

GONZAGA IN FLORENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**For Parents &
Students**

ADMISSIONS & APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application process has a decision date for semester programs, and rolling admission for the summer term.
- Students must meet the eligibility requirements to be accepted which include GPA and disciplinary clearances.
- Applications are available at the following times:
 - Fall/Academic Year: mid December – mid January
 - Spring: mid May – July
 - Summer: September – February 1st
- The program can accept up to 175 students per semester.

APPLICATION STATUS

- If accepted to GIF, students secure their place on the program by paying a \$500 program deposit. This deposit is refundable according to the deadlines listed in the application.
- For Gonzaga students, the deposit should be paid online through the application portal.
- For non-Gonzaga students, mail a \$500 check payable to Gonzaga University to (**Note:** some non-GU students are billed through their school and do NOT mail a check to GU):
 - Study Abroad
 - Gonzaga University
 - 502 E Boone Ave AD 85
 - Spokane, WA 99258
- This \$500 will go towards the final cost of the program.
- Once paid, students will receive an official Welcome email & will have additional items to complete as part of the process.

ONCE ACCEPTED

- Students will have additional items to complete during the semester prior to departure. Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

	Fall/AY	Spring	Summer
Last day to withdraw and get deposit back	May 1st	October 15 th	March 15 th
Visa Appointment (date will be provided once accepted)	April	October	N/A
Must have flight purchased	Recommended by November		Recommended by April
Health forms due	May 1st	December 1 st	April 20 th
Passport photos due	At Visa Appointment		April 20 th (2 photos)
Mandatory Pre-Departure meetings	March/April	November	March/April

***specific dates subject to change. Students should review Weekly Emails for dates.*

ONCE ACCEPTED (CONTINUED)

- GIF participants will attend mandatory Pre-Departure session(s) during the semester prior to the start of GIF.
- GIF participants will have the opportunity to be paired with a GIF alumni to use a resource for advice, tips, and expectations about the program.
- Erin Schultheis, Study Abroad Advisor for Florence, will send weekly email announcements to GIF participants including important reminders, deadlines, tasks to complete, and helpful readings for preparing to go abroad.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

- Once accepted and deposit paid, students will be given the official arrival dates, location and departure in the official acceptance email.
- Students should try to arrive before 5PM on the arrival date listed.
 - Fall/AY: arrival at Opening Tour location. Group travels together to Florence.
 - Spring: arrival in Florence.
 - Summer: arrival at Opening Tour location. Group travel together to Florence
- If students arrive early or stay after the program dates, accommodations are their own responsibility.

FLIGHTS

- Students are responsible for their own flight to and from the program.
 - Students should NOT plan to leave the program earlier than the end date listed. Finals will not be re-scheduled to coordinate an early departure.
 - Travel before or after the program is perfectly fine.
- A group flight is not arranged. However, the Study Abroad office coordinates a Suggested Itinerary through a travel agency as an opportunity for students to book their flights together. Students will be given this information by email once accepted to the program. *This flight is simply a suggestion and not a requirement; prices will vary. Students are not required to use this flight.*

VISA PROCESS

- Currently, the Study Abroad office is able to submit visa applications for current GU students for their student visa. *Note: Summer participants do NOT need a visa.*
- Non-GU participants will be given specific instructions by the Gonzaga study abroad office about their visa process.
- Because we are working with the Italian government, we must adhere to their policies and deadlines.
- It is imperative that your student read & make note of the deadlines, instructions, and process Further instructions are provided once accepted to GIF by email and are [online here](#).

HOUSING & MEALS

- **Pensione:** A hotel type accommodation. The staff of each provides the housing and meals for students in a family-like atmosphere. Students don't get to choose their pensione. The housing assignment process varies by term. Students share rooms. They do NOT have access to kitchen to cook their own meals.
- **Homestay:** Previous students have stated that the homestay option provides the most immersive experience and that if students truly want to learn Italian and the culture of Italy they should apply for the homestay option. Students are usually placed with another GIF student. The families GIF works with are well-trained and experienced homestay families.
- **Meals:** Continental breakfast is provided at each pensione every day. A large lunch-hour meal is served Monday - Thursday. Dinner is served Monday-Wednesday during the fall & spring semesters. Homestays are provided the same meals.

WEEKEND TRAVEL LEARNING PROGRAM

- GIF sponsors 4-6 weekend travel programs each term. The destinations vary by term. Students will be given information about the dates, destinations, policies, and how to sign up approximately two months before the start of the program.
- The Weekend Travel programs are optional, but we encourage students to participate in at least one as participation is a good way to learn about traveling in Europe for first time travelers.
- For some locations, space is limited, so your student should pay attention to emails from Study Abroad and the GIF staff regarding policies and registration.
- [Travel Learning Program Basics](#)

INSURANCE

- All GIF participants are enrolled in international insurance coverage through the GU Study Abroad office.
- The insurance coverage cost is included in the fees paid to GU –it is NOT an additional cost.
- Non-GU participants should also check with their home institution Study Abroad office regarding coverage and benefits.
- Your domestic insurance coverage may include international coverage; students can use this too. The insurance provided by the GU Study Abroad office provides, in most cases, 100% reimbursement of expenses, whereas your domestic insurance may not.

MEDICATIONS

- ***Prescription medications may NOT be sent to you through international mail. It is against international laws to mail any prescription drugs.***
- **Sufficient supplies:** If your students take prescription medications regularly, bring a supply to last through the term abroad. This may require a travel waiver from your insurance company to obtain a larger supply.
- **Letter from your doctor:** Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a letter describing the condition being treated, medicines, their dosage and generic name. This letter could be helpful in an emergency.
- **Original medical containers:** Make sure all drugs are in the original pharmacy containers and are clearly labeled. Carry written copies of the prescriptions to avoid problems with customs. In the case of narcotic medicines, it may not be prudent to carry additional supplies because of possible customs difficulties.
- **Controlled substances:** Students taking medications that are considered "controlled substances" cannot be brought into Italy or most other countries. You may be able to get a non-narcotic substitute by working with your local doctor and our doctor in Florence. Do NOT assume that a medication you get in the U.S. can also be obtained in Italy. Some drugs, especially those for ADHD, anxiety, and similar conditions, are illegal to prescribe in Italy and MUST be brought with the student going to Florence. Laws change and we cannot keep track of which drugs are able to be prescribed in Italy and which are not. Assume you cannot obtain your prescription abroad and pack a full supply with you.

BILLING & PAYMENTS

- Program Cost breakdowns can be found on the [GIF Program Page](#) under “Budget Sheets”.
- Program fees are due based on the deadlines established by Student Accounts.
- The billing process is the same as when attending main campus. Student will receive a notification through Zagweb about their bill and can make payments through CashNet.
- For Gonzaga students, scholarships & financial aid can be used toward the program fees. Contact the Scholarships & Financial Aid office to confirm award amounts and notifications. Additional scholarship opportunities are listed on the [Study Abroad website](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

- The GIF school address and contact information will be given to students during the semester prior to departure. For privacy & security reasons, this information is not published publicly and provided to participants with the understanding they are only sharing it with immediate family members.
- The Study Abroad office is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.
- Questions? Contact:
 - Erin Schultheis; Study Abroad Advisor for Florence
 - T: 509.313.3598
 - E: schultheis@gonzaga.edu

HELPFUL LINKS

- [GIF Program Page](#)
- [Budget Planning Worksheet](#)
- [Currency Converter](#)
- [GU Step by Step Guide](#)
- [Setting Goals](#)
- [Articles about Studying Abroad](#)