



# Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Milan | Bologna | Munich | Berlin

Each year, Solstice partners with a select number of universities to create one-of-a-kind, fully customizable study experiences around the world. With careful guidance from Solstice's team of American and international educators, Virginia Tech RSAP students will gain invaluable insight into Europe's visionary science tradition and the future of some of its most relevant industries.

Solstice provides three core services: (1) assistance in developing your program itinerary; (2) comprehensive pre-departure support; and (3) facilitation of all logistical provisions (e.g., domestic and international airfare, buses, hotel accommodations, restaurant recommendations and bookings, activity planning, and Solstice program leaders).

Please note that while the spirit of the below schedule will remain unchanged, certain aspects — in consultation with VT faculty leaders — are subject to be updated. Company and university visits are typically scheduled one to five months prior to the program start date. As a result, our proposal may include a few placeholders for unspecified visits. Each will be specified in the months leading up to May 2024, and this process will be completed in close collaboration with Virginia Tech faculty leaders. Solstice maintains a strong track record of providing engaging and impactful visits to local firms, multinational corporations, local educational institutions, and more. As always, please contact us anytime if you have questions, requests, or suggestions during the program planning and implementation process.

*Our team looks forward to welcoming Virginia Tech RSAP to Italy and Germany in 2024!*

## May 12 - May 17: Italy | Masters of Design and Gastronomy

### Day 1 | Sunday, May 12 (*Washington, DC to Milan*)

**All Day** Fly from Washington Dulles to Milan, Italy

### Day 2 | Monday, May 13 (*Milan*)

**Early Afternoon** Arrive in Milan and travel into the city by private coach  
*While traveling into Milan, engage in an orientation session to understand and conceptualize the journey ahead, and share program goals and expectations with your fellow travelers.*

**Late Afternoon** Check into Combo Milano Hostel (faculty at nearby Hotel Milano La Spezia)

**Early Evening** Embark on a guided walking tour of the streets of Milan and stop for gelato along the way  
*Ruled by the Caesars, Napoleon, the Austro-Hungarians and Mussolini, Milan has an ancient and fascinating history. Today, the city leads the way in futuristic and sustainable architecture and is a vibrant hub for high-tech firms, both new and established.*

**8:00 PM** Group welcome dinner at Osteria Mamma Rosa!



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Milan | Bologna | Munich | Berlin

## Day 3 | Tuesday, May 14 (Milan)

8:30 AM	Depart hotel
9:00 AM	Visit the Politecnico di Milano campus for an engineering-focused lecture and cultural exchange with local engineering students
12:30 PM	Group lunch at La Cuccuma with local university peers
Afternoon	Free time to explore Milan!
Evening	Enjoy small group dinners on your own

## Day 4 | Wednesday, May 15 (Milan to Bologna)

9:00 AM	Hotel check-out
9:30 AM	Depart hotel; relax on a scenic bus ride en route to Bologna (~2.5 hours)
12:00 PM	Group lunch at Ristorante Da Taiadela
1:30 PM	Tour the Lamborghini Factory & Museum en route to Bologna <i>Gain an insider's look into this iconic Italian brand's manufacturing factory for luxury supercars and sports cars, as well as its accompanying museum.</i>
4:00 PM	Continue to Bologna (~40 minutes) and check into Combo Bologna Hostel (faculty at nearby hotel) <i>Bologna, the historical capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, is home to the world's oldest university and renowned for its street art, leisurely piazzas (city squares), and medieval and Renaissance architecture.</i>
Afternoon/Evening	Free time; enjoy small group dinners on your own and explore the city

## Day 5 | Thursday, May 16 (Bologna)

10:15 AM	Depart hotel
11:00 AM	Enjoy a guided tour of the Museo Ducati factory and museum <i>Gain an insider's look into how the Ducati motorcycle is assembled at this pilgrimage destination for automotive fans and motorcyclists worldwide.</i>
1:00 PM	Enjoy a group lunch at Drogheria della Rosa
2:30 PM	Embark on an architectural walking tour of Bologna's most iconic landmarks, including the Piazza Maggiore, Neptune Fountain, Basilica di San Petronio, and the beautiful University of Bologna, the oldest university in the world
Evening	Free time for small group dinners on your own <i>A recommended activity is checking out FICO Eataly World, open until 10:00 PM (ticket office closes at 9:00 PM).</i>



# Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Milan | Bologna | Munich | Berlin

## Day 6 | Friday, May 17 (Bologna)

8:30 AM	Depart hotel
9:30 AM	Visit Coesia and gain insight into its inner-workings <i>Coesia is a group of companies specialized in innovative industrial and packaging solutions, headquartered in Bologna, Italy. Coesia's customers are leaders in a range of market sectors, including aerospace, ceramics, consumer goods, electronics, healthcare, luxury goods, pharmaceuticals, racing and automotive, and tobacco.</i>
12:15 PM	Group lunch at Coesia
Afternoon/Evening	Free time to explore Bologna and enjoy small group dinners on your own <i>Suggested activities include visiting the Casa di Lucio Dalla, the Basilica di Santo Stefano, and the Palazzo Poggi.</i>

## May 18 - May 25: Germany | A High-Tech Powerhouse

### Day 7 | Saturday, May 18 (Bologna to Munich)

6:45 AM	Hotel check-out
Morning	Depart hotel; fly nonstop from Bologna to Munich
Noon	Travel to H2 Hotel München Olympiapark, deposit luggage, and enjoy a group lunch at the Münchner Stubn Restaurant
2:00 PM	Embark on a walking tour of Munich <i>Best known for Oktoberfest, there's a lot more to Munich than beer and pretzels. This modern Bavarian city is rich with culture, art, history, and industry.</i>
Afternoon/Evening	Free time to explore Munich and enjoy small group dinners on your own! <i>Suggested activities include visiting the Residenzmuseum, the museums of the Alte Pinakothek and the Pinakothek der Moderne, or just spending time at the sprawling city park of the Englischer Garten.</i>

### Day 8 | Sunday, May 19 (Munich)

7:00 AM	Depart hotel en route to Neuschwanstein Castle
9:30 AM	Enjoy a scenic stroll up to Neuschwanstein Castle followed by a guided tour
Midday	Bagged lunches at Neuschwanstein
1:00 PM	Travel to Dachau
Afternoon	Self-guided tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp
Evening	Free time to explore Munich and enjoy small group dinners on your own



# Virginia Tech RSAP Summer 2024

Milan | Bologna | Munich | Berlin

## Day 9 | Monday, May 20 (Munich)

8:30 AM	Depart hotel
9:00 AM	Company visit to Transsolar KlimaEngineering <i>Transsolar KlimaEngineering is comprised of a diverse team of engineers focused on creating climate-responsive built environments. The firm collaborates with its clients and partners to enhance the human experience while minimizing resource use following its self-declared attitude: High Comfort, Low Impact. Transsolar has been operating for more than 25 years with offices in Stuttgart, Munich, Paris, and New York.</i>
Midday	Small group lunches nearby
Afternoon	Visit the Chair of Automotive Technology at the Technical University of Munich and participate in cultural exchange activities with local peers
Evening	Enjoy free time to explore and small group dinners on your own

## Day 10 | Tuesday, May 21 (Munich to Berlin)

9:15 AM	Hotel check-out
9:45 AM	Depart hotel
10:15 AM	Learn about the past, present and future of BMW at the BMW Welt Museum <i>The BMW Museum brings this iconic brand to life through the exhibition's architecture and design.</i>
Noon	Small group lunches on your own in BMW's M1 Bistro
Afternoon	Embark on a train journey to Berlin (~5 hours); small group dinners on board
Evening	Check into Generator Berlin Mitte (faculty at H4 Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz)

## Day 11 | Wednesday, May 22 (Berlin)

8:50 AM	Meet in hotel lobby
9:00 AM	Partake in a guided walking tour of the Brandenburg Gate, the Kurfürstendamm and the remains of the Berlin Wall <i>Berlin's combination of tangible history, cutting-edge architecture, superb food, and trendsetting culture mesmerize visitors of this multicultural metropolis.</i>
12:00 PM	Free time for small group lunches on your own
2:30 PM	Visit the Reichstag Building, the seat of Germany's federal parliament <i>First opened in 1894, the Reichstag Building embodies the triumph of German democracy and scars of a tumultuous past. Severely damaged in an arson attack precisely four weeks after Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany in 1933, the building went into disuse until its reconstruction was completed in 1971. It was then reinstated as the seat of the Bundestag, the lower house of</i>



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*Germany's parliament, after a fierce parliamentary debate in the wake of German reunification in 1990.*

**7:15 PM**

Meet in the hotel lobby and take the subway as a group to our dinner

**8:00 PM**

Group dinner at Fes Turkish BBQ in Kreuzberg, a vibrant cultural hub

## Day 12 | Thursday, May 23 (Berlin)

**8:00 AM**

Depart hotel

**9:00 AM**

Visit the Harbauer GmbH water purification factory

*Harbauer Environmental Technology develops and builds innovative technologies for the protection of the environment and the remediation of existing damage to ecosystems. The group manages several factories in and around Berlin. During this particular visit, we will gain insight into the inner workings of Harbauer's greywater and blackwater purification factory.*

**12:00 PM**

Small group lunches on your own at the Hackescher Markt, famous for its eateries

**Afternoon**

Visit a multinational engineering firm

**Evening**

Free time to explore Berlin

## Day 13 | Friday, May 24 (Berlin)

**All Day**

Free time to explore Berlin

*Suggested activities include visiting the Pergamonmuseum, the Neues Museum, and the Museum für Naturkunde.*

**6:30 PM**

Meet in hotel lobby and depart for restaurant on foot (20-minute walk, weather permitting)

**7:00 PM**

Enjoy a festive farewell dinner at Alt-Berliner Gasthaus Julchen Hoppe with your classmates and program leaders!

## Day 14 | Saturday, May 25 (Berlin to Washington, DC)

**All Day**

Fly back to the United States