

FSU Florence

Safety Guide

2008

Inside:

[Introduction](#)

[Meetings and Documents](#)

[Safety tips for your stay in Florence](#)

[Common Sense Safety Tips](#)

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Sex Offences](#)

[Reporting a crime in Florence](#)

[In the event of a security alert](#)

[Crime stats FSU Florence 2005-07](#)

[Blank Crime Report Forms](#)



Introduction:

Studying abroad is one of the best ways to experience life in a new country. By spending a significant amount of time in a foreign country you get a better understanding of the culture, the people and the lifestyle. However, you need to keep in mind that although you are an American citizen, when you are in Italy you are subject to Italian laws. In this guide you will find many safety tips that are no more than common sense, but you will also find explanations regarding Italian laws and FSU in Florence policies. We have prepared this guide to help you make the most of your time here while keeping you safe and informed on how to handle in the most effective manner any challenges you may encounter

All information in this guide is updated annually and is produced in accordance with the Federal Jeanne Clery Act of 1990.

Meetings and Documents:

This safety guide is only one of the many steps FSU Florence takes to ensure your stay here is a safe and pleasant one. In addition to this guide you will find available to you the following meetings and documents to help you further understand what steps you need to take to remain safe:

Student Orientation - The day after your arrival FSU has a full-day, mandatory orientation for all students. You will be given an FSU student guide to take home with you that reiterates all of the information discussed here.

Visit by the *Polizia* - Shortly after your arrival representatives from the Italian Police come to the school to discuss safety in Florence. They will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

Practical Guide – When you arrive you will find your individual copy of FSU Florence's Practical Guide in your apartment. This guide is filled information that both the staff here and past students have found useful.

Register your time in Florence – FSU and the US Government highly recommend that you register your stay in Florence on their website <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Registering allows the government to help you in case serious medical, financial or legal problems should arise.

Emergency Contact Cards – You will be given an emergency contact card that has your name, the address and phone number of the Study Center in Florence, and Emergency numbers. Students are asked to keep this card with them at all times.

Common Sense Safety Tips:

Study Center Safety:

- The study center is equipped with CCTV cameras around the building. These cameras allow the staff to monitor who enters the study center.
- All students, faculty and staff have a card that grants them entrance to the building. Students are asked to use these cards to enter the building and to not share these cards with anyone, including fellow students.
- The study center is staffed Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. The Florence study center secures their buildings when classes end each day.
- Please help the staff of the FSU in Florence keep the study center safe. If you notice anyone or anything suspicious please let a member of the staff know immediately.

Safety at home:

- Always lock your door when leaving your apartment and keep windows closed and locked.
- Know who is at the door before you answer it and never let strangers into the apartment.
- FSU will let you know if someone is coming to your apartment to do maintenance work. If someone shows up claiming to be there for work and you have not been informed please call the study center before letting them in.
- Don't lend your keys to anyone and don't put your address on your keys.
- Keep valuable items away from windows.
- No overnight visitors are allowed in FSU apartments, all guests must be out of the apartments by 11pm.
- We don't recommend bringing valuable items from home to Florence as you will be sharing a room. The study center does have a small safe available where you can keep smaller items such as airline tickets.

Safety away from home:

- Keep your belongings safe: don't carry your wallet in your back pocket, hold your purse or backpack in crowded areas and never put either on the floor or on the back of a chair in a bar or restaurant.
- Police in Florence can ask for identification at any time so please keep a photocopy of your passport with you at all times.
- Make a photocopy of all your important documents and keep them at home.
- Walk or jog with a friend. Avoid jogging after dark and always stay in well-lit areas.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return
- Always use ATM machines that are in well-lit areas and make sure no one is watching while you enter your pin number. Keep a copy of your credit card and ATM card information at home in case your card gets lost or stolen.
- Avoid any areas or people who look suspicious.

Safety at Night:

- Pick pockets are out at night. Think about what you really need before going out. It is better to bring only a copy of your passport, small sums of cash and one credit card.
- Remember that alcohol accounts for most problems American students have in Florence. Be responsible with the decisions that you make when you are out at bars and pubs.
- Do not leave your drink unattended.
- Practice safety in numbers and keep an eye on friends who are out with you.
- Don't let your friends or roommates go to other bars or home alone or with strangers.
- While during the day you can walk just about anywhere in Florence, its better to take a taxi at night. If you do decide to walk, stay in groups and on well-lit, main streets.
- Get in the habit of keeping some extra cash in a safe place in your wallet or purse in case you need to take a taxi home.
- Do not walk home alone at night. If you find yourself alone, call a taxi or have a bartender call one for you (tel. 055/4390 or 055/4242). Never accept rides from strangers, and never hitchhike.
- If you have problems on your way home, call the polizia or the carabinieri. If it is an emergency, seek a police officer or enter the nearest public place and call the police from there.
- Avoid dealing with people who may approach you on the streets at night. If someone bothers you do not make eye contact or attempt to talk to them. If they are persistent seek a police officer or enter the nearest public place for help. If someone continually bothers you, please contact a member of the FSU staff in Florence.
- Never tell people who you meet out where you live.

Safety while traveling:

Many students choose to take advantage of their long weekends to travel throughout Europe. Remember that you are always subject to the laws of the country where you are traveling. Many countries have laws that are more severe than the US so do your research before leaving.

- Always remember to sign out with the FSU study center before you leave so that the school knows your travel plans and has a way to contact you.
- It is better to travel with friends, however if you decide to travel on your own leave a copy of your itinerary with friends and at the study center.
- Read a guide book! Familiarize yourself with where you will be traveling. It is also a good idea to check out the US Government travel web site <http://www.travel.state.gov> for the country you will be visiting.
- Remember to bring all necessary documents with you. If you are remaining in Italy you will still need your passport to check into your hotel or hostel.
- Be careful with your belongings when you are traveling by train.
- Avoid political demonstrations or gatherings of large groups of people as they are very different from American demonstrations and can turn violent very quickly.

- Stay up to date on what's going on in the world to avoid possibly dangerous locations.
- If the country where you are going speaks a language other than English try to learn a few key phrases before you go.
- Register your trip with the State Department at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Alcohol and Drugs:

Alcohol:

Many students studying in Florence may find that they can legally drink in bars, pubs and restaurants for the first time. Students away from home for the first time quickly realize how plentiful and easily accessible alcohol is in Florence. Students are advised to be especially careful if they should decide to go out for a night of drinking. Most unfortunate incidents ending in physical or sexual harm are the result of a student not being in control of their faculties because of heavy drinking. FSU promotes responsible decision making; if you chose to drink while in Florence please do so legally and responsibly. All FSU policies relevant to alcohol and controlled substances are enforced in Florence and the use of illegal substances is not allowed at any time. These policies and rules reflect a concern for the health and safety of the campus community and apply to University faculty, students, staff, visitors, and guests. FSU strongly advises students:

- Never get separated from your friends when out at a pub or bar
- Never leave your drink unattended
- Do not accept rides home with someone you have just met
- Do not walk home alone – call a cab
- Do not give out your home address to someone you have just met
- Carry with you emergency contact numbers

Following are Italian laws regarding the consumption of alcohol and the possible consequences of your actions:

- Article 689 of the Italian Criminal Code states that sale and distribution of alcoholic drinks and beverages by the manager of a bar/cafeteria or food and beverage shop, in a public place or in place open to the public, is prohibited to individuals under 16-years-old and those who are mentally ill or have a clear mental deficiency caused by any other illness
- Article 688 of the Italian Criminal Code prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, clear drunkenness that could cause a danger to society at large
- Article 690 of the Italian Criminal Code prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, the serving of alcoholic beverages to an individual that cause the individual to become intoxicated. Article 690 also prohibits, in a public place or in a place open to the public, the serving of alcoholic beverages to an individual who is already clearly intoxicated

In the FSU Study Center in Florence and all of the FSU apartments in Florence the State of Florida rules apply regarding alcohol consumption in university residences. They are as follows:

- No person under 21 years of age may consume alcoholic beverages in the residence halls. S.C.C. 5 (h)1
- Students who display intoxicated behaviors (e.g., glazed eyes, slurred speech, etc.) or students who require staff assistance due to their consumption of alcohol shall be subject to judicial action.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages and containers is not permitted in the residence halls by individuals under 21 years of age, or in the rooms of students under 21 years of age. If any resident of flat is less than 21 years of age, no alcohol may be in the common areas of the flat.
- Residents 21 years and over are not permitted to have open containers of alcohol in any common area of the Centre, e.g. hallways, lounges, kitchens, bathrooms.
- Decorative container collections e.g. bottles, cans, bottle caps are not permitted.
- Kegs, beer balls, funnels, bongs, and other devices that promote irresponsible drinking are not permitted in the residence halls.

Illegal Substances:

- The unlawful possession, use of or distribution of drugs will not be tolerated in the FSU study center or in FSU apartments. Upon finding drug use, possession or distribution by any student, staff or faculty member the university will take the appropriate action. In addition to university sanctions students may be subject to prosecution under Italian law.
- All drugs are illegal in Italy. The Italian government has issued new quantity guidelines that determine whether those caught with drugs are prosecuted as possessing drugs for personal use or with the intention to sell them. According to the law, anyone in possession of more than the specified amounts (see below) is no longer considered to possess the drugs for personal use but seen as a drug trafficker and will be prosecuted accordingly.
- Anyone caught with illegal substances is subject to administrative sanctions. These sanctions include, but are not limited to the loss of drivers' licenses or passports. Those who are determined to be "small time" dealers face drug treatment while "traffickers" face from six to 20 years in prison.
- The following table illustrates quantities which trigger prosecution as a drug trafficker. These amounts refer to the weight of the active ingredient in a drug not to the actual weight of a drug:

Marijuana and hashish	½ gram or more
Cocaine	¾ gram or more
Ecstasy	¾ gram or more
Amphetamine	½ gram or more
Heroin	¼ gram or more
LSD	1/8 gram or more

Support Services in Florence:

Students who would like alcohol or drug abuse counseling should speak with a member of the FSU Florence staff who can refer them to an appropriate English speaking health-care professional.

Counseling is also available through alcoholics anonymous at St. James American Church in Via Rucellai 9 055/ 232 6133

Sex Offences:

The following tips can help you avoid becoming a victim of sexual assault:

- Remember that alcohol impairs your judgment. Almost all of the sexual assaults that occur in Florence occur late at night to women who have been drinking.
- When you go out, go out in groups and never leave a bar with someone who you have just met or do not know well.
- If you lose your friends while you are out let your friends know where you are and take a taxi home.
- Never leave your drink alone.
- Remember that you are in a foreign country and while the way you are acting may seem harmless to you, your actions can be perceived differently by others.

If you are the victim of a sexual assault.

- Try to remain calm and alert and immediately call a member of the FSU Florence staff. All cases will be treated with absolute confidentiality. You have the option to notify local authorities and, should you choose, the contacted FSU staff member will help you contact the appropriate local authorities.
- Do not change your clothing.
- Do not clean your body or clothes.
- Do not disturb or alter the crime scene.

The university will take any allegations of rape, sexual assault or harassment very seriously. Students accused of crimes of a sexual nature will be subject to university judicial procedures. In addition to university sanctions they may be subject to criminal prosecution under Italian laws.

Support Services in Florence

The group Artemisia is an Italian Association that offers support for women who are victims of sexual abuse. Their number is 055/602311

*Italy does not maintain registries of sexual offenders and their crimes. However local courts in Italy maintain records that are available to the public of all criminal proceedings. A list of criminals who are at large, including sexual offenders is kept by the Italian Ministero dell'interno and is available online at:
http://www.interno.it/sezioni/attivita/sicurezza/dip_ps/dcpc/s_000000241.htm*

Reporting a crime in Florence:

FSU in Florence has a working relationship with the local authorities, as well as with The Association of American College and University Programs in Italy to help make students more aware of safety concerns that are specific to studying abroad in Florence. Representatives from Florence's Polizia come to the study center at the beginning of each semester to introduce themselves and to give advice concerning safety in Florence. These same officers patrol the area around the study center and are available to help students should they have any problems. Additionally, updates regarding security threats, programs to inform students and employees about crime prevention and meetings with the polizia will be distributed to students and employees via email and will be posted in the study center.

If you are victim of a crime or something important is lost or stolen, notify a member of FSU's staff in Florence immediately. They can help you with the process of filing a report with the police.

If you would like to file a police report regarding an incident or a lost item on your own, some police stations have English-speaking officers who can take your report. Remember to bring your passport with you as identification. *If you do report the incident on your own, it is still important that you notify a member of FSU's staff.*

For lost items the police will provide you with legal proof of your loss which you will need when you request replacement of credit cards, driver's license, school identification card, and other personal documents. If you have travel insurance, your insurance company will also want a copy.

The addresses and numbers for the Polizia and the Carabinieri where you can file a report are listed below:

Polizia	Carabinieri
Emergency number 113	Emergency number 112
Via Zara 2	Borgognissanti 48
055 497 71	055 248 11

In the event of a security alert:

FSU is in constant contact with the security officers at the U.S. Embassy in Rome and the U.S. Consulate in Florence. All U.S. government alerts for U.S. citizens abroad will be posted in the FSU study center. In the unlikely event of a security alert, everyone is asked to observe the following:

Number One Rallying Point: Florida State University
Florence Study Center
Borgo degli Albizi 15

Alternate Rallying Point: Please see the information provided during orientation in the FSU student guide.

- If the group is on the road for excursions, the rallying point in case of emergencies is the hotel where the group is staying.

Crime Stats FSU Florence:

Crimes Reported to Security/Campus/Local Police at Florence, Italy

OFFENSES (including attempts)	CAMPUS BUILDING OR PROPERTY						Non-Campus Building or Property			On Public Property			TOTAL CRIMES REPORTED		
	2005		2006		2007		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	3	2
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HATE CRIMES (By Prejudice)															
Race	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Religion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Note: "Res" means student residences, and is a subset of total (Tot) ON CAMPUS reports for that year. Include residence crimes in the ON CAMPUS total as well.

Number of Arrests/Referrals for Select Offenses by Campus Security/Campus/Local Police Department and Number of Referrals for Select Offenses by Other University Officials 2005-2007

OFFENSES	CAMPUS BUILDING OR PROPERTY						Non-Campus Building or Property			On Public Property			TOTAL CRIMES REPORTED		
	2005		2006		2007		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REFERRAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REFERRAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REFERRAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note – Arrests and referrals are separate. A referral is a campus disciplinary action where a student was not arrested, but was referred to Student Rights for a violation of the student conduct code.

Crimes Reported by Other University Officials*

OFFENSES (including attempts)	CAMPUS BUILDING OR PROPERTY						Non-Campus Building or Property			On Public Property			TOTAL CRIMES REPORTED		
	2005		2006		2007		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Res	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	Tot	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HATE CRIMES															
(By Prejudice)															
Race	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Religion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Use all Deans, Dept. Heads, and Directors related to your branch campus (safest method).

Florida State University _____ Study Center Crime Report

Student(s) Involved:

Name	Name
Social Security Number	Social Security Number
Permanent Address	Permanent Address
Permanent Telephone Number	Permanent Telephone Number
Date of Birth	Date of Birth

Incident Details:

Date of Incident	Time
Location	

Description of incident:

Name of person documenting incident (Please print)	
Signature	Date

Witnesses to the incident (if any):

Name	Name
Permanent Address	Permanent Address

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Florida State University _____ Study Center Crime Report

Student(s) Involved:

Name	Name
Social Security Number	Social Security Number
Permanent Address	Permanent Address
Permanent Telephone Number	Permanent Telephone Number
Date of Birth	Date of Birth

Incident Details:

Date of Incident	Time
Location	

Description of incident:

Name of person documenting incident (Please print)	
Signature	Date

Witnesses to the incident (if any):

Name	Name
Permanent Address	Permanent Address

