

STUDY ABROAD IN SICILY



THE ITALIAN **ACADEMY**



SICILY



To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all, for Sicily is the clue to everything.

– J. W. Goethe



THE ACADEMY

The Italian Academy, established in 1984, is fully recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education. It is situated in the city centre of Syracuse close to the archaeological park and archaeological museum, within easy reach of the main shopping streets of the city, the old town on the the island of Ortygia and the outdoor solariums.

- Centrally located, modern premises
- WIFI and air-conditioning throughout
- Media centre and computer lab
- Comfortable and fully-equipped lecture rooms
- Outdoor terrace with café area
- 24/7 student support
- Optional Tandem language exchange programs with local students
- CILS and DITALS (University of Siena Certification of Italian for students and teachers) preparation and examination centre





Students in our multimedia room

Morning view of the terrace at the Academy



ANN BYRNE
The Academy Director

OUR MISSION

“Our aim is to ensure that each student's experience in Sicily is truly inspiring. We are committed to setting the gold standard in quality study abroad programs.”



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The Italian Academy

- 1 The Greek Theatre & Archaeological Park
- 2 St. John's Crypt & Catacombs
- 3 Archaeological Museum
- 4 St. Lucy's Basilica
- 5 Roman Forum
- 6 Temple of Apollo
- 7 The Duomo
- 8 Maniace Castle

5 minutes walking distance

OUR TEAM

All our academic staff are highly qualified and experienced in their specific field of study. Our Italian language teachers are native speakers, specialized in the teaching of Italian to foreigners, in line with the high quality teaching requirements of the University of Siena.

Our administrative staff are professional and friendly; their aim is to ensure that each student's stay at the Italian Academy is as carefree and enjoyable as possible. A 24/7 student support service is provided, which students may contact at any time.



“WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK ABOUT US”



PETER LEWIS

Italian language student - High School Teacher - Canada

Speaking as a teacher on leave/artist. My experience with the Academy was very positive. The correspondence and relations with the administration was warm and friendly. They were willing to help with any issue. I was extremely grateful to my hosts in taking me in and sharing their language and culture with me. They have become good friends. The school was well organized. Fortunately I had 2 teachers of unique but complementary styles that maximized my learning. Both were university trained, energetic and highly passionate, conscientious. After acquiring some grammatical structure and understanding and an ability to communicate I returned to Canada with a sense of accomplishment and a greater appreciation for Sicilian Culture and a desire to continue learning. Grazie! Peter



GAVIN DOEG & MANON EDWARDS

Italian language students - Pedagogists - UK

At the end of our week learning at The Italian Academy, we thought we should drop a line and say how much we have enjoyed ourselves and more importantly learned this week! We have gained a huge amount from working with our teachers. They have been incredibly responsive to our needs and varying skills, and have gone out of their way to prepare work in addition to the pack provided, either because we asked to cover certain aspects of grammar or because of certain interests we had expressed at the beginning of the week.

Both our knowledge and confidence has increased enormously. It is such a shame to be only doing one week!





SIRACUSA THE IDEAL PLACE TO STUDY

Siracusa (or Syracuse), short-listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a treasure trove located on the south-eastern coast of the Italian island of Sicily. Over 3 millenia, it has collected a wealth of art and precious architecture which bears witness to the passage of many glorious civilizations.

Today Siracusa is a warm-welcoming, lively city with much to offer to adventurous souls and culture vultures alike: one may choose to get lost in the labyrinth of narrow streets of the historical centre, take a stroll around the medieval castle that overlooks the natural harbour or explore the pristine beaches and marine reserves that surround the city.

"The greatest of Greek cities and most beautiful of them all" as defined by Cicero, Siracusa was once the most powerful of all Greek colonies in Italy (known at the time as Magna Grecia, or "Greater Greece"). In the 5th century BC, at the height of its power and counting twice the current population, Siracusa defeated the mighty fleet of Athens to claim control over the Mediterranean. The city was home to many a great Greek, above all the brilliant Archimedes, who is said to have ingeniously burnt a fleet of invading Roman ships with huge mirrors placed on the ancient city walls. >



View of the port in Ortygia



The island of Ortygia, the historical centre and cultural heart of the city, with its traditional street market and delightful cafés, has a friendly and colourful atmosphere, which makes sightseeing on foot a joy. This district of the city is home to the majestic Temple of Apollo and the Temple of Athena, constructed in honour of the Greek goddess to celebrate the victory over Athens and uninterruptedly used over the centuries as a place of worship by Romans, Arabs and Christians.

Upon arrival, visitors and students are always delighted to find that the cost of living in Siracusa is among the lowest in Italy. As the southern-most tip of the country, the city also enjoys clear blue skies and warm temperatures all year round, the ideal weather for a relaxed studying experience and outdoor excursions.

Siracusa is also a strategic base for those who wish to enjoy all the beauties of Sicily, just a stone's throw away from the other major attractions of the island: the Valley of the Temples and the Scala dei Turchi in Agrigento, Mt. Etna, the highest volcano in Europe, and the hill-top city of Taormina.

Although the outgoing nature and hospitality of Italians is known world-wide, international students are always surprised at the warmth of the welcome they receive from local people, which helps to create the friendly and relaxed atmosphere that all our students gladly recount.



ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

Our Italian language courses are designed to provide the opportunity to attend top quality language classes while enjoying all that the fascinating city of Siracusa has to offer. Each course is in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR).



EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK LEVELCHART CEFR



OUR METHOD

All our courses are based on the communicative method, giving students the opportunity to practise their spoken Italian while developing their comprehension, extending their use of vocabulary and enhancing their understanding of grammatical structure.



CERTIFICATION

For long-stay students we offer preparation courses for the University of Siena CILS certification, which is a prestigious and widely recognised certification of Italian language competence, based on the 6 levels of CEFR. We also offer DITALS Italian language teacher training courses.

ITALIAN STANDARD

- 20 hours per week
- 4 classes each morning
- Maximum Class Size: 12 Students
- Average Class Size: 6 Students

ITALIAN INTENSIVE

- 30 hours per week
- 4 classes each morning + 2 individual classes in the afternoon
- Maximum Class Size: 12 Students
- Average Class Size: 6 Students

ITALIAN+

- 15 hours per week
- 5 hours themed classes + themed afternoon activities
- Maximum Class Size: 12 Students
- Average Class Size: 6 Students

ACTIVITIES



CULTURAL EXCURSIONS & TOURS

- > The Greek Theatre and Archaeological Park
- > The Temple of Athena and Maniace Castle
- > The Crypt and Catacombs of St. John
- > The interactive museum of Archimedes
- > The Roman Villa del Tellaro
- > The Baroque city of Noto
- > The Valley of the Temples at Agrigento
- > The Roman hill-top town of Taormina



PHOTOGRAPHY, SPORTS AND ECO-TOURS

- > Trekking on the Etna volcano
- > Horseback river riding
- > Kayaking
- > Archaeological snorkelling
- > Sailing
- > Visit to the Marine turtle beach reserve



FOOD & WINE

- > Shopping trip in Ortygia Street market
- > Cooking Classes
- > Wine Tasting tour
- > Cooking lab at the villa del tellaro
- > Pasticceria demonstration

LANGUAGE TANDEM EXCHANGE

Students at the Italian Academy have the opportunity to take part in our free Tandem language exchange service, which has proven to be very popular among students, allowing them to know people of a similar age and interest living in the area while practicing the language learnt in class.





ITALIAN+ *HISTORY, MYTHS & CULTURE*

This Italian language course is ideally suited for those who have a passionate interest in history and wish to trace the steps of the great classical authors, philosophers and mathematicians.

“ SYRACUSE IS THE GREATEST GREEK CITY IN ITALY
AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THEM ALL. ”

CICERO



ITALIAN+ *THE SICILIAN ADVENTURE*

This course combines the study of Italian with exciting afternoon activities: trekking on the volcano, archaeological snorkelling, horseback riding, kayaking, sailing and many more.



ITALIAN+
FOOD AND WINE



This flavour rich experience is for all those who wish to discover the unique taste of local Sicilian specialities while learning how they are produced from the masters of the art.

“ SICILIANS BUILD THINGS LIKE THEY WILL LIVE FOREVER
AND EAT LIKE THEY WILL DIE TOMORROW. ”

PLATO

ITALIAN+
PHOTOGRAPHY



Explore Sicily through photography while taking your first steps in the Italian language. We offer limited places for one or two week courses with the acclaimed Italian travel photographer Roberto Zampino.





FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

The Italian Academy provides high quality Faculty-Led Study Abroad programs for colleges and universities in the US and worldwide. We welcome professors and students from Italian language departments and Arts and Humanities departments.

The Italian Academy faculty-led courses are all fully customized to meet the needs of professors and students from our partnering institutions. We strive to meet specific requirements and we work closely with professors to design courses that exceed expectations. We take care of all logistics, in order to make the experience as productive, carefree and enjoyable as possible. Here is the support we provide:

- Modern and fully-equipped facilities for lectures
- Special access to museums and archaeological sites and digs
- Full time assistance: a liaison officer is assigned to each to offer logistic support and ensure 24/7 student support
- Orientation and optional language lessons
- Accommodation within walking distance of the school
- Program documentation: video, photos and testimonials



ACADEMIC COURSES

- All academic courses are taught in English or Italian.
- Practicums and field trips to main sites of interest and museums are an integral part of each course.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

ITAL1010 - ITAL3020

Our Italian Language courses are focused on giving students the appropriate communication skills at each level, by combining communicative tools with a comprehensive study of Italian grammar and syntax.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAILS IN SICILY: from prehistory to Greek and Roman colonization

ARCH1010

The course focuses on the role of Sicily in the Mediterranean; the historical periods studied are Prehistory, Greek colonization up to the Late Roman Imperial period.

HISTORY OF ART IN SICILY: a journey through prehistoric, Greek and Roman art

ARTH1010

The course focuses on the study of prehistoric, Greek and Roman art in Sicily.

Lessons are held in the classroom, at archaeological

sites and in museums, where students are able to observe original evidence of topics studied in class to ensure a dynamic learning experience.

ANCIENT HISTORY

a journey through the prehistory and early history of Sicily

HIST1010

The course focuses on the prehistoric, ancient Greek and Roman periods in Sicily. It analyses the socio-economic and political dynamics which determined the main historical events

SICILIAN LITERATURE

LITS1010

The course covers Sicilian writers from Verga and Capuana up to the modern writers Vincenzo Consolo and Andrea Camilleri. The most significant works of each author are studied: poems, short stories, novels and plays.



* FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
UNI.THEITALIANACADEMY.COM

ACCOMMODATION

Our students may choose to stay in a single or shared apartment, with a local host family, or in a Bed & Breakfast, as well as in any of the full range of local hotels which Siracusa has to offer. All our accommodation options are of a high standard and are regularly inspected by our accommodation staff.

Siracusa is a relatively small city, warm-welcoming and generally very safe; young people tend to settle in quickly and to feel at ease. All student accommodation is located in a safe neighborhood in the city centre.

> INDEPENDENT APARTMENT

> SHARED APARTMENT

> HOST FAMILY

> B&B / HOTEL



HOW TO REACH US



The nearest airports are **Catania** and **Comiso**. Bus transport is available to/from Siracusa from both airports, with buses leaving almost every hour. We also offer a **pick-up service** from both airports.

FLIGHT TIME TO CATANIA AND COMISO AIRPORTS

from	ROME	50 minutes
from	FLORENCE	1 hour 15 minutes
from	MILAN	1 hour 30 minutes



BUS



CAR

to **Syracuse** from

Catania airport: 45 minutes

Comiso airport: 1 hour 30 minutes



