



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Lungarno A. Vespucci, 38
50123 Florence, Italy

April 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Nestled in the heart of Tuscany, with its rich cultural history, world-famous cuisine, and fashion-forward outlook, it is no surprise that Florence is regularly ranked as a top tourist destination and remains one of the most attractive cities for U.S. study abroad programs. In fact, Florence hosts one of the largest concentrations of American study abroad programs, with over 50 U.S. schools hosting thousands of American students each year.

American students also play an important role in the strengthening of U.S.-Italy ties both during their stay and beyond. While in Florence, American students are citizen Ambassadors representing the United States; when they return home, they become Ambassadors of the U.S.-Italy partnership, encouraging other to follow in their footsteps. Cultural exchange is a cornerstone of the U.S.-Italy bilateral relationship. The thriving academic and cultural exchange between our countries have enhanced transatlantic ties for centuries. Today, even in the face of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the virtuous cycle continues.

The U.S. Consulate General in Florence welcomes the city of Florence's efforts to make it easier for students and tourists to enjoy the city's many cultural offerings. Be.Long by Destination Florence is a dynamic and innovative initiative of the city of Florence's tourism promotion agency, Destination Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau. Working in concert with Florence's premiere institutions, Be.Long is a unique platform which provides students with the information they need to become fully-integrated and active members of the Florentine community and enjoy the city to its fullest. The U.S. Consulate General in Florence supports initiatives like Be.Long that enhance U.S.-Italy cultural and educational exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ragini Gupta', written over a horizontal line.

Ragini Gupta
Consul General