



# 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 7 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.

Adjusting tot he Italian system was lots of fun.

**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:**

There is such a cultural difference in student life between italy and america.

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

Yes, studying in Ferrara was amazing.

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

It made me much more patient and stronger as a person.

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

Yes, I want to live in Italy.

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

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

Ferrara was an amazing place to be submerged in the Italian culture.

**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 played on the Ferrara Women girls soccer team. It was a great opportunity to meet Italians. My best friend from Italy played on that team.

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 checked="" 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 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?**

Well I speak Italian at home so I understood everything already. But my speaking ability greatly improved/

**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

Etnomusocologia

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara

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

Final Oral Exam

Please describe the course content:

Lecture

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.

There was a final oral exam.

Other comments about this course:

I enjoyed it.

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

Storia d'Arte.. Caravaggio

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara

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

Final Oral Exam

Describe course content

Lecture

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.

There was a final oral exam.

Other comments about this course:

It was very interesting.

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"/>

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:

Ferrara is beautiful and amazing!

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

Go to Ferrara instead of Florence.

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 meetings were helpful.

**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.**

There were only lectures with no discussion which I found very frustrating. However being in lecture greatly improved my comprehension

**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:**

We see many things in different ways and have different systems of doing things

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

I feel like I understand more what being "American" means

**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 so much about myself through travelling and meeting new people

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

It just makes me want to dive that much more deeper into italian and art history. it has also had an impact on the way i look at my choreography for dance

**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 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 lived with 6 italian girls and learned so much about their culture and met so many people through them

**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 worked in an elementary school

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

less noticeable than expected because i was already at a very high level

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:

not as discussion based

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 critique of art

At which institution/university did you take this course?

university of ferrara

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

oral exam

Please describe the course content:

reading texts from the 17th century of art critics

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, reading on our own

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 #2

history of art of europe

At which institution/university did you take this course?

university of ferrara

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

oral exam

Describe course content

Caravaggio, contemporaries, and his patrons

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.

lectures and slides

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 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

literature of ferrara

At which institution/university did you take this course?

through middlebury

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

papers and exams and oral presentation

Describe course content

literature of ferrara

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.

discussions, film

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 #4

italian literature 2

At which institution/university did you take this course?

university of ferrara

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

oral exam

Describe course content

poetry of ugo foscolo

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.

lectures

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 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 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

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

it was a wonderful experience

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

go the full year! by the time you are settled you have to leave for a semester

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 handbook

**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 waznted to study in italy but not in a touristy place

**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

**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 switch to a completely Italian universita' was a bit strange. The style of learning and the expectations are so completely different. One must become a more-disciplined learner and take their efforts to learn outside of the classroom. While the lectures were far inferior to those in the USA, saying the classes were not as good is not accurate either. The challenges were different. We had to read VAST amounts of written material in Italian. Also, we had to try and communicate to experienced professors in their native tongue. Finally, we had to craft and then demonstrate an effective study plan for each course.

**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:**

As outlined above, the areas of emphasis are very different. ITalians love the simple life and not working too hard while Americans are always, 'Go, go, go.'" Their is an emphasis on food, family, and relaxation in Italy. The cultural importance of things is different.

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

I appreciate academics in the USA (how they are organized) a bunch more and also enjoy the variety of people that we can meet through small colleges like Middlebury.

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

I am a far more focused and worldly person than when i left. I gained so much just from being on the ground in a place and existing with them.

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

I would like to pursue a career that would offer me the opportunity to continue my use of languages and the chance to travel.

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

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

Again, I had bad luck on this front. Coming to the program mid-year and with Middlebury offering no support for students in housing, the options were limited. I was further limited in that most of the options available were limited to females. Housing, the part which is fundamnetal to any study-abroad time, is where Middlebury falls flat. I spoke to several Middlebury students from the first semester who loved their situations. Middlebury did not keep their informaiton despite the fact that the hosts wanted to have more American students!!! If you have a bad living situation, the entire process is more difficult!!! This needs to be a priority!!!!!! My situation was complex in that I lived with two people who worked and therefore were not often present. My home was furnished well enough but not marvelously for the price.

**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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 took cooking classes through a program at the University. The course itself wasn't great, but we did get to meet some students. I also had an internship at the local Institute for History. It was good but there were no students there to meet or get to know.

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 checked="" 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
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**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
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**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
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**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 continued to make steady progress with the language. At a certain point, one cannot hear the progress anymore. However, I never struggled to understand in any context, so in that regard I would say that I made quite significant progress.

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

- Yes
- No

**Please explain:**

I was not in love with any course to the point that I would recommend it.

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

- Yes
- No

**Please explain:**

THERE IS A PROFESSOR NAMED ANNA FOLLI. I DID NOT HAVE A COURSE WITH HER BUT I HEARD OF HER. SHE MADE THE LIVES OF OTHER STUDENTS HORRENDOUS. AVOID HER AT ALL COSTS!!!

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

Italian Literature II

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' di Ferrara

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

Exam

Please describe the course content:

Ugo Foscolo

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 professor gave a series of lectures in which she read from and quoted the works of this particular author.

Other comments about this course:

It was not good. The exam was strange and she was not an interested or effective professor.

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 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
	<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 #2

Modern History

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

We looked at world history from 1492-1815.

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 style was stange only in the sense that it wasn't very Italian. We had lectures twice a week with a schedule that was followed. The professor was interactive and engaging.

Other comments about this course:

Professor Ricci was good and kind to students abroad. I would reccomend him over others.

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 #3

Contemporary History

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

All history from 1815 onwards.

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.

A series of lectures with a bunch of different professors. The lectures were bad and not very useful other than for language comprehension. The professors rotated. Their was no flow to the course.

Other comments about this course:

Not recommended.

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 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 #4

Independent Project on Massacre in Ferrara during WWII

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Independent (Middlebury)

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

Final Paper

Describe course content

I looked into this massacre of Italians by other Italians in Ferrara during WWII

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 research at my internship, which had a vast array of helpful resources.

Other comments about this course:

I enjoyed this 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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 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.

Be intelligent and don't flaunt the fact you are an american.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

I liked this program in Ferrara but don't think the Middlebury program is well thought and staffed.

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

Take advantage of the opportunity. You're not sure when these types of chances will come about.

**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?**

It was fine. I felt ready.

**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 system in Italy is incredibly different than that of the United States: primarily in that it is highly disorganized. One of my final exams was cancelled twice before the professor finally showed up to give the exam. These typicalities of the Italian system made the adjustment difficult, but also taught me to appreciate the academic environment we have at Midd even more. Furthermore, the flexibility of the Italian system allowed me to do a fantastic internship for credit and work with one-on-one with one of the most famous scholars of Italian ceramics--both experiences I could have had nowhere else. I had a REAL Italian academic experience of the Italian system. And it was singular.

**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 is the small differences that feel so big. Social interaction is very different: boys tend to hang out with boys and girls with girls, social interactions tend to be outdoors. There is a much more relaxed feeling about time and deadlines. Any train in Italy will be late... guaranteed. Students take their time to graduate. Those are just the major things I noticed.

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

I feel like I have come to terms with Italian culture. But it took a while. Relaxing out of my deadline driven schedule in order to be consumed by the relaxed Italian attitude took time and made me realize that we need not always be in such a rush.

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

I can't pin-point exactly how it has made me grow, but I know it has changed me. I found that my persistence in finding my own way in a foreign country was really important to my understanding of it.

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

I may have to come back. There is still so much here that I want to explore. Before, I never considered living (after college) in another country.

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

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

I stayed with Italian students. I was able to experience living with them. Punto.

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?

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not 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 did an internship with a small arts gallery. I would highly suggest that Midd students pursue independent studies and internships to find a level of specificity within their general experience. I learned so much about the art world 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
	<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 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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?

In the Italian academic system they don't write much. And the Italian writing style is much different than our own. I would have liked to focus more on that in our required Midd course. As far as speaking and communicating, I think I improved greatly. Italians love to talk, and I learned to love it too. Though I feel like I gave up on improving my accent and often sacrificed speaking well in order to express my ideas more rapidly.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Ceramics in the faculty of Lettere! Fantastic teacher and lots of one-on-one time.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Teachers in Italy can be really biased, ad it's not our fault. Just try to avoid them.

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

Storia della ceramica

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara

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

written analysis and summaries, oral exam

Please describe the course content:

general history of ceramics and ferrarese ceramics, visits to museums and workshops

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.

on site analysis of ceramics, visits to museums, very conversational

Other comments about this course:

great professor! head of the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza

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 #2

Letteratura Ferrarese

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury/ U. Ferrara

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

written assignments and oral presentation of final written assignment

Describe course content

literature about Ferrara, analysis, and representations in film

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.

very conversational, lots of fun, very relaxed

Other comments about this course:

also a great professor

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

Storia dell'architettura moderna

At which institution/university did you take this course?

U. Ferrara: Facoltà di Architettura

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

oral exam, two written exercises for extra points

Describe course content

history of architecture from 1400-1732

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.

long long lectures

Other comments about this course:

professor is not very clear about expectations and is really flakey, he cancelled the exam twice, I learned much more from my tutor (Prof. Ronconi) and my own personal study

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 checked="" 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 #4

Internship: MLB Maria Livia Brunelli home gallery

At which institution/university did you take this course?

through Middlebury

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

final paper 20-25 pages, completion of 150 hours of work

Describe course content

translating materials for the gallery and helping with everyday gallery stuff

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.

hands on

Other comments about this course:

Though I enjoyed both my paper and hours, it is odd that the hours alone are far beyond that required of a regular course and that the paper required is longer than that required for an independent study. Maybe the system should be reconsidered?

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"/>

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:

A REAL Italian experience. You are going to have such a difficult/great time. And learn that Italy is full of interesting contradictions that collide with and highly contrast our culture.

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

Make the most of it and just accept it for what it is.

**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 think all of the pre-departure was helpful. Orientation on-site, however, provided little information but was exhausting and took a lot of time--causing lots of unneeded stress while choosing classes and getting settled.

**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 learned a great deal abroad, but I would have to say most, if not all, occurred outside the classroom with friends, traveling, and just living independently. It was really interesting to be in a different academic environment at the University of Ferrara, but I was disappointed with the academics I found there. If anything it gave me a greater appreciation of the quality of education at Middlebury, which is something very positive that came out of the experience.

**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:**

Being abroad a year it I recognized both similarities and differences as well in aspects such as the people, environment, food, etc. Before going abroad I wasn't sure what I would encounter, but I would not say I was taken by surprise at the differences I encountered abroad.

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

Being abroad for a year influenced my understanding of the host culture immensely. It really is impossible to understand a culture completely until you live in it, experiencing everyday activities and getting acclimated to the environment. Being abroad really influenced my perceptions of being American and what that means-- what aspects I value about the culture as well as those that I abhor. It has also given me such an appreciation for being from a country with so many cultures within, a "melting pot" as you could say.

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

Living independently really contributed to my personal growth, getting a taste of the "real world". I'd say patience and understanding really contribute to having a great experience abroad-- not getting too frustrated and enjoying the positive aspects of the culture instead of focusing on the negative.

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

Being abroad really gave me insight on the future as now I'm much more interested in living abroad in the future, whether Italy or other countries. Academically it really made me appreciate American education and its methods of teaching and evaluation, and career-wise it didn't change much as I still am undecided.

**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.**

Living with Italians really gives you insight and integration into the Italian culture, as I spoke only Italian. I really got to know my roommates well, which helped me understand and imagine what living as an Italian really is like.

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?

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not 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 my internship for the whole year, working with translation, PR, and writing articles. It was integral to my experience abroad, getting work experience as well as observe a work environment in another country other than the US. As for extra-curricular activities, I was involved with the school newspaper and participated in a choir. I would advise future students to get as involved as possible in activities to meet people and learn more outside the classroom.

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

I made a significant amount of progress in the speaking aspect of the language through daily interactions with Italians (friendships, school, etc.) but I do not think that my writing skills improved enormously because we did not have much written work at the university.

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:

Oral exams as the method of evaluation

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 (intro)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exams, Paper

Please describe the course content:

Examination of anthropological theories

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.

Lectures

Other comments about this course:

A little disjointed, as we changed professors mid-semester, but nevertheless interesting.

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 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

Studia degli Istituzioni Politiche (intro)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Paper

Describe course content

Study of the history of early governments, philosophical theories

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.

Lectures

Other comments about this course:

A rather dry course but ultimately with the research paper I learned a lot

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 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 #3

Required language course for Middlebury (seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara, but through Middlebury

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

papers, exams, homework

Describe course content

We studied the literature of Ferrara and completed some grammar work

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.

Lectures, discussions

Other comments about this course:

Required, but ultimately interesting and the professor was very nice and helpful

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 #4

Internship

At which institution/university did you take this course?

N/A

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

Paper

Describe course content

I worked at an international NGO in Ferrara for a year and wrote a 25 page research paper at the end

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 a lot of translation work, journalism, PR

Other comments about this course:

An amazing experience working in an Italian office. I received much work experience and the people were extremely friendly and helpful to my every need.

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

Letteratura Italiana II

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

We studied the poetry of Ugo Foscolo and his life

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:

The professor was unhelpful and seemed like she was consistently bored.

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"/>

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

Storia dell'arte dei paesi europei

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

The life and works of Caravaggio

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:

An amazing course. The professor was extremely knowledgeable, accessible, and friendly.

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

Storia Moderna

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

History from 1492 to 1815

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:

Rather dry, but the professor was enthusiastic and there was a ton of material to cover.

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 #8

Sociologia dei Processi culturali

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universita' degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exam

Describe course content

An examination of sociology and cultural processes

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:

The professor was very knowledgeable and the content was interesting.

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"/>

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

**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 never found the discriminations or harassments a huge deal or threatening, but as a minority I constantly received comments about my assumed culture (which was always incorrect). I found it frustrating but ultimately it lead me to appreciate diversity in the US even more. I would advise future students not to take it too personally and focus on the positive. I would also advise females to expect a certain amount of inappropriate comments from men in Italy, but there's not much that can be changed about that.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

It is a great independent experience abroad, as you live by yourself and there is no hand holding at all.

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

I would tell students to consider going abroad for a year. I originally wanted to go abroad only a semester, but I can't imagine having the same experience if I did only that. I know it's hard to leave Middlebury but a year abroad will change your life enormously.

**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 have liked more input from students who had gone abroad to get more advice about what can be done before going(especially with things like housing for Ferrara).

**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 classes were huge compared to those at middlebury and there were about twice as many hours of class (I took all my classes at the architecture school). It was a lot of work but I benefited from having to be a lot more independent than I am at Middlebury, where the professors are much more available to help.

**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:**

Life in America is on a much bigger scale, for better or worse.

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

Studying for a year with all Italian students helped me to feel integrated in their culture as opposed to just observing it, and I hear directly from them what their perception of American culture is. I know that some other Middlebury students who did not spend as much time with Italian students did not have the same experience.

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

I got to live for a year on my own and the most useful personal characteristic I brought with me was a willingness to adapt to new surroundings. During study abroad, I learned to do without all the comforts of home and the Middlebury campus, and it made me much more aware of all the things I took for granted before.

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

My academic goals haven't really changed, but studying for a year at a real architecture school gave me a better idea about the career.

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

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

My housing situation wasn't really helpful or unhelpful, because my 'integration' happened mostly with my Italian friends from school.

**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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 taught English at two elementary schools, which was a really fun way to do something different outside of class. I would recommend it as an internship for any future Middlebury students who enjoy working with kids.

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

**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?**

The best way to get the most out of the experience as far as language learning is to spend as much time as possible with native speakers. As much as Americans students try to speak the host country language among themselves, it doesn't compare to practicing with native students. If you are continually around natives speaking their language, progress is pretty much inevitable. By the end of my second semester, my Italian friends said that I had improved a lot, and people who didn't know me sometimes mistook me for Italian.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

In Ferrara all of our classes were at the Italian university, and at the architecture school in particular there are many many hours of class to spend with Italian students.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

In Ferrara, if you take classes at the literature department (as most students do), there is not much contact with the professors and the only evaluation is usually an oral exam at the end, which makes it hard to gauge your progress during the semester.

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

Disegno dell'Architettura

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Facoltà di Architettura

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

Exams, Homework, In-class drawing

Please describe the course content:

technical drawing course with a drawing-based exam

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 lab

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 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 #2

Materiali e Progettazione degli Elementi Costruttivi

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Facoltà di Architettura

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

Exams, Homework, In-class Assignments

Describe course content

building technology

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 lab

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

Letteratura Italiana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

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

Final Oral Exam

Describe course content

medieval italian literature

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:

.....

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 #4

Laboratorio di Progettazione Architettonica I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Facoltà di Architettura

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

Exam, Homework

Describe course content

architectural design course - each student designed a single family home

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 one-on-one critiques with the professor

Other comments about this course:

by far the hardest and most time-consuming of the courses I took, but well worth it

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

Rilievo dell'Architettura

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara

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

Exams, Homework

Describe course content

Detailed measurement and graphic reproduction of historical buildings

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, field work, lab

Other comments about this course:

all work is done in groups

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"/>

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

Storia dell'Architettura Contemporanea

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Facoltà di Architettura

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

Final Oral Exam

Describe course content

modern architectural 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.

lecture

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 #7

Writing Theory and Composition

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury School

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

Papers, Presentations, Homework

Describe course content

italian grammar and literature

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:

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"/>

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:

opportunity to primarily attend an italian university

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

make friends with local 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?**

Talking to a Middlebury student who studied abroad the year before was helpful.

**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.**

My adjustment was incredibly smooth, probably because in comparison to the intensive and rigorous academic environment at Middlebury, an Italian university is unbelievably relaxed. One goes to class if he or she chooses, without anyone monitoring their attendance. 2 hour lectures in which I am a passive sponge are very different from Middlebury discussions. To be honest, it was a lovely change--it is a great feeling to go to school everyday without feeling at all stressed, and to return home knowing I can study at the pace that I choose, as long as I am prepared for that one exam at the end. Of course, the difference in the education system said a lot about the Italian culture. The relaxed mentality was a very healthy experience for me, and I hope to bring home a bit of this Italian lightness to my own academic life--I can get all my work done without feeling overly stressed. It is all in the mentality.

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

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

**Please Comment:**

Although it is certainly a western culture, heavily influenced by the trends and politics of the United States, in some ways Italy seemed to me like it was not a first world country, with trains and buses breaking down and not arriving on time, with two hour lunch breaks every day that ensures deserted streets and closed shops at least from noon to two, although usually starting a bit earlier and lasting until afterward. The influence of a long and very particular history in the architecture, the language, the cuisine and culture, and every aspect of the Italian way of life is something completely alien to an American. In fact, I feel that I have learned what it means to be American as much as I have learned what it means to be Italian. Before my study abroad experience, I lacked a point of comparison, however now I realize that being a meltingpot culture is something extraordinary and unique.

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

See 11.

**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 grown up so much being abroad. Firstly, being so far away from my family gives me a different perspective on my identity, and allowed me to grow as an individual without the influence of my most intimate relationships. Moreover, it has been interesting to explore my personality outside of the rigorous academic and extracurricular environment in which I have immersed myself since middle school. I have discovered my sense of adventure, a new level of confidence and also a relaxed disposition that I hope to integrate into my busy life. I feel like I left home a child and am coming home an adult, as if my study abroad experience were a right of passage. In hindsight, I believe the experience of learning a new culture and leaving the nest is in fact a right of pasasge that any complete and outstanding liberal arts education ought to include.

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

My career and academic goals have remained the same, but I cling to them more passionately, as I have discovered that even outside of my usual academic environment, I still have the same desire to succeed at Middlebury and beyond. My personal goals are also the same, since continued traveling, self-confidence, and an ability to handle large amounts of stress with a cheerful and relaxed disposition, are some of my most important personal goals.

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

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

I shared a room with another Midd kid, but we shared an apartment with two Italian students. As I expected, this situation was a wonderful mix of familiarity and comfort with the benefits of living with 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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input 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 participated in the university chorus, which I did not do too frequently because I traveled. Due to my lack of attendance, I did not make many friends in the choir, however, my roommate played soccer and we became great friends with other girls on the soccer team. Therefore, although mine was not exceedingly helpful in integrating into the culture, I think extracurriculars in general are an excellent way to make friends.

**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 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 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 improvement was about what I expected, perhaps a bit greater in the end. However, it was also harder than I expected, because even a few months in I sometimes found it difficult to understand Italians speaking. One very very strong suggestion for any student who wants to get better at the language is to live with and also socialize with people from that country. It is, hands down, the best and most fun way to improve.

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

Yes

No

**Please explain:**

I found the course that was specifically for Midd kids, the only one in which we were isolated from Italians, very helpful--it provided a safe environment to ask grammatical and cultural questions and we learned quite a bit.

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

Yes

No

**Please explain:**

Some courses and professors are absurdly difficult because the professor specifically dislikes erasmus students. This is rare, however. I would suggest that you ask around--older mid kids for example, or other italian students--before settling on courses.

**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**

European Art History

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

Ferrara University

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

oral exam

**Please describe the course content:**

life and works of Caravaggio

**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, reading

**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 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

Etnomusicology

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara University

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

oral exam

Describe course content

the study of folk music from italy, africa, India, China, et al.

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, film

Other comments about this course:

Very informative and interesting

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 #3

Writing Theory and Composition

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara University--specific requirement for Midd Kids only

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

papers, presentations, exams

Describe course content

italian grammar and Ferrarese literature

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, readings, film

Other comments about this course:

Incredible instructor, great 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 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

Modern Italian Literature

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Ferrara University

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

exam

Describe course content

For foreign students, the works of Foscolo

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, reading

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

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

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:

A wonderful program, mostly because Ferrara, in my opinion, is the perfect place to study abroad in Italy.

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

Do it. Exit your comfort zone. Although it may be uncomfortable at first, be outgoing and make friends. Immerse yourself in the culture and enjoy.

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 only pre-departure stuff that, in my opinion, helps at all, is talking to other students who have done the program, and hearing what they have to say. Besides the important paperwork and housing if one chooses to reserve it ahead of time, there really is nothing important to do. You just have to get there.

**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 wanted to learn Italian life in a place where everyone would speak to me in Italian, not English--a truly Italian experience. Ferrara was the perfect blend of a very Italian city with a university culture.

**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