santo <http://www.mome.org/project/index.php>

Johanna Grawunder <http://grawunder.com/>

Brian Messina <http://www.messanaororke.com/home.html>

Jon Lott <http://www.para-project.org/>

Brian Price <http://price-studio.com/>

Bruce Tomb <http://www.brucetomb.com/>

Adriana Cuellar <http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/art/faculty/biography.php?ID=542> & <http://crostudio.net/>

Tim Power <http://www.tim-power.com/>

Kim Groves of Morphosis Architects <http://morphopedia.com/people/kim-groves>

Tom Faulders <http://faulders-studio.com/>

Mark Jenson <http://jensen-architects.com/>

Eric Kahn <http://ideaoffice.net/about.html>

Ann Edminster <http://annedminster.com/>

Teddy Cruz <http://estudioteddycruz.com/>

Amy Campos <http://www.cca.edu/academics/faculty/acampos>

Joey N. Shimoda <http://www.shimodadesign.com/>

Matthew Bialecki, AIA <http://bialeckiarchitects.com/index.htm>

Enrico Como & Scott Stapleton <http://www.spacearchs.com/about.htm>

Our own Karen Lange <http://architecture.calpoly.edu/faculty/langek>

Leslie Ryan <http://www.newschoollarch.edu/programs/master-landscape-architecture-letter.htm>

Chris Deam <http://www.cdeam.com/>

Ric Abramson <http://workplays.com/>

Mark Macy <http://www.macyarchitecture.com>

Gail Wittwer-Laird <http://www.architectmagazine.com/project-gallery/irish-hunger-memorial>

La vita è bella a Firenze e spero che tu abbia l'opportunità di scoprirlo lì.

Mille grazie.

Cordiali saluti. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvDb_OVbju0

Professor Jonathan Reich,

Architecture Department, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

<http://architecture.calpoly.edu/faculty/reich>

http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3965&context=pao_pr