Italian

See also Modern Languages page 130

Degrees all available With or Without Integrated Year Abroad

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

**MA (Single Honours degree)**

Italian

**MA (Joint Honours degrees)**

Italian and one of:
- Ancient History
- Arabic
- Art History
- Classics
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies
- French

**For Further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:**

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

**Do I need previous knowledge of this subject?** – No.

**Subject enquiries**

Dr Emma Bond
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**Why study Italian here?**

- Strong focus on innovative language learning and oral proficiency at all levels of the degree programme, including production skills such as translation, interpreting, and use of new media.
- Broad range of culture courses on topics from the Middle Ages to the present day.
- Exciting Honours module options based on areas of staff research expertise.
- Emphasis on enhancing your skills of critical and literary analysis, building transferable skills and intercultural awareness.
- Excellent and varied opportunities to apply for study and work in Italy, including the popular British Council Assistantship Scheme, and Erasmus+ links with top Italian universities.
- Quality: Italian at St Andrews was ranked second nationally in The Times and Sunday Times University Guide 2017, with exceptionally high scores for teaching quality and student experience. It also scored 91% overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey of 2016.

**Facilities and resources**

The School of Modern Languages has a Multimedia Centre with the latest digital technology to enhance the language learning experience and to practice oral and aural skills.

**What will I study?**

The Italian Department in St Andrews is one of the newest in the UK, yet has quickly gained an excellent reputation for the quality and range of its teaching, and the high calibre of its graduates. We are the largest department in Scotland, and other Schools and Departments in the University also have a strong interests and expertise in Italian Art, History, Politics, and Cinema making St Andrews an ideal place in which to develop a full understanding of Italian culture.

**Likely grades considered for an offer**

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

**SQA Highers:** AAAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
**GCE A-Levels:** AAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
**International Baccalaureate:** 36 (see specific subject footnotes above)

For full Faculty entrance requirements, see page 53.
“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 course has also allowed me to study a range of cinema, literature and history modules, whilst also learning about contemporary social issues in Italy.”

Miriam  (Glasgow, Scotland)

We strongly believe in the value of cultural understanding and of communication skills, and therefore foster them at every stage of our programme. We help you to achieve your potential by promoting independent thinking, cultivating analytical and critical skills, and encouraging intellectual development. At the same time we maintain a close focus on linguistic and academic achievement.

The building of a high level of competence in language skills is a priority in all modules, and you will be expected to write using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation in both Italian and English.

**Italian element of your Honours degree**

**First year (2 x 20-credit modules required or 4 x 10-credit modules, depending on entry qualifications)**

The majority of our students begin their study of Italian here with no previous experience of the language. Italian has two pathways: one for complete beginners, one for students with some prior qualification such as a Higher or A-Level. The modules for beginners provide an intensive language-learning experience. The post-Higher/A-Level programme consists of language modules, consolidating and developing your existing knowledge, and additional modules on different aspects of Italian culture.

**Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)**

Second year brings both first-year pathways together, devoting three hours per week to the advanced study of the language and two hours per week to culture. You will explore Italian culture through studying literature and film from early to modern times, for example: Dante’s *Inferno*, Primo Levi, Boccaccio, and cinema and terrorism.

**Honours – third and fourth years**

Language study continues throughout the two Honours years, improving your language skills with an emphasis on the production of a high level of written and spoken Italian. In addition to the compulsory language modules, *Italian Language 1 & 2* and *Communication Skills 1 & 2*, you will be able to build your Honours programme by choosing from a broad range of specialised modules on a variety of topics. Modules currently available, but subject to change (see Curriculum development page 7), include or cover aspects of:

- Early Italian Lyric Poetry
- Dante Alighieri
- Nineteenth-Century Literature
- Black Italians
- Venice
- Contemporary Italian Women Writers
- Fascism and Film
- The Twentieth-Century Italian Novel
- Communication Skills 1 & 2

**Typical class sizes and teaching information**

**First year:** lectures ~ 100, language tutorials and practical classes in groups of 12 - 15

**Second year:** lectures ~ 40, language tutorials and practical classes in groups of 10 - 12

**Honours:** language tutorials and practical classes in groups of 8 - 10, lectures and seminars in groups of 10 - 15

Teaching is carried out in a variety of modes, including formal lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical oral classes, and is supported at all levels by a range of computer- and web-based aids and activities, some specifically developed by the Italian Department here in St Andrews. Language teaching at all levels in Italian takes place in relatively small groups, giving us the opportunity to closely monitor your progress in key language skills.

**Typical methods of assessment**

We use a variety of methods of assessment to test language skills and cultural analysis. These include formal examinations, oral presentations, and writing projects of various sorts. We are passionate about testing real skills acquired, and allowing students to be creative with their knowledge, so we also employ new social media and technologies in learning and assessment methods. All modules contain some element of assessed coursework.

**Study abroad**

Many of our students take up the opportunity to spend a year working in an Italian-speaking country, between second year and Junior Honours (third) year. UK students may undertake teaching placements in schools through the British Council’s Language Assistantship scheme. Alternatively, you may organise your own work placement with the approval of the Department. Former students have, for example, worked in art galleries, publishing houses, and various business enterprises. In 2017-2018, students in the Italian department may also participate in Study Abroad in the third year of the degree programme (Junior Honours) as Erasmus+ exchange students at a partner university in Italy (Venice, Verona, Padua or Turin), taking regular courses in Italian and, as appropriate, in the other Honours subject(s).

For options available during your intended period of study, as well as information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

You may also apply to the University’s *St Andrews Abroad* programme. See page 22.

**Careers**

Recent graduates in Italian are now working in a variety of jobs both in the UK and in Italy. Some are working in companies where their role makes full use of their language skills. Some are working as teachers of modern languages in the UK, or English abroad. Others have taken further training or conversion courses to prepare for careers in translating and interpreting, or careers in law or commerce. Some are utilising their analytical and language skills in civil service positions in the Foreign Office and GCHQ whilst others are working in international art houses. Others have remained at St Andrews and embarked on postgraduate study within the Department.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.