REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY
U.S. Students and Professors Study Group
March 25 -30, 2017

Overview
This study group is designed specifically for small groups of graduate and undergraduate students and accompanying professors whose work with students at U.S. colleges and universities is influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach to education. It fits well with short term faculty led study abroad programs, offering students practical international experience to support their corresponding academic coursework. Angela Ferrario, U.S. Liaison for Study Groups to Reggio Emilia since 1994 and Reggio Children International Network representative, is organizing this group in collaboration with the International Office of Reggio Children. She will work closely with participating professors to accommodate their group requirements and will facilitate communication across the group prior to departure and while in Reggio Emilia.

World Renowned Schools
The experience of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools of Reggio Emilia is the subject of interest, research and exchange on the part of students, teachers, teacher educators, researchers, administrators, and political and cultural figures from all over Italy and throughout the world. The context and history of this community is highly regarded, rooted in not only pedagogical choices but also political, cultural and ethical choices made following WWII in support of a new democratic society.

Study Group Program Highlights
- Introductory meeting and welcome lunch on Sunday March 26 followed by a walking tour of the town.
- Visits to the Preschools and Infant Toddler Centers of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia
- Presentations by pedagogistas, atelieristas and teachers on the history, identity and principles of the Reggio Emilia approach to education and the essential elements in the daily life of the schools.
- Interweaving of theoretical talks, presentations and analysis of projects that document experiences realized inside the schools.
- Time at the Loris Malaguzzi International Center exploring the Urban Ateliers, Bookshop, Documentation and Educational Research Center and current Exhibitions.
- Opportunities for discussion among students and professors to share information about their own context and Reggio-related coursework at U.S. colleges and universities.

International Meeting Place
The venue for the study group is the Loris Malaguzzi International Center, which opened in February 2006 and now encompasses an International Preschool and Primary School. As described by Carlina Rinaldi, Pedagogista and President of the Foundation Reggio Children, “It was created to give greater value to a strong and distinctive characteristic of Reggio Emilia; the ability to lend listening, visibility and support to the rights and requests of children, young people, families and teachers. The Center is a dedicated meeting place where professional development and research intersect for people in Reggio Emilia, Italy and the world who wish to innovate education and culture.”

Prior Preparation
Students should be familiar with the history and fundamental principles of the Reggio Emilia approach to education so that they have some contextual framework before being immersed in the actual experience. Opportunities for dialogue and exchange among the group and with educators in Reggio Emilia will offer students many possibilities for gaining a deeper understanding of the history, challenges and accomplishments of the Municipal Infant Toddler Centers and Preschools. Recommended Reference: “Indications Preschools and Infant Toddler Centres of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia” published by Reggio Children, http://www.learningmaterialswork.com.

Cost
$1,950 per person in a Shared Double Room
$2,150 per person in a Single Room
The per person cost includes participation fee to Reggio Children and services provided by International Study Tours, LLC. A $100 discount is offered to NAREA members. For membership information please visit: www.reggioalliance.org. (Annual student membership is $50; regular membership is $75.)

Meals & Hotel Accommodations
Buffet style breakfast is offered daily at all hotels. In addition to the welcome lunch on Sunday, lunch is provided on the 3 days during the program. Accommodations for 5 nights are included from check-in on Saturday, March 25 to check-out on Thursday, March 30. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at several hotels within walking distance to the International Center including Hotel San Marco www.hotelsanmarco-re.it on Piazzale Marconi, 1, Albergo Morandi www.albergomorandi.com on Via Emilia S. Pietro 64 and Albergo Reggio www.albergoreggio.it on Via San Giuseppe 7. Every effort will be made to honor hotel preferences depending on availability and giving priority to keeping groups together.

Registration & Payment
To reserve a space, submission of a Registration Form and $500 deposit is required by **November 1, 2016**. Professors who wish to accompany a group of students are asked to distribute this 4-page registration document to interested students and other faculty members at their institution. Each person must complete a Registration Form (page 4 of this document) and mail it along with a **$500 check made payable to International Study Tours, LLC**. Mailing address is: Angela Ferrario, 15 Beach Street Extension, Milford, MA 01757. Confirmation and Invoice for Balance Due will be sent by e-mail. Balance payment may be made by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard) and is due upon receipt of Confirmation and Invoice but no later than **January 31, 2017**.

**Refund & Cancellation Policy**

All payments are refundable in full minus a $100 processing fee until January 31, 2017. After January 31, 2017, payments less 15% are refunded if notification is sent in writing to Angela Ferrario aferrario@comcast.net before February 20, 2017. No refund will be made for cancellations after this date.

**Flight & Travel Arrangements**

Participants are responsible for making their own flight and travel arrangements, including ground transportation between airport and Reggio Emilia. Bologna Marconi is the most convenient airport to reach Reggio Emilia. Alternatively, you could fly into Milan Malpensa or Milan Linate. Participants should arrange to fly on Friday, March 24, arriving in Reggio Emilia on Saturday, March 25 (departure from the U.S. is one day prior to arrival in Italy). Our first group gathering in Reggio Emilia will be the introductory meeting and welcome lunch on Sunday, March 26.

**Please Note:** It is recommended to be at the airport at least 2 hours before your scheduled flight departure time. If driving or by taxi/car service from Reggio Emilia, it takes approximately 45 mins. to reach Bologna Airport and 2 ½ hours to reach Milan Malpensa or Linate Airports depending on traffic conditions. Allow more time if traveling to/from either airport by train and check train schedules in advance.

**Airport Pick Up Service**

Assistance with making private ground transportation arrangements between the airport and Reggio Emilia for groups traveling together is available upon request. Cost is additional.

**Photography & Videotape Policy**

For privacy issues, participants are not allowed to photograph or videotape inside the infant toddler centers and preschools, inside the Exhibition area and the Ateliers at the Loris Malaguzzi International Center, as well as during the presentations. Reggio Children’s policy allows the possibility to audio record the presentations.

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**RESPONSIBILITY**

Angela Ferrario dba International Study Tours LLC acts only as the agent for the several hotels and other suppliers providing accommodations and services to participants. International Study Tours, LLC shall not be liable for any cancellation, injury, loss, damage, expense, delay or inconvenience which may be caused or sustained by any participant.

Reggio Children S.r.l is released from any charges and obligations related to possible cancellations or date changes when due to circumstances beyond Reggio Children’s control or for any other reason not directly imputable to the failure of Reggio Children S.r.l. In this unlikely case, Reggio Children S.r.l. undertakes to agree with Angela Ferrario new dates for the Initiative, or if an agreement is not reached, to release Angela Ferrario and thereby participants from all payment obligations. Reggio Children S.r.l. is not responsible for travel arrangements or other planning costs incurred. Reggio Children S.r.i. reserves the right to modify the program according to organizational needs or to Public Authorities’ provisions or measures. Participants are responsible for issuing an individual insurance policy for accidents of any type, which may occur during the Study Group when not inside a municipal institution. Reggio Children S.r.i. will provide insurance for participants for damages caused to people or things inside the municipal institutions.

**Travel Insurance is not included and should be secured by the individual participant.**