Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
I really enjoyed my professors. They were fun and lively people who were definitively passionate about their fields of study and wanted to ensure that their students enjoyed learning about their lecture information. Even though I have enjoyed my professors here at UCSB, I felt very close to my professors in Rome because of the smaller classes and the fact that we did a lot of traveling to sites for our lectures.

- Could you call them by their first names?
Some of the professors encouraged their students to be more informal with them but I never addressed my professors by their first names.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
I would not say that the student/instructor relationship was more formal at UC Rome than it is here at UCSB but there was a better connection and closeness when students talked to their professors because each class was small enough for the professors to know their students’ names and their basic information.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
Each professor held office hours but since they also taught at other institutions within the city, their availability was pretty narrow.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
I do not think the courses were more difficult than the courses I have taken here at UCSB but I took Art History courses which I am familiar with. The professors definitely expected everyone to come to class and do all of the readings (which there were a lot of). The courses were definitely rigorous but if you kept up with the readings and did not slack it off, you would do fine!

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
Yes the grading system was similar to UCSB.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
The only thing different was that some of the lectures were on-site lectures, which meant that you had to travel and make your way on time to each lecture. Other than that, it was the basic midterm, final, and 10 pg research paper structure.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
I had written exams (mostly IDs and then essays). The only oral exams were for the Italian classes.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
The final exam schedule was pretty much set in stone but they tried to make it as stress-free as possible. However, if you had a problem and talked to the professors or the program director early, there was a possibility they would work with you for a change.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
I received financial aid that paid for my trip and academic expenses while I was abroad.
- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad? Just going abroad by yourself takes a lot of independence and initiative to begin with but you definitely need to put yourself out there while abroad in order to get the most you can out of the experience.

- Was classroom participation expected? The professors enjoyed it when their students participated in class because it showed that they were interested and paying attention but no one gets punished for not participating, only if they miss more than 3 classes with no explanation.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses? Since my program is a UC construct program, it was of a similar structure to a UC campus, just in a foreign country. Our classes were held in a Study Center in the heart of Rome, not on an actual university campus.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long? Each class was 2 hours long and was held twice a week, not counting the Italian courses, which were held every week, Monday through Thursday.

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class? It depended upon the professor but the classes were very small so the professors preferred that there was no side talking during class. They also preferred no eating or drinking, except water, in class and wanted people to be on time for class because the professors took attendance every time. Students were also only allowed to miss class twice before it started to affect their grade in the class.

**Language**

- In which languages were the courses offered? The core classes were in English and the Italian language classes were obviously in Italian.

- What language did you take your courses in? I took Italian (I was in the intermediate level) and three Art History classes in English.

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.

**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? My program and classes were held in a Study Center, not on an actual university campus. My program had about 90 students, which created small classes and more intimate settings.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus? My program only had UC students in it so the only time we interacted with local students was for special events created by the people in charge of our program and the study center.

- If not located 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?
There were no student clubs because the study center is so small but if a student talked to the people in charge of the program and study center, they could provide ideas for ways to get involved in different ways.

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
There is no bookstore on campus. The cost of books is included in the cost of the program and during the first week of core classes, after the three-week intensive Italian course, we received our books for our specific chosen courses.

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
Yes there is a computer lab, though certain site are blocked to prevent students surfing the web. Students did not bring their computers to class (they left them in their rooms) unless they wanted to take notes, which was not recommended if they are taking classes that require on-site lectures (notebooks and clipboards are much easier to use for note-taking)

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
Since the study center is at the heart of Rome, there are many businesses around, like cafes, restaurants, gelaterias, clothing stores, etc.

Housing
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
We had the option of either a dorm style in a hotel, an apartment, or a home-stay with a Roman family.

- How close are they to campus?
They depended since each type of housing was all over the city but the traveling time varied from 15 mins to an hour to get to campus, which also depended if the student chose to walk or take the bus, tram or metro.

- How did you find your housing?
I did not have to find my housing myself. I had to rank my preferences of housing, from dorm style (single, double, or triple), apartment (single, double, or triple), or home-stay.

- Where did you live and with whom?
I chose to live in the dorms and I had a triple room but we shared our suite with two other girls in singles so there were 5 girls in one suite total (3 rooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, and living room).

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

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
The rooms are very small since there is not the room to expand in Rome as there could be here in Santa Barbara, but it was enough room and I enjoyed where I lived and who I lived with very much.
- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
It was about the same but slightly more expensive due to the currency exchange of the EURO to the DOLLAR and because Rome is an expensive place to live.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
Housing was included in the program fees so we did not have to pay rent to a landlord every month like we do here in I.V.

Food
- What was the food like?
Food was awesome!!!! If you love Italian food then Rome is a great place to be.

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
I did a lot of cooking on my own in my dorm because it was cheaper than going out to eat all the time. I did eat out in restaurants sometimes and ate paninis and pizza for quick meals on the go. There is no cafeteria connected to the Study Center so you are responsible for your own meals.

- How much was an average meal?

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
Lunch was anywhere between 12 to 2, when businesses close for siesta and open back up for dinner around 6. Italians eat dinner pretty late, rush hour being around 8 or 9.

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
For vegetarians, it would be best for them to cook their own meals than going out but I remember there being vegetarian food, with no meat and such.

Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
For public transportation, there was the bus, tram, metro and taxi. The buses are a good way to get around, as long as you buy a bus ticket before you get on the bus and validated because there are workers who catch people riding the bus without one and are fined on the spot. I definitely had a few friends get caught and had to pay a fine from €50 to €150. In addition, the buses are not always on time so do expect the buses to be there right when they say they should. I definitely used the metro to get around as well because it was very straight forward and easy to figure out. I did not use the tram because their lines were not convenient for me to use. Students need to watch out so they do not get ripped off by the taxi drivers because they can tell when their passengers are foreign or not.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Yes I did feel safe but I definitely did not walk around by myself at nighttime and was constantly aware of my surroundings so I did not get pickpocketed on the street, in the bus, or in the metro. Rome is notorious for pickpockets.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
No I did not have a difficulty traveling to different countries. I used the cheap, discounted airlines to fly to different countries.
**Host City/Country**

- What was the weather like?
When I was there, during the Winter and Spring, it was pretty cold, from a temperature of 30 & 40, and then eventually warming up to 60s in May.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
Rome is unlike any other city in the world!!! It has famous, historical monuments right next to modern, governmental buildings and so many sights to see. I walked passed St Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican every time I walked to and from class which is something that cannot be duplicated anywhere else.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
I walked around the city with my friends and roommates, went to restaurants and aperativos (which were cocktail type of time before dinnertime). We also went out on the weekend nights to different clubs and discotecas.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
Rome is very international but also inherently Italian as well. Especially during the summer and the fall, there are a lot of tourists. There are also a lot of international people in Rome.

**Culture**

- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
    Italians walk incrediably fast and try to get places on time, which means a lot of pushing and shoving for the public transportation but like I said before, the bus system is not always punctual and varies
  - Eye contact & staring
    There is definitely a lot of eye-contact and staring!! It unnerved some people but once you get used to it and do not think anything of it, it’s not a big deal. There is no such thing as personal space to Italians. You will have to stand very close to someone while on the bus or metro and their greeting is to kiss on both cheeks, which Americans are not used to. There is also a lot of cat-calling by men when they see foreign women walking down the street so if that happens to any girls, just keep walking and ignore them. It does not mean anything.
  - Relationships
    - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
      The only formal dressing that I noticed was if someone went to church but that is something we see here in America as well. I do remember that a lot of Italians tried to dress pretty stylish and classy, especially when going to work and such. Women wore a lot of boots, dresses, scarves, and nice coats while men wore nice shoes, slacks, etc, etc. You will not see an Italian walking down to the grocery store in sweats and a tank top. They usually cover their bodies well, especially in the winter time and can spot any foreigners by the way they dress. I have noticed that a lot of Italian girls wear UGGs but never flip-flop sandals we are used to.
    - Alcohol consumption
      It is very social to go out and have a drink before dinner or have wine at dinner but they do not consume alcohol to get drunk and then go party. Their stereotype of Americans is that we are loud, obnoxious drinkers and that we party a lot. This is something EAP does not want EAP students to encourage while abroad so if someone is drinking, it would be beneficial to be aware of your surroundings and try not to be too obnoxious.
  - What culture shock did you go through?
I did not really go through a culture shock so much as I did get a little home-sick though it did not effect me too badly.

- Other?

**Banking**

- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Italians do have credit cards but to pay for most things, they used cash. Also, grocery stores and other stores like that hate when you do not give them exact change so it is something to think about.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  I had already had a Wells Fargo Account set up but opened up a travel account separate to my checking account in case of emergencies or if my ATM card was stolen.

- 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?
  It was easy to draw money from any ATM as long as your bank was aware of the city/country you were traveling to. I definitely needed to withdraw a good amount of money when I went to the ATM because the overseas charges added up so if I drew out more money, I would not need to go to the ATM very often and save on the international charges to my account.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  My program was held in a study center in the middle of Rome so we were not part of an actual university campus so, no, there were not any ATMs on campus but there were some close by on the street.