



FLIGHT

PASSPORT

VISA

INFORMATION

Italy: Food Security & Nutrition

Summer 2024

GENERAL FLIGHT INFORMATION

This document is designed to assist you in making your travel arrangements. An essential part of your preparation for studying abroad includes obtaining the proper travel documentation for your international stay. Please read this document carefully to determine if you need to take action *immediately* in preparation for travel.

You are responsible for booking your own travel to and from the program location. In addition, it is your responsibility to read and understand the terms and conditions for your airline ticket(s), to reconfirm your flight reservations in advance of the day of travel, and to be aware of airline and TSA regulations for baggage size and contents. SIT is not responsible for additional charges you may incur as a result of airline schedule changes or other travel-related reasons.

As you book your flights, we encourage you to purchase tickets on airlines with flexible cancellation and postponement policies.

Individual countries may have specific entry requirements related to COVID-19 (e.g., providing proof of vaccine, providing a negative COVID-19 test prior to travel or testing and/or quarantining upon arrival, etc.). SIT will provide updated COVID-19 related information prior to your travel.

Once you have finalized your travel arrangements, please log into your application portal and enter your itinerary information and any notes about your arrival in the *Travel Information* section of your application. This will ensure that SIT staff knows when to expect you. Please submit your travel itinerary no later than 30 days prior to your program's start date.

AIRLINE INFORMATION

You can travel on any airline of your choice; however, please note that regardless of your transportation carrier, you are expected to be at your meeting location at the required time.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You are expected to meet your group at the following date, time, and location:

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Arrival Airport: Florence Airport, Peretola (FLR)

Group Meeting Time: 1:00pm local time.

Group Meeting Location: Outside of the arrival gates.

Group Will Be Met By: A representative from Castello Sonnino be waiting for students with a sign.

Notes: Any students arriving at other airports will need to pay for and arrange a taxi to Castello Sonnino.

NOTE: If you are unable to find suitable travel arrangements which will allow you to arrive at the specified date and time, please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible—BEFORE you make any reservations.

Arrival prior to the start of the program is possible. You will receive a 90-day tourist Schengen visa upon arrival. With 45 days reserved for the program, you have up to 45 days to visit other locations in the Schengen Zone either before or after the program.

Please note that SIT Study Abroad staff will **not** be available to assist you with any matter before the program's commencement. Your accident and illness insurance, provided to you through SIT Study Abroad for the duration of your program, is not in effect either before the program start date or after the program end date.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

You are expected to plan your departure for the following date, time, and location:

Departure Date: Monday, July 29, 2024

Departure Airport: Florence Airport, Peretola (FLR) – Castello Sonnino will arrange travel to the Florence airport. Students going on to other destinations will need to make their own travel arrangements.

Earliest Departure Time: Anytime

It **may be** possible to remain in-country after the program. Please note that the program is no longer responsible for you after the departure date. Italy is part of the Schengen zone (a group of 26 European countries—for a list, please see the link below). Students will have up to 90 days for their entry and 42 days will be used for the program. For more information, please refer to: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/q/schengen-fact-sheet.html>.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this program, you will need a signed **passport that is valid for at least six months after the end of the program**.

- If necessary, apply for a new passport or renewal immediately.
- **US Citizens:** consult U.S. State Department information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html for passport processing times and application procedures.
- **Non-US Citizens:** contact your embassy or consulate.

You may need to expedite your passport application in order to meet visa application deadlines. Please check with your admissions counselor at studyabroad@sit.edu or (888) 272-7881 to discuss whether you should expedite your application.

VISA INFORMATION

A visa is an official endorsement from a foreign government permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region for a specified period of time. A visa may be glued or stamped directly into an applicant's passport or be on a separate paper or insert.

Students with US passports:

For this program, students with US passports will obtain a **standard 90-day Schengen tourist visa** for Italy ***upon arrival in the airport.***

US citizens are only permitted to remain in the Schengen zone (a group of European countries, including Italy, with a mutual immigration agreement; Schengen countries are listed here: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/oo/schengen-fact-sheet.html>) on a tourist visa for 90 days within a 180-day period. The SIT program will take about 42 days. **This means that students cannot travel in the Schengen area more than 48 days within the 180 days prior to the start of the program or 180 days after the end of the program. Please review the list of Schengen countries at the link above.**

Students with non-US passports:

Students without a US passport may be subject to additional or different requirements for obtaining a visa or meeting other conditions of entry into the country or countries listed above. Many countries require individuals to apply for visas in person at the relevant embassy or consulate located in their country of citizenship. **We strongly recommend that you contact your embassy very early in the process to confirm visa and/or entry requirements applicable to your country of citizenship and determine next steps while allowing plenty of time to apply.** If the foreign consulate permits non-US passport holders to apply for the required visa from within the United States, applicants are encouraged to contact Travia Visa Services. As an experienced visa agent working closely with a number of SIT programs, Travia may be able to assist you in your visa application process. A service discount is available by entering "SIT" as the corporate code in your Travia online application. It is your responsibility to confirm and complete the visa application process particular to your situation, and to keep your admissions counselor informed.

GENERAL VISA AND PASSPORT NOTES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

- You are responsible for complying with all visa procedures and deadlines.
- Keep in mind that procedures and fees are subject to change at the discretion of the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over your application. Students should double-check visa procedures prior to sending materials to ensure accuracy.
- Issuance of visas is at the sole discretion of the applicable consulate or embassy; SIT assumes no responsibility for the issuance or denial of any visa.
- Please make a copy of the first two pages of your passport (one of which has your photo) and give these photocopies to your academic director once you arrive.
- Students are responsible for their own passports. Throughout the term, students should keep their passport and visa on their person at all times. They risk a fine if they cannot present a valid, original identification when a police person or other authorized civil servant asks for identification.
- If you are planning to travel to other countries before or after the program or your transit route involves connections in other countries, check with the embassies of those countries before you leave the US regarding visas, documents, and/or immunizations required. Please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible to discuss the feasibility of your plans.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the US office of SIT Study Abroad at 802-258-3212 or toll-free in the US at 888-272-7881 and ask to speak to your admissions counselor, who is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (US East Coast time) to assist you.