

## AHA International Italy, Siena Quick Facts

### **Academics**

- *Admission Requirements*
  - 2.5 minimum GPA
  - Sophomore status +
  - No language requirement
- *Program Academics*
  - Normal course load = 4 classes
  - All courses taught in English except Italian language course
  - One Italian language course and One Cross-Cultural Communication course (1 AC credit) are mandatory
  - Courses typically translate to 4 AC credits
  - Academic focus: language, literature, history, journalism, political science, culture, economics, and art history.
  - Each semester a US visiting faculty member teaches 2 specialty courses
  - Fulfills “S” course requirement
  - Alma College allows pass/fail for a course provided it meets guidelines published in the Academic Catalog. Refer to the Pass/Fail Option form (provided with Step 4) for complete instructions. Pass/fail must be requested within nine weeks after the class begins.
  - Incomplete grades must be replaced by letter grades within six weeks from being recorded on the Alma transcript, or they convert to “E”. Contact the Registrar for assistance when you have received an Incomplete grade.

### **Housing**

- Modestly equipped apartment shared with other international students
- If going in fall, bring warm clothing because it is against Italian law to turn on heat before Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (!)
- Meals not included in program fees

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What travel documents do I need to go to Italy?*
  - A passport is required for international travel and must be valid at least 180 days beyond the last date of the program.
  - A student visa is not required for visits to Italy under 90 days. You will be given a permit of stay (permesso di soggiorno) upon arrival. Further instructions will be given by AHA.
  - If you arrive early or travel after the program for an amount of time that extends your stay to over 90 days, you will need to apply for a visa before you leave the US.
2. *Can I use my cell phone in Italy?*
  - Using a U.S. cell phone abroad to make local and/or international calls can be very costly. Check with your service provider for details.
  - You will be given a shared cell phone in your apartment. You can purchase phone cards once you arrive in Italy to obtain more minutes. It is not recommended to purchase international calling cards while in the United States because they often will not function once you are abroad.
  - PicCell Wireless and other such companies allow students to rent a phone with a global SIM card and charger appropriate for Italy. Cell phones can also be purchased in Italy for approximately 45 to 65 euros.
  - The cheapest option is to set up Skype or QQ, a free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.
3. *Will I have internet access at school? Should I bring my laptop?*
  - Wireless internet is available at the AHA Center in both Macerata and Siena. It is advisable to bring a laptop computer, however, its safe-keeping and insurance will remain your personal responsibility. If you would like to use the wireless internet, you will need to make sure you have a wireless internet card installed in your laptop.
  - Most apartments are not hooked up to the internet, so you will not be able to access wireless service from your home.
  - If you do not have a laptop, you will be able to access email from a limited number of computers available at the AHA Center. More information about e-mail access will be provided during your on-site orientation.
  - There are many reasonably priced internet cafes that are also a possibility.
4. *Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process, or general questions about the AHA Italy program?*
  - Your first point of contact should be the AHA official website ([www.ahastudyabroad.org](http://www.ahastudyabroad.org)).
  - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, you can call AHA staff at 800-654-2051 , or e-mail them at [ahamail@uoregon.edu](mailto:ahamail@uoregon.edu)
  - Off-Campus Studies staff are always here to help answer your questions.