

Encounter the schools of REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY

U.S. Students and Professors Study Group (PSU 3-credit course)

March 24 -29, 2018 (Pre-Register by November 1, 2017)

Overview

The [PSU Master's Degree in Early Childhood Program](#) and the [Helen Gordon Child Development Center](#) have drawn inspiration from the innovative early childhood programs in Reggio Emilia, Italy for many years. This study group is designed specifically for small groups of students and accompanying professors whose work with students at U.S. colleges and universities is influenced by the Reggio Emilia Approach to education. We view this study group and the associated 3-credit elective course as an opportunity to engage deeply in social-constructivist, inquiry-based education through opportunities to dialogue with the Italian educators and visit their schools. The experience in Italy emphasizes the importance of family, community, and cultural contexts in creating responsive and equitable schools. This tour is also a unique opportunity for you to interact face-to-face with faculty and students in our Early Childhood program.

World Renowned Schools

The experience of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of Reggio Emilia is the subject of interest, research and exchange on the part of students, teachers, teacher educators, researchers, administrators, and political and cultural figures from all over Italy and throughout the world. The context and history of this community is highly regarded, rooted in not only pedagogical choices but also political, cultural and ethical choices made following WWII in support of a new democratic society.



Study Group Program Highlights

- Meeting and welcome lunch on Sunday March 25 followed by a walking tour of the town.
- Visits to the Preschools and Infant Toddler Centers of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia
- Presentations by pedagogistas, atelieristas and teachers on the history, identity and principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach to education and the essential elements in the daily life of the schools.
- Interweaving of theoretical talks, presentations and analysis of projects that document experiences realized inside the schools.
- Time at the Loris Malaguzzi International Center exploring the Ateliers, Bookshop, Documentation and Educational Research Center and current Exhibitions.
- Opportunities for discussion among students and professors to share information about their own context and Reggio-related coursework at U.S. colleges and universities.

International Meeting Place

The venue for the study group is the Loris Malaguzzi International Center, which opened in February 2006 and now encompasses an International Preschool and Primary School. As described by Carlina Rinaldi, President of Reggio Children Foundation- Loris Malaguzzi Center, *"It was created to give greater value to a strong and distinctive characteristic of Reggio Emilia; the ability to lend listening, visibility and support to the rights and requests of children, young people, families and teachers. The Center is a dedicated meeting place where professional development and research intersect for people in Reggio Emilia, Italy and the world who wish to innovate education and culture."*



Prior Preparation

Students will become familiar with the history and fundamental principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach so that they have a contextual framework before being immersed in the actual experience. Opportunities for dialogue and exchange among the group and with educators in Reggio Emilia will offer students many possibilities for gaining a deeper understanding of the history, challenges, strategies and accomplishments of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools. Recommended Reference: *"Indications Preschools and Infant Toddler Centres of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia"* published by Reggio Children <http://www.learningmaterialswork.com>.

Costs still to be determined:

The PSU Study Abroad fees will be included as the full budget is determined.

Approximation of costs: \$3300 to study abroad for 3-credit course, housing, mandatory international medical, and a few other university fees.

Then, you will cover on your own: airfare, food (breakfast and some lunches are covered already), trains, taxis, and fun money.

(Note: A \$100 discount against the housing fee is offered to NAREA members. For membership information please visit: www.reggioalliance.org. Annual student membership is \$50; regular membership is \$75.)

Meals & Hotel Accommodations

Buffet style breakfast is offered daily at all hotels. In addition to the welcome lunch on Sunday, lunch is provided on the 3 days during the program. Accommodations for 5 nights are included from check-in on **Saturday, March 24** to check-out on **Thursday, March 29**. The PSU contingent will be accommodated at one of several hotels within walking distance to the International Center including: Hotel San Marco www.hotelsanmarco-re.it on Piazzale Marconi, 1, Albergo Morandi www.albergomorandi.com on Via Emilia S. Pietro 64, Albergo Reggio www.albergoreggio.it on Via San Giuseppe 7 and B&B del Vescovado <http://www.delvescovado.it/home.html> on Via Del Vescovado, 1.

PSU Credit – The Course

All participants are registered for the 3-credit course CI 410/510 Reggio Emilia Study Tour, which may be used as an elective in the Master's program or as a substitute for other classes as approved by your academic adviser. This course offers a study tour trip to Reggio Emilia, Italy and helps students to focus their learning within a dialogue framework with Reggio and U.S. Educators. The study tour offers participants time to observe classrooms in action, visitations to many schools, daily dialogue with parents, teachers, and other educators, and reflection about one's own practice. This class picks up on the students' participation by asking them to look deeply at their own practices and beliefs and professionally develop amidst innovative early childhood inspired principles and practices.

Questions and Indicating Your Interest

Contact Dr. Will Parnell (parnellw@pdx.edu) or Dr. John Nimmo (jnimmo@pdx.edu) with questions and complete the following [Google form](#) indicating your interest in the Study Tour.

Registration & Payment

To reserve a space, submission of a Registration Form and \$500 deposit per person is required by **November 1, 2017** along with a signed Travel Agreement. This is done through the PSU Study Abroad offices once you have filled in your Study Aboard application. These forms are still being finalized but should be available soon. Make sure to register your interest in the Study Tour on the [Google form](#).

Flight & Travel Arrangements

Participants are responsible for their flight and travel arrangements, including ground transportation between the arrival airport and Reggio Emilia. Bologna Marconi is the most convenient airport to reach Reggio Emilia. Alternatively, you could fly into Milan Malpensa or Milan Linate. Participants should arrange to fly on Friday, March 23, arriving in Reggio Emilia on Saturday, March 24 (departure from the U.S. is one day prior to arrival in Italy). Our first group gathering in Reggio Emilia will be the introductory meeting and welcome lunch on Sunday, March 25.

Please Note: It is recommended to be at the airport **at least 2 hours** before your scheduled flight departure time. If driving or by taxi/car service from Reggio Emilia, it takes approximately **45 mins.** to reach Bologna Airport and **2 ½ hours** to reach Milan Malpensa or Linate Airports depending on traffic conditions. Allow more time if traveling to/from either airport by train and **check train schedules in advance.**

Airport Pick Up Service

Assistance with making private ground transportation arrangements between the airport and Reggio Emilia for groups traveling together is available upon request. Cost is additional.

Photography & Videotape Policy

For privacy issues, participants are not allowed to photograph or videotape inside the infant toddler centers and preschools, inside the Exhibition area and the Ateliers at the Loris Malaguzzi International Center, as well as during the presentations. Reggio Children's policy allows the possibility to audio record the presentations.