Italian Studies

ABOUT ITALIAN STUDIES

Italian Studies at Monash offers a broad and diverse language and culture curriculum and a wide range of opportunities to study in Italy. In fact Monash is the only Australian University to have an established Centre in Italy, the Monash Prato Centre. We offer a flexible degree with intensive units in Prato, and also the possibility of exchange study at Italian Universities. We also offer a whole range of research-led units in Australia. All this makes Italian Studies at Monash unique.

Why choose Italian studies?

Italy is not only fashion, design and lifestyle – it is a country which has much to offer and is therefore interesting to know in depth. It has more than 70% of the world’s artistic heritage, with many outstanding examples of medieval, Renaissance and contemporary literature, world-famous films, design and architecture. Italy is also at the cutting edge of technological development, astrophysics and medical research. Knowledge of Italian is useful in itself, but it is also beneficial to the study of other fields like history, literature, music, art, business, economics and political science.

The Italian language and culture have had a tremendous impact on many countries worldwide because of Italian emigration. Apart from a conspicuous Italian presence in various European countries, there are millions of people of Italian descent in the Americas and Australia.

What are some topics Italian explores?

During your first year you will be introduced to the Italian language and culture through units such as:
» Italian Introductory 1
» Italian Introductory 2

In your second and third year of study (or if you have prior experience and knowledge) as well as language units there is a wider selection of units to choose from that reflect your interests. Here are a few examples:
» Italy on film (in country)
» The idea of Europe
» Dante
» The Fiction of Italy
» The Italian city: Historical and literary perspectives

How Italian fits into your Arts degree

Italian studies is offered as an extended major, a major, a minor or simply as elective units within your degree.

Career prospects

Studying Italian develops language competence and analytical thinking. It expands your knowledge of important areas of Italian culture: literature, film and theatre, history and society. It heightens sensitivity to language (including one’s own), develops powerful critical thinking, and strengthens communication skills. These are all abilities that are increasingly in demand, with a wide variety of options in the job market for Italian speakers worldwide.

Italian Studies graduates pursue careers in areas such as:
» Diplomatic services
» Interpreting and translating
» Travel and tourism
» Hospitality
» International relations
» International banking
» Teaching

Language entry levels

» Introductory
» Intermediate
» Proficient

To ascertain which level would be best for you, there are online language placement tests
monash.edu/arts/language-entry-level/

Keep in mind that even if you have no language experience at all, you can still enrol to learn a language. You would enter at the introductory level.

Complementary areas of study

» International Studies
» Politics
» Journalism
» Linguistics
» Education
» Music
» History
» Asian Studies

Overseas opportunities

Study abroad units can be undertaken to the value of half the major in place of sequential Italian Studies units and electives offered on campus. Students who reach the Italian Studies Advanced levels can spend a semester or a year studying in Italy, at the University of Florence or at the University of Bologna.

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-italian-studies