

The best way to get money in Florence, in Italy, and throughout Europe is with a **Visa** or **MasterCard with an international PIN (personal identification number)**. Prior to coming to Italy, contact your bank to make sure your card can be used in foreign countries and that you have a 4-digit PIN. If your card is actually a **checking account debit card** linked to an international Visa or MasterCard network, you will get the best exchange rate and will not be charged interest. (You will be debited a service charge for each transaction, the amount of this charge is determined by your US bank.)

The next best way to get money is by cashing **travelers checks** or **exchanging cash**. We have an arrangement with the bank *Cassa di Risparmio, Agenzia 44*, to give you a preferential exchange rate and a lower exchange charge on travelers checks and cash exchanges:

Cassa di Risparmio, Agenzia 44
 Via degli Artisti, 8
 50132 Firenze
 Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:20pm and 2:30pm-3:30pm

You must identify yourself as a Syracuse University student to the teller and you must present your passport.

Your family can send you money in the form of a **cashiers check, a money order, or an international money order**, which you can then take to the branch of the Cassa di Risparmio listed above. **NOTE: Personal Checks CANNOT be cashed in Italy!**

We do not recommend that you open a bank account in Italy, since Italian banks have restricted hours and charge much higher fees for their services than American banks.

Other services:

American Express (between the Duomo and Piazza Signoria)
 Via Dante Alighieri 14/r
 Hours: M-F 9:30am-5:30pm; Saturdays 9:30am-1:00pm

At **AMERICAN EXPRESS** you can:

- Get a cash advance of up to \$500.00 a month. You must show evidence of a bank account with at least the amount you are advancing.
- You can get a cash advance at AmEx with a Green or Gold card, or from some other bank cards, providing the same bank balance proof.
- Have money wired to you with AmEx or other major credit cards. This takes up to 24 hours.
- Cash a money order or a cashiers (bank) check if you have an American Express card.

In emergency situations students can borrow up to €180 from the school. You must sign a promissory note stating that you agree to pay the loan back before you leave the program. See Lucia Fantoni in room 23, Monday to Thursday 9am-1pm.

With **WESTERN UNION** you can:

- Have money wired to any Western Union location.

To find any location in Italy, phone **800 464 464** In Florence, Western Union pick up points are located at: Piazza Mercato Centrale, 1; Piazza S. Giovanni, 23r; and Corso dei Tintori, 39.

***CONVERSION RATE FROM EURO TO DOLLARS:**

A helpful way to know how much money you are spending while in Italy is the following rule:

Euro € 1,00 = US Dollars \$1.45

(Please be aware that exchange rates fluctuate daily)