



# UNC Math in Firenze

## Summer 2025

# INTRODUCTIONS

Name, major, what are you excited about?



# SNAPSHOT

- UNC Math in Firenze
- Why Firenze?

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# Location

# PROGRAM DATES

- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June
- Flights originating in the U.S. arrive in Italy one day later. Plan to depart the U.S. no later than 28<sup>th</sup> May
- Our program in Florence will begin with housing check-in Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 9am-6pm. Orientation will be on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May.
- Final exam will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 1:15-3:45pm. Housing check out is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

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# TRAVEL

- It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements
- No Visa needed unless you are not a US citizen
- Input flight/arrival info in student application portal

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- Similar weather to Chapel Hill (mid 80s)
  - light clothing, comfortable shoes for walking
  - Airconditioning is not universal in the city
- You will need your laptop, School supplies can be purchased in Florence. Bring a flash drive for printing documents. Backpack or small bag for weekend traveling.
- [Power adapters](#) and, if needed, power converter if your device doesn't run on 230 volts.
- Copy of important documents (e.g. passport).
- Prescriptions and/or other medication.
- Pack light!

## WHAT TO PACK/WHAT NOT TO PACK

# ARRIVAL

- You can fly to Florence (Peretola FLR, formerly Amerigo Vespucci) and take a taxi or public transport to the city.
- You can also fly to Milan (Malpensa MXP), go to the central train station, and then take a train to Florence.
- You can also fly to Rome (Fiumicino FCO), and then take a train to Florence.
- Declaration of presence: 20 Euro fee when you arrive.

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# HOUSING

- Shared rooms with a private bathroom, TV, and mini-fridge. Each student will have a twin-sized bed. Questions about Rules of Conduct?
- Students will live in shared apartments in Florence, 2-3 students to a room; students may be housed with other students who are taking courses at LdM during the June session. Free Wi-Fi throughout facility.

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# Meals

- Sheets and towels are provided. Off-site laundry.
- Students are responsible for their own meals.
- Grocery stores, convenience stores, farmer's market, cafes, and restaurants are within walking distance.
- Some recommendations for eating well on a budget: Mercato di Sant'Ombrogio, Mercato Centrale (Da Nerbone), Self-Service Ristorante Leonardo, All'Antico Vinaio

# COMMUNICATION

- You will need a computer or tablet to do your coursework.
- Wi-fi is free at the apartments and at the LdM. It is also free at most restaurants and cafes; just ask for the Wi-fi info when ordering.
- Unlocked cell phones: LdM will provide sim card and check your provider plan.
- Use Viber, Skype, or WhatsApp to call family and friends in the States. It's free! All you need is a good internet connection. I can be reached via WhatsApp at +1-334-192 6771.

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# TRANSPORTATION

- LdM and the classroom building is a 5-10 minute walk from your apartment.
- [City buses](#) and trams are conveniently located near LdM and the apartment. You probably only occasionally need public transport.
- Rideshares like Uber and Lyft are limited in Italy. They have BlaBlaCar and FREE NOW.

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- The national currency is the Euro.
- Check daily exchange rate at [Oanda.com/currency-converter](https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter)
- Cash is the preferred means of payment, but credit and debit cards are accepted at most stores, restaurants, and bus/train stations. ATM machines are all around town and near transportation centers (e.g. airport, bus/train). There are also foreign exchange offices.
- There are many inexpensive meal options near LdM, but you can save more money by preparing your own food.
- Set up a travel alert on credit card and notify your bank of travel

- COVID – currently no travel restrictions.
- No vaccines are needed before traveling to Italy.
- Water is safe to drink throughout the country, but it is always recommended to confirm that with your host or hostess.
- Few public drink fountains.
- Use normal precautions with food, e.g., avoid undercooked meat, wash your fruit and vegetables.

# INSURANCE

- GeoBlue <https://www.geobluestudents.com/>
- Students are automatically enrolled in coverage
- Includes mental health coverage and evacuation services if necessary
- App available to download – GREAT website
- See more information in Heels Abroad Handbook and in Learning Content

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# SAFETY

- Please enroll in STEP <https://step.state.gov/>
- Italy: safe and little crime
- Emergency number in Europe is 112
- Sexual assault/harassment (heelsabroad handbook) “buddy system”
- High tourist season – be aware of petty crime



# CULTURAL NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

- Italian is the official language, but English is commonly spoken.
- Florence in summer is 90% tourists from all over the world.
- Shorts and short sleeves are common in June.
- Keep a low profile in public – don't be a loud American!
- Keep an open mind – their culture isn't wrong, it's just different!

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# SOME BOOKS ON FLORENCE

- “Brunelleschi’s dome”, Ross King (how was it made?!)
- “The bookseller of Florence”, Ross King
- “The marriage portrait”, Maggie O’Farrell (historical fiction)
- “The tigress of Forli”, Elizabeth Lev
- “The Medici”, Paul Strathen

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# IDENTITIES ABROAD

- Do you identify with any of these groups? or others?
  - Racial and Ethnic Minority
  - LGBTQ+
  - Accessibility/Accommodation needs
  - Heritage Seeker
  - Religious Diversity
- Consider how the various aspects of your identity and being abroad may impact each other. Reach out to discuss!

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# COURSE (ACADEMICS)

- Discrete Mathematics (MATH 381)
  - Taught by Professor Justin Sawon
  - UNC course is graded credit
- LdM Course
  - Taught by LdM professors
  - You will receive transfer credit. Students must submit credit request form after program
- SAO will register you for courses

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# PROGRAM-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Guided visit to Museo Galileo after class.
- Day trip to Bologna (Universita di Bologna, science museum, and anatomical theatre) on second or third Friday (6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> June).
- Guided visit to Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, San Lorenzo Basilica, and Medici Chapel after class.
- Visit to Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze after class.
- Italian cooking class one evening (making pizza!).
- [Date and times to be confirmed.]

# OTHER RECOMMENDED TOWNS

- Day trips: Siena, Lucca, Pisa, Arezzo, Parma, Cinque Terre, Val d'Orcia
- Smaller Tuscan towns: San Gimignano, Monteriggioni, many others
- Weekend trips: Venice, Padova, Ravenna, Milan, Verona, Rome, Naples, Amalfi, Perugia, etc.

Questions?