

# UW-Madison Croatia International Seminar– Summer 2008

## IAP Program Handbook

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The University of Wisconsin-Madison International Seminar in Rovinj, Croatia is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host institution (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

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### **Contact Information**

#### **On-Site Program Information**

Your primary contact in Croatia will be Professor Tomislav Longinovic, the Resident Director. You can call him Toma.

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Madison, WI 53706 USA  
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#### **UW-Madison Information**

International Academic Programs (IAP)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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Madison, WI 53706  
Tel: 608-262-2851 Fax: 608-262-6998  
Web: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

<p><i>For Program Advising &amp; Grades:</i>  <b>Andrea Muilenburg</b>  IAP Study Abroad Advisor  Tel: 608-265-2915  E-mail: <a href="mailto:muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu">muilenburg@bascom.wisc.edu</a></p>	<p><i>For Financial Matters:</i>  <b>Judy Humphrey</b>  IAP Financial Specialist  Tel: 608-262-6785  E-mail: <a href="mailto:jhumphrey@bascom.wisc.edu">jhumphrey@bascom.wisc.edu</a></p>
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**Emergency Contact Information**

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number **(608) 262-2851** between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at **(608) 516-9440**.

**Embassy Registration**

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at <<https://travelregistration.state.gov>>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Croatia  
2 Thomas Jefferson Street  
Zagreb, Croatia HR-10010  
Telephone: 385-1-661-2200  
Website: <http://www.usembassy.hr>

**Program Dates**

- May 24: Students depart United States
- May 25: Students arrive in Croatia
- May 26: Classes begin
- June 20: Classes end
- June 21: Students depart Croatia

**Preparation Before Leaving**

Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

**Immigration Documents**

**Passport**

A passport is needed to travel to Croatia. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa**

No visa is required for U.S. passport holders for stay up to 3 months. Students from other countries should check with the Croatian Embassy about whether a visa is required.

At the present time, no vaccinations or immunizations are required for entering or leaving Croatia; however, we encourage you to consult with your doctor about any recommended inoculations. Also visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/easteurp.htm> for the most recent information on inoculations and health precautions that should be taken for visitors to Croatia.

### **Handling Money Abroad**

The Croatian currency is the kuna. For the latest currency exchange rates see <http://www.accu-rate.ca> or <http://www.oanda.com> (this uses European dates: day/month/year).

Banks in Rovinj are generally open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is a wide variety of bank machines available 24/7.

### **Credit Cards**

All major Credit Cards are recognized and accepted in most hotels, shops, and restaurants. Stickers in the front windows will advise you as to which cards are accepted.

### **ATM**

ATMs are widely available throughout the country. Check the symbols on the machine to see that they match the symbols on your card before you start. In large cities there are Automatic Foreign Exchange Machines that take all forms of currencies, but they may charge high commissions. When using a bank debit card, you will generally receive better exchange rates and lower fees than if you take cash advances from your credit cards. The 'Zagrebacka banka' ATMs accept Eurocard/Mastercard, and 'Euronet' ATMs accept Visa, American Express, and Diners Club.

### **Travelers' Checks**

Travelers' checks issued by all the major companies such as American Express and Visa are widely recognized. You can cash your travelers checks in many Croatian and foreign banks, exchange bureaus and big hotels, but do not forget to have your passport with you. Identification is necessary for the transaction.

### **Tipping**

Hotels and restaurants generally include a 10-15% gratuity on the bill. Ushers in the cinema, theatres and taxi drivers also expect a 10% tip. For drinks at cafes, round the bill up to the nearest kuna.

### **Packing**

All manner of clothing is possible in Croatia, within the limits of decency and good taste. You are expected to dress in a respectable manner when visiting churches and monasteries. In order to enter a church, women are expected to wear skirts that fall below their knees and shirts that, at a minimum, cover their shoulders. Men should likewise wear pants and sleeved shirts. Do not enter a church barefoot. You may see tourists entering churches with far less clothing than is required, but this is considered extremely offensive.

Suggested items to pack:

- o darker clothes that do not get as dirty as quickly

- **comfortable** walking shoes
- slacks and jeans
- shirts and blouses
- underwear, socks, T-shirts
- clothes with pockets
- dress clothes (if you wish to go out in the evening)
- sweaters or jackets for cool evenings/mornings
- an umbrella; a collapsible one is easier to handle
- light rain gear
- insect repellent
- Band-aids
- Kleenex
- wash cloths
- travel alarm
- mouthwash/toothpaste
- shampoo
- feminine hygiene items
- necessary prescription medications
- inexpensive portable radio and/or a walkman
- inexpensive hair dryer
- contact lens solutions
- suntan lotion/sun blocks
- swimming suit

### **Electronics**

Electrical current is 220 volts AC, 50 Hz. Most plugs have two round pins. We recommend that you pack an adapter together with your electrical appliance, so that you do not have to spend valuable time looking for adapters and transformers during your stay.

## **Travel and Arrival Information**

### **Arrival Information**

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements, which includes arranging flights that will allow for appropriate arrival time for the course start date. There are three different airports which students can fly into: Trieste (Italy); Zadar ,Rijeka , Zagreb, (Croatia); and Ljubljana, (Slovenia). We recommend flying into Trieste, as it is the closest (120 km) to Rovinj, and it seems to offer the most available flights. However, the choice is ultimately up to you. Although you are welcome to fly to Croatia on your own, we encourage you to arrange flights with other students on the program.

Please arrive by the program start date: Sunday, May 25 (most students will have to leave the United States on May 24 to arrive in time). Prior to this date you will need to arrange your own accommodations.

You may consider using local travel agents to help you in finding available airplane tickets. Two agencies that our office uses regularly are:

STA Travel

Educational Travel Centre

429 State Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: (608) 2280-8906

438 N Frances St Ste 1  
Madison, WI 53703-1084  
Phone: (608) 256-5551

From the airport to Rovinj:

The transportation from Trieste to your residence in Villa Vienna in Rovinj will be organized by our primary host, Target Travel Agency, for a fee of around 20 euros per person (1.5 hour bus ride). This price is based on an estimated number of eight passengers. If fewer than eight passengers sign up, this price may be greater. You should let Target Travel (our contact in Rovinj) know if you are interested in this option ([target@hi.htnet.hr](mailto:target@hi.htnet.hr)) as soon as possible. Target Travel will let you know the group meeting point. If the meeting point is in the city of Trieste, you can take bus #51 from the airport (Ronchi di Leggionari) to the designated place in Trieste. The bus leaves approximately every half hour. Check <http://www.apgorizia.it> for the schedule.

The transportation from Rijeka would be an intercity bus (2.5-3 hour ride). You would need to find your way to the Rijeka Bus Station and purchase a ticket to Rovinj. The ticket cost is approximately \$25.

The transportation from Ljubljana would be similar, but the bus ride may take longer, depending on the type of bus. In most cases, it will take 3-4 hours. Again, you will need to find your way from the airport to the Ljubljana Bus Station. The ticket cost is approximately \$35.

## The Academic Program

Course packets and books will be available at the Underground Textbook Exchange on State Street later this semester. More information on this will be given during the pre-departure orientation.

The Class meets 11-2 MWF on the second floor of the Italian Cultural Center (*Circolo Italiano*)

### General Information

#### **Vampires on the Border: The Case of Istria**

This four-week University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty-led international seminar titled *Vampires on the Border* explores the origins of European “vampire plagues” which emerged in the areas of intense cultural contact between different civilizations during the 17th and 18th centuries. The course is conducted in Istria, one of the “border zones” which is today located in Croatia, a meeting place of Slavic, Romance and Germanic cultural traditions. Students will be based in Rovinj, a beautiful museum-city on the shores of the Adriatic sea, taking classes in the Italian cultural center located in the 17th century villa.

Rovinj was an island until the 17th century when the narrow channel separating the city from the mainland was filled to accommodate the growing population of the area as a naval and mercantile outpost of the Venetian Republic. The area has a rich historical legacy due to the constant exchange between Slavic, Latin, and Germanic cultures. The residents of Rovinj are bilingual. Croatian and Italian are used interchangeably. Due to tourism and its border location,

many of its residents also speak German and English. Istria is an excellent setting for UW-Madison students with diverse linguistic interests or with no language abilities other than English.

We will examine the legacy of Jure Grando, the vampire of Kringa, a first recorded case of vampirism in Europe where the suspect was directly named as a vampire. The three excursions will cover locations of regional interest and its rich and disputed history. Is then unusual that this contents between Slavic, Italian and Austrian cultures creates the legacy of this blood-sucking monster? Is it possible that this is caused by the anxiety of monolingual cultures when they relate to the differences of their neighbor? Is the vampire a tool for rationalizing our hatred for any form of otherness? These are some of the questions posed by the seminar.

Located opposite Venice, in the newly independent state of Croatia, the city is currently a place where artists, writers and musicians congregate to reflect on the place of culture in the new Europe. Immune to the virulent nationalism that has devastated the rest of the old country of Yugoslavia, this part of the Balkans is worth studying for gaining insight into the uniquely European conceptions of ethnic and religious conflict and cooperation.

The seminar format will emphasize an interactive and interdisciplinary approach, with a minimum of lecturing from local anthropologists, sociologists and cultural activists and a maximum of discussion and immersion into the culturally diverse context of the Istrian peninsula. The activities will include field trips to the archeological sites from Roman times, as well as to the more recent monuments from Venetian and Austro-Hungarian periods. Special attention will be paid to the emergence of Gothic culture in the region. Students will be required to keep a dialogue journal of their experience in and out of class – this journal will be the basis for the grade for the course, along with presentations on class readings and participation in class discussions.

### **Credits**

You will earn four (4) credits for this international seminar. Undergraduate students will receive Slavic 245-Topics in Slavic Literature and graduate students will receive Slavic 755: Topics in Slavic Literature.

### **Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit**

Participants are not allowed to take this course for pass/fail credit.

### **Grades and Grade Conversions**

The course will be graded on the UW-Madison grading scale.

## **Living Abroad**

### **Climate**

The interior of northern Croatia has a continental climate, while the coast enjoys a Mediterranean one. Central, semi-mountainous and mountainous regions, as well as the entire Adriatic coast, have a mild and sunny climate. Spring and autumn are mild along the coast, while winter can be cold and snowy in central and northern regions. It is very likely

that the weather will be summer-like, with occasional showers and long sunny spells during this program.

### **Housing at Villa Vienna**

Students will stay in double rooms at the Villa Viena. Each room is equipped with showers and bathrooms and satellite TV. Breakfast and dinner will be provided in the nearby restaurant *Maslina*. Most locations are within 15 minutes walking, including the Italian Cultural Center (ICC) where seminar is located. It is also conveniently close to the beach and Monvi, the dance club complex.

Villa Vienna

Prve istarske brigade 13, Rovinj, Croatia HR-52210

Phone: (385)-52-815-055 Website: [www.rovinj-vienna.com](http://www.rovinj-vienna.com)

### **Restaurants and Food**

There is an abundance of good restaurants in all price ranges. The food is influenced by Mediterranean cooking (seafood, pasta, pizza), as well as by Balkan cooking (grilled meats, salads, breads). There is an abundance of bread and pastry shops, which offer *burek*, a Balkan specialty. Local fast food is similar to American fast food, yet of tastier variety.

*Maslina* restaurant will provide breakfast (8-10) and dinner (6-8), which are included in the cost of the program.

### **Shopping**

There are plenty of tourist-type local souvenir shops, as well as more global shops. Prices are bargains in comparison to neighboring Italy, which prompts many Italians to shop in Croatia during the weekends.

### **Transportation**

One of the advantages of the city is that it is easy to get around on foot. Cars are not allowed in the old part of the city, which makes it a pedestrian paradise. You can take taxis, and most of the fares to outlying locations like Monvi Club Complex are around \$5-\$10.

### **Safety**

Keeping all your money in one place is not advised - guard against possible loss by leaving a small stash of money in your hotel room or buried in your backpack, with a record of the travelers check serial numbers and your passport numbers.

### **Health Issues in Rovinj**

Students should not forget to bring their sunscreen lotions along with their swimsuits, since sunburn can occur rapidly without protection. Also, a wide-brimmed sun hat is a good idea, as well as light raingear.

### **Communication**

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock)). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always "1") followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial "011", the country code, city access code (if

necessary) and the phone number . Country and city codes can be found online ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html)). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

## **Student Testimonials**

The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students' experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

### **Preparations Before Leaving**

The instructor assigned several books prior to departure. I read them at that time and then took them and the packet with me. Since I like to read novels by local writers, I also took some of those. It might be possible to locate books at one of several libraries. I visited every library in the community and interviewed the librarians in English or French. I do not speak Italian or Croatian.

### **Academic Program**

We had speakers and discussion from 11-2 over the lunch hour. Consequently, I made my visits in the morning before class since shops and businesses were closed until 4:00 in the afternoon.

The historical sites are important. The instructor is good about getting us to see them.

### **Living Abroad**

Rovigno is a town with a cigarette factory centrally located. If anyone is sensitive to smokers and cigarette odors, they should know this fact. It did not bother me; however, I made an effort not to sit next to smokers. (*Note: The tobacco factory moved in 2006 to Kanfanar, a nearby small town, so there is no more tobacco aroma in Rovinj*).

I walked on nearly every street as a form of exercise. I don't recall any problem with dogs or people.

Email cafe close to the hotel worked out OK.

The money exchange rate varies from bank to bank. One bank charged me \$5 to exchange \$20 (there lowest fee). ATMs have an appetite for cards. Several students lost theirs in the machine on the Piazza. Be aware and take money in various forms: checks, cash, charge, debit.

The cost estimates were underestimated even for me who is a conservative spender.