

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many participants will there be? This conference facilities are designed to accommodate 15-45 participants.

2. Why ISI? UCONN has had a long-standing relationship with International Studies Institute (ISI) in Florence Italy (formerly known as Palazzo Rucellai) and we have been sending students/faculty/staff to study abroad for many years. ISI functions similar to a university branch campus, except of course, it is in the beautiful and historic Florence. The ISI at Palazzo Rucellai provides unparalleled services to visitors in a personal environment; there is always someone available when assistance is needed. ISI is located in the main floor, of Palazzo Rucellai, a historic residential palace designed in the fifteenth century by Leon Battista Alberti, eminent Renaissance humanist, scholar and architect. The Institute houses experienced staff that is devoted to providing support and services when needed. The staff at ISI are well equipped to handle any emergency situations that could arise.

You may visit the facility on the web at: <http://www.isiflorence.org>

3. Can I bring family members on the afternoon excursions? The answer is yes, and we would definitely welcome their participation. There will be an extra charge for their participation if they wish to attend the afternoon activities. We will be taking chartered busses for some of the excursions and will need to know the number of additional participants.

4. Can I attend the conference and take the trips if I have a disability or special need? While we encourage people with disabilities to participate, some of our expeditions cannot accommodate people with severe health problems or physical limitations. We cannot take responsibility for special arrangements or problems incurred by participants unable to participate in the planned activities. Travelers requiring extraordinary assistance must be accompanied by someone who can and will provide all required assistance. Due to their program responsibilities, we cannot ask University or ISI staff to provide such aid. Florence Italy does not offer the same level of access for persons with disabilities as the U.S. For example, some of the buildings do not have elevators.

5. Do you offer or recommend travel insurance? We do not offer trip insurance directly. We highly suggest participants carry travel insurance. UCONN staff and faculty who travel abroad utilize Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI), 1 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905. Because the conference is sponsored through the University of Connecticut, you will be eligible for CISI insurance. We highly suggest that you contact CISI directly (www.culturalinsurance.com).

Trip insurance can also be found online at www.tripinsurancestore.com, www.HTHtravelinsurance.com or www.americanexpress.com. You may use the company of your choice. We strongly encourage that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. Explore cancellation insurance which will cover you either in the event you need to cancel or in the event of a political crisis or natural disaster. Be sure to include both the cost of air travel and land arrangements in your insurance coverage.

Check with your own health insurer to determine if and in what way you are covered when outside the United States. Some things to keep in mind: Medicare does not currently provide coverage for those traveling outside the United States. This restriction applies to passengers on board cruise ships that are registered in a foreign country (almost all cruise ships have foreign registry).

Your credit cards may cover you in some areas. Make sure you find out exactly what they cover.

It's a good idea to have your camera, jewelry, sports equipment or any valuable personal possessions specially scheduled on your homeowner's policy. Travel Insurance limits what you can claim for certain personal belongings.

Many health insurance plans do not guarantee payment directly to foreign hospitals. They may have a deductible or they may not cover the cost of emergency medical transportation. Deductibles or co-payments frequently apply outside most plan service areas.