

DEAR FALL 2020 TEMPLE ROME APPLICANTS

At this time, we want to share with you important updates to the Fall 2020 Rome semester and provide guidance as you prepare for your time abroad.

Please read this message in its entirety. It is important to note that although we are working remotely from home, the Temple Ed Abroad staff are here to help you and answer your questions - now or at any time throughout the application and pre-departure processes.

Thank you for submitting an application to study at Temple Rome this fall. Our Rome-based faculty and staff and the staff of Education Abroad look forward to welcoming you to Rome and working with you over the coming months as you plan for a successful academic semester abroad.

At this time, the fall 2020 study abroad program at Temple Rome is scheduled to run but with some important adjustments designed to make your participation easier.

There is no question that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to higher education generally, and international education specifically, but Temple University's Philadelphia and Rome-based teams have been working to address these challenges.

Although these plans are designed to address many contingencies, we recognize that there are factors that are out of everyone's control and there is the possibility that we may have to cancel the program at a later date. If the situation requires us to cancel the Temple Rome Fall 2020 program, we will make you aware of this decision no later than July 15th.

UPDATED APPLICATION DEADLINES AND PROGRAM DEPOSITS

Application Deadline: The application deadline for the Fall 2020 Semester has been extended to **June 15th** to give you more time to complete or start an application.

Program and Housing Deposits: Our deposit refund policy has changed for fall 2020 to give you as much flexibility as possible:

- The \$200 program deposit and the \$200 housing deposit for Temple Rome will be refunded* if you choose to withdraw from the program **for any reason up until July 29th**.
- The \$200 program deposit and \$200 housing deposit will also be refunded in the event that the program is cancelled for any reason up until the start of the semester..

**Special note for Temple students: If you have a balance on your account at the time of the deposit refund, the refund will be applied towards that balance. If there is no balance on your account, the refund will be returned to you via direct deposit or paper check based on the preference set up for your Temple account.*

MODIFIED FALL 2020 PROGRAM CALENDAR AND TRAVEL

To allow students who are US citizens* to enter Italy and participate in the program without having to obtain a student visa, the fall 2020 program calendar and structure will be modified as outlined below.

The modified semester, which includes 82 days in Rome followed by 9 days of online learning from home, eliminates the lengthy visa process that is dependent on a number of uncertain factors at this

time. Temple University will not be able to sponsor student visas for US students participating in the Temple Rome program for the fall 2020 semester.

The semester is designed to meet Temple's academic standards; students' course credits, learning objectives, and academic standards are not altered in any way; each course fulfills semester hour requirements.

Orientation and the on-site course excursions within Italy are scheduled to run as usual at this time.

The two-week online class portion at the end of the program may include a combination of asynchronous and synchronous delivery formats; all synchronous instruction will be structured around US time zones.

Modified Program Dates as of April 24, 2020

Departure from U.S.	August 31
Arrival in Italy**	September 1
Orientation	September 2 - 6
Classes Begin	September 7
Last day to add or drop a course	September 18
Modified Mid-term Break	October 22-23
Last day to withdraw from a course	November 11
Last day of classes in Rome (classes to be continued online - see below)	November 19
Last Night in Program-Arranged Housing	November 20
On-site program ends; students return to the U.S.	November 21
Online class portion of program begins	November 30
Online classes end for the semester	December 10
Final Exams (common ITAL finals Dec 11)	December 11 - 17

***Homestay students must depart the US on Saturday, August 29 to arrive on Sunday, August 30.*

Non-US citizens and academic year students: We will reach out to discuss visa requirements specific to your situation.

Entering Italy on a Tourist Visa

Concentrating the in-class time in Rome to under 90 days allows U.S. citizens to enter Italy as tourists. However, it is important to note that FALL 2020 Temple Rome Program participants **may not** under any circumstances extend their time in the Schengen* region beyond 90 days.

This adjustment means that if you had planned to travel before or after the semester, unfortunately, you will not be able to do so. Overstaying your tourist visa may have serious repercussions, including your ability to visit the Schengen region in the future.

**Schengen countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland*

Personal Travel

Program participants are advised that there is the possibility that personal travel outside of Italy may be prohibited or restricted, based on governmental regulations, due to health and/or safety concerns.

As a result, Fall 2020 participants should plan to have a fully Italian immersive experience that does not include travel to other countries outside of Italy. Temple Rome faculty and staff are ready to share countless ways to explore Rome and other unique areas in Italy so that you can make the most out of your experience.

Fortunately in Rome, there is a saying: “Roma, una vita non basta,” or, one life is not enough to see everything there is to see in Rome.

FINANCES

We appreciate that many students have greater financial concerns about study abroad, but we think this is a great time for students to consider the Temple Rome Program. We are pleased to advise that we have increased our scholarship funds, and we encourage you to complete a scholarship application through your study abroad portal by June 15th. We also anticipate that the changes we have outlined will result in cost savings in a variety of areas, including elimination of the visa/immigration costs and lower course excursion fees for some classes. Housing costs will also be reduced.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Academic Continuity

Although we remain committed to offering the Temple Rome Fall 2020 program, we have learned over the past few months that some factors are beyond anyone’s control. We want to make sure that you can continue with your academic program in the event that we cannot run the program. As noted above, if necessary, a decision to run the program will be made not later than July 15th.

In the meantime, out of an abundance of caution, **we advise all fall and academic year students to create a back-up academic plan for courses, as follows:**

- **Temple students** should register for a full course load of fall classes on MAIN CAMPUS.
- **Non-Temple students** should reach out to their home school study abroad office and/or registrar to discuss how they can keep a “back-up” semester of courses for fall.

Housing

We also advise all fall and academic year program participants to consider fall semester housing back-up plans. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Temple University Ed Abroad Staff. Non-Temple students should speak with their home school study abroad office about their options.

Booking Flights

We strongly encourage participants to consider the possible volatility of the current situation in a decision to book a flight. Some airlines are currently offering relatively low cost tickets, but whether you purchase a flight now or wait until more information is available, we advise you to investigate “cancel for any reason” trip cancellation insurance options and carefully review the exclusions. We also recommend that you consider purchasing fully refundable and flexible change flights in the event your program is cancelled or suspended or your home school prohibits travel to your host country before or during your semester abroad.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

- June 15:** Fall 2020 Application and Scholarship Deadline
- July 15:** Date by which students will be notified if program must be cancelled
- July 29:** Program and Housing deposits fully refundable for any reason until July 29th
- August 31:** Depart U.S. for Italy
- September 1:** Program begins
- November 21:** Rome component concludes; return to US
- November 30:** Classes resume online
- December 17:** Semester ends

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Temple Rome, and we look forward to working with you in this process. We appreciate your continued interest in study abroad at this time.

If you would like to discuss any questions or concerns with your Program Manager, Rosemary Carlson, please schedule a [Zoom appointment](#). Alternatively, you may contact Rosemary by email at rosemary.carlson@temple.edu or by phone at 215-204-0723 (if you leave a phone message, she will call you back from her remote office).

Please do not hesitate to reach out - we are here to help!

Sincerely,
Temple University Education Abroad