FLORENCE, ITALY
LEYAN XU

Program: Studio Art Centers International (SACI), Summer

Leyan’s Major: Chemical Engineering

Academic Life: I took black & white film photography and a sculpture course in Florence. Most of the students in my program were from the U.S.. Both of my professors have had their work in exhibitions and were very knowledgeable in their respective fields. We took field trips every weekend. Thanks to my experience Italy, I really know more about art and how I can interpret it in my own way.

Advice for Someone Considering This Program: Florence is the perfect place to learn art history. The whole city is your classroom. If it were possible, I would want to take more classes in this program! Give it a try, you will find out how fantastic it is.

Housing: If you Google Florence, Italy, almost all of the pictures are of the Duomo, one of the most famous places in the world. My apartment was only a 3-minute walk from there. I had my own room, a kitchen and a bathroom. It was a very cozy and European apartment. It was conveniently located from almost everywhere.

A Significant Cultural Difference Between Italy and the US: They don’t use dryers, because they like to hang their clothes on the balcony or strings outside. I really like this way, since it’s more natural. However, sometimes, when it’s rainy, you have to wait to dry your clothes.

How Studying Abroad Changed Leyan: Studying abroad enhanced my ability to live on my own, to make my own decisions and to be responsible for my decisions.

“I think I became more open-minded and independent.”