The Impact of Semester-Long Study Abroad on College Students with Learning Disabilities

Shelly A. Chandler, PhD, LMHC
Provost of Beacon College
Established in 1989 by parents
350 students
The Mission

Beacon College is an accredited, liberal arts institution of higher education, which uniquely serves the educational needs of students with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other Learning Differences.
The Mission of Beacon-in-Tuscany

To provide an immersive cultural experience while students gain an appreciation for diversity
Accreditation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.
Defining Learning Disabilities

Diagnosis from Psychoeducational Evaluation with clear evidence of a Learning Disability and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Admission Criteria

- Maturity
- Grade Point Average
- Motivation
- Parental Perspective
Unique Features of the Program
Faculty Members
Learning Specialist
Program Coordinator

Costanza
Resident Director
Housing

Hotel Giardino
Meal Plan

RESTAURANTS IN PRATO
BEACON COLLEGE MEAL PLAN

MoKha Ristorante Pizzeria
Piazza San Marco 5, 59100, Prato, Italy

Ci Garba
Viale Pieve 26, 59100, Prato, Italy

I Francescaïoli
Piazza San Francesco 8, 59100, Prato, Italy

Bar Magnolfi
San Francesco 24, 59100, Prato, Italy

Chocolate
Via Gaetano Magnolfi 83, 59100, Prato, Italia

Soldano Duomo
Via delle Sirene 10/12, 59100, Prato, Italy

Bar Coppini
Via Bologna 82, 59100, Prato, Italy

Bon per te
Via Felice Cavallotti 22, 59100, Prato, Italy

La Cova
Via Santa Trinita’ 3, 59100, Prato, Italy

Fabbricone
Via a. Negri, 15-59100, Prato, Italy

Ali Hamza
Via Santa Trinita’ 14, 16, 59100, Prato, Italy

Gucci Doc
Via Dell’Accademia 49, 59100, Prato, Italy

Sottozero
Via Roma 321/8, 59100, Prato, Italy

Crazy Pizza
Via del Serraglio 80, 59100, Prato, Italia

La Pizza del Masini
Via Santa Trinita’ 10A, 59100, Prato, Italy

L’Orto di Nene
Via Santa Trinita’ 47/A, 59100, Prato, Italy

Bar del Centro
Via Battino Riccioli 3, 59100, Prato, Italy

Pizland Di Gerardo
V. Del Gelosimo, 7, Prato, Italia

**RESTAURANTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**
Value of the Program
Normalization
Cultural Exploration
## Parent & Student Feedback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Parent Feedback</th>
<th>Student Feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insight into self</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical thinking</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationships</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different Ideas</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Perspective</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Focus</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I have loved every minute of being in Italy.

I value the time I had here, all the different experiences and the places I went to in Italy.

I will cherish the new friends I have made while being here.

Interacting with locals has been an honor.

The experience has opened me up in so many ways I could have ever imagined. Every day was exciting and fun.
Qualitative Parent Feedback

After picking up our student, we can definitely see that he has matured through his experience.

The study abroad program was a great learning experience!

100% stated they would recommend the program.

It was a great learning and growing time for our son.

It was fun to see how much more mature and confident he was upon returning home.