Italian Studies
+ College of Arts and Sciences

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Italian studies
+ Minor in Italian studies

Program Overview
Italian is one of the major European languages. Throughout the centuries, Italians have made fundamental contributions to the development of Western civilization in such fields as literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, music, philosophy and science. Italian is very important for students of these disciplines.

The department of languages, literatures and cultures is comprised of faculty members from national and international universities. We have a small, dedicated core faculty that works with related faculty on campus. We help students pursue their interests and to attain an excellent foundation in Italian. All full-time Italian studies faculty hold terminal degrees.

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The Italian division at Saint Louis University offers language courses at different levels, which satisfy the language core requirements. A variety of courses dealing in Italian art, history, music, spirituality, politics and philosophy are offered through different departments at SLU.

Italy is part of the G8, the eight most industrialized countries in the world. The study of Italian opens the door to one of the most exciting countries in Europe. The Italian scene today is extraordinarily rich for such fields as literature, performing arts, cinema, design, politics, sports, fashion and industry. Hundreds of American companies operate in Italy.

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The Italian studies program at Saint Louis University regularly hosts cultural activities. Cooking lessons, games of Bocce, movie nights and outings with the Italian Club are common events, which are normally held in the the Center for Global Citizenship on SLU’s Frost campus.

A variety of study abroad programs in Italy are available for students of Italian, including the Spring Hill College Italy Center in Bologna, the Sant’Anna Institute in Sorrento, the UNH-in-Italy Center in Ascoli Piceno, the Loyola University Rome Campus and the Villa Nazareth in Rome.

About the Faculty
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Curriculum
The focus of the Italian studies major is the development of linguistic proficiency within a multidisciplinary context. The program requires 27 credit hours of upper-division classes. Of these, 18 must be taken in the Italian division. These must include Oral and Written Communication I and II. Outside the Italian division, nine credit hours of upper-division classes are required. For these courses, the approval of the program is required.

Students are also strongly encouraged to select a second major; nearly any other discipline can be considered, including history, political science, psychology, theology and science. By majoring in two fields, students will significantly improve opportunities when entering the workforce, particularly in the areas of government service, or when applying for graduate study, especially in language and area studies programs.

The Italian studies minor consists of 15 credit hours of upper-division courses. Of these, nine must be taken in the Italian department. Outside the Italian department, six credit hours of upper-division classes are required. For these courses, the approval of the program is required.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

By combining practical aspirations with the humanizing and broadening effects of language study, our undergraduate major prepares students to perform in a number of rewarding careers. Many of our students are double majors, often in the fields of history, political science, psychology, theology or science. Some graduates continue on to graduate study.

Others seek employment as:
+ Foreign service officers
+ Interpreters/translators
+ Linguists
+ Special agents
+ Teachers
+ Travel guides
+ University professors

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.