

Spring 2024

PRE-DEPARTURE GLOBAL ORIENTATION



[RECORDING,](#)
[CLICK ME](#)



ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



Global Orientation

You're Here!



Location Orientation

Jan 11

Jan 25



Care Team Circle

FLR, BA: Jan 17

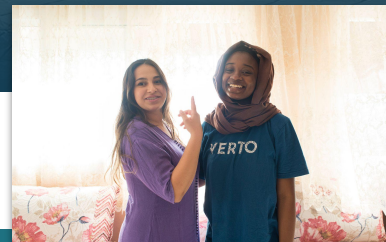
PRG, LGW: Jan 31

SVQ: Feb 7



Welcome

TO THE VERTO
COMMUNITY





WHAT WE'LL COVER

1

Community
at Verto

2

Health and
Safety

3

Academics
and College
Counseling,
Advising, and
Transfer
Services

4

Next Steps &
Peer Advice

5

Breakouts by
Location



Questions? Use the Q+A
feature!

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS



Matteo Travers

Community Manager



Steven Mockler

Assistant Director of
Academic Affairs



James Lorello

Dean Of Students



Analee Giordano

Program Coordinator Of College
Counseling, Advising & Transfer Services



Kaitlyn Sabanero

Vertoan

Second Semester



Share Out in Chat

**What is your story with
Verto about?**



*Also mention your name,
pronouns, where you are from,
and where you are going for
your study abroad experience!*



Community AT VERTO



James Lorello

Dean Of Students



VERTO COMMUNITY VALUES & FOUNDATION

Compassion

Vulnerability

Responsibility

Transformation

"A healthy community is one in which essential but often competing values are maintained in tensioned balance"

~ Ernest Boyer

Community is a laboratory of self discovery, as such Verto Discovery is our method of establishing community at Verto.

These values inform all aspects of student life, including programming delivered through Verto Discovery.

VERTO DISCOVERY

Our Mission

Verto prepares global leaders and transforms access to higher education through a coming-of-age first-year start to college abroad.

A community framework anchored in self-discovery.

Students develop deeper personal, community, and global connections through curated activities and interactions with staff mentors.



Two semesters of unique programming that consider the program site and student development.



A variation of First-Year Experience programming adapted for study abroad environment.

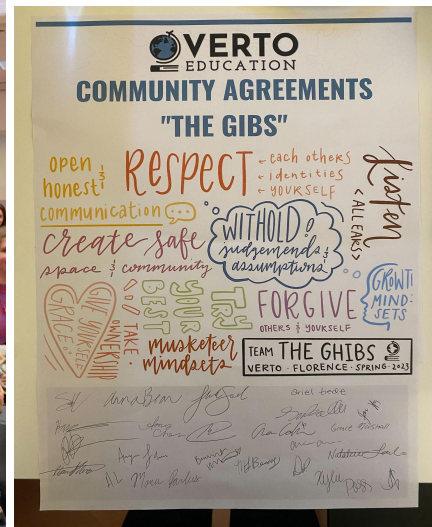
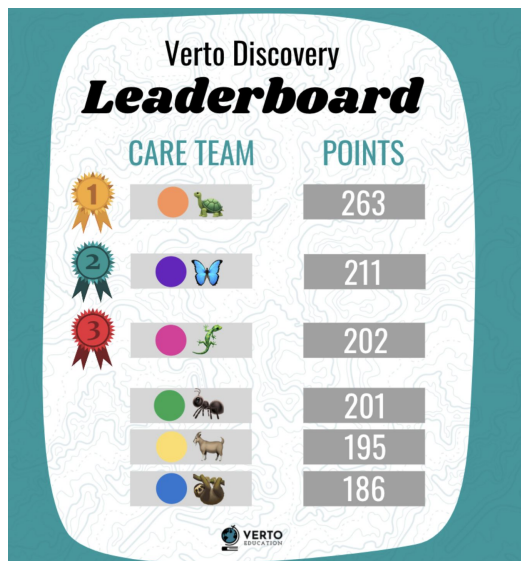


Opportunities for staff to guide, and students to take agency of their experiences and develop life skills.

VERTO DISCOVERY

**A community framework
anchored in self-discovery.**

Students develop deeper personal, community, and global connections through curated activities and interactions with staff mentors.



Share Out in Chat

**Why did you choose
to write your story
with Verto?**



“The main reason why students fail instead of succeed, is because they give up what they want the most for what they want in that moment.”

~Anon.



OUR CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY

What do you think are our top violations?

Without accountability we can't build the community we want!

Goal of our process is transformative and educational.

Model our values, support each other and build a transformative community together.



PRIORITIZING HEALTH & SAFETY WHILE ABROAD

To make the most of your Study Abroad experience, it's important to be informed about Health and Safety Issues

- Respect Local Rules & Laws
- Physical & Mental Health
- Responsible Independent Travel
- Alcohol Use & Impaired Judgement



ALCOHOL USE & IMPAIRED JUDGEMENT

Choosing to Drink or Use Illegal Drugs in a Foreign Country:

Consequences of Drinking Too Much

- Accidents and Injuries
- Alcohol Poisoning
- Assault

Make smart choices

- Know your limits - alcohol may be stronger than you're used to at home
- Plan your journey home ahead of time
- Never leave your drinks unattended or accept drinks you've not seen being made
- Stick together - never leave a friend alone
- All forms of drug use is illegal on a Verto Program



STUDENT SUPPORT AND FERPA

- This is your story!
- The world beyond high school
- College Life
- Aligning Expectations
- What is FERPA?



MINI-BREAK

Share Out in Chat

Vulnerability:

What are you most nervous about in writing your story?



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE & ASSISTANCE

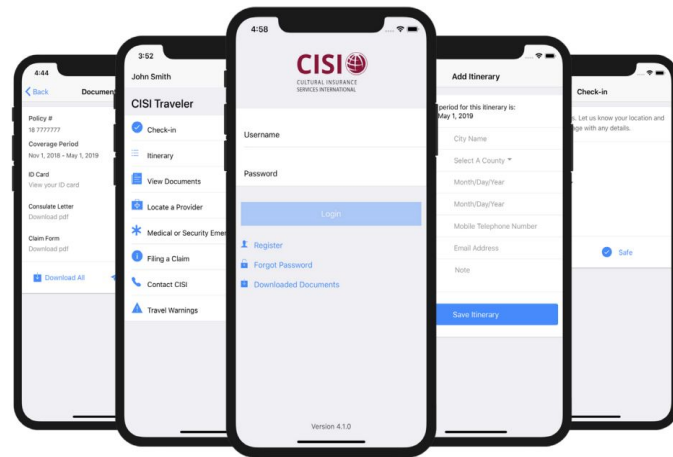


Overseas Insurance & Assistance (CISI)

- Medical/Health Insurance
- 24/7 Assistance, Travel Support (AXA)
- Emergency Evacuation

All Verto Students Automatically Enrolled in Coverage

- Students Pay out-of-pocket + file a simple claim for reimbursement (globally)
- Medical assistance and payments for significant medical needs
- CISI confirmation - in your Email about 2 weeks prior to departure
 - CISI Portal + CISI Traveler App available with username and password (in confirmation email)



CISI Traveler App

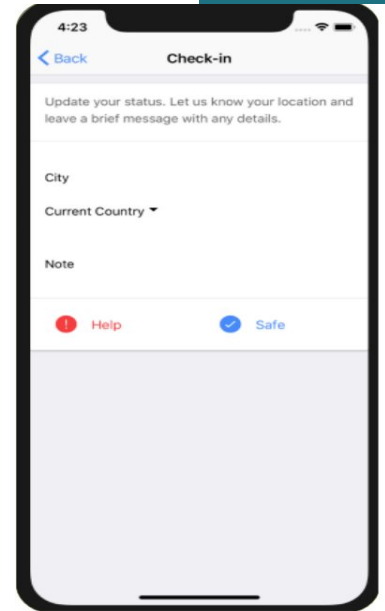
- Download CISI Traveler App once you have received your CISI registration and log-in information (Week of January 8th)

CISI Traveler App is an essential tool to enhance the safety of our Verto students and to log a response in an emergency situation. The App can also provide important safety alerts and provide instant access to medical and safety resources.

CISI benefits include:

- **Safety and check in notifications:** Receive instant notifications and instructions from Verto through CISI when emergencies occur, and check in so Verto staff/ CISI know you are safe.
- **Emergency help:** contact CISI/AXA 24-7 in addition to Verto's on site and HQ emergency lines quickly for help in an emergency.
- **A Travel Log:** You will be asked to fill in the **Itinerary feature** on the app every time you participate in independent travel to another city/region outside the program. This is so if you have or if there is an emergency in that city/region, CISI can provide you with emergency assistance quickly.

CISI 
TRAVELER



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE STUDENT HEALTH PREPARATIONS

Student Portal Steps - action required!

- Health and Medical History (and Add/Update Emergency Contacts!)
- Allergies; Dietary Restrictions

Student Personal Health - action required!

- Consult with your health care provider/routine before you travel - if you are able to continue with the same practitioner/routine abroad, this is the most ideal scenario!
- Prescription Medications - be sure you bring enough for entire semester in original containers with prescription
- Anything else? Email your Student Onboarding Advisor or deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org for appropriate guidance



HEALTH & SAFETY Reminders

- **Have hard copies of travel Documents**
 - Passports, visas, card information, vax/medical docs
- **STEP Enrollment (US. Dept. of State)**
- **Seek guidance from on-site staff and fill out the Independent Travel Form when applicable**
 - Health, Crime and Safety

Useful Links/Resources:

- STEP — US State Department Travel Advisories/Warnings
- US Embassies Abroad
- US State Department Tips for Students Traveling Abroad
- Department of State Country Specific Information
- CDC Country Information



TOP TIPS:

- Keep your phone charged
- Separate your money and cards - avoid carrying/storing all in one place
- Keep your health insurance card with you
- Have the on-site emergency number saved, know the 911 local equivalent emergency number

Verto Spring 2024 Experience

STUDENT SUPPORT

If you need to report a situation that concerns you, an unsafe situation, or an experience that has impacted yourself or others, please reach out immediately to your onsite staff or contact Verto via email: deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org

Words of advice:

- Practice good self-care and give yourself time to learn about your new community
- Pay attention to situational awareness
- Always tell someone where you are going



A group of diverse students are gathered in the ornate interior of a cathedral. Some are sitting on a wooden bench in the foreground, while others stand behind them. They are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others towards the architectural details of the cathedral. The background features a highly decorated altar with a large tapestry and intricate carvings. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the students and the grandeur of the space.

ACADEMICS

The Verto Experience



POP QUIZ

- Verto's Academic Provider is _____.
- Verto aims to have 20% of class time dedicated to _____ activities.
- True/False: Attendance can impact my grades, but does not have an impact on my visa and/or immigration status.
- What does CCATS stand for?
- *Look for the * asterisk to find the correct answers*



STUDY ABROAD

ALL VERTO PARTICIPANTS ARE

- Matriculated at the University of New Haven
- Enrolled in the Associate of Arts of General Studies Degree
- Upon successful completion, you are 2nd semester freshman/first semester sophomores
- (Most) can participate in Verto for three consecutive semesters



ACADEMICS PROVIDED BY



University of New Haven

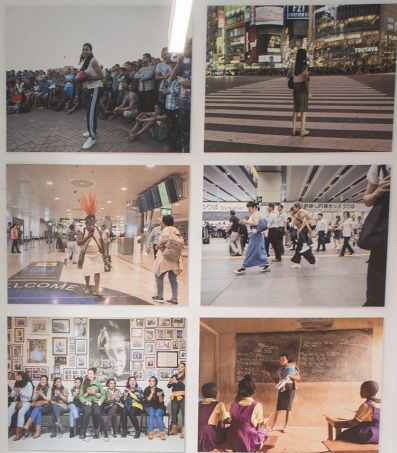
ZOOM IN ON ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

Category	Course	Credits Required
Core Competency 1.1 Written Communication (choose one)	ENGL 1112 Academic Inquiry and Writing	3
Core Competency 2.1 Oral Communication and Presentation	COMM 1130 Principles of Communication	3
Core Competency 3.1 Mathematical and Quantitative Literacy (choose one)	MATH 1104 Quantitative Reasoning, MATH 1110 College Algebra, MATH 1115 Precalculus, MATH 1117 Calculus I	3 or 4
Core Competency 5.1 Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	BUSA 1000 Introduction to Business and Entrepreneurship, INTS 1141 Diversity and Social Justice	3 or 4
Choose one Tier 1 course from: Core Competency 4: Scientific Exploration Core Competency 6: Historical Perspectives Core Competency 7: The Individual and Society Core Competency 8: Global and Intercultural Awareness Core Competency 9: Perspectives on Creative Arts	BIOL 2253/5 Introduction to Biology with Lab; CHEM 1115/7 General Chemistry I with Lab, ENVS 1101/2 Environmental Science with Lab; HIST 1100 Inventing Our Modern World; HIST 1102 Modern Societies, PHIL 1101 Introduction to Philosophy	3
Any Tier 1 or Tier 2 course from any competency	Choose one	3
Any Tier 2 course from any competency	Choose one	3
UNH Core Curriculum (21 credits)		21
1 course that fulfills Writing Across the Curriculum requirement	DIET 1175 - Food, Nutrition, and Culture (online asych)	3
Electives (12 courses or 36 credits needed)	Any course not fulfilling a competency above will count as elective	36
Electives (39 credits)		39
TOTAL (60 credits)		60

Transformation

THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

- Discussion-Based Classes
- A Diverse and Inclusive Curriculum
- Differentiated Instruction
- Holistic Education
- Experiential Learning



QUICK SHARE

Share Out in Chat

What are your
responsibilities
as a student?





Responsibility

COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

- **Shift in Responsibility: Parent > Student**
 - De jure (legally) & de facto (realistically)
 - Official Records like FERPA & Accommodations
 - Owning time management and course/homework
 - Practicing vulnerability and asking for help
- **Verito Difference**
 - Sage on the stage > Guide on the side
 - Active & respectful engagement
 - Curiosity, creativity, & critical thinking skills

MACBETH



SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Experiential Learning *Introduction to Theater*

THEORIZING



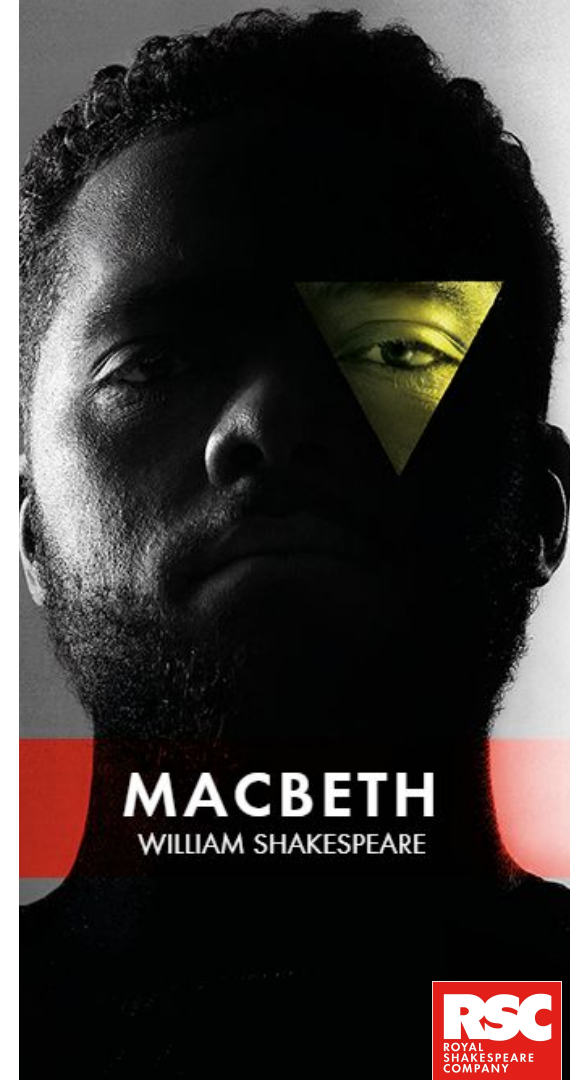
DOING



REFLECTING



LEARNING



MACBETH
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Academics:

Experiential Learning

Professors across locations are committed to finding meaningful experiential learning opportunities to put the theory learned within the classroom into real-life practice. *Verto dedicates at least 20% of classroom activities to experiential learning.*



Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*International Relations
Prague, Czech Republic*

Visit the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discuss international relations and politics with Czech diplomats.



Arcetri Observatory

*Introduction to Astronomy
Florence, Italy*

On the outskirts of Florence and close to the home of Galileo Galilei, the Arcetri Observatory allows students to witness a variety of research conducted at the frontiers of astrophysics using cutting-edge technologies.



Caritas Diocesana

*Diversity & Social Justice
Seville, Spain*

Learn and contribute to the work done by Caritas Diocesana, an NGO working to prevent social exclusion by providing occupation and training to local and migrant citizens of Seville.

**All experiential learning activities are examples, and subject to change based on availability.*

VERTO PROVIDES:

- Access to Academic Systems
 - Canvas
 - Cengage
 - myCharger
- Lab supplies
- Costs related to experiential learning excursions and activities



YOU BRING:

All Students:

- Laptop with charger & adapter
 - If you do not have a working laptop, please complete the Laptop Loaner form in your student portal
- Starter supplies (1-2 notebooks, planner, pack of pencils/pens)

Photography Students:

- Recommend purchase: Canon EOS Rebel T7 / EOS 2000D / EOS 1500D
- DSLR or mirrorless
- At least 24 megapixels with a normal kit lens.
- Very limited number of cameras available if needed.

Compassion

ATTENDANCE POLICY*

- **Why is it important?**
 - You can't keep pace if you do not attend all classes and course-related excursions
 - Must maintain full time student status (enrolled in 12 credit hours) for visa and immigration requirements
- **Impact of Excessive Absences**
 - Absences determined by the # of times a course meets,
 - Impact totaled at the end of the semester, can include:
 - Grade penalties
 - Removal from a course
 - Removal from the program (without a refund).



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Highest Grade Possible Based on Number of Absences and Course Type

Course Credit Hours & Class Sessions Per Week*	Number of Absences and Grade Impact						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3 or 4 credits meeting twice per week	A	A	A	A-	B+	B	F(Ab)



Imagine: Caponata, Big Bird's cousin studying in Seville, has an A- in Spanish 2202 Intermediate Spanish II, a 3 credit course that meets twice per week

# of absences	12-14 Credit Hours	15+ Credit Hours
4	B+	
5	B	
6	B-	
7	F & Program Removal	F & Course Removal

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MISS THIS MUCH CLASS:

- Seeing the city through experiential learning & SL activities
- Classes that meet 2x a week usually meet M/W or T/Th
- 1 hour of class = 2 hours of homework
- Be sure to encourage student to apply for accommodations, if needed
- Parents may be on vacation when they visit, but students are still in school

Vulnerability

COLLEGE COUNSELING, ADVISING, AND TRANSFER SERVICES (CCATS)*

As a student you can expect:

- Personalized advising to help you identify, apply to, and enroll at a “best fit” college
 - Includes access to Verto’s growing consortium of 70+ partner colleges and universities
- Guidance in your self-exploration and in developing YOUR best fit plan for life after Verto
 - Example: **TypeFinder** for Career Planning!
- Support towards your continued success, if your plans for life after Verto change.
 - Example: **Academic Safety Net** for alt. plans





Responsibility

CCATS EXPECTATIONS

- **Channel Students (Invited by a partner college to participate in Verto)**
 - Complete your Typefinder for Career Planning Assessment
 - Review your FAQ in your Campus Groups student portal
- **Traditional Students (Found Verto Independently, may need support with academic plans)**
 - Complete your Post-Verto Planning Form, found in PACE
 - Complete your Typefinder for Career Planning assessment
 - In collaboration with your ASC: identify & apply to partner colleges by stated deadlines

Verto Spring 2024 Experience - CCATS, Traditional Students

KEY MILESTONES

January

- Complete TypeFinder to explore careers
- Complete Post Verto Planning Form

February

- Meet with ASC to discuss Post Verto Planning

March

- **March 1-** All sites (minus Seville) Priority College Application deadline
- **March 8-** Seville Priority College Application deadline
- Check and download your midterm report

April

- **April 19-** Final College Application deadline (all sites)

May

- Students are required to request their UNewHaven Final Official Transcript to any institution they are planning to attend for their following semester





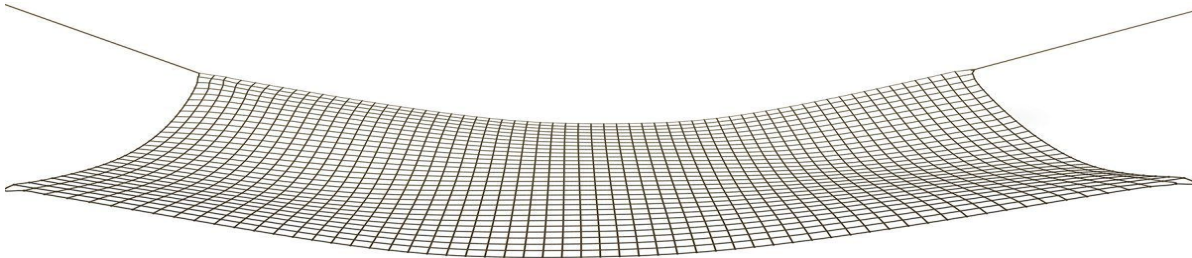
THE ACADEMIC SAFETY NET

All students will have options to continue their education regardless of final GPA at the end of the semester. Students, parents, and partners can be assured that students will have a post-Verto destination that will allow them to continue towards graduation.

There are three versions of the Safety Net- [Internal Safety Net](#), [Channel Safety Net](#), [Traditional Safety Net](#)

Options include:

- Continuing with Verto for a 2nd semester (GPA 2.0 or higher)
- Transitioning to the main campus of the University of New Haven (below a 2.0 GPA)
- Transferring to a local Community College



POP QUIZ

- Verto's Academic Provider is _____.
 - The University of New Haven
- Verto aims to have 20% of class time dedicated to _____ activities.
 - Experiential learning
- True/False: Attendance can impact my grades, **but does not** have an impact on my visa and/or immigration status.
 - FALSE
- What does CCATS stand for?
 - College Counseling, Advising, and Transfer Services



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Schedules

- Argentina & Florence; Jan. 11
- London, Prague, and Seville; Jan. 23
 - Automatically added to courses on Canvas

Location Orientation & Discovery Week

- Location Orientation
 - Added to Location-Orientation Canvas Course, notified in weekly onboarding email when available.
- Care Team Circle
- Placement, Advising, and College Exploration
 - Complete Typefinder for Career Planning by Jan. 19
 - Placement Exams available through the Thursday before Add/Drop Week:
 - Argentina & Florence; Jan. 18
 - London & Prague; Feb. 1
 - Seville; Feb. 8

Add/Drop Week

- Argentina & Florence; Jan. 25–Jan. 31, 2024
- London & Prague; Feb. 8–Feb. 14
- Seville; Feb. 12–Feb. 16, 2024



SUPPORT TEAM

Your On-Site Community



VERTO
EDUCATION

Who Will Be There **TO SUPPORT YOU?**

- **Program Director:** Provides day-to-day leadership for the program
- **Academic Leadership:** Provide support from HQ to ensure academic success and goals
- **Faculty:** provide dynamic instruction and mentorship
- **Student Life Coordinators (SLCs):** Provide logistical and social-emotional support and mentorship
- **Academic Success Coordinators (ASCs):** Provide academic support and mentorship



WHO DO YOU GO TO AND FOR WHAT?

Student Life Coordinators (SLCs):

- Support students' wellbeing and development
- Help plan student engagement activities throughout the semester
- 1:1 coaching and mentorship
- Create community and foster a sense of belonging for each student



WHO DO YOU GO TO AND FOR WHAT?

Academic Success Coordinators (ASCs):

- Support students with academics throughout the semester
- Support habits that will serve students throughout college
- Collaborate with faculty to ensure students are supported and learning at high levels
- Provide 1:1 check ins, tutoring, success plans, study halls, workshops and resources



WHO WILL GREET YOU UPON ARRIVAL?

- Your Student Life Coordinator will meet you at the airport
- Submit your Flight Itinerary ASAP
- Be sure to wear your Verto t-shirt (if you have one) This makes it easier for your SLCs to find you!
- Arrival Instructions during Location Orientation



We need your flight info!

Peer to Peer **ADVICE**



**Kaitlyn
Sabanero**

Florence, Fall 2023

Seville, Spring 2024



MINI-BREAK

Share Out

What are you most excited about?

What is your story about?

Also mention your name, pronouns, where you are from, and where you are going for your study abroad experience.



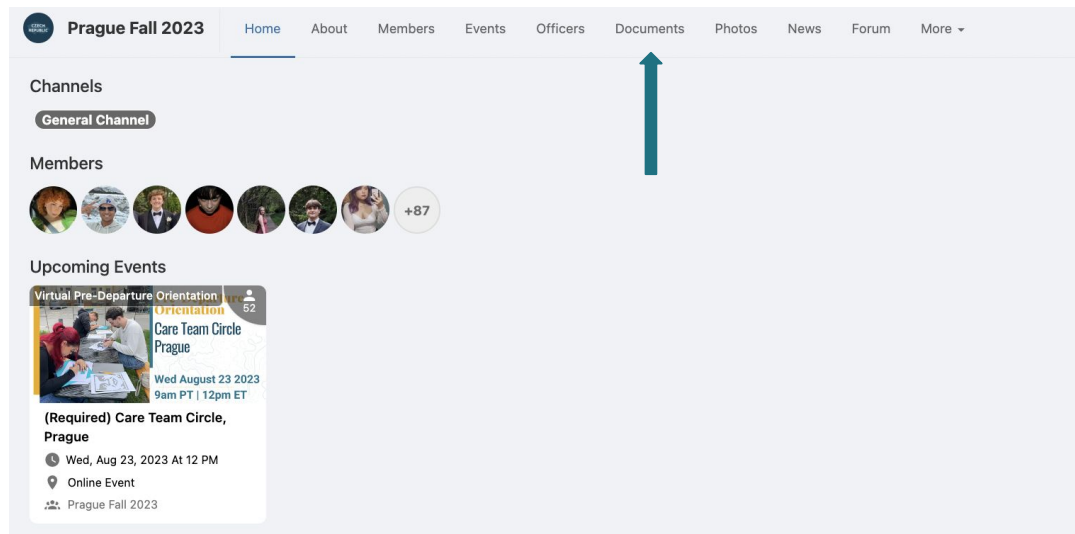
QUESTIONS



PRE-DEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in [Location]
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Verto [Location] Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in [Location]
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)



 Documents (5)

 Pre-arrival Documents (1)

PRE-DEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

These can be found on the Enrolled Participants Page:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in [Location]
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Verto [Location] Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in [Location]
 - Code of Responsibility
- **Arrival Guide** will be sent via email

LOCATION RESOURCES

Please read the below resources to help prepare you for a transformative abroad experience with Verto Education.

[General](#) | [London](#) | [Seville](#) | [Florence](#) | [Buenos Aires](#) | [Prague](#)

General

General Resources

- [Code of Responsibility](#)
- [COVID, Health & Safety – General](#)
- [Health, Safety, and Emergency Procedures](#)
- [Tips for First Time Travelers](#)
- [Fall 2023 Academic Calendar – All Locations](#)
- Spring 2024 Academic Calendar (click below)
 - [Buenos Aires & Florence](#)
 - [London & Prague](#)
 - [Seville](#)
- [Independent Travel Addendum](#)
- [Location Arrival Windows](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLIGHTS + PAYMENTS!

DUE Immediately!

- Flights: Upload your Flight to the MyVerto Portal > no flight, no airport pick-up!
- Tuition: Remain in good financial standing
 - Payment in full / loan OR
 - First 2 payments of payment plan for Jan start (BA + FLR), 3 for Feb start (SVQ, London, PRG)

The screenshot displays the MyVerto Portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Groups', and 'Events' icons. The main section is titled 'Passport and Flights' with a 'Filter Tasks' dropdown set to 'Show All' and a progress indicator '3/3'. Below this, a green progress bar shows 100% completion. A message states: 'You MUST apply for an expedited passport ASAP, if you have not done so already.' It mentions that starting Saturday March 25th, the US Dept of State has increased passport processing times. Key points listed are: 'Expedite is now 7 to 9 weeks' and 'Don't forget that it can take up to 2 weeks for applications to arrive at a passport agency or center and up to 2 weeks for you to receive it once the passport has been processed'. Below this, another section 'Passport Upload: Due Date - June 15th' also shows 100% completion. A note says: 'As a Verto participant heading to an international location, you're required to have a passport.' The next section 'Flight Arrival & Departure Window' also shows 100% completion. A note asks users to pay close attention to the information listed below for airport pick-up. At the bottom, there's a section for 'Arrival and Departure Window for Program' with a 'Submit Form' button. It includes the 'Airport Code: SVQ (San Pablo- Seville Airport)' and a note about direct flights between the US and Seville. It also lists the 'Arrival window: 9:00am - 8:00pm local time on August 28, 2022' and provides instructions for on-site staff and transportation.



Italy: Received your passport WITH your student visa? Let your SOA know ASAP!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Required Events

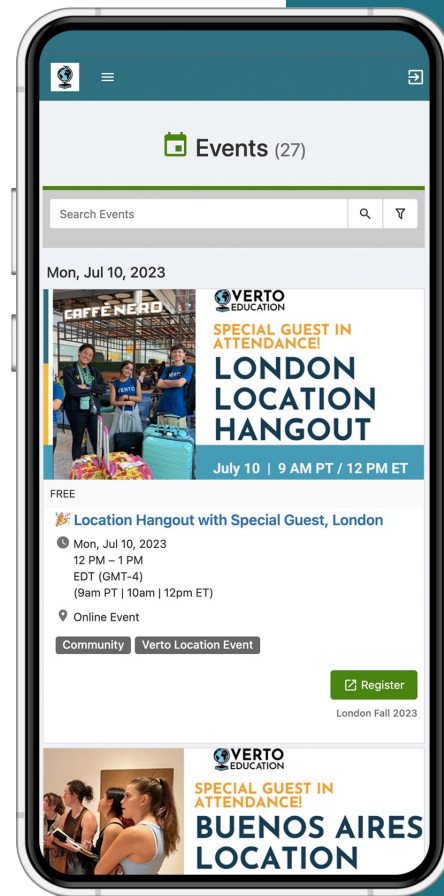
Location Orientation

- Buenos Aires and Florence: January 11
12pm-1pm ET
- London, Prague, Seville: Thurs January 25
12pm-1pm ET

Care Team Circle

- Buenos Aires, Florence: Wed. January 17 12pm ET
- London, Prague: Wed. January 31 12pm ET
- Seville: Wed. February 7 12pm ET

And then ... Discovery Week!



MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE

IMPORTANT: Report Your Attendance
before the end of the Session



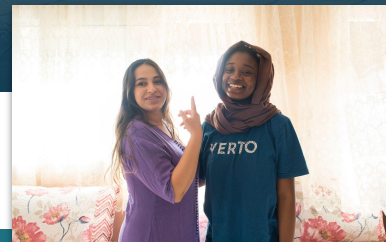
Next up: Location Orientation and Care Team
Circle

To access, visit
bit.ly/vertoattendancesp24



Welcome

TO THE VERTO
COMMUNITY



ACADEMIC SYSTEMS

Canvas

- Learning Management System (PACE)
- Access and submit assignments
- See grades
- Communicate with Faculty

Cengage Unlimited

- Accessed through Canvas
- Textbooks, assignments, and more

myCharger

- Accessed using your UNewHaven Login
- Access ePay, library resources, FERPA form, Accommodations, etc.
- Access final grades
- Verto Participant Resource Page:
<https://www.newhaven.edu/academics/verto-education-study-abroad/participant-resource-page.php>

