

Columbia Summer in Venice
Summer 2022 COVID Planning Protocols
(As of June 1, 2022)

The safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff is our top priority, so we are working to take all precautions as necessary and follow all local guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that the program can be carried out safely and effectively for all parties involved. Please find below information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact your upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these protocols as well as participation policies may need to be modified at any time prior to departure or while in-country.

Flights, Arrival, Entry Requirements & Visas

Flights/Arrival:

Students will be responsible for purchasing their own flights and arriving in Venice by the stated arrival date. Specific instructions regarding arrival and checking in with program staff are provided in the Venice Handbook which is available in students' UGE accounts.

COVID Precautions & Testing Prior to Departure:

In the lead up to program departure, we recommend the following so you can assure your health prior to travel, protect the health of those you'll encounter while traveling and your program mates on site, arrive on time to attend orientation and be ready and healthy to start your intensive summer program:

- Take every precaution to minimize any exposure to COVID including public indoor masking especially when around others with unknown vaccine status.
- Test for Covid up to 24 hours before travel to confirm a Covid negative status.

If students are delayed due to Covid and cannot arrive on the program start date, they will be allowed to arrive late if they inform UGE and the Program Director.

Entry Requirements to Italy:

Effective June 1, 2022, travelers are not required to present proof of vaccination or recovery to enter Italy.

Visa Requirements:

U.S. and EU citizens traveling to Italy for under 90 days do not need to apply for a visa. Entrance into Italy is allowed with a passport valid at least three months after the intended date of

departure from the Schengen Area. Students who are not U.S. or EU citizens should use this link (<https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home/en>) to confirm whether or not you will need to apply for an Italian visa. For students who must apply for visas, you should apply no more than 180 days before your departure date and at least 4 weeks before the departure date. UGE will be able to provide the following, if needed: 1) Letter of acceptance from host institution, 2) Declaration of the availability in Italy of appropriate lodgings.

You will need to schedule an appointment and apply in person at the Italian Consulate which has jurisdiction over the state where your home institution is located or the state where your permanent address is. We recommend you book your in-person appointment as soon as possible as appointments are limited!

Visit this website for a list of Italian Consulates and their jurisdictions:

https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington/en/informazioni_e_servizi/la_rete_consolare

Vaccination Requirement

All students who will be registered at Columbia and traveling overseas are required to fully comply with the [Columbia vaccine mandate](#) without exceptions.

It is **required** that you receive a booster, if you are eligible, prior to the program start date. This will assure that students are positioned to meet any local guidelines that may evolve once onsite regarding proof of vaccination and booster to access facilities. It is not guaranteed that you can receive a booster overseas.

Ca' Foscari University Students

Ca' Foscari University students participating in the program must follow local Italian and Ca' Foscari University guidelines. CFU students who test positive for COVID during the program must follow local contact tracing guidelines and inform their instructors and the Program Director.

Student Accommodation

Students will share furnished apartments located throughout Venice in its various neighborhoods. Students may be housed in groups of 2-6, and will mostly live in shared, single gender double rooms within the apartments. Gender neutral housing may be assigned as needed on a case by case basis for those who opt in. Individual apartments vary in size and facilities. In addition to bedrooms, each apartment features a small, fully equipped kitchen and a shared common living space. Please note that apartments are not air-conditioned, but fans are provided.

Non-program participants are not allowed in program housing overnight. Non-program participants are allowed in program housing for visits as long as they are compliant with Columbia's vaccination mandate.

Students would quarantine in place if they test positive. The program has secured an extra apartment(s) as a quarantine space, if needed.

Daily Life in Venice

- As of June 1, 2022 a Green Pass or equivalent certificate is no longer needed to enter Italy.
- From May 1 until June 15, 2022, the use of more protective **FFP2/KN95** masks is mandatory to participate in all indoor athletic, cultural and recreational events, and on all means of transportation. The use of FFP2/KN95 masks remains mandatory in the following locations:
 - airplanes
 - ships and ferries used for interregional transport services
 - High Speed, Intercity, Intercity Night, and Interregional Trains
 - buses connecting more than two regions
 - buses/coaches used for chartered services with driver
 - local and regional public transport
 - indoor performances in theaters, cinemas, concert halls, entertainment venues and live music
 - Indoor sports events
- However, the use of masks in all indoor environments and in all cases of crowded outdoor events is highly recommended.

Ca' Foscari University's requirements from May 1, 2022:

- a Super or Basic Green Pass is no longer required for anyone accessing university facilities
- the use of masks is required to access all classrooms, libraries and laboratories
- the use of masks is strongly encouraged in all University buildings and grounds, and mandatory in any situation where social distancing is not possible
- In-person lessons may need to be booked online

Program Activities & Personal Travel

To complement your academic experience, the Program offers a rich Cultural Program designed to introduce you to the city and its rich local culture. Past activities have included group dinners,

tours of Venice's sestiere (neighborhoods), visits to concerts, and field trips to nearby cities on the mainland. All field trips make use of public transportation. For the Art in Venice course, excursions will include a day in Padova and a trip to Vicenza. There are any number of alternatives that can fulfill both academic and programmatic requirements in case that a given planned location is not accessible.

There are currently no capacity limits in place and food can be served at gatherings.

For any independent travel outside of the program host city when classes and required program activities are not taking place, students will need to:

- Enter all travel information into their Columbia ISOS profile at least two weeks in advance of their planned travel, including itinerary, lodging, and contact information.
- Inform the Program Director of travel.
- Exercise caution and judgment, as national and global public health context and local conditions may quickly change.
- Become acquainted with local public health conditions and all rules and regulations of your destination country. Review U.S. Department of State [website for COVID-19-related risks and restrictions](#).

COVID Testing & Protocol for Positive Cases

Students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies. Students will be briefed during orientation by the Program Director on COVID testing protocols and testing locations.

Students can get tested at an official testing site

(<https://www.aulss3.veneto.it/Dove-fare-il-tampone>, the relevant places are about half way down in the A Piedi Section/ Venezia Centro Storico), or at many local pharmacies (<https://www.aulss3.veneto.it/index.cfm?action=mys.apridoc&iddoc=21575>).

At home tests are also widely available in pharmacies, supermarkets, and online. At present in Italy, antigen tests cost approximately USD\$25, while PCR tests cost approximately USD\$70.

Program staff will be available for assistance.

Zurich health insurance, which students are covered under by Columbia University, would cover COVID testing for symptomatic individuals. Individuals can call ISOS to set up a testing appointment on their behalf, or they can pay for the test out of pocket and contact Global Travel at CU to submit the claim to get reimbursed through Zurich. Testing would not be covered by Zurich if it is required when entering or exiting Italy.

Protocols for Positive Cases:

Students who test positive will need to inform the Program Director and isolate in place in program housing for 7 days. Students can make meals in their apartments and program staff will support and check in with students as needed via email/phone/text and connect them to local medical facilities if necessary. Students in isolation may leave their residence for medical treatment. All roommates or apartment mates of students in isolation should wear an FFP2/KN95 mask at all times and will be required to test 5 days after exposure, unless otherwise indicated.

Separate isolation facilities can be made available, as needed and per availability, to students with underlying health conditions who have apartment mates who test positive.

Contact tracing:

The program will follow local reporting guidelines. Pharmacies where testing is done would report to the local health authorities. Italy does not require contact tracing for close contacts as of April 1, 2022.

Following a positive test, students will be called by the Health officials after 1 or 2 days and they will get further instructions on how to proceed in this situation. The health officials will also usually book another test for them after seven days from the first one. For the first seven days they will have to quarantine usually, unless the health officials tell them otherwise.

After the second swab test, if they test negative they are free to leave quarantine. If they test positive again instead, they will have to quarantine for another 3 days, and then take another test. This process will be repeated every 3 days until they test negative. The maximum quarantine period is 21 days.

If students test positive at the end of the program and cannot return home on the program end date, a faculty or Program Coordinator will remain in Venice until the student recovers and can depart. The program will work with the housing agent to reserve an apartment for one week past the program end date.

Academic Policies

Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with completion of the courses, the program will make arrangements as the local environment allows so that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework and studies in order to complete the course(s). To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops to use.

If students test positive for COVID in country, the faculty will work with students to make certain they can meet their academic requirements. . Students can rejoin class after their isolation period.

Both Ca'Foscari University and Casa Muraro have the ability to provide live streaming and hybrid instruction, which - depending on the circumstances and needs - might be operationalized. Field courses will offer alternative assignments.

Decisions to go fully remote will be made on a case by case basis. Once on site, the program will proceed as planned and all efforts will be made to remain in person while supporting any potential covid positive students. It will only be suspended per University policy or host institution policy.

Health Insurance & Local Healthcare

As part of the program, you will have health insurance for urgent and emergent illness and injury while abroad. This insurance is provided at no cost to you via [Zurich and coordinated through International SOS](#). Routine and preventive care is not included so you should maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage outside of your home country and/or the U.S.

Medical facilities in the major Italian cities offer good quality medical care and are capable of handling most medical cases and medical emergencies. In general, private hospitals are recommended for routine and elective medical care. All emergency care is provided exclusively in public hospitals which are better equipped to handle emergencies. Public hospitals generally have very few, if any, English speaking staff, and even in private facilities, English speakers are very limited in number. Students will have the support of the Program Director and program staff who speak Italian should medical care be required.

For mental health support, students are allotted 5 free emotional support sessions with a therapist usually through virtual appointments. This benefit is provided by International SOS. For students who would like ongoing sessions after the 5 free sessions, Columbia's Counseling and Psychological Services can organize virtual counseling through Work Place Options (WPO).

Refund & Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw from this program at any time. If dismissed, students will not receive a refund. If withdrawing prior to the program start date, students must notify their UGE adviser in writing. After the program has started, students wishing to withdraw from the program must notify their UGE adviser and the Program Director in writing. Failure to attend classes or non-responsiveness does not constitute formal withdrawal and will result in failing grades in the

summer course. Please refer to [the refund schedule on the UGE website](#) and note that any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid is calculated from the date on which the student's written notification is received by the relevant parties.

Resources

- <https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html>
- https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/italy?s_cid=ncezid-dgmg-travel-single-001
- <https://www.esteri.it/en/ministero/normativaonline/focus-cittadini-italiani-in-rientro-da-ll-estero-e-cittadini-stranieri-in-italia/>
- <https://www.unive.it/pag/40217/>