

A photograph of a lush green potted plant sitting on a stone ledge. In the background, there is a large body of water (likely Lake Como) and a range of mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A decorative wrought-iron railing is visible in the lower left foreground.

CULTURAL INTRODUCTION TO ITALY

Field Learning Programs

CULTURAL INTRODUCTION TO ITALY

1-Week / 3-Credit Field Learning Program

About the Program

FUA's 1-week, 3-credit field learning course, **LSSOCI200 Cultural Introduction to Italy**, provides a deep awareness of cultural unity and regional diversity in Italy. The week features on-site learning and assessment in unique locations spanning different regions, territories, and cultural landscapes. The program content includes lectures, visits to historic and contemporary sites, tastes of local gastronomy, expanded cultural horizons, and contact with local culture, which will directly strengthen and challenge perspectives of Italy. The Summer/Fall edition of the program features Lazio and Tuscany and the Spring edition takes place in Lazio and Umbria.

Available Sessions

The program is offered four times during the summer academic season and the week prior to the start of the fall and spring semesters. The below dates include arrivals (in Rome) and course conclusion (Florence).

FALL
Pre-Semester Week

SPRING
Pre-Semester Week

SUMMER
Sessions C-D-E-F

The program start and end days are Sun-Sun. The fall/spring edition can be combined with the semester/quarter/short sessions. The summer editions can be combined with any 3/6-week session. Please consult session dates at fua.it/Utility/academic-calendar-detail.html

Field Learning Week Details | Daily Coursework

(Detailed syllabus available upon request)

DAY 1

Arrival in Rome and Orientation.

DAY 2

Lecture

- Architecture and daily life in ancient and contemporary Rome.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Piazza Venezia, Capitoline Hill, Imperial Forums, Colosseum, and Roman Forum (center of political, commercial and judicial life in ancient Rome).
- Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Piazza del Popolo (Pincio).

DAY 3

Lecture

- History and art of the Vatican State.
- Designing Landscape: architecture, environment. "Il Giardino all'Italiana" (The Italian Garden).

Field Learning Itinerary

- Saint Peter's Square and Basilica.
- Transfer to Caprarola, in the province of Viterbo (Northern Lazio) for a visit of Palazzo Farnese, one of the finest masterpieces of late Renaissance architecture, and visit of the villa's magnificent Renaissance gardens.
- Visit of a local farm for a tasting of the Nocciola di Caprarola D.O.P. (Roman Hazelnut), a typical product of the area.
- Viterbo.

DAY 4 | Summer/Fall

Lecture

- Mannerism in the architecture of the Italian garden.
- A contemporary "garden of surprise": the magical dream of Niki de Saint Phalle.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Villa Lante in Bagnaia and its "garden of surprise," a perfect example of the Mannerist phase of the Italian Renaissance.
- Bosco di Bomarzo, one of the most famous and extravagant Mannerist gardens known as the "Sacred Wood of Bomarzo," renamed by the popular imagination as "The Monster's Park".
- Transfer to Capalbio (southern Maremma) and visit of the "Giardino dei Tarocchi," a sculpture garden based on the major arcana of the tarot cards, designed by Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1980s.

DAY 4 | Spring

Lecture

- Mannerism in the architecture of the Italian garden.
- Achievements of gothic art in Europe: the Cathedral of Orvieto.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Villa Lante in Bagnaia and its "garden of surprise", a perfect example of the Mannerist phase of the Italian Renaissance.
- Bosco di Bomarzo, one of the most famous and extravagant Mannerist gardens known as the "Sacred Wood of Bomarzo," renamed by the popular imagination as "The Monster's Park."
- Transfer to Orvieto (Umbria). Guided visit of the city centre, the Cathedral, and Saint Patrick's Well.

DAY 5 | Summer/Fall

Lecture

- The Etruscans and their settlement along the southern coast of Tuscany.
- History of winemaking in Italy.
- Food & wine in Italian culture.

Field Learning Itinerary

- The ancient Etruscan city of Populonia and the Archaeological Park of Baratti, guided walk of the area.
- Bolgheri, the world-renowned Italian wine area. Guided visit of the vineyard and the cellars, followed by a guided wine tasting.
- Transfer to Versilia, on the northern coast of Tuscany.

DAY 6 | Summer/Fall

Lecture

- Viareggio and its architecture, business & tourism.
- Michelangelo's marble. Thousands years of marble quarrying, from the Roman times to today.
- The quarry workers in Carrara. A social history.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Departure to Viareggio: the Cittadella del Carnevale, the Promenade, the history.
- Visit of the marble quarries in Carrara.
- Visit to Pietrasanta and its sculpture studios.

DAY 7 | Summer/Fall

Lecture

- The century-old tradition of agriculture and viticulture on the steep slopes of Liguria. The "heroic" viticulture of the region.
- Lifestyle, beachtowns, coastal culture, fashion.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Hiking activity in Cinque Terre.
- Beach culture.

DAY 8 | Summer/Fall

Lecture

- Extension of social spaces in Italy: the weekly outdoor market.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Bike tour to Forte dei Marmi and visit to the weekly outdoor market.

Course conclusion and overview.

DAY 5 | Spring

Lecture

- The Etruscans and their settlements in Central Italy.
- History of oil and winemaking in Italy.
- Food & wine in Italian culture.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Guided visit of ancient Orvieto.
- Vineyard in the area of Orvieto/Perugia, and the MUVIT/MOO, the largest wine and oil museum in Italy.
- Transfer to Perugia.

DAY 6 | Spring

Lecture

- Family businesses: the image of Italian economy in the stories of the Perugina and Buitoni companies.
- The economic evolution of Italy from the Unification until today.
- Discovering a multicultural Italy: Università per Stranieri in Perugia, the oldest public institution for Italian Culture.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Guided visit of Perugia city center.
- The famed Perugina chocolate factory and its museum.

DAY 7 | Spring

Lecture

- Spirituality in Italy: the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi.
- The Italians and the Catholic Church, a controversial relationship.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Transfer to Assisi and visit of the Basilica of San Francesco with a Franciscan friar.
- Guided walk of the medieval town and the Rocca Maggiore.

DAY 8 | Spring

Lecture

- Extension of social spaces in Italy: the weekly outdoor market.

Field Learning Itinerary

- Visit to the weekly outdoor market in Perugia.

Course conclusion and overview.

Additional Program Option

The **LSSOCI200** field learning week can be taken alone for 3 credits, combined with FUA short/quarter/semester programs, or as a 6-credit course as described by the following option:

LSSOCI207 (1-Week + Florence)

6 semester credits / 8 quarter credits

Students who are interested in the 1-week field learning course and wish to continue with the cultural introduction topic in Florence may enroll in the 6-credit LSSOCI207 option. The course begins with the field learning week and continues in Florence throughout a summer 3-week session or fall/spring 15-week semester.



Program Includes

Academic coursework,
accommodation, transportation,
breakfast daily + seven meals.



Contact Info

For further details, questions,
or to request a copy of the syllabus,
please contact admissions@fua.it.