The Ricci Scholars Program offers an unparalleled study-abroad, immersion and global scholarship opportunity for highly motivated students.

The program awards selected students with scholarships for travel, research and exploration during a junior year of study divided between two of the world’s most important cities: Rome, Italy, and Beijing, China.

As students of Loyola University Chicago, Ricci Scholars spend the Fall Semester at Loyola’s own John Felice Rome Center and the Spring Semester at The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies.

Through their two-semester immersion, Ricci Scholars may learn Chinese and Italian, participate in travel excursions, study both cultures and their histories, and engage in academic research to develop individual projects. A sophomore year introductory session prepares Scholars for the year of study abroad.
Upon their return, Scholars complete their individual research projects and present their work to the university community and to the next group of Ricci Scholars.

Inspired by the cross-cultural travel and research of the program’s namesake, Matteo Ricci, S.J., and other early Jesuits, this distinctive program seeks to:

■ Enhance a capacity for scholarship through the student’s year-long, in-depth research project conducted with scholars and faculty in Chicago and abroad.

■ Encourage students at U.S. Jesuit universities to understand multiple world cultures and values, and to become integrally involved in global issues.

■ Build for both the private and public sectors a cadre of future leaders who have lived abroad, and worked and studied alongside foreign experts.

“I worked at the Instituto Nazionale di Archaeologia e Storia dell’Arte. While there, I spent time in libraries researching the fortifications of the city of Rome, what they consisted of, and how and why they changed. Each week I went on site to the portion of the wall I had researched that week and made notes on my observations and took photographs. By the end of the internship, I had compiled a massive research project more than 40 pages long. I hope to use some of that research to publish something soon.”

Christine Geibel ’08
**Who is Matteo Ricci, S.J.?**

Led by St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, the early Jesuits studied and taught throughout the world, creating a distinctive tradition of learning and appreciation for distant cultures and beliefs. Italian Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) was one of the first Jesuit scholars to enter China, where he lived for nearly three decades, gaining unprecedented access to the country’s culture and technology. His experience in China, along with his scientific and philosophical writings, made him a key figure of the late Renaissance, responsible for bringing centuries of civilization and culture of the Confucian East to the attention of the Christian West.

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“I liked that I was on an actual Chinese university campus. It allowed me to meet and maintain relationships with several Chinese students. The option of having a Chinese roommate was incredible. And, the class offerings were wide enough to accommodate my majors (political science, international studies, and economics).”

Kyle Welborn ’08
Undergraduate students apply for the Ricci Scholars Program in the Fall Semester of their sophomore year. Those selected as Scholars are notified in January, and the newly named Scholars participate in a special preparatory session during the Spring Semester. (For more about the selection process, see page 9.)

The Ricci Scholars begin the Fall Semester of their junior year at Loyola’s own campus: the John Felice Rome Center in Italy, and spend the spring semester in China at The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. During this year, the Scholars may study Chinese and Italian, participate in travel excursions, explore both cultures and their histories, and work on their intercultural research projects with the assistance of faculty and other experts from Chicago, Rome and Beijing.

Ricci Scholars return to Loyola’s Chicago campus for their senior year presentation as the final phase of the program.

The inaugural group of five Ricci Scholars began their studies in Rome in Fall 2007.

The following provides further detail about key aspects of the Ricci Scholars Program.

**Academic credit and designation:** Students who successfully complete all aspects of the program will receive a total of 6 credit hours for their completed project and for participation in program seminars. At graduation, they will be specially designated as Ricci Scholars.
Beijing Semester: Ricci Scholars spend the Spring Semester of their junior year in Beijing, China, where Loyola University Chicago supports The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies (TBC). Established in 1998, TBC provides Jesuit university students with premier comprehensive education about China. TBC professors include some of China’s best faculty from Peking and Tsinghua universities. While at TBC, Ricci Scholars may study Chinese, and travel around China, learning about its institutions and rich history. For more about TBC, see page 11 or visit: LUC.edu/studyabroad/beijing.shtml.

Faculty involvement: The Ricci Scholars program is student-focused and takes a developmental approach to study abroad. This means that students are not dropped into a “foreign” culture for a period of time and brought home at some later date. Ricci Scholars receive preparation as sophomores, before leaving the U.S. The program also offers assistance with language acquisition, guides students through the travel component in their junior year, and helps them as seniors to complete their project presentations. Designated faculty in Rome and in Beijing coordinate student research and immersion activities in Beijing and Rome, and organize a seminar for participants to thematically link the two semesters.

Research projects: Ricci Scholars will be expected to prepare an intercultural research proposal; work with a faculty mentor; and conduct a portion of their research on-site in Rome and Beijing. Students will be encouraged to choose a topic related to their majors with the aim of being able to explore a significant question or thesis on both continents and in both cultures during their junior year abroad. Research proposals may be for a paper, a portfolio or other creative project consonant with undergraduate curricular options at Loyola University Chicago.

Research and academic support: In addition to the sophomore year preparatory session before their year abroad, Scholars can also take advantage of classes in Mandarin Chinese and Italian while in Beijing and Rome. Supported by designated faculty, Ricci Scholars receive personal assistance in developing internships and research projects and topics. As seniors, returning Scholars serve as peer mentors to sophomores beginning the Ricci Scholar program.

Rome Semester: Students spend the Fall Semester at the John Felice Rome Center where Loyola has been educating undergraduates since 1962. Among the largest study abroad programs in Western Europe, the Rome Center is a fully equipped American campus, located on Monte Mario, 20 minutes north of Vatican City and Rome’s city center. At the Rome Center, Scholars may study Italian and come to better understand European culture through courses and guided travel. For more information about the Rome Center, see page 10; or visit: LUC.edu/rome.

Scholarship coverage: The Ricci Scholarship covers the following costs: One roundtrip ticket for a group flight between Chicago and Rome; and one roundtrip ticket/group flight between Chicago and Beijing. Also included: research assistance; research-related travel while in Rome and Beijing; and faculty support. Ricci Scholars are expected to pay tuition and room and board at Loyola University Chicago during their junior year, adjusted according to rates for the Rome Center and The Beijing Center. Normally, institutional aid from Loyola University Chicago as well as financial assistance apply to enrollment at the Rome Center and The Beijing Center.
Mandarin Chinese is the official language of China.
2008 – 2009 Ricci Scholars Program Timetable
(For the latest information, please visit: LUC.edu/ricci.)

September 2007
Program and application materials are available at the Office for International Programs, Sullivan Center, Lake Shore Campus, and online at: LUC.edu/ricci.

November 2007
Application deadline

December 2007
The selection committee interviews student applicants.

January 2008 – Spring Semester
Ricci Scholars for 2008 – 2009 are announced. New Ricci Scholars participate in the preparatory session.

September 2008 – Fall Semester
The Ricci Scholars Program begins at the John Felice Rome Center.

January 2009 – Spring Semester
The Ricci Scholars Program moves to The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies.

“The faculty and staff at The Beijing Center are top-notch, and really help you to adjust. The excursions TBC plans are amazing: Students get the opportunity to spend nights with ethnic families in tiny villages that almost never see Westerners; hike in the southern Chinese rainforests; ride camels across the Gobi Desert; and visit the largest Buddha in the world, carved into the side of a giant mountain.”

Kate Graham ’09

Ricci Scholars have opportunities to travel in Europe and Asia.
The Ricci Scholars Program will invite applications from high-achieving sophomore students who already have shown scholarly aptitude through a record of good performance and a strong grade point average through freshman year, and a compelling proposal for a Ricci Scholar project.

Applicants will be screened during the first semester of sophomore year on the strength of their record and on the soundness of their research project proposal, including whether the research topic or area is suitable for cross-cultural comparison and related to the student’s major or minor.

The maximum number of Ricci Scholars that will be chosen in any year will be 10 and will eventually include applicants from other member schools in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). For 2008-2009, 10 participants will be chosen. Criteria for the applications and proposals, as well as the selection process, will be supervised by the director of Loyola’s Office for International Programs and a faculty selection committee.

Worldwide, Italy claims to have the most museums: nearly 1,500.
Established in 1962, the John Felice Rome Center in Italy offers an American undergraduate college experience in the heart of Western Europe. Students choose from more than 40 academic courses each semester with concentrations on Rome, Italy, Europe and the entire Mediterranean region.

Named for the Center’s Founder and now Director Emeritus John Felice, the Rome Center is located on Monte Mario, 20 minutes north of Vatican City and Rome’s city center. As an actual campus and academic center of Loyola University Chicago, the Rome Center is fully accredited and credits earned are easily transferable to other American universities. For more information about the Rome Center, go to: LUC.edu/rome.

“I loved living on the Rome Center campus. It was great having a courtyard and a friendly neighborhood to call our home. Having everything in one building allowed us to be a close-knit family.”

Emily Macaluso ’08

Since its founding, the Rome Center has welcomed more than 14,000 students from Loyola and 650 other U.S. universities.
The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies (TBC) was started in 1998 by the China Province of the Jesuits. Loyola University Chicago now serves as the program’s home campus in the United States.

TBC students live on campus at the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE). They take intensive language courses and classes, as well as seminars on topics in Chinese culture taught by senior professors from China’s top universities. In addition to hosting lectures by leading Chinese authorities in business, politics and culture, the Center sponsors student excursions to distant regions of China that are carefully integrated with their academic program.

TBC is staffed by Americans, including Ron Anton, S.J., a Jesuit who founded TBC as well as BIMBA, the Beijing MBA program. For more information about The Beijing Center, go to: LUC.edu/studyabroad/beijing.shtml.

The Beijing Center was established in 1998 to provide Jesuit university students with premier comprehensive education about China.
The Ricci Scholars Program gives students the opportunity to pursue innovative research and cultural immersion, ensuring the meeting of East and West.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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