

Faculty of Design - GDES Interdisciplinary Studio

OCAD U Study Abroad - Summer 2018" – Venice & Florence

GDES-3108 The Future of Inhabited Form

Faculty: Teaching: Professor Stuart Reid/ Professor Doreen Balabanoff

Contact: sreid@faculty.ocadu.ca or dbalabanoff@faculty.ocadu.ca

Summer Intensive Course - 4 Weeks, 1.0 credit (equivalent to two elective studio courses)

May 28 - June 24

- First week in Venice and environs: official start date Monday May 28 (first meeting and orientation in Venice Sunday May 27)
- Visits to Padua, Vicenza, etc: en route to Florence (June 1-3)
- 3 weeks at Florence Studio (June 4 - June 24) (including visits to diverse local sites of interest).
- Final Critique and Exhibition June 22-23; Clean-up June 24; Departure Monday June 25

You are expected to be 'in class' every day, usually from 9:30 to approx. 7 pm (with lunch breaks etc) In-studio classes run *all day every day* except weekends (usually). However, we may not be in studio, we may be visiting a broad variety of various sites of interest (art, architecture, design and more) – either for full days or for parts of our daily schedule. We will provide schedules in advance, and update plans and information daily in the studio (as there is a need for flexibility). Weekends will generally be 'free' time, though optional group daytrips may be planned during weekends, to cities/locales/sites of interest around Florence.

In the first week we will be visiting the Venice Biennale Architecture – [file:///localhost/<http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2018/16th-international-architecture-exhibition>](http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2018/16th-international-architecture-exhibition) – a comprehensive education in itself – and diverse other sites of interest in Venice. We will then travel together to Florence, stopping at several cities/sites not far from Venice. In Florence, we will settle into our studio space, where each student will have their own work table and wall space, in a room with several other students. and where there is a meeting room, a sofa, and modest snack/food capacity (e.g. sink, fridge, microwave). At end of the fourth week, we will have a final critique, possibly an 'open studio' day 'exhibition' for visitors, a celebration, and then we will all clean/restore the studio spaces together (no early departures allowed).

We aim to have an exhibition of student work from the course in the Fall term, at OCADU or other appropriate venue.

Note: The course *may not run* if the minimum number of students do not *register and pay all tuition and fees by deadlines*. In the case that the course does not run, all deposits and payments will be returned to students. Students paying the initial deposit (see below) who wish to later withdraw *will forfeit* the deposit.

SCHEDULE for Information, Application and Registration

Thursday January 18 Info Session Rm 530, 5th floor, 100 McCaul 11 am – 1 pm

TBA: Financial Aid Info Session(s)

Sunday Feb. 10 (midnight) Application Deadline: Submit digital portfolio and statement of intent/interest (see below for requirements).

Sunday Feb. 17 (latest) Notification of acceptance status (we aim to let you know sooner if possible)

Friday March 9 Deadline for First Deposit (see below) (note: this is our first indication of whether or not the course will actually run, and number of students committed to going), It is not recommended to book/pay for any travel or accommodation before the deadline for full registration/tuition payment.

Friday April 6 Deadline for Full Registration and Tuition Fees (this date may change, tba)

April/May (dates/times TBA) Pre-travel info sessions with registered students; Students working with each other to find/book accommodation.

A sample Student Budget:

*Note: Not included in the budget below are the usual expenses that *would not change whether student was abroad or in Toronto*. These include Summer Tuition/Fees 2018, as usual, for 1.0 credit (equivalent to 2 undergrad .5 studios) and any materials, supplies, printing etc. used in studio production.

Study Abroad Expenses (approximate): note: airfare, accommodation and food could be less (or more) depending on student sharing (or not), and various needs and/or preferences, and economic situations. It depends on how soon you book, and how good you are at finding bargains! And how much you prepare food, or eat out, etc.*

Airfare/Travel	\$1,000
Accommodation (arranged/shared by students) x 28 nights	\$2,000
Venice-Florence (train)	\$ 100
Food \$20/day x 28 days	\$ 560
Venue costs (class entry to museums etc.)	\$ 150
Administrative fee \$ 500+/- (exact fee tba)	\$ 500

approximate budget (<u>not including tuition and fees</u>)	\$4,210

Financial Aid: There will be some scholarships/bursaries awarded to aid several students in participating.

An application form indicating financial need will be required. We will have a specific info session on Financial Aid for interested students.

Note: OSAP students taking a full course load spread over the summer term are eligible for OSAP funding for the term. Financial Aid will advise further on this at an info session. This means one more course at OCADU later in the summer could be a valuable addition for some students.

Note: Some students have told us that achieving the 1.0 credit in 4 weeks allows a lighter load during the Fall and Winter term, and facilitates more income capacity and/or more focused academic work during the school year.

On the course content:

The course utilizes individual exploration, group charettes, social engagement, and site visits to old and new spaces/places. Studio practices as well as diverse readings and research strategies will be used to raise questions and explore imaginative and energetic answers concerning the future of inhabited form – that is, the re-imagining of any of the following: our relationship with the environment, whether city, urban ecology or dwelling place; the complexities of getting along with diverse peoples and cultures; the way we use and develop objects and environments; our understandings of connection to the earth and the cosmos; new modes of thinking, creating, and sharing, through deployment of new technologies.

This interdisciplinary studio requires immersion and a sustained, focused attention upon the work at hand. It offers a very different experience to the usual academic term, where each project must happen in fits and starts, and attention is divided across multiple courses and working situations. It is an intensive creative and multi-disciplinary in-studio investigation, fertilized by a surrounding environment of great richness, depth and diversity. Students on similar previous Study Abroad courses described their experience as life-changing. We hope this course will be similar in impact for the group who takes up this exciting learning opportunity.

FAQ's:

1) Are there any academic restrictions or requirements to qualify for this course?

You must have a **70% average (overall)** at time of application (Feb. 10 deadline) (or close) and must be **eligible to take 3rd year courses** by end of this Winter Term. Please consult with the Faculty of Design or the Registrar's office if you are not sure whether you will qualify. Discuss with us if you have concerns or questions.

2) Accommodation: where will students stay in Venice and Florence?

Students will book their own accommodation. Connections made at our info sessions (once students are accepted into the course) will afford collaboration on this so that students are staying together in groups.

3) How do I submit an application?

A **portfolio and statement of intent** must be submitted via e-mail to sreid@faculty.ocadu.ca by **February 10** at midnight (see below concerning what is required).

4) When will I be notified about acceptance? How many students will be accepted?

Notifications re acceptance/waiting list: not later than **Sunday February 17, 2018** by midnight. The course requires students with serious interest/commitment – and capacity for an intensive workload and fast-paced experience. Maximum possible enrollment 18 students – but we are aiming for 14-16 students. Once selection is completed a waiting list will be maintained if necessary and will inform applicants (in order of ranked selection process) as soon as any openings occur.

5) When do I have to confirm I'm going and pay tuition and fees?

Deposit of \$500 Friday, March 9 (before 3 pm). Full Registration and Tuition/Fees by latest Friday April 6. More info will be sent upon acceptance.

6) How much free time will I have in Venice and Florence?

Very little! - as this is a 4 week 1.0 credit course it is an 'intensive' learning experience - you will be

working full time on one project - and expected to spend 6 out of 7 days developing your work. HOWEVER, we will spend a fair amount of that time outside the studio: exhibitions, site visits, tours, and other group activities will occur throughout the four weeks, as part of the learning experience. *Evenings and weekends are generally free*, with some optional group events or tours. Students wishing to further explore/travel are encouraged to plan travel before and after the four weeks of the course. Sometimes even your evenings will be spent doing course work...for the next day (Remember the 1.0 credit).

7) Where will we do our studio work?

Largely at the Florence studio, where everyone will have their own desk and wall area as studio space. Before we arrive there, in the first week, you will be visiting exhibitions, gathering for discussion sessions, taking notes and documenting your experience as part of your practice-based process work. We may occupy student spaces at the Biennale if feasible and suitable to our schedule.

8) What about flight bookings?

You will book your own flight.

9) What are the portfolio submission requirements and how do I submit?

This is a design studio, so we expect to see images and notes regarding design or art projects that showcase your creative processes of researching, thinking, planning, making, designing, and developing practice-based work. We would like to find out more about you, as a creative person – how you think, what you think about, and what you like to do/make/consider.

- Please provide a statement of interest: What interests you about this course? Do you have thoughts about The Future of Inhabited Form as a topic of interest for you?
- Provide ONE compiled pdf document showing 3-5 of your best projects – or send a link to an online portfolio. Put Future of Inhabited Form Application in the subject of the email. Name the file with your full name included. For each project give a title, a short description of the project brief. If the file is large, use WeTransfer: <https://wetransfer.com/> To email, try to compress the file to not larger than 25 MB, and try to keep overall to not more than 50 MB.

Examples of description of projects:

Project Brief: *Small ecological habitat/dwelling for myself for one year, on a specific site in Toronto*

Studio Assignment: *A set of drawings addressing issues of human representation and embodied experience*

Project: *An independent study investigating urban ecology issues in large Canadian cities*

Show several pages of images and brief text as needed, and include any design process images that show your working processes.

10) What is the selection criteria for students?

We are looking for very motivated and diligent students who are capable of handling the intensive mode of working that the course utilises. Therefore we will look at not only quality and relevance of work shown in the portfolio, and capacity to present your work well, but may also look at your marks. To be successful in the course, you need a balance of competencies across analog and digital media – so please show these in your portfolio.