

ABC scuola di lingua e cultura italiana

Brochure 2027

In Florence since 1982

Live the Italian bella vita with courses from the ABC School.
The school is located in the historic centre of Florence, the birthplace of the Italian language, a city so rich in history and art that you will never be bored!

Italian language and culture courses

Choose a course best-suited to your goals.
Our classes have a maximum of 10 students and the teachers are motivated, qualified and professional.

WHY STUDY ITALIAN AT THE ABC SCHOOL

EXPERIENCE: The ABC School in Florence has successfully taught the Italian language **since 1982.**

SMALL CLASSES IN LARGE CLASSROOMS: a **maximum** number of **10 students per class** (an average of 6/7) to ensure better quality teaching and learning. Minimum 3 students to form a class.

QUALIFIED TEACHERS: motivated, professional and welcoming. Our teachers all have different personalities and interests, however they are all equally as passionate and capable of creating a relaxed yet stimulating atmosphere in class, a place where students can learn Italian in a natural way without stress.

STUDENTS ARE PUT FIRST: Our classrooms are in a beautiful Renaissance building with frescoed ceilings and we have a terrace facing the Arno river. The small size of the school allows us to take care of our students in an attentive and personalised way to suit everyone's needs. The students can always count on our staff who are very friendly and always ready to help.

A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES: Italian language courses, Italian culture courses, courses for professionals, courses for exam preparation, basic courses, 50+ courses. We also have a range of organised study programs.

WE SPEAK ITALIAN FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY: Our direct method of teaching encourages students to speak Italian from the very first day. In every class, from beginners to those more advanced, the teachers only speak Italian. Students are encouraged to express themselves by using the linguistic instruments of their knowledge in a way to gain confidence and feel more at ease with the language.

ORIGINAL TEACHING MATERIALS: The grammar books used in class are the result of over 40 years of teaching and are written and edited by the ABC School exclusively for their students.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES: In order to enrich the study experience, afternoon and evening activities are carried out by the teachers at the school: culture seminars, walks, evenings socialising etc.

VISITS TO MUSEUMS AND CHURCHES of Florence, by our teachers who are also licensed tour guides for Florence and Tuscany.

A FAMILIAR ATMOSPHERE in stimulating and multicultural surroundings.

HAND PICKED ACCOMMODATION, well-kept and well-furnished for a good stay in Florence.

ONE SCHOOL, TWO CITIES: In 2015 we opened a new school in **Sestri Levante**, Liguria. Our students now have the possibility to study Italian in both a city of art and a little town by the sea with the same method of education and the same textbooks.

AWARDS: The school has been **officially recognised by MIUR, the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research** (document no. 1052/C20).

We are also sponsored by the City of Florence (document no. 6200), and take an active part in a literacy program for immigrants in collaboration with the City of Florence. We are also a member of the Associazione delle Scuole di Italiano come Lingua Staniera (**A.S.I.L.S®**) (**Association of Italian language schools as a foreign language**) which aims to guarantee and ensure the professional expertise of the schools regarding the teaching of Italian language to foreigners. We are authorised for the **CILS exams** (Certification of Italian as a Foreign Language) at the University for Foreigners of Siena, and **AIL** (Italian Academy of Language) for all levels and all certificates.

We are also recognised by **CSN** (Swedish National Agency for assistance in studies) and the Federal Republic of Germany for **Bildungsurlaub**.

THE ABC SCHOOL

Since 1982, the ABC School has specialised in teaching the Italian language to foreign students who come from all over the world. In these years we have improved our methods in order to offer the best experience to our students, addressing their needs.

OUR METHOD

The ABC School contributes towards the advancement of linguistic and educational research. We use the Direct Teaching Method which places particular attention on making sure that all students have a solid foundation of grammar knowledge, in both grammar and conversation lessons. The teachers are **all native Italian speakers** and are **specialised in language teaching**. They are always selected very carefully, taking their teaching and communication skills into account as well as their own personality and knowledge.

STUDENTS LEARN VERY QUICKLY: CLASSES OF MAXIMUM 10 STUDENTS (MINIMUM 3)

- **Small groups** guarantee intense learning. Before starting the course, students are required to complete a written and oral test
- The class levels follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

COURSES FOR ALL NEEDS

- Standard, intensive, group or individual courses for beginners, intermediate learners or advanced learners.
- Courses for professionals, culture and art courses, preparation for exams and certificates as well as linguistic and cultural programs for both young and old.
- A wide range of possibilities to learn Italian from scratch or improve your current ability.

WHERE WE ARE

You can find the school in the heart of the historic centre of Florence in the lively quarter of San Niccolò (Oltrarno) at 3 minutes from Ponte Vecchio. Nearby there are many shops and artisanal workshops, with all of the most important museums and monuments only a short distance away. From the windows of the frescoed classrooms and our terrace in the Palazzo Canigiani, you can enjoy the view of the Palazzo Vecchio, the cathedral, Ponte Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery and the rest of beautiful Florence situated along the River Arno.



GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE COURSES

At the ABC School in Florence it is possible to choose from a large variety of study programs.

TYPES OF LANGUAGE COURSES AND PROGRAMS

- The **group courses** approach the Italian language without a specific focus however always incorporate our standard language and communication teaching structures.
- For those who have a particular interest or necessity to learn Italian, such as for work purposes, we offer **combined courses** which include both group and individual lessons which can focus on particular subjects (commercial or tourist Italian, sector-specific language, certificate exam preparation).
- **Language and culture courses** focus on the Italian language as well as certain aspects of the culture which the student can choose (history of art, literature, history, fashion, design, food & wine).
- The **50+ program** is for those who are more than 50 years old. This includes a special cultural activities program, with a teacher who will help them to understand and discover Florence, its history and traditions.
- For **secondary school and college students** who are travelling together with their teachers in Italy, it is possible to have Italian language lessons together as a group as well as outdoor activities and visits to museums and monuments.
- If you are planning a holiday to Italy and would like to learn the basics of the language in order to be able to communicate with Italians, you may find our individual or group lessons on **Italian holiday language** useful.

DURATION OF LESSONS AND THE STUDENTS

The group courses are generally held in the morning, with a **maximum of 10 students per class** (on average 6-7 and a minimum of 3) to assure a better quality of teaching and learning. It is especially important that the teachers are able to understand the different learning styles of students, especially when a class is composed of people from different countries, languages, ages and cultures. It is also important that the students feel at ease during their studies, that they have the opportunities to expresses themselves independently in the language and are encouraged to do so.

Group lessons last 45 minutes. **Individual lessons last 55 minutes.**



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GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE COURSES

LENGTH OF THE COURSES

The courses last for a minumum of one week and a maximum of one year. Students are free to choose how long they would like to stay at the school, making it a completely personalised experience.

GRAMMAR LESSONS: WHAT DO WE DO?

For the first half of the morning (from 9:00 to 10:30) lessons concentrate on linguistic structure. The teachers use both written and practical exercises based on an inductive method to give students the grammar knowledge that they need.
You will also work on pronunciation, vocabulary, reading and writing.
Grammar books used in class are **written and updated by the ABC School** and are given to students upon their arrival.

CONVERSATION LESSONS: WHAT DO WE DO?

For the second half of the morning (from 11:00 to 12:30) we focus on speaking: students are encouraged to actively use their knowledge gained during the grammar classes making use of a range of diverse educational materials. These include reading and listening materials, authentic audio-visual materials and other educational activities created to practice certain skills.

TIME OF THE LESSONS

Group courses normally take place in the morning.
In the afternoon there are individual lessons for the combined (Standard Plus) courses and group lessons for the intensive course.
At certain times of the year it is possible that lesson times could change, however you will be informed of these well in advance.
On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



GROUP COURSES

STANDARD GROUP COURSE (20 lessons per week)

The Standard Group Course represents the base of almost all the study courses and includes 20 lessons per week. The classes have a maximum of 10 students (minimum 3) and are divided between grammar and conversation classes.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30

On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.

INTENSIVE GROUP COURSE (30 lessons per week)

The Intensive Group Course includes 30 lessons per week.
In the morning students attend group grammar and conversation classes. After the lunch break, lessons start again in the early afternoon.
Based on previous knowledge, students continue to expand their vocabulary by reading, listening and watching videos in an interesting mix of grammar and conversation activities. This allows students to acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding and to become more confident with their communication and interaction.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30
Afternoon: from 13:15 to 14:45
On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



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COMBINED COURSES

STANDARD PLUS 5 COURSE (20 group lessons + 5 individual lessons per week)
and
STANDARD PLUS 10 COURSE (20 group lessons + 10 individual lessons per week)

The Standard Plus 5 and Plus 10 courses combine the group courses in the morning with individual lessons in the afternoon to address personal needs.
It is possible to practice communication skills or to focus on certain aspects of the language which interest the student.
For those who are learning the language for business reasons, it is possible to be taught specific business language and how to write or speak about certain topics. It is possible to focus the lessons on themes chosen by the student such as Italian for business, Italian language for hotel and tourism, art, architecture, literature, history, fashion, design, technology, food and wine, health, medical professions and much more.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30
Individual plus 5 lessons: from 13:15 to 14.10 or from 14:15 to 15.10.
Individual plus 10 lessons: from 13:15 to 15:05

Group lessons last 45 minutes.
Individual lessons last 55 minutes.

On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



COMBINED COURSES

STANDARD PLUS 5 COURSE (20 group lessons + 5 individual lessons per week) or PLUS 10 (20 group lessons + 10 individual lessons per week) PREPARATION FOR EXAMS

The Standard Plus courses with preparation for exams prepare students for exams by combining group lessons in the morning with individual lessons in the afternoon. They are specifically designed to pass an exam which certifies your knowledge of Italian as a foreign language.

We are authorised for the CILS exams (Certification of Italian as a Foreign Language) at the Università per Stranieri di Siena, **and AIL** (Italian Academy of Language) for all levels and all certificates.
It is also possible to prepare for the CELI exam from the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, PLIDA from the Dante Alighieri Society and almost all other official certificates.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30
Individual plus 5 lessons: from 13:15 to 14.10 or from 14:15 to 15:10.
Individual plus 10 lessons: from 13:15 to 15:05

Group lessons last 45 minutes.
Individual lessons last 55 minutes.

On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



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COMBINED COURSES

CILS exams

The CILS certificate is an officially recognised diploma certifying linguistic and communicative competence.
The exams for adults are held twice a year, in June and in December and consist of listening tests, reading comprehensions, analysis of communication structures, written and oral tests.
The exams to apply for a visa for a long stay in Italy or for Italian citizenship have more dates during the year.
Enrollment for the exam must be done at the ABC school at least 40 days before the date of the exam and the exam must be paid for at the same time as enrollment.

For exam prices and dates, please contact us.

AIL exams

The Italian Language Academy is based in Florence and is an association of experts and schools of Italian language for foreigners who have set up a certification which focuses on daily, practical communication (DELI, DILI, DALI) as well as commercial communication (DILC, DALC).
Exams test written comprehension, written expression and morphosyntactic skills in addition to listening and speaking skills.
The types and levels of AIL exams are as follows:
DELI A1 (elementary Italian language diploma), DELI A2 (elementary Italian language diploma), DILI B1 (intermediate Italian language diploma), DILC B1 (intermediate commercial Italian language diploma), DILI B2 (intermediate Italian language diploma)
DALI C1 (advanced Italian language diploma), DALC C1 (advanced commercial Italian language diploma), DALI C2 (advanced Italian language diploma)
The exam must be paid for at the same time as enrollment.

To find out the dates and prices of the exams we kindly ask you to contact the ABC school.



COMBINED COURSES

ERASMUS+

This includes the Standard Group Course plus 5 individual lessons per week focusing on teaching methodology and practice.
It is a special course for Italian teachers (LS) in line with the new EU mobility programme for education and training.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30
Individual plus 5 lessons: from 13:15 to 14.10 or from 14:15 to 15.10.
Group lessons last 45 minutes.
Individual lessons last 55 minutes.

On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



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INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP COURSES

INDIVIDUAL COURSES

This course is for those who, due to time restraints or particular interests (e.g. professional, study), would prefer to attend an individual course which is custom made to suit their needs.
The start date and hours will be agreed upon with the school.
We recommend a maximum of six lessons per day.
Each individual lesson lasts 55 minutes.

The course is organised based on the requests of the student, without forgetting the correct structure of a lesson in order to allow cohesive development of language skills.
This course promotes the improvement of linguistic structures, providing the necessary tools for communication, new vocabulary, skills in writing and speaking (with a focus on pronunciation), comprehension of written texts and dialogues. Priority will be given to topics that the student finds the most interesting.

Lesson times:
Although the lessons normally take place in the morning, they can be personalised according to the needs of the student.

In the afternoon there is the possibility to participate in the activities organised by the school, such as spending fun evenings together or getting to know other aspects of the Italian culture better, for example visiting the artistic places of Florence with a teacher who is a licensed tour guide.



INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP COURSES

COURSES FOR TWO (DUETTO) OR THREE PEOPLE (TRIO)

The courses for two (Duetto) or three people (Trio) have been created in response to what our students have asked for in the past. They have been especially created for two or three people (friends, family, work colleagues) who are travelling together and have the same level of Italian.
Having lessons in small groups is advantageous as you study in a more intense manner. The students will be able to choose their own topics as well as their own timetable, as it is in fact possible to decide how many hours per week you would like to attend.

In the lesson the teacher will provide the necessary linguistic skills, taking the particular interests of the students into account.
You will study grammar to understand the structure of the language through readings, activities and exercises. Grammar rules will be put into place so that afterwards, during the conversation classes, you will be able to communicate easily in Italian.
This results in oral and written comprehension, as well as new vocabulary which can be used in conversation, so that students can improve their knowledge with the guidance of the teachers.
Each lesson lasts 55 minutes.

Lesson times:
Generally these lessons take place in the morning, however the time will be organised with the students.

On Saturdays and after the afternoon lessons students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



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INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP COURSES

INDIVIDUAL COURSE: VIVI FIRENZE

This course is designed for those who are looking for an immersive and intensive experience in all aspects of Italian culture.
Individual Italian lessons allow us to build a tailored course, suited to both proficiency level and learning pace. We study grammar to understand the core rules of communication, and then put those rules into practice during conversation lessons—enriched with vocabulary and listening exercises to develop all language skills.
In the afternoon, the experience continues together. The weekly program includes two lunches with the teacher at a local trattoria near the school, a guided walking tour through the streets and squares of Florence, and a guided visit to a museum or monument.

Lesson times:

Mornings:
- 4 individual lessons: grammar from 9:00 to 10:50 + conversation from 11:10 to 13:00

Afternoons:
- 2 lunches with the teacher
- A guided walking tour of Florence
- A guided visit to a museum or monument

On Saturdays and maybe after the afternoon private activities students have the possibility to participate in the cultural activities and excursions organised by the school.



ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

50+ COURSE
(20 group language lessons + cultural activities per week)

All our courses are open to students of all the ages from all over the world. Sometimes adult students have different needs or interests compared to those younger than them, So if you are more than 50 years old and you are interested in cultural activities you can combine the study of the Italian language, in groups of maximum 10 people, with other cultural activities which are dedicated solely to the students enrolled in the 50+ course.
The language course takes place every morning, Monday to Friday (Italian language at school) and 3 afternoons per week are reserved for museum visits, walks or food/wine tastings.

The activities of the afternoon for the 50+ course may vary and can include for example:
- A tour of Florence to discover the most famous monuments in the city
- A walk to the Piazzale Michelangelo and visits of the San Miniato al Monte church
- A visit to the Uffizi Gallery or to the Galleria dell'Accademia (Gallery of the Academy of Florence)
- A walk in the Oltrarno district
- A visit to the Medici Chapels
- A walk in the historical centre to discover the secrets and legends of Florence
- A seminar on Italian history or culture (music, cinema, art, traditions and much more)
- Wine, cheese or other tastings
- Excursions to Siena, Pisa, Lucca, Arezzo or other Tuscan cities (with all the other students on Saturday)

Museum visits and art history themed walks are carried out by teachers who are also licensed tour guides and/or have a degree in art history.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30, everyday from Monday to Friday
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30, everyday from Monday to Friday
Afternoon: activities



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COURSES FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GROUPS

COURSES FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GROUPS
(20 Italian group lessons + afternoon activities)

This course is reserved for groups of foreign students on educational school trip, accompanied by their teachers.
The course can focus on the specific requests of the class teachers, based on both current and new grammar learning.
It is also possible to create a course tailored to groups which have never studied the Italian language however want to take advantage of their stay in Italy by learning the basics.
After the Italian language lessons, the students will be accompanied by an ABC School teacher who will show them the beautiful city and teach them all about the wonders of Florence.

School groups require a minimum of 6 students.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30
Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30
Afternoon activities



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

ITALIAN LANGUAGE PLUS ITALIAN ART HISTORY
(10 group grammar lessons per week + 10 private art history lessons per week visiting museums and monuments)

This course gives you the opportunity to study Italian and to get to know in depth the beautiful art history of Florence.

The teachers who teach this course have degrees in art history and/or are licensed tour guides with great knowledge on the subject.

The art history lessons are taught individually and it is possible to choose which historical period or which artist you would like to focus on, or you can choose to simply follow the advice of your teacher.
From Medieval to Renaissance times, from Giotto to Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli or Michelangelo, Florence offers you the possibility to get to know one of the most important heritages of art history in the world.

The art history lessons are in Italian: we would recommend that the student has reached at least A2 level.
It is possible to ask for the art history lessons to be in English.

Lesson times:
Grammar: from 9:00 to 10:30, Italian language group lessons everyday from Monday to Friday.
Art history lessons: from 11:00 to 12:50, individual lessons everyday from Monday to Friday
Group lessons last 45 minutes.
Individual lessons last 55 minutes.

In the afternoon students can participate in the activities organised by the school.

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LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

FIRENZE NELL'ARTE

This course is aimed at those who would like to enrich their study holiday in Italy with drawing, painting or sculpture lessons which can take place in a studio, en plein-air or in Florentine museums.
The art activities are conducted in collaboration with exprerienced art teachers. They are normally in Italian but can be taught in English upon request.

The **morning** is dedicated to **Italian language lessons** at the ABC School.
The students can attend whichever course they prefer and can decide whether they would like to study just in the morning or in the early afternoon as well.

The art classes are conducted by trained artists who are also specialised in teaching the subject. Students can choose between design, different painting techniques (oil paintings, watercolour, frescoes), sculptures, mosaics and much more.
The location of the lessons can be at the school, at the artist's studio, in the halls of Florence's museums or in squares and parks.

Lesson times:
For Italian language lessons, times depend on the course chosen.
The art lessons will usually take place in the afternoon, at a time agreed with the artist.

The ABC School organises a cultural activity program in which students are able to participate in depending on their timetable.



OTHER COURSES

ONLINE ITALIAN COURSES

The online lessons are aimed towards:
- Those who do not have time to come to Florence and would like to study Italian with a qualified and experienced native speaker
- Those who are coming to learn Italian at the ABC School and would like to learn the basics before coming
- Those who, because of their job, need to learn specific Italian language, how to write letters or documents, how to prepare a presentation etc.
- Those who have already attended the ABC School and would like to continue to study Italian with the same teachers when they return home.

The online lessons have a similar format to individual classes taught at the school and last 55 minutes, taking place very easily on Google Meet or Microsoft Teams or Zoom
The educational material will be sent to you by email or during the lesson
The timetable is established by mutual agreement with the teacher.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Italy is also a tourist destination for many families with children so we at the ABC School have created a course for them too.
If the parents would like to study Italian language in class they can easily do this whilst their children (at least 5 years old) are cared for by a teacher who will teach them Italian by using games, music, videos or short readings adapted for their age group.

We would advise the adults to choose either a group or individual course which takes place in the morning so that their children do not stay at the school for too long and get bored.
At the student's request, it is possible to organise activities which involve the whole family to discover Florence after the lunch break.

Lesson times:
Lesson times depend on the type of lessons chosen by the adults.



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OTHER COURSES

If you are interested in any particular course feel free to visit our website www.abcschool.com for more information about our other courses such as:

- **PRE-UNIVERSITY COURSES** to prepare you for the entrance exam of an Italian university
- **PHONETICS COURSE** especially for singers or actors who need to perfect their pronunciation in a particular way
- **ITALIAN LITERATURE COURSE**
- **HONEYMOON IN FLORENCE COURSE** for those on their honeymoon who would like to study the Italian language and culture and to have, by request, the opportunity to visit the most beautiful monuments in Florence with a private guide.
- **INTENSIVE ART HISTORY COURSE** for those who are not interested in studying the Italian language but would like to enrich their art history knowledge.
- **ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSE PLUS GILDING** The ABC School would like to give students the opportunity to get in touch with the works of art in a very unique way, by attending a workshop and learning the basics of the trade of gilding of wooden works and of restoring paintings.
- **SABBATICAL YEAR IN ITALY** - Long life learning



SESTRI LEVANTE

THE ABC SCHOOL: FLORENCE AND SESTRI LEVANTE

In 2015 we opened a second ABC School on the beautiful Ligurian coast, in a building which has views directly on the Bay of Silence, one of the most beautiful beaches in Italy.

Sestri Levante is only a few kilometers away from the famous Cinque Terre, a colourful and peaceful place situated on a cliff which divides the sea into two captivating bays.

The ABC School in Sestri Levante uses the same educational method as in Florence, meaning students speak Italian from the very first day.

The lessons have a **maximum of 8 students per class (minimum 3)**, making for a particularly intensive way of learning.
During the summer Sestri Levante is an important seaside resort, however those who love the sea know that it is beautiful whatever the season and that there are always many activities: trekking in the hills, diving, boat rides, walks, visits to other Ligurian cities and food and wine tastings.

Many Italian language courses are available in both locations. We wanted it to be this way so that our students could get to know Italy better as a whole. This gives them the opportunity to experience both Liguria and Tuscany, whilst experiencing the same manner of high-quality teaching.



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AFTER THE LESSONS

In the afternoon, after the Italian language lessons have finished, we organise a series of cultural and leisure activities which will help you get to know Florence and its monuments better, as well as all of the aspects of Italian culture.
The students can participate in any activity that they are interested in and are also free to explore the city by themselves according to their own personal interests.
Every four weeks we offer a new program with visits to museums, themed walks either in the historic city centre or in the hills, seminars on history, art history, literature, language, traditions, music, theatre, linguistic study and films. We also organise aperitivi, dinners together in a pizzeria, wine tastings and much more.
On Saturdays there are excursions to other Tuscan cities (Siena, Pisa, Lucca, Arezzo, Fiesole, Livorno, Pistoia etc.), Chianti as well as to the beach in the summer months.
All of the activities are organised by our teachers. The teachers who accompany the students on museum and monument visits are also licensed tour guides and have a great knowledge of art history.
The seminars, films and walks are included in the cost of the course. Students are required to pay for their museum tickets, transport for the excursions and the lunches or dinners that we have together.

Here is an example of an activity program:

Week One

Monday: General information about the school and Florence, for the new students
Tuesday: A panoramic walk on top of the Piazzale Michelangelo and a visit of the San Miniato al Monte church.
Wednesday evening: Dinner together in pizzeria
Thursday: Palatina Gallery in Pitti Palace visit - Italian Renaissance paintings
Friday: Yoga practice in Italian
Saturday: Excursion to Siena, returning to Florence in the afternoon.



AFTER THE LESSONS

Week Two

Monday: An Italian film with Italian subtitles
Tuesday: Guided tasting of Italian wines and other Tuscan products in a wine cellar
Wednesday: Seminar - Italian gestures
Thursday: Walk in the old town to discover the secrets and legends of the city.
Thursday evening: Aperitivo together in a bar.
Friday: Literature seminar: Dante and *la Divina Commedia* (The Divine Comedy)
Saturday: Excursion to Pisa returning to Florence in the afternoon.

Week Three

Monday: An Italian film with subtitles in Italian
Tuesday: Visit to The Bardini and the Boboli Gardens
Wednesday evening: Dinner together in a typical trattoria.
Thursday: Visit to Palazzo Vecchio
Thursday: Yoga practice in Italian
Saturday: Excursion to Arezzo, returning to Florence in the afternoon.

Week Four

Monday: An Italian film with Italian subtitles
Tuesday: Urban trekking in Florence
Wednesday evening: Painting lesson in an Art Gallery
Thursday: Seminar – Italian songs
Friday: Visit to Santa Croce church
Saturday: Excursion to Lucca, returning to Florence in the afternoon.



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ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION WITH A FAMILY

All of the accommodation selected by the ABC School are well-kept and well-furnished. Both the apartments and families can be very different: there are young people, older people, families, those without children, couples or those living alone. These people can have different ways of living or different interests.
The students are guests but are also a part of the family and are expected to leave shared rooms clean and in order.
By request it is possible to share an apartment with other students in a single or a double room with or without use of a kitchen.
Independent apartments are also available or, alternatively, we can book a hotel room for you.
• ***Room with use of kitchen:*** Those who choose a room with the use of kitchen will have their own private bedroom and will share the bathroom and the kitchen with the other people who live in the house. In the kitchen you will have your own space to put your food.
Since the kitchen is shared with the family and/or other students, it must be left clean and in order.
Depending on the time of year, the room could be in a shared apartment either with other students at the school or with a family
Double bedrooms are only available upon request for students who arrive together and would like to share the room.
• ***Room with breakfast or half board:*** Those who book a room with breakfast or half board (breakfast + dinner) cannot use the kitchen. The Italian breakfast usually consists of coffee, milk or tea, biscuits, yoghurt and fruit. Students don't usually eat their lunch at home as there are many restaurants, bars and pizzerias near the school.
Those who choose the half board option will eat dinner with the family. Dinner in Italy is usually around 8pm. A typical dinner consists of a first and/or second dish, with a side dish and fruit.
Please inform the family if you will not be at home for dinner (for which you will not be reimbursed) or if you will arrive late. There may be times when the family are not at home in the evening, however dinner will still be organised for you.
Double bedrooms are only available upon request for students who arrive together and would like to share the room.



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• ***Independent apartments:*** If you would prefer to have your own room, bathroom and kitchen, we would advise you to choose an independent apartment.
Despite being the same price, the apartments offered can vary greatly (e.g. size, luminosity of rooms). Please, bear in mind that the rooms aren't always modern and luxurious.
In any case, even if they are simple and not recently renovated, the apartments are clean and fully equipped.
• ***Florence is a very old city***: It is not rare to live in a historic building, perhaps dating from the 15th or 16th century. This is definitely a charming feature, however please don't forget that back then elevators did not exist and not all buildings have the space to install one. The bathrooms are also often small and very simple in comparison with modern houses.

ACCOMMODATION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• ***Booking***: Our advice is to **book accommodation at least 4 weeks before starting your course**. Our accommodation office does whatever it can to satisfy the needs of the students, working with the accommodation available to us. However, please keep in mind the fact that there is a limited quantity of rooms for students (Florence is primarily a tourist city), as well as the relatively low price we charge.
• ***Cancelling your accommodation***: Accommodation cancellation should be sent to the school by registered letter or email.
If the cancellation is made one week before the start of the course, the school will retain one week's accommodation fees (regardless of the booking duration). If the cancellation is made within two weeks before the start of the course, the school will retain 50% of one week's accommodation fee. There will be no penalty if the cancellation is made more than 15 days before the start of the course.
There are no special prices or refunds for late arrivals or early departures.
• ***Deposit:*** In some accommodation, a deposit corresponding to half or the full amount may be required.
• ***Independent transfer***: From Florence Airport (FLR) it is possible to take either a taxi or a shuttle bus called "Vola in Bus" or the tramway T2 which take you to the Santa Maria Novella station (for



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information please go to www.fsbusitalia.it and www.gestramvia.com).
The Santa Maria Novella station is around 10 minutes from the Piazza Duomo by foot. When you arrive by train it is possible to take a taxi, a bus (www.at-bus.it) or simply walk to the apartment.
Please note: please **directly contact the owner of the property** to let them know your arrival time in Florence at least a week before your departure to Italy.

- ***Transfer organised by the school***: For those who would prefer a transfer organised by the school, you will find someone that we trust at Florence Airport (FLR) or at the Santa Maria Novella Station (SMN). Please **let the school know about your travel details** (day and time of arrival, number of the train/plane and where it is departing from) at least one week before leaving.
- ***Arrival and Departure***: Accommodation is **from the Sunday** before starting the course **to the Saturday** after the course (an extra night on arrival or departure is possible).

It is very important to confirm the time of arrival at least a week before leaving: if you do not, there is a possibility that no one will be home on the day that you arrive. The check in is from 4 pm to 10 pm. In case of delay, please contact the owner.
On the day of your departure, the check out is 10 am..

- ***Keys***: It is important to care with the house keys, as you could be asked to pay for a replacement should you lose them.
- ***Bed Linen and Towels*** : The bed linen and towels are provided with the accommodation. Students will find a clean room on their arrival but are responsible for the cleaning of the room and common areas during their stay. You are not allowed to move around the furniture or hang posters, photographs or paintings on the walls.
- ***Gas and Electricity*** : Gas, water and electricity bills are included in the price. These are very expensive in Italy so please avoid any wastage.

Standard voltage is 220V. To make sure that your electrical goods (telephones, computers etc.) work, please bring an adapter.



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• ***Heating and Air Conditioning***: Italian houses are only heated at certain times of the day and only during winter (from the 1st of November until March). Normally the heating is turned off at night. The average temperature of apartments in winter is around 19˚C/20˚C.
Air conditioning in Italian houses is rare. The high, thick walls in the centre of Florence help to keep rooms cool in summer.
• ***Internet***: Internet connection is guaranteed in all the types of accommodation
• ***Friends and Visitors***: It is not possible to invite friends home, nor to invite them to spend the night (unless prior arrangements are made with the owner of the house and the school).
For those who are thinking about staying out for the night, please let your host family know to avoid any unnecessary worry.
• ***Damage***: In the case that anything is broken or damaged, please let your host family know as soon as possible. You may be asked to pay for any repairs or replacements of the object.
• ***Medical assistance***: The school's secretaries can put you in contact with doctors who speak English. We would highly recommend that all of our students buy medical insurance, especially those who come from countries that are not in the European Community.
• ***Problems***: If there are problems with your accommodation please speak to the reception in the first few days or as soon as the problem occurs so that we are able to resolve it as soon as possible. The school cannot be held responsible in any way for the relationship between the student and the landlord or landlady.



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CAMTINA





I ♥ Pasta



The ABC School has been teaching the Italian language to foreign students from all over the world successfully **since 1982.**

The school is:

- Officially authorised by The Italian Ministry of Education (Document no. 10252/C20)
- Sponsored by the City of Florence (Document no. 6200)
- Member of A.S.I.L.S.® Association of Italian as a Foreign Language Schools
- Authorised for A.I.L. exams (Academy of Italian Language)
- Authorised for CILS exams from the University for Foreigners of Siena
- Placement partner of the University of Bath
- Recognised by CSN (national Swedish institution for the right to study)
- Recognised by the Federal Republic of Germany for "Bildungsurlaub"
- Partnered with different Universities and places of Higher Education in America, Europe and Australia for their study abroad programs
- UNITER certified UNI 11863 (Certificate no. S0422).

The ABC School, in collaboration with the City of Florence, takes an active part in the literacy programs for immigrants

ABC
Lingua e cultura italiana
Firenze e Sestri Levante

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