Country Quick Facts
Official name: Italian Republic
Population: 61,261,254
Capital: Rome
Prominent Language: Italian
Type of Government: Republic
Money: Euro
Time Zone: 7 hours ahead of CST

Food/Meals
Breakfast: 8-9am
Lunch: 12-2pm
Dinner: 7-9pm
Breakfast is usually a cup of coffee and something sweet. Lunch is a bigger meal; most stores close for lunch and reopen around 3 to 4. Dinner is late for Americans. If you walk into a restaurant in Italy at 5:00 or 6:00 you will find the place empty. Only the tourists eat that early.

Good to Know
“Slow food” culture with many open air markets. Might see many Italians drinking bottled water, but tap water in Italy is generally safe to drink. Do not keep your hands in your lap during the meal; however, do not rest your elbows on the table either. Pick up cheese with your knife rather than your fingers.

Cultural tidbits
A general greeting is a handshake with direct eye contact and a smile between strangers. Air-kissing on both cheeks (starting with the left) and a pat on the back for men is added once a relationship develops. First impressions are very important; demonstrate respect. It is okay to show up 15 minutes late to a dinner and up to 30 minutes late to a party.

Additional culture resources
www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/italy-country-profile.html

Holidays
January 6: Epiphany
March 17: Anniversary of the Unification of Italy
April 25: Liberation Day
May 1: International Worker’s Day
June 2: Republic Day
August 15: Assumption Day
November 1: All Saints Day
November 4: Day of National Unity & the Armed Forces
December 8: Immaculate Conception
December 26: St. Stephen’s Day

Communication
Emergency phone #: 112
Cell Phone company: BT mobile, CoopVoce, ERG Mobile, Hutchinson 3G, MTV mobile, PosteMobile, Vodafone, WIND

To call to the US from Italy, dial “001” then the US # including the area code. Skype and e-mail is the cheapest way to contact the US.

Transportation
Excellent Rail Network when traveling to bigger cities. Buses are great for traveling around the cities.

US Embassy, Rome
via Vittorio Veneto 121 – 00187
Rome, Italy
Tel: (+39) 06.46741
http://italy.usembassy.gov

Vocabulary
Buongiorno: Good morning/early afternoon
Buona Sera: Good afternoon/evening
Ciao – Hi or Bye
Arrivederci: Goodbye
Per favore: Please
Grazie mille – Thank you very much
Prego – You’re welcome
Mi Scusi – Excuse Me
Mi dispiace: I’m sorry
www.linguanauto.com/english_italian.htm

Films
Monica Bellucci (Matrix Reloaded)
Stefano Accorsi (Last Kiss)

Study Abroad Office - Office of International Programs- Kansas State University- 304 Fairchild Hall -Manhattan, Kansas 66506
Music
Eiffel 65, Nek’s Laura non ce., Zucchero, Laura Pausini

Websites/Resources
www.italia.it/en/home.html

Advice from former students
“Be prepared to walk a lot.”
“The Vatican should be visited TWICE.”
“Visit ROME!”

Electricity
220-230 volts (110-120 in USA)

Common plug shapes in Italy

Clothing
Dress “neatly” while in Italy. Italians usually dress more formally than people from America. While Italians for the most part do not worry about dressing conservatively, pay attention to what you wear when visiting a church or religious area. Also, while the seasons are similar to what is in the US, prepare for a lot of rain no matter where in Italy you are going.

Visa
You must have a visa to study in Italy. Contact your nearest Italian consul to complete the process, which frequently changes:
Study Abroad Office - Office of International Programs- Kansas State University- 304 Fairchild Hall -Manhattan, Kansas 66506

Honorary Vice Consulate, Brian Cave, LLP
13220 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 320
Overland Park, KS 66213
Tel: 913-374-3200

Traveling while there
The Italian train travel (Rapido, Intercity, or Eurostar Italia) is inexpensive and convenient but can be crowded. Buses are also convenient and inexpensive, although no more inexpensive than the train, and can go to places throughout the country not reached by the train. Discount airlines such as ryanair and easy jet are nice for traveling within Europe. Within Europe, the eurorail provides a scenic way to travel through Europe.

Academic Culture
Classes tend to have huge amounts of students, and attendance is not technically required for many of them.

The grading and examination system in Italy can be daunting: exams are often oral, with a score from 0-10 from each of three examiners. From there, 90% = A, etc., just like the American grading scale.

Health and Safety
No inoculations or vaccinations are needed while in Italy other than regular ones you need in the US. Check cdc.gov and with your doctor for more information.

Crime, especially theft, can be a serious problem in Italy, so be smart about carrying around money or other valuables.

The drinking culture in Italy is very different than that of the US, so be responsible when you drink.

Money
Italy uses the Euro. Haggling is common. ATMs are widely available for major card companies in Italy, just be aware of international transaction fees. Cards can be used in some locations, but keep cash on you as well.