

UTRGV in Italy

Through a five-year agreement (FY25-29) between The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (hereafter referred to as UTRGV) and the municipality of Monte Santa Maria Tiberina (hereafter referred to as MSMT), UTRGV has established a satellite campus.

UTRGV in Italy Oversight Committee

An oversight committee of six (three from UTRGV and three from MSMT) will collaborate with faculty to develop programming for UTRGV in Italy. Beginning in Fall 2024, UTRGV will be represented on the oversight committee by:

- Jaime Ortiz, Chief Global Officer, jaime.ortiz@utrgv.edu.
- Giorgio Gotti, Dean, Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, giorgio.gotti@utrgv.edu.
- Jeffrey Ward, Dean, College of Fine Arts, jeffrey.ward@utrgv.edu.

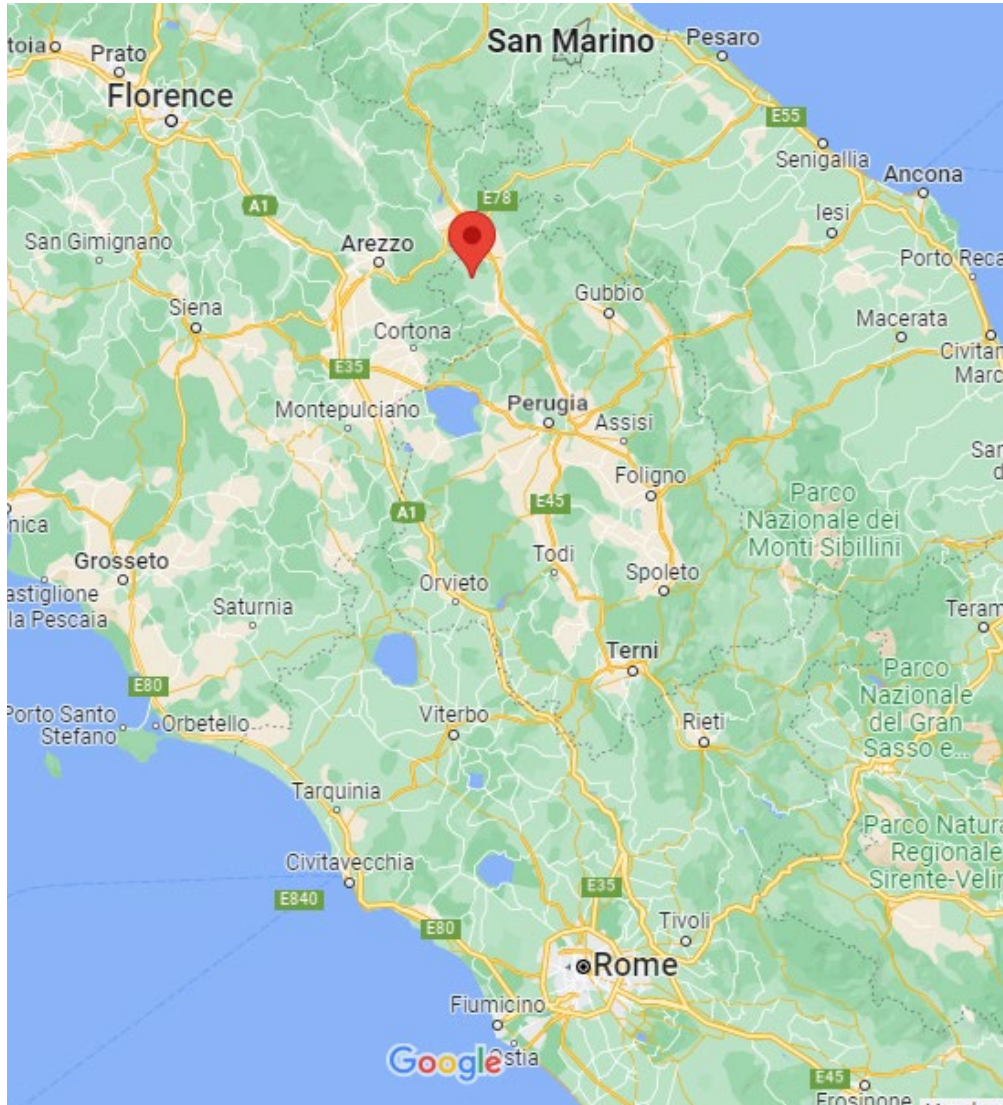
The UTRGV members of the oversight committee will review any faculty proposals for residencies at the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle for instructional and research uses (see *UTRGV in Italy Requests* below). If approved by the UTRGV oversight committee members, in consultation with the applicable college dean, the proposal will be shared with the MSMT oversight committee members to determine the feasibility of the proposal. In collaboration with the UTRGV faculty member, the board will develop a plan for each proposal to include:

- Number of students, faculty, and graduate assistants.
- Courses offered.
- If applicable, research conducted and special events (such as receptions, exhibits, and banquets).
- Description of UTRGV presentation to MSMT from faculty and students related to courses and research.
- Specific spaces (including those designated for use by UTRGV and additional space requests in other sections of the castle).
- Transportation plan and request for assistance from MSMT in identifying vendors.
- Dining and housing plan and request for assistance from MSMT in identifying vendors.

As feasible for approval purposes, the oversight committee members will create two-year plans for residencies at the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle. This will allow sufficient time for UTRGV faculty to plan and recruit for their programs.

Regional Opportunities

MSMT is located in central Italy on the border between Tuscany and Umbria. Faculty and students can fly into Rome or Florence, take the train to Perugia, and travel via car or van to MSMT. Perugia, an hour by car from MSMT, is an ideal train hub for travel throughout Italy. When developing UTRGV in Italy proposals, faculty must include outside classroom experiential learning as a part of their itinerary.



Bourbon-Del Monte Castle

Construction on the castle began in the 13th century with various stages of expansion. The castle is most notable as a temporary shelter for both Galileo Galilei and Caravaggio, fleeing strict oppression by the Papal States during the Renaissance. During this time, they collaborated on optics experiments in the towers of the castle. During World War II, German soldiers used it as a garrison until it was bombed by the Allies in 1944, resulting in complete destruction of the inside although the outer walls remained intact. In 1990, MSMT acquired the castle and completed a renovation of the basement and ground floors, which are reserved as event, conference, and gallery spaces.

UTRGV in Italy Requests

The following are approved uses of the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle:

- Semester-long (6-13 week) instruction in the fall and spring semesters.
- Short-term study abroad in Italy:
- Faculty Research Residency
- Cultural Tour

Semester-long instruction will take place in UTRGV in Italy facilities on the second floor of the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle. These instructional residency programs have the following requirements:

- Student minimums for each cohort will depend upon the total budget of the program so that each cohort is revenue neutral. Students who participate must be registered as full-time students, although this could be a combination of courses taken in Italy and online courses external to the program. Connectivity is excellent in the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle, so students may register for online courses in addition to those taught by the faculty fellow. Because of the time difference (seven hours), asynchronous, online courses are recommended.
- Residency component of courses last from 6-13 weeks (Art Conservation cohort must be 13 weeks).

Two simultaneous cohorts will share the space (Art Conservation and a second discipline offered through any UTRGV college). Faculty will apply to become a UTRGV in Italy faculty fellow through Faculty Fellow Application. This request must be completed according to the following deadlines:

Fall 2025: November 15, 2024

Spring 2026: November 15, 2024

Fall 2026: March 30, 2025

Spring 2027: November 15, 2025

Fall 2027: March 30, 2026

Spring 2028: November 15, 2026

Fall 2028: March 30, 2027

Spring 2029: November 15, 2027

Faculty applying to be a UTRGV in Italy Faculty Fellow will:

- Propose a course of study for the semester-long program that includes 6-13 weeks of residence in Italy. In addition to the courses taught by the faculty fellow, the program may also include, courses taught by a Graduate Assistant Instructor and/or a colleague in Italy who will contract with UTRGV.
 - Faculty applying to teach in the art conservation program will select courses from the Minor in Art Conservation (see Appendix A).
 - Faculty are also welcome to propose courses in another discipline.
 - The Dean of the faculty fellow's college will approve the program and the instructional workload of the faculty fellow.
- Faculty will provide a recruitment plan, keeping in mind that undergraduate core courses may attract a larger pool of potential students.
- If applicable, faculty will provide a narrative describing the research that they will conduct while in residence.
- Faculty must upload a letter of support from their respective chair and dean who will confirm that, if selected, the faculty member's workload will be satisfied by the fellowship.
 - Faculty fellows' service obligations will be met by (a student assistant who enrolls in the program will receive a scholarship to assist the faculty fellow in these service obligations):
 - Overseeing residential dorms located on the property of the Bourbon del Monte Castle in Monte Santa Maria Tiberina.
 - Overseeing student excursions that may include:
 - Potential weekend trips to Florence, Rome, Venice, Bologna, and/or seaside.
 - Intersections with coursework and/or faculty research.
 - Enrichment experiences that may include:
 - Italian language lessons.
 - Italian cooking lessons.
 - Paper Marbling.
 - Other cultural experiences.

UTRGV in Italy program will cover the following expenses:

- Airfare for faculty fellow and graduate assistant, if applicable.
- Apartment for faculty fellow on the property of the Bourbon del Monte Castle in Monte Santa Maria Tiberina.
- Private dormitory room for graduate assistant on the property of the Bourbon del Monte Castle in Monte Santa Maria Tiberina.
- Group meals with students for faculty fellow and graduate assistant (not all meals will be included).
- Housing accommodation for overnight excursions, depending on the location.

As the faculty fellow and, if applicable the Graduate Assistant Instruction (GAI), will be teaching courses in their home department, colleges will not receive any funding for the faculty fellow. Additionally, it is expected that the GAI stipend will be funded by the home college.

Short-Term Study Abroad. Faculty can use the classroom and lab spaces of the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle designated for UTRGV for short-term study abroad programs that occur in:

- Winter
- May Minimester
- Summer I
- Summer II

More information on short-term study abroad, including the application process and deadlines, can be found at <https://www.utrgv.edu/ga/education-abroad/short-term-study-abroad/index.htm>.

Faculty Research Residency. Faculty have the opportunity to use classroom and lab spaces of the Bourbon-Del Monte Castle designated for UTRGV research and creative activity. Considering the inexpensive lodging and proximity to Perugia, a major train hub, faculty may find MSMT an excellent space to conduct research and write during an FDL or semester break. Faculty must request a residency through UTRGV in Italy Faculty Research Residency at least six months prior to the beginning of the requested residency.

Cultural Tour. The partnership between UTRGV and MSMT has generated a lot of interest among UTRGV donors and Rio Grande Valley local government and chambers of commerce. There is an opportunity to organize cultural tours among non-student supporters of UTRGV using MSMT as a home base. Contact the UTRGV members of the oversight committee if you are interested in organizing a cultural tour at least six months prior to the beginning of the proposed tour.

Appendix A. Minor and Certificate in Art Conservation

The UTRGV in Italy program gives the School of Art and Design a unique opportunity to create an Art Restoration program. Although we will not be able to finalize the curriculum for such a program until we begin consultations with Dr. Roberta Lapucci, a minor should be designed to complement art students BFA in Studio Art curriculum.

Minor in Art Conservation

2 Studio Art Courses*	6
ARTS 23XX Theory of Conservation [†]	3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation I ^{+%}	3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation Lab I ^{+%}	3
ARTS 1304 Art History II, 14th c to the Present OR ARTS 3353 Italian Renaissance Art, 1415-1595	3
CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I	3
CHEM 2123 Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM 2323 Organic Chemistry I	3
ARTS 4391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op ^{&}	3
	29

Total: 26 credit hours

* These courses should be two levels of a 2D or 3D medium based on the faculty fellow who is requesting to teach in Italy.

[†]New course. See suggested course description below.

[%]Medium for this course will correspond with the studio art courses offered.

[&]Internship will be conducted in field work throughout Italy, as available, and will correspond with the studio arts courses offered.

New course suggested descriptions based on descriptions from the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, Florence.

ARTS 23XX Theory of Conservation. What ideas lie at the foundation of art conservation and restoration? What are the principal objectives of this sort of work, and what are the limits of the discipline? We reveal the methodological foundations of the practice at an intermediate level: the history of conservation and how it has evolved over time, and the various schools of thought, methods, and ethical systems that exist in the field. The influence of conservation theory on national and international legislation in the field of cultural heritage protection, as well as international guidelines for best practices. Fosters a critical, responsible approach to art and its care that is just as important as a conservator's technical skills.

ARTS 23XX Art Conservation I. In this introduction to the conservation of artworks, we explore methodologies, techniques and materials. Students benefit from close guidance at every step of the process: the proper handling of works of art in a precarious state of conservation and the analysis of their material composition, how they were made, and what interventions they require for conservation. We gain practice experience where we experiment and learn infilling and basic chromatic selection techniques.

ARTS 23XX Art Conservation Lab I. Knowing how artists have worked in various historical periods is key to a conservator's ability to analyze the techniques and materials used to create a work of art and decide how best to maintain it in optimal conditions. We experiment with various samples to familiarize ourselves with the techniques, process, and materials used in past centuries. Using early Renaissance artist Cennino Cennini's *The Craftsman's Handbook* as a guide to understanding these traditional materials and procedures: egg-based tempera, the gesso primer for canvas and panels, gilding and other decorative arts, etc.,

Student Registration Scenario

<i>UTRGV prior to Italy</i>		
ARTS 1304 Art History II, 14th c to the Present OR ARTS 3353 Italian Renaissance Art, 1415-1595		3
CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab		1
CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I		3
CHEM 2123 Organic Chemistry I Lab		1
CHEM 2323 Organic Chemistry I		3
Studio Art Course		3
<i>Italy</i>		
Studio Art Course		3
ARTS 23XX Theory of Conservation		3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation I		3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation Lab I		3
ARTS 4391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op		3

Students can enroll in 12 hours in Italy if they have already completed the two studio art courses being offered.

Course Assignments

UTRGV Studio Art Faculty Fellow	Studio Art Course Level I	3
	Studio Art Course Level II	3
	ARTS 4391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op	3
ILdM Faculty/Alumni*	ARTS 23XX Theory of Conservation	3
	ARTS 23XX Art Conservation I	3
	ARTS 23XX Art Conservation Lab I	3

*Due to Italian financial guidelines and to reduce the costs for our students, the UTRGV Studio Art Faculty Fellow will be the instructor of record and the individuals will be set up as vendors and paid from invoices.

Undergraduate Certificate in Art Conservation

A Certificate in Arts Restoration should also be developed for UTRGV graduate students or non-UTRGV students.

Italy

ARTS 23XX Theory of Conservation	3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation I	3
ARTS 23XX Art Conservation Lab I	3
ARTS 4391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op	3
	12

The prerequisites for this certificate would be the following courses or equivalencies of these courses:

General Chemistry	3
Organic Chemistry	3
ARTS 1304 Art History II, 14th c to the Present OR ARTS 3353 Italian Renaissance Art, 1415-1595	3
ARTS 2316 Painting I	3
ARTS 3321 Intermediate Painting	3

Graduate Certificate in Art Conservation

Italy

ARTS 63XX Theory of Conservation	3
ARTS 63XX Art Conservation I	3
ARTS 63XX Art Conservation Lab I	3
ARTS 6391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op	3
	12

Prerequisite: Students must hold an undergraduate degree in art.

A Certificate in Arts Restoration should also be developed for UTRGV graduate students or non-UTRGV students.

Certificate in Art Conservation

Italy

ARTS 13XX/63XX Intro to Conservation	3
ARTS 33XX/63XX Care and Preservation of Cultural Property 1	3
ARTS 4391/6391 Individual Problems/Internship/Co-Op	3
ARTS 33XX/63XX Painting Techniques for Conservation	3
	12

The prerequisites for this certificate would be the following courses or equivalencies of these courses:

General Chemistry	3
Organic Chemistry	3
ARTS 1304 Art History II, 14th c to the Present OR ARTS 3353 Italian Renaissance Art, 1415-1595	3
ARTS 2316 Painting I	3
ARTS 3321 Intermediate Painting	3