Italian

Available degree options

All the degrees are available With Integrated Year Abroad

Single Honours

Italian

Joint Honours

Italian and one of 24 other subjects

See Arts combinations, pages 172-173

Triple Honours

Italian and two other modern languages

Italian and one other modern language and another subject

See Triple combinations, pages 136-137

Previous knowledge of subject required? No

As a student of Italian, you will develop your language skills to a high standard and will have the opportunity to engage in a number of specialist topics including language, literature, history, politics and film.

• Rated first in the UK in the National Student Survey 2017 with 100% for student satisfaction.
• The Italian Department is the largest in Scotland. Language teaching at all levels takes place in relatively small groups, and the structure of the programmes ensures that you will receive a solid grounding in both the language and the culture of Italy.
• We have specialist expertise in teaching Italian to complete beginners, and many of our students enter at this level.
• Members of the Italian Department have high international research profiles, and have very diverse areas of expertise, ranging from early literature to contemporary film.
• Our innovative and distinctive teaching approach includes mixed skills and integrated classes, and regular structured contact with native speakers.

What will I study?

Italian at St Andrews has a unique focus on closely guiding and monitoring your progression and development. We provide a solid grounding in both language and culture, and equip you with fundamental critical and communicative skills relevant to careers in all professional areas. We are a very vibrant and lively Department, and key areas of staff expertise include Dante, the Italian Renaissance, translation studies, modernism and twentieth-century poetry, transnational, migration and border writings, Italian film, gender and postcolonial studies.

First year

Depending on your background in Italian, you will either be introduced to, or consolidate your knowledge of, the fundamental areas of Italian grammar, focusing on your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also be introduced to, or further explore, elements of Italian culture and literature from a range of periods and genres, and have the opportunity to work independently on particular topics.

Second year

You will consolidate and expand your understanding of Italian grammar, syntax and lexical knowledge, and of contemporary Italy. You will also study representative periods, works and authors, such as Dante, Machiavelli, and Primo Levi.

Third and fourth years (Honours)

Through extensive use of contemporary materials in the core language courses, you will enhance your linguistic as well as your analytical and critical skills, and examine important issues in contemporary Italian culture and society. You will also be introduced to professional areas of language training, like translation and interpreting.

Given the breadth of our staff’s research specialisms, you will be able to study in depth an extremely wide variety of periods and aspects of Italian culture and literature.

Study abroad

You can also study abroad as part of your degree, please see page 133.

Entry requirements

We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

SQA Highers: AAB
GCE A-Levels: AAB
International Baccalaureate Points: 36

“I began my Italian studies as a beginner so I am incredibly fortunate to have been taught by staff who have continuously encouraged me to develop my language skills to an advanced level, with all the benefits of learning in a small and intimate department. The varied nature of the programme has also allowed me to study a range of cinema, literature and history courses, whilst also learning about contemporary social issues in Italy.”

Miriam (Glasgow, Scotland)

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