



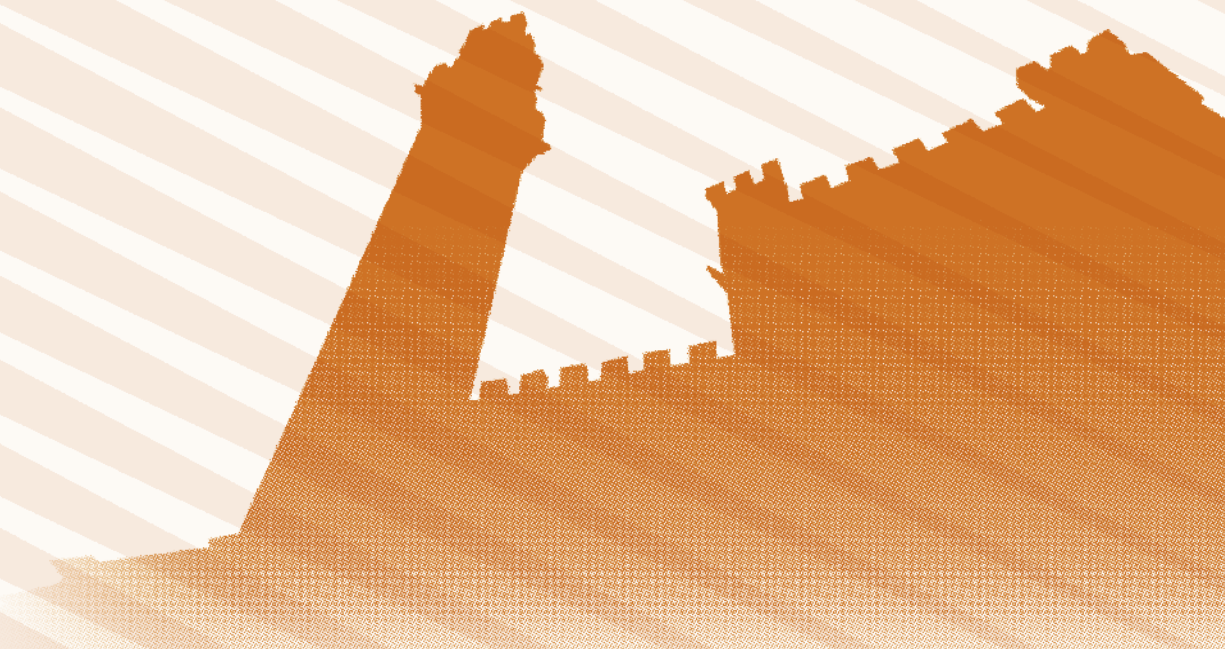
Language - Culture - Gastronomy

[www.dantealighieri.com](http://www.dantealighieri.com)

Via T. Pendola, 37 - 53100 Siena - Italy Tel. +39 0577 49533 - Fax. +39 0577 270646 - [info@dantealighieri.com](mailto:info@dantealighieri.com)



Società Dante Alighieri  
**Siena**



Un mondo in **Italiano**





✎ The choice of where to stay is without doubt an important concern for anyone planning to visit a new city. For this reason our staff works hard to obtain and reserve housing that meets our students' needs and desires. We will find you a place to stay in the historic center of the city or, if you wish, in the surrounding countryside, and accessible with public transport.

**Family** - Staying with an Italian family is perfect for those who wish to immerse themselves in the local community. Students can choose either a single room or, if traveling together, a double, and will be invited to share breakfast and dinner with the family.

**Apartment with other students** – For those who prefer to be more independent, we offer single or double rooms in apartments, some with a private bathroom, and with a shared kitchen.

You may wish to choose a self-contained apartment completely independent with one or more bedrooms.

**Residence** – For those who value total comfort and privacy, we can reserve an apartment with a private kitchen and bathroom in a residence either in the historic center or outside the city.

**Hotel** – Siena has a wide variety of hotels, from 1 to 5 stars, and situated in the center or outside the city.

**Bareto** – If you want a tranquil environment, and will have a car or other mode of private transport, Bareto is the ideal place to pass a relaxing stay in the countryside. Located 14 km. outside of Siena, Bareto offers luxurious apartments, with a pool and fantastic views of Tuscany's beautiful rolling hills.

#### ✎ Other services

› Pick-up services from the main airports of Florence, Pisa, Bologna and Rome.

#### ✎ More Programmes

The school hosts many programmes of for foreign universities and can tailor specialised programmes customized for study-groups and tours.

For more information visit the web  
[www.danteabroad.com](http://www.danteabroad.com)

› Teaching methodology courses for teachers of Italian, please refer to  
**the website: [www.ladantesiena.it](http://www.ladantesiena.it)**

› Intensive gastronomy courses, please refer to  
**the website: [www.artandcooking.com](http://www.artandcooking.com)**







Sitting on the rolling hills in the heart of Tuscany lies a priceless Gothic jewel, Siena. A city that is both passionate and contemplative, proud of its unequaled artistic heritage but always forward-thinking, Siena is the ideal setting for an immersion in the culture, art, history, and cuisine of Italy.

Its villas, alleys, and piazzas create an ambience of bygone centuries even if modern innovations and the conveniences they bring with them guarantee a high quality of life, making Siena accessible for people of all ages. With its historic center closed to automobile traffic, Siena is safe and relaxed; you can walk its streets at all hours of the day or night and feel the magic of this grand, urban drawing room.

During the Palio an explosion of banners, sounds, and songs permeates the air, bringing to the forefront the ancient traditions of the Siena which was, in the Middle Ages, not just a city but a powerful Republic. The various celebrations that surround this momentous event, and that take place throughout the year, make Siena a place of nearly constant amusement, entertainment, and unique experiences.

A university city and an international one, a land of merchants and bankers, of artists and writers, cradle of the Italian language, Siena reveals itself more to the traveller than to the tourist. To the attentive visitor who wishes to understand, and to become more than a passive spectator, countless wonders await. And there is no better method to facilitate this profound and unforgettable encounter than a knowledge of the language.



**A Different Way to Learn Italian**

We are proud to offer a satellite home-stay programme in Viterbo. Intended for one or at most two students traveling together, this program offers the opportunity to learn Italian while living with a teacher and his or her family in a relaxed and comfortable home environment. Housing consists of single or double room with ensuite bathroom and study room. An experience of complete immersion in the language, sharing a home and the every-day experiences of a family is a very effective way to learn quickly and deeply. The number of hours devoted to lessons is tailored to each students, and will be arranged in consultation with the school during registration. Your stay will also include guided visits to various museums and historical sites, and, by request, instruction in home cooking as well.

**Viterbo – The City of the Popes**

Legend has it that the city of Viterbo was founded by Hercules, but it is in fact of Etruscan origin, and dates back to the 5th Century BC. Today, it is characterised by its unparalleled Gothic architecture, with magnificent twelfth-century churches and palaces made from local volcanic stone. Its most famous architectural landmark is the Papal Palace, where the Conclave to choose a new Pope used to be held. There is much more to the city, however. Walking in Viterbo's quaint yet lively historic centre, you will no doubt notice the gorgeous fountains that decorate each piazza, and you will certainly wish to visit the natural thermal baths for which the city has been renowned for centuries. Furthermore, you will be close to the sea, and to the numerous lakes that dot the landscape of the Etruscan region of Tuscia. Viterbo's close proximity to Rome, and to the ancient Via Cassia which to this day connects Rome to Siena, makes the city easily accessible, and travel a breeze.







### Culinary Courses

Offered in combination with our language courses, the study of Italy's cuisines provides a fun and unique way to engage with the country's culture and language, as well as to discover the unparalleled richness of its culinary patrimony. Under the expert guidance of local chefs, students will prepare a variety of traditional Italian dishes, including many types of pasta and focaccia, seasonal vegetables, and main dishes of fish and a variety of meats.

### Internship

Structured in two phases, the first focused on linguistic studies, the second an internship lasting from 1 to 6 months in a local business. This programme offers the opportunity to participate in the dynamic Italian economy, allowing for professional growth and concentrated cultural immersion.

### Our facilities

Our computer room has 5 computers, giving efficient internet access. The school is covered wireless. A study room with piano is at disposal of the students. Our weekly social programme includes an orientation tour of Siena and the school. An English or Japanese- speaking tutor meets students once a week to help them with their homework or to understand the grammar taught in classes. The school has various patios where students can relax at break times or meet friends after class.

### Social Programme

Each month the school offers a rich programme of activities to supplement our language courses. These include the screenings of Italian films, guided visits to the museums and historic sites of Siena and its neighboring cities and towns, lectures and conferences, trips to the Sienese countryside and to the major Tuscan cities, wine tastings, and explorations of the foods of Tuscany.



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**The Società Dante Alighieri** was created in 1889 by a group of Italy's leading intellectuals, writers, and scholars, including Nobel Prize Winner Giosuè Carducci. Originally tasked with helping Italians abroad maintain their spiritual and cultural roots in Italy, the Società now works to spread the Italian language and culture throughout the world. With a network of more than 400 Comitati from Nagoya to New York, Buenos Aires to Bangkok, Jerusalem to Sydney, the Società offers courses in Italian, organises cultural exhibitions, grants prizes and scholarships to students of Italian, striving constantly to keep Italy and its cultural heritage alive in the world.

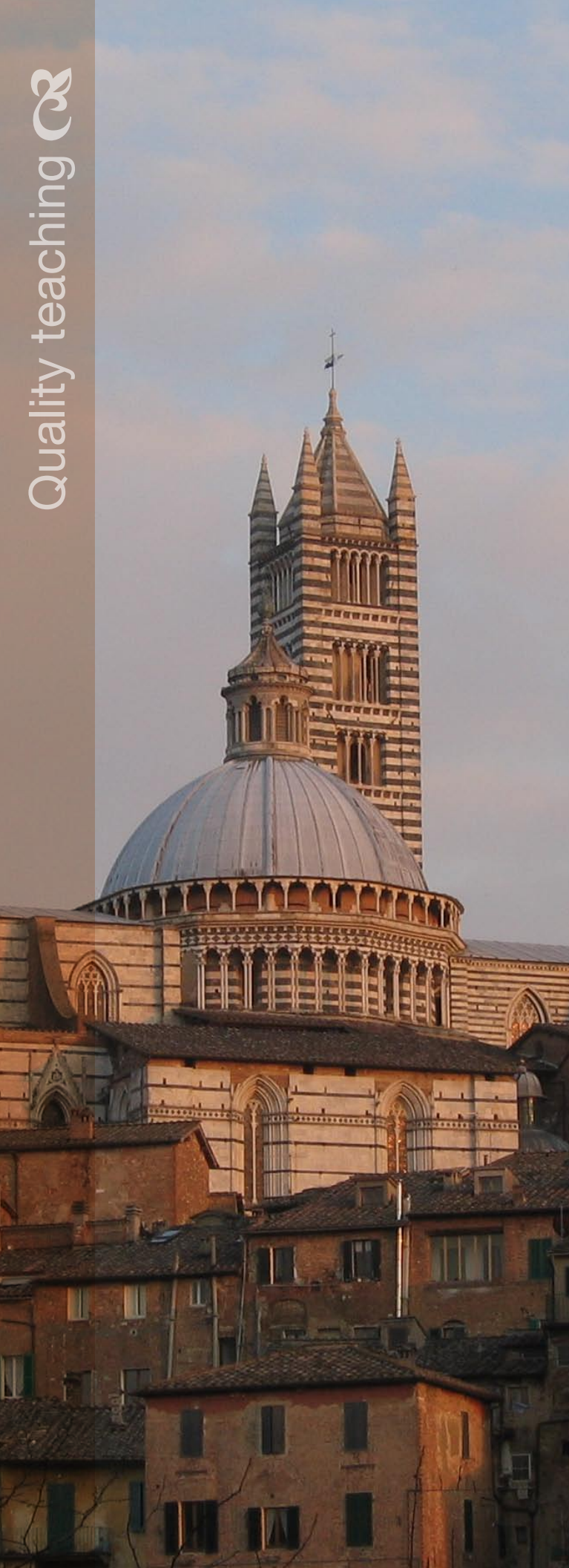
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**The school** was founded in 1979, and since then it has grown both in size and reputation, in Italy and abroad. Since 1990, it has represented the Siena branch of the famous Società Dante Alighieri.

The courses in the Italian language, culture, and cuisine are held in a distinguished palazzo in the most ancient part of Siena, Castelveccchio. Here, students can enjoy 20 large, sunlit classrooms, as well as a culinary studio, a reading room and well-stocked library, and a student lounge with games and musical instruments to enjoy during periods of relaxation. Ours' is an engaging locale where you will meet people of all ages and nationalities, with whom you will share the experience of learning Italian in a stimulating yet relaxed environment.







Studying a language in its country of origin provides a valuable and formative linguistic and cultural experience. Entering into contact with native speakers and cultural informants allows learners to continually improve their own capabilities to understand and communicate. All of the teachers in the school are specialists in the teaching of Italian as a second language. What is more, they are constantly furthering their own learning in this field by participating in seminars and continuing education programs. The teaching methodology they adopt is focused on communicative learning, allowing students to acquire the skills necessary to express themselves and to understand others so as to interact with Italians. The use of varied didactic techniques makes the classroom fun, stimulating, and motivating, never dull.

Under the guidance of the Director of Studies, each of our courses follows a syllabus that accords with one of the six levels of linguistic competency laid out by the European Council. The lessons will help the students to inductively gain a knowledge of the linguistic structures appropriate to their level, and to put this knowledge to use by communicating in various contexts. Our teachers place great importance on using authentic Italian-language materials, allowing students to explore the language in the varieties of its use.

The Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri (P.L.I.D.A) is an official certification of competence of Italian granted by the Società Dante Alighieri, in joint venture with the University of Rome "La Sapienza". The PLIDA verifies competence in Italian as a second language on the six-leveled scale laid out by the European Commission. A passing score on the exam at one of these levels entitles the student to a diploma recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Ministry of Education, University Studies, and Research, and grants a title accepted in university admissions and applicable for college-level coursework.

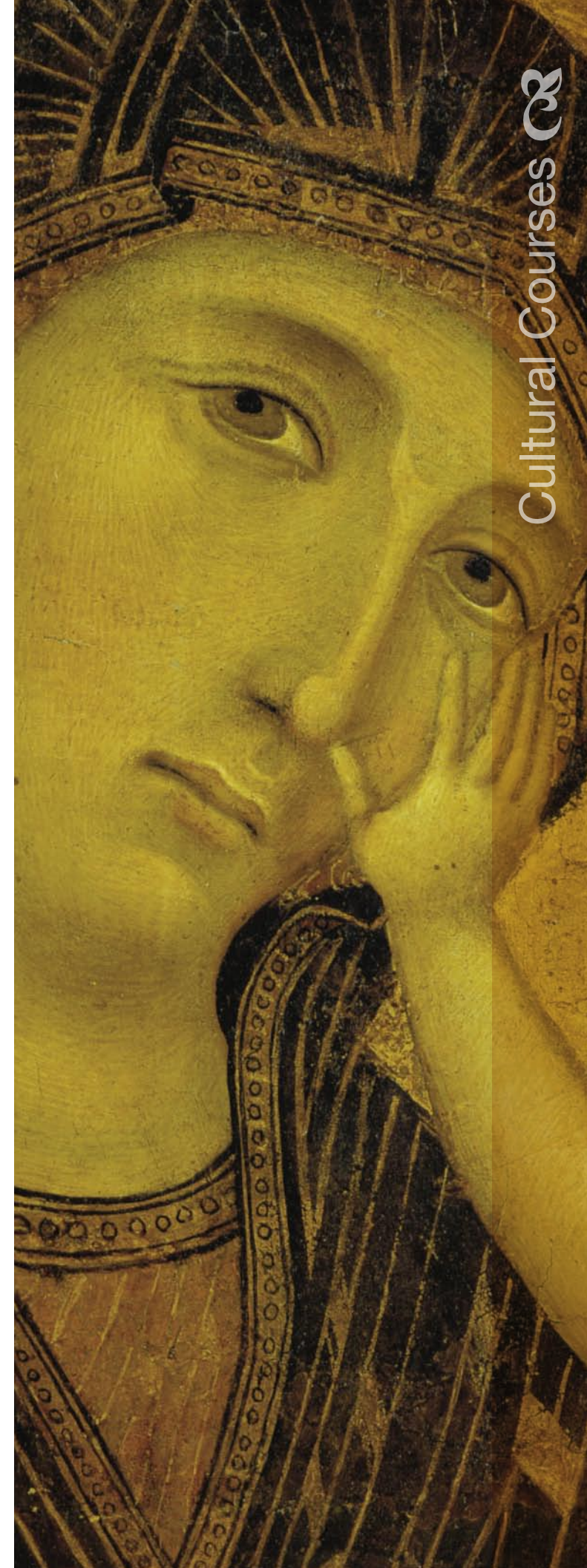


**Siena heritage**  
Offered in combination with our language courses, as well as for brief stays in the city, this course consists of two afternoon sessions per week. The course is intended to introduce students to Siena, its history, and its art through classroom lectures and discussion, and guided visits to museums and historic sites.

**Siena Magnifica**  
This programme combines language, culture, and culinary lessons. The study of the language becomes the primary means to enter into a variety of experiences in Italian society. The programme includes guided museum visits, trips within and around Siena and its surrounding cities, wine tastings, and an introduction to Tuscany's culinary treasures.

**History of Italian Opera**  
Offered in combination with our language courses, this course allows students to deepen their understanding of Italian Opera through critical reading of individual librettos. In addition to aiding the reading and comprehension of the librettos themselves, the course introduces students to the psychological, sociological, and cultural study of the works' protagonists, and to the interpretation of the singing and gestures of the genre's most influential performers.

We are always working to offer new cultural opportunities. In recent years, these have included courses in the visual and performing arts, nutrition, artisanal crafts and many more.







Language Courses

Prospective students can choose from a vast range of courses, each at a different level and targeted to a different goal, so that there is a perfect solution for almost everyone. Classes are international with an average of 8 students to a maximum of 12.

Group Courses

Most of our courses can be taken on their own or in different combinations, from standard to highly intensive. There are various timetables to choose from and you can take a course for 15, 20 or 25 hours a week.

Combined Courses

These are made up of group lessons in the morning and either individual lessons or more group study in the afternoon. They offer the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of the language and culture. The afternoon session can focus on the study of the grammar and vocabulary, improvement in verbal communication, the acquisition of focused vocabulary, and the study of Italian art and culture, at the student's discretion.

PLIDA Preparation Courses

These are structured around the demand of the PLIDA exam, in order to help the students to effectively prepare for the exam at whatever level they have chosen to seek certification. They begin two weeks before the exam session and last 30 hours.

Mini group and one - to - one

The length, number, and focus of the lessons can conform to the student's needs and desire. Mini-group courses are recommended for students who have the same linguistic levels and goals or come from the same company.



| PLIDA Examinations | Common European Framework   | School Levels   |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| A1<br>Plida A1     | 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.   | Elementary I    |
| A2<br>Plida A2     | 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.                          | Elementary II   |
| B1<br>Plida B1     | 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.                     | intermediate I  |
| B2<br>Plida B2     | Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. | intermediate II |
| C1<br>Plida C1     | 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.                                       | Advanced        |
| C2<br>Plida C2     | 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.  | Superior        |

Table of Common European Framework, PLIDA categories and Course numbers.

