Italian
Undergraduate study
Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.

Why study Italian at Bristol?

Expertise in modern languages has never been more important as the United Kingdom forges a new relationship with its European partners and seeks to develop its trading and cultural ties throughout the world. Italian language and culture have had a lasting impact on Europe, while today, Italy’s innovative contributions to design, technology and fashion mean that it remains a major commercial force.

Tension between tradition and innovation is apparent throughout Italy’s history. Studying Italian at Bristol gives you an understanding of its complexity by exploring its language and society from the Middle Ages to the present day. Bristol has an enviable record for research in Italian culture, meaning students benefit from enthusiastic academics with cutting-edge expertise. Specialisms include Dante and medieval poetry; Boccaccio and the history of the book; critical theory; Italy and Africa; Italian film; modern Italian history; and representations of terrorism and political violence. Throughout your degree you will also work with a team of language-teaching experts, all Italian native speakers.

You can take part in a variety of exciting opportunities including an Italian film season co-run by students; a student-led Italian magazine; and many social activities run by Club Italia.

All modern languages students at Bristol benefit from a state-of-the-art multimedia centre, providing access to over 2,000 film titles, foreign satellite channels, magazines and newspapers as well as equipment for oral practice, presentations and projects.

Courses

Single Honours
BA Italian
four years R310

Joint Honours
BA Czech and Italian
four years RR3V
BA Film and Italian
four years 4L92
BA French and Italian
four years RR13
BA German and Italian
four years RR23
BA History of Art and Italian
four years VR33
BA Italian and Portuguese
four years RR35
BA Italian and Russian
four years RR37
BA Italian and Spanish
four years RR34
BA Music and Italian
four years WR33
BA Philosophy and Italian
four years RV35
BA Politics and Italian
four years RL32
BA Theatre and Italian
four years 22FF

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.
What will you study?

Italian can be studied by beginners and A-level entrants as Single Honours or with another language or subject.

**Language tuition**

Beginners (the majority) are taught language separately in year one: five hours per week integrating grammar, reading, writing and translation, plus oral/aural comprehension in smaller groups. The post A-level course develops existing language skills by engaging students with authentic texts on current affairs. A wide range of media from cinema to news is used to assist with comprehension and fluency through classroom activities and assignments. Performance is judged by formative assessment tasks and end-of-year examinations.

Second and fourth-year language tuition (beginners and post A-level students together) extends and refines linguistic knowledge, developing fluency to a very high standard, and promoting accuracy through increasingly sophisticated tasks and texts. Year two prepares you linguistically for the year abroad; year four builds on your linguistic and cultural experiences, maximising confidence and cultural awareness.

**Cultural units**

Our cultural options reflect Italy’s diversity and complexity. The first year focuses on modern Italy, while in later years, students choose units designed to develop skills in cultural criticism. Our units on Dante’s Divine Comedy, for instance, employ an interdisciplinary approach to reveal the many dimensions of this medieval masterpiece. Italian Memories of the Second World War uses films and novels to investigate how Italy remembers the conflict, and explores its continuing importance for Italy today. Units on Italian cinema transcend narrow ideas of the film canon, encouraging sophisticated theoretical and historical approaches to popular and highbrow cinema, of many genres and periods.

You may also choose from a range of broader units in the School of Modern Languages, which provide comparative perspectives on topics such as world cinema, translation studies, linguistics, the hard right, and communism in Europe.

All cultural units are taught in a combination of tutor and student-led seminars, always directed towards developing research and presentation skills. Student presentations contribute towards assessment along with exercises including commentary, essay, or class tests but not formal examinations. The department makes effective use of technology-enhanced learning to complement and consolidate your face-to-face learning in the classroom.

**Year abroad**

All Italian degree courses last four years, incorporating a mandatory third year abroad. You will receive detailed help in choosing how to spend your time in Italy, whether working, teaching English or studying at one of our Erasmus partner universities (Bologna, Genoa, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Siena, Turin, Venice and Verona). We maintain work placements with several organisations, including: a leading Milanese law firm; an international film festival in Trieste; an international estate agent in St. Margherita Ligure; and an English-language online magazine in Florence. You are required to research and write at least one extended essay in Italian during the year abroad.

If you study two languages, you will divide your year abroad equally between an Italian-speaking country and a country where your other language is spoken. The year abroad is a vital part of your degree course and will form an important and distinctive element in your CV.

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Our graduates possess competence in written and spoken Italian and a sophisticated understanding of aspects of Italian cultural history. You will develop skills highly sought after by employers: written and spoken communication; presentation skills; information-gathering and analytical skills; IT; organisation and time management; teamwork; initiative and the ability to work independently.

Moreover, a language degree cultivates capabilities valued by employers in today’s competitive workplace: an international outlook and a high level of adaptability. Your career may involve Italian, but your degree opens up a range of possibilities. Careers pursued by Bristol graduates include accountancy, law, banking and commerce, management, teaching Italian and teaching English abroad.

Some students continue academic studies in Bristol or elsewhere. Graduates may also undertake postgraduate training as translators or interpreters, where Italian becomes a very useful language to offer in combination with more widely taught ones.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

Careers and graduate destinations

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‘Now more than ever, the UK needs to reach out and listen to the wider world. An in-depth knowledge of modern languages, their cultures and societies, is essential for success in a global context. At Bristol we offer our students a wide range of language combinations taught by expert teachers and world-leading researchers.’

Professor Susan Harrow, Head of the School of Modern Languages
Contact us

**Enquiries Team**
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Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640  
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**Disability Services**  
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**Student Funding Office**  
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[bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding](http://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding)

University guide to the city of Bristol  
[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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