About FSU Florence
Founded in 1966, FSU Florence is one of the oldest U.S. study abroad programs in Italy and one of the few located in the historic, medieval heart of this remarkable city. This FSU study center is located in the recently renovated 16th century Bagnesi Palace on Via de Neri, one of the city’s most famous streets and a paradise for foodies. FSU Florence is only two blocks away from the Ponte Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery, the Galileo Museum, and one of Europe’s most renowned outdoor spaces, the Piazza della Signoria.

All newly admitted FSU freshmen are eligible to spend their first year studying at FSU Florence, or one of the University’s three other study centers, as part of the renowned First Year Abroad (FYA) program. For more information about FSU Florence or the First Year Abroad program, contact IP-Freshmen@fsu.edu.

About the Florence Immersion LLC
The Florence Immersion Living Learning Community provides Florence FYA participants with an immersive environment in which to pursue their freshmen study abroad experience. LLC Participation will foster global citizenship through language acquisition, cultural exploration, leadership activities, and volunteer experiences. The curriculum & programming also aim to support students in using design thinking to create meaningful and fulfilling lives.

LLC residents will:
- Be an integral part of a smaller community within FSU Florence
- Enroll in Italian language classes during the fall & spring semesters (3-4 credits each)
- Enroll in HUM1921 LLC Colloquium (fall) & ENT1611 Designing Your Life (spring); each course is 1 credit
- Participate in educational & cultural events throughout the year
- Explore community service and volunteerism opportunities within the Florence community
- Strengthen leadership skills and cross-cultural competency
- Benefit from meaningful, sustained interactions with the LLC Director & FSU Florence faculty and staff

The program is designed for students to be resident for at least two semesters (fall & spring). Residents who meet LLC expectations during the fall & spring may continue as residents in the summer, if desired.

Housing
LLC participants will be housed in the Via de Neri residence, which is situated above the FSU Florence Study Center. Comprised of 8 apartments, it houses up to 23 students and one program assistant, who will enjoy quick access to Study Center amenities such as the library, Academic Resource Center (ARC), classrooms, computer lab, café, and more. Students not selected for the LLC will be housed nearby in one of FSU Florence’s other comparable residences.
Eligibility & Application Process
All incoming freshmen admitted to FSU for the summer or fall term are eligible to participate in First Year Abroad (FYA); students who select FSU Florence as their FYA location will receive LLC application instructions in late-Spring.

Meet the LLC Director
Charles (Charlie) Panarella is a dual U.S./Italian citizen who grew up in New York City and has spent the last five years living and working in Florence. An integral member of both the faculty & staff at FSU Florence, he regularly teaches Italian language classes and serves as the study center’s Academic Coordinator. His passion is helping students fulfill their potential and develop a growth mindset.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a Living Learning Community?**
  A popular feature of residence halls on Florida State’s main campus, a Living–Learning Community (LLC) is a small group of students who live together, share an interest, and take one or two of their classes together — usually in a small classroom inside their residence. Designed primarily for first-year students, LLCs are a great way for incoming freshmen to plug into a supportive network of students and distinguished faculty early in their FSU career. FSU International Programs is excited to bring this tradition of residential student engagement & support to FSU Florence.

- **Who is eligible to apply for the Florence Immersion LLC?**
  Incoming FSU freshmen interested in spending their First Year Abroad should apply to the FYA program on or before May 1st. FYA applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and early application is advised. Students who select FSU Florence as their FYA location will then receive LLC application instructions in late-Spring.

  For more information about FSU Florence, the First Year Abroad program, or the Florence Immersion LLC, contact IP-Freshmen@fsu.edu.

- **What are the required LLC courses?**
  **Italian language (3 or 4 credit hours, fall & spring semester)**
  LLC residents will enroll in an Italian language class during both the fall and spring semesters. Unless students have prior Italian language experience, they will enroll in an LLC section of ITA 1120 Elementary Italian I in the fall and ITA 1121 Elementary Italian II in the spring.

  **HUM 1921 LLC Colloquium (1 credit hour, fall semester)**
  The objective of this course is to create a learning community where you feel welcome, valued, and heard while seeking to provide the conditions for you to develop a growth mindset to achieve your goals. The course will allow you to study leaders, thinkers, athletes, coaches, and entrepreneurs so you can begin forming your personal philosophy towards how you will persevere, set goals, and overcome obstacles you may face along the way.

  **ENT 1611 Designing Your Life (1 credit hour, spring semester)**
  This course focuses on finding your passion to which you will apply the growth mindset we explored in HUM1921. It is designed to help you figure out who you are, who you want to be, and where you want to go to create a meaningful and fulfilling life. It teaches you to use the Design Thinking process to
actively create the life you want based on your interests and values. Using ideas from *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life* by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans, the course also explores your purpose in college and your major, educational wayfinding, innovating Florida State experiences, and creating your preliminary post-graduation plan. This hands-on class utilizes small group discussions, personal and group reflections, in-class activities, field experiences, and design team collaboration.

- **If selected for the LLC, how will that impact my housing preferences (e.g. roommate requests)?**
  All study abroad participants must complete a *Medical, Special Needs, and Housing Preference* form within their [IP Student Portal](#) prior to departure. LLC residents who have indicated a preference to be matched with a specific roommate(s) should understand this request can only be considered if each roommate meets all criteria and deadlines for (a) applying to the LLC; (b) requesting each other as roommates; and (c) being selected for and accepting an invitation to the LLC.

- **If I am not selected for the LLC, where will I live?**
  FSU Florence hosts several programs, including the First Year Abroad (FYA) program for incoming freshmen, broad curriculum study abroad programs for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and international internships. FYA students not selected for the LLC will be housed nearby in one of FSU Florence’s other comparable residences and will have an opportunity to indicate roommate preferences through the [IP Student Portal](#) prior to departure.

The above description of the LLC accurately reflects the expectations and intentions of FSU International Programs and FSU Florence; like all other program elements, LLC requirements and expectations are subject to modification at any time.