



**unicollege**

# **WCCCSA - Unicollege Faculty-led Program**

**Spring 2027  
On-site in Florence: April 2nd - June 5th, 2027**

# Program Overview

LIVE AND STUDY in Florence, Italy, where the Renaissance was born and everyday life unfolds among centuries of art and innovation. Learn alongside WCCCSA faculty while Florence becomes your classroom—through academically rich courses, field-based learning, and a weekly Italian Language and Culture experience integrated into the program.

Beyond campus, walk through Medici palaces and historic quarters, explore layers of ancient, Renaissance, and modern Florence, and engage with the city as locals do. Sip an afternoon espresso, enjoy a gelato in a Florentine piazza, build lasting memories, and earn college credit from your WCCCSA home campus.

## Your program includes

- Accommodation in double, triple, or quadruple rooms, depending on availability, in selected apartments
- Full access to Unicollege campus facilities, including Wi-Fi, cafeteria, and university common areas - and with assistance of English-speaking front-desk personnel
- One 5-credit Italian Life and Culture course taught by an accredited native Italian professor at Unicollege
- Weekly cultural and experiential activities, integrated into the Italian Life and Culture syllabus
- Online pre-departure cultural induction, jointly delivered by WCCCSA and Unicollege. NB: Participants can purchase additional add-on activities and access designated venues as described in the program.
- On-site orientation program with Unicollege staff, covering safety and security, cultural differences, and daily life in Italy
- A dedicated and experienced Unicollege Project Leader providing information, personal advising, and ongoing support to ensure overall program success
- Remote- and in-country 24-hour emergency contact service
- Public transportation card valid for the city of Florence for the first month and rechargeable beyond that (purchased by students).
- Two sessions with Unicollege Wellbeing counseling office/student per month.

## Program dates

- Friday, April 2nd, 2027, flights departure from U.S.
- Saturday, April 3rd, 2027, arrival in Florence, Italy
- Saturday, June 5th, 2027, program departure from Florence, Italy

## Program fee & deadlines

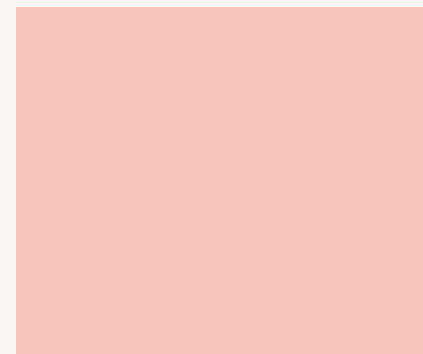
**Program cost:** € 6.000,00

**Nonrefundable deposit:** €1,500.00

**Early bird discount: deposit received by Unicollege by** Friday, October 2nd, 2026  
(Apply by this date & save € 100,00)

**Enrollment deposit:** deposit received by Unicollege by Friday, January 8th, 2027

**Balance of fees due:** remaining balance received by Unicollege by Monday, March 1st, 2027



# Optional Excursions & Meal Plan

## Field trip to Siena € 200,00

Day excursion to Siena includes: round-trip transportation, one meal (can include pasta/sandwich/meat/fish, etc. + water and coffee), guided tour of the city held by a Unicollege representative.

A minimum of 12 students is required.

## Field trip to Pisa € 200,00

Day excursion to Pisa, includes: round-trip transportation, one meal (can include pasta/sandwich/meat/fish, etc. + water and coffee), guided tour of the city held by a Unicollege representative.

A minimum of 12 students is required.

## Meal plan € 450,00

The base meal plan includes 45 meals - that can be extended with an additional fee of € 15.00/meal. Meals include one main course (can include pasta/sandwich/meat/fish, etc. + water and coffee).



### Our campus in Florence

A historic 600-year-old convent serving as Unicollege's Florence campus



Florence



Pisa



Unicollege campus  
(Florence)



Siena



## Instruction

Students will take part in a dynamic, faculty-led study abroad program where academic rigor meets lived experience. Alongside two taught courses delivered by members of the WCCCSA faculty, students enroll in a required Italian Life and Culture Course, designed to unfold gradually, week by week, in close dialogue with the city itself.

### Course #1: Drawing (5 cr. | Ogilvie)

Study abroad in Florence and experience drawing in one of the world's most inspiring artistic cities. Open to students of all majors and skill levels, this course explores drawing from still life, landscape, and architecture with an emphasis on observation, technique, and design. Through lectures, demonstrations, in-class activities, and group discussions, students will develop skills in perspective, value, composition, and the illusion of form and depth. You will learn to draw from observation, understand the principles of one-point and two-point perspective, and explore a variety of black-and-white media while strengthening creative problem-solving and visual communication skills. Whether you are an art student or simply looking for a meaningful and unforgettable international experience, this course offers the opportunity to grow creatively while living and learning in beautiful Florence.

### Course #2: Art History - Medieval/Renaissance (5 cr. | Ogilvie)

Step into the heart of Florence and experience art history where it was born. Art History 103 invites students of every major and artistic emphasis to explore the rich traditions of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art while studying among the churches, museums, piazzas, and masterpieces that shaped Western culture. More than a lecture course, our class is a learning community centered on curiosity, conversation, and discovery. Together we will ask meaningful questions, engage in interactive analysis and interpretation, and deepen our understanding of the ideas, beauty, and history that continue to influence the world today. Through research, discussion, and firsthand encounters with great works of art, students will gain a deeper appreciation for creativity, culture, and the enduring human search for meaning – all while living and learning in the unforgettable city of Florence.

### WCCCSA Faculty (WA, U.S.), Professor Susan Ogilvie

Susan Ogilvie is a Tenured Professor of Art History, Drawing and Painting, currently teaching at Olympic College. She holds an MA in Art History, an MFA in Illustration, both from Academy of Art University, San Francisco, an MA in Philosophy from University St. Thomas, Texas as well as a BFA in Fine Art, from Northwest College of Art & Design, Poulsbo. She believes that art and art history are core experiences for everyone as they develop great observational skills, critical thinking and problem solving. Whether studying biology, nursing, engineering, music or political science, you name it, drawing leads to better communication and understanding. It is the universal language. Art history teaches us the human pathway to communication throughout the ages. Medieval and Renaissance Art History is Professor Ogilvie's favorite era as it branches into every culture and storytelling. To sketch and see; to experience and hear the stories of people before us enables us to create and live our own experience. Professor Ogilvie is a professional artist and former Director of Education at Northwest College of Art & Design. She is the recipient of the Olympic College President's Award in 2025.





## Course #3: Italian Life and Culture (5 cr. | Rondinelli)

Taught by Professor Rondinelli, this course focuses on the historical, political, economic, and cultural aspects of Florence and Italy Renaissance. Prof. Rondinelli will assign work and grades for the course. This course incorporates curated weekly activities around the city of Florence, focusing on the historical and current cultural landscape within and around the city.

**NB: All sites described in the activities below are explored from the outside.**

Students who wish to step inside and experience these iconic landmarks firsthand may do so through optional add-on visits described below. A minimum of at least 12 students is required for each optional add-on activity.

**Students will register for all three 5-credit academic courses at their home campus.**



### Unicollège faculty (Florence, Italy), Professor Paolo Rondinelli, Ph.D.

Professor Paolo Rondinelli is a professor of Italian Studies, Literature, and Culture, recognized for his scholarly contributions and the recipient of prestigious accolades, including the Pasolini Prize (2005, ex aequo) and the Boccaccio Prize (2009). He holds a Ph.D. in Humanism and Renaissance civilization, as well as the Advanced License for Teaching Italian to International university Students (DITALS). Since 2013, Professor Rondinelli has collaborated with the Accademia della Crusca, the foremost institution for the Italian language and the oldest linguistic academy in Europe. Among his most notable publications are the critical edition of Francesco Serdonati's *Proverbi italiani* (Florence, Accademia della Crusca, 2024) and his work on Lorenzo Lippi's *Liber proverbiorum* (15<sup>th</sup> century), published by Bononia University Press. He currently serves as Professor of Philology of Italian Literature at Pegaso University, as well as Professor of Italian Language and Linguistics at Unicollège.



### 1. Ancient & Medieval Florence Walking Tour (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)

Students explore Florence's earliest urban identity, shaped by Roman planning and medieval social structures, discovering how streets, markets, towers, and religious spaces organized everyday life long before the Renaissance transformed the city. The walk begins in **Piazza della Repubblica**, built over the ancient Roman forum of Florentia, where political debate, commerce, and public rituals forged civic identity. From here, the route moves into the dense medieval street network near **Via dei Cerchi**, where tower houses once symbolized family power, rivalry, and protection in a city governed by clan alliances rather than centralized authority. Continuing toward **Mercato del Porcellino**, students encounter Florence's mercantile traditions and popular rituals, including the bronze boar associated with luck and trade. Along nearby streets, surviving **wine windows** (buchette del vino) reveal how everyday consumption, taxation, and social customs were embedded directly into the architecture of medieval homes. The walk culminates at Florence's medieval religious core with the exterior of **Duomo di Firenze**, alongside the **Battistero di San Giovanni** and **Giotto's Campanile**, expressing collective faith, civic pride, and the aspiration to harmonize spiritual and urban life. The itinerary concludes near the exterior of **Santa Croce Basilica**, a symbolic monument to Florence's intellectual legacy and civic memory.



**Optional add-on activity:** Step inside Florence's most iconic landmarks—the Duomo di Firenze, Battistero di San Giovanni, and Giotto's Campanile—and enjoy sweeping panoramic views of the city.  
Extra fee: € 55,00 (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)  
Unicollege guided tour fee: € 30,00 (if selected)

### 2. Renaissance Florence Walking Tour (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)

This tour examines Florence at the height of the Renaissance, when art, humanism, and political power reshaped the city into a model for early modern Europe. The route begins in the Medici quarter at **Palazzo Medici Riccardi**, whose restrained façade masked extraordinary political authority. Nearby, **Basilica di San Lorenzo** and the exterior of the **Cappelle Medicee** illustrate how religion, burial, and dynastic memory reinforced Medici dominance, while the **Convento di San Marco** introduces themes of education, moral authority, and intellectual reform. Moving toward the exterior of the **Galleria dell'Accademia**, students reflect on the role of sculpture, artistic training, and civic symbolism. The walk continues to **Piazza della Signoria**, Florence's political stage, dominated by the exterior of **Palazzo Vecchio**, where republican government, justice, and public spectacle converged. The itinerary concludes along the exterior of the **Uffizi Gallery**, originally conceived as administrative offices, demonstrating how Renaissance Florence integrated governance, architecture, and visual culture into the daily functioning of the state.



**Optional add-on activity:** Step inside one of the world's most influential art museums—the Uffizi Gallery—and encounter masterpieces that shaped Renaissance art and visual culture.  
Extra fee: € 55,00 (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)  
Unicollege guided tour fee: € 30,00 (if selected)

### 3. Florence at a Distance: Power, Perspective & the City Seen from Above (approximate tour duration: 3 hours)

This walk explores Florence through geography, elevation, and movement, revealing how power, defense, and symbolism extended beyond the historic center. Beginning at **Ponte Vecchio**, students consider continuity of trade and daily life across centuries, while the **Arno** River itself emerges as a historical force—shaping commerce, flooding the city in moments of crisis, and defining Florence’s relationship with the wider world. Passing **Palazzo Strozzi**, the tour highlights elite rivalry beyond Medici control. Crossing into the **Oltrarno**, the walk enters **San Niccolò**, historically linked to artisans, leather workshops, and defensive infrastructure, where craftsmanship and everyday labor formed the backbone of Florentine economic life. The ascent past **Porta San Niccolò** emphasizes medieval military planning and control of access to the city. The walk culminates at **San Miniato al Monte**, where Romanesque architecture, silence, and elevation invite reflection on spiritual continuity. The final stop at **Piazzale Michelangelo** offers a panoramic reading of Florence as a unified historical system rather than a collection of isolated landmarks.

### 4. Modern & Contemporary Florence Walk (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)

This tour examines Florence from the 19th century to the present, focusing on modernization, fashion, tourism, and global identity. The walk begins in **Piazza della Repubblica**, reimagined during Florence’s brief period as capital of Italy, when medieval neighborhoods were demolished to project a modern European image. From here, students move toward **Palazzo Strozzi**, now a leading venue for contemporary exhibitions and international cultural dialogue. Along **Via de’ Tornabuoni**, Renaissance palazzi house global fashion brands, illustrating how heritage architecture supports modern branding and luxury economies. Near **Piazza della Signoria**, the exterior of **Gucci Garden** marks Florence’s role in the history and global expansion of Italian fashion. The walk concludes in the Santa Maria Novella area, with a stop at the exterior of the **Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella**, linking medieval scientific knowledge to contemporary luxury wellness culture.



**Optional add-on activity:** Step inside the Gucci Garden and explore the evolution of Italian fashion through design, branding, and visual storytelling in the birthplace of the Gucci brand.

Extra fee: € 20,00 (approximate tour duration: 1 hour)  
Unicollege guided tour fee: € 20,00 (if selected)

### 5. Boboli Gardens & Courty Florence Walk (approximate tour duration: 2.5 hours)

This walk explores Florence as a court city, focusing on how landscape, art, and nature were orchestrated to project dynastic power and cultural authority. Beginning at the exterior of **Palazzo Pitti**, students examine the Medici transformation from influential citizens to ruling dynasts. Originally built for a powerful Florentine banking family and later acquired by the Medici, the palace became the official residence of the grand dukes of Tuscany, symbolizing the shift from republican governance to hereditary rule. Today, Palazzo Pitti functions as a major museum complex, reflecting Florence’s transition from seat of power to global cultural capital. The introduction to the **Boboli Gardens** reveals a landscape designed not for leisure, but for control—where geometry, perspective, and mythological references shaped the experience of nature according to political order. Conceived as an open-air extension of the palace, the gardens served as a stage for ceremony, spectacle, and the visual assertion of authority. Following the garden’s visual axes and terraces (external viewpoints only), students analyze how fountains, sculptures, and carefully aligned sightlines framed both nature and the city as extensions of dynastic power. The tour concludes with elevated views over Florence, reinforcing how architecture, landscape, and symbolism combined to communicate permanence, authority, and cultural leadership across Europe.



**Optional add-on activity:** Step inside the Palazzo Pitti and the Boboli Gardens, exploring the Medici court and its monumental gardens as spaces of power and display.

Extra fee: € 55,00 (approximate tour duration: 2 hours)  
Unicollege guided tour fee: € 30,00 (if selected)





#### **6. Taste-Based Cultural Walk: Panino & Gelato**

Italian culture is experienced through flavor and ritual, beginning with a panino rooted in Florence's long-standing street food tradition—often regarded as the birthplace of the modern panino. The panino is sourced from historic botteghe that have been operating for over 500 years, places where food preparation, craftsmanship, and daily social life have remained closely intertwined across centuries.

Rather than eating on the move, students gather to share the panino together while seated at sunset, embodying the Italian tradition of aperitivo: a pause between day and evening dedicated to conversation, presence, and social connection. The experience continues with gelato enjoyed slowly, allowing language and interaction to unfold naturally in informal, everyday settings where taste, time, and community come together.

#### **7. Pizza Night**

Gathered around a table, students experience pizza as Italians do: not simply as food, but as a shared social ritual rooted in time, conversation, and togetherness. Pizza is approached as a moment of pause rather than speed—meant to be eaten slowly, discussed, and enjoyed collectively, with attention given to ingredients, gestures, and informal interaction.

Through this experience, students observe how meals function in Italian culture as spaces of exchange, where language flows naturally, relationships are built, and everyday social norms are practiced around the table.

#### **8. Bilingual Karaoke Night (Italian & English)**

Music fills the room as students sing across languages, discovering how emotion, rhythm, and shared laughter lower linguistic barriers and encourage spontaneous expression. By moving between Italian and English lyrics, participants experience language as sound, feeling, and performance rather than accuracy alone, gaining confidence through play and collective participation.

The activity highlights how shared cultural references and informal settings create safe spaces for experimentation, allowing students to engage with language beyond the classroom and embrace communication as a social act.

#### **9. Language Tandem Exchange**

Italian and international students meet face to face, exchanging words, accents, and stories in a balanced, reciprocal setting. Language becomes personal, relational, and alive—learned through curiosity, listening, and mutual adjustment rather than correction or formal instruction.

Through conversation, gesture, and everyday topics, students experience language as a tool for building relationships and navigating cultural difference, reinforcing the idea that communication develops most naturally through human connection.



## Withdrawal policies

- The deposit is non-refundable
- The balance is generally non-refundable. However, participants who withdraw before Monday, March 1, 2027 and have already paid the full balance are eligible for a refund, from which the following amounts will be withheld:
  - € 1.500,00 non-refundable deposit
  - € 500,00 for administrative costs.
- Applicants who withdraw on or after Monday, March 1st, 2027 are responsible for the full program fee, whether they participate or not.

### Program Confirmation Note

Should the program not be confirmed by Friday, January 11th, 2027 due to failure to meet the minimum number of participants or other applicable scenarios, all deposits paid will be refunded to the sender. Any transaction-related costs (including international bank transfers or intermediary fees) will be borne entirely by the recipient of the refund.

As Unicollege is a degree-granting institution based in Europe and accredited by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, all payments must be made exclusively in Euros. While Unicollege does not charge transaction fees, any bank, wire transfer, intermediary, payment processing, or refund-related fees are the sole responsibility of the applicant. The full program fee (€ 5.900,00 for Early Bird and € 6.000,00 for all other applicants) must be received net of all charges.

If the final balance due by Monday, March 1st, 2027 is received for an amount lower than the total program cost due to transaction fees, applicants will be requested to pay the outstanding amount before the start of the program. Any costs exceeding the net program fee are borne entirely by the sender.

## Payment references

All payments must be sent via wire transfer to:

### Adiuva s.r.l.

Bank details: Banco BPM - Via Santa Margherita 5,  
20121 Milan, Italy

Beneficiary: Adiuva S.r.l. - Via Durini 7, 20122 Milan,  
Italy

IBAN: IT27B0503401631000000014679

BIC/SWIFT: BAPPIT21A40

Description of payment: Applicant full name - FL  
WCCSA 2027

For any assistance regarding international payments or currency conversions, applicants may contact their Project Leader via email.

## Full assistance



### Project Leader and Primary Reference

**Francesca Serra**

francesca.serra@unicollege.eu

+39 3482719435

# WCCCSA Home Campus Contact Information

## Bellevue College

Li Liu  
425-564-2646  
li.liu@bellevuecollege.edu

## Cascadia College

Yukari Zednick  
425-352-8413  
yzednick@cascadia.edu

Kareen Kanjo

kkanjo@cascadia.edu

## Clark College

Jody Shulnak  
360-992-2390  
jshulnak@clark.edu

## Edmonds College

Becky Qiao  
425-640-1640  
becky.qiao@edmonds.edu

## Green River College

Andres Montano Leal  
253-308-8387  
andres.montanoleal@greenriver.edu

## Highline College

Mina Vo  
206-592-4065  
mvo@highline.edu

## Lower Columbia College

Andie Ingram Eccles  
360-442-2313  
aingram@lowercolumbia.edu

## Olympic College

Rachel Leeper  
360-475-7484  
rleeper@olympic.edu

## Peninsula College

Sophia Iliakis-Doherty  
360-417-7989  
SDoherty@pencol.edu

## Pierce College

Jacque Courduff  
studyabroad@pierce.ctc.edu

## Seattle Colleges (Central, North, & South)

Sancha Elevado Harrison  
Olivia DeVille  
StudyAbroad@seattlecolleges.edu

## Shoreline Community College

Colleen Ferguson  
206-546-4697  
studyabroad@shoreline.edu

## Skagit Valley College

Symantha Holben  
360-416-7813  
symantha.holben@skagit.edu

## South Puget Sound Community College

Juana Alcalá  
360-596-5266  
jalcala@spsc.edu

## Spokane Community College & Spokane Falls Community College

Carolin Gipple  
509-533-8277  
carolin.gipple@ccs.spokane.edu

## Wenatchee Valley College

Noah Fortner  
509-682-6844  
nfortner@wvc.edu

## Whatcom Community College

Blaine, Patrick  
360-383-3075  
PBlaine@whatcom.edu





***Ti aspettiamo!***  
**We look forward to welcoming you!**