



N J SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE @ NJIT: SIENA SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE SIENA STUDIO/SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM?

The Siena Studio was founded in 1993 by Professor Peter Lang. Under an exchange agreement with the Università degli Studi di Siena, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities, students undertake an intensive study of the architecture and urbanism of Italy. After a preparatory seven week studio at NJIT in Newark, students spend six to seven weeks in Italy. Extended study in Rome and Naples, together with a four-week dormitory residency in Siena, complete the summer semester. In Rome and Naples, students participate in an international design workshop focused on topical aspect of the city's urban condition. In Siena, students complete an intensive urban design studio project related to the evolving city beyond its medieval walls.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students at NJIT or Rutgers in good standing through the Spring semester immediately preceding the summer session. Undergraduates must have fourth year status, or higher, and be in good academic standing. (*nb.* Undergraduates reach fourth year status once they have successfully completed all requirements of the third year.) Graduate Students require the approval of the Graduate Program Director. Space is limited to thirty students overall (30 total based on double-occupancy). Acceptance is based on a variety of factors: year status, studio GPA and recommendations. NOTE: deposits are FULLY refundable if a student proves ineligible or is not accepted into the program. Acceptances are generally announced in early February following the application due date.

Applications are available from the School of Architecture office in Weston Hall or via download on the Siena Studio link on the ArchLib web page: <http://www.library.njit.edu/archlib/class-materials/siena/>. In addition to the application, prospective students must supply at least one (1) brief letter of recommendation from a current or former studio professor.

WHAT IS THE SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR THE PROGRAM? WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED?

The Siena Studio follows the same summer session schedule as the School of Architecture. The Newark component begins the first day of the summer session, and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am – 6.00pm. The Italian component runs from the second week in July until the third week in August. Specific dates will be announced in January.

In addition to the *Options* studio, students may register for an elective history course *Aspects of Urban Form*, which examines the history of the city using the examples of Italy – Rome, Naples, Florence, and Siena - as well as an elective course in *Advanced Graphics*. More than a series of courses, however, it is immersion in the life and history of the Italian city – living, working, studying, traveling – that is the essence of the Siena Studio. Please contact Elly Matzko for specific registration guidance or questions. All students are REQUIRED to register for the *Options* studio. Each participant is required to produce and submit a **FOLIO** documenting the summer's work.

All travelers to Siena are required to participate in all aspects of the Siena Studio – studio, history, and graphics – regardless of academic status or registration. This participation requirement does NOT require students to register for (and therefore pay tuition for) the courses for which they do not need credit. Remember, too, that this requirement applies mainly to the Italian component of the program, except in the case of seminars conducted during the Newark session for the history and/or graphics courses.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost of the program – *excluding tuition* – covers air travel, hotel and dormitory accommodations, ground transportation to/from Rome, Naples and Siena, tour guides, taxes, and certain incidental costs. Costs are based on single or double occupancy. Please note that these costs are subject to change. Should the exchange rates rise or fall 10% or more, costs will be adjusted up or down no later than 30 days prior to departure. You are responsible for meals, all incidentals, local transportation, weekend travel, etc. Confer with Siena Studio



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students from previous years about incidental costs, but you should plan on \$25-50 per day, depending on your tastes. You will have access to the university *Mensa*, or cafeteria, while in residence in Siena where tasty three-course meals can be had for about five to seven euros.

The estimated costs for summer 2008, not including tuition or fees, are:

double occupancy: ~\$4,100.00

single occupancy: ~\$4,800.00.

nb. You are responsible for selecting and confirming your roommate. If you do not designate a roommate, one will be assigned to you, if available. Otherwise, you will be charged the single-occupancy rate. There are a limited number of single rooms. These will be assigned on a first-come/first-served basis.

TRAVEL TIPS

LUGGAGE

Travel light! Remember that you will have to carry ALL your luggage in Rome, Naples + Siena. One reliable tip: pack what you think you'll need, and then remove half. Carry around your luggage for a day. Take clothes are light weight and dry quickly. It will be hot. Note that there are convenient Laundromats (*lavanderia*) in Siena, but no laundry facilities in the dorm. Hotel laundry services are very expensive.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance, including major medical and limited property loss coverage, is included in the cost of the program. However, if you're bringing laptops, cameras, family jewels, *haute-couture*, old master drawings, etc, you might want to supplement the coverage. Note, too, that airline liability for lost luggage is severely limited for international travel. If you have health insurance, you might also check to see if it covers you abroad.

AIR TRAVEL

We travel as a group, from Newark (EWR) or New York (JFK), departing in the late afternoon and arriving in Rome in the early morning of the following day. Our return departs Rome mid-morning, arriving in Newark or JFK mid-afternoon the same day. Specific flight dates are announced in late January. Please note: according to the airline, you must arrive at the airport at least **THREE HOURS** prior to departure. The tickets are issued as e-TICKETS; you will get your seat assignments + boarding passes at the airport. You will get your e-ticket receipts prior to departure. Check in at the airline's International departure ticket counter at least **THREE HOURS** prior to departure. You are responsible for getting yourselves to and from the airport **ON TIME!**

You may make your own air travel arrangements ONLY if you are NOT flying out of metro Newark/New York airports. We get a group rate, which is the best rate available. Bear in mind that excursion fares (that is, the cheap fares) do not apply to stays over 30 days. Depending on the airline and the cost, it may be possible to return at a later date using the same ticket.

PASSPORTS/VISAS

Student visas are **NOT** required; US citizens do not require a visa to visit Italy. If you are a non US-citizen, you are responsible for obtaining visas or other documentation required to visit Italy. Please contact James Dart for additional information.

Be sure your parents or guardians or someone responsible has a copy of your passport ID page + visa **BEFORE** you depart. Make two copies for yourself: one to store in a safe place **AND** one to carry around in your backpack. **DO NOT** carry your passport around unless you are crossing international borders.

For non-US citizens, information and application forms may be found at www.italyemb.org/Visti.htm or www.italconsulnyc.org.

Citizens of the following fifteen countries that make up the [Schengen area](#) do **NOT** require visas when visiting any other Schengen country for tourism stays of 90 days or less: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. In addition, citizens of the countries listed below do **NOT** require visas when visiting the



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Schengen area for tourism, official or business stays up to 90 days: ANDORRA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BRUNEI, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHILE, COSTA RICA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ISRAEL, JAPAN, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MEXICO, MONACO, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, POLAND, RUMANIA, SAN MARINO, SINGAPORE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH KOREA, SWITZERLAND, USA, URUGUAY, VATICAN CITY, VENEZUELA.

STUDENT ID

Most museums, sites, etc give big discounts to students; however, these are not usually available to US students. Bring your NJIT student ID anyway, just in case. Check out Council Travel on East 42nd St in New York <http://www.counciltravel.com> for other possible discounts available to US students.

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

You are free to travel on your own most weekends during our stay in Siena, but not during our time in Rome and Naples. We encourage you to limit your independent travel to Italy. There is plenty to see and experience. Nevertheless, you MAY NOT skip classes in order to catch an early train to Helsinki or plane to Paris, so DON'T EVEN ASK! Studio Reviews end by 7.30pm THURSDAYS; Classes start at 12.00 MONDAYS. If you want to get a EurailPASS, you must do so before you leave the US, though you may find it is not cost effective. Again, check with the Council Travel web site above. Remember: the nearest main train station to Siena is *Santa Maria Novella* in Florence (*Firenze*); the best way to travel between Florence + Siena is by bus, about 45 minutes. There is train service, but it is not as frequent or as fast. There is also an inexpensive express bus service between Siena + Rome.

MONEY

Exchange rates between the US dollar + the Euro are volatile! Most ATM cards on a major network will work in Europe, but check with your bank to confirm + to find out fees charged. It is strongly advised that you bring some amount of Travelers Checks (~\$500 to \$1,000) with you as well. **DO NOT BRING CASH!** ATM and credit cards usually get the best exchange rates so you are advised to use them to get cash and pay for miscellaneous items. Be sure to store your check receipts, credit card + ATM numbers in a safe place (that is, not your backpack!)

ACCOMMODATIONS, LINEN + LAUNDRY

As noted above, you are responsible for selecting your roommate. While in Rome and Naples, we stay in three-star hotels, which usually include rooms with private baths and a continental or buffet breakfast. The *Residenza* (dormitory) in Siena will provide bed linen + towels. Note that European towels tend not to be terry-cloth, nor are face-cloths very common. If you can't live without your fluffy whites, bring one along. There are no laundry facilities in the *Residenza*; however, there are plenty of *lavanderia* (coin-operated laundromats) in Siena.

NO FAMILY OR GUESTS

The Siena Studio is NOT a family vacation. Accompanying family or significant others not enrolled in the Siena Studio are NOT permitted except in extraordinary circumstances. In no case will fees or course requirements be waived or discounted to accommodate accompanying family/guests travel. Family/guests may join Siena Studio participants on designated free weekends and after the final presentations in Siena.

SIENA, ROMA, NAPOLI, ETC

For much useful information in Italian and English check out various web sites like <http://www.comune.siena.it/> for Siena and <http://www.unisi.it/ammin/uri/mondo/come.htm> for information about the Universita' degli Studi di Siena, where we'll be in residence. Check out NJIT's International Study Office website for useful info as well <http://www-ec.njit.edu/~hcl4186/iso/Study-abroad.htm>.

QUESTIONS?

Contact James Dart at james.dart@njit.edu for additional information or any questions you might have.