

# BOLOGNA, ITALY

SARA MCKEARN

**Program:** UW in Bologna, Spring

**Sara's Majors:** Italian; Philosophy

**Academic Life:** My courses required quite a bit of independence and self-motivation as much of the grade often rested on just a few exams or projects. In most of my classes, a lot of the students were studying abroad, but in the case of my philosophy class, most of the students were Italian. My classes were all taught in Italian by Italian professors. For my UniBo classes, the course consisted of lecture and an exam, but in my BCSP classes, participation was weighed in the grade as well.

**Most Memorable Moments:** I really enjoyed the day trip where we learned to make pasta. It's something I always wanted to do and had a great time. It's a skill I can bring back home with me and teach to other people.

**Advice for Someone Considering Bologna:** The program is great for those looking to improve their Italian through immersion. The city is beautiful and it's small enough that you feel safe and can get to know the city, but not so small that there's nothing to do. In all, if you want to get better at Italian over the course of the semester, this is a fantastic program. Be prepared: it can be overwhelming at times, but it's also incredibly rewarding.

**Learning About Yourself:** It showed me that I'm capable of more than I realized, but it was also extremely humbling in just how challenging it was. I learned a lot about myself that I never would have learned from comfort zone. It has made me more resilient and perhaps more patient.

**Home Away from Home:** I'd definitely like to come back to Bologna and see more of Italy. About a month in, I caught myself referring to my apartment as "home" and, shortly before leaving, it hit me that my life would shift again.



Sara in a local piazza (town square).

**"I had a great deal of experiences that cannot be had through a textbook or in a classroom."**

