

# MADE Pre-Departure Checklist

## 1. Get Your Passport

- a. Apply for a passport ASAP! Processing times vary and can take more than 8 weeks.
- b. Make sure that your passport is valid at least 6 months beyond the program end date
- c. For more information on passport requirements and processing times, please visit the US Department of State Website.  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

## 2. Get Your Visa (if needed)

- a. Refer to MADE Student Visa Information here
- b. All U.S. citizens who intend to study in Italy for more than 90 days are required to obtain a student visa.
- c. <https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/en/chi-siamo/la-rete-consolare/>

## 3. Book Your Flights

- a. Plan to arrive in Italy on the program start date
- b. Flights typically land in Italy the day after departure from the US
- c. Catania Fontanarossa Airport (CTA) is the closest to Siracusa
- d. MADE provides airport transfer for all programs. You may also take the bus from the Catania Airport to Siracusa. InterBus runs between Siracusa and the Catania Airport hourly.
  - i. [www.interbus.it](http://www.interbus.it)
  - ii. €6.20 from Catania Airport to Siracusa
  - iii. 55 mins

## 4. Prepare Your Health & Safety

- a. Register with [STEP](#)
- b. Visit Doctors/Dentist
- c. Arrange any prescription medication for the entire length of the program
- d. [CDC health/wellness packing recommendations](#)

## 5. Cultural Differences & Culture Shock

- a. Learn more about the Italian language and culture
- b. Research news and current events - Create a Google News alert

## 6. Finances

- a. Create a budget

- b. Obtain 100 euro in cash prior to departure
- c. Inform your bank of your travel plans
- d. Find a bank with limited foreign transaction fees
- e. Make copies of your credit/debit cards

## **7. Packing**

- a. Review airline luggage restrictions
- b. Don't pack more than you can carry yourself
- c. Take pictures and make copies of important documents
  - i. Passport
  - ii. Visa
  - iii. Passport style photos
  - iv. Insurance information
  - v. Credit card(s)
  - vi. Acceptance letter from MADE
- d. Converters/Adapters
- e. Portable Charger
- f. Comfortable walking shoes
- g. Prepare for delayed/lost checked bag - Pack essentials in your carry on
- h. Remember that you can buy almost anything you need in Siracusa!

## **8. Technology & Keeping in Touch**

- a. Research options for international data:
  - i. Review the options that your current US cell phone provider has for international coverage. Commons plans:
    - 1. AT&T: additional \$10 per day
    - 2. Verizon: additional \$10 per day or additional \$100 per month
    - 3. T Mobile: \$50 per month
  - ii. Another option that is popular with students on long term/semester programs is to utilize a local Italian SIM card on their current phone. One popular provider in Italy is TIM
  - iii. Finally, since MADE campus and accommodations will be equipped with WiFi, you could consider using WhatsApp when on WiFi.
- b. Download WhatsApp to communicate with locals
- c. Set communication expectations with loved ones at home
- d. Get your laptop insured

## **9. Academics**

- a. Meet with your academic advisor prior to departure
- b. Get 7-10 courses pre-approved by your home institution just in case
- c. Review MADE academic and attendance policies

## **10. Setting Goals**

- a. Spend some time thinking about what you hope to get out of your study abroad experience