

The Association of Italian American Educators



announces the

Programma Ponte Scholarship

(July 2016 - Specific
dates TBA)

A four-week program of study in Rome, Italy that offers a unique academic, cultural and language opportunity and the following courses:

Contemporary Italy, European Institutions and USA Relations (in Italian)

This course consists of an in-depth analysis of the political, economic and social realities that resulted in the formation of the Italian Republic in 1948 and laid the foundation for European integration. Italy's role in the European Union and the relationship with the United States are examined. Differences in present day political and economic systems are studied for comparison purposes to enable students to develop insight into the factors impacting EU and USA relations. Classroom lectures are supplemented with visits to related institutions, relevant museums and historic sites. Past visits have included: a tour of the Chamber of Deputies and its Library and the opportunity to discuss current issues with Italian congressmen, a visit to the European Commission and lecture with its director, a presentation on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by journalist Giuliana Sgrena, lectures at influential labor unions, and a tour and lecture at Italy's official National News Service, ANSA.

Italy: Past Foundations, Present Realities (in Italian)

This course traces the development of Italian civilization from the founding of Rome in 753 BC to the establishment of the Republic in 1948. Students analyze the social, political and economic structures in Ancient Rome and consider their influence on contemporary Italian society. Classroom lectures are supplemented with guided visits to major archeological sites. Formal instruction during on-site visits to contemporary institutions provides students with direct knowledge of current practices in political, economic and social organizations. Past visits have included: the Coliseum, the Church of San Clemente, the Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, and Hadrian's villa.

NB Each course consists of 45 hours of instruction and yields 3 credits.

Additional information about the Programma Ponte Scholarships can be obtained at PonteApps@gmail.com or by emailing inquiries to cleonardi1@yahoo.com

SPONSORS

The Programma Ponte, now in its eighteenth year, is a collaborative initiative, sponsored by the **Association of Italian American Educators (AIAE)**, the **Federazione Nazionale dei Cavalieri del Lavoro (FNCL)** and the **Istituto Superiore per la Comunicazione e l'Opinione Pubblica (ISCOP)**, associated with the Department of Social Sciences of the **Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas**, Rome, Italy.

The number of scholarships awarded is dependent upon the availability of room and board at the *Residenza dei Cavalieri del Lavoro*, located at Via Giuseppe Saredo, 74 in Cinecittà, Rome.

RELATED EXPENSES: The Programma Ponte scholarship covers room and board at the *Residenza dei Cavalieri del Lavoro* in Cinecittà. It does not include university fees, airfare, or personal/weekend travel money. Due to fees imposed by the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, each student must pay registration and tuition fees in the amount of **365 EURO**. The scholarship begins in Rome on the first day of class and ends after exam day.

ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be 19-24 years of age and an undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited four-year college or university, of any major discipline, with a GPA of 3.5 or above. He/she must have one parent or grandparent of Italian ancestry and possess substantial understanding of and fluency in the Italian language, as evinced by having completed one intermediate course in Italian or by demonstrating fluency during the interview process. Although Programma Ponte is not inherently a language program, it is of *paramount importance* that each student be willing and able to immerse themselves and utilize their time in Rome by conversing *in Italian* with their peers, professors, and with Italians in general.

NB: Each scholarship recipient must pay registration and tuition fees and complete the two above-mentioned courses whether or not his/her college or university will accept a transfer of credit. It is recommended that students obtain the approval of the Registrar/Study Abroad Office as soon as they are notified of being accepted into the program.

DEADLINE: The complete application with all required documents must be submitted on-line to cleonardi1@yahoo.com no later than **February 15, 2016**.

INTERVIEW: Applicant finalists will be invited to an interview by the end of the first week in March 2016 at the AIAE office at Hofstra University or via Skype (exact date and place TBA). The interview is mandatory and will be conducted in Italian. Each student's language ability is assessed in order to ensure that participants are adequately prepared to meet the academic and linguistic demands of the program. Invitation to interview does not guarantee selection. Candidates will be notified of their acceptance to the program by the end of January.

GALA: The 2016 scholarship recipients are expected to attend this event at which they will be recognized for their achievement. It will take place on Sunday May 1, 2016 at Noon and will be held at the Chateaubriand in Westbury, NY.

ORIENTATION: The orientation will take place at Chateaubriand immediately preceding the annual AIAE fundraising gala event.

STUDENT HEALTH DISCLOSURE: All those selected to participate in the program will be asked to disclose any pre-existing medical condition as well as any medications that are prescribed.

AIAE Programma Ponte Italian American Scholarship Program Application

Mission Statement

Programma Ponte is a program of study designed to give students of Italian American heritage first-hand experience with Italy today through course work, visits to important Italian and European institutions and direct contact with the Italian people. Participants are expected to establish lasting connections and develop their respective roles as bi-cultural ambassadors.

The following information is to be forwarded via e mail to cleonardi1@yahoo.com :

- 1) Official and current college transcript
- 2) Two letters of recommendation (on official letterhead) – at least one from a college or university professor
- 3) Two passport-sized photos (at least one displaying formal attire)
- 4) The application found below
- 5) One–page resume
- 6) An essay of no more than 500 words in English or Italian that includes a brief biography, why you are a strong candidate for the program, and how you foresee that this study abroad experience in Rome, Italy will enhance your personal, academic and professional life.
- 7) A writing sample (research paper, term paper, etc.) completed preferably at the college level demonstrating analytical and writing abilities.

Programma Ponte 2016

Name _____ **Today's Date** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Place of Birth** _____

Passport # _____

Italian Ancestry (relative(s) and provenance) _____

College Address _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Cell Phone _____

Number of credits completed to date _____ **GPA** _____ **Class (fr, soph, jr, sr)** _____

Major(s) _____ **Minor(s)** _____

Italian courses completed _____

Letters of recommendation (on official letterhead)

1) Name: _____ **Relation to applicant:** _____

2) Name: _____ **Relation to applicant:** _____

Please provide the following information for the person in the Office of the Registrar at your college/university responsible for receiving the official transcript.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Lastly, how did you hear about Programma Ponte?