

### **Tips from current spouses and partners in Bologna**

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#### *BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:*

- Start your visa application process as soon as you can
- Jobs at SAIS are reserved for full-time students, and therefore are not generally available to you. Begin your job search before you get here.
- For women: join the International Women's Forum (IWF) – Please see the information below
- Take Italian lessons if possible, they will pay off during babysitting/tutoring interviews
- Check your finances. While most partners are able to work a few hours per week, their income in Italy does not tend to be reliable or stable.

#### *ONCE IN BOLOGNA:*

- You are welcome to attend public lectures and student activities at SAIS. You can also enrol in language classes at SAIS but you cannot audit any of their courses.
- You are also eligible to buy Italian health state insurance if you are in Italy on a student permit. This is a much cheaper option than any of the international insurance packages.
- Bologna has a big and active English speaking community. To get in touch with most of them, join Bologna's International Women's Forum (IWF) even before arriving in Italy. It is great for a non-SAIS social and activities outlet, job connections, and general information resource about the city. They also have an excellent free guide "Bologna Inside" available online at: <http://www.iwfbologna.com/bolognainside/read.asp>
- Salvatore has apartments for couples but looking around the local renting websites first might give you a better idea of the price ranges, and help you save money.
- If you are interested in teaching English or babysitting, check with staff members whether they know of any openings. Scheduling can be irregular, so you need to be diligent. There is also the *associazione Italo-Americana* which sometimes has vacancies for qualified ESL teachers and they can also help find off campus teaching opportunities and other jobs.
- If you have any background related to education, the International School of Bologna is an English speaking school in the area that may be able to add you to their list of substitutes for teachers' assistants.
- You can get a library card for the Sala Borsa (Bologna's public library) with just a driver's license. They have an extensive CD collection in their basement and a small English section focused mainly on the classics. They also have magazines upstairs.
- Become involved in school activities, clubs, and trips in order to get to know all the students and feel part of the SAIS community
- If you are enrolled in language classes at SAIS your student ID should also be a library card so you can check out any books you want (travel books are in the basement).
- Get to know the other partners/spouses that are there. They will provide invaluable support