

Draft Letter Regarding Fingerprinting for Italian Visas

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as [President/Provost/Other...] of [Full name of the US University or College], I wish to draw your attention to the dire consequences that the implementation of the new obligation to collect fingerprinting from US students requesting a D Visa for study purposes in Italy will immediately cause for many academic institutions: a very negative impact on our study abroad programs in Italy.

Our Institution has been sending its students to Italy for many years now [state the location of the study abroad program in Italy, if existing – and give an indication of the enrollments for 2023 and 2024, if possible], with great satisfaction on the part of our student and faculty community, and a sizeable economic impact on the places where students reside and study, both in terms of our direct investments and for student expenditures there.

When our students plan to stay for more than 90 days in Italy, the applicable D Visa is then required and, so far, the specific “batch” procedure has been key to the success of our programs in Italy. Now, if effective January 2025, such a procedure will no longer be possible due to the new fingerprinting obligation, forcing our students to personally appear at the Consulate for this purpose. I am afraid that serious problems will arise, with potential disastrous consequences for our study abroad program in Italy.

Actually, It would be highly unlikely, if not impossible, for the hundreds of students of ours to personally come to the Consulate, both for organizational reasons (securing individual appointments at the Consulate with due advance) and practical reasons (the costs of travelling to the Consulate, the objective distance of the Consulate from our campus); and reducing our study abroad program to a duration that would not exceed 90 days to avoid the D Visa obligation would be highly penalizing for the academic quality of our program, and, therefore, totally unacceptable for our academic community.

Our Institution is, therefore, seeking viable and feasible solutions to allow full compliance with the new Italian legislation. We are fully open to take into consideration with your office any possible option in this regard.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Please accept our assurances of our highest consideration of the situation currently at hand.

Yours sincerely,

Signature and Title