Instructors

- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
  They are more considerate of foreign students. They know that you are trying to attend class while also trying to learn a language so most of them have some special consideration for you. Otherwise the instructions are similar: some use slides, some lecture the whole class, some encourage class participation, some don’t.

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
  I never did but I think some of them would’ve been okay with that.

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
  It was the same, where they have a lot of students so if you want to make yourself known you have to participate in class or go to their office hours. And you can always email them questions or call them.

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
  As far as I know yes, but I never actually attended one.

Courses

- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
  Not really, eventually I got the books in English if they were available. If you really pay attention most likely you will be able to understand even when you’re still learning the language. And as I said you can always visit them during office hours.

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
  They grade on a scale to 30 instead of letter but the Study Center told us what each number was equivalent to.

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
  I had no papers, midterms, or quizzes for any of my classes and I don’t think I knew anyone that did. Your only grade is the final, and if the exam is oral or multiple-choice on a computer you find out your grade right away. If you’re not happy with it, you can retake the test again and again. Most tests are available once a month.

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
  I had oral, written short answers, and multiple choice exams.

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
  It’s flexible in that you choose when you want to take it out of the dates they are offered. However, for oral exams you want to sign up as soon as possible or you may have to stay waiting for your turn the whole day.

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
  The Study Center was the most helpful resource for any questions, academic or domestic.

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
Definitely, there was a lot of traveling sometimes with groups sometimes by myself. Had to figure out how transportation works, how to find out about your classes, socialize, even figure out how long food lasts before it goes bad.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  No, but it helped, especially if you’re an abroad student. If they know you’re trying to learn the language and you’re going to class and trying, they will help you do better and even be more generous when grading.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  At least the courses I took were really crowded, almost like lower division courses at UCSB. As I said the structure is different in that your whole grade depends on the final. But other than that they’re really similar and the course depends on how the professor decides to teach the class.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  Yes they were usally twice a week sort of like in UCSB…..I want to say they were 2 hours long but I don’t really remember

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  Class culture is different. Punctuality is not too important. If the class is scheduled for 10am lecture will start around 10:10 or so. However, if the class is popular, you may want to get there early so you can find a seat because I don’t think there is actually a limit of the students that can attend.

**Language**

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  The ones I took were all in Italian, but I think a few were offered in English

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  Italian

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  If you actually pay attention and try to understand, chances are you will. If you need to and you can find the books in English that can help for whatever you may not have understood during class, and you can always try to contact the professor with questions, and work with what they write and translate it.

**Host University**

- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  There is really no campus. The center of the city is considered the ‘university area’ and the faculties and departments are spread throughout. It’s a small center though. I walked to all my classes and it took me at most about 15 minutes. There are also busses if you want to take them instead of walking.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
There are dorm-like housing for local students, but a lot of them eventually decide to find an apartment in the city, most of them in the university area.

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - Everything is in the city center
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
  - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
  - **How long would it take to get to the city center?**

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  - I actually never even tried to find out, but I’m pretty sure there would be. The Study Center would definitely know and help UC students find and join these clubs.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  - There are many bookstores on campus, a couple relatively big ones where you can find books on different subjects, a lot of small ones that focus on what faculty or department. Sometimes I also got books online to get them in English (amazon UK)

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  - I think there was a computer lab in the city but I did not use it because I had a laptop. If I needed to print something I went to the Study Center. They’ve got computers, printers, office supplies, scanners, etc.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  - Since the campus is the city, there are cafes, shopping strips, bars, restaurants, gelato shops, cinemas, theaters, clubs……..pretty much anything we have downtown.

**Housing**

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  - At least in Bologna, we all had to find apartments to live in.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  - There are many apartments available in the center.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  - There were signs all over the city of available apartments, so we would call and make appointments to go visit the place and meet the people that lived there. The place I finally stayed in I found on a website that was given to me by a friend I think but I don’t remember which one….it was sort of an Italian CraigList specifically for housing

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  - I lived in an apartment in the center literally less than a block from the Study Center which was really convenient. I lived with other 3 Italian guys, and it was a great and fun experience.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
Not really because everyone is looking for roommates.

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  They were definitely different, but I don’t know if they were nicer or not. They were just different but still comfortable….I liked my place.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  In U.S. dollars rent was probably around 500 for most people….utilities were about 45 for each four of us per month and cable about 35 maybe…..

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  Cash. The landlord would come and we would have all our cash ready in a jar.

**Food**

- **What was the food like?**
  Food was great!!!! I loved Italian food, especially typical homemade food. Had to go to the market a lot more because food goes bad fast so we had to buy less at a time more frequently.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  Most meals were homemade, but we did go to a lot of apperitivi, which mean you go to a café/bar and buy a drink and you can eat as much of the food they have out as you want. Usually simple pastas, mini-sandwhiches, chips, etc.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  Appertivi the drinks were usually 6 or 7 euros ($10 more or less), restaurant from 10-20 ($15-30).

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Lunch around 2 or 3 and dinner always after 8…….they don’t usually eat breakfast.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  No, we had two vegetarians in our group of friends and they never went hungry

**Travel/Safety**

- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  Buses would be the most convenient if you don’t want to walk.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  Yes I did. I would say for the girls just know you’re going to get hit on a lot, but our girls were always safe.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  To travel to cities, train. Make sure to learn how that system works because you’ll definitely use it.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  Easy. RyanAir is the cheapest way to fly….train is too expensive to travel around countries.
Host City/Country
- What was the weather like?
  Really hot during the summer, snow likely during the winter….in between is really nice, at least in my opinion.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  It’s kind of like IV in that it’s a university town and almost everyone you meet will be a student in the university. However, there’s no beach, and it’s a different style.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  Went out with friends a lot to bars and clubs. Lots of good restaurants too and historical sites.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Not a lot of tourism during the year but many many foreign students from other European countries and the U.S.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  o Time & punctuality
    They have 24hr system rather than dividing the day in 12hr periods. It’s normal to not be punctual in Italy
  o Eye contact & staring
    Not a lot of eye contact….maybe some staring
  o Relationships
    Public affection is normal
  o More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    No sweatpants….everyone get ready even if just stepping out to the store
  o Alcohol consumption
    That’s how they all socialize…..wines and bars
  o What culture shock did you go through?
    None that I can think of…..maybe travelling by train is something that you definitely have to get used to
  o Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Visa and I think MasterCard….no Discover

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No but I think there was an easy way to get a debit account through the post office….my roommate sort of explained it but I never did it

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM?
  Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
- I always withdrew from BPM ATM’s. Try to withdraw maximum amounts to avoid coming back because you are going to need cash. It is rare to see transactions with credit, it is almost always cash.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  - They were throughout the city. I often would pass by on my way to class.