

Abstract:

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Electronic Remote Classroom Integration for Santa Chiara

The Santa Chiara Center in Italy has been “home” to Texas A&M Students and faculty for over 20 years. Prior to the move to Castiglion Fiorentino, the Italart Association hosted our College of Architecture programs for 8 years near Figline Valdarno, Italy. The long standing success of these programs has been due to the **integration of our study abroad experience into our curricula.**

The College of Architecture is teaming with the Santa Chiara Center to increase opportunities for more Texas A&M students to have this “faculty-led” experience in Europe. This proposal provides a vehicle for extending the long- standing success of CARC programs to a broader TAMU group of students.

Funded in this proposal:

Network Classroom Integration

A Dedicated (Remote) Networked Classroom in Italy to allow **courses** to be provided via distance learning (overflow) of on-campus courses via remote classroom. Although the current facilities are more than adequate for teaching face-to face courses, it is difficult to extend the overall teaching impact of the facility without additional technological capacity. Thus, the number of credit hours that can be taught is limited because the Center is not able to fully take advantage of developments in online teaching methods and resources. This proposal would extend the technical capacity of the Center to enable more online learning, including courses taught remotely from College Station or elsewhere. In addition, it would enable current course offerings to incorporate greater use of online resources and off-site personnel.

Students at Santa Chiara are currently limited in their course options by the faculty who are present during any given semester. This capacity would allow students to take additional courses that are currently taught online. These courses should contribute to the overall slate of courses currently offered at Santa Chiara. For example, A course in **International Communications (COMM 365)** could be taught on the Texas A&M campus to students in College Station and students in Italy would “attend” this course via dedicated internet connection in Italy through simultaneous link. Sample coursework could be offered to any TAMU student **each term** without any additional faculty traveling to Italy. Not only would this create more options for students, it would also assist academic departments who desire to add the Santa Chiara program to their overall curriculum integration, and would enable greater student participation.