



## Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Photography

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# Italian



Undergraduate study

# Courses

## Single Honours

### **BA Italian**

four years R310

## Joint Honours

### **BA Czech and Italian**

four years RR3V

### **BA English and Italian**

four years QR33

### **BA Film and Italian**

four years 4L92

### **BA French and Italian**

four years RR13

### **BA German and Italian**

four years RR23

### **BA History and Italian**

four years VR13

### **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

## 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, and Italy's innovative contributions to design, technology and fashion mean that it remains a major commercial force today.

Tension between tradition and innovation is apparent throughout Italy's history. Studying at Bristol gives you an understanding of its complexity by exploring Italian 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; 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, a student-led magazine (recently shortlisted for a national award by the Student Publication Association), and a range of social activities run by the student society Club Italia.

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.

'Now more than ever, graduates equipped with linguistic skills, intercultural understanding, and the ability to think outside the box are in high demand. At Bristol, through a broad, interdisciplinary range of language and culture units taught by world-class researchers, we prepare our students to become creative leaders, capable of responding to local and global challenges.'

Professor Andreas Schonle, Head of the School of Modern Languages

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://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

The majority of our first-year students are beginners, who are taught language separately in year one. This includes 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.

Beginners and post A-level students are taught language together in the second and fourth years. This tuition 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.

Modern languages students can access our state-of-the-art Multimedia Centre, which includes a student cinema suite, an audio recording and editing studio, and a library of foreign films, books and magazines.

## 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. For example, Dante's *Divine Comedy* can be studied from an interdisciplinary perspective, which reveals the many dimensions of this medieval masterpiece. Another current unit, 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 using a combination of tutor- and student-led seminars, always directed towards developing research and presentation skills. Assessment includes student presentations, along with exercises such as commentaries, essays 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. The year abroad is a vital part of your degree course and will form an important and distinctive element in your CV.

You will receive detailed help in choosing how to spend your time in Italy, whether working, teaching English or studying at one of our partner universities (currently including Bologna, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Pisa, Siena, Turin, Venice and Verona). We maintain work placements with several organisations, which

currently include a leading Milanese law firm; an international film festival in Trieste; an international estate agent in Santa 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.



'There's a wide variety of cultural units that we can study: this year in Italian, for example, I'm studying both Dante and gangster films.'

James (BA Italian and Portuguese)

## Careers and graduate destinations

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, information gathering, analytical skills, IT skills, 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 also opens up a range of other possibilities. Careers pursued by Bristol graduates include accountancy, law, banking and commerce, management, teaching Italian and teaching English abroad.

Some students continue their 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 those that are more widely taught.

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.

### Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019



#### Graduate employers

British Council  
EY  
Focus PR  
Éléphant groupe  
Merbis-Kirk Translations



#### Career destinations

Auxiliaire de Conversation  
Accountancy Associate  
Team Assistant  
Freelance Researcher  
Translator

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is for students of all modern languages courses. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired).

## Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian) for more information about our courses.

### Typical offer for BA Italian

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB) including B in a modern language.

**IB Diploma** 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15), including 5 at Higher Level in a modern language.

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

**Selection process** UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian).

### Application advice for Italian courses

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of Italian language and culture.

When making your application, please consider the following:

- interest in and commitment to the language, history and culture;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding, and problem-solving and analytical skills;
- suitability of the course for you;
- reading or research which goes beyond the A-level syllabus;
- non-academic achievements, extracurricular interests and positions of responsibility;
- evidence of teamwork;
- response to challenges faced;
- standard of written English.

### Further information

Find out more about the Department of Italian: [bristol.ac.uk/italian](http://bristol.ac.uk/italian).

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-italian).



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

[bristol.ac.uk/students](http://bristol.ac.uk/students)