



Valentina Vannini 4/3/24 Italian Heritage Scholarship

For as long as I can remember, My Italian heritage was something to be proud of. Being raised by an Italian father, and a mother who likewise had a father from Italy, there was a universal appreciation for Italian culture that existed within my family. The older I got the more I realized that my identity and own characteristics directly result from where in the world my family is from—for instance, my confidence and passion I owe to being Italian. It is because of how I was raised that I have such an open mindset to learn and try new things. I am extremely grateful to my parents for prioritizing traveling to Italy over materialistic possessions. They always viewed that nothing would be more valuable to my brother and me than to be exposed to various ways of life. It is because of this exposure that a lifelong dream of mine has been to study abroad in Italy. My entire High School career I took challenging, vigorous courses with the goal of studying abroad motivating me. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to tour the Florida State University campus in Florence 2 summers ago, and have not been able to forget it ever since. Thankfully my course load and school involvement were not in vain as the instance I was accepted into FSU I applied for their first-year-abroad program and was accepted. At the end of August, I will be moving to Florence for my freshman year of college. With my Italian citizenship, I have always known that there would be a period of my life when I would live there, and finally, this moment has come. The financial responsibility that comes with this opportunity is immense, and I owe it to my parents to obtain as much external funding as possible. Now living in a single-income household, the only realistic way I can fulfill this lifelong dream of mine is with the help of scholarships much like this one. I know that my hard work in and out of school has brought me to this point and will continue to carry me through this next chapter of my life. I am nothing but appreciative of my heritage and cannot wait to explore it more in the coming months. Thank you for your consideration.

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