



## US STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS HOUSING INFORMATION

### Academic Year 2021/2022

The Accademia Italiana collaborates with a number of landlords who rent apartments to our study abroad students. We work with the same landlords each year to ensure that the quality of the housing meets, or even surpasses, the expectations of the students.

The success of a student study abroad experience begins first and foremost with the housing arrangement. It is with this in mind that the Accademia Italiana makes every effort to provide high quality and affordable housing for the students.

#### **Apartment Location:**

All of the student apartments are within walking distance of the Accademia Italiana located in Piazza Pitti no.15, a 5-minute walk from the trendy Santo Spirito neighborhood appreciated for its lively mix of Italian and international residents, small grocery shops, coffee bars, cafes, *trattorie* (small restaurants), local artisan shops and, of course, the beautiful Santa Spirito church overlooking the picturesque tree-bordered market square. A 10-minute walk in the opposite direction from Piazza Pitti takes one to the Ponte Vecchio (the Old Bridge) and over into the historical city center of Florence, the Renaissance capital of the world.

#### **Apartment Typology:**

Students are typically accommodated in apartments that sleep from 2 to 4 students. Exceptionally, apartments are available that sleep up to 6 students. All apartments are furnished in a contemporary style. They are equipped with WiFi, a washing machine, a well-equipped kitchen, bathroom(s), bedrooms and some even have balconies. Depending on availability, students can typically choose from: a single bedroom with or without en suite bathroom, a shared bedroom with or without en suite bathroom, a loft bedroom without a door (*soppalco*) with or without en suite bathroom. For students who prefer to live on their own, few small studio apartments are also available.

Prior to the students' arrival in Florence, the Accademia Italiana Student Services Coordinator and the landlords check all of the apartments to make sure that they have been sanitized, that they are in good condition and that they are equipped to meet the daily needs of the students.

Students are provided with one set of bed linens (mattress cover, flat bed sheet, pillow cases and comforter cover bag) as well as toweling. Students are requested to provide one set of bed linens and toweling for their laundry change. Study abroad students often wait to purchase the additional set in Florence since European bed sizes vary from those in the US.

#### **Student Rooming Selection:**

On the Accademia Italiana Study Abroad Application, students indicate their rooming preferences (single bedroom or shared bedroom), any roommate requests and any special needs related to housing. Where possible, we always take into consideration specific roommate requests as well as requests to live with international and/or Italian students studying at the Accademia Italiana. Special requests for mixed-gender housing have to be approved by the student's home school and communicated to the Accademia Italiana US Study Abroad Representative.

#### **Student Housing Confirmation Letter:**

Student housing assignments are processed 8-10 weeks before the student arrives in Florence. Students will then receive a Housing Confirmation Letter (via email) from the Accademia Italiana Housing Coordinator that includes the rooming assignment as requested by the student, the address of the apartment, the landlord's name, personal contact information and bank account details as well as a breakdown of the semester housing fees to be paid.

### **Housing Payment:**

In order to guarantee his or her accommodation, the student must pay the semester housing fees in advance, before the due date indicated in the Housing Confirmation Letter. The semester housing fees consist of:

1. Rent for the entire semester (Fall Semester = 4 full months' rent, Spring Semester = 4 full months' rent, Summer Semester = 2 full months' rent). A full month's rent is considered from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month to the last day of the month irrespective of the student's arrival and departure date in the said month.
2. Housing Security Deposit (equivalent to one month's rent which will be reimbursed to the student when he/she vacates the apartment on the condition that there are no damages to the apartment and/or to the furnishings to be paid for).
3. Apartment service cleaning fee of 50 Euros.

The payment should be made, preferably in one transaction only, via a bank wire transfer to the landlord's bank account.

### **Housing Cancellation Policy:**

If for any valid reason (personal and/or family problems, natural calamity, or other) the student has to withdraw from the Accademia Italiana study program before it officially ends and has to vacate his/her bedroom before the contract expires,

- the landlord will reimburse the student:
  - the full monthly rent for all of the remaining months in the semester after the student vacates the apartment.
  - the student's deposit fee.
- the landlord will retain for himself:
  - the student's entire departure month's rent (for example, if the student departs on October 8<sup>th</sup>, the landlord will retain the rent paid for the entire month of October).
  - the apartment cleaning service fee of 50 Euros.

### **Student Housing Contract:**

The landlord and the student must both agree to formalize tenancy with a housing contract. The housing contract is strictly between the landlord and the student.

The landlord is responsible for the registration of the housing contract at the Italian Tax Office in Florence. The student does not pay any fee for the registration of the housing contract.

The Accademia Italiana absolves itself fully from any legal, financial, contentious and/or other vested interests and/or responsibilities that may arise between the student and the landlord.

### **Student Requests for Alternative Housing Arrangement:**

The Accademia Italiana makes every effort to provide high quality, affordable housing for its students. If a student is dissatisfied with his/her rooming allocation, the Accademia Italiana will make every effort to offer an alternative solution but cannot guarantee success.

In the event of a student being dissatisfied with his/her rooming allocation, the student has to submit a formal written complaint within the first three days of occupancy of the apartment to the Accademia Italiana Student Services Coordinator justifying the request for an alternative housing arrangement.

If an alternative housing option can be secured for the student, the landlord will reimburse the student the first month's rent already paid but will retain the housing deposit and the 50 Euro service cleaning fee.

**ENROLLMENT IN THE ACCADEMIA ITALIANA US STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**