

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

STUDY IN

FLORENCE

SPRING 2026



Study, learn and experience

FLORENCE



Florence is an inspiring place in which to live and study. Students will spend 12-weeks in this Italian city, the birthplace of the Renaissance, studying courses in astronomy, art, art history, psychology, biology, English and literature. The city will become your classroom when on a given afternoon you will stroll with faculty and classmates through the streets of Florence to admire the architecture of Giotto and the Baroque sculptures adorning the fountains of the city, explore the Uffizi Gallery with its vast collection of painting and sculpture, view the magnificent Santa Croce where Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli are buried, discuss art with Florentine painters in their studios, explore the book shops near Via Cavour, and visit one of the most traditional spots in Florence, the Ponte Vecchio, a 14th century bridge spanning the River Arno.

Depart U.S.:

Sat, January 31, 2026

Arrive Italy:

Sun, February 1, 2026

Mid-Semester Break:

Sat, March 14 to
Sun, March 22, 2026

Depart Italy:

Fri, May 1, 2026

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a central hotel for the first night where staff will be on duty to answer any questions and to help with the transition to Florence. The following day, after orientation, students will be transferred by taxi to their apartments.
- Accommodation for the semester in apartments with cooking facilities in the historical center of Florence. Students will be in twin rooms with typically 4 to 6 students per apartment. You will be right in the heart of the city with local Florentines as your neighbors.
- Orientation program in Florence consisting of an orientation meeting with AIFS staff covering topics on acclimation to life in Florence, health and safety, travel, cultural differences, half-day guided walking tour of Florence, and a welcome reception.
- Access to the AIFS Study Center including classrooms and a team of experienced AIFS Student Services staff to provide information, personal advising, planning assistance and 24-hour emergency contact service. The AIFS staff is there to make sure students get the most out of their time in Florence.
- Weekly program of subsidized cultural activities. The program allows students to experience typical Italian pastimes and explore the city in depth. Each semester we offer walking tours, traditional cooking classes, wine lectures, soccer matches, and day trips to Pisa and other nearby locations.
- Full-day excursion to the Chianti wine region including transportation by private bus, a visit to a winery and a typical Tuscan lunch.
- Guided day trip to nearby scenic Tuscan towns of Siena and San Gimignano, including round-trip transportation, a professional, English-speaking guide and an AIFS representative throughout.
- Free wireless Internet access in the Study Center during class hours Monday through Friday. Wireless access will also be available in the apartments.
- Italian Life and Culture course, taught by local professors. The course will consist of weekly lectures focusing on historical, political, economic and cultural aspects of Italy and Florence and will include related activities in addition to lectures.
- An optional "survival Italian" course for two hours each week with local instructors.
- Mandatory police registration.
- Student medical insurance policy.

FEES

The AIFS program fee per person is \$8,745. (Additional fees outlined below.)

An optional meal plan will be available for \$625. The plan includes 30 vouchers for either breakfast, lunch or dinner in selected local restaurants in Florence.

The program fee excludes airfare, optional medical insurance upgrade, passport or visa fees, meals other than those listed, personal expenses, any California community college tuition or administrative fees, textbooks, additional field trips or excursions required by the NCSAC faculty and anything not specified.

The AIFS fees are guaranteed not to change as a result of fluctuations in the \$ exchange rate.

OPTIONAL TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

On a space-available basis, students may purchase the optional transportation package consisting of round-trip airfare between SFO and FLR and round-trip transfers overseas between the airport and the housing in Florence. Mandatory U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharges will be billed separately.

OPTIONAL WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

Students will have the opportunity to discover Italian cities with AIFS staff and guides during the semester with optional weekend excursions to Rome (\$550), Venice (\$550) or Sorrento (\$675).

All excursions include round-trip transportation, accommodation in centrally located hotels (twin or multi-bedded rooms) with breakfast, entrances and guided tours of local monuments and places of interest, services of local, English-speaking guides and services of an AIFS staff member.

COURSES

The following courses will be offered. For complete course listings and faculty bios, please visit:

www.aifscustomized.com/ncsac.

***Italian Life and Culture:** This 3-unit course is required for all students and is subject to college tuition fees. Student must enroll in the Italian Life & Culture course offered by the campus that processes their program application. This class is the same class for all four schools.

Students are required to enroll in three additional courses and maintain enrollment in at least 12 academic units. Students may choose from the following courses:

OFFERED BY SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

FACULTY: LAURA SPARKS

ASTRON 3 Stellar Astronomy
ASTRON 4 Anatomy of the Solar System
ASTRON 42 Life in the Universe
INDTIS 90* Italian Life and Culture

OFFERED BY THE CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

FACULTY: NICOLE WHITE

ARTDM 136 Introduction to Digital Photography
ARTHS 196 History of Medieval and Renaissance Art
INDIS 100* Italian Life and Culture

OFFERED BY LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

FACULTY: NAOMI BAHM

PSYC 356 Human Sexuality
PSYC 372/ECE 312 Child Development
BIOL 300 The Foundations of Biology
INDIS 351* Italian Life and Culture

OFFERED BY THE SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

FACULTY: LISA PALMER

ENGL 110 Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking (PREQ: College Composition)
ENGL 164 Creative Non-Fiction (Memoir Writing)
LIT 441 Survey of Film
GBST 650* Italian Life and Culture



MEDICAL INSURANCE

AIFS provides each student with a group insurance policy issued by Crum & Forster Segregated Portfolio Company.

Once the program has begun, the plan covers the cost of medical treatment abroad, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per sickness or accident and with a daily hospital charge that does not exceed the Hospital's average charge for a semiprivate room.

That is, the policy does not cover medical expenses before the program begins, nor does it refund any portion of the AIFS program fees once the program has begun.

The insurance also covers costs associated with changing the return flight if a student is unable to complete the program due to accident, illness or quarantine in a travel area. It offers 24-hour travel assistance in case of an emergency, legal assistance, medical transportation and emergency cash transfer in case of theft or loss.

Full details of the coverage are provided to students with their final invoice for payment of the balance of their program fees.

OPTIONAL MEDICAL INSURANCE UPGRADE

For a supplemental fee of \$65, the medical insurance upgrade provides a maximum \$250,000 per sickness or accident.

AIFS REFUND POLICY

All notification of withdrawal must be made in writing via email to customizedfacultyled@aifs.com or certified mail to: Customized, Faculty-Led Programs, AIFS Study Abroad, 1 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905. Postmark date or date of email is considered date of withdrawal. All withdrawal statements must be signed by the applicant, or they will not be processed.

If a student withdraws on or before Friday, November 7, 2025, a full refund will be made less \$150, plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

If a student withdraws after Friday, November 7, 2025, but on or before Friday, December 5, 2025, the \$450 deposit fee is forfeited, along with any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

Students withdrawing voluntarily for any reason after Friday, December 5, 2025 receive no refund.

Flights cannot be arranged for students applying after Friday, November 7, 2025.

Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. This refund policy is necessary because the booking of facilities in Florence requires substantial non-refundable payments and commitments by AIFS in advance.

Please note that students who are academically withdrawn by their home institutions after their applications have been processed by AIFS are subject to the standard refund policy.

CONTACT US:

For more information, visit www.aifscustomized.com/ncsac, or contact the coordinator on your campus:

Santa Rosa Junior College

Patty Warne

707.527.4441

pwarne@santarosa.edu

Los Rios Community College District

Katie Pasilis

916.484.8967

studyabroad@losrios.edu

Contra Costa Community College District

Harue Takanashi

925.229.6420

htakanashi@4cd.edu

San Mateo County Community College District

Kelly Li

650.738.7159

studyabroad@smccd.edu

