

Italian



- A Beautiful Language
- A New Language
- A Useful Language
- A Rich and Vibrant Culture

Italian at *University of Galway* has an outstanding international reputation for teaching excellence. We are proud of the personal attention and pastoral care that our students enjoy and experience. Italian language classes are small, providing the ideal environment for the teaching and learning of a second language, and ensure close interaction between staff and students, which is an essential requirement in language acquisition. Italy is one of the largest economies in Europe and a significant trading partner for Ireland. It has a thriving cultural and design industry, and is the home to many global masterpieces of international art.

Learning Italian at *University of Galway* means learning a beautiful new language and immersing yourself in a rich and vibrant culture.

See our video on First Year Italian: <https://youtu.be/KDqBlqgyDio>

Good to know:

- No experience necessary! You start from scratch, but by the end of the year you should be able to speak and understand every-day, conversational Italian.
- Learning takes place in small groups.
- You will have everyday direct contact with native speakers and access to the latest language learning technology.
- Learning is based on communication – get to know your classmates while learning and speaking the language.

IT 1100 (15 credits) Course description: This is a year-long course: in semesters 1 and 2, students attend classes that develop the four main language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) using regular practice based on authentic material carefully selected to provide a gradual introduction to the structures and functions of the language. Students will achieve a good level of fluency by the end of the year to enable them to cope with everyday situations in Italy and conduct a conversation in Italian. Students will interact with native speakers and will benefit from multi-media tuition and small tutorials to help with learning a new language.

IT1101 (5 credits) Italy at the Movies. In this course you will learn about Italian history, culture and society through the study of important Italian films. The module introduces students to defining aspects of 20th and 21st Century Italian history and society by watching and analysing a variety of Italian films.

Why study Italian?

- Italian is taught in small groups: students benefit from greater interaction with lecturers and receive personal attention.
- Because it is enjoyable! Fun, lively classes with teachers who have won European awards for creativity and innovation in language teaching.
- Because of the opportunity to spend a year of your degree in Italy, discovering a new and vibrant country. Learning a language provides a gateway to a country's history, culture and society.
- Learn many transferrable skills including: communication skills; teamwork; problem solving; time management; intercultural skills; research; planning and organisation; initiative and creativity)
- Add a new language to your CV - learning a new language is an excellent transferrable skill that opens your opportunity to travel and work abroad
- Almost all students who study Italian start at BEGINNERS level so you do not have to worry if you have not studied it before
- Italy has a particularly rich cultural heritage in literature, architecture, music, sculpture and painting. Italy is a world leader in the culinary arts, fashion, interior design, graphic design, the automotive industry, and tourism.

A Degree in Italian

In **Year 2**, students continue with the study of language (15 credits). In addition they will do 15 credits of culture. Modules in the cultural component of Year 2 include the study of Italian Short Stories. You will also get first-hand experience in translation through the Translation Techniques module. Finally, in the module Applied Language Skills, *University of Galway* students of Italian are paired with Erasmus students from Italy for a truly cross-cultural experience.

In **Year 3** most students go abroad for placement in a university or on work placements. We have a broad range of student exchanges for third year students under the Erasmus Programme with universities in Italy such as Bologna, Milan, Turin, Urbino, Udine and Verona amongst others. Some students go directly into final year and complete their degree in three years.

In **Year 4** students continue with the study of the language (15 credits) and Italian culture (15 credits). Modules in the culture component include the study of: Italian Children's Literature, Modern Fiction, Culture and Linguistics.

Degree Combinations

You can choose to study Italian with any subjects in the College of Arts except Gaelic and Philosophy. You can also combine Italian with a variety of BA programmes.

Studying a language

- 95% of our students start at beginners' level without previous knowledge of the language.
- Some students study Italian with other languages such as Spanish, French, and German.
- Other students combine the study of a language with subjects such as law, psychology, history, creative writing, journalism.
- In our globalised world, there is a huge demand for people with proficiency in more than one language.
- Increasingly, people find themselves working in a multilingual or multicultural environment, where language skills are essential.



A little language can make a lot of difference

'Languages teach you adaptability and communication skills. Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages means you are less likely to be stuck in one mode of thinking. It can help you see things from a range of perspectives - making you more adaptable, creative, and insightful.'

- A student's perspective:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8_HAmxpv6A

Learning and Teaching

For **IT1100** (the year-long Italian language course) you will have 5 hours of teaching and learning on campus, practising different types of language skills with our staff. Students will be placed in a small language group while learning the language and practising pronunciation and communication.

Assessment for this course takes the form of a final exam and of year-long continuous assessment – you will complete language tasks and activities every week which go towards your final mark. There will be various language tests throughout the year to examine competence in the different aspects of language learning (reading, writing, listening, speaking).

IT1101 (Italy at the Movies). Lecturers will provide students with introductions to the films and will guide them through how to analyse important features of movies. Students will learn about the societal and historical issues that feature in the Italian films and will then watch the films and complete a diary relating to each film studied. The diaries are uploaded onto Canvas where you receive feedback from the lecturers. The course is assessed 100% by the film diaries you submit and there are 9 films and 9 diaries in total over the course of first year.

Questions?

➤ **First Year Co-ordinator:**

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Discipline of Italian Website:

<http://www.universityofgalway.ie/italian/>