

Study Abroad in

Florence

Northern California Study Abroad Consortium
Spring Semester 2026



Northern California Study Abroad Consortium

Contra Costa Community College District:

- Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College

Los Rios Community College District:

- American River College, Cosumnes River College, Folsom Lake College, Sacramento City College

San Mateo County Community College District:

- Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College

Santa Rosa Junior College

Why study abroad?

- Fewer than 10% of US college students study abroad
- Shows college admissions and employers skills such as intercultural competence, diversity, problem solving...
- Personal skills you gain: independence, creativity, tolerance, openness, initiative, a sense of humor, adaptability, flexibility, values, patience...

85% of students agree that studying abroad was the most meaningful experience of their undergraduate education.



Why Florence?



Ideally situated for travel around Italy & Europe



Budget airlines around Europe. Bus, train or plane around Italy.

AIFS Abroad

- Founded in 1964
- Over 1.8 million students in over 20 countries
- Partnered with the NCSAC colleges since 1988
- Local Program Coordinators & Study Center in Florence
- Extensive incident response and crisis management procedures



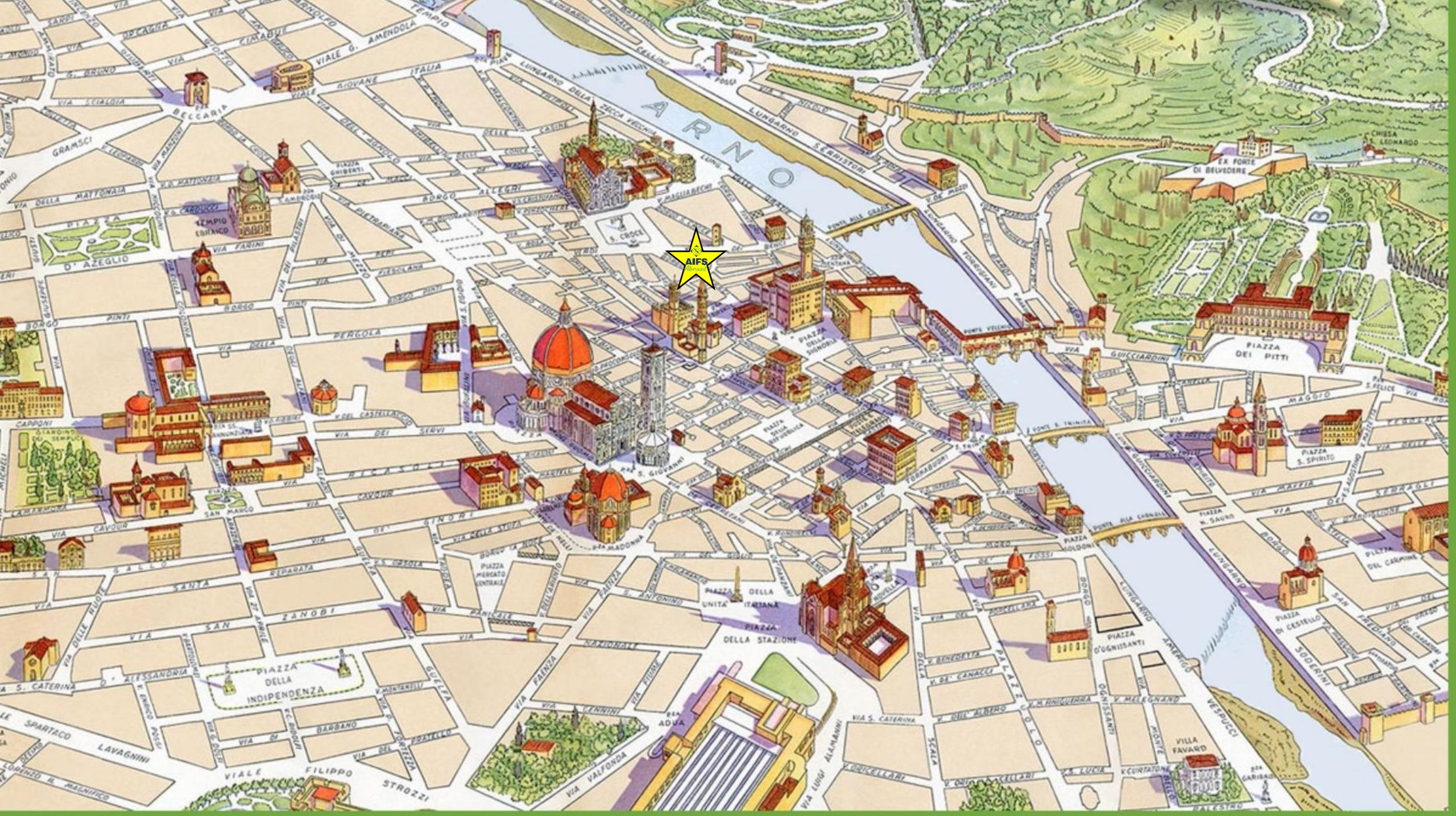
Program Dates - Spring 2026

Saturday, January 31	Depart US
Sunday, February 1	Arrive in Florence
Monday, February 2	Orientation
Tuesday, February 3	Workshops
Wednesday, February 4	Classes begin
Sat-Sun, March 14-22	Mid-Semester break
Thursday, April 30	Last day of class
Friday, May 1	End of program, Depart Florence



AIFS Student Center

- Classrooms & AIFS Student Services near the Piazza Santa Croce
- Student lounge, computer & printer access
- Student Services staff available during office hours and 24/7 emergency contact
- Staff coordinates orientation, classroom facilities, housing, cultural activities & excursions as well as student advising and counseling



Academics

- Courses are UC/CSU transferable
- Meet General Education requirements
- All students enroll in the Italian Life and Culture course plus 3 additional courses for a total 12 credits
- Florence is our classroom!
- Optional “survival Italian” course for 2 hours each week with local instructors



Italian Life & Culture Course

- Understanding the culture and society of Florence and Italy
- Experiential learning
- Lectures and corresponding field trips on history, art & architecture, politics & society, gastronomy, customs & traditions
- This 3-unit course is required for all students and is subject to college tuition fees
- Student must enroll in the Italian Life & Culture course offered by the campus that processes their program application. This class is the same class for all four schools





Courses offered by Santa Rosa Junior College

PROF. LAURA SPARKS

lsparks@santarosa.edu

ASTR 3 – Stellar Astronomy

ASTR 4 – Astronomy of the Solar System

ASTR 42 – Life in the Universe

INTDIS 90* - Italian Life and Culture



Courses offered by Contra Costa Community College District

PROF. NICOLE WHITE

nwhite@dvc.edu

ARTDM 136 – Introduction to Digital Photography

ARTHS 196 – History of Medieval and Renaissance
Art

INDIS 100* - Italian Life and Culture



Courses offered by Los Rios Community College District

NAOMI BAHM

bahmn@crc.losrios.edu

PSYC 356 – Human Sexuality

PSYC 372/ECE 312 – Child Development

BIOL 300 – The Foundations of Biology

INDIS 351* - Italian Life and Culture

Courses offered by San Mateo Community College District

PROF. LISA PALMER

palmer@smccd.edu

ENGL 110 – Composition, Literature, and
Critical Thinking (*PREQ: College Composition*)

ENGL 164 – Creative Non-Fiction (Memoir
Writing)

LIT 441 – Survey of Film

GBST 650* - Italian Life and Culture





Weekly Calendar of Subsidized Cultural Activities



- Cooking class
- Sport events
- Walking tours
- Theater & dance events
- Wine appreciation or olive oil tasting
- Day trips



Excursion to Siena and San Gimignano



Excursion to Chianti Wine Region





Housing

Student Apartments

Equipped kitchens, shared living area & full bath, Wi-Fi, washing machines

No meals are included

Approx. 15-30-minute commute to the Study Center

Typically, 4-6 students in each apartment in double rooms

Included in the Program Fee

\$8745

- Shared student apartment accommodations- no meals, kitchenette, living space & bathroom, washing machine
- AIFS Student Center & Staff services including 24/7 emergency contact
- Orientation program & workshops, guided tour of Florence
- Weekly subsidized activities in Florence including visits to museums, monuments, walking tours, cooking class
- Full day excursions to Siena and San Gimignano and to Chianti wine region
- Medical insurance
- Pre-departure services and orientation

Expenses not included

- Airfare: Optional group flight available or students may purchase their own flights
- Community College tuition fees
- Textbooks
- Personal expenses including passport fees and personal travel
- Meals (except as specified)
- Worldwide Trip Protector Insurance - to protect Program Fees in case of program cancellation or interruption – offered upon enrollment with AIFS

Optional Group Flight

- Round trip group flight SFO-FLR-SFO
- Airport pick-up by AIFS staff and transfer to accommodations in Florence; return transfer at the end of the program
- Price \$tbc* (\$tbc airfare + \$tbc* government and airline-imposed taxes, fees and fuel surcharges)

**subject to change until ticketed*



Optional Excursions



Excursion to Sorrento

4 days-3 nights including
guided tours & entrances to
Pompeii & Capri, transport
& hotel \$675



Excursion to Rome

3 days-2 nights including
guided tours & entrances to
the Colosseum and St.
Peters, transport & hotel
\$550



Excursion to Venice

3 days-2 nights including guided
tour, transport & hotel \$550

Optional Meal Plan:

30-vouchers for use at local restaurants in Florence. The vouchers can be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner at selected restaurants in Florence
\$625



Scholarships

- **AIFS Ambassador Scholarships**- Open to NCSAC students with 12 units completed and a GPA of 2.5 or higher. 1- \$1000 scholarship and 2- \$500 available. *More information from your study abroad advisor.
- **Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship** <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/> Open to US citizens or nationals; Pell Grant recipients
- **Fund for Education Abroad** <http://fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/> Open to US citizens and permanent residents
- <http://www.studentscholarships.org/> The largest scholarship search database on the internet
- <http://www.internationalscholarships.com/> A search database for scholarships for study abroad & international students
- <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/> A student guide to financial aid and scholarships
- <http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships> A student guide to financial aid and scholarships
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx?sf53479980=1> US Dept of Labor scholarship finder
- <https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/study-abroad-scholarships-grants> Blog post with links to several study abroad scholarships

Creative Funding Ideas

- Lifestyle changes- cut down on expenses, gifts of money
- Back to basics ideas- side jobs, sales, garage sales, etc.
- Crowd funding- Go Fund Me, Zelle, Venmo campaigns, etc.





Eligibility Requirements

- 18 years or older by departure date
- At least a 2.25 GPA
- Have completed 12 or more units of college-level courses



London, England

Fall Semester 2026

- Homestays or Student Residence
- Courses are CSU/UC transferable
- British Life & Culture course
- London travel pass
- Study center in Kensington
- Excursions and activities such as a theatre, soccer match, walking tours, etc.

Is this experience right for me?

Study abroad in a foreign country can be a challenge & create stress. So we can better serve you, we ask that you speak openly and honestly prior to applying with your Study Abroad Director to:

- **Discuss all DSPS accommodations you may have**
- **We ask that you consider disclosing any physical & mental health issues, physical limitations, dietary requirements, medications, etc. you may have**

Example of why we need this information: if you have mobility issues, AIFS would need to be aware of host family housing (stairs, etc.) Help us accommodate you.

- **Also discuss expectations & challenges posed by the study abroad location & culture**

For more information & to apply:

[NCSAC - Florence, Spring 2026 - Enrollment Link](#)

Contra Costa Community College District

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Diablo Valley College

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Los Rios Community College District

Katie Pasilis studyabroad@losrios.edu

Study Abroad Assistant

American River College

Phone: (916) 484-8967

**PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, SEPT 19, 2025**

**GENERAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, OCT 31, 2025**

Santa Rosa Junior College

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