

Italian at Bristol

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Welcome to Italian at Bristol

These slides will give you a flavour of what studying Italian at Bristol will be like.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr Rhiannon Daniels, the Director of Teaching for Italian: r.j.daniels@bristol.ac.uk

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Why study Italian at Bristol?

- A prestigious centre for the study of Italian language and culture
- Leading academics delivering research-led teaching
- Variety and flexibility
- Expert native language teachers
- A friendly department where you can feel at home
- Excellent record of employability
- A vibrant and welcoming city

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Our department- the culture team

We are a large and friendly department. The culture team currently consists of six members of academic staff who offer units (modules) on Italian literature, history, politics, theatre and film ranging from Dante to the present day.



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Our department – native speakers

Italian language at all levels is taught by a team of native speakers who are professionally trained in language pedagogy.

We are joined each semester by language assistants from universities in Italy, who provide additional support to students, including conversation practice, grammar revision and organizing extra-curricular activities.



The Bristol approach to teaching language and culture

- Although we talk about ‘language classes’ and ‘culture units’, this is a very artificial distinction that does not reflect the reality of our approach to learning.
- The Italian language curriculum at Bristol is developed by our in-house language teachers and is tailored to align with the culture units.
- Language classes incorporate authentic literary and historical texts, films and journalistic materials.
- Similarly, much of the work done in culture units involves the linguistic analysis of primary and secondary sources written in Italian.
- The *ab initio* language programme is intensive and highly effective: from Year 2, *ab initio* students take the same language and culture classes as post-A level students.
- Our students achieve outstanding results year on year, regardless of whether they begin as *ab initio* students or arrive with an A-level already in Italian.

Teaching methods in Italian at Bristol

- Our teaching methods emphasize student-centred learning and small-group work.
- Both language and culture classes encourage students to engage in a variety of learning styles, including small-group work, class discussion and debates, written exercises, individual and group presentations.
- Students will work with both printed and digital resources in class and during private study.
- Our technology-enhanced language learning methods have won awards!
- Students will experience a range of different assessment methods, building skills in written and oral communication, independent research and collaborative working, which will develop personal and transferable skills valued by employers.

Research-led teaching in Italian

- Our culture units are closely connected to and informed by the research that academic staff carry out alongside their teaching activities
- This means that students have access to the latest scholarship and expert knowledge, and contribute actively to the development of our understanding of Italian culture
- Our culture units tend to be multi-disciplinary and to explore a topic or theme from different angles rather than focusing on one author or one type of text
- Some examples of units that are currently on offer follow. It is also a good idea to explore the research profiles of individual staff members on the [Italian department website](#) – this will give you a good flavour of the ways in which our teaching might develop in the future as we continue to pursue new research projects.

Example: Year 2 unit options*

Dante: Inferno

The Invention of the Renaissance Woman

Memories of World War II

Italian Cinema: Genre and Social Change

Sport, Culture and History in
20th-century Italy

Destination Italy: Cultural Responses to Migration

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Example: Year 4 unit options*

Dante: *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*

The *Decameron* in History

Screening the Past: Representing History in Contemporary Italian Cinema

The Culture of Fascism

Naples: Culture, Identity and Nation

The Politics of Sacrifice: Remembering Italy's Modern Martyrs

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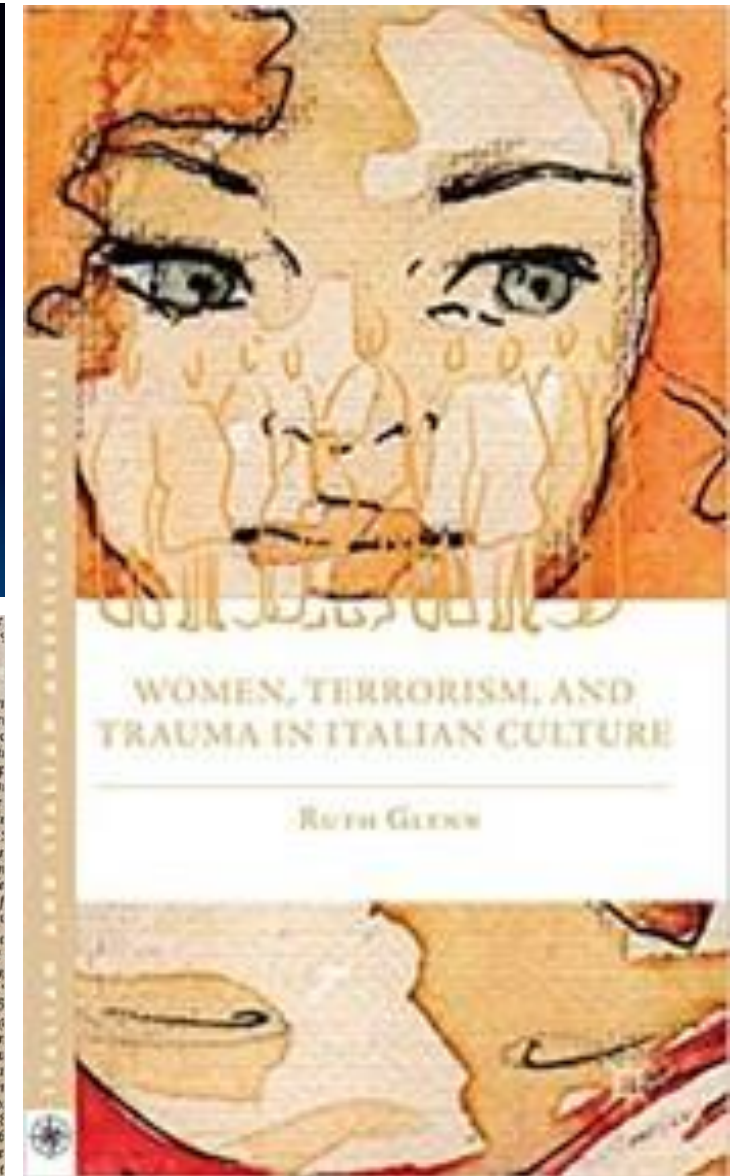
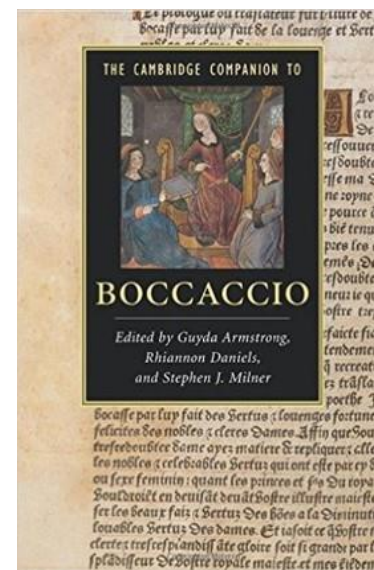
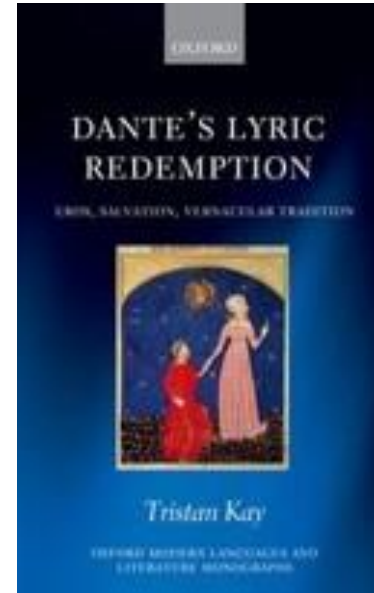
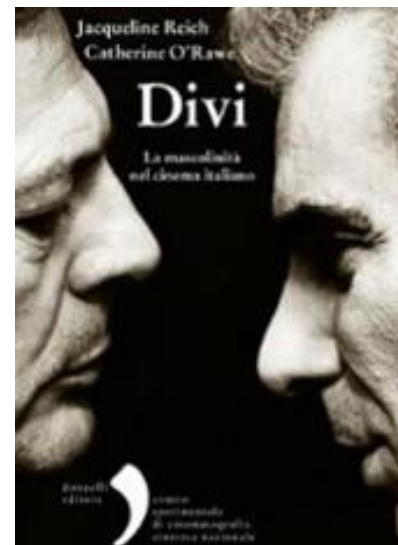
Recent staff publications



the man who closed
the asylums

franco basaglia and
the revolution in
mental health care

john foot



What will I study?*

The following slides outline the different options available within the various programmes that we offer.

- The majority of our students are taking Italian as part of a Joint Honours degree, either with another language or with another subject like History of Art or Politics.
- Approximately two-thirds of our first-years are *ab initio* students.
- We also have students who take Single Honours degrees in Italian or combine it with two other languages.
- Make sure that you check the table that is relevant to your degree course.
- All first-year students, regardless of whether they are *ab initio* or post-A level, take our compulsory unit, Modern Italy, which introduces you to the major historical and cultural events that took place between Unification in the 1860s and the present day.
- In Year 2 and Year 4 there are no compulsory culture units: you have a free choice of the units on offer and can mix and match historical periods, literature and film etc. according to your own interests.
- Students can also choose units offered by the School of Modern Languages, which are often team-taught by staff from more than one language department (see below).

What will I study in Year 1?*

Joint Honours (*ab initio* Italian)

TB1	TB2
Italian language (40 credits) 5 hours per week	
Modern Italy (20 credits) Lectures plus seminars	

Joint Honours (post A-level Italian)

TB1	TB2
Italian language (20 credits) 3 hours per week	
Modern Italy (20 credits)	
Medieval and Renaissance Italy (20 credits)	
Reading Italian Fiction (20 credits)	Introduction to Comparative Lit. (20 credits)
Open unit (20 credits)	

Single Honours
add

TB = Teaching block (semester)

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BA Modern Languages including Italian

Year 1

TB1	TB2
Post-A level language 1 (20 credits)	
Post-A level language 2 (20 credits)	
Italian language (40 credits)	
Lang 1 culture unit (20 credits)	Lang 2 culture unit (20 credits)

Years 2 and 4

TB1	TB2
Post-A level language 1 (20 credits)	
Post-A level language 2 (20 credits)	
Italian language (20 credits)	
Lang 1 culture unit (20 credits)	Lang 2 culture unit (20 credits)
Lang 3 culture unit (20 credits)	

TB = Teaching block (semester)

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What will I study in Years 2 and 4?

Joint Honours students

TB1	TB2
Italian language (20 credits)	
Italian culture unit (20 credits)	Italian culture unit (20 credits)
Other language (20 credits)	
Other culture unit (20 credits)	Other culture unit (20 credits)

Single Honours students

TB1	TB2
Italian language (20 credits)	
Italian culture unit (20 credits)	Italian culture unit (20 credits)
Italian culture unit (20 credits)	Italian culture unit (20 credits)
Italian culture unit (20 credits) <i>or</i> Open unit (20 credits)	

TB = Teaching block (semester)

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Example: Year 2 unit options in the School of Modern Languages

- Catalan Language *ab initio*
- Elementary Czech language
- Woman and Nation
- Reading the Media
- Theatre and Performance
- Introduction to Linguistics
- Political Systems of Modern Europe

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Example: Year 4 unit options in the School of Modern Languages

- Communism in Europe
- Sociolinguistic Anthropology
- The Italian City: Early Modern Cultures
- Gender, Sexuality and Cinema
- Teaching Modern Languages
- Liaison Interpreting
- Translating in a Professional Context

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The year abroad: your options

You can choose either to study, work or teach.

University study: we currently have partnerships with universities across Italy in Bologna, Genoa, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Pisa, Siena, Turin, Venice and Verona.

Work placements: we have a number of established placements: e.g. independent cinema in Bologna, translation firm in Brescia, language school in Florence, language magazine in Florence, literary festival in Mantua, law firms in Milan and Siena, art gallery in Rome, marketing in Turin, work on the Trieste film festival, PR company in Venice; we also encourage students to use their own contacts and initiative to find new work placements to suit individual interests

Teaching in an Italian school: we have contacts distributed across the peninsula

Take a look at [Instagram](#) to see what some of our students say about the year abroad experience

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Academic requirements during your year abroad

- Continuous residence abroad
 - SH: 40 weeks
 - JH: 18 weeks
 - Three-language: 16 weeks in two countries, one month in third country
- Fulfilling the terms of your placement (study, teaching, work)
- Written project for the University of Bristol
- Staying in contact

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Life as a student of Italian at Bristol

Take a look at our social media to see some of the extra-curricular activities which go on in the department. Club Italia is run by students with the support of the Bristol Students' Union.

We are particularly proud of our bi-lingual departmental magazine *La Civetta*, which is organized, designed, written, and edited by our talented students.

[Browse online editions](#)

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Grazie e
arrivederci!

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