

## Study in Computer Science and Mathematics at the Free University of Bolzano, Bolzano, Italy

**Why study abroad?** You will experience different customs, see different scenery, and interact with students whose background is not the same as yours. You will have a wider choice of courses at a university, and a different choice at a European university, than at F&M.

**Why Bolzano?** The instruction in the Faculty of Computer Science at the Free University of Bolzano is in English. This eliminates one major barrier to the American student abroad. There is a full undergraduate and graduate program, offering many courses that an American liberal arts college cannot offer, and the instructors come from all over Europe. There may be the opportunity to do independent study in a number of areas.

The university is trilingual; other faculties teach in Italian and German as well as in English. The city is bilingual, and you will hear Italian and German in the markets and streets, and in the train station. In many respects, Bolzano offers the best of Italian and Austrian/German/Swiss mixed together.

Bolzano is about four hours by train from Munich, Milan and Venice, and about two hours from Innsbruck and Verona. In less than a day you can be in Florence, Bologna or Rome. Central Europe is at your doorstep. The Dolomites are gorgeous, and the opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing abound. The climate is similar to Lancaster; the winters are not as cold or snowy, and the summers are warmer, but not as humid. The Adige valley, in which Bolzano lies, is home to numerous orchards and vineyards.

**When?** Come for a year (probably junior) or a semester (sophomore or junior). The second semester is the best fit for an American student.

**With what preparation?** You can see the program at the Bolzano website: <http://www.unibz.it/en/inf/welcome/default.html>. Under the terms of the exchange agreement with F&M, a student whom F&M recommends will be accepted at the Free University of Bolzano. You will need two or three semesters of computer science at F&M, as well as some mathematics or logic.

The University of Bolzano is not a liberal arts college. It would be good to have most of your general education requirements completed before coming, so that you can use Bolzano to deepen your study of computer science and mathematics. Nonetheless, Bolzano does offer courses in ethics, economics and business as these subjects touch upon the work of a computer scientist.

Because the instruction in computer science is in English, your language skills need to be sufficient to enable you to get around the city and to shop in Italian or German. While at the University, you can take courses in Italian or German, and you can help the indigenous students learn English. Most students and faculty you will encounter will speak English as a second or third language, so that, in the academic setting, you will understand and be understood easily.

**Whom to contact?** Begin with the Office of International Programs, of course; work closely with your advisor. Professor Jay Anderson has spent three semesters in Bolzano, and participated in writing the exchange agreement in 2006 ([jay.anderson@fandm.edu](mailto:jay.anderson@fandm.edu)). Two students have come from Bolzano to F&M and could be resources as well: Michael DeJori ([michael.dejori@stud-inf.unibz.it](mailto:michael.dejori@stud-inf.unibz.it)) and Peter Fäckl ([peter.faeckl@stud-inf.unibz.it](mailto:peter.faeckl@stud-inf.unibz.it)).