Colby Office of Off-Campus Study

LANGUAGE POLICY MODIFICATION/EXCEPTION FOR STUDY IN ITALY
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20

Colby policy is that students who wish to study in a country where the spoken language is taught at Colby are expected to complete the equivalent of three semesters (through 127) of the given language (Spanish, German, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Russian). Colby believes that foreign languages are the key to understanding foreign cultures and that the most rewarding experience abroad includes living in and speaking a language other than English.

Off-Campus Study will accept requests for modifications/exceptions to the language policy for programs in Italy. This is due to the difficulty Colby students have in enrolling in beginning Italian courses, and meeting the prerequisite of three semesters of Italian in order to study in Italy. This change in practice is not a guarantee that an exception will be granted.

A meeting with Off-Campus Study is required.

YOUR PETITION TO THE OCS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE:

1. The completed and submitted online Colby Application for Approval form for the specific program(s). (We recommend submitting a backup application for another program in case your petition is not approved)

2. A statement of petition (approx. 200 words) within the online application form addressing the issues/questions listed below.

   Petitions will be considered on the basis of how successfully the student has demonstrated the following:
   • A statement of academic justification for your choice of program in Italy addressing reasons why this particular study abroad program in Italy meets academic needs that cannot be met by another program or location (For example: an art major desiring to study art in Florence). Clearly identify the name of the program on which you wish to study. It is recommended that you choose programs from the list already approved/recommended by Colby.
   • A summary of your Italian language training thus far, including College or high school level Italian and an explanation of why you will not have the required level in Italian before departure.
   • An outline of how you plan to take some Italian language (on or off-campus) prior to going to Italy.
   • A summary and proof of your training in another Romance language such as Spanish, French, Latin, Portuguese, Romanian, or Catalan.

3. A statement of approval from the student’s faculty advisor(s) within the comment section of the student’s online application form or in an email to OCS.

If your petition is approved, you will be required to study Italian for the duration of your studies in Italy.

Please note: Students are allowed to petition the Advisory Committee one time only. Please be sure that you make the best case you possibly can in your initial submission, including faculty recommendations and any additional input you may deem useful by supportive faculty members. The entire petition must be complete before it is given to the committee.

*No additional information will be considered after the original submission date.