**FLORENCe, ITALY**

**ANAIS REYES**

**Anais’s Major:** Art

**Program:** Santa Reparata International School of Art, Summer

**Academic Life:** I had great experiences in all four of my classes. Over the course of my two months abroad I took two studio classes: On-site Painting and Drawing in the Expanded Field, and two electives: Art Now-Contemporary Trends in Europe and Beginning Italian. My classes were all small -- ranging from three to seven people. It worked out very well when it came to receiving personal feedback from my professors. All of my classmates were American students, and my classes were taught by both American and Italian teachers. The classes were just the right amount of challenging -- our teachers pushed us to do our very best while still understanding that all of the students wanted some free time to explore our new city.

**First Impressions:** I was very excited. This was my first time traveling alone, and I loved the feeling of independence that came with facing a totally new environment. It was a little strange being unfamiliar with the neighborhood, but that quickly passed after a couple days of wandering. Getting lost is a rite of passage, but it was not hard to become familiar with the area.

**Advice for Students Considering this Program:** I would urge them to do it. Florence is a great city. It was small enough to become comfortable in it quickly while still having so many areas to explore. Additionally, SRISA is a very small school, but it helps you create a community with all of your teachers and classmates. There’s tons of Renaissance art to learn from along with really knowledgeable teachers to learn from.

“**Studying abroad has motivated me to work even harder to become a better student, artist, worker, and person.**”

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