The UW in Italy Creative Arts Collaborations with Music summer program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from ACCENT as well as the general IAP Study Abroad Handbook. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

1 CONTACT INFORMATION
2 PROGRAM DATES
2 PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING
3 TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL
4 THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM
6 LIVING ABROAD

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pre-Departure and On-Site Contact Information**

Professor Steve Dembski  
UW-Madison Program Leader  
sdembski@wisc.edu  
Cell Phone: Available after arrival

Angela McNutt  
IAP Study Abroad Advisor  
Tel: 608-265-6329  
amcnutt@studyabroad.wisc.edu

**ACCENT Florence Center**
Piazza Santo Spirito, 10  
50125 Florence, Italy  
Phone: +39 055 26 70 501  
Fax: +39 055 27 17 749  
Website: [www.accentintl.com](http://www.accentintl.com)

**ACCENT San Francisco Center**
Phone: 415-835-3744 or 800-869-9291  
Fax: 415-835-3749

**UW-Madison Information**

International Academic Programs (IAP)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
Tel: 608-265-6329  
Web: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)
Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440. While in country, you will have the phone numbers of the UW Program Leader and ACCENT; you will call them directly if you need immediate assistance while abroad.

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens are required to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This is a free service provided by the U.S. government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the U.S. Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, as well as updates on demonstration, emergency messages, and other breaking events. Register online before your departure. The Travel & Visa Tab in your MySA account also has a link to this registration page. If you are not a U.S. citizen, check with your home country's embassy for comparable services.

U.S. Embassy
Via Vittorio Veneto 121
00187 Rome
Tel: 011-39-06-46741
www.italy.usembassy.gov

U.S. Consulate
Lungarno Amerigo Vespucci, 38
50123 Firenze
Tel: 011-39-055-266-951
www.florence.usconsulate.gov

PROGRAM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depart U.S.</td>
<td>May 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrive in Florence (between 9:00AM and 3:00 PM)*</td>
<td>May 16, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of classes and last night of housing</td>
<td>June 10, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart Florence</td>
<td>June 11, 2016</td>
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</tbody>
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*Specific arrival instructions will be given to you approximately two weeks prior to arrival. Participants who arrive before the start date of the program may be required to make and pay for their own accommodations. No program housing is available after the end date of the program.

PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING

DOCUMENTS
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Passport
A passport is needed to travel to Italy. 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 six months beyond the length of your stay abroad.
Visa
U.S. citizens participating in this faculty-led short-term program to Italy do not require a student visa. If you are not a U.S. citizen contact your Study Abroad Advisor for guidance.

Money Management
Your personal spending habits, the cost of living in your host country/city, and fluctuating exchange rates should all be taken into consideration when figuring out your study abroad budget. The official currency in Italy is the Euro. Current exchange rates can be found online: www.oanda.com/converter/classic. This website may give you an idea of cost of living: http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/

When in Italy, you should plan to use a combination of money sources such as your ATM card, credit/debit cards, and cash to have both convenience and protection. Read the Handling Money Abroad section of your IAP Study Abroad Handbook, as well as your ACCENT pre-departure handbook for specific guidelines on using and accessing money while in Italy.

Packing
Italians are somewhat more formal in their dress than Americans. You’ll find that very few people (and usually only American tourists) wear shorts in Florence or other Italian cities; for women, dresses and skirts are the norm, men typically wear pants. We suggest that you bring one nice outfit—something you can wear to a concert or other special event. Refer to your ACCENT handbook for specific packing suggestions.

Due to the frequent instances of temporarily lost luggage, pack enough necessities for three days in your carry-on bag. If your luggage is lost or delayed, it is your responsibility to deal with the airline directly in order to get your bags back or be reimbursed.

Electronics
Italian electricity runs on 220 volts, while the U.S. runs on 110 volts. With the difference in current, we recommend that you avoid taking U.S. electrical appliances. If you do, pack an adapter together with your electrical appliance, so that you do not have to spend valuable time looking for adaptors and transformers during your stay. Items such as a hair dryer or curling iron are not recommended to use with an adapter. If necessary, plan to purchase one in country.

TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Italy. You are welcome, however, to independently arrange flights with other students on the program. Plan to arrive in Florence no later than 3:00PM on the day of arrival so that you may check in at the Florence ACCENT Center between 9:00AM-5:00PM. Most transatlantic flights arrive in the morning hours. To fly into Florence Airport (FLR) you will typically have a connecting flight from a European airport. Common routes involve flying to Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome, or Paris, and then connecting to a flight to Florence’s Amerigo Vespucci Airport. Refer to the ACCENT handbook for more information on arrival and booking flights.

Arrival
Upon arrival, you will need to check-in at the ACCENT Center:

ACCENT Florence Center
Piazza Santo Spirito, 10
50125 Florence, Italy
Tel: +39 055 26 70 501
The easiest way to get from the Florence airport or train station to the ACCENT Center is a taxi. Your ACCENT pre-departure handbook provides more detailed information regarding directions to the ACCENT Center from various locations in Florence.

**Onsite Orientation**
ACCENT will conduct an on-site orientation either the day of arrival or the following morning. This orientation will include a tour of the ACCENT facilities and your housing as well as an introduction to local customs, money, personal safety, communication, and transportation. Materials to help you acclimate to living in Florence will also be provided.

## THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### General Information
This seminar is designed to develop and support collaborations between and among students in the creative arts — creative writing, film production, the visual arts, etc. — and music students in both performance and composition. It welcomes both majors and non-majors in those fields, graduate students as well as undergraduates, and students not only from UW-Madison but also from institutions throughout the United States. Its goal is to realize through its curriculum a variety of productive collaborations that embody the complete process of artistic creation in all its variety, for example:

- songs (students in creative writing — poets, playwrights, and writers of fiction — collaborating with composers and performers)
- music designed specifically for films (filmmakers working with composers and performers)
- responses to music expressed in one or more of the visual arts, and vice versa

You will have the opportunity to explore the extraordinary concentration of creative arts in Florence, Italy, in the midst of one of Europe's most important music festivals. Florence is a city renowned not only for the music of its composers, from Landini to Dallapicolla and Berio, for the work of its writers, such as Dante, Boccaccio, and Machiavelli, but also and perhaps above all for its incomparable treasures of visual art and architecture.

During the months of May and June, Florence's annual festival of music, the Maggio Musicale, features performers from all over the world in concerts that include music from chamber works to grand opera — many of them works integrating words with music — in frequent conjunction with a great variety of exhibitions of the visual arts, and in architectural spaces that are unique in the world.

Our working studios and living quarters will be in the heart of the city. During the four weeks of the seminar, you will concentrate on the collaborative production of new works of art, serving — according to your interests and abilities — as writers, visual artists, filmmakers, performers, composers, or some combination of these, working interactively with other artists, and also offering your fresh impressions and critiques of others' artworks as they take shape. Thus, you will work as originating artists, as interpretive artists, and as collaborative artists, together producing unique works of new art.

On a typical day in Florence, you will work on your own and meet as a group for consideration of the works selected for study, the new works of art in progress, and public performances. As necessary, special interest sub-groups will meet with the professor on an ad hoc basis to take up specialized topics, such as theoretical and analytic issues, as well as more specific questions arising from particular collaborations. Such practical activities will be stimulated and enriched by attendance at exhibitions and public performances in and around Florence. These will provide topics of discussion for seminar meetings, as well as a common frame of reference for the entire group of participants.

Toward the end of the seminar term, you will take part in a capstone event — according to the interests and activities of the participants, perhaps a concert, a theatrical event, an exhibition, a recording session, etc. — which will provide a
final exposition of your work. The accomplishments of the seminar are also often presented in Madison during the following fall semester.

**Daily Schedule**

The group will have daily access to music studios from approximately 9:00AM to 2:00PM and 8:00PM to 11:00PM, Monday through Friday, and 9:00AM to 11:00PM Saturday and Sunday. Studios will be a combination of sizes and one will be large enough for use as a classroom, and to use for ensemble rehearsal; it will be equipped with an acoustic piano. The program leader will oversee scheduling individual studio access for each student. It is strongly suggested that instrumentalists bring practice mutes, as available and appropriate for their instruments. Composers should consider bringing compact digital keyboards with headphones for their individual use. Filmmakers should bring with them equipment (such as a laptop) necessary for production and editing. Students in the visual arts should bring with them any materials essential to their work that they are not certain they can obtain in Florence.

As always in the creative arts, it is assumed that students will be working largely independently, individually or in small groups – writing, consulting with each other, sketching, practicing, composing, rehearsing, etc. – for a substantial portion of each day.

Ordinarily, the group will meet each weekday from 11:00AM to 1:00PM at the studio. At first, these meetings will be devoted to topics – e.g., technical, analytical, and interpretive -- related to participants’ preparation and completion of their chosen collaborative works. Later, students will present their work to the group, and the group will discuss both practical and more abstract aspects of the work. Finally, the group will prepare for exhibitions, readings, screenings, and performances (which may or may not be publicly presented), considering questions of presentation structure, program notes and artists’ statements, public presentation more generally, and perhaps even publicity strategies and issues.

The program leader will also meet individually, or in small groups, with students from time to time, as needed.

Approximately one evening per week the group will attend a professionally produced public event in the arts. When practical, the group will study the works to be presented in advance of the event, and in any case the course meeting the day after the concert will be devoted at least in part to discussion of the event.

**Credit and Grades**

You will earn four credits in Music 497: Special Topics in Music, or you may make arrangements for 4 credits in a cross-listed course in your artistic field, as appropriate. This course is for graded credit.

**Grades and Grade Conversions**

See your course syllabus for your course grade scale.
LIVING ABROAD

Italy is largely homogeneous linguistically and religiously but is diverse culturally, economically, and politically. Surrounded by Tuscan hills and bridging the Arno River, Florence is considered one of the world’s most beautiful cities. It has been a major center for the arts, literature, and scholarship since the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Florence
Florence, Italy is the capital city of the Tuscany region and is one of the country's most important and historic cities. Full of beautiful, Renaissance-style buildings, including wonderful churches and enormous palaces, Florence is steeped in culture and atmosphere and has not changed greatly since the 16th century. There are several tourism and tourist information offices situated in the city centre of Florence and these provide up-to-date information about Florence tourist attractions, museums, events, Florence festivals, Florence travel, Florence sightseeing and general Florence tourism and tourist information.

The city centre of Florence is compact, with many of its main attractions being consolidated in a few areas and very accessible. In fact, it is possible for pedestrians in Florence to traverse the city centre in approximately half an hour. Visitors can choose to make use of the public transport buses or walk.

Florence's position in a river basin, walled in by hills to the south and the foothills of the Apennines to the north, largely determines its climate. In summer the city is a like a pressure cooker as heat and humidity soar. July can be the worst month (closely followed by August) and there are days when there is not a whisper of air. The average highs hover around 31°C (88°F). Occasionally you can enjoy the temporary relief of a good thunderstorm.

Housing
You will live in double/triple occupancy rooms in shared student apartments in Florence. Exact housing placement will be provided upon arrival. Refer to your ACCENT pre-departure handbook for more specific information regarding housing.

Public Transportation
You can expect that public transportation will be quite full in the summer time and advance reservations may be necessary if traveling outside of Florence. While Florence is a walkable city, transportation within such as buses and taxies are easily accessible.

HEALTH and SAFETY
Health
Refer to your IAP Study Abroad Handbook and your ACCENT handbook for more detailed information about health and safety in Italy.

Alcohol and drug use
Cross-cultural differences exist in the consumption of alcohol. Depending on your host country, you may find the availability and public consumption of alcohol greatly increased or decreased. Often, rules about the acceptability of alcohol use in certain situations or contexts are very different than in the United States. Excessive drinking can impact your health during the program, impair judgment, lead to risk or harm to yourself or others and have an effect on your academic performance.

Penalties for use or possession of illegal drugs can include jail terms, hard labor, and even the death penalty. Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the program offices are able to exercise effective pressure to moderate these penalties. If you are arrested, you are subject to the host country’s laws and neither the UW-Madison’s IAP office nor the U.S. Embassy can protect you from the local legal consequences. While on an IAP study abroad program, you are responsible for obeying
all local laws. If IAP learns that program participants are using drugs or breaking other local laws, participants may be asked to leave the program.

**Safety**
IAP is dedicated to maintaining the personal safety and security for each of our study abroad participants. Our office takes necessary precautions, remains in close contact with program staff and works with them in case of an emergency. You are encouraged to contact your IAP Study Abroad Advisor if you are concerned about your safety or welfare. Italy is a relatively safe country. Nevertheless, here are a few recommendations while traveling around:

It is recommended that you do not walk alone at night, especially if you are female. Travel in groups or with another person at all times, even during the day, if possible. Florence is a large city, and like cities in the U.S. there are precautions to consider when visiting different areas. Be aware of your surroundings and know where you are going.

It is advisable to take extra precaution with your passport, money, and valuables, including cell phones. Normally, one should not carry their passport and large sums of cash on their person. Use the same precautions that you would in any major U.S. city, or more so. Use a money belt or pocket inside your clothes for the safest way to carry money. While violent crime is not common, petty theft is common. Don’t travel with anything that you are not prepared to lose.

Keeping all of your money in one place is not advised - guard against possible loss by leaving a small stash of money in your room or buried in your backpack. Keep in a separate place a record of your card numbers and a copy of your passport. If you leave expensive items in your room, make sure to put them in a spot not easily in sight and to lock the door when you leave. Additional safety tips are available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

The U.S. Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens of the following tips:
- U.S. citizens are encouraged to exercise the same level of caution they would in major cities or tourist areas throughout the world.
- Avoid public parks at night and other poorly lit areas, and try to avoid going out alone. If and when you are out, please remember to always have a means of communicating with police and emergency services.
- Americans should walk or exercise with a companion, bearing in mind that crowded tourist attractions and resort areas popular with foreign tourists are common venues for criminal activities.
- Travelers should ignore any verbal harassment, and avoid carrying passports, large amounts of cash, jewelry or expensive photographic equipment. A common scam involves one person dropping change in a crowded area, such as on a bus. When the victim tries to assist, a wallet or other item is taken.
- Don’t leave any valuables/bags/purses in plain sight.
- Always use the peephole in your residence doors when someone knocks or rings the bell, and never open your doors to anyone who you do not recognize or have not invited.

**Communication**
Many of your family members and friends will be anxious to hear from you when you arrive. Please make sure they are familiar with your travel details so that they know when they can expect to hear from you. Be sure that your family and friends know that it will take you some time after arrival to get situated and this may delay your ability to get in touch with them about your safe arrival. Just let them know that you’ll communicate with them as soon as possible, and in most cases no news is good news.

**Mail**
You can receive mail at the ACCENT Florence Center. Due to Italian customs laws and the short timeframe of the program, it is strongly encouraged that you do not receive packages during your time in Italy. You may have to pay a customs fee when you receive a package dependent on the value of the package. Most, if not all necessary items can be found in Florence.
Mail should be addressed as follows:

**Your Name**
c/o ACCENT Student Mail
Piazza Santo Spirito, 10
50125 Florence
ITALY

**Cell Phone**
Student apartments are not equipped with telephones. Your ACCENT pre-departure handbook provides suggestions for communicating via telephone or cellphone while in Florence.

**Email**
You will have limited access to the ACCENT computer lab in Florence. WiFi is also available at the ACCENT Center during office hours. Internet cafes are also located throughout Florence. Refer to ACCENT Handbook for more information on their computer access.

**Skype/Google Voice**
Past participants have recommended using Skype or Google Voice to call home. These platforms allow you to call from a computer (with a mic) to another computer or telephone, as well as video call with a webcam.

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