



# Middlebury

## **Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester**

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 5 inclusive.

**Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**Your year of (expected) graduation:**

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

I was unable to experience the "overseas educational system" because classes at the Middlebury Sede were virtually the same as our classes in Vermont. There was no "different academic environment", in fact- it hindered my experience as the lifestyle made it much more difficult to take advantage of the cultural richness of the city. I did not benefit from this academic environment.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

Italy just has a much different pace of life. I learned a lot of patience living there, and was able to come to understand their values and lack of frenetic energy.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

Study abroad made me appreciate American culture in many ways, especially the way things "just work" here.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I was really able to learn to be by myself in a difficult environment, and to persevere through a semester of frustrating academic work in a fairly solitary living situation.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

It has not influenced my academic or career goals. It was an experience that helped towards completing my personal goal of being a more independent thinker.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

My roommate was engaged and spent very little time at the apartment. When she was there, she would talk on the phone and sit in her room- we never had more than 5 conversations the entire semester.

**Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

.....

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

The workload I experienced was prohibitively large- I was unable to participate in any extra-curricular activities due to the time commitment required by academics.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

My speaking improved much less than expected, due to the reading-writing intensive characteristics of the workload. I had little/no time to interact with other students. My roommate was rarely present. I was disappointed by this, as reading-writing immersion was not my goal in going abroad.

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

I really found this to be a terrible program, and I think it needs to be re-structured.

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

The Middlebury-centric focus of this program is its downfall. It is isolating and frustrating, and hinders the overall experience of every student.

**Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #1

Antropologia Culturale

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita di Firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams

Please describe the course content:

overview of the history and practice of cultural anthropology

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

straight lecture

Other comments about this course:

good course, professor was engaging

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Letteratura Italiana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Midd Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework

Describe course content

italian literature 1870 - 1930

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

reading, lecture

Other comments about this course:

there is an incredible amount of reading and writing to do nightly for this course- very time consuming, often seemed like unnecessary busywork- professor was very difficult to understand, so most of the learning acquired was self-taught

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Writing Theory & Practice

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Midd Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework

Describe course content

miscellaneous pieces of italian culture and history

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

student presentations, reading, lectures

Other comments about this course:

although the objectives of this course made sense, its actual execution was terrible. the subject matter was extremely random, we never went in-depth into any one subject and instead skipped around and touched lightly on numerous topics. however, instead of gaining a broad overview of italian culture, i felt like i learned nothing meaningful

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

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	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Masters of Italian Cinema

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Midd Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams

Describe course content

major works of italian cinema

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

screenings, lectures

Other comments about this course:

this course was fantastic. there was a reasonable amount of work, but all of it seemed to benefit our learning and understanding of the films in some way. nothing we did seemed superfluous. the professor was knowledgeable and passionate

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?**

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

**Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?**

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

- Yes
- No

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

this program absolutely destroyed what should have been a fantastic semester abroad in italy. Middlebury's decision to run a program where the students spend the majority of their day in class really is a huge drawback. having also spent a semester in ferrara, i can tell you that the level of cultural and linguistic immersion is much lower in florence, as is the program's value as an overall experience. i will not sugar-coat: my semester in florence was miserable, and i would not recommend it to anyone.

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

i am a huge supporter of studying abroad- even though i had an awful experience in florence, i studied abroad for a second semester in ferrara and was able to experience everything i had been looking for all along

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

The handouts are sufficient- one email explaining that it's important to read them would suffice- the meetings made everything redundant

**Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**Your year of (expected) graduation:**

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

In Florence, these differences were minor. I took three of my courses at a Middlebury-style institution and therefore got the benefits of Middlebury-style courses. The one course at the UNiversity was very different, but the professor was very helpful and was very clear with instructions to us. I read both of the books for the exam at the end of the course. I did a 5 question written exam for 1/2 of my grade and then completed the rest based on a book of my choice. This obviously rewarded short but extremely focused periods of study.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

The Italian system rewards cramming something I would never do at Middlebury. Students self-teach. The professors have no point and no structure to their courses. They lecture on whatever they like and students are expected to understand the material on their own.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

I greatly appreciate the structure and organization of American classes. I also appreciate the focused nature of our courses, the wealth of materials and assistance that we always have at our disposal as students.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I learned a great deal of independence. I practiced self-discipline, conflict resolution and I stepped outside my comfort zone on multiple occasions.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

Now, I hope to work overseas for a couple of years after college instead of returning immediately to find work in the United States. I believe that cultural immersion and language studies are two of the most interesting things to do on Earth.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

My homestay provider surprised us by returning to his home (after being away from it for a month) with a girlfriend and her son. He ordered us to make changes to our lifestyle, changed the living arrangements, and monopolized the space. Pets were added without checking with us. There was a fundamental lack of respect. I did not get my money's worth. Middlebury told us it was a part of the "experience." That is not an acceptable response. We are away from home for the first time, paying rent in a foreign language and a little bit of advocacy would have been nice.

**Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

Yes

No

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I did not get involved in activities here but not for lack of want. I had been told that Middlebury had partnered with a local student (graduate from Italian Language School) to do a theatre group that was half Italian and half American. It never happened and Middlebury never followed up with the student to ask about it. A cooking class that they wanted to set up failed because of lack of interest. I started with a conversation partner but he was flakey and abandoned me. I don't understand it though. Many other programs in Florence do not have these problems. Middlebury lacks the contacts necessary to facilitate this ESSENTIAL part of the experience.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

Florence was an average place for learning the language. One had to make a concerted effort to always speak it. The Italians did not want to speak in Italian with us and there was resistance to Americans in general. However, through hard work and perseverance, I succeeded in improving while I was there.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Professor Laura DiPofi she is wonderful and an amazing professor for Americans in Italy.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Prof. Mirri. I did not learn anything from his course and felt like I simply needed to repeat what he said to do well.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

History of the European Union

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper, exams

Please describe the course content:

the history of the European Union from its origins to today

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

we had a series of lectures

Other comments about this course:

It was well done. I learned a lot. However, I am trying to remember a long time ago at this point. Also these surevey responses are on record in Italy. This is repetitive.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Contemporary Italian Literature

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers and exams, homework too

Describe course content

We read a series of authors and poets from the late 1800s into the 20th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We had a series of lectures during which we tended to read much of the content aloud.

Other comments about this course:

It was not effective. Prof. Mirri attempted to use a "modern" teaching style but it was not effective.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Italian Culture (reading and writing focus)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

weekly homework, presentations, exams, paper

Describe course content

We looked at a variety of contemporary and interesting Italian issues. We used movies, writings, interviews and projects to enhance our learning.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Participation and discussion. The most "American" in terms of teaching

Other comments about this course:

DiPofi is great. She made me enjoy my time in Florence the most.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Medieval History

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università di Firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

written and oral exam

Describe course content

We started from the fall of Rome and went through Columbus.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture but mainly through reading outside of class

Other comments about this course:

The professor was nice but I don't think I gained a lot from the course.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

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	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Independent Project

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Paper

Describe course content

History of Terrorism in Italy (from 1970s to today)

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

I did this project myself with Prof. Lagi

Other comments about this course:

I enjoyed the project quite a bit and she was very fair and entertaining.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?**

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

**Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?**

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

If you are a girl, then the Italian men are irritating but harmless. Just don't put up with it. For men, the people are hostile. they don't trust men because they believe American men want to steal the women and the women don't trust Americans because they feel threatened by us.

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

- Yes
- No

**Please explain:**

The academics here are better than in Ferrara but socially the two cannot compare. Come to Florence if you don't want to learn the language but want a good spot to travel from.

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

I just don't think the Middlebury program in Florence is well thought out. Taking three classes with Midd kids and one at the University does not provide us the space to meet students. The homestay program is poor; very few students were happy with their arrangements. Middlebury does not give us anything for what we are paying. A muesum pass or other small weekend trips would really make for a better time.

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

I cant remember that far back. I remember being satisfied.

**Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**Your year of (expected) graduation:**

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

The academic environment in Italy was a much better learning situation for me when I was abroad. I never felt the stress that is always prevalent here at Midd. The classes were lively and hands-on, while the work outside of class was minimal and useful. The professors kept to the schedule, but were willing to change the plans if we were interested in studying something more, or less, in depth. I felt that I learned more than ever before, because the information flowed naturally from professor to student and was never forced by over working or by stressful exams.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

In reality, people are always after the same thing: finding where they fit into the world. The students in Italy have the same ideas as those in the states. The differences come from the relationships with family, history, and culture. They are all very connected with their families, which is actually just like my family in the USA so I did not feel a huge change.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

I realized that the American culture is way to rushed and that they need to slow down and spend some time enjoying the moment instead of always preparing for the future.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I have become a more independent person and feel much more confident in myself and in my abilities to communicate and understand others. It has also shown me that there is more to life than just studying and that people are what matter in life. I now know that I want to work for the good of human kind when I graduate from college. My ability to talk and connect with people was very helpful while abroad, because I was able to make many new and interesting friends.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

I have decided that I want to work internationally in same way and always for the good of others.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Homesay first semester and apartment the second

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

I loved the family that I lived with and feel that it is a crucial part of the experience. Everyone should live with a family for the first semester that they are abroad. One learns the language, culture, and expectations in a much quicker and helpful way. There is also a support net that is very comforting. For the second semester I lived with an Italian girl who was also in school and the Universita' di Firenze. It was a great time and I was able to learn about the young culture in Italy. It also gave me a great outlet to meet more local Italians.

**Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?**

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

**Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?**

- Yes
- No

**If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?**

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.**

I had a conversation partner which was helpful in learning the language and making a new friend. I also did Yoga where I met many people of all ages.

**What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?**

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?**

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?**

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?**

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

My progress was much greater than I had expected. The things that helped me improve were 1. the fact that I actually stuck to the language pledge, I always spoke Italian with my friends 2. living with a host family 3. having Italian friends and conversations partners and 4. doing all of the work for my classes, including reading, writing, and speaking in class.

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

They are great at picking readings and are interesting and appropriate for our level of ability.

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Many times you have to make sure that you do the work, sometimes it seems useless but it is all actually very useful.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Iconology and Iconography

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams

Please describe the course content:

the study of Catholic symbolism

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

It was all lecture and slides; very effective

Other comments about this course:

I loved the class. We learned a lot about the Italian culture through the study of their art from centuries before.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Writing Theory & Practice I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework, presentations

Describe course content

culture of contemporary Italy

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

it was all discussions about current events and readings

Other comments about this course:

I thought the prof was amazing and did a great job at teaching us new info while helping us with our ability to write

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Masters of Italian Cinema

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams, paper, homework

Describe course content

Italian film from the sixties to the eighties

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

we mostly watched movies and discussed the directors

Other comments about this course:

By far my favorite class

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Cultural Anthropology

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli studi di firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper, presentation, exam

Describe course content

the history of anthropology and different studies

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture and discussion of readings

Other comments about this course:

I really enjoyed the topic and the prof.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Social Geography

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universtia' degli studi di firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

written exam, project/paper

Describe course content

study of the urban society

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture/ discussion

Other comments about this course:

loved the prof.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

16th Century Italian Art

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams, papers, presentations

Describe course content

art, style, artists

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture and field trips

Other comments about this course:

One of the other best courses that I have taken at Midd

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #7

Hist of Florence 13-16 Cent

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam, paper

Describe course content

history of florence

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, discussion, field trips

Other comments about this course:

this class made me like history

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #8

Early Ital Lit to 16th Century

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exams, papers

Describe course content

the history of the Italian language and the early authors

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

Learning about the history of the language was the best part

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

I would just like to tell the girls to be aware of walking alone at night and to remember to stay calm and always act like you know where you are going. I never had a problem.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

It was the best time that I have had at Midd

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Sign up to go for the year. You can always come back, but it is a huge hassle to extend a visa to stay if you want to.

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

I don't recall anything that was necessarily helpful or not.

**Home Institution**

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**Your year of (expected) graduation:**

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

After my experience with the Italian university system I have a much greater appreciation for the Middlebury administration. In Italy the bureaucracy makes the simple action of enrolling in classes, communicating with professors, going to the library and getting a syllabus an enormous task.

In the Italian system a grade is usually determined by the combination of one oral exam and/or a written exam. There are no homework assignments. In this way I had to prepare myself to compete at a college level in a language that I didn't know three years ago. I then had to sit in front of the class and answer questions to my professor. I think my experience in the Italian university system enabled me to sit more comfortably with public speaking and achieve a level of preparedness that would have otherwise been difficult to achieve.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

The pace of life is very different in Italy. Things seem to go slower and yet more fast at the same time. Peoples lives revolve less around what they do for a living and more on what they do with their lives.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

I realized that in many ways we are much more similar than the media portrays, but when I returned to my host country it seemed like everyone was rushing around for no reason; always in a hurry to do something. In Italy I learned to slow down and to appreciate the simple act of living.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I feel like study abroad has made me into a more open person. I have gained a huge appreciation of other culture. My capacity to make mistakes and keep trying was the personal characteristic that aided me most abroad.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

Whilst in Italy I completed a six month internship with the American Consulate and would now like to pursue diplomacy as a goal.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

		Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

My apartment in the center of Florence was amazing and afforded me the opportunity to host social gatherings for my new Italian friends and yet have a place to escape to that felt outside of the city.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

Yes

No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

Poor

Neutral

Helpful

Very Helpful

Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

Yes

No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

My internship with the US Consulate allowed me to experience firsthand an Italian work environment and communicate with older Italians in a work setting. My time at the Consulate was one of the most rewarding experiences of my stay in Italy.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My progress in Italian was much greater than I had expected. Making Italian friends was certainly the most helpful factor in my improvement. I am certain that my ability in Italian was aided more by my time outside the classroom than my time in it.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

cinema--intro

At which institution/university did you take this course?

middlebury sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework, papers, exams

Please describe the course content:

A survey course of Italian cinema focusing on italian neorealism

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, watching films with the professor providing commentary.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

writing--seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

middlebury sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers, exams, homework, participation, presentations.

Describe course content

concentrated on advance italian grammer with the aid of readings, papers, and presentations.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

although much of the class was lecture and discussion of readings it also included student presentations on various locations of interest in the Florence community.

Other comments about this course:

This course was great and I was very pleased as an American student to have had the opportunity to participate in the community in the way this class enabled me. Our community visits increased my understanding of Italian culture far more than any lecture could.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

history of art--iconography--intro

At which institution/university did you take this course?

middlebury sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

two exams and two papers.

Describe course content

History of christian iconography

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

It was an informative course and valuable for my appreciation of the religious art around Florence.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #4**

cognitive neuroscience--upper

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

universita' di Firenze

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

one paper and one oral exam

**Describe course content**

Course examined the neural underpinnings of memory, intelligence, emotions, and human cognition.

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture

**Other comments about this course:**

Without the aid of a tutor I would have done very poorly in this course. My tutor was invaluable for my understanding of the course content.

**Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #5**

art history--upper

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Middlebury sede

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

papers, exams, and presentations.

**Describe course content**

This course examined art in Florence throughout the Renaissance, from it's place in Italian society to the methods and careers of the artists themselves.

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture and powerpoint.

**Other comments about this course:**

This was a great course. The visits to many of Florence's most famous museums and hidden gems was incredible and very valuable. It helped to make that which we went over so much in class have some real world validity.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

literature--upper

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, exams, and homework.

Describe course content

This course examined Italian literature from its beginnings to the renaissance.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The course focused on readings and discussions and papers based on those readings.

Other comments about this course:

Great course, particularly its focus on Dante

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #7

U.S Consulate--internship

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

large paper at the end of the course, one page evaluation every week.

Describe course content

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

Nothing about this internship could have gone better! Both the instruction of my supervisor and the tasks involved were very stimulating. I enjoyed every day of work.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #8

Sociology of Leadership--upper

At which institution/university did you take this course?

universita' di firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

papers and exams

Describe course content

Examined the sociology of leadership by examining works of Shakespeare, current events, and various theorists.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, readings

Other comments about this course:

Although I found the course content fascinating, the organization of the professor and the consistency of the professors instruction (he would often not show up for class without notifying anyone) forced me to drop the course under the suggestion of the Director of the Florence sede.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Study abroad was definitely the most valuable thing I've done in my academic and social life. A word of advice: study abroad the whole year. The first semester is really just adapting to your host country, but it's the second semester that you start living your host culture.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

The supplemental materials were useful...

The most useful aspect of the predeparture meeting was the recommendation to study abroad the entire year.

**Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**Your year of (expected) graduation:**

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

**What was the period of your study abroad?**

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

**Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.**

The academic environment in Italy was extremely frustrating. Although it is very helpful to have the sede as a Middlebury hub within the city of Florence, the Italian culture, especially in terms of education and studying, is so different from ours that it was hard for me to find a balance between the social Italian customs and the Middlebury standards that we were held up to. For example, in many of my Middlebury classes at the sede we had extensive writing assignments to complete on the weekends and throughout the week. With this intense workload it was extremely hard to find time to socialize with Italian students on a regular basis (they have only one oral exam at the end of a semester). What's more, with a very low number of undergraduates within the program in Florence, all of them spread out around the city with no means of transport other than walking (maybe a bike if they are willing to buy one for the semester or a bus once in a while), we had no real community in which to socialize, neither through Middlebury nor through the Italian university. I understand how difficult it is to find housing within the center, but there were truly no real options that were provided in which we could choose to house with other international students. The grading system currently in place for Middlebury study abroad programs in general puts an unnecessarily high level of stress on a Middlebury student. Grades transfer for every single class onto our Middlebury transcript, which makes it very frustrating for a high caliber student to succeed abroad both socially and academically. We are expected to achieve the same level of academic success, in a non-Middlebury environment. The program is stuck between trying to create an international and cultural experience while expecting us to complete a Middlebury level workload. It simply isn't possible to get involved within the Italian community (find an internship, get a job, or make long term friends) and achieve high results in the classroom. The Sede was a great resource in some ways, but its open hours followed an Italian schedule and were extremely limited (An hour lunch break when students must leave the building, and a 6 o'clock closing time). I felt as if I was caught in the middle of trying to achieve an international experience but with the high intensity of American educational standards without the proper tools or environment for success. One way to modify the situation so students can have a little bit of breathing room is to allow one or two of the courses to be graded pass/fail. Not all of the classes, but at least the possibility for one or two of them is available. In truth, I think this shows that Middlebury is actually more committed to a cultural experience that is strong academically rather than an intense American educational program that just happens to be in another country. This way, students will not be penalized on their transcript for focusing equally on cultural immersion as well as high academic achievement.

**AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please Comment:**

It was an excellent opportunity for me to view the two cultures in action. Florence has a high population of American tourists that interact on a day to day basis with many members of the Italian community. The differences were especially evident in the markets and bars around the city.

**How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?**

I think that I have lost some of the romanticism that comes with learning about a new culture without living there (pasta, Colosseum, family values, beautiful art). Now that I have lived and breathed among the people and customs of Italy, my perception of their culture has altered significantly. Neither American culture nor Italian are better than the other, per se, but it was interesting to note the similarities and differences between our economic and social values in particular.

**In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I think that one truth about the whole study abroad experience is that it provides a wonderful opportunity for the student to be truly alone in a new place, maybe for the first time ever. I enjoyed being able to see myself grow and mature over the year's span in Europe, mostly on account of the fact that i had to rely on myself for the necessities of day to day living. It was certainly difficult and scary at first to get thrown into a new situation like that, and quite tiring to always be happy and willing to participate and to constantly put yourself into vulnerable situations. On the whole, though, I would say i really grew up alot over the year.

**How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

Nothing really has changed, career wise for me on a long term basis. Academically, it was great to apply the languages I had been learning for the past several years in real life cultural situations.

**What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on your response to the question above.**

My housing seemed to be one of the better situations available to students in the program last spring, at least from what i heard from other students. I think the best possible situation for any students is to live with other international or national students in a shared apartement. At our age, I think it virtually impossible to become comfortably integrated into a homestay family. I always felt like a guest, no matter how nice or welcoming my family was. On top of that, it was difficult to really have a cultural experience with friends my own age because i couldnt invite anyone over to the house past the afternoon hours without feel as if i were imposing upon the family's lifestyle and generosity.

**Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

I was in a class of more than 200 students, a lecture that met for 2 hour sessions twice a week. Very hard to connect with anyone on such a grand scal.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

n/a

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

I would say that it is important to have no fear when it comes to interacting with the culture around you. It takes awhile to get used to asking questions when you are still new to conversing fluently in the language. It can be intimidating certainly, but it is important to just take the plunge and commit yourselves 100 percent to the task.

**Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

**Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Alot of work with little payoff in terms of credit transfer back to the US. There were only five classes to choose from. So frustrating because we had no other options apart from taking more classes at the university

**Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #1

Writing theory and Practice II

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Sede

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

Papers, 2 exams, daily homework, class participation

**Please describe the course content:**

Improving Italian writing, limited grammar review, alot of reading.

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

It was well taught in my opinion

**Other comments about this course:**

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Hist of Florence 13-16th cent

At which institution/university did you take this course?

sede- seminar

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, 2 exams

Describe course content

History of Florence from 13th century through the Medici in 16th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We visited the sites which was wonderful, the teacher was excellent and very understanding.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

16th cent. Italian Art

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Sede

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Weekly written response papers, 2 exams, participation

Describe course content

art history from italy in 16th century, particularly from a Florentine perspective

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Visits, lectures, discussions, readings to be done as homework

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Architecture and Roman Art

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università di Firenze

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

one final exam- 14 questions - 10 of which were fill in the blank

Describe course content

600 BC to 500 AC Roman origins, High emperialism, the decline of the empire.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

2 hour lectures- The professor talked straight for two hours without a break

Other comments about this course:

I thought the final exam was a inadequate way to grade a student on their knowledge about the subject. It was in no way a valid way to judge their understanding of the material. It was also the first time the professor had ever created a written exam.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?**

Poor

Good

Excellent

**Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?**

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

**Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?**

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

**Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?**

- Yes
- No

**Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Florence is a good option for students in art history, as there is a lot of art in the city itself. But in terms of the undergraduate program in Florence, there were not enough students to create a community feel. There were not enough options for class choice.

**What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

The experience was a roller coaster of emotion, with intense highs and intense lows. Expect to be alone a lot, especially if you choose a homestay with a family as opposed to an apartment with other students.

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

- Yes
- No

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

**ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

I would recommend that the pre-dept meetings maybe consist of one or two prospective students assigned to a student who has recently returned, in order to receive a truthful account for their time abroad that isn't glossed over or shortened for time's sake

**How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)**

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

.....

**Why did you choose this particular program and site?**

I go to Middlebury as an undergraduate. We are more or less required to go to the Middlebury school if it exists in the country of our choice

**Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?**

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

Comments

.....

**Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?**

Yes

No

**Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?**

Yes

No