

ABC DE' Conti

Italian Language School

Opening the world with Italian
A world opens with Italian



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Greetings

Did you know that the birth of the Italian language was unexpectedly very recent, dating back to only about 150 years ago? Before that time, each region had its own dialect, such as the "Milanese Dialect" and the "Neapolitan Dialect," and each of those dialects was dealt with as a separate foreign language. In the midst of this situation, when Italy was unified into a single nation in 1861, the "Florentine Dialect" was given the honor of being designated as the official common language.

ABC de' Conti is located in the very heart of Florence, known not only as the birthplace of the present-day Italian language, but also as the Capital of Arts, thus providing the best environment for your study abroad experience.

At ABC de' Conti you can find a complete lineup of courses: for Italian language, we offer distinct programs focused on specific linguistic aspects and levels, ranging from daily conversation, to business Italian and specialist jargon courses.

At ABC de' Conti, your experience is not limited to the study of the language, as we provide also professional courses for training interpreters, internship programs for learning Italian together with business practice, as well as a wide selection of Italian cultural programs. By choosing ABC de' Conti as your school for learning Italian language, you will be taking the first step toward the realization of your dreams, gaining indispensable and valuable experience to pursue your future educational and professional goals.

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Firenze

Introduction to Florence

The city of Florence overflows with allure

Florence, Capital of the Arts

Florence is the birthplace of renaissance culture; medieval buildings form a beautiful cityscape that has been designated as important world heritage. Botticelli, Da Vinci, Donatello among so many others are said to be inspired by the beauty and landscape of this city.

Living in Florence allows you to experience a pleasant and rewarding language immersion, while enjoying an incredible cultural and artistic environment.



Traditions and State-of-the-Art

While placing a great importance on its own traditions, history and culture, Italy is also a worldwide trendsetter in such fields as fashion and design, not to mention Italian delicious cuisine and beautiful scenery.

Florence represents the quintessence of all these multifaceted aspects, hosting every year numerous annual artistic and cultural events- such as the Florence Design Week and the International Handicraft Fair.

Rich Tuscan Cuisine and Lifestyle

Italian food is "twice blessed because it is the product of two arts, the art of cooking and the art of eating". For Italians every main meal becomes an opportunity to relax with friends and family, to chat and gossip, laugh and share: in a word, to confirm mutual links and sense the culture. Within Italy, Tuscany is blessed with extraordinary natural landscapes and local food is mainly produced using natural cultivation techniques. The genius of Tuscan cooking lies in its simplicity.

A study abroad experience in Florence is the perfect chance to experience how food and sociality in Italy are profoundly interconnected.



In the middle of Italy: The perfect spot for traveling in Italy and Europe.

Florence has a central position in Italy and is very well connected with the rest of the country as well as Europe. There are numerous beautiful cities near Florence that are extremely convenient to visit, including Siena, Perugia, Pisa, Assisi. Also, both Venice and Rome are close enough for a day trip. You can use your weekends or vacation days to travel around, while fully enjoying your student's life in Florence.

ABC de' Conti: Location and Atmosphere

Not only is Florence well known as the capital of Renaissance, but it is also the place where modern Italian language was born.

ABC de' Conti is situated in the very heart of the city historical center. The school building, conveniently located between the Duomo and St. Lorenzo church, is a lovely structure that has stood in this spot since the 15th century.

Within the school there is a free-of-charge wireless Internet available for all international students. Our multilingual school staff will not only provide you all necessary information about the courses and the school facilities, but will always welcome moments of conversation with the students, a unique opportunity to practice your Italian!



Unique Features of ABC de' Conti

ABC de' Conti offers a broad selection of Italian language courses -available for all levels of proficiency - including: training for professional interpreters, preparatory courses for the Italian Academy of Fine Art and national universities entrance examination, courses in specialist jargon for all types of business fields.

Teaching approach: Direct Method

All our Italian language courses are based on the "direct teaching method" and equal importance is placed on conversation, grammar, listening and composition.

This teaching method was established in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century and it is still used today as one of the main teaching approaches. Besides the target language, no other language is employed during the class: the purpose of this method is to learn how to think and communicate naturally in Italian, just as children learn their first language.

Small Group teaching

In many language schools, where classes are made up of a large number of participants, students have very few opportunities to actively speak.

On the contrary, at ABC de' Conti all classes are limited to a maximum of 15 participants.

In small group classes, the teacher is able to follow accurately all students, providing detailed feedback when marking assignments and tests, so students get a better sense of how they are improving and where they need to work harder. This is an irreplaceable benefit from the student's point of view.

ABC de' Conti holds:

- Group lessons, classes of 9-15 students;
- Small-group lessons, classes of 2-8 students;
- Private lessons, for 1 student.



Along with Italian classes, ABC de' Conti offers a colorful array of cultural courses in such fields as the arts, cooking, handicrafts, and a number of extracurricular activities that help participants become acquainted with Italian culture while providing extra time to socialize with other international students.

Instructors

Our instructors are all native speakers with a long and solid experience in teaching. They provide training on all levels, from elementary to advanced Italian, in a friendly, thoughtful and enthusiastic manner.



Italian Language for Business and Specialist Fields

ABC de' Conti, along with general Italian language courses, provides various "specialist jargon courses", designed for people who are aiming to learn Italian for business, marketing and industry purposes.

These courses focus on the acquisition of linguistic competence in specific sectors, providing to students a unique opportunity to enrich their vocabulary with appropriate technical terms.

The school also offers the opportunity to join an unpaid Internship program at an Italian company or organization, where students can actually practice and improve their language skills, and at the same time come into direct contact with a working environment, which in many cases is peculiar to Italy.

Language + α (painting, cooking, the arts)

At ABC de' Conti it is possible to combine the language lessons with a number of classes that focus on different aspects of Italian culture.

Optional lessons are real classes like those at general art institutes and cooking schools. You can choose among 33 courses, including: stained glass, pottery, painting and Italian cooking.

These courses are particularly recommended for those who want to use the language for practical purposes.



Courses

1. Basic Italian Language Course

1 lesson = 45 minutes
80 group lessons/4 weeks; 60 small-group lessons/4 weeks;
Private lessons
Duration: 2~48 weeks

Basic Italian Language courses are designed to provide students with a basis to communicate effectively in Italian in everyday, realistic situations. The courses are task and content-based and incorporate grammar in a functional use of language. Small-size classes give students the opportunity to get to know fellow classmates, engage in interactive academic discussions, and develop strong written, oral and teamwork skills.

Courses are taught at all levels: 11 levels, from elementary to advanced level.

Students can choose among: group classes (9 to 15 students), small-group classes (2 to 8 students), or private lessons (1 student).

2. Intensive Course

1 lesson = 45 minutes
160 group lessons/4 weeks; 80 private lessons/4 weeks
Duration: 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks

Intensive Courses are ideal for students who want to improve their Italian language level in a shorter period. Student will take more than twice as many lessons as normal Basic Italian Language course and do more assignments.

Starting from elementary level, students can aim to reach an intermediate level in 3 months, and be able to attend lectures taught in Italian after 4 months of study.

Students can choose among: small-group classes (2 to 8 students), individual lessons (1 student).

3. "Business Italian" and "Specialist terms" Courses in the arts, design, and cooking

1 lesson = 45 minutes
60 small-group lessons/4 weeks; 30 private lessons/4 weeks
Duration: 4 weeks, 8 weeks

In the "Specialist Terms" courses, students will learn Italian technical terms in 13 specialized fields of art, design, and culinary art, according to the student's specialization. Ideal course for those who are aiming to study those fields in Italy and thus need to acquire the terminology related to them. After the course, students will be able to understand and carry out their study in each specialized field.

In the "Business Italian" course, students will acquire vocabulary used especially in business environment.

Small Group classes: Small-groups (2 to 8 students), private (1 student)

4. Home-stay Italian program

1 lesson = 45 minutes
30 standard lessons/4 weeks, 60 intensive lessons/4 weeks

Students who participate to this program will live in one of our Italian teachers' home, attending private lessons while experiencing Italian everyday home-life.

The one-to-one interaction allows the instructor to appropriately grasp the unique aspects and weak points of the student and to tailor the lesson contents specifically for his/her needs.

This total, in-depth experience of Italian culture and language is one of the most efficient lesson methods, as students have the chance to learn Italian in the most relaxed and friendly atmosphere possible, and maximize their linguistic progress.

5. Italian Language Business Training course

Duration: 8 weeks, 24 weeks

Business Course is a training course that puts a special focus on developing students' skills in a multitude of different business scenes. The student will not only acquire a high language level useful in actual workplace, but also they will have practical skills such as business manners, preparing reports, business letters, telephone conversation, presentation, conference talk skill, etc. Through role-plays and discussion, students will learn to apply the skills, to prepare themselves for future employment in Italian companies or Italian-speaking workplace. (See page 6 for detail)

6. Internships

Basic Italian language course (3 months, 6 months) + Internship program (6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 30 months)

This program combines the study of the Italian language with work experience in an Italian company. Students will first learn basic Italian language and specialist terms in the field of their specialization, in order to prepare themselves for the internship program.

Through internships in Italian enterprises, students will acquire specialist knowledge and practical skills useful for future employment and career enhancement.

The school also provides support for interns, including authorization registration with the government, insurance coverage, etc.

More than 200 collaborating companies: tourist agency, trading company, hotel, B&B, school, sports gym, art gallery, agritourism, and so on.

7. Italian Language Interpreter Training Program

Duration: 8 months

This program provides, along with an intensive linguistic preparation, a comprehensive training where students can acquire both specialist knowledge in a variety of subjects and the necessary techniques for working as professional interpreters.

Upon the completion of the course, for those who have passed the interpreter employment examination at ABC de' Conti, there is the chance to begin working immediately as interpreter assistant at our adjoining art and design school, Accademia Riace. (See page 6 for detail)

8. Art Short Courses and 1-Day Courses

Duration: 1 day, 2-10 days, 4 weeks, 8 weeks or longer

A colorful variety of artistic and cultural courses are offered. It is the best way to develop language proficiency while enjoying hands-on Italian culture and art experience. The lessons are provided by a professional school of art and design, Accademia Riace, so both students who seek just some experience to enjoy and those who seek full-fledged lessons can be satisfied.

9. Preparatory Course for Accademia delle Belle Arti

Duration: 8 months

This is a preparatory course for those who aim to pass the entrance examination to Italian academies of the arts.

The program includes drawing, art history, various workshops, portfolio preparation and Italian language lessons as well as classes on specific subjects necessary for the entrance to the schools the students aim to enter.

Average examination pass rate in the past is 97%.

Italian Language Business Training Course

Learning business in Italy for your future employment

The Italian Business Course places a special focus on developing students' skills in a multitude of different business contexts.

The main course is 6 months, and students can choose the course duration depending on their level of proficiency and time availability:

[Example of Curriculum]

1. Business conversation
2. Writing business letters, e-mails
3. Telephone conversation
4. Business manners
5. Reading newspapers on economy
6. How to write successful Curriculum Vitae
7. Office interpreting
8. Marketing, Planning, Data analysis, How to draw graphs, negotiation, conference, presentation etc.

Business Course (24 weeks)

In this comprehensive training course, students will acquire a wide range of business-related knowledge and then learn to apply it on practical situations, addressing a variety of different topics. The first 8 weeks will be dedicated to learning basic knowledge, followed by 4-month training on actual application of the knowledge. Intermediate level of Italian language is necessary.

Business Basic Course (8 weeks)

In just 8 weeks it gives students basic knowledge on various topics in a concise manner. It is the first 8 weeks of the 6-month Business course, recommended for those with limited time. Inter-mediate level of Italian language is necessary.

Business Course (24 weeks) + Basic Italian Language (6 month/ 11 months)

For those who want to study both Basic Italian language and Business Course, we have combination courses.

If you take the Business Course + 11-month Basic Italian language, you can start from the entry level to jump up to a business level in less than a year. The first 5 months will be for study of Basic Italian language, followed by 24-week Business course taken parallel to the remaining Basic Italian language course lessons.

If you take the Business course + 6-month Basic Italian language, you can either start from the entry level or intermediate level, and finish the language course before the Business course or take the language course parallel to the Business course.

Italian Language Interpreter Training Course

Italian Language Interpreters that support the front line of business

Italian professional interpreters are increasingly in demand in a wide range of industries: the fashion business, the food & wine sectors, the hospitality and tourist, hotels and airline, the Opera and music, import-export of goods, etc. Interpreters play an important role to bridge and enhance smooth communication and business between Italy and the world.

Learn everything necessary for becoming a professional interpreter in 1 year

It goes without saying that language fluency is paramount for building a career as professional interpreter. However, in order to correctly translate conversations, it is essential to also possess specialist knowledge of the subject being discussed: to comprehend the Italian cultural background in all its aspects: history, politics, economics, geography, the arts, the literary trends, and so on.

This program is ideal for those who aim to work in this field, as it offers both the technical tools for professional interpretation as well as knowledge on a broad range of subjects related to Italy necessary for the job.

[Curriculum summary]

1. Intensive language training
2. Special arts training
3. Extracurricular courses
4. General basic subjects (politics, geography, history, economics)
5. Basic Business course
6. Interpreter training I (basic lessons) Interpreter training II (specialist lessons)
7. Interpreter Training Lesson I (observational training)
8. Interpreter Training Lesson II (practical lessons)

The track laid out and places of employment after completing the course

Students who successfully completed ABC de' Conti professional interpreter training will have acquired the necessary level of expertise to begin working as interpreting assistants. To those who have passed the assistant interpreter employment examination, there is opportunity to start working as assistant interpreter or a part-time interpreter at the adjoining art school.

After gaining some experiences as assistant interpreter in various places, there will be many more career venues in which students can become active.



Please refer to the detailed pamphlet for more detailed contents of Italian Business course and Interpreter Training Course.

Learning Period and Model Plans

[Basic Italian Language Course] 8 weeks + [Art or Culinary Art Courses] 4 weeks

Since the course last less than 90 days, it is very convenient as for many international students visa is not required. In this course students have the chance to brush up their linguistic skills while exploring the Italian culture. It is also possible to attend Italian language classes simultaneously with art/culinary classes for a shorter stay.

[Basic Italian language Course] 12 weeks + [Business Basic Course] 8 weeks

This course is addressed to students who have already studied Italian. In just 3 months, students can brush up Italian language and acquire basic Business skills. This combined program is composed by:

- Initial 4 weeks of Italian language lessons;
- 8 weeks of Italian language lessons and Business Basic course at the same time.

[Basic Italian Language] 12 weeks + ["Business Italian" or "Specialist terms" Courses in the arts, design, and cooking] 4 weeks

This course is addressed to those whose objective is to study a specialist field in Italy after learning Italian language.

The programs is composed by:

- 12 weeks of Basic Italian language course;
- 4 weeks of specialist terms in the preferred study area

Possibly, a 6-month period is recommended to master enough Italian language to smoothly understand a specialist major field.

[Basic Italian language Course] 48 weeks

This is an ideal course to steadily build up comprehensive Italian language ability from the entry level. Students will enjoy various extracurricular activities and get deep knowledge of Italian language and culture.

It is possible to add private lessons to any of the courses to further enhance your linguistic ability. Please consult us to make a combination of courses that matches your individual study period and purpose.



About Lessons

For students who have already studied Italian before, instructors check the level of each student and place them to appropriate class. The level is judged based on the grammatical, speaking, hearing, listening, writing and reading.

Italian language level (from the official translation of the CEFR Global Scale 2001)

Level	Average class hours	Learning contents	There are individual differences in training contents and learning periods.
A1 (Beginner)	About 50 to 100 hours	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help. Equivalent to 1-2 months of Italian language study	
A2 (Elementary)	Around 100 to 200 hours	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.	
B1 (Intermediate)	Around 200 to 400 hours	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.	
B2 (Upper Intermediate)	Around 500 to 600 hours	Can understand the main ideas of complex text in a variety of topics, including technical discussions. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity with native speakers. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain precisely a viewpoint on a topical issue. Students who pass this level are exempted from taking Italian language examinations when entering an Italian university. Equivalent to 6 months-1 year of Italian language study	
C1 (Advanced)	Around 700 to 1000 hours	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.	
C2 (Proficiency)	Around 1000 to 2000 hours	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.	

Culture Courses

Short Courses

You learn for a week or more alongside all majoring courses. It is possible to take any number of different combinations. For those who want to learn more thoroughly, please challenge the 1 month, the 2 month, the 3 month, or the 8 month course.

Italian Home Cooking

"Delicious and simple" is the key to the heart of Italian cuisine. You will learn from our culinary professionals who open the kitchen of their own home for lessons to teach their family recipes. In every lesson, you will enjoy the full-course dishes in homely atmosphere, learning 4-5 new recipes including homemade pizza, bread, pastries, handmade pasta etc.



Jewelry Making

On the ancient bridge of Ponte Vecchio in Florence, there stand small jewelry shops transmitting traditional goldsmith techniques since even before the time of Renaissance. In this course, you will learn jewelry making with truly traditional techniques from Florentine artisans, to bring home gorgeous handmade jewelries.



Leather working

(Shoe and Bag production and Design)

When you walk in the city of Florence, you can actually smell the leather and its tradition. You can learn how to make high-quality leather products that Italy is known for, directory from skilled artisans. You can design and make your original bags or custom-made shoes for your feet.



Painting

Florence - the "Cradle of Renaissance" - is the right place to explore classical and contemporary fine arts. In our course, you have the chance to approach a variety of techniques, from the foundation of hand sketching and pencil drawing, to oil painting, water-color painting, acrylic painting, classical techniques, abstract painting, fresco painting, spatial composition, chiaroscuro techniques, and layout methods.



Paintings Restoration

You will approach a variety of contents, including: the process through which historical and cultural value is placed upon artistic paintings, the study of restoration materials, the mechanisms of deterioration, the procedures and techniques employed in restoration documentation. You may also have the incredible opportunity to work on 15th century authentic paintings.



Ceramics

Learn the secrets of ceramics techniques, under the guidance of our local professional artisans, working directly in their own ateliers. The course curriculum includes: wheel throwing techniques, kiln theory and operation, surface treatments, hand-building sculpture, as well as the history of pottery and contemporary practice, Terracotta techniques and the famous tin-glazed Majolica pottery.



Glass Art

You will learn how to design and make colorful glass objects such as stained glass windows, jewelry boxes, wall decorations, lamp shades, glass plate, glass panel, glass container, decorated mirrors, etc. learning techniques such as "Tiffany" technique, or others as well as mosaic. You will also learn historical background of glass art that has been fascinating people.



Fashion Design

Florence has a long tradition of textile production and it is home for some of the worldwide most famous fashion brands, such as Gucci, Roberto Cavalli and Salvatore Ferragamo, etc. In this course, you will learn fashion design from the basic figure drawing techniques to complete design project. You will also study research of fashion themes, through the study of fashion plates, coloring techniques etc.



Graphic Design

In this course, you can learn various topics using rich use of colors particular to Italian design: topics cover illustration and sketching, editorial design, layout tools, packaging design, actual creation of brochures, posters, coloring techniques, advertising techniques, as well as principles of communication and brand identity.



Other courses not listed above are available such as Interior Design, Product design, Textile Design, Sculpture, Bookbinding, marble paper, etc.

Short Courses of 2 to 10 days

Jewelry Making: Rings & Pendants - 2-5 days course
In this short program, you will create 2 pieces: a ring and a pendant, using the technique of decorative carving. The course is open also to people with no previous experience.

Bag Making - 2-day Course
In 2 days course, you will be introduced to the main characteristics of leather and basic sewing techniques and then create by their own 1 small leather object (purse, bag, wallet) to bring back home as souvenir.

Bag Making 4-day Course
In the 4-day course, you will be able to create 1 small leather object and 1 middle-sized bag.

Bag Making 10-day Course
During a 10-day period, you will learn the ABCs of creating a pattern, cutting the leather, sewing and finishing. You will be able to create: a small pouch, a small bag, and a big travel bag.

1-day courses

You can take a large variety of courses in units of 1 day. We recommend this program to those who want to experience lessons in a number of fields.

Jewelry making - Simple ring



In 1-day student will produce an elegant silver ring. Beginners are also welcome.

Jewelry making - Elegant ring



In this course you will create an elegant ring, employing the decorative engraving technique (Incisione).

Painting



In this 1-day outdoor painting experience, you will draw hand sketching of Florence cityscape, for example the Duomo or the Ponte Vecchio.

Special Arts Training



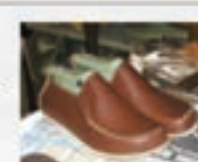
This course content changes each month and include: sketching, stenciling, decoupage, fresco painting, outdoor sketching, nude sketching, Florentine art tour, pottery art trip, Italian jewelry atelier visit, and water-color painting.

Fresh Pasta



You can learn how to make fresh handmade pasta, choosing from a variety of types.

Atelier Visit - Shoes



Student will visit the leather-work ateliers, experiencing a first-hand contact with the local community of artisans.

Atelier Visit - Furniture / Painting Restoration



You will have the chance to observe the process of bringing back to life pieces of classical furniture and paintings.

Tuscan Home Cooking - Full course dinner



This 1-day course combines a cooking lesson, where you learn 4-5 recipes in one time, followed by an enjoyable tasting experience. The course is held at the professor's house.

Market visit



This is a guided visit to the local traditional food market of Florence, crowded with vegetables, fruits, various types of cheese and salami, and traditional meat shops.

Pastries



In 1-day course, participants will learn 2 types of delicious Italian pastry recipes, including: tiramisu, panna cotta, gelato, etc.

Pizza



You will learn 3 types of delicious pizza, including the famous Margherita.

Bread



You will learn how to make delicious homemade Italian bread.

Practical training in a restaurant



This is a unique chance to learn various cooking techniques in a professionally equipped kitchen, under the guidance of a master chef. The lesson is followed by a menu-tasting session.

Table Setting



In this course, you will have the opportunity to acquire the basics of Italian dining etiquette for place settings, while enjoying the warmth of Italian hospitality.

Wine Cellar Training (including a light meal)



You will visit a Chianti wine cellar and learn how this authentic, richly fragrant Italian wine is made.

Wine and olive farms (including a light meal)



You will visit a typical Italian Agriturismo, enjoying the beautiful Tuscan pastoral scenery while eating a delicious lunch prepared with local organic products.

Small Trip to the Mediterranean Sea (including a seafood lunch)



You will visit the Tuscan coastal area, enjoying the transparent water of the Mediterranean Sea, along with a gorgeous seafood lunch.

Extracurricular Activities

At ABC de' Conti we provide a multitude of enjoyable and satisfying extracurricular activities, including: guided visits to art museums and ateliers in Florence; practical art workshops; art seminars for creating your own art objects; small excursions outside the city- such as in the Chianti area - and trips to other cities, such as Venice.

[Visit Examples]

- * Visit with explanations to the Uffizi Gallery and appreciation of famous Renaissance masterpieces, as the "Birth of Venus" by Botticelli.
- * Guided visit to the Accademia Gallery and observation of the David statue.

- * Visit to the Ponte Santa Trinita, one of the most beautiful bridges in the world.

[Special Art Training Example]

- * Decoupage workshop

Cut out your favorite images from those drawn on a flat surface, paste on various different materials, and finish your work with a coat of varnish. Challenge the handicraft techniques that originated in Italy during the 17th and 18th centuries.

* Visit to Pitti Palace and sketching in Boboli Garden

The 15th century building façade has a sense of grandeur, and its beautiful 45,000-mq garden represents the perfect environment for an outdoor sketching session.



Accommodation service

ABC de' Conti provides a variety of housing solutions, including: shared flats, private apartments, hotels, homestays, etc., for all those students who want to comfortably enjoy their stay in Florence.

The school staff regularly visits the accommodations and checks on their appropriateness for students.

Types

• Student-use Flats

Student flats are the most recommended and popular type of accommodation for students who want to enjoy co-habiting experience to make friends. It is a stimulating environment to live with other international students or an Italian family, to meet new international friends and enrich the study-abroad experience.

The basic type accommodation facility is the furnished shared flat, with kitchen, bath, and toilet in common. You can choose between twin room and single room (with additional fee).

• Single-occupancy Flats

Private flats are generally 2-room apartments, structured with: private kitchen, bath & toilet and 1 bedroom, use by 1 or 2 people.

Recommended especially for those accustomed to live abroad by themselves, people who value their own pace of living.

• Home-stays / Home-stays at the professor's home

The homestay experience it is a unique chance to live together with an Italian family, to be part of an their daily habits and see first-hand everyday cultural aspects, and to learn Italian language naturally. Especially if you choose homestay at the Italian teacher's house, you can learn the language most effectively with the presence of the qualified instructor/owner. Breakfast and dinner can be provided on request.

• Hotels / Residential Hotels

Especially recommended for those who stay in Italy for a short time and prefer to spend a comfortable stay while concentrating on their activities.

The residence hotel provides single or double rooms with private bathroom, kitchen, linens, towels, hair dryer etc. Telephone and washing machine are also available.

In both hotel and residential hotel, bed making and cleaning are included in the service.

Period

The accommodation period is very flexible and can be arranged in accordance to each student's duration of the stay. For those who intend to find housing on their own, we strongly suggest to make a 4-month reservation in advance.

Make your own arrangements

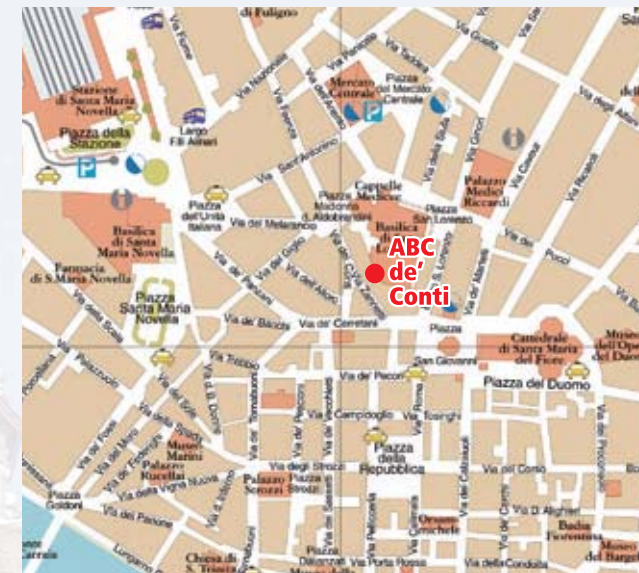
When looking for housing, you can utilize advertisements, information magazines, posters at shops, as well as solicitation notice for roommates on the city bulletin boards. The most common solution for international students is to share large furnished flats.



Other Student Service

ABC de' Conti provides support for international students in a variety of ways, including: transportation from/to the airport, orientation, internship programs, assistance for Visa application and stay permit, bank account opening process, etc.

The school provides free WiFi Internet connection and a computer room for students.



ABC de' Conti Information Office

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For school visit, please make reservation by telephone, fax, or e-mail in advance.

GENERAL CONDITIONS TO THE ENROLLMENT IN THE COURSES

1. The Enrollment Fee of ABC de' Conti is to be paid upon registration of ABC de' Conti and the Tuition Fee of ABC de' Conti is to be paid no less than 30 days before the start of the relevant course. Payments can be made only in cash, by bankwire transfer or international postal / money order to the account indicated by ABC de' Conti. ABC de' Conti will provide the student with a certificate of payment confirmation. In case of a wire transfer, the certificate will be issued only when the completion of the transfer has been confirmed by the school at its receiving bank account. ABC de' Conti may, at its sole discretion, exclude from any course and/or examinations any registered student who fails to pay the applicable Tuition Fee within the period stated above or any other period as may be agreed with ABC de' Conti. ABC de' Conti reserves the right to claim back from any such student any reasonable expenses incurred in reliance upon his/her registration on the course.

2. The Enrollment Fee paid to ABC de' Conti is not refundable unless ABC de' Conti decides not to grant the student a place on the relevant course. Cancellation will only be accepted if made in writing to ABC de' Conti. If cancellation occurs not less than 180 days prior to the start of the relevant course, ABC de' Conti shall refund 100% of the Tuition Fee, 50% of the Tuition Fee will be refunded if cancellation occurs not less 60 days prior to the start of the relevant course; 30% of the Tuition Fee will be refunded if cancellation occurs one day before the class starts and no refund shall be made if cancellation occurs after the start of the relevant course. For students who do not hold an EU passport, there will be no refund after certificate of admission has been issued.

3. The Tuition Fee includes tuition and diploma or certificate of attendance as specified for the course.

4. ABC de' Conti will be responsible for preparing a laboratory and basic equipments for student use. However, expenses for any materials needed for each student's course and projects shall be covered by the student.

5. Specific information such as the duration of the course shall be communicated to the student upon registration. Examinations must be taken at the end of the relevant course. No student shall be allowed to take the examinations after the end of the relevant course and ABC de' Conti shall not, in this case, issue any final certificate of attendance or the official diploma to the student.

6. Attendance is compulsory. No student shall be allowed to take examinations unless he/she attends at least 80% of the lessons. No final certificate shall be issued unless the student maintains the required attendance record until the end of the course and achieves the required pass mark in the examinations. In case students do not attend lessons, there will be no refund of the Tuition Fee.

7. By enrolling on any course offered by ABC de' Conti, students agree to comply fully with the disciplinary rules of ABC de' Conti as this represents a condition of the agreement between students and ABC de' Conti. Compliance

which the disciplinary rules shall involve a good attendance record, a rigorous respect of the schedule of lessons and a responsible attitude towards the staff of ABC de' Conti allows students to use any equipment within ABC de' Conti. Failure to adhere fully to these rules may result in disciplinary measures being taken against the offending student (which, for the avoidance of doubt, may involve the expulsion of the student from the relevant course). To the fullest extent permitted by Italian law, ABC de' Conti reserves the right to claim damages in relation to any loss caused by the student.

8. Courses are organized according to the schedules, dates and programs established by the teachers appointed by ABC de' Conti, which reserves the right, at any time, to amend any aspect of the course as may be necessary.

9. The examination papers, together with any material produced by the students during the examinations (hereon referred to as The Material) shall be deemed to be the property of ABC de' Conti. Students hereby assign by way of future assignment all copyrights arising in the Material and in particular allow ABC de' Conti to exhibit, reproduce and/or publish such Material.

10. If a student wishes to change the course after registering with ABC de' Conti, the school will consult with the school management in order to make arrangements for changing the course with a separate course of the student's choice, with a handling fee of 20% of the tuition.

11. ABC de' Conti reserves the right to cancel the course prior to the beginning of the courses if less than a quorum to start a course is present. Students who are registered in a course that is canceled will be notified, and the Enrollment Fee and the Tuition Fee will be a full refund.

12. ABC de' Conti doesn't take any responsibilities for accidental loss of personal belongings and valuables in school or outside school.

13. Students must be responsible in case of any damage or vandalization of school property by the student.

14. ABC de' Conti is closed on Italian national holidays and school holidays such as summer holidays, winter holidays and Easter holidays.

15. No variation to this agreement shall be valid unless agreed in writing between the parties.

16. For programs held in Florence campuses, the agreement between ABC de' Conti and students shall be subject to the Italian law and the parties hereby agree that the Italian courts in Florence shall have sole jurisdiction over any dispute arising out of this agreement.