Rome International Scholars Program

Notre Dame International and the Rome Global Gateway have launched an international scholars program in Rome for a small number (8-10) of select undergraduates recruited from across disciplines and departments. Qualified students are invited to apply by the study-abroad application deadline each fall. This is a special program that is designed for self-motivated students who would value the opportunity to undertake independent research during the Spring semester of Junior year that would ideally lead to senior thesis projects during senior year, and/or subsequent development of post-graduate research, including post-graduate fellowships and post-graduate studies. A key feature of the program is the opportunity for experiential learning, which can take the form of either an internship or service engagement to be conducted in Rome.

Students admitted to the Rome International Scholars Program are provided with funding for further language and/or disciplinary study and/or internship in Italy during the summer following their semester in Rome.

The curriculum for the Rome International Scholars Program will normally be made up of five courses, to include: 1) An independent research project supervised by ND faculty in a degree granting or honors program. 2) An elective course or internship offered in collaboration with any one of several universities working with the Rome Global Gateway such as the University of Rome Sapienza, University of Rome Roma Tre, John Cabot University, the Pontifical Gregorian University; 3) The “All Roads Lead to Rome” course that can satisfy university requirements in literature, history or fine arts; 4) An experiential learning activity (service or internship): this can assume multiple forms ranging from archeological digs, to business internships, to working with immigrants, to working with museums and NGOs, while participating in a weekly forum designed to support the development of their research (see below); 5) An Italian, Latin or Greek language course at the appropriate level.

The scholars will participate in the Rome International Scholars Forum, a one credit bearing weekly meeting dedicated to discussion of their research projects, their various experiences in the service or internship engagement and other activities/initiatives associated with their presence in Rome. Some forums will be devoted to guest lectures.

All sophomores who meet the requirements are invited to apply, even if they apply to other study abroad programs. Basic requirements include: GPA, at least 6 hours of Italian prior to the Spring semester of 2016 (6 hours of intensive hybrid Italian are available each semester, including the Fall of 2015), a letter of endorsement by a faculty member indicating their commitment to supervise the independent research to be conducted by the candidate in Italy. Contact Christian Moevs (cmoevs@nd.edu) or Vittorio Montemaggi (montema@nd.edu).

For a firsthand account of the invaluable experience of studying at ND’s RGG, please take a moment to listen to senior Italian majors, Andrew Guinan and Joe Strycz, describe their time spent in Rome: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXpRcsZNCio and https://youtu.be/3RwjMUzwS1E