Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  They were much more formal and serious.
- Could you call them by their first names?
  No, never.
- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  Yes, very much so.
- Were they available for help during office hours?

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  They were structured very differently than UCSB courses. Students are given a lot more freedom, and
  must take the initiative to study and learn the materials.
- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  No the grading system was completely subjective and based on only the oral final.
- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assigments or just finals?
  For all my classes the only work I completed were final exams.
- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Oral
- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Very flexible, exams for each class are offered about once a month, and students can choose to take the
  test whenever there is an exam date. Also, many of the teachers allowed the international students to
  take the test during their office hours at a time of their choice.
- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  The study center staff was very helpful when it came to picking classes and academic advising. They
  have tons of great resources such as reviews of all classes taken by past EAP students.
- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  Yes, there were many things I had to figure out on my own when it came to the academic system. Even
  finding the readings for some of my classes was a challenge. Since there was no homework or
  assignments were assigned I had to really motive myself to study and learn the material.
- Was classroom participation expected?
  It was encouraged but not specifically expected.
- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
  They were focused solely around lecture and readings, no homework, papers, or projects. There are no
  sections or tas.
- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
Classes were two hours long, during the day usually.

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
Very different than here at UCSB, it was extremely important to be punctual and stay for the entire class period. Students did not eat, drink, text, or disrupt class in any other way. Just leaving to use the restroom made me feel like the entire class was staring at me. Students gave the professor their undivided attention and took lengthy notes the entire time.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
Italian, some in English as well.

- 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.
It was a challenge, but I found it to be a very rewarding experience. Listening to two hour long lectures in a foreign language was very tiring, because you have to be actively listening the entire time. I didn’t understand everything, but that didn’t hinder my overall learning of the material. Professors were very understanding about having international students in their classes, and understood our language skills were not perfect.

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?
The university is spread out within the city center. Each department in in a different building, and classrooms are in various places. There is no campus, but the entire city center feels like a campus.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
Off campus in apartments. Students from Bologna or nearby areas usually live at home with their families.

- If not located in the city center,
  o How far or close is it to the city?
    It is in the city center
  o What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
    You can very easily walk anywhere in the city center, or take the bus. The bus costs a euro per ride, or you can purchase a monthly pass.
  o Could students take cabs -cost?
    Cabs were fairly expensive especially because of the base rate of 6+ euros. I would only take a cab late at night instead of walking home alone.
  o How long would it take to get to the city center?
    I lived on the edge of the city center, so it would take about ten minutes
- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  Yes, I believe so

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  There are bookstores in the city center.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  I don’t recall seeing a computer lab, there may be. There are also computers at the Study Center, but it is not convienient to go all the way there just to use a computer. I would definitely bring a laptop.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  Stores, cafes, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, pretty much everything!

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**Housing**

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  Private apartments that you find yourself. There is no ILP housing at all!

- **How close are they to campus?**
  Depends on where you choose to live, the vast majority of students choose to live in the city center, some live just outside it.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  I searched for a week, calling people off flyers and emailing people from craigslist type sites. I ended up finding my apartment through word of mouth that another girl in my program had an apartment and was looking for a roommate.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived in a private apartment with one other Californian girl and two Italian male students

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  Yes, because I arrived in the snow, and had no ILP housing. I arrived a few days early, and had to stay at a hotel by myself and search for apartments. The process is very intimidating, because you have to make phone calls in Italian, then go visit all these peoples apartments. There is definitely not a lack of rooms for rent in Bologna, its just the matter of going through the process and seeing a lot of them before you find one that works for you.

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  No, they are older and had very small beds, minimal furniture. Most apartments in Bologna do not have living rooms.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  It was significantly cheaper than IV. I paid 200 euro a month, so with bills it was about 300-400 dollars a month.
- How/who did you pay for housing?
  My landlord in cash

Food
- What was the food like?
  Amazing!!! Very Italian, it is hard to find anything else. Mostly pasta, pizza, meats. Very rich and heavy, but always delicious

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
  I cooked at home the majority of the time, or had a slice of pizza. On occasion we would go out to dinner. Food is a very social thing in Italy, so having meals at peoples houses for dinner parties is very common.

- How much was an average meal?
  It cost about 7 euros for a sit down entrée, plus 4-5 for drinks, cover charge, etc. Restaurants charge a cover charge, charge for water, and usually bread as well. If you want something quick, you can grab a panino or pizza slice for only a few euros

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
  Breakfast is usually consumed in the early morning, and consists of only coffee and maybe a pastry, lunch is eaten in early afternoon. Dinner time is around 8. People have “aperativo” from around 6-8. Most bars and restaurants have aperatitos, and it is a very social event. You go in a group and order a drink, usually a Spritz if you’re Italian, and then there is free of charge buffet of appetizer like foods.

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
  Somewhat. There are always vegetarian options, but they are severely limited. “Vegetarian” usually just mean vegetables or maybe even tuna! If you do your own grocery shopping then it shouldn’t be a problem. The main difficulty you may have is eating at other peoples houses or being a guest, etc.

Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  I felt pretty safe, but not always. Walking alone at night especially if you are a girl is unadvisable. I lived on the edge of the city center, and it is a more dangerous area. I don’t think there is actually much crime, but there are tons of prostitutes which work along the city walls. I would avoid walking here, or living nearby.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  Great train system for traveling anywhere within Italy. Within Bologna, it is very easy to just walk or take the bus.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  Yes, you can take the train, or cheap budget airline flights.
**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
  Very extreme, freezing in the winter, and hot and muggy in the summer.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  Bologna is a relatively small city, the city center is very compact. It is pretty unique and it is a college city.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  There is always something to do in Bologna, from museums, to drinking in bars, to live concerts. There are always student events and cultural events.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
  It is not a tourist city! Which is great, it is more typical of an Italian city than Rome or Florence. There is not much diversity, there is a large immigrant population, but there are very racist feelings towards them from the Italian people. The university of Bologna has a huge international student body, and there are always international student events.

**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    For class, being punctual is very important.
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    People stare at you shamelessly, so I started doing it back. It is acceptable in Italy, and because you are foreign people are going to be staring at you even more!
  - **Relationships**
    They are more formal than here, more of a courtship of going on dates than here, especially in IV. People do not have “random” hookups as often, so be careful what you do. Something that may seem meaningless here at UCSB could have different implications there.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    Yes, girls should dress slightly more conservative. And Italians do not go in public wearing sweatpants, gym clothers, sweatshirts, flipflops etc. You will stand out very much so if you do.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    Italians drink very often, but far less than Americans do generally. Try and keep this in mind. Some drinking habits that are totally normal here will not go over so well in Italy.

- **What culture shock did you go through?**
  Nothing too alarming

  - **Other?**

**Banking**

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  Yes

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  I did not
- 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 used Wells Fargo abroad, so everytime I withdrew money I had to pay a fee of about 5 dollars to Wells Fargo plus the ATM usage fee. It was pretty inconvenient. I would try and take out the max everytime to minimize these fees. If you are going to keep your U.S. bank I would talk to them about upping for max withdrawl amount. But make sure you don’t lose your card and that you have a safe place to keep cash.

- Were there ATMs on campus?