



**PRE-DEPARTURE
LOCATION
ORIENTATION
RECORDING CLICK
HERE**

Florence, Fall 2023



ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



**GLOBAL
ORIENTATION**

COMPLETE



**LOCATION
ORIENTATION**

YOU'RE HERE!



**CARE TEAM
HANGOUTS**

AUGUST 23

vertoeducation.org/orientation

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS

We're excited to support you as you prepare for a Verto semester.

We're joined here today by:



CRISTIANA GALLAI

FLORENCE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



**STUART
ROBBINS-BUTCHER**

STUDENT ONBOARDING ADVISOR



ALICE CINI

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
MANAGER



AGENDA

- Breakout Warm-Up
- Preparation and Arrival Process
- Program-Specific Expectations
- Your Academic Experience
- Living Life In Florence
 - Housing
 - Staff
 - Academic Facility
 - Packing & Budgeting
 - City Transportation, Food & Spots
- Next Steps & Questions

MINI-BREAK

Share Out in Chat

What are you most excited about?

What questions do you have?

Also mention your name, pronouns, and where you are from!





BENVENUTI A FIRENZE

We're excited for you to study abroad in the beautiful city of Florence

PREPARING TO GO



Pre-Departure Documents

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in Florence
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Verto Florence Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in Florence
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)

The screenshot shows the 'Prague Fall 2023' Student Portal. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'Members', 'Events', 'Officers', 'Documents', 'Photos', 'News', 'Forum', and 'More'. A blue arrow points to the 'Documents' link. Below the navigation bar, the 'Channels' section shows 'General Channel'. The 'Members' section displays 87 members. The 'Upcoming Events' section features a card for 'Virtual Pre-Departure Orientation' on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, from 9am PT to 12pm ET. The event is titled '(Required) Care Team Circle, Prague' and is an online event. At the bottom of the page, there are two document folders: 'Documents (5)' and 'Pre-arrival Documents (1)'.

Packing Tips - Carry on:

- All documents for customs
(we'll go over that in a moment)
- Electronics, Laptop, tablet & outlet adapters
- All prescription medicine and doctor's notes
- Towels
- Masks & hand sanitizer
- A change of clothes (for 2 days) in case your luggage gets lost
- Toothbrush & daily toiletries
- Anything that is essential/valuable to you



Packing Tips: Advice from Alumni

- Do research on the local weather and fashion
- Travel sized toiletries
- Medicines & contact lens solution
- Neutral and interchangeable clothing & comfortable shoes
- Embrace a minimalist lifestyle
- Raincoat/Umbrella (or plan to buy one there)
 - Multiple forms of payment – including at least 100 Euro in cash to start
 - You can get this from your local bank, but request it a few weeks before you leave



Packing Tips: What To Avoid

WE RECOMMEND YOU **DO NOT BRING:**

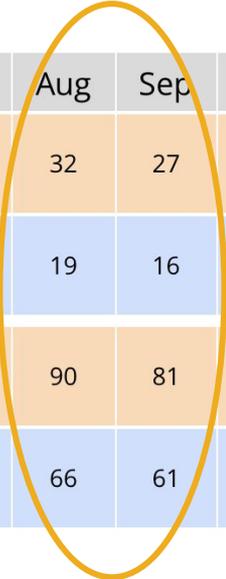
- Items that will not work with the voltage difference:
Hair dryers, flat irons, or curling irons (we suggest you purchase these when you arrive in country)
- Prized possessions: heirloom jewelry, irreplaceable tokens, etc. It's not worth the risk of losing an item.
- Too many clothes - chances are you'll want to acquire some new stuff!
- Anything you can't carry
- Locked cell phones



Average Temperature In Italy And Florence

Average High/Low Temperature

Up to a 100-105 °F
these last two years!



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High °C	12	14	16	19	24	28	31	32	27	22	17	13
Low °C	3	3	6	8	13	17	19	19	16	12	8	4
High °F	54	57	61	66	75	82	88	90	81	72	63	55
Low °F	37	37	43	46	55	63	66	66	61	54	46	39

Scarf, hat, and a winter coat/jacket are necessary!!!

Documents for Customs

REMEMBER TO CARRY:

- Your Passport!
- Letter of Attendance (Verto will provide)
- Proof of Vaccination (Despite no longer a requirement)
- Photocopies of your PASSPORT, VISA and printout of your CISI (medical insurance) card.

Note: Be sure that your passport is stamped upon arrival in the EU (your first entry point)



Staying in Contact While Abroad

CELL PHONE PLAN:

- Students **MUST** have a cell phone number where they can be contacted while “studying in Florence.”
 - International Plan
 - Italian SIM Card
- Having a working cell phone is a requirement for program participation
- You will be able to buy an Italian SIM card in Florence. You will receive information during Discovery Week.
- **Be sure to UNLOCK your phone if you want a new SIM!**



Money Matters

Inform Your Bank That You'll Be Abroad

- Let your bank know that you will be travelling around Europe, otherwise they might block your debit or credit card.

ATMs Abroad

- Find out whether your bank has a 'sister' bank in Europe that will give you good withdrawal fees (e.g. Bank of America has a sister bank called BNL).

Exchanging USD to Euro

- Avoid bringing U.S. dollars in cash, you can get Euro directly when withdrawing from a local ATM.



Have a Plan: Budgeting Guidelines

Develop A Personal Budget:

- Expenses are dependent upon your lifestyle! On average, a student will spend about \$150 per week on basic things while in Florence. Some will spend less and others will spend more. To create your budget, think about:
 - How many meals do you plan on eating outside your housing?
 - How important are clothes, souvenirs, or physical items to you?
 - Do you plan to take any weekend trips outside of planned activities? (transportation, food, activities, accommodations)
 - Snacks, toiletries, and discretionary
 - The basics: laundry, cell phone plan, medicine
- Students in Florence usually spend between \$150 - \$250 per week, depending on their personal habits



ARRIVAL PROCESS



Arrival and Discovery Week

What To Do When You Arrive:

- Verto Staff will be waiting just outside arrival exit (after customs) with our logo poster.
- You **MUST** share your arrival itinerary details ASAP
- Staff will put you in taxis/minivan to your apartments, where a member of staff will be waiting for you.
- If your flight is delayed, promptly email florence@vertoeducation.org including your new itinerary details.



Discovery Week

August 30th - September 2nd

In-Person Orientation: At The Apartment

- At your apartment you will find a Personalized Welcome Folder.

The Day After Arrival (Tue-Sat):

Attend mandatory orientation on:

- Health & Safety
- Academics
- Housing Regulations
- Student Services & more!



What if ...

MY FLIGHT IS DELAYED?

- Because you will have submitted your flight information via the student portal, our staff can track your flight
- Email florence@vertoeducation.org

I ARRIVE OUTSIDE THE ARRIVAL WINDOW?

- You will need to be in contact with Verto staff in order to arrange individual check-in at your accommodation.
- Check your Student Portal for **Arrival Guide**, which includes instructions for arriving outside of the window

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS



Safety in Florence

Florence is considered a pretty safe city. Crime rates are much lower than other cities in Italy.

It is more rare to hear about violent crimes or burglaries, however as best practice when traveling to a new country, please bring a copy of your common sense with you and follow the safety guidelines that will be given to you during Discovery Week (Orientation).



Alcohol Safety

FOLLOWING YOUR CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Because you are 18 years of age, you have reached the legal drinking age in Italy.
- You are legally allowed to consume alcohol in Italy.
- There are laws against public drunkenness and it is socially not accepted.



ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS



Academic Experience:

YOUR ACADEMIC TEAM



Alice Cini

Academic Affairs
Manager



Johanna

Academic Success
Coordinator



Anneka

Academic Success
Coordinator



Diego

Academic Success
Coordinator

Our Campus: Verto Center @ Corso Italia 17



Academic Experience: Course Related Activities



Academic Facility: Study Center

In the Classroom you can expect to...

- Engage in discussions with your Professor and peers
- Collaborate on group projects and assignments
- Take ownership of your learning
- Gain a different perspective by learning from a diverse group of people



LIVING IN FLORENCE



Verto Experience:

YOUR STUDENT LIFE TEAM



Giulietta

Student Life Coordinator



Kiara

Student Life
Coordinator



Carolina

Student Life Coordinator

Apartments

- All apartments are unique and different. Appliances are smaller than you are used to.
- Your apartments are furnished with basic necessities (living room/bedroom furniture, pots/pans, oven OR microwave, cooking/eating utensils, linens/pillows/blankets for your bed) – **Bath Towels are not provided.**
- **Things you will need to supply** (which can be purchased once you arrive):
 - Cleaning supplies, towels, groceries, bath/hand soaps; though some of these things will be in the apartment in limited quantities when you arrive. (recommend travel towel)
- **Sheets & winter covers are provided.** Weekly cleaning of common areas will be provided, but you still need to wash your own dishes, change bed linens and keep your belongings clean and tidy.
- Fans will provided, as the apartments won't have AC.
- Washing machines in each apartment. No dryers. Drying racks.



Transportation

- The best way to get around Florence is by foot.
- There is a city bus and tram that connect various parts of the city.
- You can purchase a bus or Tram pass.
- There is also a city-wide bike-renting service called RideMovi: Urban Bike Rental as you go



City Food

- No Dining on Campus (only snack vending machines)
- Equipped Kitchen in your apartments (oven or microwave)
- Many different options available in the immediate surroundings (supermarkets, Cafes, restaurant, etc. all available for take away as well)
- Vegetarian, gluten free and vegan options available but might be more limited than students are used to



Program Excursions

Overnight To Verona &
Garda Lake



Day Trip To Rome



Program Excursions

Day Trip To Tuscan
Countryside



Day Trip To Cinque
Terre



OPTIONAL Program Activities

Want to do more? Your Student Life Coordinators will also organize lots of other activities for you to join!

Historical Monuments



Explore The Market



Yoga Classes



Soccer & Volleyball Games



Hiking



Crafting/Journaling Workshops



OPTIONAL Program Activities

Want to do more? Your Student Life Coordinators will also organize lots of other activities for you to join!

Movie Night



Exhibitions



Cooking Classes



Italian Club



Volunteering



Student Led Clubs



Cultural Adaptation



- **Things to keep in mind when interacting with locals:**
 - Be respectful!
 - Things are just different, not wrong.
 - Quickly learn the basic words.
 - Also learn the taboos or “no-no’s” in conversation.
 - Don’t expect them to speak English – but don’t be surprised if they do.
- **Things to keep in mind about your behavior:**
 - Be accountable for your actions.
 - Use a lot of common sense.
 - You are not exempt from the law in other countries.
 - Your behaviour affects you and those around you.
 - Be willing, flexible and open to new adventures.

Verto Discovery

- **Verto's Values in Action**
 - Compassion
 - Responsibility
 - Transformation
 - Vulnerability
- **Experiential learning activities**
- **Your weekly discovery lab**
- **Taking control of your semester**



Verto Transformation

- Our goal at Verto is to create a more connected, empathetic world of engaged global citizens.
- We hope you walk away from your semester in Florence, with much more than incredible memories and transferable credits; we will help you build confidence, self-awareness and clarity to thrive in college and in life.
- We want to spark your natural curiosity and desire to engage in the world around you!



BREAKOUT GROUPS



MINI-BREAK

Share Out in Chat

What are you most excited about?

What's something new you learned today?

Also mention your name, pronouns, and where you are from!



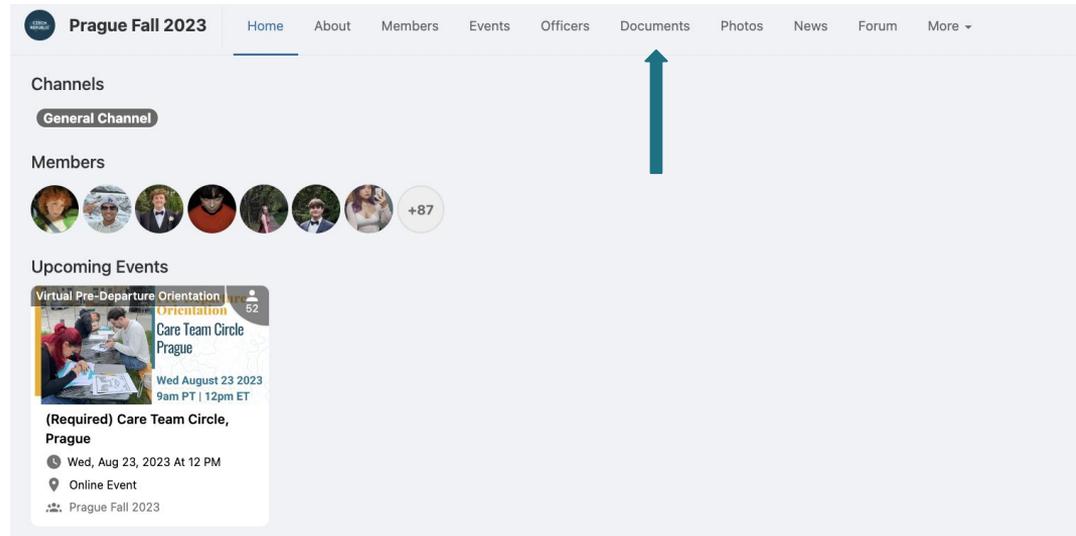
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 Documents (5)

 Pre-arrival Documents (1)

MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE

IMPORTANT: Report Your Attendance
before the end of the Session

(Required) Care Team Circle Date

August 23 at vertoeducation.org/orientation

Location Resources

- In Student Portal

To access, visit

bit.ly/vertoattendance23

