



NAZARETH COLLEGE

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION

Nazareth College

PRE-DEPARTURE

INFORMATION PESCARA

Location

Pescara is situated on the Adriatic coast in the region of Abruzzo in the valley of the river of the same name. The city of Pescara is the most highly populated city in the region. No longer only a fishing port, Pescara now houses numerous developing industries as a result of hydroelectric power, its multiple roads and its many railway connections.

Climate

The climate of Abruzzo is influenced by the altitude of its mountains. The Adriatic side of the Apennines has an average annual temperature which fluctuates between 12 and 16 degrees Celsius, while the average on the west slopes rarely reaches 12 degrees. Precipitation on the mountains can exceed 1700 mm per year. Snowfall on the mountains is generally heavy. The region even has a small glacier, the only one in the Apennines.

Fall Semester Weather

Be prepared for possible hot and humid summer temperatures upon arrival during the fall semester that may last until mid-September. In October it will begin to cool down, and typically there are showers as winter temperatures approach. From the beginning of November, the temperatures may become quite wintry. December is usually cold and wet.

Spring Semester Weather

In January and February, Pescara will be at its coldest. Prepare for short days, with sundown between 5:00-6:00 PM and cold temperatures. You will need to pack warm winter clothing with a water resistant jacket and umbrella. There will be wet, windy and wintry days until mid March.

For more information on Pescara, visit our website at
http://www.naz.edu/dept/foreign_languages/italian.cfm

DOCUMENTS

Passport

All students must have a valid passport. If you do not have a passport, you can obtain a passport application form from your county courthouse or post office. Follow the printed instructions carefully and allow 6 weeks for processing.

Student Visa

All students studying in Italy are required to have a Student Visa. Student Visas are issued by Italian Consulates in the United States. Please see the Director of the Pescara Study Abroad for details. The requirements to apply for the Student Visa differ from consulate to consulate. Items may include but are not limited to the following:

—A letter from the home University in two copies (original plus one copy) confirming applicants' enrollment status. The applicant should be fully enrolled in the current academic year or already enrolled for the following semester. Information such as anticipated graduation date, major, etc. should be expressed and must be in official form, i.e., with the university seal. Faxed copies will NOT be accepted.

—A letter of acceptance in two copies (original plus one copy) from a United States Academic Institution providing for the Study Abroad Program

—A letter of acceptance from the host Academic Institution in Italy providing for the Study Abroad Program

—A notarized Affidavit of support from the student's parents, in two copies (original plus one copy), stating they will assume full financial responsibility for their son/daughter during his/her stay in Italy.

—A letter in two copies (original plus one copy) from the parents' Bank on the Bank's letterhead, signed by a Bank official, indicating the Account balance. Bank statements cannot be accepted. A minimum

of a \$1,000.00 for each month of stay in Italy is required. Bank letters should have a recent dates. Please note that the amount must be specified in US dollars.

Note: Students may not participate in the Program without a student visa.

Registration in Italy-*Permesso di Soggiorno*

Upon entering Italy, students have 8 days to apply for the Extended Stay Permit, the *Permesso di Soggiorno*. Our Pescara, Resident Assistant director, will guide you through the procedure.

For the Extended Stay Permit, you must bring the following documents:

- 3 photocopies of the passport photo page
- 3 photocopies of the visa page
- The packet of original documents presented to the Consulate for the student visa with the Consulate's seal/stamp.

PLEASE NOTE: ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS WITHOUT THE CONSULATE'S SEAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Note: Students may not participate in the Program without an Extended Stay Permit, so be sure to remember all the necessary documents.

It is wise to record your passport and credit card numbers, and to leave the information with a family member as well, in case of loss or theft. Making photocopies is also a good idea.

ARRIVAL

Lost Luggage

Please note that lost luggage must be reported **BEFORE** exiting the baggage claim area in Rome. In case of lost luggage, instruct the claims office to

deliver the bags to our Pescara Resident Assistant Director's address: Via Canonico 3/1, 65125 Pescara. You may have to leave keys or codes for the locks in order to allow the bags to clear customs when they arrive. Since it is not unusual for luggage to be temporarily lost, **be sure to carry all essentials for the first few days in a carry-on bag.**

PACKAGES

Try to remember to bring everything essential, so as to avoid having anything sent to you while you are in Italy. PLEASE NOTE THAT PACKAGES ARRIVING FROM THE U.S. ARE FREQUENTLY BLOCKED AND TAXED BY CUSTOMS.

Please inform family and friends of the following:

For NEW ITEMS (i.e. clothes, CDs, magazines) being sent, a fee will be charged by Customs if the sender declares a value of approx. \$30 or more or if the sender fills out a commercial invoice; therefore, a low value should be declared and no commercial invoices should be completed. The sender should get detailed information from the U.S. postal office, FedEx, UPS, etc., before sending any packages in order to avoid customs fees.

In addition, packages always take longer to arrive than expected, and waiting for them causes unnecessary stress. Frequently they are addressed incorrectly, which also delays arrival. If no one is present at the moment of delivery, the student must make his/her way to the post office, which holds the package. The post office is frequently at some distance. Packages are also expensive to send.

Remember to bring a sufficient supply of any necessary prescription drugs for the entire semester. ALL MEDICINES WILL BE BLOCKED BY CUSTOMS AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RETRIEVE THEM.

MONEY MATTERS

It is a good idea to notify your bank that you will be abroad for an extended period. Some students find that access to their bank account via their ATM card is denied in Italy after several usages of it for purposes of security.

The Euro

The Euro is the official currency of Italy and the member states of the European Union. As the value of the Euro and Dollar fluctuate daily we suggest that you visit www.xe.com for up-to-date currency rates.

It is important to know your options for getting cash:

1) ATM Card

ATMs are the fastest and best method for obtaining cash and are located conveniently throughout Italy and the rest of Europe. *Please note: Students should check with their home bank to obtain information regarding international withdrawal fees. All receipts issued in Italy print out the Euro amount only and do not show the account balance. The student's home bank statement at the end of the month will show the daily rate of exchange*

2) **Travelers Checks** This is still the safest method for carrying large sums of money into a foreign country.

3) **Credit Cards** Visa and Master Card are accepted throughout Europe.

Planning Ahead

Students, on average, spend approximately \$150.00 per week for food, clothing, and entertainment. However, this is an estimate that can vary widely from student to student.

Good Travel Advice: Arrive with a small amount of euros, perhaps around

\$100.00 worth. Do not rely on changing money or finding ATM machines immediately upon arrival.

Receiving Money From Home

Please inform family members and friends of the following:

It is Not Recommended:

- To send cash;
- To send checks (personal checks cannot be cashed in Italy.);
- To wire money (unless there are emergencies.) Wiring Money includes costly transaction fees.

Recommended:

-Arrange for a family member or friend to deposit money directly into your bank account which you can access with an ATM card;
-American Express Gift Checks or Money Orders. These are efficient ways to send money as the family or friend can purchase a desired amount in check form and the AMEX check can be cashed here in Pescara.

Handling Your Affairs from Abroad

Students needing to sign documents, such as financial aid forms, should make arrangements for someone to be able to sign on their behalf, probably by means of a Limited Power of Attorney. Likewise, arrangements should be made for filing your U.S. tax forms.

HEALTH IN PESCARA, ITALY

Health and Insurance

All foreigners in Italy are required to have valid emergency health insurance. Students should pay the 40 Euro policy fee to the Questura in cash when they register for the *Permesso di Soggiorno* (see above). This health insurance will only cover emergency room visits (immediately following an accident or sudden illness) and immediate hospitalization.

Thus, all medical treatments, doctor's visits and medications **MUST** be paid for in cash at the time of treatment (Some doctors will accept credit card payments.) Your American health insurance may reimburse you for some expenses upon your return to the U.S. (Keep receipts of all payments for medicines and medical treatment while in Italy.)

Note: Be sure to plan ahead and create a budget for medical treatment and doctor's appointments. Extend your credit card limits so that you can be sure you will have the ability to cover any expenses encountered for treatment of common colds, flu, dental problems, etc.

If you take prescription medication for a chronic condition, you must bring sufficient medicine to last the semester. Medications such as Ritalin, Cylert, Adderall, Wellbutrin, Prozac, Paxil, Zoloft, etc., are not available in Italy. *Any prescription medication that you carry with you to Italy must be accompanied by your physician 's written description of the medical problem, the dose of the medication, and the generic name(s).*

Special Medical Needs

If you have any medical or psychological conditions that may require attention from a physician or psychiatrist during your stay in Italy, please be sure to have your physician/psychiatrist prepare an adequate summary of the details so you can be properly treated by a physician/psychiatrist in Italy. One copy of this summary should be carried with you to Italy; one copy should be left with a parent or guardian.

STUDENT HOUSING In Pescara, students are lodged either with a family or in other students' apartments.

Students board in comfortable private homes of reputable families in Pescara.

The rooms, as well as the families, are carefully reviewed and approved by the Resident Assistant Director. Each student apartment is different from the other, and, as mentioned, is also different from the housing students are accustomed to in the U.S. The available storage and living spaces may be smaller than in the U.S. Three daily meals are provided. Every effort will be made to place students with families close to transportation centers so that both the school and the center of town are easily accessible.

Students must remember that they are living either in a home or in an apartment and not in a dormitory on a U.S. campus. Students are responsible for conducting themselves as adults by observing certain housing policies: not accommodating overnight guests, keeping noise to a minimum and conserving utilities.

Flexibility and maximum consideration for your apartment mates, family and neighbors are essential to a successful and rewarding experience.

- There is a NO SMOKING policy in hosting homes and student apartments.

REGULATIONS

Guests

Please note that guests (family members, friends, current and past program participants) are *not* permitted to stay overnight in Institution housing. It is a violation of Italian law, which requires declaration, and documentation of all persons spending the night in any housing. In addition, if family or friends would like to visit in the apartments during the day, students must accompany them. Please note that if family or friends need to store luggage, they should inquire at the hotel where they are staying. No luggage can be stored, either in the hosting family home, or in the apartment.

Noise

Loud music, loud talking or shouting is not permitted. Respect for neighbors is fundamental. Italian laws concerning cases of disturbing the peace are very strict. Conduct at all times must be quiet and civil.

Alcohol

Alcohol consumption, other than wine with meals, will not be permitted in the apartments.

SAFETY AND SECURITY ABROAD

U.S. Consular Public Announcements: These are issued when there is a *perceived* threat of terrorist activity and they are meant to disseminate information about conditions, which may pose risks to the security of Americans.

You can access Consular information Sheets, Travel Warnings, Public Announcements and other helpful safety information by visiting www.travel.state.gov or by calling (202) 647-5225.

If your passport is lost or stolen you must notify the American Consulate immediately.

COMPUTERS

At the University, computers are available in the computer lab while Ethernet ports and Wireless Access Points are located in the reading room for laptops. Both the computer lab and reading room are available to students for academic work. **You will probably find it convenient to bring your own laptop computer. If bringing a laptop, confirm that it will work on European current.** To connect to the Ethernet ports (laptop hubs), you should bring an Ethernet cord with your laptop. To connect using wireless, you need to check that on your laptop there already exists a working wireless connection. Otherwise, you will need to purchase a wireless card. Internet access is not available in the apartments, but many internet points can be found throughout the city with late night hours.

PACKING

Luggage:

Always label suitcases and carry-on baggage with the address of destination.

Carefully check the luggage regulations of your airline carrier well before the departure date. **Remember to bring only the quantity of luggage that you can carry comfortably. Please note that connector flights from European airports (Milan, Rome, Paris, etc.) to Rome or Pescara are often much smaller and due to weight restrictions; as a result, some of the checked luggage will be sent on separate flights and may arrive several days AFTER your arrival.**

Carry-on Luggage-Pack the following:

- At least one change of clothing (see above)
- If you have one, a laptop computer
- Travel documents
- Medication (with physician's written description see "Health" section)
- Several passport photocopies and address of destination on the photocopies
- Personal toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, perfume/cologne, etc.): pack all liquids and shampoo/conditioners in plastic zip-lock bags
- An extra pair of contact lenses and/or glasses (if applicable)

What to Pack Other than Clothing:

- Over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol Cold and Flu, Advil, Thera-Flu, Robitussin and Benadryl
- Battery-operated alarm clock (required)
- Basic school supplies

What Not to Pack:

Do not bring electrical converters/adaptors. Most do not work in Italy.
The wattage and volts often do not convert correctly

and can damage the appliance or the apartment's electrical supply. **Do not bring items that plug in: Hairdryers, curling irons, etc.;** these appliances can be purchased in Pescara. **If bringing a Laptop or video camera that needs to be recharged, confirm that it will work on European current. Do not purchase any international phone cards from home or airport — Most do not work in Italy.** International phone cards should be purchased only from within Italy. Some, but not all, U.S. 800 numbers will work in Italy by changing 800 to 880. **Do not bring VALUABLES.** It is not recommended to bring valuable jewelry while studying abroad.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In addition to the excursions scheduled, Pescara offers a variety of lectures, festivals, art exhibitions, concerts, and museums. Other trips and visits will be scheduled throughout the year on an optional basis. These activities will enable students to enjoy the culture of Italy and especially of Pescara.