

# **GONZAGA IN FLORENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**For Parents &  
Students**

# ADMISSIONS & APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application process has a decision date for semester programs, and typically 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 or March
- The program can accept up to 175 students per semester.
- The program size varies during the summer.

# APPLICATION STATUS

- If accepted to GIF, students secure their place on the program by paying a \$500 program deposit and submitting an accommodation needs questionnaire. The 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 initially pay a deposit to GU to commit):
  - Study Abroad
  - Gonzaga University
  - 502 E Boone Ave AD 85
  - Spokane, WA 99258
- This \$500 will go towards the final cost of the program.
- Upon committing, students receive a 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	April 15 <sup>th</sup>	October 15 <sup>th</sup>	April 1 <sup>st</sup>
Visa Appointment (date will be provided once accepted)	April	October	N/A
Must have flight purchased	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mid-April
Health forms due	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mid-April
Mandatory Pre-Departure session(s)	April	November	April

***\*\*specific dates subject to change. Students should review email updates 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.
- The Study Abroad Advisor for Florence will send 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 committed, students will be given the official arrival dates, location and departure via email.
- Students will be given a specific date and time to arrive by.
  - Fall/AY: arrival at Opening Tour location in Italy. Group travels together to Florence
  - Spring: arrival in Florence
  - Summer: arrival at Opening Tour in Rome, Italy. Group travels 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 generally fine, making sure to consult the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for current restrictions and regulations.
- A group flight is not arranged. However, the Study Abroad office coordinates a suggested itinerary through the Gonzaga travel agent team as an opportunity for students to book their flights together. Students will be given this information by email during pre-departure. *These suggested flights are simply a suggestion and not a requirement; prices will vary.*

# 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 you 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:** Dorm-like 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. Most students share rooms. They do not have access to kitchens 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 for homestay. Students are usually placed with another GIF student. The families GIF works with are well-trained, experienced hosting students, and background checked. Not available during the summer term.
- **Meals:**
  - Semester: 14 meals/week; breakfast M-Sun, lunch M-Th, dinner M-W
  - Summer: 11 meals/week; breakfast M-Sun & lunch M-Th (occasional dinner BBQs provided by the school staff)

# 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 in weekly emails before the start of the program.
- The Weekend Travel programs are optional.
- Semester: Sign-ups are through a lottery process, so students should pay attention to emails from Study Abroad and the GIF staff regarding policies and registration.
- Summer: Sign-ups take place online, no lottery process.
- [Travel Learning Program Basics](#)

# INSURANCE

- All GIF participants are enrolled in international insurance coverage with Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) 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 as a supplement. 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](#) within the “Costs & Finances” tab.
- Program fees are due based on the deadlines established by Student Accounts.
- For Gonzaga students, the billing process is the same as when attending main (Spokane) campus. Students will receive a notification through Zagweb about their bill and can make payments through CashNet.
- For Gonzaga students during the semester, 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](#).
- Non-Gonzaga participants should follow-up with their home institution regarding billing, payments, scholarships, and financial aid as it varies by institution.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

- GIF contact information and student housing placement addresses will be given to students prior to departure. The GIF address is published on the [website's staff page](#).
- The Study Abroad office is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.
- Questions? Contact:
  - Study Abroad Advisor for Florence
    - Hemmingson Suite 102; Center for Global Engagement (CGE)
    - T: 509.313.3549
    - E: [studyabroad@gonzaga.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gonzaga.edu)

# HELPFUL LINKS

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