Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  Analogous (strict attendance policies)

- Could you call them by their first names?
  I never tried.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  No

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  Yes, also by email!

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  More demanding in terms of semester system

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  Yes

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  It was comparable, there was a combination of assignments, papers, midterms, and finals.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Oral exams for language classes, written exams for all classes in English.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Inflexible – you could NOT under any circumstance change the day and time.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  CLAS doesn’t exist, but tutoring is available for language classes although I never used it.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  Yes, it taught me to be patient. When you go to a foreign country and don’t speak the language you need a lot of patience and you learn to become more flexible.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  Yes.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
  I had not taken a language course in college so that was a bit different.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
  Class was Monday – Thursday ranging from 9 am – 6pm.

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
Be on time, there are breaks to eat.

**Language**
- In which languages were the courses offered?  
  Italian and 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.

Language courses were everyday and extremely demanding… homework everynight and multiple types of exams – oral, written, composition (with the aid of a dictionary).

**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 host university is in part of a building in the center of Rome, a little over 100 students from all UC campuses.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?  
  No local students.

- If not located in the city center,  
  - How far or close is it to the city?  
    N/A  
  - What type of public transportation could you take – cost?  
    Bus, Tram, (I was within walking distance, 15 minutes)  
  - Could students take cabs – cost?  
    Some students took cabs when they were late to class. However, it was not a viable option for everyday commute.  
  - How long would it take to get to the city center?  
    Walking from the campus about 10-15 minutes.

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?  
  Not that I am aware of.

- Is there a bookstore on campus?  Where did you get your books?  
  They provided books, which had to be payed for in cash, and used books were not available.

- Is there a computer lab on campus?  Or, should students bring laptops?  
  Computer lab available, but limited computers, wireless internet is available if you bring a laptop to campus.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood?  (cafes, stores, etc)  
  Cafes, stores, dry cleaners, salons, vintage shopping (just to name a few) all within five minutes.
**Housing**
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  Host family, dorms (a set number of apartments in a building), or individual apartments.

- How close are they to campus?
  Varies GREATLY.

- How did you find your housing?
  ACCENT set it up.

- Where did you live and with whom?
  In an apartment in Trastevere, 6 girls total, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?
  N/A

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
  It’s nothing like America to be honest… anywhere in Rome. There is no air conditioning and their lifestyle is unlike ours. No dryers (be prepared to hang dry all your clothes).

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
  I am unsure of this answer because it was factored into the total cost of studying abroad.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
  My parents dealt with the finances.

**Food**
- What was the food like?
  Rich! Lots of pasta, pizza, and bread! All amazing… and dangerous!

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
  For the first month all I did was eat out, then I realized I needed to start cooking some things myself.

- How much was an average meal?
  It was around 15 – 20 euros for a sit down meal. For a sandwhich togo, about 7 euros.

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
  Dinner is late, around 9 pm. Lunch is not as popular since dinner is so big, so there is no designated time. Sandwich shops (paninis) are desirable for lunch.

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
  I’m not vegetarian so I didn’t go searching, but if you know how to say what you want in Italian it shouldn’t be a problem.

**Travel/Safety**
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
  There were buses, trams, and the metro. I tried to walk as much as possible.
-Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Yes, just watch your personal belongings and don’t walk around alone at night.

-Describe the public transportation in your host country?
(See above)

-Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
Taxis are offered at a flat rate to either of the two airports in Rome. In addition, the train can be taken to one of the airports. Traveling was certainly not as easy as it would be in America due to the language barrier, but it is feasible and highly recommended… just leave plenty of time for unexpected occurrences. RyanAir and EasyJet are two popular airlines that are inexpensive in Europe.

Host City/Country

-What was the weather like?
I studied abroad in fall so the weather went something like this.
August: Very hot
September: Pleasant.
October: Rain
November: Rain (lots of it)
December: Chilly with wind, but pleasant outdoors if you are wearing enough clothing.

-Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?

-What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
Babysitting! It opened a whole separate part of the city up to me.

-How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?

Culture

-Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  -Time & punctuality
    Things run on a different schedule. Shops are closed all afternoon, and open up in the evening. Dinner is later, around 9 pm.
  -Eye contact & staring
    If you are blonde, prepare to stand out and be stared at. If you dress casual or in beach attire, be prepared to alter your wardrobe to more formal attire. It is quite obvious who is American in Rome especially if you are in a large group.
  -Relationships
    Participate in opportunities with Rome universities to get a change to meet other Italian students. There is no interaction at the campus because it is all Americans.
  -More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    (See Eye contact)
  -Alcohol consumption
    More casual laid back attitude about drinking, unless you go to an American-oriented bar (which there are many) a relaxed atmosphere is present.
  -What culture shock did you go through?
I missed not being able to truly express how I was feeling if asked. While most Italians living in Rome can speak English it is more often than not the basics.

- Other?

**Banking**

- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  No, cash only most places. I got a Capital One credit card for places that took credit cards because it is very convenient (regarding policy and charges) abroad.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No, I couldn’t even imagine. Unless you are fluent in Italian.

- 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?
  Yes, ATMs (Bancomat – they do not understand ATM) are everywhere, Barclays was popular for lower fees. I recommend taking large amounts out at a time so that you go to the ATM less frequently, just do not keep it all in your wallet.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  No.