Cornell in Rome Program

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The College of Architecture, Art, and Planning’s Cornell in Rome semester abroad was launched almost 30 years ago by faculty in AAP. The Department of Architecture in particular was and remains renowned for theorizing the city as the context and inspiration for architectural form, and Rome is a quintessential locus for studying the influence of urban history on the production of architecture and urban form. The rich artistic legacy of Rome is a core aspect of the fine arts curriculum, and the city has a long tradition of hosting international planning organizations. Thus the college’s three departments each had a natural interest in a Rome-based student experience.

Cornell faculty and Cornell students spend an entire semester in Rome. AAP offers design studios, courses on Italian art and architectural history taught by local experts, planning workshops that collaborate with local neighborhood groups, and art studios that use Rome’s rich collections and the city itself as source material. The semester includes a traveling component comprising three field trips throughout Italy and neighboring countries. Several attributes are central to the success of Cornell in Rome:

- Cornell faculty commit to spending a full semester teaching Cornell students in Rome. This direct and ongoing involvement by core faculty ensures that Cornell’s academic standards and expectations are met, and fosters a strong commitment by college faculty to the health and evolution of the Rome experience. In addition, a core of Rome-based visiting faculty teach courses with Rome/Italy-specific content. Each department develops and manages curricular objectives through course offerings, selection of faculty, and a travel component.
- Student participation is high in all three departments. Indeed, the Rome experience was so popular among undergraduate architecture students that it is now mandatory for all third-year B.Arch students, and optional but consistently well attended by planning and art students. Cornell in Rome is truly a college-wide endeavor, a place where art and design students and faculty intermingle. Predictable enrollment across multiple departments allows effective college-wide collaboration and planning.
- Cornell in Rome has a well-developed, robust infrastructure. The college’s footprint in Rome includes long-term leases on multiple apartments for student and faculty housing; approximately 6,000 square feet in the centrally located Palazzo Lazzaroni which houses studios, classrooms, faculty and administrative offices; and strong connections to Rome’s many national and international academic, governmental, and cultural institutions.

http://aap.cornell.edu/academics/rome