

# University of Florence Florence, Italy



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## Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Semesters

### Important Dates

- **February 15, 2008**  
BU Law application deadline
- **Mid-March, 2008**  
Selections made
- **May, 2008**  
Selected students' applications due to the University of Florence for the Fall 2008 semester
- **Summer, 2008**  
Fall 2008 selected students must obtain student visa to study in Florence
- **September 15, 2008 – February 13, 2009**  
Approximate Fall 2008 semester dates (inclusive of final exams; BU Law students can often arrange to take their exams before the holiday break)
- **September, 2008**  
Selected students' applications due to the University of Florence for the Spring 2009 semester
- **September-October, 2008**  
Spring 2009 selected students must obtain student visa to study in Florence
- **February 16 - July 31, 2009**  
Approximate Spring 2009 semester dates (inclusive of final exams; BU Law students are not guaranteed to be back in the U.S. in time for graduation or bar preparation; 3Ls should study in the fall semester)

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We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with *Università degli Studi di Firenze* – the Faculty of Law at the University of Florence – in Florence, Italy. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

## I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- a. **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered in the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters.
- b. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students twelve semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- c. **Academic Focus:** The program focuses on international and comparative law. Therefore, the list of courses from which to choose is limited for the most part to international and comparative law subjects and laws related to Italy, Europe and the European Union.
- b. **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students only who have completed at least one full year of studies at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- c. **Language:** All but two courses at Florence are taught in Italian; therefore, Italian language fluency is required.
- d. **Number of Participants:** A maximum of three students can participate during the entire year. We may select fewer than three, but under no circumstances can we select more.

## II. Law Studies at the University of Florence

The Florence program is designed to give qualified Italian-speaking students first-hand exposure to the legal environment that's at the heart of Europe's historic economic integration. As a founding member of what is now the European Union, Italy has played a key role in the economic and political transformation of Europe. Now the world's fifth-largest industrial economy, it is one of the United States' most important trade partners.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Florence is one of Italy's most prestigious law faculties. It was recently named as Italy's best law faculty in the Italian magazine, *Panorama* (roughly comparable to *Time* magazine). Founded in 1924, the University of Florence is a public institution, and part of Italy's national university system. Its law school currently enrolls approximately 2500 students in its four-year undergraduate law program (bachelor of laws or "*giurisprudenza*" degree).<sup>1</sup> It has 35 full-time, 10 part-time and 45 assistant professors, divided into four departments: Civil and Criminal Comparative Law; Public Law; History of Law; and Private Law.

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<sup>1</sup> To become an Italian lawyer, one must first obtain a university degree in *giurisprudenza* from one of the 29 law faculties in the country. Only a small number of Italian law school graduates, however, actually enter the legal profession, and even fewer become lawyers, since numerous occupational opportunities exist in government, banks, insurance companies, and the like, for those with law degrees. Graduates who wish to be lawyers must enroll in the register of *praticanti procuratori* and begin a two-year apprenticeship in a lawyer's office. After this practical training, the *praticante* can take a state examination to become a *procuratore*. Those who pass can enroll in a professional law list and start practicing law as an *avvocato*.

Classes at Florence are either lectures or, for more advanced topics, seminars (*seminarios*). Most classes meet three times a week for forty-five minutes each; seminars and advanced classes generally meet for ninety minutes, twice a week. Beginning in the 2001-2002 academic year, Florence instituted a two-semester system, similar to BU Law's. Typically, Italian students take six classes a year. In keeping with the European tradition, exams are predominantly oral. Passing grades are administered on a scale of 18 - 30 (out of 30).

For more background information about the University of Florence and its law faculty (in Italian), visit: <http://www.giuris.unifi.it>.

### III. The City of Florence

Baptized Florentia, the city of flowers, Florence is one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant cities, resplendent with culture and history – and is truly a city unique all over the world. As *Time Out* magazine puts it, "If reality bites in London, or Manhattan tests your capacity to absorb ugliness and countenance violence, Florence flings you back on your capacity to withstand an onslaught of raw beauty."

Pick up any travel guide and you'll see why so many people flock to the birthplace of the Renaissance, and why it's one of the most appealing venues in which to study:

"The cultural and historical impact of Florence is overwhelming. Close up . . . the city is one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant, retaining a strong resemblance to the small late-medieval centre that contributed so much to the cultural and political development of Europe. Where Rome is a historical hot-pot, Florence is like stepping back into a Fiat and Vespa-filled Renaissance." (*Lonely Planet*)

"As the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence preserves some of the greatest art from the Western world. Yet, if you expect an idyllic excursion through a city living in the past, you're in for a shock. Florence bustles. It bustles today much as it did during the centuries that its currency was that of Europe, its Medici bank that of the popes, and its merchants the wealthiest capitalists. Its rusticated stone buildings may contain the art of Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci—all of whom were working here around 1501—but these Renaissance façades define streets congested with modern activities. As one of the most powerful states in Europe, Renaissance Florence had a population of 100,000. Today the city counts nearly one-half million." (*Expedia*)

"Florence is a city of incomparable indoor pleasures, its chapels, galleries and museums an inexhaustible treasure, embodying the complex, exhilarating and often elusive spirit of the Renaissance more fully than any other place in the country." (*Rough Guides*)

"Florence often overwhelms its visitors with priceless art and historic architecture from the late Middle Ages to the golden age of the Renaissance. Your first glimpse of the Duomo's implausibly large, red cupola—an engineering miracle from the 1400s—is breathtaking. Palaces, churches and monuments follow one another in dizzying succession, and the spirits of Leonardo da Vinci, Dante, Machiavelli, Michelangelo and the Medicis are palpable on virtually any street. Florence's combination of unequalled beauty with centuries of history is a heady mixture." (*CNN On-Line*)

For more on the wonders of Florence, including its gustatory attractions and the breathtaking environs of the surrounding Tuscan countryside, visit: <http://www.florence.ala.it/>, or <http://www.aboutflorence.com/>.

## IV. The Florence Exchange Program

### A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with Florence is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative law in an international setting, one deeply involved in the economic development of one of the most important areas of the world – the European Union. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to stroll the Ponte Vecchio and sip chianti under the Tuscan sun, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sight see and indulge in *la dolce vita*. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs on the undergraduate level.

### B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to three BU Law students to attend Florence in the fall 2008 and/or spring 2009 semesters.

### C. Language Proficiency

All but two classes at Florence are in Italian; applicants will be tested for Italian language proficiency through oral interviews with Professor Daniela Caruso, the program's faculty supervisor. Applicants will also complete a written essay in Italian.

### D. Program Dates

#### Fall 2008

**Please note that the following dates are approximate.** We will provide final dates when we receive this information later in the spring.

<b>Orientation:</b>	Two meetings during the second week of September
<b>First day of classes:</b>	September 15, 2008
<b>Last day of classes:</b>	December 5, 2008
<b>Exam period:</b>	December 8-19, 2008 and January 5 - February 13, 2009

\* Florence has informed us that it is likely that BU Law students will be able to complete their exams before the holiday break. Confirmation of this – and exact exam dates – will be forthcoming to participating students.

#### Spring 2009

<b>First day of classes:</b>	February 16, 2009
<b>Last day of classes:</b>	May 15, 2009
<b>Exam period:</b>	May 18 - July 31, 2009**

**\*\* Important Note:** Florence's spring semester runs late, considerably past BU Law's spring semester. For third-year students, this means that there is no guarantee that you will be able to complete your Florence studies prior to BU Law graduation, or receive final transcripts from Florence in time to meet bar certification requirements (which can be as early as mid-June).

**Third-year students are therefore encouraged to consider the fall program.** Florence is

currently exploring the feasibility of administering exams early to accommodate third-year students' graduation/bar plans. We will provide information on this when we receive it.

Likewise, second-year students who are interested in spring term at Florence may need to make special arrangements with their summer employers to begin work in late-July. While there may be flexibility to leave Florence before the end of July, **we cannot guarantee at this point that you will be able to do this**. We will provide more information on any special arrangements regarding the spring semester's exam schedule as soon as we receive it from Florence.

## E. Course Offerings and Selections

We expect participating students to take at least three courses (and, in all cases, receive approximately the same number of contact hours as a 12-credit semester at BU Law). This course load would be comparable to the average Florence student's course load, which is the ABA's governing standard. Prior to their departures, participating students will undertake an informal reading program supervised by Professor Caruso designed to prepare them for Italian law studies.

Students will be encouraged to select courses from the following general list (please note: this is a partial listing and is subject to change):

- Constitutional Law (*Diritto costituzionale generale*)
- Comparative Law (*Sistemi giuridici comparati*)
- Specialized Topics in Constitutional Law: (*Diritto costituzionale (speciale)*)
- Comparative Labor Law (*Diritto comparato del lavoro*)
- International Law (*Diritto internazionale*)
- Comparative Administrative Law (*Diritto amministrativo comparato*)
- International Commercial Law (*Diritto commerciale internazionale*)
- Law of Financial Markets (*Diritto del mercato finanziario*), Prof. Tombari
- Environmental Law (*Diritto dell'ambiente*)
- European Union Law (*Diritto dell'Unione Europea*)
- Family Law (*Diritto di famiglia*)
- Bankruptcy (*Diritto fallimentare*)
- Intellectual Property Law (*Informatica giuridica*)
- Comparative Criminal Law (*Diritto penale comparato*)
- Comparative Private Law (*Diritto privato comparato*)
- Public Law (*Diritto pubblico generale*)
- History of Modern Constitutional Law (*Storia delle costituzioni moderne*)
- Theory of Civil Procedure (*Teoria generale del processo*)

The 2008-2009 Course listings will not be available until June, 2008. However, we expect the courses to be similar to courses offered in the 2007-2008 academic year. Updated course information can be found on the University of Florence website (in Italian) at [www.giuris.unifi.it](http://www.giuris.unifi.it) (click on "students from abroad," then on "Insegnamenti attivati nella Facoltà di Giurisprudenza").

## F. Exams

Florence's evaluation methods depend on each professor, but generally they consist of oral exams. Our students will take oral exams, but, in all cases, there will be some kind of written assessment. As with our other exchange programs, BU Law students would be evaluated in the first instance by the host institution's faculty.

## V. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do three things:

1. Complete an application available at [www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Associate Dean Marx and Assistant Dean John Riccardi, scheduled through the Office of Graduate and International Programs
3. Complete an oral interview in Italian with a current LLM student from Italy.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 15, 2008.

\* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

## VI. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by Florence's faculty in accordance with Florence's grading system. Because the different grading standards between BU Law and Florence makes a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system difficult, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

**ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW.** We expect, however, that all credits earned at Florence will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

**One final point about grading. None of the grades for the Florence semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as, cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).**

## VII. Florence's Program Director and Staff

The Program Director in Florence is Professor Vittoria Barsotti. She is a full-time associate professor of comparative law, constitutional law and civil procedure. She is an American (and Italian) citizen, born in Boston. She has been a visiting professor at Northwestern University School of Law (1998), and is therefore familiar with the standards of American law schools. She has extensive experience hosting Florence's international exchange students through ERASMUS. Professor Barsotti is located at the Department of Comparative and Criminal Law. Her assistant, Cristina Panerai, is the administrative contact responsible for the international visiting students.

Prof. Vittoria Barsotti

Dipartimento di Diritto Comparato e Penale

Via delle Pandette, 35 (viale Guidoni) - Palazzina  
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50124 Firenze, Italy  
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Prof. Barsotti's CV is included as **ATTACHMENT A**.

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## VIII. Library Facilities

Florence's main library resources are located in La Biblioteca de Scienze Sociali. It is located at Via Laura 48 and is open from Monday-Friday, 8.30 am - 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 8.30 am - 1:30 pm. Other legal materials are housed at various department libraries, including the Dipartimenti di Diritto Comparate e Penale, the Dipartimento di Diritto Pubblico, and the Dipartimento di Teoria e Storia del Diritto. Detailed information on Florence's library resources is available (in Italian) at <http://www.sba.unifi.it/biblio/scienze-sociali/>.

## IX. Housing

Florence does not provide housing for its students. Thus, you will need to secure your own housing arrangements. Florence will assist you in this endeavor. Foreign students can contact Integra 2000 for help in finding accommodations.

Integra 2000  
Via Micheli 30  
50121 Firenze  
tel and fax: +39553756773  
e-mail: [info@integra2000.it](mailto:info@integra2000.it) or [info@integra2000.unifi.it](mailto:info@integra2000.unifi.it)

## X. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Tuition is the same as the tuition at Boston University School of Law. Participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law. Housing in Florence is generally as expensive as Boston. Eating out, entertainment and transportation are approximately the same as in Boston, if not slightly more expensive. Florence informs us that students can expect to pay the following, in addition to their transportation:

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Rent (one bedroom apartment)     | 800-1150 €/month |
| ▪ Living Expenses (food and misc.) | 500 €/month      |
| ▪ Books                            | 50 €             |

More detailed information about housing, student life in Florence, and University facilities can be found online at <http://www4.unifi.it/studenti/CMpro-v-p-729.html> (Adobe Acrobat Reader required).

## XI. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

### A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Florence, Associate Dean Christine Marx and/or Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website.

### B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for Italy, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Florence area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

**In General** – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

**Area of Instability** – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE)**. This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

**Travel Warning** – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for Florence, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except

for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

## **XII. Program Reports**

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Office of Graduate and International Programs:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.

**Faculty of Law, University of Florence**

**ATTACHMENT A  
PROFESSOR VITTORIA BARSOTTI'S CV**

## VITTORIA BARSOTTI

### **Esami - Orario delle lezioni - Orario di ricevimento**

Vittoria Barsotti (Lawrence, Massachusetts, U.S.A., 11/2/1961) si è laureata in Giurisprudenza nel 1986 presso l'Università di Firenze, con il massimo dei voti e la lode. Ha conseguito il titolo di dottore di ricerca in Diritto comparato nel 1992. E' stata ricercatore presso il Dipartimento di diritto comparato e penale dal 1993 al 2000. Attualmente è professore associato di Sistemi giuridici comparati. Ha collaborato ai corsi di Sistemi giuridici comparati e di Diritto anglo-americano della Facoltà di Giurisprudenza dell'Università di Firenze a partire dall'a.a. 1986/87. Ha tenuto i seminari di introduzione alla ricerca in diritto straniero (*common law*) organizzati dal Servizio relazioni internazionali e dal Dipartimento di diritto comparato e penale. Ha svolto vari seminari nell'ambito dei corsi estivi della Dickinson School of Law presso la Facoltà di Giurisprudenza di Firenze. Nel Fall Term del 1998 ha tenuto come Visiting Professor presso la Northwestern University Law School di Chicago, un corso seminariale di *Comparative Constitutional Law*. E' membro dell'Associazione italiana di diritto comparato.

Di recente ha pubblicato:- *La sentenza Lujan della Corte suprema degli Stati Uniti sulla legittimazione ad agire delle associazioni ambientaliste*, in *Riv. trim. dir. e proc. civ.*, 1996, p. 1175.- *L'eutanasia, il caso Quill e la concurring opinion del giudice Calabresi. Un approccio mite alla judicial review*, in *Riv. dir. civ.*, 1996, I, p. 493; *Record*, in *Digesto*, IV Edizione, vol. XIX Civile, Torino, Utet, 1997, p. 328; *Subpoena*, in *Digesto*, IV Edizione, vol. XIX Civile, Torino, Utet, 1999, p. 75; *L'arte di tacere. Strumenti e tecniche di non decisione della Corte suprema degli Stati Uniti*, Torino, Giappichelli, 1999; *Recourse against Judgments in the European Union: Italy*, in *Civil Procedure in Europe 2*, J.A. Jolowicz and C. H. van Rhee, eds., Kluwer Law International, 1999, p. 207 (con V. Varano).

I suoi attuali interessi di ricerca vertono sulle riforme che hanno coinvolto l'amministrazione della giustizia in Inghilterra, con particolare riferimento al processo civile, a partire dal 1990.



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