



STUDIO
ARTS
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL

PRE-DEPARTURE, ORIENTATION, & RE-ENTRY SUPPORT



saci-florence.edu

MISSION

SACI'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH A CHALLENGING, LIFE-ENHANCING EXPERIENCE IN THE CENTER OF FLORENCE IN TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY STUDIO ARTS, DESIGN, CONSERVATION, AND ART HISTORY. STUDENTS DIRECTLY ACCESS CENTURIES OF ITALIAN CULTURE THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. SACI ENGAGES IN LEADING AREAS OF RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION, INTERACTS WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTISTIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, AND PREPARES STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD.

Welcome to SACI!

SACI STUDENTS ON A SCULPTURE FIELD TRIP TO CARRARA



PRE-DEPARTURE

- **Pre-Departure Skypes:** Informational Pre-Departure Skypes are offered by SACI prior to the start of every study term. The SACI representative who administer the skype chats are often joined by a recent SACI Alumni. Group skype sessions are scheduled for the undergraduate student group set to leave for Florence, and another skype session is scheduled separately for their parents and guardians. This is an opportunity for all concerned to inquire about Italian life and culture, housing, money matters, classes, transportation, student life, and the like.
- **The SACI Group Flight** offers several advantages including a pre-departure orientation at the airport given by a SACI admissions representative. The SACI admissions representative is available to answer additional questions that students or parents may have prior to departure. Students on group flights are also met by SACI staff at the airport in Florence and provided with additional orientation materials. Traveling together is a great way for our students to begin their overseas experience and gain the support of new friends. Students who have chosen to stay in SACI housing are given their housing assignment and apartment keys, and are assisted in securing taxis to their apartments.

ORIENTATION, ASSIMILATION AND

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- **Orientation Program:** All arriving students take part in the SACI Orientation Program. This includes a presentation/discussion with Dean David Davidson on customs and habits in Italy. Many of the issues students should consider in their adjustment to living in Italy are discussed. Students are introduced to SACI Florence staff members, and are guided through police registration and other processes with our Housing Director, Daniela Barbato. Tours of the SACI facilities as well as the local area (post office, hospital, art supply stores, etc.) are provided.
- **Student Life and Field Trips:** Numerous events and activities outside of class are scheduled throughout our semesters. Italian films with English subtitles, introduced by SACI film

history instructor Tina Fallani, are shown during various evenings throughout the term. Italian cooking classes, open drawing sessions, and SACI Gallery exhibition openings are offered. Field trips throughout Tuscany and elsewhere in Italy are an integral and deeply rewarding part of the SACI overseas study experience. Students will be attending the field trips that are scheduled in classes in which they are enrolled, as well as field trips that are open to all enrolled students. Some of the numerous sites typically visited by SACI students include Venice, Rome, Milan, Naples, Bologna, Pisa, Lucca, Ravenna, Siena, Fiesole, San Gimignano, Arezzo, San Sepolcro, Monterchi, Assisi, Urbino, Tivoli, Hadrian's Villa, Certosa di Galluzzo, Vinci, Faenza, Pietrasanta, and Carrara. Guided field trips, both required and optional, offer an eye-opening complement to the study abroad experience. SACI's MFA and MA students go on multi-day field trips to European centers outside of Italy such as Paris, Berlin, and London at no additional cost. Supplementary field trips are made to the Venice Biennale (every other year) and to contemporary art fairs and major exhibitions in Bologna, Milan, Naples, Rome, and elsewhere in Italy.

- **Community Involvement:** SACI works to facilitate community involvement, with ample opportunities for students to get involved and give back to the Florentine community. SACI students have participated in gardening initiatives in the city, acted as docents in historic churches, helped teach English to local Italian elementary school students, ran marathons in the city, helped in libraries, decorated hospitals, and much more. A link to more information can be found in the Student Life section of our website.
- **Internships:** For advanced design students, highly selective internships are possible in the following areas: Architecture, Communications, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Lighting Design, Product Design, and Fashion Design. Also, internships are arranged in supervised situations for Museology students who seek the experience of working in a museum department in order to learn about everyday challenges that occur at a contemporary museum. The experience of working in a museum enables students to learn firsthand matters

not always available in texts. These internship opportunities are offered at the Marino Marini Museum in Florence. Students may also volunteer as Gallery Assistants in the SACI Galleries.

- **Professional Practices:** Aside from internships and significant local conservation projects, the question of real world networking and professional application of the knowledge and skills acquired at SACI are visited in several ways. SACI students have had the opportunity to participate in exhibitions at prestigious Florentine institutions such as the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights, the Center for Contemporary Culture at Palazzo Strozzi, the Museum of Natural History "La Specola," and more. SACI students also connect with local and visiting artists, historians and professionals through visits to their studios and workplaces, and lecture opportunities. Such connections focus on the professional practices of working individuals in the field. For our graduate students pursuing an MFA, Professional Practicum I and II are Graduate Seminar requirements. Contemporary practices with an emphasis on the role of the emerging artist within new and established art communities are the focus during the first year. During the second year, the course investigates artists' networks and professional opportunities for the emerging artist or professional photographer. International contemporary art fairs and various exhibits are visited, and there are regular meetings with art historians, art gallery owners, curators, and artists.

RE-ENTRY

- **Resources:** SACI maintains several ways for our students who are re-entering their home country to stay connected to the experience they had, process it, and filter it back into the cultural, academic and professional world at home. We maintain contact with our students and provide information about returnee conferences and websites such as www.lifeafterstudyabroad.com.
- **Alumni Association:** SACI's Alumni Association helps to maintain the bonds forged in Florence and evolve those connections into exciting partnerships at home, such as exhibitions in New York and beyond.

A hub of contact means a place to share, process, and bring the study abroad experience back into the home culture.

- **Support and Exposure:** Featured Alumni Artists enjoy exposure on the SACI website and our social media presence. Alumni have the opportunity to have their artwork and designs seen by a large online audience with regular posts on Instagram and contests for expanded spotlights including bio, links, and works

of art shared throughout our various platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, SACI Blog, website, etc.).

- **Blog:** A connection to the robust offerings and events at SACI, as well as a source of opportunity—numerous calls for art, residencies, and public art competitions are posted here; along with information about local and international events and exhibitions. See: www.saci-art.com.

- **SACI Exhibitions and Contests:** The recent SACI International Art Exhibition Award was open to artists worldwide (alumni and non-alumni alike) and prizes included a well-publicized solo show in Florence.
- **Reunion:** SACI's 40th Year Reunion saw SACI alumni gather to attend a number of amazing organized events over the course of four days. Further reunions will bring our community together again in the future.

SACI STUDENTS AT THE ARNO RIVER IN FLORENCE
ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN TAYLOR



SACI IS

A United States non-profit 501(c)(3) educational entity incorporated in 1976

A directly accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

Affiliated with Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio, which is accredited by NASAD and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

Recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry of Universities as a foreign non-profit university-level program

Students who would like to receive a copy of SACI's accreditation, licensure, and/or approval should send a signed request for such material to SACI's Dean.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Studio Arts College International (SACI) and Bowling Green State University (BGSU) that no person shall be subject to discrimination in whatever relationship with SACI or BGSU because of disability, age, race, religion, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin.

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