

Buongiorno! From the UN Library

By Catherine Graves (recent MLIS graduate)



Last summer an email was sent out to MLIS students about an opportunity to participate in an internship for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Turin, Italy. To be honest, working or just being an intern for the UN sounded incredibly fancy and I never thought I'd be chosen. But I didn't have any plans after my upcoming graduation the following January and took a chance and applied. Now I've been living in Italy for the past three weeks interning at the UN!

English is the working language here (thank goodness because I have only picked up the basics so far), but many speak Italian due to the location. Because it's the UN, there is someone from everywhere! Every day you can hear multiple languages and accents throughout the facilities. It's a

wonderful international community, so you won't feel out of place as a foreigner.

The project I'm working on is to reevaluate the entire collection, all be it a small one. I've already created collection and archiving policies based on my classes for what we shall keep and weed. Now I'm chipping away at the collection to make sure all the materials are useful and helpful for the researchers and staff here in Turin. Admittedly, going through the collection can be tedious at times, but I have full autonomy with the project... and I get to live in Italy!

Turin, or Torino in Italian, might sound familiar as they hosted the winter Olympics in 2006. It's in the north of Italy surrounded by the Alps with France to the west and Switzerland to the north. Milan is an hour away while Florence, Geneva, and Nice are 3-5 hours away making it hard to prioritize my travel plans while I'm here. Thanks to the Romans, Turin's streets are grid-like making it easy to navigate. The ruins of one of the old Roman gates still stands today in the middle of a park. Did I mention the city center is gorgeous! Turin was home one of the longest running monarchies in Europe, the Savoy's. They started their rule in the 13th century and

continued until Turin became the first capital of a united Italy in the 1861. This means the city center has many old and gorgeous buildings, predominantly in the baroque style.

So far I've had a great time at this internship! It's giving me new skills to apply to my resume (because we all want and need a job at the end of the day) while giving me the opportunity to travel and experience living abroad in a new country and city. I would highly recommend anyone applying for an internship with the UN (or anything you might be interested in)! You never know what will happen, so it's worth a shot.

