Rome International Scholars Program Pilot

In the spring of 2016, Notre Dame International and the Rome Global Gateway will launch a pilot international scholars program in Rome for a small number (8-10) of select undergraduates recruited from across disciplines and departments. Qualified students are invited to apply for this program by April 17, 2015. This is a special program that is specifically designed for self-motivated students who would value the opportunity to undertake independent research during the spring semester of their junior year that would ideally lead to senior thesis projects during their senior year, and/or subsequent development of post-graduate research, including post-graduate fellowships and post-graduate studies. A key feature of the program is the opportunity for experiential learning, which can take the form of either an internship or service engagement to be conducted in Rome. The pilot is made possible by a generous benefaction of the Ravarino Family Endowment for Excellence in Italian Studies.

Students admitted to the Rome International Scholars Program are provided with funding for further language and/or disciplinary study and/or internship in Italy during the summer following their semester in Rome.

The curriculum for the Rome International Scholars Program will normally be made up of five courses, to include: 1) An independent research project supervised by ND faculty in a degree granting or honors program. 2) An elective course or internship offered in collaboration with any one of several universities working with the Rome Global Gateway such as the University of Rome Sapienza, University of Rome Roma Tre, John Cabot University, the Pontifical Gregorian University; 3) The “All Roads Lead to Rome” course that can satisfy university requirements in literature, history or fine arts; 4) An experiential learning activity (service or internship): this can assume multiple forms ranging from archeological digs, to business internships, working with immigrants, with museums and NGOs, while participating in a weekly forum designed to support the development of their research (see below); 5) An Italian, Latin or Greek language course at the appropriate level.

The scholars will participate in the Rome International Scholars Forum, a one-credit-bearing weekly meeting dedicated to discussion of their research projects, their various experiences in the service or internship engagement and other activities/initiatives associated with their presence in Rome. Some forums will be devoted to guest lectures.

The Rome International Scholars Program is being developed by the steering committee in close collaboration with Rosemary Max of Notre Dame International and the Academic Director of the Rome Global Gateway. The committee is co-chaired by Liz Mazurek and Christian Moews. Members of the steering committee include Zyg Baranski, Joe Buttigieg, director of the Hesburgh-Yusko Program, and Paul Weithman, co-director of the Glynn Family Honors Program. The committee works in consultation with a group of faculty Fellows of the Rome International Scholars Program, including: Corey Angst (Business), Ani Aprahamian (Physics), Martin Bloomer (Classics), Francesca Bordogna (PLS), James Collins (Film, Television and Theatre), Philippe Collon (Physics), Kathleen Cummings (History and American Studies), Mark Edward Cummings (Psychology), JoAnn DellaNeva (French/Italian Studies), Margot Fassler (Sacred Music), Sabrina Ferri (Italian Studies), Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (History), Umesh Garg (Physics), Robert Goulding (PLS), David Hernandez (Classics/Archeology), Vittorio Montemaggi (Religion and Literature), Peter Holland (Film Television and Theatre), Hildegund Muller (Classics), A. James McAdams (Political Science), Barry McCrea (English/Comparative Literature/Irish), Patrick Murphy (Business), Pierpaolo Polzonetti (Music/PLS/Italian), Gerald Powers (Peace Studies), Gretchen Reydam-Shils (PLS/Classics), Denis Robichaud (PLS/Italian), Ingrid Rowland (School of Architecture), Valerie Sayers (English/Creative Writing), John Welle (Italian Studies/FTT).

All sophomores who meet the requirements are invited to apply, including those who have already been accepted into other study abroad programs. Basic requirements include: minimum 3.0
GPA, at least 6 hours of Italian prior to the spring semester of 2016 (6 hours of intensive hybrid Italian are available each semester, including fall 2015), a letter of endorsement by a faculty member expressing the commitment to supervise the candidate’s independent research to be conducted in Italy.