

TRAVEL & LIVING GUIDE

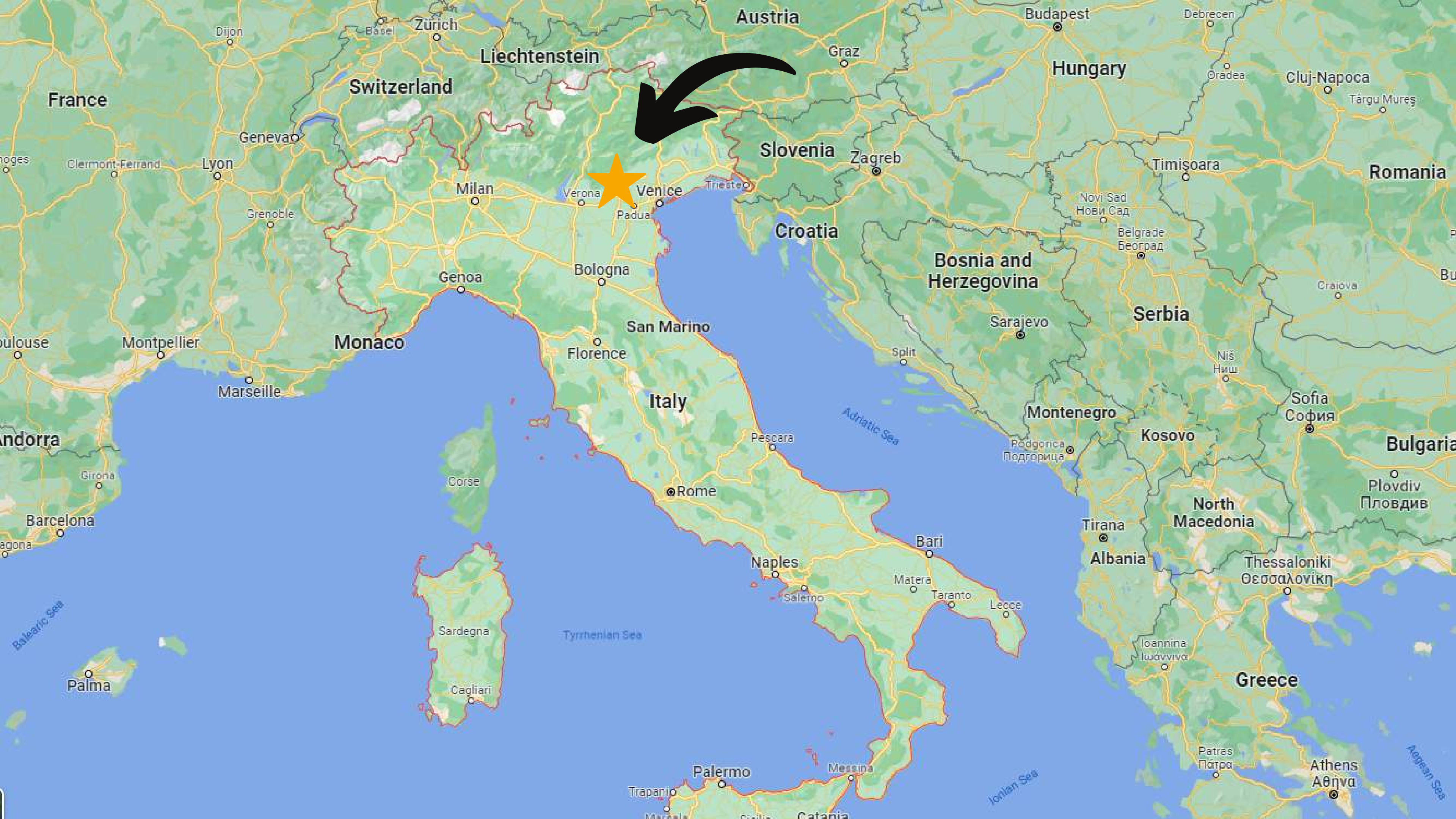


CIMBA ITALY

INTRODUCTION

You're going to Italy! This guide will serve as a helpful companion both prior to your departure and while traveling and living in Italy. Here you will find an overview of transportation, food, culture, housing, academics...all of it! Think of the guide as a more in-depth version of your predeparture orientation. Keep the link handy throughout your travels (and download it to read on the plane!) and you will find it to be a vital resource throughout your experience.





CONTACT INFO

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PLANNING CHECKLIST

2-4 MONTHS BEFORE ITALY

- Obtain a passport (note even expedited passports are 7-9 weeks out! Book early)
- Non-US citizens (if applicable) begin visa application process
- Search for flights
- Look at travel backpacks
- Practice Italian with an app
- Research Italy and the Veneto
- Turn in required forms to CIMBA and your school
- Meet with your advisor if you haven't already!
- Apply for scholarships through CIMBA [here](#)

1 MONTH BEFORE ITALY

- Notify banks and credit card companies of travel abroad
- Make copies of all credit and debit cards, your CDC vaccine card, and your passport. Save these to the cloud and make sure someone at home also has access
- Make sure you have Venmo, WhatsApp, Messenger, DuoPush, and Google Maps Offline apps
- Review CIMBA packing guide
- Turn in all CIMBA forms

2 WEEKS BEFORE ITALY

- Turn in any remaining forms to CIMBA and your school
- Print your CISI insurance card as proof of insurance (it's emailed to your UI account)
- International students: If you need a visa, you should have one by now. If you have not received it, contact CIMBA asap
- Start thinking about packing your bags!



BEFORE YOU LEAVE: PASSPORTS AND VISAS



Passports and Visas

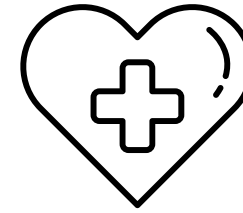
All participants are required to have a valid passport. Obtaining a passport takes time, so you should start the process as soon as possible. U.S. passport applications are generally available by appointment at your local post office. If you have any questions about this process, please refer to: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html> or your post office. Wait times are currently 7-9 weeks for expedited and 9-12 weeks for regular service. Plan early!

NOTE: If you currently have a passport, it must be valid at least 6 months after your planned return to the U.S. If it will expire within 6 months of your return, you must renew your passport before departure. Italian study visas are not required for U.S. citizens for study abroad programs that are less than 90 days. Both semester and summer CIMBA undergraduate programs are less than 90 days, so U.S. citizens participating in CIMBA do not need a visa. You will be allowed to stay in Italy and the Schengen area for up to 90 days maximum.

***Participants holding passports from countries other than the U.S. should check with the nearest Italian Consulate to determine whether they need a visa to enter Italy. Requirements vary from country to country and from Consulate to Consulate within a country. Upon entry into the Schengen Area, present the visa to the customs official. Normally, the customs official stamps your passport with your date of entry, and, if your visa document is a multi-part form, the customs official will take one copy.

***If you hold a non-U.S. passport and need help getting a visa, please contact the U.S. CIMBA office in Iowa. Students who are a part of the European Community do not need a passport or visa to study in Italy.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE: HEALTH



Health and Vaccinations

You do not need any special vaccinations to travel in Italy or within the European Union (EU). However, we suggest that you talk with your doctor about any recommendations for vaccinations. You will also need to be mindful of different COVID-related rules for entry to other countries and to Italy, including the COVID-19 vaccine. Do your research! If you take medications, please bring enough medication in its original packaging to last the duration of the program. Some of the same treatments are available in Italy, but many are not. Note that several medications for ADHD are classed as hard drugs in Italy and you will need special documentation. If you have special medical conditions, please share them with our staff on the “medical forms” so that we can be better prepared to support you, if needed. There is an on-campus nurse who can help with minor health issues. There may be an additional fee for any medications or supplies dispensed by the nurse.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is provided for all students by Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) through the University of Iowa while traveling abroad. CISI is included in your tuition costs and may not be waived. This insurance meets the Italian requirement that all students studying abroad have health insurance. The CISI plan is designed specifically for students traveling abroad. In addition to providing health insurance, the plan covers medical evacuation, repatriation, and security evacuations, if necessary. Unlike many domestic insurance plans, the CISI plan will pay 100% of covered expenses without requiring a deductible.

***Be sure to print your CISI insurance card prior to departure as proof of insurance, and keep it with you for the duration of your trip. It can also be accessed online. In addition to the above, the Team Assist Plan was designed by CISI in conjunction with the Assistance Company to provide travelers with a worldwide, 24-hour emergency telephone assistance service. Multi-lingual help and advice may be furnished for the insured in the event of any emergency during the term of coverage. For a more detailed description of benefits, or if you would like to purchase extended coverage for personal travel, visit the CISI website: <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/>. You can read more about the UI's CISI policy [here](#).

LIVING IN ITALY

Culture Shock:

Living abroad can be a very exciting and rewarding experience. However, it can also be stressful! The single biggest source of stress for most people is the language factor and the inability to communicate what you want to say. We highly recommend you grab a pocket guide, or use an app like DuoLingo, and learn some basics of the Italian language before you arrive to reduce the communication barriers. You are going to encounter new things, new people, and a new environment. After you first arrive, everything will be new and exciting. However, do not be surprised if you feel down, sad, or homesick for a portion of your stay. Adjusting to a new culture can take time. Be patient. Know that feeling this way is completely natural. Our staff will be happy to chat with you if you want someone to talk to about how you are feeling. Another way to help alleviate some of these feelings is to learn about the environment in which you will be living. We recommend the following article to learn more about the Veneto region:

<https://www.wanderingitaly.com/maps/veneto.html>.

Foreign Law:

You must abide by the specific laws of the country you are visiting. Laws vary from the ones in the U.S., but you are not excused from following them. Please be aware of the common laws of the countries that you plan to visit. Be particularly mindful of involvement with drugs. Drug use will not be tolerated at the program facility. Additionally, drug laws in other countries vary and tend to be much more severe than they are in the U.S. If you encounter serious problems, American embassies and/or consulates can offer some assistance. They can provide you with a list of local attorneys and physicians, contact friends or family on your behalf to request funds or guidance, and provide assistance during civil unrest or natural disaster. Embassies cannot cash personal checks, arrange for free medical or legal services, provide bail or get you out of jail, or act as couriers or interpreters.



FLIGHT DETAILS

Airfare

The first listed calendar day of the program is when you arrive on campus, not the start of classes. You won't be able to arrive on campus earlier. Your final exams and checkout on the last calendar day of the program go until about 2pm, so you will likely need to find accommodation that evening and fly home the following day.

Before you make your flight arrangements, have a rough idea of your travel plans. Get a map of Europe and start to plan where you might want to go besides campus. Also, make sure you take into account your final exams when planning your return to the U.S.! You will not be allowed to take your final exams early, and you will need to allow yourself several hours after your last exam to get to an airport. Please read the "Return Details" section on page 10 before booking your tickets.

Airports

If you plan on arriving just in time for the start of the program, Venice Marco Polo (VCE) is the closest international airport. Milan Malpensa (MXP) is the second closest but requires considerably longer travel time. Directions to campus from VCE can be found on the following pages. We recommend that students do NOT fly into the airport in Rome Fiumicino (FCO) if you plan on going directly to campus. The Rome airport is large and navigating it can be complicated. It is difficult to get to the train station from the airport, and there is a 6-hour train ride from Rome to Venice. Unless you plan to travel before the program, do not fly into the Rome airport. Make sure to factor in that you will be carrying your luggage and will need time to go through immigration! We encourage and help students to find travel partners with whom to fly and make their way to campus. This can help with any anxiety that travel may cause. CIMBA may offer buses from Venice Marco Polo for students arriving at certain times. Information about buses will be emailed to all students before departure from the U.S.



FLIGHT DETAILS (CONTINUED)

Arriving Before Program Start Date

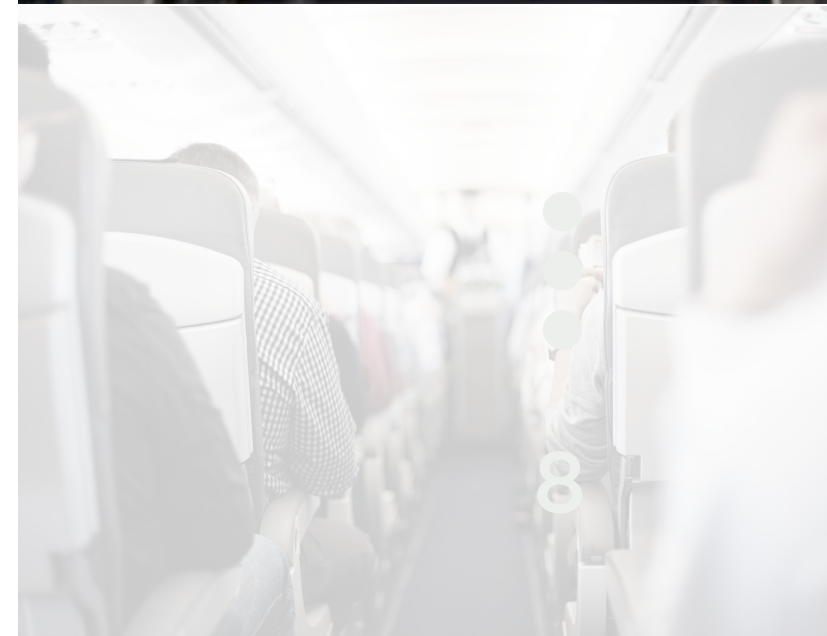
If you are arriving in Europe before the program start date, you'll need to book lodging for yourself either in Venice or near the airport. A simple google search of hotels will be helpful - many hotels in Europe are small affairs and offer a discount to book directly through their website rather than through a booking site! Airbnb is also popular, and hostels can be a good value and fun experience.

Return After the Program

To avoid conflicts between exams and travel plans, you should plan your travel after the program with the following guidelines in mind: CIMBA typically provides buses from campus to the Bassano and Castelfranco train stations. From there, you can take public transportation to the airport or depart for other travel throughout Europe as you prepare to head home. The Italian staff will ask students in the weeks prior to departure what their preference is for a drop off point after classes are done.

If you are flying home after the program, allow a MINIMUM of four hours to check out of the facility, get to the airport, and board your plane. (E.g. If your final ends at noon, you will not make a 2 pm flight. The earliest you could possibly make would be at 5 pm or more likely the next morning).

Important Note: Flights returning directly to the U.S. usually leave in the morning. If you are returning directly to the U.S. after your program, book your flight for the day after finals. You will also need to secure a hotel for the night before your flight as the dorms will be closed. Many students plan a final evening in Venice the night before departure and have found reasonably priced options in the city itself.



ARRIVING AT VENICE MARCO POLO AIRPORT

CONGRATS! YOU MADE IT!

You've fresh off the overnight flight, and are now ready to set foot in Italy for the first time! It can feel a little chaotic, but once you make it through security and customs, we've got you covered.

Marco Polo is a small airport. When you exit the baggage claim area (don't forget your bag!), CIMBA RAs and/or staff will be waiting to meet you. They'll have their CIMBA t-shirts on so that it's extra clear who they are. Remember, if you get lost you can always use airport WiFi to contact our emergency number.

Now you'll board the bus to go about an hour to campus in Paderno!



VENICE AND ITS AIRPORT



AIRPORT LOCATION

As you can see Marco Polo (VCE) is not located in the heart of Venice. Venice is a separate island, and VCE is on the mainland.

EARLY ARRIVALS

If you arrive before the official program start, you may want to spend a day or two on Venice island getting over jet lag and exploring. On the following page we will highlight the transportation options from the airport.



GETTING TO VENICE FROM MARCO POLO AIRPORT

If you are trying to get to the heart of Venice (to get to a hotel, to explore, or to get to Venezia-Mestre Train Station to get to campus) these are all transportation options:

BUS NO. 5



ATVO blue bus



ALILAGUNA



WATER TAXI





BUS NO. 5

The Bus no.5 connects Venice's Marco Polo Airport and the city center (Piazzale Roma).

It stops several times before getting to the last stop, so the journey can take from 30 to 45 minutes.

A one-way bus ticket costs € 8 (US\$ 8.70). However, for the same price, you can take an ATVO bus, which is slightly faster.



ATVO BUS

ATVO's buses run from Venice Marco Polo Airport to Piazzale Roma in just 20 minutes, since the bus only has two stops. The blue buses run approximately every 30 minutes.

A single-journey costs € 8 (US\$ 8.70) and you can get the tickets at the ATVO ticket offices and in the automatic ticket machines in the baggage claim area.

Open between the hours of 12:20 pm and 7 pm

Be sure to validate (timestamp) your ticket in the yellow box. If tickets are not validated, you may receive a €50 fine.





ALILAGUNA

Did you know that VCE has a boat dock? From there, you can catch Alilaguna's vaporettos (water buses) to a variety of locations on Venice island, and the surrounding islands.

Each journey costs € 15 (US \$16.40) and the water buses run all day, from very early in the morning until late at night. It is a special experience to approach Venice by boat!



WATER TAXI

The water taxis are the sleek, wood-paneled speedboats you see James Bond driving around in the movies. They can fit a maximum of ten people.

While they are convenient, they are extremely expensive and are only worthwhile if you are traveling with a large group.

A ride from Marco Polo Airport to Venice is over € 100 (US\$ 109.30).



GETTING TO CAMPUS

Getting to Campus from Venice Island

After you've spent time in the city, you can catch a train at Venezia Santa Lucia station to either Castelfranco Veneto or Bassano del Grappa's train stations. These are each within 25 minutes of Pieve.

Getting to the Mestre Train Station via Bus from the Airport

This applies to most students during the semester if you've been traveling outside of Italy. Once you've landed in Venice, take a bus (ATVO airport service) from the airport to Venezia-Mestre Train Station. Bus tickets cost about 8 Euro and an airport staff member can help you locate a point of purchase. A bus leaves about every 20 minutes. Be sure to validate your ticket (get a date stamp) in the little yellow, green, or blue/gray box. **TIP:** Ticket validation is used all over Europe. To avoid a fine, validate!

Venezia-Mestre Train to Bassano del Grappa

At Mestre station, take the train to Bassano. Bassano is the nearest city with a train station and is likely where you'll travel to by train after any trips within Italy. This relaxing ride will take about an hour from Venice. You can purchase your ticket from a machine or from the ticket counter (the machine has English options). Ask for, "*un biglietto per Bassano, solo andata, per favore,*" (a ticket to Bassano, one way, please). Here you can also pick up snacks for the journey.

On the "partenza" (departures) board, you will see "destinazione" (destination). This lists the final destination of each train. Search for the train that says Bassano del Grappa. You will see the departure time listed, and under "bin" (short for binari, or platform), you will see a number. Follow the signs to the appropriate platform/binari. Again, remember to validate when you head to your platform! Trains run roughly every hour.

If you board the train going the wrong direction and end up at Venice Santa Lucia station, don't panic! Follow signs that say "Alla Ferrovia" to the train station, and board the next train going to Bassano.

GETTING TO CAMPUS (CONTINUED)

Bus from Bassano to Paderno/Pieve del Grappa

After you exit the Bassano train station, you will see a small newspaper stand ("gazzetta") located on a traffic island by where buses can park. This is where you can purchase a bus ticket to Paderno - ask for "un biglietto solo andata per Paderno del Grappa." They cost about 2.60. **TIP:** *This stand only takes cash and coins! Be sure to have real money on you.*

If you want to test your Italian, ask "Va all'istituto Filippin di Paderno del Grappa?" Stamp your ticket at the front of the bus, just like you did for your train ticket. You may wish to sit near the front of the bus so you can ask the driver if you are getting off at the right stop. Simply say "Paderno del Grappa?" and they will let you know. There are a couple of bus stops in Paderno, but you will know you are at the right one when you see a building right by the bus that say "Istituto Filippin." This is our campus. **NOTE:** There are no buses to Paderno on Sundays, so plan accordingly.

Most Convenient: Taxi from Bassano to Campus

If there are taxis waiting at the taxi stand outside the train station, you can approach them for a ride. If there are no taxis waiting, you can call them from the station - the number and the phone are under the taxi sign. The cost of a cab is about 30 euro and will take about 20 minutes. The campus address is: Via S. Giacomo 4, Paderno del Grappa. You can also tell them "Istituto Filippin, Paderno del Grappa."

We know our campus isn't in a central hub - part of the beauty of study abroad is navigating how to get from point A to B, sometimes with people who don't share your language. By planning ahead and always pooling a cab, the 30 Euro fare to Bassano to get to the train station can be divided between 4-6 students. Keep this in mind if booking a taxi to any nearby town with friends.

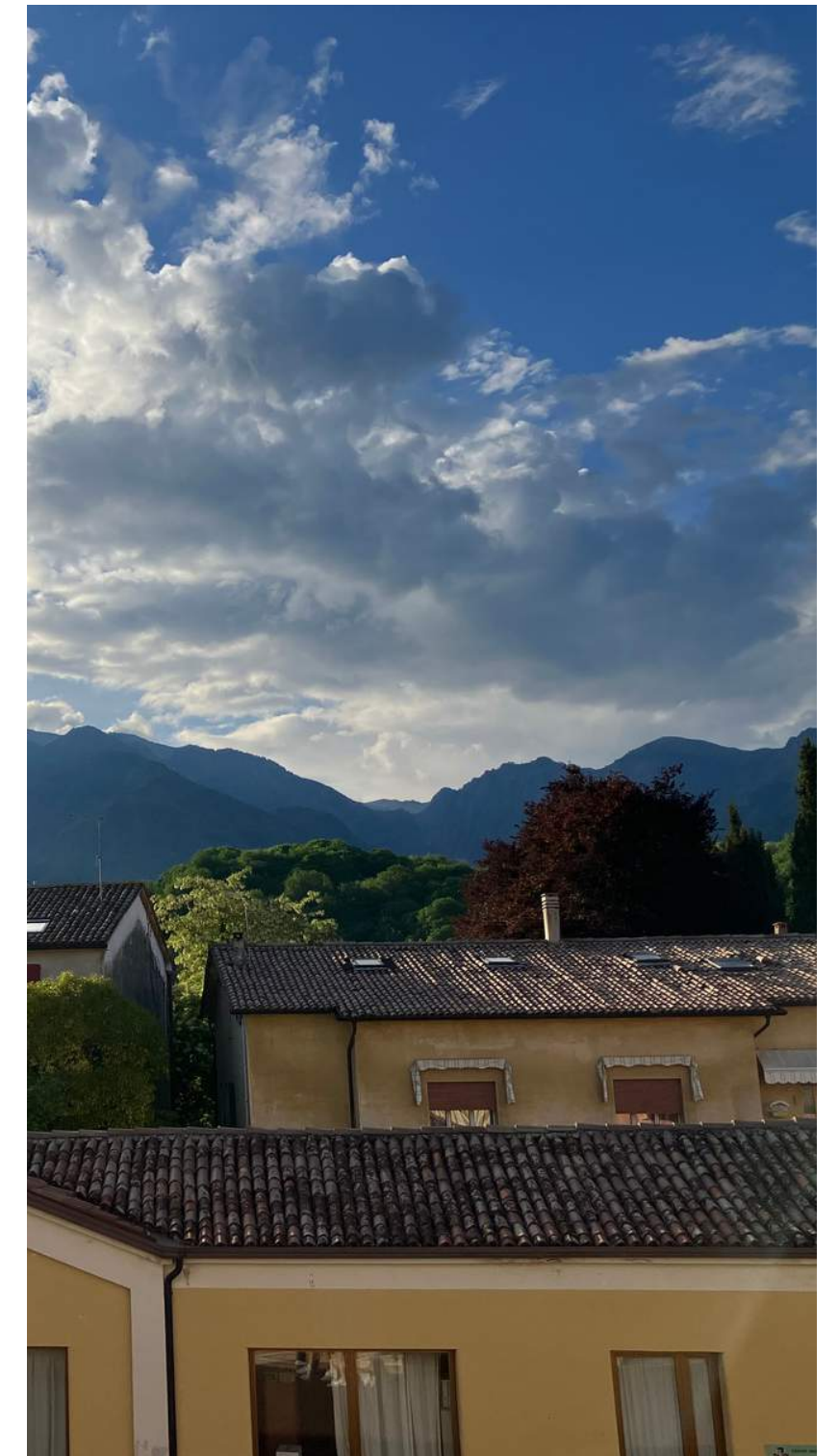


LIVING IN PADERNO

About Pieve/Paderno del Grappa

Pieve is a quaint Italian town nestled at the foot of Monte Grappa, a historic region that saw battles in WW1 and WW2 (Hemingway drove an ambulance here!) Until last year, when the town joined with nearby Crespano, it was known as Paderno. The proper name is now Pieve, but you will hear both. Paderno is located in the northeast region of Italy, known as the Veneto, and is about an hour and a half from Venice (via public transit). This area is a destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with plenty of walking, hiking, and cycling opportunities. In addition, fantastic local shopping is located in Asolo, Bassano, and Venice, with access to outlet stores like Northface, Replay, Benetton, and Diesel. There is also an open-air market in nearby Crespano del Grappa held every Sunday morning— just a 15 minute walk from campus. A movie theatre and bowling alley are within cabbng distance as well as some great restaurants. Paderno itself and surrounding walkable towns like Castelcucco have a few restaurants and cafes that students enjoy. Bring your walking shoes or friends to pool a cab and an explorer's attitude when venturing off campus!

Even though you're not in the heart of a big city, there is so much to do! We encourage you to get off campus, take a walk to a nearby town like Castelcucco for gelato, catch the bus to Bassano to experience the historic city center and enjoy lunch on a balcony overlooking the River Brenta, or spend the day hiking Monte Grappa. The joy of our location is being off of the tourist path, meaning you'll find endless cultural gems to experience. People are friendly, and the pace of life is leisurely.



LIVING IN PADERNO (CONTINUED)

Your Home on Campus:

You will be living in a historic residence hall. The dorm has two different living arrangement options: singles or doubles, each with private baths. All rooms have beds, wardrobes for hanging clothes, drawers, and a desk. Rooms come with with linens including: sheets, pillowcases, blankets, a pillow, a regular-sized towel, and a hand-towel. Housekeeping comes to clear straighten your room and change linens once per week.

Drinking in the dorms and on the academic side of campus is not allowed out of respect for our host, the Filippin Institute. Drinking is allowed on the "sports" side of campus and in the sports bar as well as other establishments in the area.

Eating On Campus and In Italy:

Food is a central part of Italian life - it is customary to linger over meals and enjoy time with friends. Italians typically eat a very light breakfast, if at all, followed by a larger lunch and dinner at later hours than in the U.S. The cafeteria on campus will offer breakfast before classes, lunch around midday, and dinner after classes at set times. Meals consist of a first course (usually a choice of pasta), second course (meat or cheese and vegetable), side items (seasonal fruit, yogurt) and a dessert. The pasta can get repetitive (although it's delicious), so we encourage you and other students to request special meals, like taco night or hamburger night, which the kitchen is happy to do with some notice! If you have a special dietary condition of any kind, inform the UI and Italy offices before you arrive so we can help make special accommodations. Craving something more international? Head to Bassano, where you can find sushi and other options! For the most part, Italians eat "Italian food" so you'll find less variety than you're used to in the United States. The quality, however, is always much higher.

LIVING IN PADERNO (CONTINUED)

Athletic Facilities:

Students are welcome to use the extensive athletic facilities belonging to the Filippin. This includes sports fields, a newly renovated gym, and an indoor pool. While the sports campus belongs to the Filippin, the school also offers gym memberships to the community. You are welcome to use the workout area and pool during the day. You will need to make a €10 refundable-deposit for the electronic key fob that admits you to the area. Please note that you must have a swimming cap and pool sandals to use the lap pool. These are available for sale at the front desk of the gym.

Computer Access and Printing:

You will need to bring a laptop with you. Wifi speeds are not what you are used to in the States on our campus or most places in Europe. Be patient!

Mail: Mail can be sent to our address in the front of this guide, including your name on the top line. Mail sent through USPS can take weeks, so plan accordingly and consider asking your family to use FedEx for a quicker arrival. Packages will incur customs inspection fees upon their arrival in Italy, which must be paid in order to receive the package. The sender must complete the customs declaration form, which asks for the value of the package's contents. The value it is asking for is the commercial value. For example, if you are receiving a jacket for personal use, you could declare it for \$30 so customs understands there is no intention to sell it. If a commercial value is stated, you need to pay a 33% tax pm the package when received or pay to send it back. The sender should clearly mark on the declaration form and package: **FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY, NO COMMERCIAL VALUE**. Make sure the person sending the package doesn't inflate the value of what's inside, because you'll have to pay a hefty fee when you receive it.

TRAIN BASICS



Travel by rail is one of the most FUN parts of traveling in Europe. It's relatively cheap, comfortable, and efficient. You do not have to book a ticket in advance, but this is an option. The larger train stations will most likely have an English-speaking person at an information desk; in other stations, you will need to ask for a ticket to your destination. For example, in Italian, you will ask for "il biglietto." One-way: solo andata ex: biglietto solo andata per Venezia Mestre Round trip: andata e ritorno.

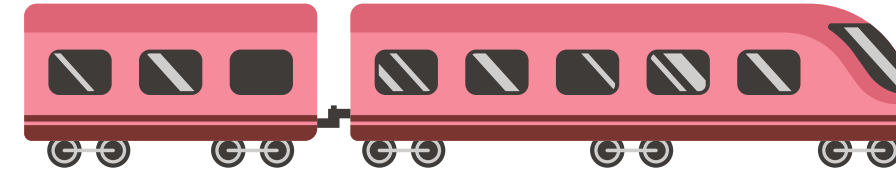
Once you have purchased your ticket, you need to validate it. You do this by locating a small, yellow, blue/grey, or red machine on the platform and inserting your ticket into it. You must do this before you board your train. Once you have done this, your ticket is valid for travel only on that day. Failure to validate your ticket will result in a large fine, such as €50 plus the cost of ticket, payable on the spot. **Emergency Note:** If you find yourself on the train having not validated your ticket and you realize it in time, go and look for the conductor and ask him to validate it. If you do not realize it in time, take a pen and write the date, departure station, and hour on the front of the ticket (Day/Month/Year). [Here](#) is a video on buying tickets.

Train cars:

Make sure you sit in the right train car and seat if your ticket specifies such. Often times, especially at night, the train will physically split with one end of the train going to one destination and the other end going to another. In some of the larger train stations, there will be a display of the train indicating which cars are which, or you can look at the actual car. The car should have a placard on the outside stating its starting and final destinations. Also, if you have a seat reservation, look on the ticket for your coach number (carrozza#) and find that car before boarding. If you do not have a seat reservation, look for the giant number on the side of the car that indicates the class (1 or 2), and board the appropriate car.



TRAIN BASICS (CONTINUED)



Overnight travel:

If you are traveling overnight on a train, you have several options. You can sleep in your seat, which carries no extra cost but is very uncomfortable, or you can opt to pay a fee to reserve a couchette or a sleeper. The cost for these two items varies depending on the train and what type of option you choose. Buying your ticket well in advance (with the promotional Amica fare) will greatly reduce this cost. For example, a trip to Rome booked a week prior to departure can cost up to €98; the same trip booked 3 weeks before departure will only cost €54. You should also note that there are special deals with overnight trains. Let's say you want to go to Rome. If you travel during the day, you will pay about €74 for the ticket, but an overnight train will cost only €43. If you purchase your tickets in advance, there are many good deals, especially during the summer months. For more information, check www.trenitalia.it.

Eurail Pass:

The Eurail pass was popular 20 years ago, but is no longer an economical choice due to travel restrictions associated with the pass. It is cheaper and more convenient for you to purchase train passes as needed. Another reason the Eurail pass is not economical for CIMBA students is that you will often be able to find competitively priced air tickets for travel throughout Europe.

For a more detailed discussion of Eurail Passes, see the web site www.ricksteves.com or any good student-oriented travel book. If you do choose to purchase a Eurail Pass, do NOT purchase it too soon! Eurail Passes must be validated in Europe within six months of purchase or they become worthless. At the same time, they are only valid for a specified number of months, usually two. The result is that if you buy one early and don't travel, you've wasted your money. Instead, think about when you will be traveling and for how long, and then purchase the appropriate pass. Passes must be purchased in the U.S.

LODGING

Hostels:

Most students will stay in hostels at some point while in Europe. They are the most economical option available and are often better suited to students' needs. Guests in hostels rent a bed (oftentimes a bunk bed) in a dormitory and share a bathroom with other guests. For the most part, hostels in Europe are very clean and safe if you plan ahead, do some research, and make smart decisions. Most students book through [hostelworld.com](https://www.hostelworld.com). Read the reviews before making arrangements. Hostels often do not provide all of the amenities of a hotel, such as towels, toiletries, and sometimes linens. You can normally rent towels from a hostel for one or two Euros. Occasionally, you will have to pay extra for sheets, and you will almost always have to make your own bed. Keep in mind that while many travel books tell you to bring a hostel sheet, some hostels require you to use their linens.

Hotels and Airbnb:

If you are looking for a more formal atmosphere or some privacy, there are many local hotels to choose from. These can be economical, centrally located, and charming! Don't expect air conditioning or minimalist decor, however. Many offer discounts to book through their website rather than a larger booking site. Be sure to read reviews before making your reservation so that you know what to expect. For most non-westernized hotels (those with actual keys for rooms, not cards), you will normally have to leave the key with the front desk when you leave the hotel and pick it up when you return. You can also consider Airbnb.com for alternate accommodations while traveling throughout Europe.

Note: You'll be asked to turn in your passport when checking in at any place of lodging.



SAFETY

Theft:

Be mindful of safety at all times. The crime rates in Europe are low by U.S. standards. The most serious crime seems to be theft, which is most frequently found in heavily traveled tourist areas and on public transportation. It is important to be aware that pickpockets exist and tend to prey on people who look lost or do not seem to be paying attention to their surroundings. Pickpockets often have developed strategies, such as working in pairs, asking for directions, etc. Below are a few tips to help avoid theft while you are abroad.

- Remain alert of your environment and seem purposeful when you move about.
- Ask directions only from individuals in authority.
- Refrain from exhibiting jewelry that appears expensive.
- Keep all valuables on your person in a discreet place. (A money belt is strongly recommended.)
- NEVER leave handbags, purses, or baggage unattended, opened, or unzipped.
- Travel with others; there is safety in numbers.
- Keep copies of your passport, airplane ticket, health insurance card, driver's license, and student ID in a separate place than the originals, including a copy back home in a trusted place or with a trusted person.
- Use the buddy system when going to the ATM.
- Carry a throw-away wallet with a small amount of cash that you wouldn't mind losing should you need to toss it and run in the opposite direction.
- Put a written list of emergency contact names, phone numbers, and email addresses in your checked luggage, carry-on luggage, and purse/wallet.
- Consider leaving a list of technology passwords/credentials with a trusted person back home in case of an emergency.
- If you are a victim of crime while you are abroad, please inform the CIMBA staff or a resident assistant so they can assist you.

Resources for Safety:

- [U.S. Department of State](#)
- [Rick Steves Travel Tips](#)

MONEY MATTERS

Learning how to manage your finances is an important part of your international education. Use the information that we provide in the budget of your acceptance packet to help prepare your own budget. Be prepared to spend a little extra money the first few days. Once you reach your destination, review your budget and see where adjustments need to be made. Stick to your revised version. This will help you not spend more than you intended to.

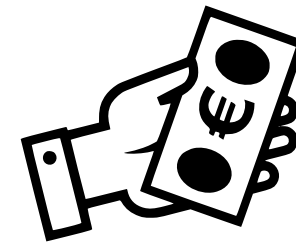
The unit of currency in Italy is the euro (€). There are bills of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. Coins are in 2 and 1 euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cents. The euro is now the official currency in most Eurozone member countries. When you travel outside the member states, for example to Great Britain or Scandinavia, you may have to convert to their currency, although the euro is rapidly becoming accepted in more and more locations.

Prices in Italy are in line with the rest of Europe. Generally speaking, you will find that prices are a bit lower in Paderno and Asolo than they are in the major cities of Italy. Italy is largely a "cash and carry" society. Furthermore, it's not customary to split restaurant or cafe bills, so plan for one person to pay for everyone, and then to Venmo them back.

Credit cards are not as widely accepted in Italy as they are in the U.S., so you should not count on using them for buying train tickets (though you may order tickets online using a debit or credit card), shopping for groceries, and paying for day-to-day expenses in general. Larger train stations will accept credit cards. Note that smaller establishments greatly prefer small change and rarely accept anything larger than €50 bills. However, credit card usage and the number of stores accepting them is increasing. MasterCard and Visa are the most widely accepted, followed by American Express. Discover cards are rarely accepted.



MONEY MATTERS (CONTINUED)



There are English-language ATMs in many convenient locations (including one on campus and one just down the street at the bank) that are accessible 24 hours a day. Cirrus and Plus are widely recognized in Europe. Please make sure your ATM card has at least one of the two symbols. It is possible to receive up to the equivalent of about \$250 using your MasterCard, Visa, or debit card as long as you know your personal identification number (PIN). You must obtain your PIN before you arrive in Italy. Request it from your credit card company soon as it may take 2-3 weeks to arrive. Another thing to keep in mind is that many European ATMs will not accept debit/credit cards that have PIN numbers longer than 5 digits or that begin with a zero, so get an appropriate PIN from your bank, if necessary. You should also find a non-800 telephone number for your bank because 800 numbers to the U.S. from Italy usually do not work.

It's important to note that a lot of credit card companies are beginning to charge a transaction commission for purchases made abroad. You should determine these commissions in advance as it may change the way you wish to pay for things while abroad. You should be able to find an ATM upon arrival at the airport and train stations in Italy, but many students like to arrive with some local currency to start. You should be able to obtain some from your local bank if you give them a few days warning. Don't get too much currency in the U.S. though since the exchange rate is usually high, although lower at your local bank than at the airport.

Before you leave be sure to contact your bank and credit card companies and let them know your travel plans. When large quantities of cash are suddenly withdrawn thousands of miles from home and spending habits suddenly change, your bank and credit card fraud detection will suddenly kick in and freeze your account, leaving you stranded without cash. This has happened to many students (and staff!) in the past, and they have had to rely on other students to lend them money while on travel breaks before they can sort it out. If you notify your bank, they will make a note on your account so it is much less likely to occur. In case something goes wrong, you might want to authorize someone in the states to have access to your account. Also, while talking with your bank and card companies, ask about international transaction fees and commissions. This will give you an idea of how much extra money you need to account for. Many banks charge a 3% fee per transaction while abroad, and many students minimize this impact by withdrawing the maximum amount each time.

HELPFUL LINKS AND VIDEOS

Campus tours playlist:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06QGQEdSRKM&list=PLLLvS6lSeD4zZrZkRE6u7g8RQ35pG1VNW>

DEI resources:

- <https://cimbaitaly.com/dei/>

Getting around and communication:

- <https://www.rome2rio.com/>
- Google Maps Offline
- Google Translate
- <https://www.duolingo.com/>
- [Rick Steves Advice](#)
- <https://www.trenitalia.com/>

Area Interest:

- <https://www.wanderingitaly.com/maps/veneto.html>
- <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/venice-and-its-lagoon>
- <http://www.weloveeatravel.com/list-of-locations-somebody-feed-phil-venice-italy/>
- <https://lifeinitaly.com/asolo/>

