

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA - ROME
 CLEMSON UNIVERSITY - GENOA
 COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT AND ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY - ROME
 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - VENICE
 CONNECTICUT COLLEGE - ROME
 CORNELL UNIVERSITY - ROME
 COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE - FERRARA
 DARTMOUTH COLLEGE - ROME
 DEPAUL UNIVERSITY - ROME
 DICKINSON COLLEGE - BOLOGNA
 DUKE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 EASTERN COLLEGE CONSORTIUM - BOLOGNA
 EDGEWOOD COLLEGE - ROME
 FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE AND SIRACUSA
 FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY - FLORENCE AND MILAN
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY - GENOA
 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 GENEVA COLLEGE - ROME
 GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY - FIESOLE
 GONZAGA UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 GORDON COLLEGE - ORVIETO
 HAMLIN UNIVERSITY - ROME
 HARDING UNIVERSITY - SCANDICCI
 HARVARD UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 HENDRIX COLLEGE - AREZZO
 HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE - PERUGIA
 HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES - ROME
 IES ABROAD (INSTITUTE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS)
 - MILAN, ROME AND SIENA
 INDIANA UNIVERSITY - BOLOGNA
 INTERCOLLEGIATE CENTER FOR CLASSICAL STUDIES - CATANIA AND ROME
 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY - ROME
 THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY - BOLOGNA AND FLORENCE
 KENT STATE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 KENYON COLLEGE - ROME AND FLORENCE
 LOYOLA COLLEGE IN MARYLAND - ROME
 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY/LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL - BOLOGNA
 LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - ROME
 MARIST COLLEGE - FLORENCE
 MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART - SORRENTO
 MEREDITH COLLEGE - SANSEPOLCRO
 MIAMI UNIVERSITY OF OHIO - FLORENCE
 MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE - FLORENCE
 MONASH UNIVERSITY - PRATO
 MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 MOUNT MARY COLLEGE - ROME
 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 NIAGARA UNIVERSITY - COMO
 OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN - FLORENCE
 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY - ROME AND MILAN

PHILLIPS ACADEMY - SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD - VITERBO
 PITZER COLLEGE - PARMA
 PRATT INSTITUTE - ROME, TUSCANY AND VENICE
 QUEENS COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK - ROME
 RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE - ROME
 RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN - ROME
 RICHMOND, THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN LONDON - FLORENCE AND ROME
 ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE - ROME
 SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE - CATANIA AND FLORENCE
 SIENA COLLEGE - SIENA
 SMITH COLLEGE - FLORENCE
 SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY - VICCHIO
 ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY - PERUGIA
 ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY - ROME
 ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND - ALBA
 STANFORD UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 TEMPLE UNIVERSITY - ROME
 TRINITY COLLEGE - ROME
 TULANE UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE AND ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA - CORTONA
 UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA - ORVIETO
 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BOLOGNA, MILAN, PADUA, ROME AND SIENA
 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS - FLORENCE
 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - FLORENCE
 UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS - FRATTOCHIE
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA - VICENZA
 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - CORTONA
 UNIVERSITY OF IOWA - ASOLO
 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - SIENA
 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - DUKE UNIVERSITY - SESTO FIORENTINO
 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - FLORENCE
 UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA (USAC) - TURIN
 UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE - ASCOLI PICENO
 UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN - FLORENCE AND ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON - AHA INTERNATIONAL - MACERATA AND SIENA
 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER - AREZZO
 UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON - ROME
 UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO - ROME
 THE VERGILIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA - BÀCOLI
 WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY - VENICE
 WALSH UNIVERSITY - CASTEL GANDOLFO
 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY - FLORENCE
 WHEATON COLLEGE - CORTONA, FLORENCE, FERRARA, MILAN, ROME AND SIENA
 YALE UNIVERSITY - ROME AND SIENA



Founded in Rome in 1978

Association of American College and University Programs in Italy

AACUPI

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***EDUCATING IN PARADISE:
Thirty Years of
Realities and
Experiences of North
American Colleges and
Universities in Italy***

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ABOUT AACUPI

AACUPI, which itself is a non-profit legal entity in both the US and Italy, has played an important role in identifying real and potential fundamental legal and fiscal problems, intrinsic to the presence in Italy of non governmental institutions, and, then, resolving them equitably. The transfer of the non-profit status of colleges and universities from North America to Italy was necessary to focus on the true mission of AACUPI institutions operating in Italy, to comprehend their goals and to safeguard their integrity. In the past twenty years, the passage by the Italian Parliament of two specific laws, whose intention it has been to clarify the legal and fiscal positions of AACUPI programs, and to protect and regularize the specific nature of these programs, has made reciprocal understanding possible, with subsequent recognition by the Italian Ministry of the University and Scientific and Technological Research.

Monthly, bilingual newsletters, written by AACUPI's legal counsel, covering all legal and fiscal aspects of administering academic programs in Italy, are an intrinsic benefit of membership in AACUPI, as is full, open discussion of such matters at all four general meetings held annually. Immigration procedures, including visa applications and stay permits, are brokered collectively by AACUPI with Italian authorities to ensure their standardized application to all AACUPI member institutions. Continued regular communication between member institutions, together with effective collaboration by everyone, have made it possible for AACUPI to represent collective interests to official American, Canadian and Italian organs, and to other official entities, such as cultural, philanthropic and educational institutions not part of AACUPI. Working together, for everyone, succeeds.

AACUPI's membership includes 134 North American college and university programs located throughout Italy in Alba, Arezzo, Ariccia, Ascoli Piceno, Asolo, Bàcoli, Bologna, Castel Gandolfo, Catania, Como, Cortona, Ferrara, Fiesole, Florence, Frattocchie, Genoa, Lecce, Macerata, Milan, Orvieto, Padua, Parma, Perugia, Prato, Rome, Sansepolcro, Scandicci, Sesto Fiorentino, Siena, Sorrento, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Vicchio, Vicenza and Viterbo, providing university-level courses, both undergraduate and graduate, as well as postdoctoral research opportunities, to students enrolled in member institutions. No two programs are alike, from an ideological, historical, didactic, organizational or structural point of view.

Rome and Latium host the greatest number of programs, 57, with about 10,500 students enrolled, followed by Tuscany, which

has 50 programs and more than 8,000 students, mainly in Florence. The total annual AACUPI student population is 20,000.

Membership is:

- ⇒ free and voluntary,
- ⇒ limited to universities and institutions of higher education at the university level, both public and private non-profit entities,
- ⇒ that are headquartered and validly established in the US or Canada, and
- ⇒ that are duly accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies as institutes of higher education and/or research at the university level, even if established in Italy in the form of a consortium.

Associate membership is available in some cases, provided, however, that the institution is duly accredited. The programs of member institutions give credit in the US or Canada for all courses conducted at their Italian sites to all students enrolled in them. Scholarly associations duly established in the US or Canada may also qualify for membership.

General meetings are held four times annually, hosted on a rotation basis by member institutions at program sites throughout Italy, and always offer legal and fiscal up-date sessions. Dues are paid annually in euros in June and vary according to the size, type and duration of the academic program in Italy.

AACUPI'S GOALS

- ⇒ Enhance and facilitate the international educational interests of North American university programs in Italy by cooperative effort;
- ⇒ Extend, protect and enrich respective instructional programs and academic research activities by mutual assistance through roundtables, conventions, conferences, lectures, seminars and debates that are of a cultural nature, or of other specific interest to its members;
- ⇒ Expand the scope of cooperative relationships between North American programs and their appropriate Italian counterpart institutions through educational and cultural exchange;
- ⇒ Safeguard the instructional goals and the moral, social, fiscal and legal interests of the universities and institutions of higher education at the university level from the United States and Canada that carry out localized cultural activities of education and research in Italy by coordinating needs, identifying, defining and resolving, collectively and equitably, legal and fiscal problems intrinsic to the presence on Italian soil of non-governmental institutions;
- ⇒ Promote and encourage the interchange of knowledge and activities in the context of culture and education between the US and Canada, on one hand, and the Republic of Italy, on the other, by developing contacts between members and corresponding Italian cultural and educational entities;

- ⇒ Represent the common interests of members before public and private bodies and agencies, both in Italy and in the US and Canada, nationally as well as locally.

IRPET STUDIES ON AACUPI

In 1992, IRPET, the *Istituto Regionale per la Programmazione Economica della Toscana*, a Tuscan research institute, surveyed twenty-three programs in Tuscany, and again, in 2000, it surveyed seventy-six programs nationally. As a result, it published a comprehensive and wide-reaching research project on the economic, organizational and cultural impact of North American academic tourism, *i.e.* North American college and university programs within Italy, showing, among other data, that 12% of the entire national flow of tourists to places of historical interest consists of students in AACUPI programs, who spend an average of five and half months in the academic program of their choice. In 2008, one hundred thirty-four programs provided direct revenue to the Italian economy of 396,832,000 euros, combined with indirect expenditures for a total of 632,126,000 euros. Statistics show a notable degree of loyalty to the idea of multiple return visits to Italy as tourists after study abroad there, a dedication demonstrated by the presence of the second and third generation of family members in some AACUPI programs, those founded more than thirty-five years ago.

AACUPI has witnessed the creation of a context within which it is possible to develop relationships containing real cultural exchange between academic tourists and Italian residents. AACUPI activities, which clearly appear to be growing by leaps and bounds, herald numerous and sundry benefits for the Italian tourist industry as Italy continues to attract an ever-growing presence of study abroad programs on the university level: quantitatively, in the tourist flow towards Italian artistic localities and, qualitatively, since AACUPI programs produce a specialized population that tends to create a true relationship with the surrounding Italian reality to appreciate the different contents of the Italian cultural offering. This growth is destined to continue in the future, not only affecting Rome and Florence, but carrying over into all of the Italian provinces.

MEMBERS

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY - ROME
THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND - MONTAGNOLA, SWITZERLAND
ARCADIA UNIVERSITY - LECCE, PERUGIA AND ROME
ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST - FLORENCE
AUBURN UNIVERSITY - ARICCIA
BOSTON UNIVERSITY - PADUA
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY - SACI - FLORENCE
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - SIENA
BROWN UNIVERSITY - BOLOGNA
BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE - SIENA