



Academic Year in Italy 2024/2025

FLORENCE
ROME
MILAN

The Academic Year Programme is an ideal long-term course solution for Gap Year students, graduates and young adults looking to take a serious career break. These long-term courses allow students to focus on all aspects of the language over several months, whilst placing the language within a meaningful cultural framework. In-depth study over an extended period ensures better mastery, subtler understanding and far greater long-term retention of key language skills.

The course is ideal for students who wish to combine their study of the Italian language with an exploration of Italy and the Italian culture, through living and studying in Italy. It is aimed at students with beginner to intermediate Italian, who aim to achieve fluency over a number of months.

- Language tuition: 480 lessons
- Class size: 14 people
- Cultural sessions included
- Preparation for AIL exams: 80 lessons included
- Minutes per lesson: 45
- Ability levels accepted: Beginner/Intermediate
- Duration: 32 weeks
- Accommodation arranged
- Minimum age: 16 years
- Recommended age: 18 years+

The Programme ensures rapid acquisition and long-term retention of all aspects of language knowledge and is an invaluable way of focusing on your language skills development, with like-minded people away from the pressures and demands of daily life at home. It aims to provide a solid grounding in core skills across a wide range of ability levels. Whatever your current ability, key teaching techniques will ensure you gradually acquire and develop the necessary strategies to understand and communicate in Italian.

Start Dates 2024

2024

02 January – 09 August 2024

06 May – 13 December 2024

02 September – 24 April 2025 *

2025

07 January – 15 August 2024

05 May – 12 December 2024

08 September – 08 May 2025 *

* NB: These courses include the Christmas holiday, so an additional accommodation fee will be applied.

Programme Fees 2024

CESA Admin fee: € 60.00

Tuition: € 6,195.00

Accommodation / 32 weeks duration
Italian hosts/

Single rm, ½ board: € 11,645.00

Shared apartment/

Single rm, self-catering: € 6,945.00

Christmas supplements:

Italian hosts/

Single rm, ½ board: €725.00

Shared apartment/

single rm, self-catering: € 435.00

Important:

Accommodation fees are paid DIRECTLY in Italy,
not via CESA



Programme Structure:

Language element: 480 lessons of Italian language study, culmination in a final 80 lessons of preparation for two Italian Diplomas at intermediate and advanced levels.

Teaching in the first half of the course, begins with 240 Standard Course lessons on language and grammar (4 daily lessons from Monday to Friday). You will progress from the Beginner and/or the Elementary level to the Intermediate stages, working on the basics of Italian grammar (articles, prepositions, present and past tenses) to more complex subjects such as the subjunctive.

Although the focus is grammar, the Standard Course includes daily conversation classes so you will also develop speaking and listening skills. As well as the Standard Course classes, in the month before the exam there will be 40 additional lessons of preparation for the DILI-examination of AIL.

In the second half of the course your horizons will widen. The Standard Course, now with a greater emphasis on the written language, continues and is concluded after a further 240 lessons, inclusive of a further four weeks of DALI-exam preparation.

Meanwhile, the programme broadens to include lessons from the general culture unit.

Cultural element: You will attend classes in history of art (24 lessons over 4 weeks), giving you an introduction to the everlasting beauty and charm of Italian art, followed by two guided tours of art works. A second module will take you into the world of business and current affairs (12 lessons), where there will be a special emphasis on Italian as a business language. The fashion lessons will focus on a sector where Italian artists are at the leading edge, fashion and design (12 lessons), where we aim to reveal some of the secrets behind the "Made in Italy" label.

Finally, the Italian history and civilization unit (32 hours over 8 weeks) will allow you to understand the mixture of tradition and change which characterizes contemporary Italy.

At the end of the general course you will have to write an essay on a topic of your own choosing, with the help of our school library and of a personal tutor (10 lessons). This will be assessed as part of the final test. That task accomplished, you will have progressed from beginner to connoisseur of Italy and its language and culture.



Important Information

Travel

We recommend students fly to the nearest International airport and then take the college transfer, or alternatively make their own way to their accommodation.

Holidays

Please note that group lessons are not held (or made up) on the following public holidays (private classes will be offered on alternative days in the same week): 2024: 01 Jan, 01 & 25 Apr, 01 May, 29 June, Rome only), 15 Aug, 01 Nov 2025: to be confirmed.

Christmas holiday commence: 20 Dec 2024 and the college opens again 07 Jan 2025

Books & materials

Each student receives a course book (inclusive in the course price). In addition the college draw upon a range of authentic material (newspaper articles, literature etc) alongside audio and computer material and DVDs.

Personal Money

CESA recommends a minimum of €200.00 per week if staying with Italian hosts, to cover the cost of lunches, snacks, drinks, public transport fares. We suggest approximately €250.00 a week, if self-catering in an apartment. Of course personal expenditure varies from person to person. If you'd like any further guidance on this, please contact the CESA staff.

Classes are held from Monday to Friday each week unless there is a public holiday.

The colleges require all their teachers to have university degrees and extensive experience teaching Italian as a Foreign Language.

The college is closed over the Christmas holiday period; however accommodation can be reserved for students (and then has to be paid for) over this period if applicable to your programme dates.

Methodology

- Intensive grammar study
- Phonetics
- Development of vocabulary
- Syntax & application
- Listening & comprehension
- Dialogue & communication
- Idiomatic language
- Written & oral expression
- Lecture & analysis
- Free conversation
- Live guided discussion & synthesis



Only Italian will be spoken from the first day of classes. Throughout all the courses offered, emphasis is placed on the spoken, living language. By continually stressing the use of verbal communication, students are able to learn Italian "naturally" to unite theory and practice easily and to increase knowledge quickly and with confidence. More advanced levels also include written language practise.

Much of the teaching materials has been developed by the schools in house and is well suited to the needs and requirements of students. In order to enable students to gain an insight into the Italian way of living and thinking a whole range of extracurricular activities are provided, aside from the core language programme.

The work of each group is tailored to the Italian ability level of the class. The college divides students into six theoretical levels of ability. A student of average linguistic ability should allow four weeks to complete any one of the given Levels.

In the classes offered at beginner/elementary levels the spoken language is the most important part of the tuition. Continually promoting the use of verbal communication permits students to learn Italian "naturally", to unite theory and practice and increase your knowledge quickly and with confidence. In high elementary, intermediate & advanced classes the written language will be thoroughly covered and specifically so towards the latter stages of the programme, in preparation for the AIL exams.

Social Life & Activities

All students are encouraged to make the most of their time in each Italian location by participating in the guided excursions and activities offered by the college. The range of attractions, by day or night, ensures that each location is a stimulating and provocative backdrop for your experience of Italy and Italian life. Visits are offered accompanied by a college guide, students are of course welcome to explore each location on their own, and many do so. In addition, however we suggest you try out the less well-known activities that the Italians themselves enjoy, wandering through the local markets; or simply exploring the hidden corners of the cities that the average tourist never gets to see.

Sample Social Activities ideas applicable to Florence:

Your stay in Florence should be memorable for a multitude of reasons, including your own voyage of discovery of the city and all that it has to offer. To enable students to take full advantage of the opportunities available, the school provides a monthly calendar of cultural activities, detailing the range of sports (where you can participate or be a spectator) local exhibitions, concerts, films etc available. Each month the college makes special arrangements to enable students to gain the most from their stay in Florence, a dinner in a "trattoria" for students and teachers, free guided History of Art visits (every week) and free Cinema Italiano at the college once a fortnight. In addition, every two weeks a full day excursion will be offered on a Saturday or Sunday, to Siena & San Gimignano, or Pisa & Lucca and a half-day excursion to the wine yards of the "Chianti" area.

Florence, Rome or Milan?

Stay in one location for 32 weeks...or start in one location and move to another city (or study in all three of them) during your programme. The fees are the same, whatever choice you make!

All of the colleges are academically orientated language schools, using the same teaching methods and following the same teaching structure.

They provide language training for students of all levels of ability from total beginners through to advanced level students, including Refresher courses for Teachers of Italian as a foreign language.

For a brief outline of each location and its college please refer to the information below or our website (for full details) www.cesalanguages.com



Accommodation

All accommodation hosts have been inspected by the respective language schools. Students have to allow different commuting times depending on which location they choose to study in.

As a rule though students choosing to live in Milan must anticipate a daily commute to college of at least 25/40 minutes one way, whether they stay with local Italian hosts on a half-board basis (private household accommodation) or in shared apartment accommodation (which in this city is most likely to be with local Italian hosts), self-catering.

In Rome, hosts and apartments are based in the residential areas around the city centre and students should expect a daily bus commute of 30/50 minutes each way.

In Florence private household accommodation is generally offered 20/30 minutes or more from the college in the residential areas of the city, whilst the shared apartments (which can be with Italian hosts or with other language students), self-catering can be very central, 5 to 30 minutes from the college

Arrive Sunday PM
Depart Saturday AM

Option 1

Italian hosts, single room (or shared room on request), half-board (breakfast and evening meal). Please see the online details for each school, for full accommodation description. Host accommodation can be booked and paid for over the Christmas holiday period if required.

Option 2

Shared apartment, single room This will most likely be with Italian hosts, single room (or shared room on request) in Rome and Milan on a self-catering basis. In Florence students generally share with other language students (this can sometimes be arranged in Rome and Milan). Please see the online details for each school, for full accommodation description. Apartment accommodation can be booked and paid for over the Christmas holiday period if required.

Florence

Built along the banks of the Arno, in the heart of Tuscany the city appeals to Italian language students of all ages. It was the cradle of the Renaissance. You can admire the original masterpieces of Giotto, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci in the Uffizi and Palazzo Pitti, but also in the many historic churches dotted around central Florence. The Ponte Vecchio connects the lively and historic city centre, to the quieter, more relaxed neighbourhood south of the river. Florence is a blaze of beautiful squares, such as the Piazza della Repubblica and the Piazza della Signoria, fabulous shops and cafes, all connected by small streets and medieval alleys. Dominating the city is the cupola of the Duomo. Today Florence attracts students from all over the world, who come away with wonderful memories of the delicious Tuscan food, superb local wines, the numerous bars, trattorias and night-clubs that make up this fascinating city.

The College:

Established in 1977, the school is in the heart of the city. Situated on the first floor of a historic building, it offers a quiet working environment, yet is only 4 minutes by foot from the Duomo. There is also a lounge with snack machine and coffee machine. The lounge is equipped with tables and chairs and may be used as a study room for student use. There are 18 classrooms for group course and private tuition use and the staff are always on hand should you have any questions once on your course.



Rome

The Eternal City – world renowned for its centuries of history, picturesque monuments and ancient ruins. If you want to sample Italian history or the wonders of Italian Art over the years, Rome has so much to offer! However it is equally famous for its vivid night-life and can offer a million entertainments throughout the day too; shops, elegant squares, theatres, restaurants, wonderful churches, markets and cinemas abound. Of course the art galleries and archaeological sites are a major draw for language students, but the city has so much to offer, that is really is an ideal base for long term study.

Language School

The school is located in an elegant historic building in the city centre, in a pedestrian area, beautifully situated between San Pietro Basilica, Castel S Angelo and Piazza Navona. It has a long history of language teaching, having been established in 1984. There are 12 classrooms for group and private tuition lessons. The school offers wifi and internet access via 6 computers, a student lounge and disabled student access. The immediate areas has plenty of cafes and restaurants to tempt the hungry language student! There are also enough shops, small boutiques and libraries to explore to satisfy all tastes!

Milan

With a population of 1.4 million, is the city that sets the trends. It is one of the most cosmopolitan and vibrant metropolis of Italy. A fascinating mixture of traditional and modern, design, fashion, and culture. Its character is a melding of its historical past and its present-day booming industry. The fantastic art treasures and the architecture attract visitors, bearing witness to 2000 years of history. The temperature can range from 6/10oC in the winter months to 20/35oC in the summer. In Milan you meet people from every region of Italy and the world. Its citizens are friendly and extremely open to visitors. During the day you can visit artistic places or simply walk around the shops in the fashion district, where all the best-known names in fashion have boutiques. During the evening you can enjoy a fantastic 'apertivo' in one of the hundreds of bars and cafes in the Navigli, an area with a large population of artists and formerly the harbour of Milan, where the canal still flows today.

Language School

The school in Milan, opened in 2005, is newly located in a central city area. Just 15 mins walk, or two metro stops from the Duomo, the facilities include 12 classrooms (air con), a student bar & cafeteria and has free internet access.



ALL Exams are offered in the final period of the Academic Year Programme:

Do you speak Italian? **Can you prove it!**

Some people study Italian for self-enrichment or, they're travelling to "il bel paese" and want to know how to tell the time or talk on the phone in Italian, or to satisfy short term language requirements in high school, college, university or career goals. Others however, though, such as art history students, aspiring teachers, translators or others with long term career goals, study the language as part of a formal training programme. For this latter group of students, formally proving competency in the language is a requirement and this is where the AIL Exams are of great value.

Accademia Italiana di Lingua (AIL)

The Accademia Italiana di Lingua (AIL) was founded in Florence, Italy in 1984. The AIL is non-profit organization comprised of schools, institutions and experts (both Italian and international) which operate within the field of certification. The AIL has twenty-two members to date.

The AIL created the various exams in order to certify the candidate's effective knowledge of the modern Italian language. (Previously, the only available certification was the Diploma of the University of Perugia and the Certificate of the International Certificate Conference, but only at the intermediate level).

Admission to the exams is open to all students of Italian or anyone who wishes to take the exam. Academic Year Programme students are prepared for the DILI (intermediate) and DALI (advanced level) exams. The course syllabus also incorporates the fundamental elements of level C2 of the European Language Portfolio.

The length of the preparation courses varies from country to country according to the frequency of the Italian lessons. (As previously indicated, there are sample tests available for every level). For example, candidates who attend Italian language schools for foreigners in Italy attend regular courses until one month prior to the exam. The candidates spend the last month attending a preparation course specific to the AIL exam level they wish to complete. Schools abroad (professional and night schools, the Dante Alighieri Society, Università Popolari, etc...) generally organize specific preparation courses that can last from six months to a year.

While the needs of the exam candidates vary greatly, in recent years there has been a notable increase in the number of candidates who need the certification for work purposes. It is for this reason that the DILC and the DALC (Exam for Business Italian) have enjoyed the success of being the forerunners of Italian certification.

Unique to the AIL exams is the emphasis at every level on the aspects of both every day and business-specific communication. Each AIL exam centre offers preparation courses for each exam level which incorporate sample tests equipped with the audio cassettes for the listening portion of the exam.

The structure and content of the exam render the AIL certification valid in several countries (especially in the workplace). To this end it is necessary to point out that there isn't an Italian language exam that is recognised by the Italian state, in the same way that there isn't an English language exam that is recognised by the British state, as even the Cambridge exams are private.

It is not customary for a state to recognise a language exam as no state institution exists to verify its validity. However the AIL is recognised in many Swiss schools and public institutions (Italian is one of the official languages of Switzerland) and in these institutions the internal Italian exams have been replaced by those of AIL. In particular public schools of commerce (Zurich, Bern, St. Gallen, Chur, Aarau etc.), high schools and teacher training institutions for cantonal schools (Uri and Graubünden).

Exams are held regularly in various Italian and Swiss cities (where Italian is the official language) as well as in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Japan, Slovenia and Holland. Candidates come from all over the world; recently there has been a significant increase in students from Northern Europe and from Japan.

AIL Diplomas:

DELI - A2

Diploma Elementare di Lingua Italiana "Firenze" - AIL, basic level:

At the end of the 1st ability level; One month preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: A2 - s/n: N3)*

DILI - B1

Diploma Intermedio di Lingua Italiana "Firenze" - AIL, intermediate level:

At the end of the 3rd ability level; Three months preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: B1 - s/n: N6)*

DILC - B1

Diploma Intermedio di Lingua Italiana Commerciale "Firenze" - AIL, intermediate level:

At the end of the 3rd ability level; Three months preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: B1 - s/n: N6)*

DILI - B2

Diploma Intermedio di Lingua Straniera "Firenze" - AIL, intermediate level:

At the end of the 4th ability level; Four months preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: B2 - s/n: N8)*

DALI - C1

Diploma Avanzato di Lingua Italiana "Firenze"- AIL, advanced level 1:

At the end of the 6th ability level; Six months preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: C1 - s/n: N9)*

DALC - C1

Diploma Avanzato di Lingua Italiana Commerciale "Firenze" - AIL, Business language, advanced level:

At the end of the 6th ability level. Six months preparation for beginners, including business and commerce course; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: C1 - s/n: N10)*

DALI - C2

Diploma Avanzato di Lingua Italiana "Firenze"- AIL, advanced level 2:

At the end of the 6th ability level; Eight months preparation for beginners; exams 4 times a year.

Ability level according to the assessment scale: elp: C2 - s/n: N10)*

* elp = European Language Portfolio; s/n = Günter Schneider & Brian North.

Other Language Diplomas: Our language schools organise preparation courses for the following language diplomas: CELI - Perugia, CILS - Siena

If you wish to discuss the programme or locations, please call us

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