

GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE  
REVES CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY



ROME AND POMPEII SUMMER  
HANDBOOK

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# WILLIAM & MARY

## ROME 2018

This handbook offers guidelines that we hope you will find useful in making your preparations and while studying in Rome and Pompeii. Please read the handbook carefully before your departure and **bring it with you** to Italy. The program policies are included, along with lists of important items to bring with you, tips for handling your money, and precautions for safeguarding your health and belongings. In an effort to serve you best, the material in this handbook is edited each year and contains the latest information available to assist you in preparing for your trip. While we do our best to provide you with the most accurate information, inevitably some changes may take place and we will need to make adjustments. Your program liaison and the Reves Center will keep you informed of any changes.

# HANDY INFORMATION

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS IN ROME

Date	Holiday	Description
<b>First Sunday in June</b>	Festa della Repubblica	Military parade centers on Via dei Fori Imperiali
<b>Late June</b>	Saints Peter and Paul Day	Solemn masses are held at St. Peter's Basilica and elsewhere to honor the important religious holiday
<b>Late June</b>	Pesaro Film Festival	Also known as the International Exhibition of New Cinema, showcasing works of new directions and old from many countries

## AVERAGE MIN/MAX TEMPERATURES IN ROME (°F)

January	February	March	April	May	June
46/56	45/56	43/62	51/69	56/79	66/87
July	August	September	October	November	December
70/91	71/92	63/77	56/71	51/65	45/56

## TIME ZONE COMPARISON: ROME IS 6 HOURS AHEAD OF VIRGINIA

Pacific (US)	Mountain (US)	Central (US)	Eastern (US)	Rome, IT
5:00am	6:00am	7:00am	8:00am	2:00 pm (14:00)
1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm	10:00 pm (22:00)
9:00pm	10:00pm	11:00pm	Midnight	6:00 am (next day)

# OVERVIEW, DATES, AND MONEY

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Fees:** \$6,175
- **Program Director:** Professor Barbette Spaeth, Associate Professor of Classical Studies. Email is [bsspae@wm.edu](mailto:bsspae@wm.edu).
- **Accommodations:** Housing and excursion logistics are provided by institutional partners. Most meals are included, including bag lunches during days of site visits. Students will be housed in dormitory-style rooms at the Villa Vergiliana in the Bay of Naples area and at the Centro in Rome, and in double rooms in a hotel at Pompeii

## PROGRAM DATES

- Arrive June 1 – Depart June 22, 2018

## ONE CREDIT SPRING COURSE

Students will be automatically enrolled in a one credit pre-course after the spring semester has begun. During the course, we will answer questions and help you understand what to expect, as well as how to prepare for your program. Dates and times are to be determined by the Program Director and the participants.

## MONEY

*A note on currency: Regardless of the level of financial resources you may have available for your period of study abroad, all students share the same need to have quick access to their funds and, at the same time, to have their money protected against loss. The currency of Italy is the Euro (€) and is equivalent to the US dollar at a rate of approximately: \$1 US = 0.84€ Euros or €1 = \$1.18 USD (as of November 2017). You can check the current exchange rates on the web at <http://www.xe.com/ucc> or in the financial section of a large city newspaper.*

# VISA INFORMATION AND BUDGETING

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Visa**
  - According to the Italian Consulate, because you are studying for less than 90 days in Italy, you are considered a tourist by the Italian government. Therefore, you are not eligible for a student visa. Please be advised, however, that if you are asked by immigration/custom officers at the airport for your intent of visit, you must tell them you are a tourist.

## BUDGET

- Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste/extravagance and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. For basic expenditures in Rome (some meals and incidentals) we recommend about 450 per week, for the Bay of Naples area (where all meals are covered), we recommend 200 per week. Naturally, if you plan to do a significant amount of shopping and/or traveling, you should budget accordingly.
- If you plan to travel before or after the program, study your guidebooks carefully to get a sense of the cost of intercity transportation, reasonably priced hotels and restaurants in the cities you plan to visit. Check with your student travel agency for good prices on rail travel passes to use for personal travel. For trains in Italy, check <http://www.trenitalia.com/>.

## Study Abroad Program Worksheet for Rome (1 USD=0.84 EUR)

The following price categories such as eating, living, and traveling should be used as a guideline.

Expenses:	Amount:	When due:	Paid to W&M?	Paid out of pocket?
Program Fee	\$6175	Deposit March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Balance April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yes	
Airfare	\$1800			Yes
Meals (Included in program fee are breakfast and dinner on weekdays and one weekend and some excursion meals)	ca. \$900			Yes
Study Abroad Application fee	\$75		Yes	

Visa, passport, photos	N/A	Prior to beginning of program		Yes
Books & supplies	100			
Misc./Personal	\$600			Yes
<b>Total</b>	\$9650			
<b>Eating</b>	<b>Items</b>		<b>Average Price</b>	<b>Price Range</b>
	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant		\$20.00	\$14.04 - \$20.02
	Take out pizza		\$8.67	\$6.67 - \$10.68
	Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter can) restaurant price		\$2.67	
	Water(1.5 liter bottle)		\$0.70	\$0.60 - \$1.20
	Milk (regular), 1 liter		\$1.93	\$1.68 - \$1.99
	Cappuccino (regular)		\$1.60	\$1.55 - \$2.67
<b>Living</b>	Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat		\$10.00 -11.00	
	1 min. of Prepaid Mobile (monthly)		\$0.25	
<b>Traveling</b>	<b>Transportation Methods</b>		<b>Average Price</b>	
	One-way Ticket (local transport)		\$1.60	
	Monthly Pass ( Regular Price)		\$ 46.70	
	Taxi Rates		Taxi Start: \$4.40 Taxi 1km: \$1.19 Taxi 1hour Waiting: \$31.50	

<b>Funding Sources:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	<b>When Available:</b>
Scholarship(s)		Varies by deadline, Reves scholarships will reduce your total balance due. You will find out if you've been awarded a Reves scholarship by the end of February.
Financial Aid (Loans, grants, through W&M)		First day of classes on campus or the first day of the summer program, whichever is <b>LATER</b> .
Savings		
Parental/Guardian support		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		

# PACKING

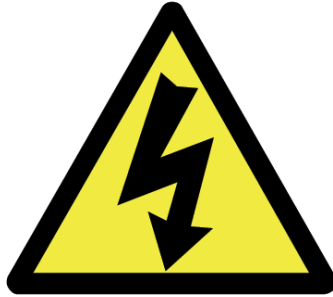
## PACKING TIPS

- **General**
  - Do not bring any items of sentimental value that you couldn't bear to lose.
- **Luggage**
  - **Pack only what you can carry by yourself up 2-3 flights of stairs, or walk with for relatively long distances.** A wheeled duffel bag or suitcase plus a generous tote or backpack for weekend travel should suffice. Returning students recommend that your carry-on be a backpack rather than a handheld bag if you plan to do any extra traveling.
  - Do not pack valuables in your checked luggage.
  - Put address labels and contact information inside and outside each piece of luggage.
  - Pack medications in your carry-on luggage.
  - Pack all sharp objects securely in your checked baggage.
  - Pack all liquids in plastic bags to avoid leakage during travel.
  - Place your camera in your carry-on. If you take film, carry it in a lead-lined travel pouch (available at camera stores).
  - Put TSA-approved locks on all of your luggage so that it can be opened without the lock or bag being destroyed.
- **Clothes**
  - Bring easy care clothing items that are lightweight, drip dry, and wrinkle-proof such as knits, permanent press and cotton clothes.
  - Pack clothes you can mix and match so as to give your wardrobe as much variety without having to pack as much.
  - Bring clothes that you can layer for various temperatures.
  - Do not bring clothes that immediately mark you as 'foreign' – avoid items with obvious phrases in English, or other symbols that will immediately mark your outsider status.
  - For women, bring clothes that are relatively "modest" for the Naples area, or you may draw unwelcome remarks or advances.
  - Bring shoes that are closed toe and have non-slip rugged soles for walking around archaeological sites.
  - Bring a hat and sun-glasses for the bright sun on archaeological sites.
  - Roll clothes instead of folding them; you will fit more in the bag, and have fewer wrinkles upon arrival.
  - Choose clothing that is easy to keep clean and can be washed and dried at the laundry facilities at the Centro in Rome (though Italian dryers are not worth the money – it is far better to air-dry your clothing). **Plan to bring enough clothing with you to the Bay of Naples area that you won't need to do laundry during that part of the program.**
  - **Please note:** It is necessary for you to have one pair of long pants or one skirt that comes below the knee and, if most of your tops are sleeveless, a shawl to cover your shoulders. You might otherwise be refused entry into some of the churches you might visit or the Vatican compound, which



have strict dress codes. You should plan on bringing one dress outfit for travel to theater, special events, etc.

*For more tips, please consult the Summer Study Abroad Manual, as well as the “Know Before You Go” section of this handbook.*



### **AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON ELECTRICITY IN ROME**

Electricity in Italy is 220 volts, 50 cycles alternating current (AC). For comparison, in the United States it is 110 volts, 60 cycle AC current.

If you plan on using your own 110-volt appliances, you will need a voltage converter, unless your appliance is designed to also work with 220 volts electricity (dual voltage). For example, most laptop and camera chargers are designed to work both at 110 and 220 volts. **Plugging in an appliance that is not designed to run on 220 volts electricity without using voltage converter will most likely kill it and may cause fire!**

Regardless of voltage, if your appliance has flat prongs, you will need a plug adapter: Italian sockets are designed to accept round prongs. Do get one before your leave!

As a matter of fact, Italian plugs can be of two different sizes. Some sockets will take in the plugs with large prongs only, some other will take in the ones with small prongs (more common for small appliances; large prongs are used for demanding appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines). Some sockets of older vintage will take a three-pronged plug. Regardless of prong size, **the outlets all produce 220 volts!**



# TRAVELING TO ITALY

**NOTE:** You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to Rome and back to the U.S.

## **AIRPORT ARRIVAL**

Transportation from the airport to your accommodations **will be available if you arrive within the specified time frame on the designated arrival day.**

The Program Director will discuss more information about travel to Italy at your student orientation. Please schedule your travel so as to arrive on the morning of June 1<sup>st</sup>. (As flights from the U.S. to Europe are overnight, this means leaving the U.S. on the evening of May 31<sup>st</sup>). The program officially ends June 22<sup>nd</sup> (i.e. you will need to leave by that date or make arrangements for your own housing for that night and beyond). If you plan to stay in Rome after the conclusion of the program, you will be responsible for organizing and incurring all additional housing and food costs. You have no commitments to the program on the day of June 22.

## **Don't forget to call or email home!**

As soon as possible following your arrival, remember to call or email your family to let them know you have arrived safely. This will not only save them from worry, but also help the Reeves Center and the program director from receiving panicked phone calls regarding your whereabouts.

# COURSEWORK

While in Rome, students will visit a number of important sites, including the Roman Forum and all of its monuments, as well as various imperial fora, catacombs, the ancient port of Ostia, and the Tiber Island. They will also have the opportunity to visit several museums, including the Vatican Museum. While in the Bay of Naples, they will visit numerous additional sites, such as Cumae, Herculaneum, Paestum and the remarkable remains of the ancient city of Pompeii.

For this program, students will take a four credit course entitled “The Ancient City” (CLCV 498) where they will visit archaeological sites, and study monuments and works of art of classical antiquity in their original setting; they will also take a two credit course entitled “Undergraduate Research Abroad in Classical Studies” (CLCV 494), for which they will prepare and give two on-site presentations of a particular site, monument or work of art.

Courses	
<b>CLCV 489: The Ancient City</b>	Instructor: Professor Spaeth (4 credits)
<b>CLCV 494: Undergraduate Research Abroad in Classical Studies</b>	(2 credits) Instructor: Professor Spaeth

# EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES



Photo courtesy of Dr. John Donahue

## EXCURSIONS

This program in many ways is a 3-week excursion. Students will visit archaeological sites and museums throughout Rome and many additional ones in the Bay of Naples area. More specific information about excursions will be provided to students by the program director.

## GUIDEBOOKS

Consider purchasing a travel guidebook prior to leaving the United States to help you make personal travel plans. These can be purchased at bookstores like Barnes & Noble, or online. Some guidebook publishers include:

- Blue Guide  
<http://www.blueguides.com/>
- Eyewitness Travel Guide  
(<https://www.traveldk.com/destinations/europe/italy/rome/sights/>)
- Fodor's (<http://www.fodors.com>)
- Let's Go (<http://www.lets-go.com>)
- Lonely Planet (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>)
- Rick Steves' Books  
([http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update\\_menu.htm](http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update_menu.htm))

# HOUSING AND MEALS

## **HOUSING**

Housing and excursion logistics are provided by institutional partners. Most meals are included, including bag lunches during days of site visits. Students will be housed in hotels or in dormitories.

## **MEALS**

Most meals are included, except on weekends in Rome and on the day off in the Naples area

**Note:** In keeping with the policy of the W&M Office of Residence Life, the Reves Center does not offer housing for the family of any students participating in W&M-sponsored study abroad programs. Also, family members or friends may not participate in any program activities or excursions. If you have family or friends who want to visit you while abroad it is recommended they do so after the completion of the program.

# COMMUNICATION

## ONLINE

Whether you take a laptop is entirely up to you, but do keep in mind the issues of security and luggage weight. You will have access to a computer room at the Centro in Rome which will have internet-enabled computers. There are also internet cafés throughout Rome which will allow you to purchase internet by the hour (this may be your best option for email). In the Bay of Naples area, there may be some Internet access at the accommodations, but it will likely be much less accessible, and internet cafés will also be hard to come by. You may wish to bring an e-reader or a tablet to have certain course materials with you in electronic form, or you will need to print them out and bring them with you.

## LANDLINE PHONES

Public phones in Italy accept coins, credit cards and/or prepaid phone cards (by far the most widely accepted means of payment). Even local calls are timed in Italy, though they are not expensive. Students have had difficulty in the past using prepaid cards bought in the U.S.; it is wise to wait and purchase your international prepaid card in Italy, as they are widely available and are inexpensive.

## CELL PHONES

The Reves Center provides cell phone for all participants for the duration of the program.

### PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

See the “Handy Information” section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

**Calling Rome from the United States:** Dial 011+ 39 +city/area code + phone number.

**Calling the United States from Rome:** Dial 00-1+area code + phone number.

### Emergency Contacts:

Police: 113

Medical Emergencies: 118

Fire: 115

Carabinieri: 112

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## IMMUNIZATION

Although it is no longer necessary to have smallpox immunization to re-enter the USA after international travel and no special health precautions are necessary for travel to Italy and/ or Western Europe, students are encouraged to consider updating standard immunizations against meningitis and tetanus. For current information concerning recommended protection against communicable diseases for those planning to travel abroad, you may check the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/italy.htm> If you prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at 757-220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.

## STAYING WELL/GETTING SICK

For the duration of the program, the program director and the on-site staff at each location are always available to assist students in obtaining medical care. Useful information on preparing for medical emergencies before you go abroad is provided at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go.html>.

Good health care is readily available in Italy and there are a number of English-speaking doctors in Rome. For minor concerns such as colds and stomach upsets, Italian pharmacists are trained to recommend treatments. You will be provided with extensive information regarding health care in Rome and Pompeii during your on-site orientation.

You will find that many American over-the-counter medications are available in Italy, but at much higher prices than in the US. By contrast, Italian products recommended by the local pharmacist may be much less expensive than equivalents in an American pharmacy.



# TRAVEL & COUNTRY INFORMATION

We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. The State Department has important information available online. Be sure to read up on Italian history, culture, and current events before your arrival, as well. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will make you more comfortable during your time in the country.

We strongly recommend that you register your travel plans with the U.S. State Department at this website:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

This will help the State Department contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. On this website you can find information ranging from geographic and political descriptions of the country, to special health and safety announcements.

# ROME



**ROME** is the capital of Italy and the country's largest and most populated city and commune, with over 2.7 million residents in 1,285.3 km<sup>2</sup> (496.3 sq mi). Rome's metropolitan area is the second largest in Italy (after Milan), with some 3.7 million residents. The city is located in the central-western portion of the Italian Peninsula, on the Tiber River within the Lazio region of Italy.

Rome's history spans over two and a half thousand years. It was the capital city of the Roman Kingdom, the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire, which was the dominant power in Western Europe and the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea for over seven hundred years from the 1st century BC until the 7th century AD. Since the 1st century AD Rome has been the seat of the Papacy and, after the end of Byzantine domination, in the 8th century it became the capital of the Papal States, which lasted until 1870. In 1871 Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1946 that of the Italian Republic.

After the Middle-Ages, Rome was ruled by popes such as Alexander VI and Leo X, who transformed the city into one of the major centers of the Italian Renaissance, along with Florence. The current-day version of St Peter's Basilica was built and the Sistine Chapel was painted by Michelangelo. Famous artists and architects, such as Bramante, Bernini and Raphael resided for some time in Rome, contributing to its Renaissance and Baroque architecture.

In 2007 Rome was the 11th-most-visited city in the world, 3rd most visited in the European Union, and the most popular tourist attraction in Italy. The city is one of Europe's and the world's most successful city brands, both in terms of reputation and assets. Its historic center is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Monuments and museums such as the Vatican Museums and the Colosseum are amongst the world's 50 most visited tourist destinations (the Vatican Museums receiving 4.2 million tourists and the Colosseum receiving 4 million tourists every year).

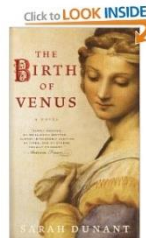
# FOR FUN: LIGHT READING AND MOVIES

Following are a few books regarding Italy. Check them out, or consider looking for other books to put you in an Italy mood prior to – or during – your time abroad. Don't worry; you won't be tested on them!

## BOOKS



**EATING UP ITALY**  
By Matthew Fort



**THE BIRTH OF VENUS**  
By Sarah Dunant

## MOVIES



**LA DOLCE VITA**



**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL**



**CINEMA PARADISO**



**UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Will I need a visa?**

A visa for study is not required. According to the current guidelines, you do not need a student visa if studying for less than 90 days. If asked upon arrival, you are a tourist for visa purposes. Only a valid passport is required.

## **What airport will I fly into? Do all W&M students travel together on the same flights?**

Please refer to the section in this handbook on “Traveling to Italy” for specific information. W&M students do not necessarily take the same flight. However if you wish to travel with other students you can arrange communicate through Blackboard or Facebook.

## **Can I arrive earlier or stay longer than the program dates?**

Yes, you may but you will be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. You will **NOT** be able to stay in the housing provided during the program.

## **If my family or friends visit, may they stay with me?**

No, they will need to make their own arrangements for accommodations. Please advise your program director if you expect family or friends to visit you during the program.

## **Am I required to participate in all excursions provided by the program?**

Yes, unless your program director says otherwise. The excursions are essential to the program and course-work.

## **Will I need to seek post approval for the courses I take?**

No, all of the courses offered in the W&M faculty-led summer programs have already been approved.

## **Will my grades be posted on my transcript?**

Yes, the grades you receive will be posted on your W&M transcript and will be calculated into your GPA.

## **Can I take class pass/fail?**

No, this is not an option.

## **Do I need to take my own sheets and towels?**

You will be staying in pre-arranged lodging arranged by our third party assistants. Towels and bed linens will be provided. Although, if you plan to travel on your own and stay in hostels, it is suggested to bring your own thin towel and sheet.

## **Will my study-abroad facility have a fitness center/gym for student use?**

There is a limited amount of fitness equipment at the Centro in Rome, although its availability is uncertain. You will be walking quite a bit, so you may not need additional fitness equipment.

## **How much spending money will I need?**

That varies on your normal spending habits, especially in regards to eating meals out and how much shopping you like to do. Former students have indicated they spent on average between \$500-1,600 during the program. Most students reported spending \$1,000 or more, but again this depends on your personal spending habits. Former students **DO NOT** recommend traveler's checks. They recommend carrying some cash and your credit or debit card.

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## ADDITIONAL TIPS FROM PAST STUDENTS

### VISAS

- If you are asked by immigration/custom Because you are studying for less than 90 days in Italy, you are considered a tourist by the Italian government.

### MONEY

- Be sure to call your bank and put a travel notice on your debit AND credit cards. Otherwise, purchases and withdrawals may be declined due to suspected fraud.
- Discuss with your bank the fees associated with international transactions and withdrawals. The bank may be able to inform you of a partner bank in Italy that you can use to withdrawal cash and avoid fees.
- Most students reported they spent approximately \$500 on personal expenses. You will be responsible for weekend meals as well as drinks for daily excursions.”
- “If you want to explore Rome on your own, keep in mind most museums and tourist attractions require tickets.”

### PACKING SMART

- It can get very hot in Italy, so be sure to have summer clothes. Occasionally you get a cool, rainy day, though, so take along an umbrella or rain poncho.
- Italians tend to dress up more than Americans; they usually wear shorts only when exercising or going to the beach, so if you want to blend in, you may wish to plan your wardrobe accordingly.
- “Bring a small backpack or duffel for day trips. You will need to carry your lunch each morning and it is helpful to put it in a bag. You will also want to carry a textbook, water and camera.”
- A good way to keep a copy of your passport “with you” at all times is to scan your passport and email it to yourself. Access to your passport, therefore, will be possible at any computer with internet access.
- Wear comfortable and light colored shirts, which are cooler in the sun.
- “We didn’t really need fancy clothes for theaters or restaurants. I had brought heels that I didn’t use.”
- “Bring a swimsuit and towel –otherwise you will have to pay extra at beaches to sit on chairs. Sunscreen is expensive (equiv of \$27 for one tube) so bring from the States.”
- “I picked up a USB/camera memory card for 5E so that I could upload pictures to my e-mail and blog easily without having to upload them all to Facebook or Centro computers.”
- “If you wear contact lenses, bring at least two pairs.”

### PREPARE YOURSELF

- “I didn’t bring my laptop and didn’t miss it. The Centro has a great computer lab, Villa Vergilana has an ancient slow computer that is fine for checking e-mail”

- “Pizza is eaten with a fork and knife, even though very thin. Drink through a glass or straw never through a soda bottle or can. “
- “You have to pay extra to sit down at cafes; the norm is to stand and drink your espresso”
- “If you want to linger at a café, wait to pay until right before you leave. Just because the waiter brings the bill doesn’t mean you have to pay yet. “
- “Pasta is typically the first-course, but no one really says anything if that is all you order.”
- “The 64 bus (from the train station to the Vatican) is full of tourists and therefore pickpockets.” Beware!

## TRAVEL

- “Most of our time was spent at archaeological sites or in museums, and we didn’t interact with ‘local culture’ too much.” “We experienced the community by dining out and riding public transportation.
- Places to visit in Rome:
  - Trevi Fountain
  - Vatican Museums
  - Colosseum
  - The Pantheon
  - Palatine Hill
  - Spanish Steps,
  - Borghese Gardens
  - Villa Doria Pamphili
  - Piazza Navona
  - Campo de’ Fiori

## LIVING

- Buy water in bulk as the tap water is full of calcium and tastes very different.
- “The housing in Italy was convenient and good because they included meals and sack lunches. I thought that the staff showed us about modern Italians and how they lived, a positive experience.”
- “The staff at all the places we stayed were extremely friendly and even when unsure of what you were asking, still did their best to help.”

## COMMUNICATION

- Skype is the best way to stay in touch with family and friends back home.

## ITALIAN CULTURE

- Italians are rarely punctual for meetings or appointments, meaning that they usually commence 15 min. after the scheduled time. Italians typically work fewer hours than Americans per day and their schedule is far more flexible.
- Italians are far less sensitive about personal space as are Americans and you might feel as though they are invading your comfort zone. What Americans would feel to be an acceptable distance might seem like you are being cold or distant towards an Italian. Also, Italians often touch each other while they are verbally communicating.
- In daily life, Italians augment verbal communication by pronounced gesturing and frequent facial expressions in order to add liveliness to speech. Watch for “talking hands” and “flying arms!”
- Italians are usually happy to be engaged in small talk about weather/artwork and conversations focused on complimenting their region/country. Family and work are generally safe topics for conversation although they don’t take it lightly when foreigners are critical of their surroundings.
- Italian humor that can come across as being very cynical or sarcastic. You could feel that they are laughing at you; just don’t take it to heart.
- Public displays of affection are commonplace. Kissing on both cheeks as a form of greeting is normal.
- Social structure is often defined by what area of Italy you come from, with the South being poorer and the North being more prosperous. Be careful to tread lightly when discussing different regions of Italy as Italians have strong opinions about differing regions of their country.
- The most common way to establish a more personal relationship with an Italian is to invite them to coffee or lunch.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## REVES CENTER CONTACTS

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

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\*To call the U.S. from abroad: 001+ (Area Code) + phone number

## ADDRESSES AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ITALIAN LODGINGS:

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