What to Know Before You Go

1.) How can I use a cell phone without spending my life savings?
Each apartment will be equipped with a cell phone that you can use for receiving calls and for making emergency calls. We recommend that you purchase a pay-as-you-go cell phone abroad.

2.) What will the housing be like?
Students are housed in a Florentine style apartment complex in the city center and students can expect a 20 minute walk to the Study Center. Each apartment has 1-3 bedrooms, an efficiency kitchen, bathroom, a small living area and wireless internet access.

3.) Do I need to make copies of my passport before I go?
Yes, you are required to make a copy of EVERY page of your passport and bring it with you to Florence. The copies do not need to be in color.

4.) Where do I get my books for classes?
We have emailed your registration materials, including a list of required textbooks. You will need to purchase your books prior to departure, and bring them with you to Florence, unless otherwise indicated in your registration information.

5.) Will they accept my American dollars in Italy?
No. We recommend that you go to your local bank several weeks prior to departure and exchange at least $100 for euros. You can also exchange currency at the international airport for an increased convenience fee.

6.) How do I access the rest of my hard-earned money?
The easiest way to access money in Florence is with an ATM card. Your FSU Card only works as an ATM card at a select few banks in Florence. Make sure your ATM card is associated with an international ATM circuit, like Cirrus, Star or Plus. Tell your bank that you will be accessing your account from abroad.
7.) **Now that I can access my money, how much should I expect to spend?**
   As indicated by former students, a minimum of $4,000, and an average of $6,000, is needed for a full semester of meals, incidental expenses, and personal travel.

8.) **How do I make sure I don’t fry my laptop abroad?**
   Make sure to bring plug converters for all electronics. Laptop computers will also require transformers. As an aside, don’t forget to check your homeowner’s insurance to make sure your electronic devices are covered for theft abroad.

9.) **Can I refill my prescriptions abroad?**
   You must bring sufficient quantities of prescription medication with you. Make sure to keep these medications in their original containers, along with a copy of the prescriptions, in your carry-on luggage. If you have difficulty getting a vacation prescription to cover your entire stay, please contact IP immediately. It is almost impossible to ship medication abroad without complicated paperwork and high customs fees. Most medications may be found here in Italy, but check with IP first if you have any doubts. Medications for ADD and ADHD do not exist in Italy.

10.) **How do I keep my peace of mind while abroad?**
    Make copies of your plane ticket, passport, and credit cards (back and front). Bring copies with you to Florence, and leave additional copies at home with your family.

11.) **Can I have packages sent to me while I am abroad?**
    We strongly discourage students from having any packages sent to them while abroad. We have had numerous students who had problems either with packages arriving after they’ve already left the program or getting charged a significant amount in duty. Either way, it’s not worth it. Please feel free to encourage your loved ones to send mail, but not packages.