Study abroad is widely recognized as an experience of personal, academic, and professional growth that gives recent graduates an edge in the job market. For this reason, each fall and spring, Umbra staff hosts an Unpacking Your International Experience Career Workshop, with a particular focus on competencies acquired through community engagement.

Based on research, Umbra recognizes that the following employability skills are often developed while students are in Perugia:

- Teamwork,
- Customer focus,
- Diligence,
- Quick thinking,
- Learning agility,
- and Creative Insight.

Umbra students often self-report that their study abroad experience has contributed to their development of cultural competencies (e.g. valuing diversity and improving intercultural understanding). Furthermore, it has cultivated their listening and problem-solving skills, as well as helping them become more self-aware and independent.

To get the most out of your time in Perugia, we suggest you set your goals for study abroad and work with your advisors to design the ideal curriculum for you.

For any questions about courses and activities that can help you actively accomplish your goals, visit www.umbra.org or contact info@umbra.org.

Piazza IV Novembre, 23
06123 Perugia, Italy
www.umbra.org
Service learning projects change semesterly, but previous ones have included:

• Photography students to collaborate with a local social co-operative that trains workers with special needs to make handmade leather goods, which are photographed. Photos were used for print and online promotion by the co-operative.

• Business students to advise a fashion company in creating cashmere cellphone cases for sustainable purposes, using leftover production materials.

• Sustainability students to work with local restaurants and government to introduce biodegradable to-go boxes to Perugia through the repEAT Box Project.

• Psychology students to work with refugees and other immigrants at a local immigration center, discussing topics of intercultural differences and determining best practices for cultural integration.

Seminar & practicum courses, or academic internships, give students the opportunity to work for 30 hours during the semester in their chosen field of study. Some of the most popular options include:

- Critical Disabilities Studies
  Work with VIVA Sports Association, an athletic program for kids and adults with motor and/or intellectual disabilities to manage athletic activities.

- Education in Italy
  Examine educational psychology, pedagogical models, and English language teaching methods. Work closely with English language teachers and local elementary, middle, and or high school students to assist with lesson planning and classroom instruction.

- Museum Studies
  Work in local museums to learn the ins and outs of operating a museum, creating promotional materials, giving guided tours in English, and preparing exhibitions.

In studying sustainable urban development, students have studied the history of Perugia and how the past shaped the cultural, political, and social landscape of the modern city. They then worked closely with local activists and organizations on projects designed to mold urban spaces into friendly and inclusive communities.

These are 3-credit elective courses divided into two parts – the seminar, or in-class lectures, and the practicum, or applied work experience with a local institution in Perugia. Both components complement one another to provide hands-on experience and theoretical knowledge in your chosen field of study.

INTERNSHIPS

Umbra offers unpaid and credit-bearing internships upon request to mature and motivated students.

In the past, students have interned at the local University for Foreigners, wineries, fashion companies, and more. Interested candidates should contact info@umbra.org.

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

Service is part of every academic internship, giving students the opportunity to work for 30 hours during the semester in their chosen field of study. Some of the most popular options include:

- Critical Disabilities Studies
  Work with VIVA Sports Association, an athletic program for kids and adults with motor and/or intellectual disabilities to manage athletic activities.

- Education in Italy
  Examine educational psychology, pedagogical models, and English language teaching methods. Work closely with English language teachers and local elementary, middle, and or high school students to assist with lesson planning and classroom instruction.

- Museum Studies
  Work in local museums to learn the ins and outs of operating a museum, creating promotional materials, giving guided tours in English, and preparing exhibitions.

SERVICE LEARNING & COMMUNITY-BASED COURSES

Service learning pairs critical thinking, academic theory, and personal reflection with service in the host community. Many Umbra courses include a service learning component that allows students to become active participants in community partner projects. Students gain real-world experience in an international environment, innovative skills in problem solving and intercultural communication, along with a sense of the purpose for learning and respect for others.

Community-based courses prepare students for engaged citizenship, leadership, and community participation by utilizing comparative readings and discussions, participatory field research, and exercise with the local community to understand the relationships between people, places, actions, and values. Students learn to address real-world issues and community needs and interests.