

University of Ferrara

fall / spring / academic year



art / art history / cultural studies / gender studies / history / italian language and culture / literature / political science



program snapshot

- Immerse yourself in Italian through an intensive Italian language course, whether you are at a beginning or intermediate level
- Take courses in English concerning contemporary and historic Italian issues
- Visit art museums, cathedrals, and participate in group dinners and local festivals
- Explore nearby cities such as Mantua, Bologna, Siena, Pisa, and Ravenna
- Learn how to make Italian food by taking a cooking class

what you'll learn

The goals of the Language and Culture program are to enable students to begin and/or improve their ability to communicate in Italian through intensive language instruction, and to study about contemporary and historical Italy through English-taught content courses.

thoughts from abroad

Ferrara is a university town where the pace of life is comfortable and pleasant; where the food is local, genuine, and delicious; and where bikes are the most popular mode of transportation. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage site, yet is not on the tourist map. Its quiet streets have renaissance palazzos, shops, and numerous churches. The town has a medieval and a renaissance quarter, both of which have survived virtually intact.

For those students who would like to learn and practice Italian every day around town, Ferrara is the place to be, no matter your language level. The three-week intensive Italian course at the beginning of the semester will get you off to a good start linguistically, while you explore the city, participate in group activities and excursions, acclimate yourself to the university, and get to know some locals. In Ferrara, you won't meet another English speaker on every street corner.

The semester content courses vary widely, and you're sure to find something that interests you. If you love the arts, consider taking a course on the Italian Renaissance. If you're a business student, take the class on Italy and the EU. As time goes by, you will feel more and more comfortable in Ferrara, and, like me, it's possible you won't want to leave.

— Richard Chapman, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Richard Chapman was born in Wales and has been a resident of Ferrara since 1994. He received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Cambridge and his Master's in English Language Teaching and Professional Development from the University of East Anglia, UK. He has taught English as a foreign language since 1987 in both Italy and England. Since 1999, he has taught English in the Department of Languages at the University of Ferrara.

About Other CIEE Staff

Patrizia Turchi, Housing and Student Services Coordinator, studied special needs education and play therapy in Italy and in the UK. Her work experience has centered on learning support for pupils and families. Riccardo Rossi is Ferrara born and has worked with CIEE since the inception of the program. Riccardo is responsible for all administrative aspects of the program.

about ferrara

The beautiful renaissance city of Ferrara is close to Bologna, midway between Venice and Florence, yet it is relatively unknown to tourists. Shaped over the centuries by the River Po, Ferrara was one of the centers of the Italian renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries. Today, you can walk the city walls that surround Ferrara, ride a bicycle to class just like the locals, and visit Ferrara's outstanding museums. The city is extremely safe, clean, and accessible, and has a small-town feel yet boasts world-class art treasures and exhibits.

academics

Academic Program

The CIEE Study Center in Ferrara opened in 2003. This program is designed for students with little or no Italian language background with a strong interest in learning the Italian language and culture through content courses taught in English and an intensive Italian language class. Eligible students may want to consider spending the spring semester in the Liberal Arts program in Ferrara.

Academic Culture

The courses are designed for U.S. undergraduates, and the teaching and learning methods are familiar to most students from the U.S. However, all classes are taught by local faculty and require students to work independently outside the classroom. Learning takes place through a coherent blend of lectures, group seminars, and practical work. Most U.S. students consider the courses to be rigorous in comparison to courses at their home universities. Classes take place Monday through Friday.

Nature of Classes

All CIEE classes are with CIEE students only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Italian, Resident Staff encourages them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to Italian language proficiency and understanding of Italian society develops.

Grading System

Assessment is based on the students' overall performance in the course, including essays and examinations. Each professor evaluates CIEE students based on class participation and academic work throughout the semester. All courses have writing assignments. Students may have a written final examination and/or a written paper. Assessment for course grades are explained on individual course syllabi. Language courses tend to have multiple written tests and numerous written assignments.



where you'll study

The University of Ferrara was founded in 1391. Faculties and departments include history, philosophy, languages and literatures, education, law, and natural sciences, among others. There are approximately 12,000 students enrolled, with a teaching staff of 600. CIEE students have access to the University's libraries, computers, student canteen, sports facilities, playing fields, tennis courts, and gymnasium. There is a 16-km path on top of the city walls and another 25-km path below the city walls surrounding the city of Ferrara.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing, in apartments or homestays, is included in the program fee. Limited homestay options, with two meals per day included, are located in and outside the city center. Living in a homestay is a great opportunity to experience how Italians live firsthand, but requires a commitment on the part of the student. Families that welcome American students in their home may be interested in U.S. culture and enjoy the opportunity to house foreign students and the possibility of cultural exchange that this offers. If you choose a homestay, you have to adapt to another mentality, a different daily schedule, and new ways of dealing with day to day issues. CIEE cannot guarantee first choice housing placement.

Students staying in the apartments share a double room with another CIEE student, with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. Meals in the apartments are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Meals may also be taken at University cafeterias, at restaurants throughout Ferrara, or prepared in the residence. CIEE gives advice on the purchase or rental of a bicycle and a cell phone for each student during their stay in Ferrara.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Ferrara before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The

CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

Each semester begins with a mandatory three-day orientation session organized by CIEE Resident Staff. It includes an academic orientation, an introduction to Italian customs and culture, information on personal safety, and cultural activities throughout Ferrara. During this time, students begin their intensive Italian language instruction. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Computers are available for student use, free of charge, at the University of Ferrara's computer labs. Students are given a University of Ferrara email address. However, these labs have limited hours. Students are encouraged to bring a wireless-enabled laptop as they can access the Internet at the University and the CIEE Study Center. Internet connections are not guaranteed in homestays. Past students have purchased wireless keys which have resolved the issue where Internet is not available.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 0–3 semesters of college-level Italian or equivalent

duration

Fall

14 weeks: early September–mid-December

Spring

14 weeks: early January–mid-May

Academic Year

32 weeks: early September–mid-May

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with excursions to local places of interest and cultural activities such as attending local festivals, visits to art museums and cathedrals, and group dinners. Ferrara was greatly influenced during the Renaissance period and is home to many museums, cathedrals, and spectacular architecture.

In addition, field trips to nearby cities such as Mantua, Ravenna, Padua, and Bologna provide participants with a solid understanding of this region of Italy.



costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$14,500

Spring 2012: available 8/15/10

Academic Year 2011–12: \$27,600

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local and regional excursions, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs

(Fall 2011)

Transportation	\$1,750
(round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$2,200
Meals (residence halls)*	\$2,000
Local Transportation	\$ 300
Books and Supplies	\$ 150
Visa Fee	\$ 115
Potential Travel to Consulate for Visa	\$ 400
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$6,915

*Additional meals for homestay students are estimated at \$700 per semester.

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

A full course load for the semester is five courses. All CIEE students enroll in a required intensive Italian language course at the start of each semester. Following the intensive language session, all students are required to continue their Italian language study at the appropriate level throughout the semester, enroll in the CIEE core course, and two content courses in English, and may take the optional Seminar on Living and Learning.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–17 semester/22.5–25.5 quarter hours and 30–32 semester/45–48 quarter hours for the academic year.

Course contact hours are 45 and recommended credit for all courses is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

Languages of Instruction

Italian, English

Faculty

Faculty teaching CIEE courses are from local Italian universities.

courses

Required Language Courses

ITAL 1501 FERR—Intensive Italian Language, Beginning I

ITAL 1502 FERR—Intensive Italian Language, Beginning II

ITAL 2501 FERR—Intensive Italian Language, Intermediate I

ITAL 2502 FERR—Intensive Italian Language, Intermediate II

These courses provide students with basic skills needed to communicate on a daily basis. They include grammar, conversation, listening, and reading comprehension. Students are placed according to language background.

ITAL 1002 FERR—Semester Italian Language, Beginning II

ITAL 2001 FERR—Semester Italian Language, Intermediate I

ITAL 2002 FERR—Semester Italian Language, Intermediate II

ITAL 3001 FERR—Semester Italian Language, Advanced I

In these courses, students continue their language study during the semester, after being placed in the appropriate class.

Required CIEE Core Course

HIST 3002 FERR

Contemporary Italian History: From Unification to the Present

This course provides an overview of Italian history from the revolutionary and nation-building movement of the *Risorgimento* up to Berlusconi's second government in 2001. Students analyze the impact of the First and Second World Wars on Italian society and identity, the diversity of the Italian regions, and the differences between north and south. Important events in Italy since 1945, such as reconstruction and the 'economic miracle,' the cultural revolution of the 1970s, and contemporary Italian politics are examined, and special attention is paid to long-term social issues (migration, the Mafia etc). The course also focuses on historical developments up to the present day, including the challenge of terrorism, the 'clean hands' revolution, and new political parties. *Instructor: Davide Lombardo*

CIEE Elective Courses

AHIS 3002 FERR

Italian Renaissance Art

The course introduces students to the world of art through art historians' methods. It particularly provides skills and techniques needed to read a Renaissance work of art, as well as appreciate it aesthetically. As a work of art is a complex phenomenon, all of its aspects must be analyzed to be understood. Which colors, shapes, and lines are used? What is the meaning? But also, who is the artist? What is his cultural background? What materials and techniques are used? What was its original setting? And finally, for whom was it done? All these questions need to be answered in order to have a deep and critical awareness of an artwork. The course acquaints the students with major protagonists of Italian Renaissance Art. It examines the evolution and development of Western Art, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, focusing on a selection of centers, great artists, and their masterpieces. Moreover, Ferrara with its outstanding monuments, is our case study, a great opportunity to examine artworks within their original settings. *Instructor: Chiara Basalti*

CLST 3001 FERR

Seminar on Living and Learning in Ferrara

The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Ferrara, taught in English, is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Italians are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Italy. Contact hours: 25. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours. *Instructor: Richard Chapman, CIEE Resident Director*

HIST 3001 FERR

Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy

1182 saw the birth of the great preacher and founder of the Franciscan Order, Francis of Assisi. After initial suspicion of Francis's essentially plebeian religious movement, Pope Innocent III offered the monk and his followers safe harbor in the Catholic Church. Almost four centuries later, another evangelical Catholic, religious innovator, and humanist, Pietro Carnesecchi, was brutally put to death by a newly invigorated Catholicism. This course charts the 400-year journey of the states, republics, and principalities which today constitute the nation of Italy. It starts with a look at the social and political make-up of Medieval Italy within a European context and then focuses on particular groups, movements, institutions, events, and ideas including the Mendicant orders like the Franciscans and the Dominicans, popular and heretical religious beliefs and sects such as Dualism and Cathars



(prevalent in Northern Italy), the European-wide phenomenon of witchcraft, the temporal and spiritual institution of the Papacy, the last Crusade and the Inquisition, Martin Luther, John Calvin, the theological Concept of justification by faith and Protestantism, and, finally, the Catholic Church's answer to the 'new faith'—the Counter Reformation whose conclusions ultimately sealed the terrible fate of Pietro Carnesecci. *Instructor: Luke Seaber*

INRE 3001 FERR

Italy in the European Union

This course runs on two distinct yet connecting sets of issues and themes, the first is about the European Union, its making, its history, institutions, functioning, strengths, and weaknesses. The second introduces the student to contemporary issues of Italian social and political life as well as to a survey of themes and issues of current history. Attention is devoted to key issues of European and Italian politics and society which have contributed to the present shape of the Union. To this end, such aspects as economic factors, the international situation, the specific religious identity of EU member states, corruption and criminality, terrorism, the weight of geographical difference and of local identities, etc. are looked upon. The necessary theoretical background is provided, supported, and discussed through empirical examples. *Instructor: Davide Lombardo*

ITST 3002 FERR

Gender, Race, and the Representation of Italy

The course examines issues of gender, race, and ethnicity as they emerge in the representation of Italy, through references to literature, art, and movies. Novels, pictures, and movies are analyzed within the frame of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), whose primary activity is the close analysis of texts that are deemed to be politically or culturally influential to a given society. This course analyzes issues such as language, ideology, and power relations as well as issues dealing with feminism, gender differences, and racial or ethnic stereotypes. Emphasis is placed on both feminist materials as well as international and national stereotypes of Italy. *Instructor: Luke Seaber*

ITST 3003 FERR

Culture, Translation, and Language

This course, taught in English with Italian texts, aims to take an in-depth look at contemporary Italy through modern and contemporary texts and artifacts. The opportunity for profound appropriation of texts offered by the experience of translation serves as a tool for greater appreciation of Italian society and, at the same time, offers a chance for students to develop a practical life skill and deepen their linguistic awareness and abilities. Students are expected to take an active role in their personal linguistic and cultural explorations and to present their discoveries and findings to the class. *Instructor: Michela Benuzzi*

a student's story

Coming to Italy has been one of the best choices of my life. Staying for two semesters rather than just one was also a positive decision. Throughout the second semester I grasped the language and culture in ways not possible in a shorter stay. My relationships with the Italians I had met in the first months deepened while I became accustomed to the Italian mentality and what it means to live like an Italian.

While there are many Italian programs for international students, I am pleased that I chose Ferrara. By staying in a smaller city, I was able to get to know my host family while still being able to find ample opportunities for cultural life. Ferrara shows the juxtaposition of an antique Medieval-Renaissance city alongside the advances and conveniences of modernity. Thus, one was able to feel like they really were in a foreign country and at the same time, not have to change one's lifestyle to an uncomfortable extent. Another aspect I really liked about Ferrara was how everything within the walls was either within walking or biking distance. One didn't have to worry about driving from place to place when one could hop on a bike and be there almost as fast.

One of my favorite aspects about studying in Ferrara was living with a host family. Not only was I forced to practice my Italian everyday because my host parents didn't speak English, but I was also able to take part in the Italian lifestyle and see how their mentality works, enriching my whole experience abroad. It is so easy when with other American students to fall into the comfort of speaking English, so living with a family helped counter-act that tendency, as did acquiring a tandem (language) partner and Italian friends. Not every moment with my host parents was easy, largely due to the language barrier, but it was an experience I wish any student abroad could share. Apart from disagreeing with my host mom about leaving the house with wet hair, I enjoyed spending time with my family. My host parents (my host dad especially) helped me to find parts of Ferrara and Italy that I would never have discovered on my own, while providing a background knowledge so that I might greater appreciate what I saw. My family was wonderful and I am really going to miss them a lot when I have to leave.

I won't say it's easy living in another country, but these have been some of the most enriching months of my life.

— Rachel Casoni, Cedarville University

