



Italian Language School

WELCOME TO GENOVA!

**Italian
Language
and
Culture**

**Italian
Language
Certificates**

**Long-term
courses**

**Specialised
courses**



Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg

The School

A Door to Italy – Scuola di Italiano per Stranieri, founded in 2002, is the oldest established Italian language school in Genoa. It specialises in the successful organisation of every aspect of a language course, taught by experienced teachers including additional social activities such as guided tours of the city, visits to museums and different opportunities to enjoy the local culture and the local cuisine and products of Genoa.

All the language courses are offered all year round in our premises in the heart of the town.

The school is located in an elegant and fascinating 19th century building and offers to its students large and sunny classrooms, a balcony, a lounge area with coffee corner and snacks, daily newspapers, free internet points with also WiFi connection, a furnished library and an information point regarding cultural and leisure activities.

School's courses are officially approved by the Italian Ministry of Education. The school is member of ASILS, the National Association of Schools of Italian as Second Language, which is designed to guarantee the quality of instruction and professional level of services offered to students.



Genoa

Genoa, the capital of the region Liguria, is a city with a lot to offer to those who have the desire and time to discover its secrets and to experience its fascinating history and traditions, as well as a lively and ever-changing present, with a vision towards the future. The Porto Antico (old port) is one of the most attractive tourist places and one of the most visited in Italy and it is just a few steps from the school.

Genoa's old town is the best example of an entirely preserved medieval town in Europe and in the Mediterranean area: a large part has been declared a World Heritage site by Unesco. A stay in Genoa gives also the possibility of visiting the world-renowned village of Portofino and the marvellous Cinque Terre.

The origin of the name Genoa has different interpretations, but the most fascinating of them is that it comes from the Latin word *janua*, which means door...we like to think of the city as if it were a doorway as it has always been, where ships arriving at its port find a safe shelter and an entryway to the commercial streets of the continent. It can be considered a door to the cultures that throughout the centuries have created the city such as it is today.

Following this interpretation, our desire is that Genoa and the school A Door to Italy serves as the door to Italy for all people wishing to learn Italian language and culture!

Reasons to study Italian in Genoa:

- Genoa is rich in history and it is a town with centuries-old traditions of academic excellence.
- Genoa has a large international community, so foreign students feel at home.
- Genoa is much more affordable than other main cities in Italy such as Florence, Milan, Rome or Venice.
- Genoa is a jumping-off place for visits to Liguria region (Cinque Terre, Portofino, Sanremo); France (Cote d'Azur and Montecarlo) and Tuscany.
- Genoa is just 1 hour and 30 minutes far from Milan.
- Genoa is easy to reach by plane, train or car from all over the world!
- Genoa enjoys typical maritime Mediterranean climate, that gives pleasant and mild temperatures.
- Genoa is a seaside town that offers the possibility to spend also a nice vacation at our beautiful beaches not far from the city centre.
- Genoa is a real Italian city!



Benefits and guarantees of **A Door To Italy**

EXPERIENCE

The Italian Language School for Foreigners A DOOR TO ITALY was established in 2002, and was the first institution teaching Italian as a foreign language in Genoa. Each year hundreds of students from all over the world enjoy our top quality courses.

CREDITS

Member of ASILS The Association of Schools of Italian as a Second Language.
Officially recognized by the University for foreigners of Perugia as CELI and CIC Exam Certification centre
Member EDUITALIA Association
Approved by the ITALIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION for the teaching of Italian as second language
Recognized by all the Italian Cultural Institutes in the world (IIC)
Recognized by the Swedish Board CSN, for study grants to students
Recognized by the BILDUNGURLAUB in Germany for study grants to workers

HIGH QUALITY PREMISES

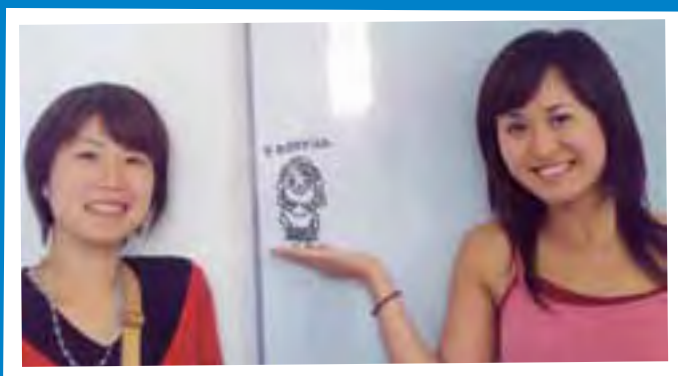
A Door to Italy is located in an elegant and fascinating building of the 19th century, one minute from all the main places in Genoa. Classes are held in spacious, bright rooms equipped with tape recorders, videos, white boards and TV. There is also a library, free internet point and free internet access WiFi.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Our teachers are highly qualified and experienced. All are native speakers of Italian who are career language teachers, often with experience of teaching Italian in other countries. They are all university graduates with extensive teaching experience. They have also been specifically trained to teach Italian as a foreign language. The optimal quality of teaching offered is reinforced through teachers' meetings, classroom observations and workshops. A Door to Italy also employs full-time administrative staff dedicated to their work - they arrange accommodation, cultural activities and bookings.

EXTENSIVE RANGE OF COURSES

Italian Language and Culture, General Italian, Business Italian, Individual courses, Certification courses, Courses for Executives, Combined Courses (group+individual), Cooking classes, Italian and diving, Italian and sailing, Italian and photography, Cultural courses.



ALL LEVELS

Our programme is based on 6 different levels: from beginners to advanced levels corresponding to the Common European Framework of Languages (from A1 to C2). To assess the level each new student is required to take the entry test, both written and oral during the first day of lessons.

SMALL STUDY GROUPS

The classes are small to ensure that the students are given personal attention and the opportunity for self-expression.

LINGUISTIC MIX

Our students come from all over the world, usually in a group there are no more than two students of the same nationality. Different languages and cultural backgrounds make the group and the lessons very interesting and the learning process particularly fast.



Methodology

Language classes are aimed at developing the student's general language competence and the ability to communicate in an international environment and in everyday situations, as well as at work and in social life situations. Throughout the course, learners expand their vocabulary repertoire and learn new grammatical structures which they practice in the context and, further, they improve their ability to communicate, read and write fluently and correctly. At school we use the communicative method, preferring oral communication but not disregarding aspects of written ability, focusing on the four language abilities (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

OUR TEACHERS

All our teachers are natives and university graduates with wide experience in teaching Italian to foreigners. They regularly follow practical training and refresher courses. Apart from being able to share their knowledge and practical skills, they create a friendly atmosphere in a group, which contributes to a fast and efficient acquisition of the Italian language.

TEACHING MATERIALS

The school provides students with all books and teaching materials. Most of it is developed by our teachers and is continuously updated. The didactic material is rich and various. The official book is created and provided by the school: each level has its own book, which is supplied at the beginning of the course. All additional didactic material is drawn from newspapers, magazines, multimedia material and videos.

PLACEMENT TEST

All students, with the exception of those who have no previous knowledge of Italian language, take a written and oral test before the start of the course. This helps us to place them in an appropriate group. At any point during their stay the students can discuss their progress with their teachers or the Director of Studies. If their learning speed allows it, they can move into a higher level group during the course.

CERTIFICATES

At the end of any course, by a minimum frequency of 80% of the lessons, the school gives the certificate of attendance to state the reached level of Italian and number of hours of attendance.

The courses

A Door to Italy offers a wide variety of general and specialised courses, geared to the specific needs of our students. Courses are catered for groups or individuals and for people coming from different countries and with different purposes and are available all year round. Our Italian language courses can also be held in companies or at student's accommodation.

In winter season extensive evening courses are held for all levels' students.

We also offer courses combining Italian language and culture, ranging from literature and history to cookery and local crafts, diving and photography.

More targeted courses offer Italian for professionals, such as Italian for business (spoken and written), Italian for law, Italian for healthcare, Italian for hoteliers and for the tourist industry, Italian language of the Opera.

The general Italian language and culture courses

STANDARD COURSE

Lessons are held in small groups.

20 lessons from Monday through Friday

The Standard course is the best way for students of all six ability levels, from the beginner A1 to the advanced C2, to join grammar and conversation. Groups are heterogeneous, multilingual and small and this helps to ensure that the students are given personal attention and the opportunity for self-expression.

INTENSIVE COURSES

Lessons are held in small groups in the morning and are combined with individual lessons in the afternoon. Choice is among 4, 6, 8 or 10 hours of individual lessons per week.

The intensive course is best for all students who desire to learn as much as possible in a short period of time.

The intensive programs have always been successful because the individual lessons are very good at establishing and fixing new aspects of the language.

During private lessons teachers create a tailor made program to let the student face and solve learning difficulties.

INDIVIDUAL or DUO COURSE

Lessons are 'one-to-one' or in very small groups of 2 students with similar language ability.

The program is completely customized, following students' knowledge and needs.

Considering the extreme flexibility of the schedule and attendance, it is particularly suitable for busy people.

The individual course or duo course are also suitable for those people who attend a standard course, but having little time to stay in Italy, they desire to use the individual hours to dive as deep into the language as possible.

Individual and semi-individual classes can also focus on **cultural programs** or on **business Italian**.

50+ PROGRAM

This course is thought for over-fifties that desire to get deeper into Italian language and discover Genoa and its surroundings during a pleasant study holiday.

It is a 2 weeks intensive program which includes Italian lessons in the morning, cultural and gastronomic activities and excursions in the afternoon and over the weekend.

All activities are in Italian language, accompanied by a one person from A Door to Italy's staff.

ONLINE LESSONS

This program is a perfect solution for all students who want to study with A door to Italy but do not have a chance to travel to Italy to attend a full immersion program.

Individual classes via skype are the best solution to keep in touch with the Italian world and to learn Italian directly from home or office. During online lessons the student will develop conversation, refresh vocabulary and grammar, correct past exercises, as it is a live lesson. The only necessary thing is an internet connection, a webcam and

the skype program to get ready to start private online lesson in the comfort of your home or office.

Each lesson lasts 30 minutes and is planned following student's schedule.

CERTIFICATION COURSES CELI, CIC, CILS, PLIDA

We propose specific courses, individual or in groups, which aim is to prepare the student to the exam through the study of the past papers. Individual lessons are available all year round depending on student's needs and plans.

Group lessons are available every 2 weeks just before exam sessions. Lessons are held in the afternoon so that the preparation course can

be easily combined to the standard language course in the morning.

WEEK END CRASH COURSE

The week end course is a very good opportunity to improve the language and the conversation in a very short time. There are different possibilities to study from Friday afternoon or from Saturday until Sunday afternoon. Lessons can take place at the school, at the student's accommodation or outdoor around the city centre, at the market, at the bars or maybe walking across the streets and the characteristic „vicoli" of Genoa as per your preference.



SECTORIAL LANGUAGES

These courses are designed for students who already have a good knowledge of Italian language and need to improve a specific language such as law, marketing, medicine, tourism, engineering, architecture or other specific languages.

The program is tailored upon students' needs.

SPECIALIST COURSE FOR INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

The course is addressed to professional interpreters and interpreting students who have almost finished their studies.

Course goals: improvement of general and sectorial language; development of anticipation skills; analyses on basic grammatical elements (connectives, conversational signals, verbs, substantives); full comprehension of oral language; general knowledge of Italian society, politics, history and culture.

Didactical methods are the result of years of experience and direct experimentation, developed with constant updating on linguistic theoretic and neurolinguistic.

Our approach guarantees a constant research of empathy between teacher and student.

Our methodology is not a close system: actually, we do prefer talking about flexible modality rather than method. This offers the chance of experiencing a training which is strongly shaped on the student's personal and professional needs.

Learning techniques include audio and written texts. Listening and interpreting (simultaneous, consecutive, chuchutage), intense and stimulating activities, articles and cloze tests developing lexical skills, improvement of grammar in anticipating, textual coherence and cohesion analysis.

Teaching material is entirely authentic and up to date.



Cultural courses

(to be combined to the Standard Course held in the morning)

At A DOOR TO ITALY we propose cultural and specialised courses about Italian Cinema (**LA DOLCE VITA Course**: an excursus from Neo-realism to the young generation represented by great Italian director such as Muccino, Ozpetek or Sordani), about Italian Songs (**SONO SOLO CANZONETTE Course**: students train pronunciation and learn new words through the songs of famous Italian singers Eros Ramazzotti, Laura Pausini, Fabrizio De André, Roberto Vecchioni) and about the local Traditions of Genoa (**GENOVA PER NOI Course**: an interesting program based around music, theatre, literature and curiosity to travel deep into the Genoese spirit).

Long term courses

THREE MONTH COURSE - SEMESTER COURSE - ROUND YEAR COURSE

Lessons are held in small groups
20 lessons from Monday through Friday

The ideal minimum stay for a language course should be 12 weeks: during this period the student will have more confidence in the language skills throughout a complete full immersion in the Italian culture and way of life. With a long-term course students acquire the minimum level necessary to enter Italian University if they need and they can also take advantage of their Italian Long-Term course by taking an internationally recognized certification (CELI, CILS, PLIDA) while living in Italy.

Specialised courses

COOKING COURSE

Individual or small groups

Cooking course is carried out at the teacher's home. Teachers warmly welcome all students on the course and demonstrate in particular the secrets and techniques of the Italian and Genoese gastronomy, providing a space to all for practical preparation.

At the end of the lesson, the prepared dishes are offered for dinner. This is also considered a great experience and an unforgettable moment of socialization.

It is also possible to follow special cooking lessons based upon special recipes.

ITALIAN FOR OPERA SINGER AND LIBRETTI LESSONS

The purpose of this course, addressed to Opera singers, is to perfect pronunciation through opera's libretti reading and to perfect intonation with singing lessons with a specialised singing teacher. During winter courses, participants will have the possibility to go to the Carlo Felice Opera's Theatre with special price reductions for our students.

DIVING COURSE

For adventurous people wishing to combine a full cultural experience with a unique dive vacation exploring the Ligurian Sea, the gulf and its beauties. It is possible to take the Open Water Dive Certificate (for those who have not dived before) or the Advanced Open Water Dive certificate, with PADI instructors.

All didactic materials and the equipment regarding the diving lessons are provided by the diving school and are included in the price.

ITALIAN AND PHOTOGRAPHY "Postcard from Genoa"

Held in small groups, this course is dedicated to photography lovers. It combines Italian language and culture in the morning to practical and theoretic lessons of photography in the afternoon. At the end participants will receive a collection of their printed pictures. The teacher is a professional photographer.



Accommodation

A Door to Italy offers a wide range of housing options, from basic accommodation up to the high level solution, to guarantee our students a pleasant stay.

All of our accommodation arrangements are carefully selected and continuously monitored by the staff of the school. Accommodation are conveniently located close to the school and in the city centre. Our students can choose to live with an Italian family (half board on request) or to share an apartment with other students (single, double and triple room's option available). For those who prefer to live independently it is possible to rent one of our nice private apartments completely furnished and conveniently located close to the school. Many hotels solution from 2* up to 5* are available at special rates.

Services

A Door to Italy helps the students in planning their study holiday.

Visa and Permit of Stay: we provide all the necessary documents to apply for the Study Visa and we offer assistance with the preparation and submission of Permit to Stay applications (even before leaving the home country).

Transfer Service: on request the school may provide pick-up service from the airport/train station to the reserved accommodation.

Internet: internet point available at school and Wi-Fi zone for students travelling with their laptop.

Cell phones rental: we offer the possibility to rent a cell phone that can be tailored to the needs of the students.

On arrival at school, our students are given the **Student Card** to access all these services.

It's our aim to involve all the students in taking part in the program of exhibitions, concerts and cultural events for which Genoa is famous. Thanks to the **Student Card** students access to special prices for restaurants, museums, theatres, book stores. It is possible to take advantage of all the convenient rates even after the course is finished. With the **Student Card** students receive all didactic material for free.

Study Abroad Programs – Faculty Led Programs

A Door to Italy is pleased to cooperate with Schools and Universities to provide them special groups' programs, faculty led programs and semester study abroad programs.

The unique atmosphere at our school has been praised consistently by our students and by the Institutions and Universities that work with us.

The main goal of our study abroad programs is to provide the opportunity to study Italian language and culture while fully immersing in local life, in its culture, in its history, in its traditions, in its territory.

The school is located in the main heart of Genoa, Unesco National Heritage. Genoa and the region Liguria are the perfect place to study Italian and to combine a beautiful and exciting study abroad experience with a high quality Italian program of study recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education.

A Door to Italy is the only school in Genoa member of A.S.I.L.S. (Association of Schools of Italian as a Second Language) which guarantees exceptional teaching quality.

Study grants

For workers and employees in Germany, our courses are recognized by the German **BILDUNGSURLAUB**.

For students in Sweden: our courses are recognized by Swedish **CSN** (Swedish National Agency for Higher education).

For people from all over the world: every year the school A Door to Italy offers **SCHOLARSHIPS** to give where possible an economic aid. Scholarships are available at the Italian Cultural Institutes, at Universities and high schools abroad.

For application, we kindly ask students to apply to their closest Italian Institute or Italian Embassy. If you are a school or university student, you may apply directly to our school, enclosing a reference letter from your Italian teacher. Alternatively, you may ask the Italian Department of your university or school to contact us.



Social activities

The school organises a rich and full program of social activities for students in order to practise the language also outside the classrooms and to let students socialize in a friendly atmosphere. Living in Italy - even if it is only for a short time - is a unique experience, full of opportunities. Genoa is a lively city, with an exciting cultural scene! The city offers a broad range of events throughout the year to satisfy the tastes of all age groups. The school's cultural program makes it possible for you to enjoy the city and its events while learning Italian. The following activities are offered on a regular basis:

Introduction to Genoa with a guided tour of the town with our teachers
Welcome cocktail

Visits to some of the most famous and interesting museums

Visit to the aquarium (the biggest aquarium in Europe, main centre of the scientific biological studies of the last decades)

Sing the songs: Italian and Genoese songs to exercise pronunciation

Soirées to the theatre: opera, drama or comedy

Dinner or "aperitivo" at the Italian way

Excursions over the weekend to surroundings



Participation to most of the school's extracurricular activities is free of charge. It is always requested to students to cover their trips, meals, museum and transport tickets. Students interested in moving on their own find our staff ready to help planning visits and excursions on their needs!



A DOOR TO ITALY s.r.l.

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Genova

