Fall 2021 Brown in Bologna
Pre-departure Orientation Session
Tuesday, July 20
Brown in Bologna Staff

- **Anna Maria Digirolamo,** Director
  - Academic advising
  - Proseminar instruction/Field Trips

- **Adam Giambastiani,** Administrative Assistant
  - Administrative & Italian bureaucratic issues
  - Housing

Brown OIP Staff

- **Ivana Freitas,** Program Manager
  - Pre-admission and post-admission advising, visa process, Brown administrative support with key Brown offices (Financial Aid, SAS, Bursar, etc.), liaison to home colleges/universities for Visiting Students

- **Lynn Cavicchi,** Assistant Director, Program Management
Covid-19 and Virtual Advising

- University’s Global Travel and Risk Assessment Committee (GTRAC) continues to monitor global pandemic

- Visit undergrad.healthy.brown.edu/fall-2021-study-abroad for Study Abroad COVID-19 FAQ’s and continued updates

- OIP staff are working remotely until August 16

- Contact us at OIP@brown.edu for assistance
Important Dates

● **Arrival in Bologna:** Monday, August 30
  ○ The Student Hotel (TSH)
    Via Aristotile Fioravanti,
    27 40129 Bologna
    Tel. 33 143 66 85 17
  
  **Check-in time:** any time after 3 p.m.

● **End of Program:** Friday, December 17
  ○ Student departure December 18
Our Bologna Office

- Classroom
- Student office
- Library
- Wi-Fi
- Two computers with printer and scanner
Once you are in Italy...

Several appointments will be needed at the Italian government offices for legal and/or health requirements. *All appointments are mandatory.*

**Travel Documents**

- Passport
- Visa, including the invitation letter from the University of Bologna, which will be stamped with a seal from the Italian consulate when your visa is issued.
- Covid-19 Vaccination Card
Covid-19 Adjustments

- All students will live in a student residence (The Student Hotel/TSH)
- Local academic policies, including modes of instruction and class attendance
- Program excursions; may be modified to comply with COVID regulations
- Independent travel: be aware of local, regional, national, and international guidelines on traveling.
- See [https://undergrad.healthy.brown.edu/fall-2021-study-abroad](https://undergrad.healthy.brown.edu/fall-2021-study-abroad) for continued updates

Office of International Programs
**Health and Safety**

**COVID-19 Related**

- COVID Vaccine **required** to study abroad Fall 2021; Medical and religious exemptions from vaccination will be granted to students, and reasonable accommodations will be provided (as determined by applicable law).
- Proof of vaccination must be uploaded by **July 15**
  - Send copy of vaccination card directly to Student Health Services at nursing@brown.edu.
  - Step by step instructions: https://healthy.brown.edu/vaccinations/verify
  - Make a copy of your vaccination card and follow same instructions for safe-keeping as with passport
- Program Changes or Suspensions? Brown will continue to assess local public health environments to ensure the safety of program participants.
Our Partner University: Fall 2021

University of Bologna (Alma Mater Studiorum - UNIBO)
Proseminar

Italian Language and Culture

In addition to the semester project, the proseminar entails:

- Orientation period
- Language Class
- Guided tours and cultural activities
- A personal research project
- Language partner activity
- 8 ECTS/1 Brown course credit
Course Selection and Credits

- ECTS = European Credit Transfer System/8 ECTS = 1 Brown credit
- Choose courses for 24-27 ECTS at the University of Bologna (= CFU, Crediti Formativi Universitari)
  - 2 – 3 semester-long courses
- Proseminar (8 ECTS/1 Brown Course Credit)
- Brown-in-Bologna full load = 32 – 35 ECTS/4 Brown credits
- Fill-out the Scheda Informativa and send it back to Anna (By July 20th)
- Set-up a meeting with your advisor
- Transfer Credit Policies: check with your home university
  - 32 – 35 ECTS = 4 Brown Credits
  - 28 – 31 ECTS = 3.5 Brown credits
  - 24 – 27 ECTS = 3 Brown credits
Accessibility

● If you need academic accommodations, medical assistance, or psychological services during your time in Bologna, please communicate this to us (OIP and Bologna staff) **before** your departure, in order to put in place the appropriate supports upon arrival.

● Staff in Bologna will assist you with any issues during your stay.
International SOS

- All students are enrolled at no cost
- Not health insurance
- Download free Assistance App (app.internationalsos.com). This will enable you to receive health & security alerts for your destination
- Services include pre-travel assistance, mental health counseling sessions
- Check legality/availability of your prescribed medications abroad

STEP and CDC Health Notices

- Register your trip abroad with the US Department of State
- Research travel destination(s)
Health Insurance

- You are *required* to have health insurance overseas; do not cancel your U.S. based coverage.
- Must waive Brown Student Health Insurance Plan by **Saturday, July 31**.
- Verify your overseas insurance coverage
  - Find out what is covered & how to submit claims from abroad
- All students studying abroad are enrolled in an *accident/sickness* plan through ISOS during their **program dates** at no additional cost
- Traveling before or after your program? Consider purchasing a **supplemental leisure coverage plan** if you anticipate travelling before or after your study abroad program dates.
- For questions, contact **Brown Insurance Office** at 401-863-9481.
Contact the Philadelphia Assistance Center (215-942-8226 or email) to ask pre-departure medical, travel safety, security questions in advance.

International SOS will open a case # and answer questions, discuss a plan of action with you.

International SOS can arrange medical/counseling appointments in the host country before you arrive.

Download the International SOS app on your phone.
Physical/Mental Health Care

- You are encouraged to discuss prevention measures for any pre-existing medical or mental health conditions with their physician — prior to travel.
  - Let your physician know you will be traveling abroad, especially if you have allergies, are on medication, or under doctor’s supervision for any physical or mental health need.
  - If needed, make a “while abroad” plan with your physician or counselor prior to departure.
- International SOS
  - If you have questions about taking prescription medications abroad, ISOS can provide verifications regarding medicine legality/availability in host country.
  - Enhanced Emotional Support Program
Blanket Study/Travel Abroad Accident and Sickness Insurance Policy

- Offered to all Brown students traveling on Brown-sponsored international programs
- Coordinated through International SOS to cover **accidents and sickness** that arise during travel abroad (not routine care).
- NOT designed to replace regular health insurance
- No copay or out-of-pocket costs for medical treatment or medication
Housing in Bologna

The Student Hotel

- Single rooms
- Private bathroom with shower
- Laundry facilities
- Utilities/wifi included
- Cafeteria, restaurant, with breakfast, lunch and dinner options
- Shared kitchens
- Gym
Covid Procedures

- Access to free biweekly Covid tests through the Italian Health System (if registered).
- Covid protocols will be in place in the office, at the University of Bologna, at TSH.
- In the event of a suspected case of Covid, the Italian Health System will take over the isolation and monitoring procedure.
Cultural Activities and Outings

- May be modified due to public health regulations
- Past semester activities have included:
  - Field trip to Ravenna and Ferrara
  - Medieval Museum
  - Opera
  - Cinema

Office of International Programs
Money & Budgeting Abroad

● You can easily withdraw money from an ATM in Italy by using your U.S. debit card. Please check your credit card/bank fees prior to arrival and inform them that you will be using your credit/debit card(s) while abroad.

● It is also recommended and useful to have a second credit card in case of theft or loss of the debit card.

● Refer to the semester budget on the Brown OIP website
Keeping in touch

- Unlock your cellphone before arriving in Italy
- Buy an Italian SIM card; 15€/month
- Download WhatsApp
- Avoid receiving packages from US to Italy; can be detained at customs and taxes need to be paid
Travel Tips

● Pack lightly

● Bring with you:
  ○ An electric adapter

● Don’t bring:
  ○ 110 volt electrical appliances
Reflect on your goals for your semester in Bologna...

- Academic
- Personal
- Career/Post-College
Online resources for your semester abroad

Check out the OIP website to read more about cultural adjustment and identity abroad.

Disability & Accessibility
First Generation Students
International Students
LGBTQ+ Students
Gender Abroad
Race & Ethnicity
Religion & Spirituality Abroad
Meet with your academic advisor to review course selection.

Enroll at UNIBO online.

Complete the personal information required in the Brown-in-Bologna Intranet.

Send the scheda informativa to Anna Maria Digirolamo.

Contact Student Accessibility Services and inform the OIP and Bologna staff of any accommodation needs.

Read carefully the Bologna program handbook before your departure.
Questions?

Office of International Programs
brown.edu/oip
oip@brown.edu