

Writing Rome Travel Seminar Preparedness Plan

The group will be staying at: St. John's University Via Marcantonio Colonna 21A Rome, Italy 00192 • campus emergency cell (+39) 335-617-5054 • Front desk security (+39) 06 393 842 99	Professor Dan Curley – Cell # - provided onsite Professor Greg Spinner – Cell # - provided onsite
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Emergency Situations

In the event that you become ill during the course of the program, please inform your faculty director(s) immediately. They will assist you in obtaining medical care. However the faculty director(s) cannot purchase medication for a student.

Remember to bring enough medication to last the duration of your stay. If you suffer from allergies that would require the use of an EpiPen® (Epinephrine Auto-Injectors), please make certain to carry it with you at all times. You should bring more than one in the event than one in the event that you must make use of it during the trip.

Emergency Telephone Numbers:

- 12** Phone Directory Assistance
- 112** Carabinieri (National Military Police)
- 113** for Emergency Police Help
- 115** for the Fire Department
- 118** for Medical Emergencies

- 170** for International Operator (English Speaking)



OCSE will register the group with the US embassy prior to your departure.

In the event of a natural disaster or dangerous occurrence and you are separated from the group, we will meet at the

US Embassy in Rome

Via Vittorio Veneto, 121, 00187 Roma, Italy

+39 06 46741

<http://italy.usembassy.gov/>

SAFETY ABROAD

- Avoid speaking English in public or speaking loudly/calling attention to yourself.
- Do not stand out by wearing typically American clothing (college sweatshirts, clothes with American symbols, shorts, etc.); try to dress as the locals do.
- Avoid highly trafficked tourist attractions and American establishments such as fast food chains and typically American bars.
- Be aware that anti-American sentiments do exist and do not get drawn into arguments. Avoid all conflicts.
- Be constantly aware of your surroundings and those around you. Remove yourself immediately from situations you suspect may be dangerous.
- Use caution when talking about yourself and other members of your program. Do not offer information freely regarding your program or anything that might link you to an American organization.
- If someone leaves a bag/package unattended near you in any crowded public place (e.g., airport, train or bus station, market or tourist site), notify the driver or other authority and get away from it as quickly as possible.
- In the unlikely event of a political conflict, OCSE and the Faculty Director(s) will monitor the situation. You are required to follow the directions of the Faculty Director(s) in the event of an emergency.
 - Be vigilant when in public.

- Keep away from areas known to have large concentrations of residents sympathetic with interests unfriendly to the U.S. and its allies.
- Avoid political demonstrations. They can at times become violent due to clashes between police/soldiers and protestors.
- You should not agree to any interviews with the media. It is important to remain as inconspicuous as possible. If you do participate in an interview, do not mention your seminar group or give any specifics regarding your itinerary.

SAFETY TIPS

Traveling to a new place and experiencing a different culture can be an exciting opportunity. And while there is certainly safety in numbers, you must still be cognizant of your surroundings and keep your personal safety foremost in your mind. You should maintain focus on your body language, situational awareness and your "gut intuition". The following safety tips will assist in reducing your chances of being a victim while on the program:

Accommodations

- Keep room numbers private.
- Use all locks on room door, particularly the double lock. Always lock the door when leaving.
- When returning to your room, make sure that you have your room key out and ready.
- Never automatically open your door when a knock is heard. Know your visitor's identity prior to opening the door. Use your peephole, if available, or talk through the locked door. If someone claims they are from maintenance, security or an employee of the facility, phone the front/security desk to make sure the visitor is legitimate.
- Be alert for suspicious persons in the hallways. Immediately report them to the staff.
- Locate fire exits, elevators and the nearest phone. Plan the best way to get out of the facility in an emergency. (Planned emergency procedures can generally be found on the back of your room door. Please review them.)
- Never go with someone you just met to their room or invite them to yours.

In Public

- Be careful and alert when cashing traveler's checks, or using a cash machine. Never let someone see how much money you have in your wallet, or where you keep your money.
- Walk with purpose and project an assertive and confident image. Criminals will be discouraged if you do not appear vulnerable or easily intimidated. Make eye contact with people. Don't stare but use a "stern gaze" to acknowledge people around you. Criminals count on the element of surprise and will seek other victims if they know you have checked them out.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry. Thieves will target you for the jewelry or mark you as someone who has money because of it.
- Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts. Do not feel embarrassed to leave an uncomfortable situation.
- Pickpockets are attracted to crowded places. They will use the opportunity to get close to you and bump you to steal. Always safeguard your wallet, purses or backpacks. Carry your purse in front of your body, with your arm across it. Wallets should be carried in front pants pocket or in an inside jacket pocket.
- During your free time, it is advisable that you utilize the buddy system when going out. If sightseeing, seek recommendations from the Faculty Director(s) or facility staff on safe places to go and legitimate guides.
- Always tell someone where you are going, preferably the Faculty Director(s).
- If you are out and need directions, first look for a police officer or another public employee (i.e., bus driver), or go into a nearby business.
- Don't venture through side streets, even if it seems like a convenient shortcut. Criminals like to strike in un-crowded areas. If you stick to the well-traveled streets, you'll be less likely to have anyone approach you.
- Women should sew pockets into their bras where they can keep some folded cash. Men and women should stash a few dollars in their socks or shoes. If you do get mugged, you'll have a few dollars so you aren't helpless.
- When out socially, if someone offers you a ride to another hotel, nightclub or bar, get your own cab. Never get in a car with someone you don't know.
- If someone orders you or tries to force you into a car, you must do whatever you can to stay out of that vehicle. Generally their idea is to take you to a remote location and nothing good can come of that.