

# Italy & Malta

## The Art of Storytelling



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### Study Abroad Office

Principia College

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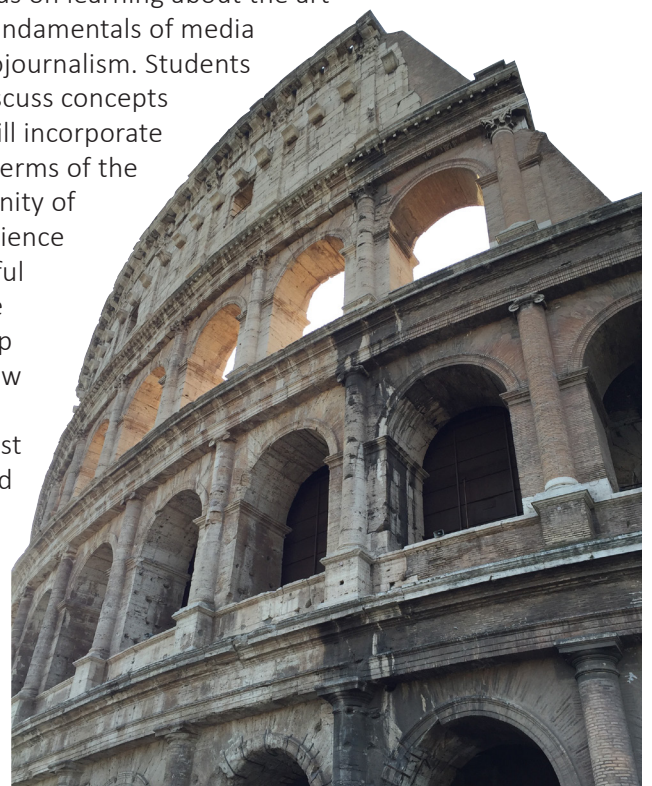
[www.principia.edu/abroads](http://www.principia.edu/abroads)

### Program Description

This 14-week program will take place in Venice, Florence, and Rome in Italy and Valletta in Malta. This abroad program will focus on the way stories are told through journalism, both photography and written articles, and artistic expression, including painting, sculpture, and architecture. Historic art and today's journalism have distinct similarities. Art has always been a major way to communicate the stories and priorities of its time. Today, journalism is critical to communicating stories and priorities among varying cultures to one another. Although both artists and journalists hope to convey messages and meaning, their specific goals and approaches differ. To what extent does art play a role in journalistic expression and how does communicating a particular story or emotion influence art? We will explore these themes by focusing on the question: How do context, perspective, and choice contribute to the stories art tells us about a society, a community, and a culture from the past? Then, we will use those themes to explore how students can share current stories and experiences of those around them in Italy and Malta.

This program will focus on the importance of context, perspective/lens, and choice in art and journalism. Using these themes, students will gain intercultural competence and understanding by expanding the ways they interact with the cultures of Italy and Malta, discovering how art can communicate in a parallel way to how we process and share today's stories about modern culture. We will look at how major Renaissance and Baroque works of art in Italy and Malta have used these three key elements to communicate stories and ideas to their audiences. And we will incorporate those same three concepts as guideposts for students to communicate contemporary issues in Italy and Malta through journalism.

Before heading to Italy and Malta, students will engage in intensive classroom work. During this time on campus, students will focus on learning about the art and culture they will encounter, the fundamentals of media reporting and writing, as well as photojournalism. Students will practice research methods and discuss concepts of intercultural communication. We will incorporate ideas of community building, both in terms of the importance of having a strong community of students as they embark on this experience together, but also in terms of thoughtful engagement with the communities we will visit. We want students to dig deep in ways that will allow them to gain new insights into the culture of Italy and Malta, building a bridge beyond "tourist destination" toward understanding and compassion. We want to stress that when you take the time to understand the story of another, and are able to identify context, lens and choice, no matter how much you may think you know another culture, you gain a grounding for understanding that allows for true compassion.



# Academics

A total of 15 semester hours credit will be earned on this abroad during Spring Semester 2025.  
Courses are subject to change.

## Spring 2025

### ART HISTORY

*ARTH 205: Topics in Art History: Art in the Age of Caravaggio* SH: 3 Attribute: GEA

This course is designed to provide a close look at specific topics in the history of art. Topics might include courses linked to local exhibitions of important works of art, traditions of special interest to abroad programs, or courses organized around the special expertise of visiting faculty. The title will be extended to describe the current topic: May be taken more than once, provided the topics differ.

*ARTH 232: Art of the Italian Renaissance* SH: 3 Attribute: GEA

This course explores art and architecture in Italy in the 15th and 16th centuries including major works by such world-famous artists and architects as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Palladio. It explores the achievements of artists in major centers- Florence, Rome, Venice- and in courtly settings, and how they preserved their culture.

### DIGITAL MEDIA AND JOURNALISM

*MDIA 210: Media Reporting & Writing* SH: 3 Attribute: None

A beginning course for those aspiring to work in the media or in a media-related field such as public relations. Students have intensive training in interviewing, gathering information, and writing in a clear, news style. They learn to edit and critically evaluate media writing as well as write to a standard worthy of publication in print or on-line.

– OR –

*MDIA 322: Advanced Reporting & Writing* SH: 3 Attribute: None

The advanced study of print and web journalism, including practice of various styles of writing, ranging from editorials and investigative reporting to features and blogging. Also explores traditional and emerging organizational structures of newsrooms, web sites, and other journalistic entities. Prerequisite: MDIA 210; Class Level Restriction: Jr/Sr only.

*MDIA 281: Photojournalism* SH: 3 Attribute: None

An applied study of how photojournalists report the news in a visual form. Working in digital photography, students learn how to capture the peak moment while refining their sense of content, aesthetics, news judgment, and ethics. Prerequisite: Each student must supply a digital single lens reflex camera.

### SPECIAL STUDIES

*SPST 285 Country Studies: Italy & Malta* SH: 2 Attribute: None

Offered only in association with Principia abroad programs, this course provides an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in the destination country or countries. These issues may include geography, cultural history, politics, economics, religion, foreign relations, environment, the arts, etc. May be taken more than once if associated with a different location.

*SPST 281 Reentry: Italy & Malta* SH:1 Attribute: None

The reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad or field program experience. Students share their growth and experiences through reflection, writing assignments, and the creation of a documentary presentation for the community. May be taken more than once if associated with a different abroad or field program.





## Program Staff

**Jenna Fisher** is a journalist with some 15 years of experience working in the Boston area. She spent half of that time as an editor and writer for *The Christian Science Monitor*; the other half as a local daily reporter. Fisher is the adviser to the college newspaper, *The Principia Pilot*. She teaches reporting and writing, photojournalism, and media literacy classes for Principia College's Digital Media and Journalism Department. She's traveled extensively, is a firm believer that everyone has a story and that sharing those stories builds bridges and helps connect the world.

**Sara Phillips de Borja** enjoys sharing the interdisciplinary nature of art history with her students, particularly how art can communicate stories and ideas to viewers while reflecting the cultural priorities of the time when it was created. Her research has focused on the artists Jules Breton and Anne-Louis Girodet and their incorporation of religious themes in their work. She has studied and traveled extensively in Europe and is grateful to have had the opportunity to experience in person most of the art she teaches.

*The program resident counselor attached to the study abroad will be announced at a later date.*

## Preliminary Itinerary

Four weeks will be spent on campus laying the foundation for the experience abroad, seven weeks in Europe, and the last three weeks back on campus creating a culminating event. During the first two weeks of the program, the group will decide on the form the final project will take, so students can plan ahead as they create their content in Europe.

In Italy and Malta, we will create a balance in our schedules between seeing the art we have been learning about and creating intentional space to reflect and make meaning, as well as investigating and reporting on the communities around us. Students will be assembling portfolios of written and visual work. Back on campus, this work may be shared with the community in printed form or as an exhibit or video, in addition to a presentation to the College community.

**Weeks 1-4:** We will be on campus establishing the foundation for our abroad experience.

**Weeks 5-11:** We will travel to Venice, Florence, and Rome, Italy. Then we'll fly to Valletta, Malta. We'll spend our time visiting museums, important historical sites, and interacting with locals.

**Weeks 12-14:** We will travel back to Principia's campus to wrap up our classes, papers, articles and presentations.

*The program will begin and end on campus.*

## ***Financial Aid & Responsibility***

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2024-2025 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward tuition, room, and board. Your PrinBill will also include the Study Abroad administrative fee (\$500). *\*See Study Abroad Grant for additional funding opportunity.*

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **December 15, 2024**.

### ***Study Abroad Grant\****

Students who **receive need-based financial aid (grants) from Principia** are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.



## ***Cost***

The cost of this study abroad program will be the same as tuition, room, and board for spring semester 2025, plus airfare (up to \$1,500), and a \$500 Study Abroad administrative fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: tuition; all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$500 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the ***“Financial Aid and Responsibility”*** section to the left to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

## ***Vaccination & Health Information***

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 or other vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to vaccinations may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect required vaccination and other relevant health information from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

For more information regarding health and safety for Principia Study Abroad programs, visit our website: [\*\*\*Health & Safety Resources\*\*\*](#)



## Applications

(see instructions on page 6 for more info)

Applications can be found directly from this link:

[bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S24](https://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S24)

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, Feb. 14, 2024**.

*Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.*



## Program Selection

Selection will take place during spring semester, 2024. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 7, spring semester 2024, regarding the decision on their application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.



Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put them on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the Principia Conduct Standards or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Eligibility and Prerequisites

The program directors seek students who have a sincere interest in stories, storytelling and how stories can be communicated using different forms, methods, and platforms. We are interested in those who are self-motivated learners and who can adapt successfully to different learning environments.

As there will be a lot of walking, students should be willing to spend a lot of time on their feet, walking through the city on uneven surfaces, and climbing steep stairs.

This program is open to all enrolled students in good academic and social standing. Preference will be given to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. Students must meet the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) to apply for and remain on this program.

Students are strongly encouraged to have taken a photo fundamentals course in the MDIA department or ARTS department before traveling on the program.

# Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S24](http://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S24)
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email** address.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 (Week 4).**  
*No late applications will be accepted!*
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
  1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including P01 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
  2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
  3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature](http://bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature)
  4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature](http://bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature)
  5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
  6. **Essay Questions:**
    - a) Why do you want to participate on this study abroad program?
    - b) What is one important skill you will bring to studying abroad? What is one skill you want to learn?
    - c) Describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating on this study abroad.
    - d) Describe a time you've been challenged or things have not gone the way you had anticipated. How did you react to that situation? Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently?
    - e) What does it mean to you to be a "self-motivated" / active learner? How has that looked for you in the past?
    - f) What role do you tend to take in a group setting? Explain.

*The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:*

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines. *\*If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
  8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
  9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Allison Terry with any questions – [maryjane.hoff@principia.edu](mailto:maryjane.hoff@principia.edu) or 618-374-5214 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).