

Elizabethtown College



March 7, 2011

Dear BCA President Brubaker,

Attached is my report summarizes my assessment of six Italian schools as candidates for a new BCA location:

1. **Pantheon Institute (Rome)**
2. **University of Trento (Trento)**
3. **University of Padua (Padua)**
4. **University of Genoa (Genoa)**
5. **Italian Institute of Technology (Genoa)**
6. **Sapienza University (Rome)**

I've listed them in rank-order based on what I understand to be the objectives of the BCA, and on my assessment of the likely appropriateness for both Elizabethtown College students and the students of the other 124 schools of the BCA. My assessment is based on four trips to Italy (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011), plus sending one Elizabethtown College student to Italy on my behalf in 2007. I used the BCA check-sheet you gave me to help evaluate four of the schools on my most recent trip; these survey's are attached to the end of the report.

I also have quite a bit of printed academic literature that I will share with you soon. Additional photos from my Italy travels can be found here: http://users.etown.edu/w/wunderjt/home_personal_ITALY_ALL.html

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Wunderlich, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Engineering
Computer Engineering Program Coordinator
Robotics and Machine Intelligence Lab Director
website: <http://users.etown.edu/w/wunderjt>

Department of Physics and Engineering

1. Pantheon Institute (Rome, Italy)

website: <http://www.pantheon-institute.com/>

BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- 2011 Observation of four hours of classroom instruction
- 2011 Meetings with the President of the Institute, The international programs coordinator, The housing coordinator, and several other faculty, staff, and students
- 2011 Tour of all classrooms, studio's, offices, and student housing
- 2011 Review of all curriculum including existing agreement with the Pennsylvania State University
- 2011 Review of the Text used for beginner and intermediate Italian language instruction (written by two Pantheon Institute faculty)
- 2011 Completion of BCA assessment form (attached after summary of schools)

ASSESSMENT: This school is the best of the six for accommodating American students; it has excellent orientations, outstanding instruction (exclusively in English), safe and clean housing, beautiful classrooms and studios, a very low student-teacher ratio, and extensive experiential learning throughout Rome. Rome is a city of 2-1/2 million people and countless historical and architectural sites. The Pantheon Institute is a small private institution primarily focused on Architecture and Liberal Arts with many courses that could easily transfer into the "Core" curriculum of many of the BCA's 125 schools; and as a private institution it is free from Italian language proficiency requirements and quota's imposed on the number of non-EU students (i.e., as dictated by the Italian government unless a given University decides to waive them). During my week in Rome I observed this school's facilities to be in very safe locations and within easy walking distance of each other along beautiful safe routes between the Pantheon and a neighborhood along the Tiber River directly south of the pantheon. The Institute's schedule of instruction matches the typical U.S. semester schedule allowing students to avoid the busy summer tourist season if they wish (i.e., most Italian Universities have terms extending into the middle of summer). The Pantheon Institute does however also offer two short summer sessions (five and seven weeks long). This school also provides an excellent full-immersion experience with outstanding Italian language instruction for American students (based on my classroom observations and my review of their language Text authored by two of their faculty). The faculty, staff, and students of the Institute are intimately involved in a close-knit learning community, with many group enrichment experiences that extend outside of the classroom. The student housing complex also contains one of the largest interior court-yard/green-spaces in Rome. All students have access to many large kitchens -- and even enrichment classes in Italian cooking (taught in the evenings after normal class times).

A few of my pictures (student housing):



2. University of Trento (Trento, Italy)

website: <http://www.unitn.it/en>

BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- 2008 Took an Elizabethtown College student to present our publication at a three-day conference: Coleman, D. and Wunderlich, J.T. (2008). **O³: an optimal and opportunistic path planner (with obstacle avoidance) using voronoi polygons**. In *Proceedings of IEEE the 10th international Workshop on Advanced Motion Control, Trento, Italy*. vol. 1, (pp. 371-376). Piscataway, NJ: IEEE Press.
- 2008 Tour of many classrooms, research labs, and offices in both humanities facilities and the engineering complex
- 2008 Meetings with Engineering faculty and researchers
- 2009 Visiting Engineering Faculty Member to teach a Ph.D. course to 8 Ph.D. students, 2 faculty, and 2 full-time researchers. *SYLLABUS*: <http://users.etown.edu/w/wunderjt/syllabi/Wunderlich%20Advanced%20Robotics%20TRENTO%202009.pdf>
- 2009 More tours of engineering classrooms and research labs
- 2009 Meetings with Engineering faculty, researchers, and administration
- 2011 Meeting with Engineering faculty
- 2011 Completion of BCA assessment form (attached after summary of schools)

ASSESSMENT: Although this school is presently my closest affiliation, it is tied for my second choice for accommodating American students (especially undergraduates). The school is located in the Trentino-Alto region of Italy (near Austria); it is 15,000-student public institution spread over several locations in Trento, a mid-sized city with 100,000 people and a few significant cultural and architectural sites, plus excellent environmental surroundings since it is nestled in a river gorge in the dolomite branch of the Alps. The culture is mostly Italian but somewhat influenced by Austria (i.e., Tyrolean). The Engineering school is excellent; it is located in a large five-story complex on top of one of the mountain peaks. It has excellent teaching facilities and has excellent research labs with many multi-million dollar research projects including a major NASA/ESA research initiative that I was exposed to through my U. Trento colleagues and students. Almost all undergraduate courses are however taught in Italian, and my observation of the one American student I spent an evening with (a graduate student in the humanities) was that he felt a little out-of-place despite his Italian heritage, fluency in Italian, and having lived in Trento for three years. My overall impression is that this school can definitely provide an excellent opportunity for graduate engineering students (and possibly fourth-year-undergraduates) who can take courses taught in English, but the school is much less accommodating for most undergraduate Americans; and typical undergraduate classes are exclusively lectures for 70 to 85 students. National Italian language proficiency requirements and quota's for non-EU students seem to be enforced for the Italian **three-year** "first-cycle" degree (officially considered by the Italian government as equivalent to a U.S. Bachelors), but are waived for the two-year "2nd cycle" (Master's) and "3rd cycle" (Doctoral) students in certain disciplines (especially engineering). The school is located in a somewhat remote location (1-1/2 hours from Verona or Innsbruck airports) and therefore could provide relatively cheap housing; and the city is not likely to be overrun with tourists at any time of year – therefore resulting in an authentic full-immersion experience. The engineering faculty, staff, and Ph.D. students that I met were a close-knit learning and research group; with many get-togethers outside of the classroom (we shared many great home-cooked meals together).

Five of my Ph.D. students, and the engineering complex:



3. University of Padua (Padua, Italy)

website: http://portale-unipd3.prod.cineca.it/index_en.htm

BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- 2011 Met with Padua City Public Relations representative
- 2011 Met with staff of University of Padua “International Welcoming Office”
- 2011 Toured city to look at some of the vast facilities for 65,000 students
- 2011 Meeting with a full-time physician and researcher in the University of Padua Medical school , and her husband who is an Engineering faculty member with the University of Padua (part-time) and the University of Trento (full-time)
- 2011 Completion of BCA assessment form (attached after summary of schools)

ASSESSMENT: This school is tied for my second choice. The University is located one hour west of Venice and is a 65,000-student public institution spread over many locations in Padua including a large medical school and the first-ever botanical garden (circa 1545 a.d.). The city has 200,000 people and many cultural and architectural sites; and its culture is richly Italian and very proud of its significant historical contributions to Italy. It has a huge central piazza (with a circular canal) that is often used for a large open market that extends into other parts of the city. Even though the city receives 500,000 tourists per year, it is somewhat removed from the more touristy locations in Italy and therefore could provide moderately-priced housing and an authentic full-immersion experience. The Engineering school is excellent and provides some courses in English that could be accessible for fourth-year undergraduates, plus a couple all-English Master’s degree programs. Almost all undergraduate courses are however taught in Italian and lectures typically include 80 to 100 students. My conversations with two recent alumni led me to believe that it’s difficult for students to succeed unless they are fluent in Italian (the Engineering and Medical Schools are the only exception – see http://portale-unipd3.prod.cineca.it/unipdWAR/page/unipd_en/courses_en1/en_Book6_Page8).

So the National Italian language proficiency requirements and quota’s for non-EU students seem to be somewhat flexible for “first-cycle” (undergraduate) students, very flexible for certain “2nd cycle” (Master’s) and “3rd cycle” (Doctoral) students in certain disciplines. My overall impression is that this school could provide an excellent opportunity for some American fourth-year-undergraduate and graduate students.

University of Padua International Welcoming Office staff, and an engineering professor (and close friend) affiliated with the University of Padua (part-time) and the University of Trento (full-time):



4. University of Genoa (Genoa, Italy)

website: <http://www.unige.it/>

5. Italian Institute of Technology (Genoa, Italy)

website: <http://www.iit.it/en/about-us.html>

BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- 2004 presented publication at three-day conference:
Wunderlich, J.T. (2004). **Design of a welding arm for unibody automobile assembly**. In *Proceedings of IMG04 Intelligent Manipulation and Grasping International Conference, Genova, Italy*, R. Molfino (Ed.): (pp. 117-122). Genova, Italy: Grafica KC s.n.c Press.
- 2004 Session Chair for several conference sessions
- 2004 Spent a day touring two different robotics labs
- 2004 Meeting with Engineering faculty
- 2004 Meeting with Computer Science faculty
- 2007 Sent Elizabethtown College Computer Engineering student to the Italian Institute of Technology for two weeks on my behalf to summarize robotics research for implementation into my courses

ASSESSMENT: Although these schools are my fourth and fifth choices respectively, the University of Genoa is very similar to my second and third choices (U.Trento and U.Padua). The Italian Institute of Technology was created in 2005 and is related to University of Genoa Robotics in that it was founded to promote scientific innovation in Italy through applied research, beginning with much of the research at the University of Genoa. The University of Genoa is a 40,000-student public institution spread over many locations in Genoa. The Italian Institute of Technology is also located in Genoa in one large research complex. Although these schools are located somewhat removed from the more popular American tourist destinations, they are on the Italian Riviera, so housing could be pricy. The culture of Genoa is very much Italian. The city has 600,000 people and seems to be a big tourist destination for many Europeans. It has a moderate amount of cultural and historical sites, and many beautiful neighborhoods. Popular attractions like Portofino and the Cinque Terra are 1-1/2 hours south. The University of Genoa Engineering and Computer Science schools are excellent, however most undergraduate courses seem to be taught in Italian and typically have many students (stats need to be further verified). National Italian language proficiency requirements and quota's for non-EU students for "first-cycle" (undergraduate), "2nd cycle" (Master's), and "3rd cycle" (Doctoral) need to be further investigated. Students in certain disciplines (especially engineering and medicine) seem to have some of these requirements waived. My overall impression is that the University of Genoa could possibly provide an opportunity for fourth-year-undergraduate and graduate students, but is not very accommodating for most undergraduates; and the Italian institute of Technology is only appropriate for graduate students or advanced undergraduate engineering students interested in research opportunities or perhaps "Independent Study" courses instead of typical coursework.

University of Genoa Engineering Robotics Lab, and Computer Science Robotics Lab:



6. Sapienza University (Rome, Italy)

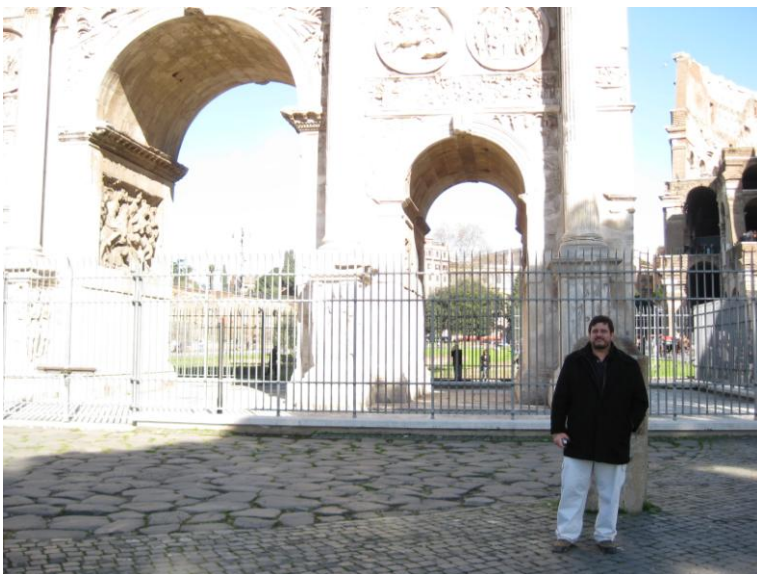
website: http://www.uniroma1.it/default_e.php

BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT:

- 2011 presented publication at three-day conference:
Wunderlich, J.T. (2011) (*conference paper and presentation with elected journal paper submission*). **Designing robot autonomy: how tightly should we hold the leash?**, *The 5th International Conference on Design Principles and Practices*, Rome Italy, February 2011.
See Talk: [PDF](#) [PPT](#)
- 2011 Interacted with many graduate students
- 2011 Interviewed two undergraduate students
- 2011 Had discussion with recent graduate of the University
- 2011 Partial Completion of BCA assessment form (attached after summary of schools)

ASSESSMENT: This is my last choice of the six schools because of its apparent lack of accommodating any students other than Italian students. This is unfortunate since this school is highly respected around the world for many of its disciplines. The school is a ridiculously large 150,000-student public institution spread all over Rome. And although Rome is an amazing city of 2-1/2 million people and countless historical and architectural sites, this University is not my recommendation for American students studying abroad. Also, unlike the Pantheon institute in Rome, this University's Spring schedule goes well into the summer when the city can be very hot and overrun with tourists. Further investigation of the vast facilities and colleges of this University could possibly reveal some opportunities for some of the 125 schools in the BCA consortium, however from viewing the University's website, and from my discussions with the Universities students and one alumni, it seems that this school is very much intended for Italian students. Typical undergraduate classes are lectures of approximately 100 students (with some lectures requiring students to stand or sit on the floor due to lack of seating). National Italian language proficiency requirements and quota's for non-EU students for "first-cycle" (undergraduate), "2nd cycle" (Master's), and "3rd cycle" (Doctoral) students seem to be strictly enforced; but with such a large University system, further investigation would be required to generalize about flexibility in waiving these restrictions for each of the many disciplines ("Faculty's").

In the vicinity of my conference at one of the many Sapienza University locations in Rome:



BCA Site Assessment Questionnaire **for the Pantheon Institute in Rome**

Completed by Pantheon Institute President Romolo Martemucci after several meetings with Dr. Joseph Wunderlich, Associate Professor of Engineering at Elizabethtown College

SITE QUESTIONS

Most if not all of the information presented here can be found in our pre-departure handbook, our student handbooks, and our brochures and website. We encourage exploration of our website in particular to gain a clear and diverse understanding of what the Pantheon Institute offers students both academically and extra-curricular in Rome, Italy.

HEALTH ISSUES (water, food, hospital/medical care)

1. Is there a specific doctor that is recommended? (Name/address/phone)

2. Is there a specific hospital? (Name, why recommended, address/phone)

Detailed information on healthcare in Italy can be found on page 27 of the student handbook. The Institute recommends three doctors for students to visit should the need arise. They are Dr. Baci, Zanninelli, and Levenstein, all of whom are proficient in English. In some cases, these Doctors will make visit to the students apartment or residence. Please see the handbook for more details.

3. What special immunizations or other health documents are required by the University? for entry to the country?

There are no immunization or health documents required for entry and studying in Italy. It is required however to carry a doctor's prescription for medications students bring with them from the United States.

4. Does the University provide health services?

The student services staff will assist students who need health services. They can make appointments and arrange transportation to the clinic or doctors office and/or arrange home visits, etc.

SAFETY/SECURITY

1. What is the access to police? how supportive would they be for a crime like rape?

The Italian public security forces consist of two divisions. The polizia municipale (local police) and the carabinieri (state police). There are a number of police and carabinieri stations nearby including one in the same piazza as the Institute in Piazza del Collegio Romano. These police forces patrol regularly the historic center of Rome and are well aware of the presence of US college and university students in the city through their collaboration with the American Association of College and University Programs in Italy, of which the Pantheon Institute is a member. The police would be very cooperative and supportive if any of our students was the victim of any crime, particularly a violent crime however rare.

2. What would it be like to get students out quickly? access to airports? trains? buses?

The main international airport - Rome Fiumicino - is approximately a 20 minute ride from the center of the city. Trains, buses and taxis call all transport students to the airport should the need arise for a timely exit.

3. What are the top crimes & do they specifically target foreigners? women?

Since Rome is a tourist city, the main crime is petty theft. Rarely is this type of theft associated with violence. If students are well-prepared and become "street savvy" the chances of them being victims of even petty theft in Rome is minimal. However, petty thieves look for vulnerable targets. And like in most cities, students who compromise their alertness by getting drunk or leaving their purse or valuables unattended are at greater risk, but again rarely violent if at all.

4. What is access to the campus like? does the univ have its own security?

At the Pantheon Institute, like so many European universities, our campus is our backdrop, the city of Rome. We have living residences in Trastevere, and classroom, administrative offices, art and architecture studios in a number of building in the historic center. The facilities themselves have secured entrances with keypads and locks, but the campus is the city of Rome, which is one of our most desirable aspects.

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

1. Dorms- are they foreign student only dorms or do they live with local students? do student typically live in single rooms or some other type? do they provide cooking facilities if students wish to make their own food?

The Institute has a large residence in Vicolo Santa Maria in Capella in the Trastevere quarter of the city. It is about 15-minute walk to the other Institute buildings in the historic center. The dorms offer students single, double, triple and quadruple bedrooms, common living space, a common kitchen for each floor, washer and dryer facilities, and outdoor terrace and courtyard space. The kitchen is well-equipped for students to cook their own meals as they choose.

2. Cafeterias - are there any? what meals do they serve (i.e. all 3)? how do students pay - by meal, by month, by semester/term?

There is no Institute "cafeteria". Students rely on the kitchens in their residence and shopping at the local grocery stores and super markets. Many students also rely periodically on eating out at the many local and affordable trattorias, pizzerias, take-out stands, cafes and restaurants. The Institute has a list of recommended places to eat and has secured Institute discounts as well.

3. Library space - how many libraries are there? what hours do they have? any restrictions for foreign students on access? particular strengths they might have in certain subjects?

The Institute has a modest library in its main facility in piazza pantheon. It is not large by university standards (thousand or more holdings) but the collection is specific to the subjects taught at the Institute, namely architecture, art history, renaissance and baroque art, Italian studies, literature, etc. Students have access during the Institute hours from 9:00am through 7:00pm, and may borrow books upon request. The library also has WIFI access and a number of computers and printers.

4. Student services/facilities - are there any other services available, such as academic advising centers, counseling centers, computer facilities, book stores, mail boxes, recreational/sports facilities, student clubs?

The Institute has a number of staff members with two dedicated fully to students services. They assist students with day-to-day needs and organize a variety of extra-curricular activities such as cooking lessons, soccer games, guided walking tours, movie nights and more. Since all of the Institute, including the dorms is equipped with Wi-Fi, there is little need for a large computer lab, however a lab is available on the main office building in piazza del Pantheon. There are a variety of local English books shops all within walking distance for the purchase of textbooks and more. For more information of the variety of services offered by our student services staff, please see our handbook and website (www.pantheon-institute.com) under current students.

5. Classrooms - adequately lighted? decent upkeep?

The Institute classrooms and studios are well lit and have large windows which let in significant sunlight. They are kept clean and in order regularly by the cleaning and maintenance staff. Our IT specialist ensures that the Internet, computers and data display units in the classroom are always functioning properly.

ACADEMICS

1. Specialty subjects: what seems to be the strengths? Quality overall?

The Pantheon Institute specializes in Architecture and Landscape Architecture. However, the Institute also has a modest liberal arts curriculum which brings the city of Rome into the classroom focusing on subjects in art history, classical studies (Roman), history, political science and EU studies, Italian language and Italian studies (literature, culture & Society) and studio arts. The Institute is hoping to build upon the liberal arts program by developing a limited number of strategic relationships with various colleges and universities in the States.

2. Professors - are they accessible to students? have office hours?

One of the main advantages of having an institute with less than 200 students is the ability for faculty and students to develop close academic relationships. Most of our instructors live nearby and are readily available for students academic needs both out of the classroom.

3. Classes - are they mostly lecture by prof or is interaction encouraged? are there separate tutorial sessions for student/prof. interaction? how many times/hours a week do they meet typically? is the grading based primarily on a final exam or paper or does continuous assessment play a part in grades?

Although lectures are standard university style prepared lectures, with slides, power point presentations or on-site visits with lectures, student interaction is encouraged with regular question and answer sessions and the possibility, given the small numbers of students in each class, to interrupt the professor with specific questions. Professors are very generous with their time and are often available directly after lectures for office hours and informal discussions with students. A typical 3-credit hour course will be twice a week for sessions of 1.5 hours each. The language classes meet twice a week with an additional meeting for non-class events like movies, on-site visits, or other special presentations. Grading in the lecture courses is based on a series of quizzes, a mid term exam and a final exam. In the language classes an oral exam is also included. Please see the course syllabi available on our web site for details on a course by course basis.

4. Research being worked on (especially where independent study might work) - is there a system where students could do an independent study? how does this work for a local student?

The Pantheon Institute also offers graduate courses in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Archeology and Cartographic History. In these areas, specific research is being conducted by professors and their students. Students can enroll in independent study courses that allow for direct involvement of the student in these research operations. In addition, students with particular interest may work with home campus professors and tailor a research agenda that in Rome is monitored by a local faculty member in conjunction with the home campus based professor. Recent work has been done and is being published in the areas of museum design, site design for archeological areas, design for the maintenance of cultural heritage, and the archeological update of the Lanciani map of Rome, and others. For the liberal arts curriculum it is quite common for students to request and participate in an independent study project usually on-on-one with the instructor. If approved, the independent study is worked out on a case-by-case basis between the student and the assigned instructor. The process is the same for all students. For example, one student wanted to research the relationship between Rome's monuments and politics and how the ruling powers of the time (i.e. the political landscape) left their mark on the city through the monumental landscape, from Roman antiquity to modernity. This is an example of a highly specialized curricular focus that lends itself well to independent studies.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Application/Registration process

a. Can foreign students register at same time as local students or must they wait until see if class space available?

All students - with the exception of a few - come from the United States and the enrollment procedure is the same for everyone. There is plenty of capacity and if a course is full, we have license to add another section if necessary.

b. Can they register in more than one department at a time?

Not applicable

c. Is there any drop/add type system?

During the first two weeks after arrival we allow students to modify their curriculum only if absolutely necessary.

d. What deadlines are set for foreign student applications?

The Institute is on a rolling admissions system with the following loose deadlines:

Fall Semester: July 15th, Spring Semester: October 15th, Summer Session: March 15th

e. Are there special forms foreign students must fill out?

The Institute requests that all students complete a prescribed application which can be completed online or downloaded from our website. For partner institutions, we request that all the applicants complete a paper application and they are sent to us in bulk for processing on or before the deadline. We will then issue the acceptance/visa letters for all semester applicants, and begin the enrollment process for courses, living accommodations, special needs, etc.

2. Foreign student services

a. visas - what needed & who helps?

Study visas must be secured by US students for semester and full-year study. There is no need to secure an Italian Study Visa for summer programs or programs that are less than 90 days in duration. The Institute will provide visa letters for all accepted students for them to secure

b. counseling/adaptation/settling in help- is it available?

At the start of each term the Institute offers a comprehensive orientation program where students are introduced to staff and faculty, given local tours of the city and their neighborhoods, and provided daily a team of students services personnel to assist them with settling into their new environment. If there is a need for special services such as counseling, the Institute can refer students to a number of licensed professional counselors who specialize in assisting US students in Rome.

c. meet at airport? who and how do we notify them?

The Institute will provide vouchers for organized pick-up at the airport at a specified time and date and transport them by bus to the residence. It is a very straight forward and simple process and allows students to head to the Institute immediately upon exiting the airport without having to wait for a full bus. If students arrive at a different time or date, a taxi can easily transport them to the institute at a fixed fee of 40 euro.

d. how many other intl. students there? primarily from what countries?

The Institute is comprised mainly if not exclusively of US students.

e. where do students receive their mail? can they use the foreign student office address?

The Institute will receive mail on behalf of the students. They are informed they have mail and may come to the Institute offices to pick it up. The mailing address is provided in the pre-departure and student handbooks.

3. Student activities/organizations? What kinds and how do students find out about them & join?

The Pantheon Institute includes organized activities and excursions for all academic year, semester, quarter and summer programs. Both social activities and excursions are planned to introduce students to the local community and explore cultural, historic and social elements of their host country. Examples of these are: wine tastings, movie and music nights, theatre, cooking classes, soccer games etc. Itineraries and specific information about optional activities are made available for students on the PI website and from the onsite staff and sent them via email one week prior to the scheduled date.

4. No question given on form for this number

5. Grading/transcripts? Registrar?

The Pantheon Institute follows the American tradition in higher education as our grading and crediting system. The Institute will provide a grade report (transcript) for each student and sent it to the Registrar of their home institution or their study abroad office (as requested).

a. How do we request these and how does student later get originals if they need them for graduate school?

If a student needs another official copy they can contact the institute or since the grade report will be reflected in the student's home school transcript, they may use that as well.

6. Any other agreements with other universities? who? what type - i.e. 1 to 1 exchange, partial exchange, uni-lateral?

The Pantheon Institute has signed strategic agreements with Pennsylvania State University, Kenyon College, Woodbury University, Ball State University, Gardner Webb University, Clemson University, and Connecticut College. The Institute has hosted programs from Rutgers University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, Iowa State University, University of Arizona, and more.

7. Campus contacts, with address, phone, fax, e-mail of such people as:

Program Administrator(s)

Romolo Martemucci
Via del Pantheon 57
Rome, Italy 00186
rm@pantheon-institute.com
Tel (from the US): 011-39-06-454-26423

For the rest of the staff at the Institute visit our website www.pantheon-institute.com and follow the link to Administration and Staff.

8. Calendar dates, academic year:

Our calendar follows the US college an university semester system. We have a 15-week fall semester that starts in early September, a 15-week spring semester that starts in mid January, and two summer sessions, one 7 and the other 5 weeks. Visit our website for exact dates.

Arrival of students on site:

Orientation begins:

Classes begin:

Registration period: Begins:

Ends:

Semester/term break(s):

Classes end:

Examination period:

Second Semester/term classes begin:

Registration period:

Semester/term break(s):

Classes end:

Examination period:

Must move out of housing by:

LOCAL FACILITIES

- 1. Bank(s)/Money - can foreigners open accounts? can you wire money in either to bank or via Western Union? can credit cards be used? American express office near-by? how much money do you think students would need for daily expenses?**

Students can open bank accounts but it is not recommended. They would need to get a local fiscal code and the process is tedious. We recommend that students use credit cards for major purchases and ATM machines for cash. If a student has a credit card and an ATM card, they will be fine. There is an American Express office not far from the Institute. Students usually spend about 15 euro per day on food, bus, toiletries etc

- 2. Restaurant(s) - what's near the university? price ranges in local terms (i.e. what's considered a cheap meal? what's an expensive meal? There are no shortage of places to eat in Rome, especially in areas such as the city center where our facilities are located and in Trastevere, where the students' residence is. Prices can vary a lot from place to place; the PI provides students with a list of recommended restaurants that go from the most expensive to the cheapest ones as well as a list of "partner discounts" where they can enjoy exclusive and ongoing discounts to local restaurants, trattorias, pizzerias, and cafes thanks to their personal Pantheon Institute Student ID. A meal can run anywhere from 5-6 euros (sandwich and drink) to 20-30euros. The discount partners are listed on our website: <http://216.14.127.190/current.php?id=107>.**

- 3. Markets/Pharmacies - any nearby? well-stocked with a variety of products? are American medicines/toiletries available? contact lens care products?**

Within the city center and Trastevere area there are a lot grocery stores and pharmacies. These stores do have similar products to those available in the United States, as well as uniquely Italian items. While these stores may not always have the exact same medicines or toiletries, substitutes are available.

- 4. Museums/theatres/arts - what's around? any student discounts available?**

Many of the most important museums and monuments of Rome are within walking distance of the Pantheon Institute facilities: among these we find the Vatican Museums, the Ara Pacis, Castel Sant'Angelo, the Capitoline Museums, Trajan's Markets not to mention the Basilica of Saint Peter's, the Coliseum and the Pantheon itself. Most of these places of interest require an entry fee but reduced fees for students with a student card are sometimes possible. There are also plenty of theatres, art galleries, cinemas and music clubs where students can enjoy their free time and get to know Roman culture better. The PI student services staff sends a weekly newsletter to all the students with a list of selected events (art exhibitions, concerts, theatre plays and so on) so that they can get to know what is going on in the city and its surroundings.

- 5. Telephoning: phones in dorms? phones near-by? do they need to have a special card to use a pay phone? must they go to a special tele-communications center to phone overseas? can collect calls be made? can phone credit cards be used?**

Phones are available on each floor of the dorms but there are also many public pay phones around the city: these can be used with telephone cards that are sold at tabacchi shops. Nevertheless, the Pantheon Institute has partnered with a cell phone company to provide all the students with mobile phone service for their stay in Italy. As soon as the students arrive to Italy, the cell phone company staff advice the students on all the different hints for keeping down phone costs such as having their parents and friends call them since receiving phone calls is free and phone rates are cheaper in the United States.

- 6. Post offices: Is there one near-by? what's the rate for a letter to the US? Can students receive mail via the post-office (i.e. rent a box)? or is there some address they can use to receive mail at?**

There are two post offices near the Pantheon Institute facilities. The rates to send a letter to the US vary depending on the letter's weight and they go from 0,85 euro cents (if it is a regular letter) to 20 euro (if it is a book, for example). Students have the chance to receive their mail for free using our office address so we do not recommend to rent a box at the Post Office, even though it is possible.

HOMESTAYS

- 1. Are they possible?**

No they are not available, however we may be able to secure space in apartments with local students.

- 2. What are typical houses like?**
 - private bedroom?
 - bathroom facilities?
 - access to kitchen/cooking facilities?
- 3. Typical family structure- who would live in the house?**
- 4. Differences around issues:**
 - of privacy?
 - freedom for young people to come and go?
 - responsibilities for household chores?
- 5. Would our students have access to adequate transportation to university from home?**

The residence and institute are within walking distance of each other (15-min walk). However is desired a tram will assist in taking the students a bit more than half the distance. The rest is on foot through the smaller streets.

- 6. Ease of access by RD in case of emergency?**

The Institute maintains a 24-hour emergency phone specifically for this purpose. The Director lives in the same complex as the student residence, and student services staff is also within a 20-minutes of the residence.

BCA Site Assessment Questionnaire for the University of Trento

Completed by Dr. Joseph T. Wunderlich, Associate Professor of Engineering at Elizabethtown College while interviewing Dr. Mario DeCecco, Associate Professor of Engineering at the University of Trento

SITE QUESTIONS

HEALTH ISSUES (water, food, hospital/medical care)

1. Is there a specific doctor that is recommended? (Name/address/phone)
2. Is there a specific hospital? (Name, why recommended, address/phone)
TBD (To Be Determined)
3. What special immunizations or other health documents are required by the University? for entry to the country?
No
4. Does the University provide health services?
No

SAFETY/SECURITY

1. What is the access to police? how supportive would they be for a crime like rape?
Good, yes
2. What would it be like to get students out quickly? access to airports? trains? buses?
Easy
3. What are the top crimes & do they specifically target foreigners? women?
Pick-pocket, no, no
4. What is access to the campus like? does the univ have its own security?
Wide open, no

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

1. Dorms- are they foreign student only dorms or do they live with local students? do student typically live in single rooms or some other type? do they provide cooking facilities if students wish to make their own food?
Live with locals, usually singles, yes
2. Cafeterias - are there any? what meals do they serve (i.e. all 3)? how do students pay - by meal, by month, by semester/term?
Yes, just lunch and dinner
3. Library space - how many libraries are there? what hours do they have? any restrictions for foreign students on access? particular strengths they might have in certain subjects?
Each discipline has it's own
4. Student services/facilities - are there any other services available, such as academic advising centers, counseling centers, computer facilities, book stores, mail boxes, recreational/sports facilities, student clubs?
Yes for all but counseling
5. Classrooms - adequately lighted? decent upkeep?
Usually

ACADEMICS

1. Specialty subjects: what seems to be the strengths? Quality overall?
Engineering, sociology, economics..., excellent
2. Professors - are they accessible to students? have office hours?
Somewhat, yes
3. Classes - are they mostly lecture by prof or is interaction encouraged? are there separate tutorial sessions for student/prof. interaction? how many times/hours a week do they meet typically? is the grading based primarily on a final exam or paper or does continuous assessment play a part in grades?
80-student lectures with some interaction, no separate tutorial, meet 2 times a week, grading based on midterm and final, paper only for graduate students, no continuous assessment. And there are no lab sessions since all academics are focused on theory.
4. Research being worked on (especially where independent study might work) - is there a system where students could do an independent study? how does this work for a local student?
Until recently, all undergrad's did thesis

ADMINISTRATION

1. Application/Registration process
 - a. Can foreign students register at same time as local students or must they wait until see if class space available?
Same
 - b. Can they register in more than one department at a time?
Yes

HOMESTAYS

1. Are they possible?
Yes
2. What are typical houses like?
 - a. private bedroom?
Yes
 - b. bathroom facilities?
Maybe
 - c. access to kitchen/cooking facilities?
Yes
3. Typical family structure- who would live in the house?
Variable
4. Differences around issues:
 - a. of privacy?
No
 - b. freedom for young people to come and go?
No
 - c. responsibilities for household chores?
Maybe
5. Would our students have access to adequate transportation to university from home?
Yes
6. Ease of access by RD in case of emergency?
Probably

BCA Site Assessment Questionnaire for the University of Padua

Completed by Dr. Joseph T. Wunderlich, Associate Professor of Engineering at Elizabethtown College
while interviewing Chiara Crozzoloti and Pierluigi Balolan in the "International Welcome Office"
and
Bauchensky Rauritio in the "Ufficio per le Relazioni con il Pubblico" Office

SITE QUESTIONS

HEALTH ISSUES (water, food, hospital/medical care)

1. Is there a specific doctor that is recommended? (Name/address/phone)
2. Is there a specific hospital? (Name, why recommended, address/phone)
University of Padua Hospital (in Medical school)
3. What special immunizations or other health documents are required by the University? for entry to the country?
No
4. Does the University provide health services?
No, and non-Italian students must pay 300 to 600 Euro per month for coverage
For all health insurance concerns, the office in charge is
Azienda ULSS n. 16
Via E. Scrovegni, 12
35100 Padova
tel. + 39 049 821 4068/4073/45744

SAFETY/SECURITY

1. What is the access to police? how supportive would they be for a crime like rape?
Good, yes
2. What would it be like to get students out quickly? access to airports? trains? buses?
Easy
3. What are the top crimes & do they specifically target foreigners? women?
Burglary, no, no
4. What is access to the campus like? does the univ have its own security?
The University is everywhere, only for certain buildings

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

1. Dorms- are they foreign student only dorms or do they live with local students? do student typically live in single rooms or some other type? do they provide cooking facilities if students wish to make their own food?
There is an office to help find housing for students: 14 Residence Halls for 1600 students, four University guest houses, many apartments, and borrowed housing in several private colleges.
For accommodations for students, contact ESU accommodation:
accommodation@esu.pd.it
0498941160
Via Tiepolo, 48 - 35129 Padova
Remind to ask for Ivan Campagnola
2. Cafeterias - are there any? what meals do they serve (i.e. all 3)? how do students pay - by meal, by month, by semester/term?
Yes, they are called canteens and they have many meals
3. Library space - how many libraries are there? what hours do they have? any restrictions for foreign students on access? particular strengths they might have in certain subjects?
Each discipline has its own and everyone has access
4. Student services/facilities - are there any other services available, such as academic advising centers, counseling centers, computer facilities, book stores, mail boxes, recreational/sports facilities, student clubs?
Yes for all
5. Classrooms - adequately lighted? decent upkeep?
Varies

ACADEMICS

1. Specialty subjects: what seems to be the strengths? Quality overall?
Engineering, Medicine, Sciences. Excellent
2. Professors - are they accessible to students? have office hours?
Not usually. Yes, but students don't usually go to.

3. **Classes** - are they mostly lecture by prof or is interaction encouraged? are there separate tutorial sessions for student/prof. interaction? how many times/hours a week do they meet typically? is the grading based primarily on a final exam or paper or does continuous assessment play a part in grades?

70 to 100 students in lectures with little interaction, no separate tutorial, meet varying times a week, grading based on mostly final exam for first-cycle students, papers are not typical, no continuous assessment. Grade scale is from 0 to 30 with an 18 needed to pass.

4. **Research** being worked on (especially where independent study might work) - is there a system where students could do an independent study? how does this work for a local student?

TBD

For courses held in English, you can check this page:

http://portale-unipd3.prod.cineca.it/unipdWAR/page/unipd_en/courses_en1/en_Book6_Page8

"Please take note that we have two 2nd Cycle Degree Courses completely taught in English: the brand new Local Development, which aims to train experts who can compete in the international Labour market, and Environmental Engineering, which aims to form engineers who are able both of developing programmes for the treatment and disposal of liquid, solid and gas wastes, and of preventing degradation and environmental risks."

ADMINISTRATION

1. **Application/Registration process** *TBD*

- a. Can foreign students register at same time as local students or must they wait until see if class space available?
- b. Can they register in more than one department at a time?
- c. Is there any drop/add type system?
- d. What deadlines are set for foreign student applications?
- e. Are there special forms foreign students must fill out?

2. **Foreign student services** *TBD*

- a. visas - what needed & who helps?
- b. counseling/adaptation/settling in help- is it available?
- c. meet at airport? who and how do we notify them?
- d. how many other intl. students there? primarily from what countries?
- e. where do students receive their mail? can they use the foreign student office address?

3. **Student activities/organizations?** What kinds and how do students find out about them & join?

Many

4. *No question given on form for this number*

5. **Grading/transcripts? Registrar?** *TBD*

- a. How do we request these and how does student later get originals if they need them for graduate school?

6. **Any other agreements with other universities?** who? what type - i.e. 1 to 1 exchange, partial exchange, uni-lateral?

7. **Campus contacts, with address, phone, fax, e-mail of such people as:**

*International Welcoming Office
Università degli Studi di Padova
International Welcome Office
Via San Francesco, 12
tel: 049 8273732
fax: 049 8273177
internationaloffice@unipd.it*

8. **Calendar dates, academic year:**

*End of September until Jan/Feb 6-week exam period, then March until June/July 6-week exam period
and can usually take exam any time within 6 weeks*

Arrival of students on site:

Orientation begins:

Classes begin:

Registration period: Begins:

Ends:

Semester/term break(s):

Classes end:

Examination period:

Second Semester/term classes begin:

Registration period:

Semester/term break(s):

Classes end:

Examination period:

Must move out of housing by:

LOCAL FACILITIES

1. **Bank(s)/Money** - can foreigners open accounts? can you wire money in either to bank or via Western Union? can credit cards be used? American express office near-by? how much money do you think students would need for daily expenses?

Mostly yes. TBD

2. **Restaurant(s) - what's near the university? price ranges in local terms (i.e. what's considered a cheap meal? what's an expensive meal?)**
Excellent food everywhere ! 10 to 40 Euro's.
3. **Markets/Pharmacies - any nearby? well-stocked with a variety of products? are American medicines/toiletries available? contact lens care products?**
Yes, yes, yes, yes
4. **Museums/theatres/arts - what's around? any student discounts available?**
Many!, yes, yes, yes.
5. **Telephoning: phones in dorms? phones near-by? do they need to have a special card to use a pay phone? must they go to a special tele-communications center to phone overseas? can collect calls be made? can phone credit cards be used?**
Varies
6. **Post offices: Is there one near-by? what's the rate for a letter to the US? Can students receive mail via the post-office (i.e. rent a box)? or is there some address they can use to receive mail at?**
Yes, cheap, yes, yes

HOMESTAYS

1. **Are they possible?**
Yes
2. **What are typical houses like?**
 - a. **private bedroom?**
Yes
 - b. **bathroom facilities?**
Maybe
 - c. **access to kitchen/cooking facilities?**
Yes
3. **Typical family structure- who would live in the house?**
Variable
4. **Differences around issues:**
 - a. **of privacy?**
Not much
 - b. **freedom for young people to come and go?**
No
 - c. **responsibilities for household chores?**
Not really
5. **Would our students have access to adequate transportation to university from home?**
Yes
6. **Ease of access by RD in case of emergency?**
Yes

BCA Site Assessment Questionnaire for Sapienza University in Rome

Completed by Dr. Joseph T. Wunderlich, Associate Professor of Engineering at Elizabethtown College after interviewing two "First-Cycle" (Undergraduate) Italian students and one Alumni, and after spending three days with graduate students facilitating a three-day conference where he presented

SITE QUESTIONS

HEALTH ISSUES (water, food, hospital/medical care) TBD

5. Is there a specific doctor that is recommended? (Name/address/phone)
6. Is there a specific hospital? (Name, why recommended, address/phone)
7. What special immunizations or other health documents are required by the University? for entry to the country?
8. Does the University provide health services?

SAFETY/SECURITY TBD

5. What is the access to police? how supportive would they be for a crime like rape?
6. What would it be like to get students out quickly? access to airports? trains? buses?
7. What are the top crimes & do they specifically target foreigners? women?
8. What is access to the campus like? does the univ have its own security?

The University is everywhere

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

6. Dorms- are they foreign student only dorms or do they live with local students? do student typically live in single rooms or some other type? do they provide cooking facilities if students wish to make their own food?

Every student is on their own – including International students

7. Cafeterias - are there any? what meals do they serve (i.e. all 3)? how do students pay - by meal, by month, by semester/term?

No

8. Library space - how many libraries are there? what hours do they have? any restrictions for foreign students on access? particular strengths they might have in certain subjects?

TBD

9. Student services/facilities - are there any other services available, such as academic advising centers, counseling centers, computer facilities, book stores, mail boxes, recreational/sports facilities, student clubs?

Yes

10. Classrooms - adequately lighted? decent upkeep?

No, very crowded, students often can't find seats and need to stand sit on floors – and there are no dedicated study spaces

ACADEMICS

5. Specialty subjects: what seems to be the strengths? Quality overall?

TBD

6. Professors - are they accessible to students? have office hours?

No

7. Classes - are they mostly lecture by prof or is interaction encouraged? are there separate tutorial sessions for student/prof. interaction? how many times/hours a week do they meet typically? is the grading based primarily on a final exam or paper or does continuous assessment play a part in grades?

80 to 125 students in lectures with no interaction, no separate tutorial, meet varying times a week, grading based on mostly final exam for first-cycle students, papers are not typical, no continuous assessment.

8. Research being worked on (especially where independent study might work) - is there a system where students could do an independent study? how does this work for a local student?

TBD

ADMINISTRATION

9. Application/Registration process *TBD*

- a. Can foreign students register at same time as local students or must they wait until see if class space available?
- b. Can they register in more than one department at a time?
- c. Is there any drop/add type system?
- d. What deadlines are set for foreign student applications?
- e. Are there special forms foreign students must fill out?

10. Foreign student services *TBD*

- a. visas - what needed & who helps?

BCA SITE ASSESSMENT AREAS OF INTEREST

(prolog to BCA site assessment form)

- A. Good will
1. Towards Americans in general? US Embassy/Univ relations?
 2. Towards our school in particular? towards our students?
 3. Towards concepts of international education & cooperation?
 4. Between local government & local university? govt. attitudes towards univ students?
- B. Tangibles
1. Climate
 2. Safety issues (Roads/Crime/Terrorism/General)
 3. Health issues (water, food, hospital/medical care)
 4. University/Program facilities
 - a. Housing
 - b. Classrooms
 - c. Library space
 - d. Student services (counseling, advising, intl. students)
 - e. Facilities (cafeterias, gyms, health ctr)
- C. Academically
1. Specialty subjects & general course quality
 2. Professors (qualifications & teaching standards.)
 3. Books (general availability & student access)
 4. Research being worked on (especially where independent study might work)
 5. Restructuring curriculum??
- D. Administratively
1. Application/Registration process
 2. Foreign student services
 - a. visas - what needed & who helps?
 - b. counseling/adaptation/settling in help?
 - c. meet at airport?
 - d. other intl. students there?
 3. Housing service?
 4. Student activities/organizations they can join?
 5. Grading/transcripts? Registrar?
 6. Any other agreements with other universities? who? what type?
 7. Program contacts, with address, phone, fax, e-mail
 8. Calendar dates, academic year
- E. Culturally
1. Religion(s)
 2. Language(s)
 3. Political climate
 4. Museums/theatres/arts
 4. Ideas about:
 - a. status of women
 - b. education
 - c. ideas of human nature
 - d. ideas of time
 - e. hierarchy/formality