

URGENT PASSPORT INFORMATION

Because you must have a visa to study in Italy, and because a visa is a stamp in your passport, you **MUST** have a passport that will remain valid at least three months beyond your departure from Italy in June of 2011.

If you do not have a passport, **or** if yours will expire during the time it needs to remain valid **or** does not have a blank page remaining in the “visas” section, go immediately to this Web site to learn how to get/renew your passport:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Note that the newly-available Passport Card **may not be used for air travel**. You need the traditional **Passport Book**.

As summer approaches, passport issuing time has traditionally lengthened, and with new U.S. law requiring passports for travel to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, the delay has increased. The Passport Office now estimates a 4- to 6-week wait for a passport, but remember that you will need to get a student visa for Italy, a process that takes several more weeks. **We strongly urge you to begin the application process NOW so that you can avoid worry and the extra expense of using expedited service (at an additional cost of \$60) plus overnight delivery and return.**

If you have any passport-related questions, immediately contact the Office of International Programs at (540) 568-6419 or write <studyabroad@jmu.edu>.