

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Design

Rome Program

Explore. Immerse. Discover.

EXPLORE.

College of Design Rome Program

Why should I participate in the Rome Program?

Our program provides personal, academic and professional benefits that will extend far beyond your last day in Italy. You will learn how to integrate into another culture and how to live in another country where English is not the first language. Studying in Rome will help you to become more independent and flexible, to develop problem-solving and leadership skills, to increase your creativity and confidence, and to handle stressful situations better.

The Rome Program offers the opportunity to explore first hand what you've been learning about in textbooks here in Ames. Through classes taught in English by a mix of faculty members from Ames and distinguished European lecturers, you will experience the physical and cultural settings of major works of art and design. The program emphasizes links with local universities and Italian designers through studio visits, guest lecturers and guest critics. The city of Rome will become your classroom while you take ISU classes that are directly integrated with your major and fulfill your degree requirements.



In your travels abroad, you will integrate what you are learning into your design projects, taking your portfolio to the next level.



You'll attend classes and reviews just like in Ames, but in a different context.

What will I do abroad/in Rome?

You will attend classes each day just like you do in Ames, but that's where the similarities end.

The studio facility is part of a neighborhood community, and if you open a window, the city will come rushing in to inspire your next assignment. You'll have many opportunities to explore Rome with local experts through guided day trips, museum and gallery visits, urban walks and cultural events.

Faculty-led academic field trips allow you to travel across Italy and Europe. Semester programs traditionally take two field trips—varying in length from two to five days—that focus on subjects closely related to the studio topics and include visits to design studios. In addition, faculty members often offer optional trips to historic sites in Italy or to other European capitals.

You may use the Rome Program as a springboard for independent travel to destinations throughout continental Europe. Plan a couple of weekend trips to discover other historic cities that offer access to the latest contemporary art and design movements.

Design's Rome Program At a Glance

Established in 1991

More than **2,000 students** have participated since then; about **100 students** participate each year

First fully licensed study abroad program in the Iowa Regents system

Studio facility located in historic center of Rome in the 16th-century **Palazzo Cenci Bolognetti**

Apartment-style housing provided by the program; located **within walking distance** of the studio facility

Academic field trips expose you to outstanding examples of art and design in Italy

Many opportunities to **collaborate** with local or European institutions of higher education through **workshops, lectures, critiques** and **site visits**

Display your work at an end-of-term **exhibition** in Rome and again in Ames

Departmental and college **scholarships** available to help **support you financially**

Enjoy true Italian food like you've never had it before!



IMMERSE.

The Program

What is special about our Rome experience?

The Rome Program will become your home away from home at an Iowa State facility that is supported by several local staff members. The resident director oversees the day-to-day operations of the program, and three administrative assistants provide support for housing and student affairs, financial matters and local program coordination.

The studio facility is located in the historic center of Rome in close proximity to other American study abroad programs such as Cornell University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Washington and the Rhode Island School of Design. This gives you the opportunity to attend final reviews or interesting public lectures and interact with other students who are having a similar experience.

The nature and length of the program allow you to live in Italy like a young professional rather than like a tourist visiting Italy just for a short time span. You'll meet and learn from a highly trained international faculty team, and you'll have the chance to collaborate with Italian students.



The city becomes your classroom as you study historic art, design and architecture first hand in Rome, Italy.

What will I study in Rome/abroad?

You will be exposed to some of the Western world's major masterpieces of art and architecture, and you will learn from a great tradition of artists and craftsmen. Faculty members from Ames and locally hired lecturers will bring 3,000 years of Rome's history alive before your eyes. They will help you integrate what you are learning into your design projects, such as documenting what you see and hear as you take 1,000 paces from the studio or developing a high-end fashion boutique in a historic building.

Inspired by the great Italian artists, like Michelangelo or Bernini—who were at the same time architects, urban planners, painters, engineers and sculptors—you may open your mind to a more comprehensive understanding of the arts, which will allow you, once in a while, to break out of your specific discipline.

How will I fit in?

Our extensive pre-departure orientation course will help you develop the skills necessary to enjoy a successful study abroad experience. The one-credit DSN S 301 class—offered the semester before you participate in the Rome Program—will help you learn about the program, Rome and Italy.

One of the most important things you can do to have a successful study abroad experience is to interact with the local culture as soon as you arrive. After all, when in Rome, you should do as the Romans do! You'll also be exploring more about yourself as you become more independent and develop enhanced problem-solving and time-management skills. You'll make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.



You'll have your own table, chair, lamp and small storage area in the program's studio facility in the historic center of Rome.

DISCOVER.

Alumni Perspective

Erica Riha (BFA 2013 Interior Design / Apparel Merchandising)
Interior Designer, Robert Couturier, New York City, New York

Main benefit of the Rome Program: I gained so many cultural references not only in design but in life, that I'm able to use now.

Skills I gained abroad that I use today: Navigation in a large city, communication and independence.

Why international experience matters: Design is an expanding international market. Any way to have experienced that first hand is critical in this industry.

Favorite place in Italy: Almagi Coast—very beautiful and remote.

Other travels: I went to France a year after I traveled with the Rome Program, and a year ago I visited Israel for work.

Best advice for students considering a semester in Rome or other study abroad: It is a choice you will not regret. Traveling abroad is a time in your life that you can be selfish and learn so much about yourself.



Student Snapshot

Adam Sitzmann, Sioux City, Iowa

Why I chose the Rome Program: To broaden my design experience and to immerse myself in rich cultures that I may not have otherwise been exposed to in the United States. The Rome Program was perfect for the design atmosphere and allowed me to exceed scholastically while stimulating my global interests.

Greatest impact of studying in Rome: Getting to know new people. Surprisingly enough, it allowed me to get really close to other Iowa State students who studied with me. When you go to Rome, you don't go alone. Acquaintances in the classroom become your friends and your friends become your best friends. You get to grow together, you get to struggle together, and ultimately, you get to succeed together within the web of all of your experiences.

Biggest surprise: Experiencing Rome as an ancient city in a modern world. Next to the Pantheon is a McDonald's. Hundreds of graffiti-covered buildings lead you to St. Peter's Basilica.

Best advice for other students considering a semester in Rome or other study abroad: First off, go for it. Try it out. It really is as simple as that. Take the opportunity to change your life. People think they will learn so much about the new places they go when they study abroad, and they will. But something unexpected happens when you come back to America and you have learned more about yourself than you have anything else.



Learn More

**Learn more about how you can participate in the Rome Program!
Contact Erin French, (515) 294-7153, efrench@iastate.edu**

Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ISURome>

www.design.iastate.edu/Rome

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