



Agenzia Italiana
per la Gioventù



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

Volunteering in Siena, Italy

Sustainability, Arts and Social activities

Long Term projects 2026

sart
SIENA ART INSTITUTE



Siena Art Institute

The Siena Art Institute (SART) is a non-profit arts organization based in Siena, Italy. Its mission is to foster artistic excellence while developing cultural awareness and social responsibility.

SART welcomes young and accomplished artists from all disciplines who are interested in the intersection of art and civic life, and who wish to explore how the theoretical content of individual creative and artistic practices can be translated into socially meaningful projects that produce a deeper understanding of the cultures in which we find ourselves.

SART has a strong commitment to Deaf Accessibility, in association with other local organisations.

Volunteering in Siena



Volunteering at SART

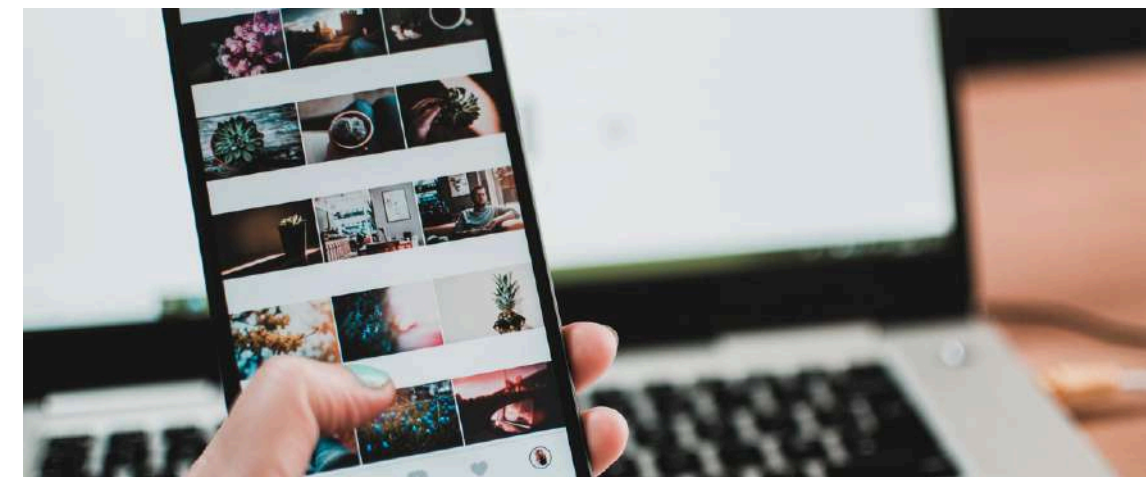
Contemporary Arts&Culture

Volunteers will help to organise talks and public events aimed at the local community, support the logistics of groups of young artists and set up indoor and outdoor spaces for classes and workshops.



Communication for daily activities

Volunteers will support SART's photography&video-making office in the creation and circulation of material documenting activities and projects both online through social media and institutional websites and on-site.



Summer Activities at SART

Summer Intensive Programs (May-Sept)

Along with our semester-abroad programs, the Siena Art Institute also leads short-term intensive courses during the summer months.

In summer, the Siena Art Institute offers intensive courses like Brandeis-in-Siena for painting and art history, SienAgosto music academy by Michael Chance for singers and continuo players, and Drawing-as-Seeing for visually impaired adults to explore creativity.

Volunteering in Siena

Volunteers will be asked to:

- Set up art materials and equipment for classes;
- Maintain clean and organised common areas;
- Coordinate events related to the programmes: shows, open studios, lectures;
- Coordinate transportation for field trips;
- Capturing the activities through photography and video for promotional purposes.



The Siena Art Institute's Community Garden

Agricultural Activities

Volunteers will work with local people to regenerate Siena's green areas, coordinate workshops on recycling and biodiversity, learn about permaculture and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

The Siena Art Institute has a community garden, "Ortoaperto", and a regenerated area, "The Hidden Garden" located in the green areas outside its headquarters. Volunteers may be required to contribute to their upkeep.

While working in the garden, volunteers will learn how to take care of green areas used as community spaces. This will include:

- Event management and ideation;
- Agricultural activities: watering the garden, planting vegetables, creating sustainable fertiliser, and many other activities;
- Support during outdoor workshops with different targets.





The Hidden Garden

In harmony with nature, grow and nurture relationships

The Hidden Garden is a green area located next to the Porta Romana walls in Siena. This once neglected space has been regenerated by SART with the goal of becoming a place for inclusion and artistic experimentation.

Inspired by sustainability principles such as observing and respecting the natural pattern, the garden reuses resources already in the environment to create a balance between nature and accessibility.

Volunteering in Siena

Through elements such as Sensory Trails and a handrail, the Garden invites visitors of all abilities to explore an environment that evolves in harmony with nature.

Circular, modular seating scattered among the trees encourages conversation and can be easily reconfigured. The presence of aromatic plants enriches the sensory experience, creating an atmosphere of immersion and relaxation.



Where

Siena is a city well suited to students, both for its safe and tranquil environment and for its wide range of cultural activities, such as an international short film festival, classical music concerts at the renowned music school, and countless other concerts, exhibitions and lectures. Siena has two state universities.





Siena is a small hilltop town in Tuscany, central Italy.

Just one hour from Florence, Perugia or Assisi, two hours from Bologna and Pisa and three hours from Rome, Siena is an ideal base from which to explore many different areas of Italy.



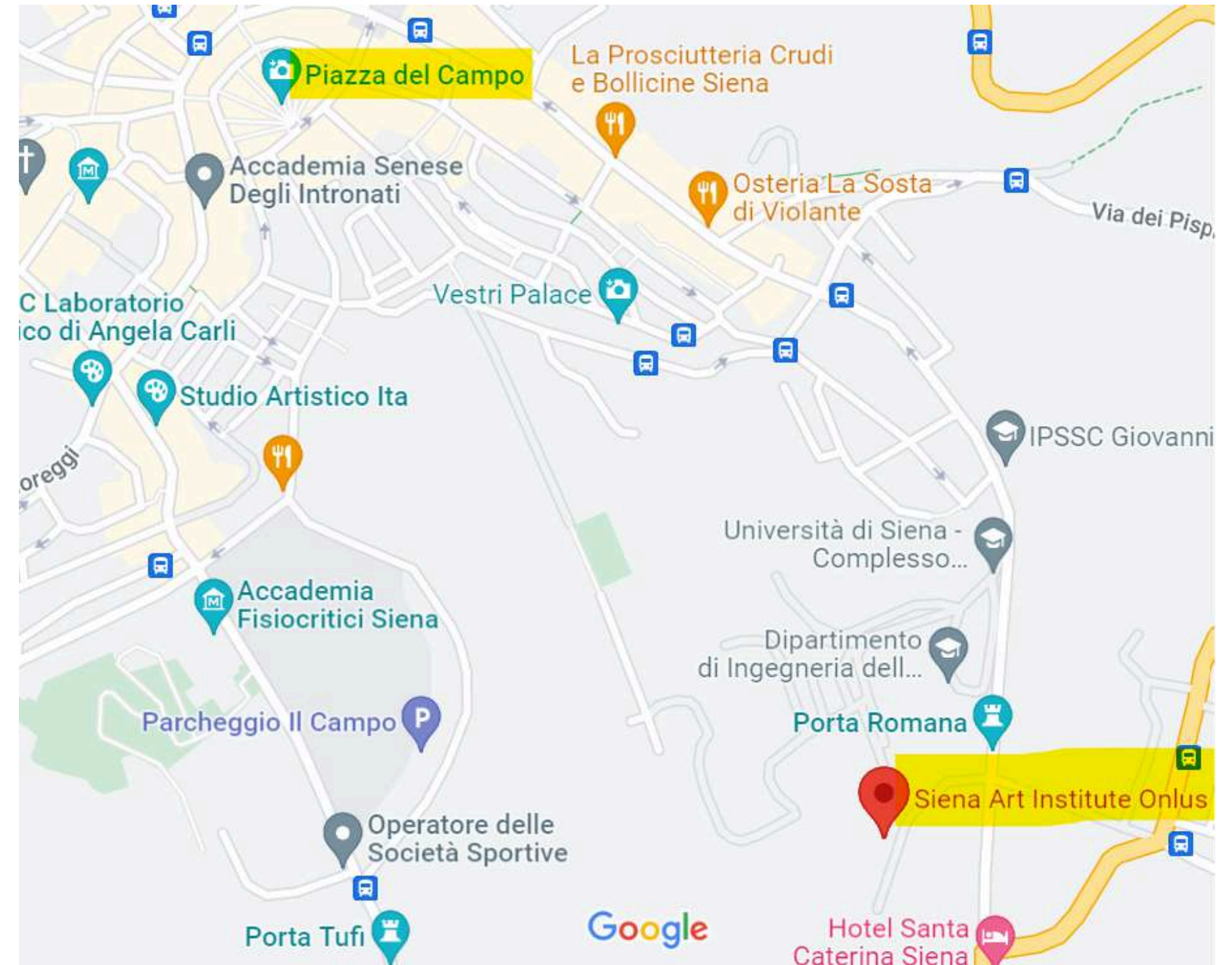
Siena Art Institute

In 2019, the Siena Art Institute has moved its headquarters to "Il Punto|The Point", an independent building surrounded by greenery next to the historic Porta Romana (Via Enea Silvio Piccolomini 2). Within 15 minutes walk from the school you can find everything you need: office supplies, food markets and of course pizza, espresso and gelato!

Siena is a pedestrian city. Students and volunteers usually walk 20 to 30 minutes from their accommodation to the school. When planning your stay in Siena it is important to ensure that you are able to walk comfortably every day.



**click and watch the
reel created by
our Polish volunteers,
Oliwia and Joanna**





Accommodation

Entrance gate of the
University of Siena,
3 min walk from SART



Volunteers' accommodation is provided by the Siena Art Institute, with all utilities included. The apartment is located in the centre of Siena (20-30 minutes walk from the school).

Volunteers will be accommodated in double rooms (fully furnished) with a shared bathroom and all facilities. Wifi is included. Volunteers will be assisted in activating Italian SIM cards to access data if required.

Volunteers will be responsible for the daily cleaning of the rooms and common areas. Volunteers will be responsible for daily rubbish disposal according to the instructions of the host.

Volunteers will be asked to respect the house rules set by the host family.



Travel

Volunteering in Siena

If possible, we will pick you up at the bus station (in the city centre in Piazza Gramsci) or at the train station (outside the city centre) in Siena or at the bus stop in Viale Toselli. Otherwise, we will provide you with detailed information on how to get there.

The nearest airports are Florence Peretola and Pisa PSA. You can also fly to Rome Fiumicino (FCO) and Bologna International (BLQ). From all these airports you can reach Siena by train or bus.

Here are some useful websites for public transport in Italy:

Ferrovie dello Stato (national railway) - <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>

Flixbus (bus services throughout Europe) - <https://global.flixbus.com/>

Money

**cash payments are not allowed*

Pocket Money
180€/month

Pocket money is paid monthly in advance. The amount will be transferred directly to your bank account.

Food
120€/month

Pocket money is paid monthly in advance. The amount will be transferred directly to your bank account.

Travel refund
up to 395€
(according with
EU standard)

Keep all original travel documents (tickets, invoices, boarding passes, etc.) and present them to the Host Organisation. Travel reimbursements will be calculated based on the distance travelled. “Green” travel options are strongly encouraged.



Activities

Gardening



Participate in daily gardening activities in our garden together with local volunteers

Social media and blog

Assist with our social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) and website

Italian language

In person course and conversation practice with staff, local people and students

Community projects

Support and coordinate community projects with different local groups

Video and photo creation

Create and collect visual documentation and interviews during events and activities

Study Abroad programs

Help during programs, workshops, and talks on the logistics, setting spaces, welcoming guests

... and more!



Timetable

Daily activities consist of 6 hours of work/activity and a one hour lunch break. We usually have a morning shift (8.30 - 14.30) and an afternoon shift (14.00 - 20.00).

Volunteers will work 5 days a week with 2 days off (usually, but not always, Saturday and Sunday). Volunteers are given an additional 2 days holiday per month.

Holidays must be planned together with the Siena Art Institute at the beginning of the volunteer experience.

Staff



**MIRIAM GROTTANELLI
DE SANTI**

Director

Half British and half Italian, Miriam grew up in Siena and studied in Cambridge, UK. She founded the Siena School for Liberal Arts and became SART's director in 2010. Committed to promoting accessibility and Deaf culture.



LISA NONKEN

Academic Director

Lisa is an American artist who first came to Siena in 2008 as an Art Instructor for the Siena School for Liberal Arts, SART's sister school. Together with Miriam, she launched the Siena Art Institute. She also sings in a community choir, enjoys hiking and wine tastings!



CLIO MANFREDI

Communication
manager

Clio follows the School's social media and communication. At SART she also deals with local, national and EU projects together with Miriam. She is passionate about cinema and theater!



GUAYMA PEREZ

Youth Office

Guayma came to SART in 2024 for her internship. Raised bilingual in Spanish and Italian, she speaks French and English and is studying Chinese. She is the youngest member! She coordinates the Youth Office and is involved in activities for Deaf community, learning sign language.



We can't wait to meet you!

Contact us for any questions on
our ESC program

Website

<https://www.sienaart.org/>

Phone Number

+39 0577 573086

Email Address

office@sienaart.org

youthoffice@sienaart.org