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**THE NIDA INSTITUTE IN ITALY**

**San Pellegrino University Foundation**

**Misano Adriatico, Italy**

**SEMINAR HANDBOOK**

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# 1. ABOUT THE NIDA INSTITUTE

The Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship is the research, service, and professional development arm of the New York City-based American Bible Society (ABS), as well as a charter member of the Italy-based San Pellegrino University Foundation. Established in 2001, the Institute seeks to carry forward the work of its namesake, Eugene A. Nida (1914-2011), who directed ABS translations from 1946-1984 and is widely recognized as one of the foremost linguists and translation theorists of the 20th century.

The Nida Institute exists to equip the next generation of translators for the multifaceted work of Bible translation in a rapidly changing world. In all of its programs, the Institute seeks to actively engage with ongoing developments in the broader field of translation studies, drawing from there stimulating insights about the nature and scope of translation, its ethical and cultural implications, and the ideological and institutional forces with which it must interact. This intentional engagement has fostered a commitment to translation studies as a laboratory for carrying out the research, training, production and quality assessment necessary to the work of Bible translation.

# 2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE NIDA INSTITUTE

## 2.1. Seminars

Bible translators are constantly seeking to master, retain, and update all the knowledge and skills they need to do their work well, from in-depth comprehension of local and global languages to a thorough understanding of cultural nuance and social sciences. As part of its ongoing and expanding program of professional development services, the Nida Institute provides training seminars for the translation staff of a number of global Bible agencies. A regular series of week-long seminars on topics ranging from globalization, new media and translation technologies to semiotics, cultural studies, and biblical studies helps to keep these professionals up to date in research areas crucial to success in their task. Each seminar works to integrate both theoretical and practical elements of the subject matter addressed, using a virtual learning space known as MAP to extend the educational experience into the weeks and months both preceding and following the residential event.

## 2.2. MAP

MAP (‘Modular Aggregation of Principles’ for Bible translation) is the virtual learning environment used by the Nida Institute to foster and encourage participation and dialogue among participants before, during and after all of its training events. MAP was born in 2012 of a cooperative effort by a number of Bible agencies (among them the Nida Institute, UBS Global Translations, SIL International, Seed Company, and the Netherlands Bible Society) who were seeking ways to leverage the power and potential of new technologies for training Bible translators, while simultaneously preserving the best of the pedagogical practices and the wealth of concrete examples found in past books and manuals.

Two technologies are currently used to support this dynamic, collaborative, constantly-evolving, multimedia ecosystem: Bloomfire provides a space for the aggregation of resources of all sorts, as well as for broad-ranging dialogue and the posing of questions; Canvas LMS is the platform used to create more structured, specific curricular spaces tailored to the needs of particular, localized learning communities.

MAP continually strives to find sustainable ways to put the best of current and cutting-edge academic research into conversation with the theory and practice operative in local translation teams in hopes of creating networks of learning communitites that will enrich the future of Bible translation worldwide.

For more information, visit us at [map.bloomfire.com](https://map.bloomfire.com).

## 2.3. Community Expectations and Personal Participation

Participants are expected to actively join in all of the scheduled sessions through engaged listening, questions and discussion. However, the Nida seminar experience is not limited to the classroom and formal lectures. The diverse pedagogy may employ individual research and writing time, scheduled tutorials, or facilitated roundtable discussions, as well as informal conversations. The community living experience provides a further unique opportunity for interaction and exchange that all are invited to engage with while in Misano. Participants should be prepared to join fully in all aspects of the seminar and limit their outside plans to those days and times set aside for personal activity or to their time in Italy before and/or after the event.

## 2.4. Evaluation of the Seminar

At the end of each seminar, all participants have an opportunity to review their expectations and evaluate their experience by filling out an evaluation form. These evaluations are part of regular internal assessment of the Nida Institute. The information provided is confidential and is used to improve the experience for future participants.

# 3. VENUE

Nida Institute seminars take place on the campus of the San Pellegrino University Foundation in Misano Adriatico, Italy, a seaside town on the Adriatic with a long cultural history and a more recent connection to tourism. All participants are housed in the nearby Imperial Hotel and Residence, a three-star, family-run hotel only three minutes from the Foundation on foot. The hotel’s beachfront location and the Foundation’s proximity to downtown provide ample opportunity for strolling into town, jogging along the boardwalk or relaxing on the beach during free time. Bicycles and tricycle rickshaws may also be rented for roaming about the area.

## 3.1. San Pellegrino University Foundation

The San Pellegrino University Foundation (<http://www.fusp.it/en>) facilities include classrooms, study rooms, a library, and an auditorium, as well as a dormitory, a refectory, a chapel, and a coffee bar. Campus grounds offer additional options for recreation with a tennis court, a junior-size soccer field, and beach access across the street.

#### Library

The Nida Institute cooperates with the San Pellegrino University Foundation to provide a growing library for seminar participants, along with a reading room. Participants are invited to contribute copies of their own publications to the library.

#### Audio-Visual Equipment and Computers

The San Pellegrino University Foundation features a fully equipped lecture hall with projection, microphone, and playback equipment for audio-cassettes, CDs, and DVDs. Participants are advised to bring their own laptop computers with them, although a computer equipped with a printer will be available for use by those who wish to prepare handouts or other study materials. Participants are asked to remember that if they are using a Mac or any other type of laptop requiring particular adaptors in order to connect to a projector for presentation, then it is their own responsibility to bring the adaptors that they need.

#### Internet Service

The Foundation is equipped with 24-hour wireless internet service that may be accessed throughout the Foundation building. No password is required to log on.

#### Printing and Photocopying

A computer and printer located in the Nida wing will be made available to participants who may wish to print study materials, train tickets, boarding passes, etc. A photocopier will also be available for use.

#### Access for the Physically Impaired

Access to facilities includes elevators for reaching the upper floors of the Foundation building. Access to the grounds and facilities conforms to European standards.

#### Bar and Coffee Breaks

Morning and afternoon coffee breaks will be served in a room adjacent to the lecture hall and will offer an assortment of tea, coffee, juice, water and snacks for participants. There is also a privately run bar on the ground floor of the Foundation, serving both coffees and alcoholic beverages. Participants are welcome to make use of this bar at their own expense whenever it is open.

#### Security

All participants should be mindful that, while Nida staff make every effort to provide a secure environment for persons and property, care should still be exercised in not leaving personal property, such as computers or cell phones, unattended.

## 3.2. The Imperial Hotel and Residence

The Imperial Hotel and Residence ([www.imperialmisano.com](http://www.imperialmisano.com)) is a beachfront hotel offering a spacious garden, a private parking lot, and easy access for people living with disabilities. Free wireless internet is available in all common areas, as well as in individual rooms. The hotel also offers guests free use of its bicycles. [\*\*Please note that participants are not required to contact the hotel themselves as all bookings and arrangements will be handled on their behalf by the Foundation Project Manager, Ashley Brown ([abrown@nidaschool.org](mailto:abrown@nidaschool.org)).]

#### Rooms at the Imperial

All rooms at the Imperial are spacious, self-contained mini-apartments, furnished with a bed, wardrobe, desk, chair, and kitchenette, as well as air conditioning, television, and direct-dial telephone. Each room also has a private bathroom with a shower. Bedding and towels are provided, along with hand soap, but no other personal toiletries are offered. At a nominal additional cost, personal laundry service is available as well.

#### Meals at the Imperial

Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are served in the dining room on the ground floor of the Imperial. All food is locally sourced and prepared on the spot in the kitchen by the owners of the Imperial, who take great pride in personally preparing the food and offering a selection of traditional Italian and international cuisine. The hotel staff is very accommodating when it comes to catering to particular dietary requirements; please be sure to inform seminar organizers ahead of time about any such dietary needs so that adequate provision can be made.

# 4. TRAVEL

## 4.1. Arrival and Departure

It is anticipated that participants will arrive in Misano on the Sunday at the beginning of the session. Exceptions for earlier arrival can be made, but only if sufficient notice is given and special arrangements are agreed upon in advance. The first shared meal is a dinner served Sunday evening at 19h00. The seminar’s official opening ceremony will take place on Monday morning, with the formal closing session normally occurring on Friday afternoon. Departures should be scheduled for Friday evening or the Saturday immediately following. A large number of local hotels are available for those who plan to arrive early or stay beyond the end of the session. Arrangements must be made individually and personally by anyone who chooses or is obliged to arrive early or stay an extra day or two in Misano Adriatico.

Due to the number of participants arriving at all different times and from all different directions, staff are not able to meet individuals at airports or train stations. However, if you are arriving at the Misano train station, it is an easy walk to the Foundation (only about 1 kilometre/0.62 miles). If arriving at Riccione, or Cattolica, you should be prepared to provide a taxi driver with the address of the hotel (about 10 minutes away by car). Taxi prices may range from €15 to €25, depending on the time of day and the number of people transported.

## 4.2. Airport Information

International travel to Misano Adriatico is easiest either through the Bologna airport (2 hours by train from Misano) or the Ancona airport (1½ hours by train). Arrival via Rome is a third option for participants, although this airport is by far the furthest from Misano (5 hours by train). Please note that not all trains will stop in Misano (particularly in the non-tourist season), so be sure to check the list of stops carefully. If no direct train is available, plan to disembark at Riccione (one stop north of Misano) or at Cattolica-S.Giovanni-Gabicce (one stop south of Misano) and take a taxi from there.

If in doubt about your planned itinerary, please feel free to consult with our Project Manager, Ashley Brown ([abrown@nidaschool.org](mailto:abrown@nidaschool.org)), before confirming your ticket.

#### Bologna Airport (G. Marconi)

Bologna is the best-serviced airport of the Romagna region, with easy flight connections to a number of major European airports, including London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Madrid. Once in Bologna, take an airport bus (the BLQ airbus: €6) or taxi (€15 to €25) to the central train station (Bologna Centrale) where you will be able to purchase a ticket for travel to Misano Adriatico or a neighbouring train station (see 4.1).

#### Ancona Airport (R. Sanzio)

The R. Sanzio Airport in Ancona Falconara is not as well serviced as Bologna in terms of flight connections, but it does offer a good connection from London Stansted (operated daily by the low-fare airline Ryanair), as well as from Rome Fiumicino. From the train station (Castel Ferretti) directly outside the airport, you can catch a 2-minute train to Falconara Marittima, where you will need to switch to a connecting train for travel to Misano Adriatico or a neighbouring train station (see 4.1).

#### Rome Airport (Fiumicino)

If Rome-Fiumicino is the international airport of arrival, it is important to remember that the trip to Misano will require another five hours by train. As a result, participants are advised to either find a flight that lands before mid-afternoon (1 or 2 pm at the latest) in order to ensure sufficient time to catch trains and make the necessary connections between Rome and Misano, or alternatively to plan to spend the night in Rome before continuing on their way.

In order to continue on by train from Rome-Fiumicino, one must first catch the commuter train from the airport to Roma Termini, Rome’s central train station. There are signs in the airport directing passengers to the tracks and ticket station for the train to Termini. Once arrived at Termini, one can purchase a ticket to Misano-Adriatico or a neighbouring train station (see 4.1). It will be necessary to change trains once en route, either at Falconara Marittima or at Bologna Centrale. All other things being equal, Falconara Marittima may be considered the better choice, because it is a smaller station and more easily navigable and because, should there be any significant problem, it is only an hour away from Misano. If connecting in Bologna, a larger and more crowded station, it is advisable to leave at least 45 minutes between trains.

## 4.3. Train Travel

Travel by train in Italy is very convenient. International travelers may purchase tickets online ahead of time ([www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)) or on the day at the ticket counters of any major railway station using euros or a credit card. Note that you cannot ever purchase tickets on the train itself in Italy.

The Italian train system is partly privatized and partly state-run. The less expensive trains (the ‘regionale’ and ‘interregionale’) are run by the state and have a fixed price, regardless of the time or date of travel. Please note that online purchase of these tickets can only be made up to seven days in advance, but that they can be purchased at train stations at any time. Whether you purchase these tickets in advance or on the day of travel, the price remains the same. All the other services (Italo, Frecciabianca, Frecciarossa) are run by private entities and ticket prices vary according to availability and to when you book them. Admittedly, the quality of these trains is higher than that of the regionale and interregionale trains, and so they may be preferable for longer trips, even if more expensive.

Be advised that there is no ticket agent at the train station in Misano. Although tickets may be purchased from a machine located on the platform, whenever possible, it is preferable to buy tickets for trains leaving from Misano ahead of time, either online ([www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)) or at another station (like Riccione or Cattolica).

**\*\*One very important note:** **Do not forget to validate your ticket before boarding your train.** Look for validation machines in the station or on the platform. When you insert one end of your ticket into the machine, the time and date will be punched onto your ticket, thus validating it for travel at that particular time. Failure to validate will automatically result in a fine when the inspector comes by to check your ticket on the train. (Note that e-tickets, purchased online, normally specify the time and date already and therefore do not need to be validated in this way. However, if in doubt, validate!)

## 4.4. Taxi and Bus Service

Local bus service to neighboring towns is available at a bus stop just in front of the hotel. Bus service is also available from the Misano train station. Fares are very reasonable and may be paid on the bus.

Taxis are available from most train stations in Italy except late at night. Misano local taxis may be called by telephone or reserved in advance. Taxis provide good service, although for trips of a distance it is best to share the cost. In general, taxis will accept only cash (euros) for payment.

## 4.5. Visas

It is the responsibility of each participant to inform the organizers of their need to obtain a visa for entry into Italy. The Misano-based Foundation staff will do everything possible to facilitate obtaining visas, but they must be informed as early as possible of the precise documents required by the Italian Embassy in the country of the participant, the format preferred (email or postal mail), and the address and person to whom the documents must be provided. If an official letter of invitation from the Foundation is required, please request this document as early as possible from the Foundation’s Project Manager, Ashley Brown ([abrown@nidaschool.org](mailto:abrown@nidaschool.org)).

## 4.6. Health and Travel Insurance

It is the responsibility of each participant to carry their own health and travel insurance to cover any unexpected medical or transportation needs.

# 5. TOURISM

Misano Adriatico is situated within easy reach of many culturally and historically rich cities. A number of these can be visited in one day, others over the course of a weekend.

#### Rimini

Just north of Misano is Rimini, a city dating to the Roman Empire with a large forum (Piazza Tre Martiri) and two central streets, the Cardo Maximus (Via Garibaldi e Via IV Novembre) and the Decumanus Maximus (Corso d’Augusto). Rimini boasted a large and very active amphitheatre (only the Colosseum in Rome was bigger), and two triumphal monuments, the Bridge of Tiberius and the Arch of Augustus.

#### Ravenna

Slightly further to the north is Ravenna, a treasure chest of art, history, and culture of the highest order, a city with ancient origins and a glorious past. It was three times a capital city, first of the Western Roman Empire, then of King Theodoric of the Goths, and then of the Byzantine Empire in Europe. The basilicas and baptisteries of the city contain the richest heritage of mosaics dating from the 5th and 6th centuries. Eight historic buildings are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

#### Urbino

Urbino is a picturesque Renaissance hill town. Although Urbino was a Roman and Medieval city, its peak came during the 15th century when Duke Federico da Montefeltro established one of Europe’s most illustrious courts in Urbino. The impressive Ducal Palace houses one of the most important collections of Renaissance paintings in Italy. Urbino University was opened in 1506. The city is a center for maiolica ceramics, art, and culture. Urbino’s historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Ferrara

Ferrara as a city dates back around 1300 years when it was a Byzantine military castrum (fortified city). In 1115 Ferrara became a free commune and in 1135 the cathedral was built. The Este family ruled Ferrara from 1208 to 1598 and constructed many of the monuments that we see today.

#### Florence

Florence is a very famous city that possesses a wealth of art works and buildings of great historical and architectural value, covering a time span that extends from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The historical center of Florence is quite small, so it is easy to navigate on foot.

#### San Marino

San Marino is a popular tourist site. It was founded in 301 and is the most ancient European republic. For travelers who collect country stamps in their passport, an official tourist visa for San Marino can be purchased for a nominal fee from the tourist police.

#### Travel

Most of these cities will take about two hours to reach by train. One may choose to depart directly from Misano. Cattolica and Riccione, however, offer a better choice of schedules because they are bigger and more active stations than Misano.

To reach Urbino, one needs to take a train from Misano to Pesaro and then a bus from Pesaro to Urbino.

To reach San Marino, one must take a train to Rimini and then another one to San Marino, or a bus. For serious bikers, San Marino is a good bicycle journey from Misano.

# 6. OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

## 6.1. Climate

The climate along the Adriatic is moderate Mediterranean just before the beginning of the summer. Temperatures are generally in the range of 50-70°F (12-22°C), with a sea breeze during the day and cool air in the evening.

## 6.2. Clothes to Bring

Dress should be neat casual. A sweater, swimming suit, umbrella, and mosquito repellant are useful items to bring along. If one plans on visiting cultural sites, especially churches and cathedrals, more formal dress is appropriate.

## 6.3. Electricity and Adapter Plugs

Electricity is 220 volt from European-style outlets. Anyone who brings electrical equipment with a non-European plug will need an adapter with two smaller round prongs (not the plug with large round prongs). Adapter plugs may be purchased locally, but bringing one’s own adapter is more convenient.

## 6.4. Telephone Service

There is cell phone service in Misano, but it will require the installation of a local SIM card, unless one first speaks to the operator in their home country about international calling rates and sets up their phone prior to departure. Alternatively, reasonably priced telephone cards may be purchased at local tobacco shops for use in public pay telephones that are located in Misano’s town centre. However, internet communication solutions (like Skype or Google Hangout) may provide the easiest, most inexpensive option of all.

## 6.5. Currency Exchange and ATM

The currency used in Italy is the euro. Upon arriving at an international airport from abroad, it is often convenient to obtain euros at an ATM machine located in the baggage room while awaiting one’s luggage. Cash is needed to take buses or taxis. In Misano, there are 24-hour cash machines at banks located about a 15-minute walk from the Foundation.

## 6.6. Medical and Pharmaceutical Facilities

Well-supplied pharmacies are located in the downtown area of Misano about a 15-minute walk from the Foundation. The San Pellegrino University Foundation has formal arrangements for medical assistance in the case of need or emergency. The nearest hospitals are located in Cattolica and Riccione, which are about 10 minutes from Misano by taxi.

## 6.7. Shops in Misano

Misano is a seaside resort town, which comes to life during the summer season (May – September). Within walking distance of the hotel and Foundation, you can find a number of shops of various sorts, as well as a post office, a bank, a laundromat, pharmacies, bars, restaurants, and the local tourist information office.

## 6.8. Local Contact Information

**San Pellegrino University Foundation**

Via Massimo d’Azeglio, 8

Misano Adriatico (RN)

47843

Tel. 0541 610010

**Residence Imperial**

Via Litoranea Sud, 50

47843

Misano Adriatico (RN)

Tel. +39 0541/610114

**Misano taxi telephone numbers:**

+39 3385208889

+39 3405915228