



## What is Service Learning?

Service-Learning is a dynamic didactic method that engages students inside and outside of the classroom. The philosophy behind the method is that students gain practical experience through collaboration and activities with people and/or organisations that are providing beneficial services to a community. Students then discuss and examine their experiences in an academic setting led by experts in the field of study.

Service is a fundamental component to the study abroad experience at Siena Italian Studies and all students are required to participate in projects that benefit the local community. The requirement for students is a minimum of 5 hours a week and there are many different opportunities in varying fields. Some examples are setting tables and serving food at the city soup kitchen, visiting with the elderly at a nursing home, teaching English to local elementary school children or volunteering with Siena's ambulance service. To provide service in the community is an unparalleled way to improve language skills, be a part of the local social fabric, and make a genuine contribution to the host community.