

Medical Issues Health concerns can arise unexpectedly at any time, and while we all hope that we will all stay healthy during our time in Rome, it is important to know that you have appropriate insurance coverage while you are abroad. You are required to purchase the UW Study Abroad Insurance Plan. More information is on the Study Abroad Website. You need to carry your insurance card and know what needs to be done to get the right care and coverage under the policy.

In case of illness in Rome, the Rome Center can help with unexpected medical problems. You will receive a briefing on this during your first week in Rome. You will be notified of who to contact in case of illness, and how to obtain care. Your program director needs to be notified of any serious issues that might require a hospital visit or prevent you from attending program events.

You will need to have access to Euros in cash to use in case you need to visit a doctor or need short term medical help. This should normally be no more than 200 Euros per visit. You should eventually be reimbursed by your health insurance provider but this may take time. Medical care and prescription cost in Europe is rather low by US standards, but you still need the cash to pay for them.

The Rome Center and the UW Program does not have cash available to pay for your doctor or pharmacy visits, or to give you short term loans. If you see a doctor in Rome and medications are prescribed, this can be filled at a local pharmacy, and you will be required to pay at the time of receipt.

For general medications, such as aspirin, ibuprofen, allergy control medicines, etc. these are cheaper in the U.S., so it is best to pack a modest supply of what you will need. If you are carrying any prescription medications, make sure to carry a copy of your prescription in case someone at customs asks.

Prescription Medications: It is critically important for you to arrive in Rome with all the prescription medication you will need for your stay in Europe. This can be difficult if your doctor or pharmacy in the US will only give you 30 days advance medication. This means that a few months advance planning before you leave is important. Italian drug laws are very different than the US, some US medications are illegal in Italy. Do not plan on having someone mail your prescription medications to you in Rome, the incoming parcels may be searched and the contents confiscated.