

**Oregon International Education Consortium
Florence Program, Fall Quarter 2012
September 20 – December 8**

Application Procedure

1. Complete the AIFS application form, securing the signature of your college's study abroad program coordinator and thus signifying your eligibility to apply.
2. Attach a check for \$450 payable to "AIFS."
3. Attach a photocopy of the information page of your passport (the page with your picture). If you do not yet have a passport, please apply for one immediately, and mail a copy once you have received it.
4. Return the completed application form and check to: American Institute For Foreign Study, Partnership Programs, College Division, River Plaza, 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06902.
5. The balance of fees should be sent before the deadline directly to: American Institute For Foreign Study, Partnership Programs, College Division, River Plaza, 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06902. Telephone (800) 727-2437.

The AIFS program fee is \$7,895.00 and includes the following (based on a minimum enrollment of 15):

- ⇒ student housing in self-catering apartments within the historic center of Florence in twin-bedded rooms with typically four students sharing a two-bedroom apartment and including a set amount of utilities;
- ⇒ orientation program in Florence consisting of an orientation meeting with AIFS staff, student information packet with handbook, local area information, workshops on "Cultural Differences and Safety and Security" and "Travel," welcome dinner and half-day guided walking tour of central Florence;
- ⇒ free wireless Internet access at the Study Center and in the apartments where possible;
- ⇒ weekly program of cultural activities that vary due to the schedule available in Florence but will include a minimum of: one cooking class, one pizza-making class, two wine-tasting lectures, one olive oil tasting, one soccer match, one concert or opera, and a farewell dinner;
- ⇒ museum pass giving unlimited free entry to the Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello, Pitti Palace, San Marco Museum and others;
- ⇒ full-day guided excursion by private bus to Siena and San Gimignano;
- ⇒ access with borrowing rights to the British Institute Library;
- ⇒ services of the AIFS Program Coordinator and office to provide on-site student and faculty services;
- ⇒ access to the AIFS Student Center and resources;
- ⇒ mandatory Police Registration;
- ⇒ medical and program fee refund insurance policies;
- ⇒ \$50 non-refundable application fee.

Program fees do not include the following:

- ⇒ round-trip airfare between Portland and Florence, and round-trip airport transfers overseas between the airport and the student housing in Florence on the specified program dates for \$895*;
- ⇒ mandatory additional U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharges of \$647 (subject to change);
- ⇒ \$250 refundable damage deposit;
- ⇒ tuition fees to your college;
- ⇒ textbooks;
- ⇒ optional meal plan of 25 vouchers to use for lunch or dinner in a selection of restaurants and trattoria for \$495;
- ⇒ passport and visa fees if applicable;
- ⇒ field trips or excursions required by your instructors;
- ⇒ local or independent travel while in Florence;
- ⇒ personal expenses such as laundry;
- ⇒ optional personal effects coverage and medical insurance upgrade.

*AIFS offers round-trip transportation between Portland and Florence, including round-trip transfers overseas between the airport and your program site, at a cost of \$895, excluding a mandatory additional U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharge of \$647 (subject to change) for which you will be billed separately. Please mark your application form if you wish to purchase the flight, and you will be billed accordingly. A minimum of 10 participants must take the flight for it to be offered.

Please retain this page for your records.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR AIFS FEES

<u>Fall Term</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Optional</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Enrollment deposit	\$450.00	June 8, 2012	Airfare	\$895.00	August 1, 2012
Balance of fees	<u>\$7,445.00</u>	August 1, 2012	Taxes/Fees (subject to change)	\$647.00	August 1, 2012
Sub-total	\$7,895.00		Meal Plan – 25 Vouchers	\$495.00	August 1, 2012
			Personal Effects Coverage	\$90.00	August 1, 2012
Damage Deposit (Mandatory/ Refundable)	\$250.00	August 1, 2012	Medical Insurance Upgrade	\$65.00	August 1, 2012
Total	<u>\$8,145.00</u>				

Checks should be made payable to "AIFS." You may also use American Express, MasterCard or Visa. See application form. All students must submit the \$450 deposit with the completed application. Financial Aid students are responsible for paying, by August 1, 2012, the airfare (\$895); taxes, fees and fuel surcharge (\$647 [subject to change]); \$250 refundable damage deposit; a \$600 program reservation deposit; \$495 meal voucher charge (if selected), and any remaining balance that will not be covered by aid.

Please note: A \$35 returned check fee will be charged on all checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds.

AIFS TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

Participants have the option of purchasing a round-trip ticket for the flight arranged through AIFS. Participants choosing this option should note the following restrictions: Tickets purchased from AIFS are exclusively on scheduled airlines (not charters). They are not endorsable to another carrier. Flights are not necessarily direct or non-stop, and frequent flyer miles are not applicable. The AIFS Transportation Package includes round-trip ground transportation from the airport in Italy to your accommodations on the regularly scheduled program dates. AIFS will book flights on the dates indicated on this application only.

Participants wishing to purchase the Transportation Package must notify AIFS in writing by Friday, June 8, 2012. Participants wishing to cancel from the flight must notify AIFS in writing by Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Cancellation penalties will apply. Tickets are non-refundable after this date.

AIFS Airfare Regulations: Return must be to original U.S. departure point. Tickets are subject to airline availability. No refunds are available for any unused portion of ticket. Tickets cannot be rerouted, and stopovers are not permitted. Once in Italy participants may be able to change their return date, but only if that date is available and in the same class of service in which the ticket was booked. Only the ticketing agent can provide this information. Participants are subject to agency and airline-imposed change fees and space availability. Group round-trip ground transportation to and from the airport in Italy is on the regularly scheduled program dates only.

AIFS cannot guarantee that all passengers will be booked on the same flight.

PROGRAM DATES

Fall Quarter, 2012

Thursday, September 20	AIFS flight departs U.S. for Florence, Italy.
Friday, September 21	Arrive in Florence. Transfer to your accommodations.
Saturday, December 8	End of program. AIFS flight departs for the U.S.

PART E – HEALTH AND HOUSING INFORMATION

Please complete the following questionnaire carefully. Your housing assignment will be made based on the information that you provide. All requests are taken into consideration.

Name _____ School _____ Term _____

SHARED APARTMENT

Please note that specific housing preferences cannot be guaranteed.

Please note that single rooms are very limited and are allocated according to special needs, e.g. medical, age-related

Do you smoke? Yes No Do you object to a roommate who smokes? Yes No

What time do you get up in the morning? _____ What time do you normally go to bed? _____

Do you consider yourself a quiet person? Yes No Where do you prefer to study? room library elsewhere

Are you receiving any special medical treatment? Yes No If yes, specify: _____

Do you have any physical condition that prevents you from climbing stairs? If yes, specify: _____

Roommate preference (if known) (1) _____ (2) _____

Do you have any special reason for requesting a single room? If so, please specify: _____

Do you like to cook your own meals? often occasionally never

What type of music do you prefer? _____ Do you normally listen to music in your room? Yes No

Are there any hobbies or interests you would like to pursue while in Florence? _____

PART F – OPTIONAL DATA

Studying in another country requires considerable adaptability. This is part of both the challenge and the reward. Your willingness to answer these questions will assist the AIFS staff in providing you with a housing situation that is most likely to meet your needs.

Do you have any special dietary needs?* If yes, please describe _____

Do you consider yourself a conservative, moderate or liberal person? Conservative Moderate Liberal

Do you have any allergies or chronic ailments? Yes No If yes, please describe _____

Are you presently under treatment for any mental or emotional matters? Yes No If yes, please describe _____

Are you presently taking any prescription medication on a regular basis? Yes No If yes, please list and state purpose _____

Studying abroad requires a great deal of physical mobility. Do you feel you are able to perform the essential functions of studying abroad with or without any special requirements?* If you do have special requirements, describe the requirement you would need and how this would enable you to participate.

**AIFS cannot guarantee to accommodate special requirements and requests.*

Agreement and Release Form

I, the undersigned, an Applicant for an overseas study program of the American Institute For Foreign Study, Inc. (the "Institute"), acknowledge that I have read and accept the terms and conditions set forth in the AIFS application/brochure, which are incorporated in this agreement. I acknowledge that I am responsible for reading all information provided in the AIFS pre-departure materials, whether sent by mail or posted online, and abiding by all policies contained therein. This agreement is a legally binding contract. I acknowledge and accept the terms of the refund policy as outlined below:

If a participant withdraws in writing

On or before July 6, 2012

After July 6, 2012, but on or before August 1, 2012

After August 1, 2012

She/he receives

All fees paid less \$150 plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

All fees paid less \$450 plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

No refund, and student is responsible for entire program fee.

All requests for refund must be made in writing, signed, and addressed or faxed to: **Registrar, AIFS, Partnership Programs, College Division, River Plaza, 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06902; fax number (203) 399-5597. Unsigned withdrawal statements will not be processed.**

I unconditionally release the Institute from any claims for damage, injury, loss, or expense of any nature resulting from events beyond its control, including without limitation: Acts of God, war, strikes, crime, terrorism, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations. This release also applies to any losses arising from the use of any vehicle or from the selection of, or from any act or omission by any host family, bus or car rental agency, steamship, airline, railroad, taxi or tour service/organizer, hotel service, hotel, restaurant, school, university/college, or other firm, agency, company or individual, unless the loss is caused by the gross negligence of the Institute.

I understand that I am responsible for exercising caution and common sense at all times to avoid injuries, and that the Institute cannot provide supervision or support during periods of independent travel.

I agree that if I become ill or incapacitated, the Institute or its emergency assistance company may take such actions as it considers necessary under the circumstances, including securing medical treatment for me and transporting me to the United States. I release the Institute from any liability relating to this medical care. I also authorize the Institute to take whatever action it deems to be necessary and in my best interest (including transporting me out of the host country or back to the United States, at my own expense) in the event of political unrest or any other unforeseen event or condition. If the Institute incurs on my behalf any costs not covered by its general liability insurance, I agree to make immediate repayment upon my return.*

I will comply with the Institute's rules, standards and instructions, and understand that failure to do so may result in being sent home at my expense, with no refund. I understand that my participation may be terminated if I am expelled from school or otherwise disciplined by school or civil authorities, or if the Institute, in its sole discretion, determines that my conduct is incompatible with the interests, harmony, comfort or welfare of the other students. I agree to indemnify the Institute if I do anything that causes the Institute to sustain financial loss or liability.

I understand that the Institute provides insurance coverage for my benefit while in the program, including limited health, accident, accidental death, personal effects and program fee refund insurance. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to understand the limitations of this coverage and agree that the Institute is not responsible for any uninsured losses.

I understand that the Institute reserves the right to make changes, cancellations or substitutions in cases of changed conditions or emergency, or based upon the interest of the group. I understand if I am terminated from the program, there will be no refund of AIFS fees.

I understand that obtaining a passport and any other required travel documents is my sole responsibility. I agree to hold the Institute harmless in the event that I am unable to obtain the necessary documents for participation in the program and to indemnify the Institute for any costs to it that result from my failure to obtain the required documentation.

I understand that if I am not a U.S. citizen, a visa may be required for entry to the countries I plan to visit (or travel through) while a participant on this program. I further understand that it is my sole responsibility to determine my visa requirements and obtain the appropriate visa(s), and I agree to hold the Institute harmless in the event that I am unable to obtain the necessary documents and visas for participation in the program and to indemnify the Institute for any costs to it that result from my failure to obtain the required documentation.

I understand that from time to time the Institute's publicity material may include statements by its participants and/or their photographs, and I consent to such use of my comments and photographic likeness.

This agreement will be effective when my application is accepted by the Institute and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut. This agreement cannot be modified except in writing by the Institute.

References in this agreement to "the Institute" shall include the American Institute For Foreign Study, Inc., and all of its agents, employees, affiliated companies, campus directors, chaperones, group leaders, teachers, host school and school officials.

If I am using financial aid to pay for all or part of my AIFS program fees, and if that aid is canceled or reduced by my institution or lending agency after I have embarked on the AIFS program, I am immediately responsible for full payment of all fees. Failure to make payment will result in my administrative withdrawal from the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name

*A special substitute paragraph is available to members of the Christian Science faith.