
ABC scuola di lingua e cultura italiana

Study Italian in Florence with us

Brochure 2021



The ABC School, 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, a city rich in history and art where you will never be bored and where the Italian language was born.

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.

In Florence since 1982 - www.abcschool.com - info@abcschool.com

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.

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

STUDENTS ARE PUT FIRST: We have 7 classrooms in a beautiful Renaissance building with frescoed ceilings and 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 have a range of organised study programs.

WE SPEAK ITALIAN FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY: This direct method of teaching that we adopt 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 in the language.

ORIGINAL TEACHING MATERIALS: The grammar books used in class are the result of over 35 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 some afternoon and evening activities are carried out by the teachers at the school: culture seminars, walks, evenings together 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, maximum 20/30 minutes away by foot.

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**.

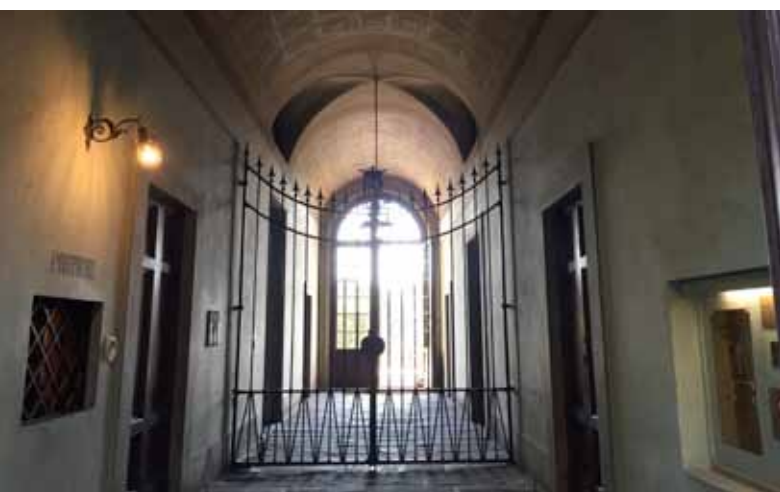
THE SCHOOL

Since 1982, the ABC School has been specialised in teaching the Italian language to foreign students who come from everywhere in 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, in both the 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 personality and knowledge.

STUDENTS LEARN VERY QUICKLY: CLASSES OF MAXIMUM 8 STUDENTS

- **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 certificate courses as well as linguistic and cultural programs for both young and old.
- A wide range of possibilities to learn or improve your Italian

WHERE WE ARE

You can find the school in the heart of the historic centre of Florence in the lively quarter of San Niccolò at 3 minutes from the Old Bridge, with many shops and artisanal workshops, not to mention its short distance from all of the most important museums and monuments of the city. From the windows of the frescoed classrooms in the Palazzo Canigiani, you can enjoy the view of the Palazzo Vecchio, the cathedral, Ponte Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery and the beautiful Florence on the Arno River.

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 from a general point of view however use our standard language and communication teaching structures
- For those who have a particular interest or necessity to learn Italian, 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, translation from English to Italian).



- **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 and would prefer to study the language at a pace better suited for adults. This includes the possibility of taking part in a special cultural activities program, with a teacher who will help them to understand and discover Florence, its history and traditions.
- As the Italian culture also involves a lot of good food, we have created some courses which combine Italian language lessons with this typically Italian aspect: **Italian language and cooking**
- 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 outside 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) 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 and cultures. It is also important that the students feel at ease during their studies and that they have enough opportunities and encouragement to start to express themselves independently in the language.

Group lessons last 45 minutes.

Individual lessons last 55 minutes.

LENGTH OF THE COURSES

The courses last for a minimum 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 9:15 to 10:45) 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, literature and writing.

Grammar books used in class are written and updated by the ABC School and are given to students on their arrival at the school.

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

Lesson times:

Grammar: from 9:15 to 10:45

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 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 which allow students to acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding and to become more confident with their communication and interaction.

Lesson times:

Grammar: from 9:15 to 10:45

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.

COMBINED COURSES

STANDARD PLUS 5 COURSE (20 group lessons + 5 individual lessons per week)
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/particular 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 9:15 to 10:45

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.

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.

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 in association with Italian language for foreigners experts and schools 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 teaching 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 9:15 to 10:45

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.

INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP COURSES

INDIVIDUAL COURSES

This course is for those who, due to time restraints or professional, study or other particular interests, would prefer to attend an individual course which is custom made to suit their needs.

The start date and the hours will be agreed upon with the school.

We recommend a minimum of one and 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, provides the necessary tools for communication, new vocabulary, writing and speaking skills, the comprehension of written texts and dialogues as well as putting focus on pronunciation. 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 artistic Florentine places with a teacher who is a licensed tour guide.

INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP COURSES

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

The courses for two (Duetto) or three people (Trietto) 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 way. The student will be able to choose the topics they would like to focus on and enjoy having a personalised timetable.

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 easily be able to communicate 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 which is checked by teachers.

Each lesson lasts 55 minutes.

Lesson times:

Generally these lessons take place in the morning, however the time will be communicated 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.

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

Sometimes adult students have different needs or interests compared to those younger than them. To appeal to different needs, the 50+ course combines the study of the Italian language, in groups of maximum 10 people, with other cultural activities which are dedicated to them.

The language course takes place every morning and 3 afternoons per week are reserved for museum visits, walks or food/wine tastings.



This 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 Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral
- 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)
- Afternoons or evenings with cooking lessons and a dinner all together
- 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 9:15 to 10:45, everyday from Monday to Friday

Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30, everyday from Monday to Friday

Afternoon: activities

COURSES FOR JUNIOR AND SCHOOL GROUPS

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

This course is reserved for groups of foreign students who are on an 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 9:15 to 10:45

Conversation: from 11:00 to 12:30

Activities

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

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 individual and it is possible to choose which historical period or which artist you would like to focus on, or 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 art history heritages 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, group lessons everyday from Monday to Friday.

Art history lessons: from 10:45 to 12:35, 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.

FIRENZE NELL'ARTE

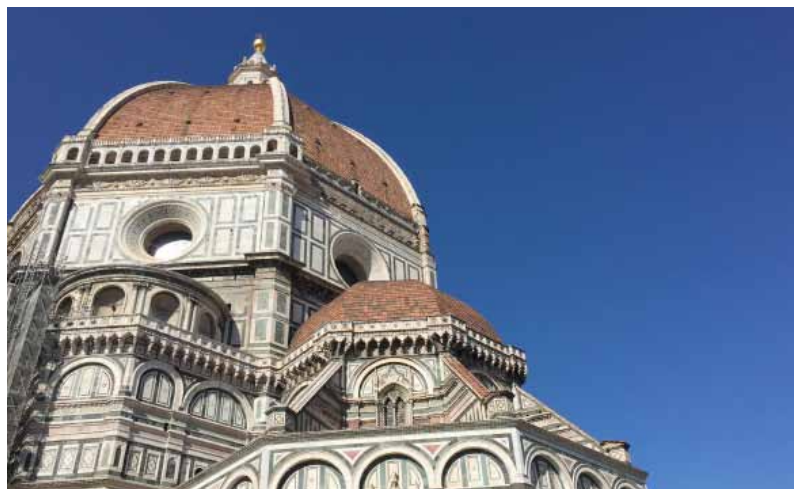
This course is aimed at those who would like to enrich their study holiday in Italy with drawing, painting or sculpture lessons which can take place in a studio, outside or in Florentine museums.

The art activities are conducted in collaboration with an experienced art teacher. They are normally in Italian or by request in English.

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 only study in the morning or also in the early afternoon.

The art classes are conducted by trained artists who are also specialised in its teaching.



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 the 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.

ONLINE ITALIAN COURSES (SKYPE)

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, 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 are real and proper individual lessons which last 55 minutes, taking



place very easily on Skype.

The educational material will be sent to you by email or by Skype.

The timetable is established by mutual agreement with the teacher.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Italy is also a tourist destination for many families with children and the ABC School has also created a course for them.

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:

The lesson times depend on the lessons chosen by the adults.

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**
- **WRITING COURSE**
- **HONEYMOON IN FLORENCE COURSE** for those who would like to study the Italian language and culture and to have, by request, the possibility to visit the most beautiful



monuments in Florence with a private guide on their honeymoon.

- **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, that of a gilder of wooden works and a restorer of paintings.

THE ABC SCHOOL: FLORENCE AND SESTRI LEVANTE

We are very happy to say that in 2015 we opened a new 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 which results in students speaking Italian from the very first day.



The lessons have a maximum of 6 students per class, 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 in whatever 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. This gives them the opportunity to experience both Liguria and Tuscany, maintaining continuity in the way they are taught

AFTER THE LESSONS

In the afternoon, at the end of the Italian language lessons, we organise a series of cultural and leisure activities which will help you to 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 propose a new program with visits to museums, themed walks in the historic city centre or in the hills, seminars on history, art history, literature, language, traditions, music, theatre, linguistic study, film, as well as dinners together in a pizzeria, aperitivo, cooking lessons and much more.

On Saturdays there are excursions to other Tuscan cities (Siena, Pisa, Lucca, Arezzo etc.),



Chianti or 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: Welcome to Florence – Practical information about the school and the city for new students

Tuesday: An Italian film with Italian subtitles

Wednesday: 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: Uffizi Gallery visit - Italian paintings from Giotto to Caravaggio

Friday: Yoga lesson

Saturday: Excursion to Siena returning to Florence in the afternoon.

Week Two

Monday: Welcome to Florence – Practical information about the school and the city for new students

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: Welcome to Florence – Practical information about the school and the city for new students

Tuesday: Italian film with subtitles in Italian

Wednesday: Visit to The Bardini and the Boboli Gardens

Wednesday evening: Dinner together in a typical trattoria.

Thursday: Visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia (Gallery of the Academy of Florence)

Thursday: Yoga lesson

Saturday: Excursion to Greve, Chianti and Montefioralle Castle with wine tasting, returning to Florence in the afternoon.

Week Four

Monday: Welcome to Florence – Practical information about the school and the city for new students

Tuesday: Theatre time – Learn Italian with theatrical techniques! Theme: taste.

Wednesday evening: Night visit of the Palazzo Vecchio with its monumental quarters and panoramic patrol path.

Thursday: Seminar – Italian with songs

Friday: Visit of the new Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (Museum of the Works of the Cathedral)

Saturday: Excursion to Lucca, returning to Florence in the afternoon.

ACCOMMODATION IN A FAMILY

Almost all of the accommodation selected by the ABC School are maximum 20/30 minutes away from the school by foot. Both the apartments and families can be very different: there are young people, older people, families, those without children, couples or singles. These people can have different ways of living or interests.

The students are guests but are also a part of the family and are expected to leave the common 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 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 supplies.

Since the kitchen is shared with the family and/or other students, it must be left clean and in order.

The room with the use of kitchen is at a maximum distance of 30 minutes by foot from the school. The room could be in a shared apartment with other students at the school, or with a family depending on the time of year.

The double bedroom is 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. For lunch, usually students don't return 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 20:00. 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 (in any case there will not be a reimbursement) or if you will arrive late. It is possible that occasionally the family won't be at home, however the dinner will still be organised.

The room with breakfast or half board (breakfast + dinner) is at a maximum distance of 30 minutes by foot from the school.

The double bedroom is only available upon request for students who arrive together, and would like to share the room.

- **Independent apartments:** If you would prefer to have your own room, bathroom and kitchen, we would advise you to choose an independent apartment.

For the same price, the apartments offered can vary greatly, regarding the size and luminosity of the rooms for example. Bear in mind that the standard of the room is not always very high.

In any case, even if they are simple and not recently renovated, the apartments are clean and fully equipped, and they are located at a maximum distance of 25/30 minutes by foot from the school.



- **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 at this time elevators did not exist and not all buildings have 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 is possible to satisfy the needs of the students, working with the available accommodation. However, please keep in mind the fact that there is a limited quantity of rooms for students (Florence is primarily a tourist city), not to mention the relative low asking price.

- **Cancelling your accommodation:** Accommodation cancellation should be sent to the school by registered letter, fax or email.

If the cancellation is made one week before the beginning 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 beginning of the course, the school will retain 50% of one week's accommodation fee. If the cancellation is made more than 15 days before the beginning of the course, no penalty shall be paid.

There are no special prices or refunds for late arrivals or early departures.

• **Independent transfer:** From Florence Airport (FLR) it is possible to take either a taxi or a shuttle bus "vola in bus" or the tramway T2 which take you to the Santa Maria Novella station (for information please go to www.fsbusitalia.it and www.gestramvia.com).

The Santa Maria Novella station is around 10 minutes walking from the Piazza Duomo. When you arrive by train it is possible to take a taxi, a bus (www.ataf.net) or 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 and the train/plane's place of departure) 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: for those who don't do this it is possible that you will not find anyone at home when you arrive in Florence. 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 apartment must be left before 10 in the morning.

• **Keys:** It is very important to not lose the house keys or you could be required to pay for the replacement of the locks and keys.

• **Rooms with Use of a Kitchen:** For those who choose a room with use of a kitchen, you will have your own space to keep your food. As the kitchen is shared with a family and/or other students, it has to be left clean and tidy.

• **Rooms with Breakfast or Half Board:** For those who book a **room with breakfast** or with half board (breakfast and dinner) you may not use the kitchen. An Italian breakfast normally has coffee, milk or tea, biscuits, yoghurt and fruit. Normally students do not go home for lunch: there are many restaurants, cafes and pizzerias close to the school.

For those who choose **half board accommodation**, dinner will be with the family. Dinner in Italy is normally around 8pm. A typical dinner includes a first and/or second course with side dishes and fruit. Let your host family know if you think that you won't be at home for dinner (if this happens you won't be reimbursed) or if you will be home late. It is possible that the family occasionally won't be at home but dinner will be made for you.

• **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, bring an adapter.

• **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 during the night. The average temperature of apartments in winter is around 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 not guaranteed in all accommodation but in most of them.

• **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 the repair or replacement 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 it is important to 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.

ABC

Lingua e cultura italiana

Firenze e Sestri Levante

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 MIUR, The Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (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.

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



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