

## Epiphany

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION administrators are often faced with the delicate task of balancing our need to “get the job done” as quickly and efficiently as possible with understanding and cultural sensitivity for our overseas partners who sometimes work at a much more, let’s say, “relaxed” pace. My absolute favorite program is also my most frustrating program, located in Italy. As international educators, we work to eradicate the “ugly American” persona, but there have been times when I’ve urgently needed to get hold of a transcript, an acceptance letter, or even just needed someone to answer the phone or respond to an e-mail message, and I have wondered why they cannot be more like us.

My site visit to Italy with my six-month old daughter, Emily, changed all that. She wasn’t supposed to come with me, but due to unforeseen circumstances I had no other choice, so there I was on an official visit with an infant in tow. I was so embarrassed to have to explain this to my partners; I was so sorry for the inconvenience that I had caused, and worried about what I would do for childcare. They, on the other hand, were delighted! Emily came to all of the meetings, and university staff members happily volunteered to take care of the “bambina” while I was in session. We would have our breaks around her feedings and diaper changes, and at lunch and dinner meetings my partners would hold her so that I could eat my meal!

My “accidental” adventure with my daughter gave me a greater insight and appreciation of Italian culture than all my previous exposure combined. Now, if I ever feel that familiar sense of frustration, I think about my trip and wonder why we cannot be more like them. **IE**

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## YOU'RE INVITED!

**WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT** your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *IE* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at [elainal@nafsa.org](mailto:elainal@nafsa.org).