Need to Know: Italy/Immersion Semester or Year

Objective of the “Need to Know” Document
The Need to Know document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for an EAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment.

The best sources of detailed program information are the UCEAP webpages for these Italy options http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/default.aspx and the Bologna and Bocconi Guides http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/Pages/default.aspx from the prior academic cycle.

If any concerns you have are not addressed in the UCEAP website, Program Guide, or Need to Know document, please contact the BSA Italy adviser.

Adviser Contact Information
For EAP Adviser name, phone, email and drop-in advising hours, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/contact/advising

Why Study Italian?
• For career and professional reasons: http://weloveitalian.org/?page_id=1292  Italy has the eighth largest economy in the world and the second largest manufacturing surplus in the EU.  And so many more good reasons…
• Because it’s popular:  http://www.italiantribune.com/italian-the-worlds-fourth-most-studied-language/
• It’s easy and fun to take an Italian course at Cal:  http://italian.berkeley.edu/ Consider a double-major or minor!

UCEAP Alumni/ae and UCEAP Reciprocal Exchange Students from Italy; videos of Bologna
UCEAP alums and UCEAP “reciprocity” students are also a good resource for information about the program.  If you would like to be put in touch with them, simply send the Italy Adviser an email addressed to the alums and/or reciprocity students (e.g., “Dear alums, or Dear Reciprocity Students, I have some questions about the program….”), then list a few of your questions) and the message will be forwarded to them.

Also, some links to short videos about Bologna are included at the end of this Need to Know memo. Spend a few minutes enjoying an introduction to this wonderful city by UCEAP students and others. Then consider participating in UCEAP’s full immersion program there – you won’t regret it. See page 4 of this document for further details about the University of Bologna, the oldest university in Europe, founded in 1088 – almost 800 years earlier than Cal.

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad
• View UCB financial aid details and many scholarship opportunities on our webpage:  http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances
• Deadlines to apply for scholarships are earlier than you may think, so do your research now!
• Some scholarships that are good for students going to Italy are:
  - The National Italian-American Foundation (NIAF) offers $2000-$12,000 grants:  http://www.niaf.org/programs/scholarships/  for details.  You don’t have to be Italian-American…
  - The UCB Classics Department offers various prizes and awards for travel and study in Italy and certain other appropriate countries.  See this Classics Department webpage for details http://www.classics.berkeley.edu/resources/undergraduates.
  - A UCEAP scholarship has been established for Cal students by the Lucheta family, creator of Torani syrups.  There is no application.  Recipients will be chosen based on financial aid criteria and notified of selection.
  - Duttenhaver Scholarships for UCEAP year-long programs -  http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/Duttenhaver_DanWise.aspx
  - Two UCEAP Jasmine Jahanshahi Scholarships in the amount of $2,500 each are available yearly for students on semester or year-long UCEAP immersion programs.  For full details, see http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/JasmineJahanshahi.aspx.
  - UC Berkeley’s Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarships – non-need-based scholarships of up to $2000 each to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies (deadline is in November) - http://iis.berkeley.edu/content/undergraduate-merit-scholarships
Graduating Seniors Spending their Last UC Semester or Year in Italy-Immersion

Learn about Italy before Choosing your Option and Writing your Statement of Purpose

Try [http://www.iicsanfrancisco.esteri.it/IIC_SanFrancisco](http://www.iicsanfrancisco.esteri.it/IIC_SanFrancisco/) for Italian cultural events in the Bay Area. Read the Lonely Planet and other books and on-line resources about Italy’s history, politics, art, and culture. Read up on Bologna and Milano (“Milan” in English.) A recommended reading list is included in the Program Guide to Italy (see top for link.) You should read about Italy before writing your Statement of Purpose, so you know something about the country and the city in which you want to study. A typical Italian university student knows far more about the U.S. than the typical UC student knows about Italy. You still have time to increase your knowledge before you go there. Take courses next semester about anything related to Italy --- you’ll be glad you did once you arrive in Italy.

Selection Interviews
If you need to be interviewed, you will be notified by the Italy adviser after your application has been reviewed.

Important Dates
In case you are selected, please mark your calendar now for the mandatory 3-4 hour Italy orientation. For Fall or Year, reserve Saturdays April 23 & 30, 2016 (8 AM to 8 PM, time TBA.) For Spring ‘17 reserve Saturday, December 3, 2016 (8 AM to 8 PM, time TBA.) Once the exact date and time have been chosen, you’ll be notified by the Italy adviser.

Critical Passport Details
Your passport must be valid for 3 months beyond the end date of the UCEAP program --- check the dates on the UCEAP Italy webpages to check this year’s end dates – your program will be similar.

Also, your MyEAP application name and your passport name must be identical (not just similar!) If there is a discrepancy of even one letter, hyphen, middle initial vs. full middle name, Jr., etc, the Italian consulate will not issue you a visa. Please check your passport name and use precisely that name on your MyEAP on-line application, even if it doesn’t match the name you use at UC Berkeley. If your passport name has an error, either get your passport fixed before you apply for UCEAP, or simply use the incorrect name on your MyEAP application in order to avoid a crisis later on.

Visa Application Prevents Travel Abroad Three Months Prior to Program Start Date
Due to the complicated, bureaucratic student visa application procedures followed by the Italian consulates, you should not make any plans to travel abroad in the three months leading up to the beginning of your program in Italy. The Italian consulates require that UCEAP students submit their visa application paperwork and their actual passport to them. Thus, you will not have your passport while your visa is being processed. It may be possible to apply for a duplicate US passport, so if you must travel outside of the US during the three months prior to the official start date of your Italy program, you should contact the National Passport Agency to find out how long it will take to get the second passport and how to apply for it, just in case you need to. Detailed instructions on the student visa application process for Italy will be included in an e-mail from the systemwide office of EAP (UCEAP) near Santa Barbara after selection. Do not purchase a plane ticket or make any other irreversible travel plans until you have received those instructions.

Graduating Seniors Spending their Last UC Semester or Year in Italy-Immersion
If you are in the College of Letters and Science, please be aware that you will be awarded your degree the term after your final semester on UCEAP. (If you’re in a different college, please check on its policy regarding this matter.) For example, if you study just for Fall ‘16 in Italy, your UC degree will probably be awarded in May ‘17 rather than in December ‘16 and if you study for the entire year in Italy, your degree will have an August date rather than a May date. This delay is due to the fact that in most Italian universities, the first semester ends in mid-February and the second semester ends in June or July so your grades will not arrive at UCB in time from Italy for you to be put on the degree list in the usual month. This is normally not a problem, but if you plan immediately after UCEAP to attend graduate school or apply for a scholarship or job that requires proof of a Bachelors degree, you should inquire whether the delay in your degree will create a problem for you in your particular circumstances. Also, graduating seniors must enroll in a full course load while in Italy, even if they do not need the courses or units for graduation.

Bologna Fall Calendar
In Bologna, some Fall Semester courses are taught in “modules” that end in late January, but many others end in December. The study center says that students have been able to find many professors who were willing to allow them to take early exams in mid-December so they can depart before Winter Break to return to California, but not every
professor will be so inclined. Students will need to negotiate with professors at the beginning of the Fall Semester to see if they will be willing to accommodate their wish for early exams. The UCEAP study center staff in Bologna can assist you in finding courses that can work. If you have any concerns about this, please email the Italy adviser.

**Pre-Intensive Language Program (Pre-ILP)**

All Fall and Year immersion applicants who will not have completed through Italian 4 by the end of Spring ‘16 must participate in the summer pre-ILP in Florence; students who have Italian 4 or more are not allowed to participate. If you must participate in the pre-ILP, be sure to choose that option when you fill out the on-line MyEAP application to indicate your intention to do so. The pre-ILP is not an option for Bocconi. There is no pre-ILP for any of the Spring options, so students must complete Italian 4 before departure.

**Taking Italian Language Classes P/NP**

Italian classes fulfilling the minimum language requirement may be taken P/NP, but with your application you must provide a written note from your instructor or the Italian Department stating what your letter grade would have been. It is your responsibility to make arrangements for this without prompting from the Italy adviser or BSA office.

**How to Choose an Italian Host University – General**

It is important for you to do research using the various resources on the UCEAP website to determine which host university has the best opportunities for your academic objectives. Start by reading the academic sections of the Bocconi and Bologna Program Guides (link at top) for an explanation of how academics work at each university. Then go to the Italy webpages for Bocconi and Bologna [http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/default.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/default.aspx) and read them thoroughly. In the Courses and Credits tab, click on the link for the MyEAP Course Catalog to view all courses taken by all EAP students in the past five years at each of these universities. This is just a subset of what could be offered, so also check out the actual host university websites to get a sense of what else might be offered, though it is not always easy to find courses on their websites.

If, after researching all the materials mentioned above, as well as below, you are not sure which university would be best for you, please ask me (Scott), the Italy adviser, for advising during my front counter drop-in hours (M 3-4, Tu 2-3, Th 11-12) or email me at scottmc@berkeley.edu to make a special advising appointment with me if those hours don’t fit your schedule. Please bring copies of what you found in your research that is pertinent to your academic goals in Italy.

**Specific Details about Disciplines at the Universities**

If you want to study Econ or BusAd in English, Bocconi in Milano is your best choice.

If you want to study BusAd or Econ in Italian, you can do so at both Bocconi and Bologna. Be advised, however, that Economics courses at Bologna are very challenging, even for well-prepared students from Cal. I would encourage you to investigate course offerings at Bocconi as well to see if the kinds of courses you need are typically available at that excellent institution.

If you want to study any other subject in Italian for a semester or year, look to see if Bologna offers what you need to get your academic needs met.

Political Science majors who want to take courses only about the European Union and its policies should not choose Bologna for logistical reasons. (The courses are taught in the town of Forli, about 70 km away.) Otherwise, Bologna is very good for Poli Sci majors.

Architecture majors: Courses related to Architecture (though probably not studios) are available at Bologna, though few may appear in the EAP Course Catalog. Check the host university’s website for additional information.

Art Studio/Practice majors: If you want to take art studio courses in Italy through UCEAP, you should apply for Bologna. UCEAP has an agreement with the Academy of Fine Arts there. You may take one or two art courses at Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna for which you have the appropriate background and the rest of your non-art curriculum at the University of Bologna.

Courses at the Accademia generally begin in late October. (Students on the Fall Semester only program will not be able to take courses at the Accademia since they run through February, so these courses work only for Spring and Year students.) The second semester begins in March.

Studio art courses are intended for advanced level students only since the coursework is at the advanced level. In fact Italian students who are admitted to the Accademia for the LAUREA degree program come principally from a LICEO ARTTISTICO where they have spent 5 years preparing for the Accademia experience. Admission for Italians is based on an entrance exam and the presentation and discussion of a portfolio.
While it is true that courses at the Accademia are intended for Studio Art majors, UCEAP has had a certain degree of success also with non Studio Art majors who have taken courses primarily in printmaking and painting. The best courses at the Accademia seem to be in the following fields: painting, printmaking, drawing, and sculpture. Photography is very problematic because the Accademia does not have its own darkroom, forcing students to use private photo labs which are generally quite expensive.

**Bologna – Further Information**

UCEAP students have been studying at Bologna for over 25 years.

Bologna is one of the highest ranked comprehensive universities in Italy, usually ranked #1. Central Bologna is largely a medieval city with a high energy level and a lot of nightlife.

Internships for academic credit are available and the study center can assist you. For further information, see [http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/univ_of_bologna.aspx?t=5](http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/univ_of_bologna.aspx?t=5) Be sure to watch Jane Huson's Bologna Internship video on that link. For a list of typical internships, see [http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/OurPrograms/Italy/Bologna_Internship_Chart.pdf](http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/OurPrograms/Italy/Bologna_Internship_Chart.pdf)

Students who aren't sure initially that they want to spend the entire year abroad can opt for fall and then ask to extend for spring semester if they like it.

Please note that students who want to apply for Spring Semester in Bologna (or Bocconi for courses taught in Italian) must have completed through Italian 4 by the end of Fall Semester because there is **not** a pre-ILP to cover the second year of Italian as there is in summer prior to Fall Semester. There is, however, a regular ILP before these Spring options begin.

Bologna students must find their own housing for the entire period they are there, with guidance from the study center. Homestays are not arranged. Almost all UCEAP students in Bologna choose to live in apartments shared with Italian students. You may choose to stay in a hotel or hostel when you first arrive in Bologna, so that you can have a look around before deciding where to live. UCEAP students successfully find housing in Bologna every year – it’s a little intimidating, but ultimately gratifying when you’ve accomplished it. Plus, you get to choose your apartment, and the people you’ll share it with! UCEAP students who are finishing their stay in Bologna actively seek out new UCEAP students to fill their rooms if they think their roommates and location are positive, so you could end up taking over a room from a departing UCEAP student, which makes it easy, too.

The **Pre-Intensive Language Program (pre-ILP)** makes it possible for students to apply for the Bologna program without having to complete Italian 4 at Cal --- **now just Italian 2 is enough for the Fall or Year options!** The pre-ILP in Florence will cover enough of second year Italian to prepare students for the Intensive Language Program (ILP) in August which precedes the beginning of Fall Semester in Bologna. Then students enroll in the regular courses offered along with regular Bologna students from Italy. Students may also enroll in a course taught in English. They are fewer in number, however, so students should plan to take most of their courses taught in Italy so they have the full array of courses from which to choose.

To find regular courses that have been taught in English in Bologna, go to the main Public Course catalog on the UCEAP website: [http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Pages/CourseCatalog.htm](http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Pages/CourseCatalog.htm) and then select “Advanced Search” at the top left of the search screen. Once the Advanced Search is opened there is an option to select Language of Instruction so you can look for courses at each institution that were taught in English and taken by a UCEAP student in the past five years. Those courses will not necessarily be offered the semester you are there, but this gives you a sense of the variety that is typically offered.

If you will have completed at least Italian 2 by the end of spring semester, I encourage you to give serious consideration to choosing a full immersion option, as it will greatly enhance your Italian proficiency and cultural knowledge. Though a greater challenge, the rewards are greater as well, especially if you intend to pursue graduate studies or a career related to Italy or the European Union.

The prospect of taking courses taught in Italian at a regular university may seem impossible now, given that you may have studied Italian for only a semester or two so far, but with the help of the pre-ILP, ILP, and the UCEAP Study Center in Bologna, your Italian will improve quickly enough for you to do reasonably well in your courses, if you study hard. And if you can stay for the year, your second semester will be much easier than the first since your Italian will be much better then and you will have made Italian friends, including those with whom you share an apartment.

UC students have been succeeding at these kinds of immersion options for over 50 years, so you can, too! I spent my Junior Year at Cal with EAP in Germany, so I know what it’s like. So feel free to discuss this with me (Scott) during my drop-in hours in 160 Stephens Hall: M 3-4, Tu 2-3, and Th 11-12.
**Bocconi – Further Information**

No prior Italian required. The Intensive Language Program (ILP) at Bocconi is still required of all participants just before the beginning of the semester. Students may continue studying elementary to intermediate Italian during the semester though an extra fee is charged by Bocconi. Most courses at Bocconi are still taught in Italian so only a subset of ~60 undergraduate courses in English per year will be available (another ~90 grad level courses for grad students, should they apply.) Students who have completed Italian 4 by departure will still be allowed to take courses taught in Italian at Bocconi.

How to look up courses at Bocconi:

**MyEAP Course Catalog**

A list of courses previously taken by UCEAP students at Bocconi. Additional courses may be available and not all courses may still be offered.

For general information about Bocconi:


**Course Offerings for Exchange Students**

This webpage gives access to lists of courses offered to Exchange students in Fall/Spring 2015-16, both those offered in English and Italian. Once you click on a course title, you can scroll down past the Italian description to one in English or click the translator link on the left.

**Minimum eligibility requirements:** The minimum GPA was raised recently from 3.0 to 3.2 because many UCEAP students have been struggling, some due to excessive traveling. You must be a Business Administration or Economics major to be eligible for Bocconi. (If you’re a Political Economy or any other major and you will have met the minimum coursework and grade requirements stated below, you should see the Italy adviser if you’re interested in Bocconi before you apply.) Please discuss your plans with your major adviser well before you apply regardless of major.

To be selected for Bocconi, you must demonstrate that you have a strong aptitude and background in math and either BusAd or Economics. Bocconi has a very mathematical approach to all its courses, including those in social sciences.

Given how few spaces are available there, especially in Fall, the minimum coursework and grade requirements by the time of departure are:

- a cumulative GPA of 3.2;
- a 3.0 GPA in Econ/BusAd courses;
- no grade lower than a B- in any of the following courses: at least two courses in math and/or statistics (these can be lower division,) as well as in Econ 100A and B or BusAd 101A and B.
- Please note: BOTH the upper division Micro and Macro Economics courses MUST be completed before departure.
- At least one of them must be completed (preferable) or at least in progress at the time of application.

**Seniors** with a full year of BusAd or Econ coursework completed by departure are the best fit for Bocconi. Bocconi is a competitive and rigorous school, so be prepared to work hard there. It will be well worth the effort.

**Bocconi Spring Final Exams in late June:** If you plan to get an internship or job that begins before July 1, Bocconi is probably not a good Spring Semester choice because students may not leave early. Maastricht in the Netherlands is a good European alternative if you need BusAd/Econ courses in English; Rome or Florence are good alternatives if you don’t need BusAd/Econ courses and studying in Italy is your primary objective. Those programs end earlier than Bocconi.

**Competitiveness of the Programs**

**Bocconi** – Now that Bocconi requires no prior Italian, it is very popular. Berkeley is allocated only ~2 spaces for Fall and ~8 for Spring. If demand exceeds space, priority will be given to applicants who meet all the minimum requirements explained above and who have the strongest combination of: the most upper division BusAd/Econ courses, the highest GPAs overall and in the upper division BusAd/Econ courses, the best-written, most convincing Statements of Purpose, and the most complete, accurately-put-together applications. Extra points for applicants who will have enough Italian to take some of their subject courses taught in Italian.

**Alternates** – If demand exceeds space for Bocconi, some qualified applicants might need to be made alternates initially until space opens up. No guarantee that it will, but often it does. We prefer not to deny qualified applicants if there is a chance that space will open up for them.
Bologna – Generally speaking, Bologna has not been impacted recently. Most applicants who meet the eligibility requirements have a good chance of being selected.

Italian Universities are Different from U.S. Universities!
To understand the differences, please read the section in the Bocconi and Bologna Program Guides on academic culture (link at top.) It would also be helpful to talk with alums who have recently returned from UCEAP in Italy about what it’s like to be a student there. You can send the Italy adviser an e-mail with your questions and he will forward it to them. You can also ask the Italy adviser about this issue during his drop-in advising shifts. He learned a lot about this interesting and important subject during his business trips to Italy in 2002 and 2015. It is a reality to be taken seriously before you decide to apply to study in Italy, as you will be operating under Italian norms while there. Sometimes students ask me how strict the grading is in Italy. It is impossible to generalize. Most students fare about as well in Italy as they do in Berkeley, if they study diligently. There is no guarantee, however, that all grades will be perfect A’s, even with diligent study (just as there isn’t at Cal). Much depends on what the individual professors are like and what they expect from American students. Occasionally, students are upset because they receive, for example, a B+ instead of the A they think they deserve. Just as at Cal, it is most unlikely that grades will be altered, unless clerical error can be shown. Studying in another country entails some degree of risk, but in the end, the vast majority of study abroad alums would insist that the long-term rewards far outweigh the risks.

Mille grazie! Buona fortuna!

Check out these Bologna videos, as well as blogs by UCEAP students!

➡️ UCEAP Bologna students give their impressions of studying abroad in Bo: (pre-ILP is now in Florence rather than Siena)

Long version:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMiB4Bb6lew](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMiB4Bb6lew) (~12 minutes)

Short version:  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQQGccj9syg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQQGccj9syg) (~4 minutes)

➡️ UCI student Chris Craig on studying on UCEAP Bologna: (pre-ILP is now in Florence)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFvXh5hXjFU&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFvXh5hXjFU&feature=related)

➡️ Introduction to the city of Bologna “Bologna, where everyday is special”:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObBreSoNzZY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObBreSoNzZY)

➡️ An exchange student’s tour of the city and a day in the life:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0YPydL6B08](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0YPydL6B08) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyj4W9S5tFk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xyj4W9S5tFk)

➡️ And just for fun- a Bolognese tribute to Pharrell’s HAPPY:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7laS6mKzP2c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7laS6mKzP2c)

➡️ And for the foodies…  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A16XWLf1rco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A16XWLf1rco)

➡️ Lily’s and Shelby’s blog has excellent perspective and is a lot of fun to read:  
[https://fattoconcalifornialove.wordpress.com/](https://fattoconcalifornialove.wordpress.com/)

➡️ Melissa’s blog: She has some great information as well and has really integrated into the culture. She is part of the Unibo choir and as a vegan she also put together a great list of vegan-friendly places in Bologna!  [https://belissimelissa.wordpress.com/](https://belissimelissa.wordpress.com/)