

What classes are offered in Florence?

- ITAL-1000 Beginning Italian I (4 credits)
- ITAL-1020 Beginning Italian II (4)
- ITAL-3000 Europe in the Middle Ages (3). Fulfills Historical Perspective and Aesthetic Experience requirements.
- 3-credit class that depends on the faculty member that will teach in Italy that semester.
In Spring 2019 Dr. Matthew Ramage will be teaching a Theology class.
GNST-3000 International Study Reflection and Practicum (1)

Total credit hours: 15

When should I apply?

At the beginning of the semester prior to the one you want to go. You have to pay the \$750 deposit at the Business Office by the application deadline (February 28 when you apply for the fall and September 30 when you apply for the spring).

How to apply?

A link to the online application form is available at www.benedictine.edu/florence. Applications are accepted starting from the first day of school in the semester before the one you plan to go. In addition to completing and submitting the online form you have to pay a \$750 fee at the Business Office (located in STB 3rd floor). You can pay the fee online using the student billing platform.

When will I know if I have been accepted into the program?

Students are notified if they are accepted about a week after the deadline, and anyway before registration starts. The specific date is indicated in the application packet.

How many people are accepted into the program every semester?

The maximum capacity is currently 50 students.

What are the selection criteria if you receive more than 50 applications?

As long as you apply and pay within the deadline the timing is not a selection factor. Selection criteria include seniority in college, majors that require study abroad or have restrictions on the semester when students can go abroad, GPA, business office and student life record (not on probation and no big or recent disciplinary issues). Programs of Distinction participants (Presidential, Honors, Gregorian) have some priority in the fall.

Will I get the deposit back if I am not accepted? What about if I withdraw?

You will get the \$750 back if you are not accepted. If you withdraw after you have been accepted for the program, you will get the refund only if your spot is filled by another student. If this doesn't happen, the college will consider the possibility to refund all or part of the deposit if the withdrawal is due to serious reasons that are beyond the student's control. You can also choose to roll the payment over to the next semester in case you intend to apply again.

What is the cost to attend the program?

This is a list of program costs that will help students estimate their budget for the semester in Florence.

- Tuition, Room and Board - Regular Benedictine College tuition for a semester. Room cost is based on an Elizabeth Hall room, and meals on a full meal plan. All scholarships apply.

- Administrative study abroad fee – Non-refundable fee of \$2,000 paid in two payments (\$750 when you apply, and \$1,250 after you have been accepted).
- Airfare - Cost depends on the airline and varies over time.
- Platinum iNext Card – Students pay \$90 for the Travel Medical Insurance coverage. The \$90 will be charged to the student account. The card is valid for a year. Visit [here](#) for more information
- Books - for the class taught by the BC faculty, if required. (You don't need to buy books for the other classes).
- Laundry - Washing: € 3.5 per load. Drying: €2.5 per load.
- Telephone - Consider buying prepaid international calling cards or renting/buying a local cell phone.
- Two meals on weekends - Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch are not covered by the meal plan at Villa Morghen.
- Local transportation - when not on site visit with class. Cost of local transportation in Florence is € 1.2 for a 90 minute ticket. Monthly bus passes in Florence cost € 35.
- Personal expenses - The total amount of money for personal expenses largely depends on the lifestyle you choose. In particular, consider if you are planning to:
 - Travel before or after the program, as well as during weekends (trips to Italian cities by train are relatively inexpensive, trips to European destinations are more expensive, however, you can find excellent opportunities by flying with low-cost airlines like Ryanair)
 - Buy souvenirs for family and friends (including wine, food, clothes, etc.)
 - Spend on meals and entertainment during weekends.

Students in previous semesters have indicated that their total personal budget was in a range between \$1,500 to \$4,000.

What is the \$2,000 fee on?

The Administrative Study Abroad Fee covers costs that the college sustains to run the program, including higher housing cost, faculty travel, faculty and staff room and board, etc.

What's the room cost for the Florence Trip?

Housing cost for AY 2018-2019: \$3,125.

Is there a typical/average budget that most students can use for personal expenses and non-covered meals while on the trip?

Personal budget depends on personal spending habits and travel plans. Students in previous semesters have indicated that their budget ranged between \$1,500 to \$4,000.

Are there additional medical insurance and other insurances that need to be purchased? If so, what are they and the approximate cost for the premiums?

The iNext Premium Insurance covers all insurance needs.

Will we have information meetings before we leave?

Students accepted into the program will have to attend three orientation meetings. They will also be provided with a detailed handbook.

When should I buy the plane ticket?

After the first orientation meeting, where you will be given the information you need to buy your plane ticket.

How do most students pay for personal expenses while on the trip? Do they use debit or credit cards or other methods?

Students can withdraw cash from ATMs with their debit card and also use their credit card for purchases. Full information will be given during orientation.

What day do they leave for Florence? Do the students travel together? Does BC make their flight arrangements? Do they leave from Kansas City?

Students fly on their own leaving from the airport that is more convenient to them. Often students associate to travel in small groups, some of them decide to visit other countries before getting to the program location by the start of the semester. Information on how to get to destination will be given during orientation.

The program starts after the start of the semester on the main campus and ends before the end of the semester. Do the students stay on campus in Atchison before and after the trip?

Students leave from and return to their home. No need to go to Atchison for that semester.

My parents are planning on visiting me in Italy during the program. Are there things they should consider when making their travel plans?

The best period to visit is during breaks or weekends. We don't encourage visiting while students have class and school commitments. Benedictine College does not allow family members and friends of students participating in the Semester in Italy Program to stay at Villa Morghen during the program, except for Spring/Fall break.