L’acquisto di qualunque cognizione è sempre utile allo intelletto, perché potrà scacciare da sé le cose inutili e riservare le buone. Perché nessuna cosa si può amare né odiare, se prima non si ha cognizion di quella.

(Leonardo da Vinci)

The intellect will always profit by the acquisition of any knowledge whatsoever, for thus what is useless will be expelled from it, and what is fruitful will remain. It is impossible either to hate or to love a thing without first acquiring knowledge of it.

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Welcome to Italian

Italian is one of the liveliest disciplines in Modern Languages in the UK. We expect you to work hard and to make the most of this opportunity to learn about Italy, its language, literature and culture; but we also want you to enjoy your experience of University life. In fact, the two go together: if you can organize your study properly, you will enjoy your time in College all the more.

This introductory guide is intended to explain how your course in Italian works and what is expected from you, and to give useful information about our procedures and facilities, in addition to links to pages on the School web site that contain essential information for students of Italian.

Aims of Italian degree programmes

The aims of all Degree programmes including Italian are:

- to provide students with the confidence, based on knowledge of the Italian language, and of Italian literature, history and culture, to engage as educated adults with a European community in which Italy plays an increasingly important role;
- to encourage an outlook which understands, respects and recognizes the values and achievements that Italy has contributed to Europe and the rest of the world;
- to stimulate students to read widely in Italian, and to encourage them to develop and express their opinions cogently whether orally or in writing;
- to encourage students to situate those elements of Italian culture studied on the syllabus in their socio-historical context by relating them to a wider cultural spectrum encompassing art, literature, history, politics, and a range of other social, religious and philosophical influences;
- to equip students with a range of transferable skills (including research, analysis, information management, and verbal and written communication) which they will find useful during their University careers and in subsequent professional life, and to equip them to make valuable links between their university studies and events outside the university, such as lectures, conferences, films, plays, and concerts;
- to provide programmes in which teaching is informed, refreshed and enlivened by staff research activity and expertise;
- to encourage students to continue their education, and where appropriate, to prepare them for higher degrees in Italian or related humanities subjects.

List of Italian Courses Running in 2016-17

PLEASE NOTE: A list of Italian courses running in 2016-17, linked in each case to the relevant Course Unit Specification, is available for consultation on-line via the School website at

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/mlic/informationforcurrentstudents/home.aspx
Structure of Degree Programmes

PLEASE NOTE: All full-time students of the College must take courses to a total value of 4 whole units per year on campus.

PLEASE NOTE: All beginners in Italian take Course IT1000. Post GCSE students should also normally follow IT1000 (Intensive Italian for Beginners). Students with AS and A2 level should select IT1050 (Advanced Italian I).

For Italian, the required number of course units in the First, Second, and Final Year is as follows:

ITALIAN WITHIN A JOINT HONOURS DEGREE PROGRAMME.
Two units in Italian, plus two units in the other subject.

YEAR 1
Joint Honours.
IT1000 (Intensive Italian for Beginners) or IT1050 (Advanced Italian I) (compulsory language, 1 unit),
plus one unit from the half-unit options IT1230, IT1950 and IT1980 (i.e., two of these courses).

YEAR 2
IT2000 or IT2050 (compulsory language, 1 unit), plus one unit from the half-unit options: IT2340, IT2400, IT2840, ML2301 (i.e., TWO of these courses).

FINAL YEAR
IT3009 (core PR language, full unit).
Plus one unit from the half units and full unit options:
Half unit options: IT3230, IT3430, IT3860, IT3980, IT3990 (i.e., TWO of these courses).

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ITALIAN WITHIN MULTILINGUAL STUDIES.
One unit of language and up to one additional unit if desired.

YEAR 1
Either IT1000 or IT1050 (compulsory language, 1 unit). Plus up to one unit from the half unit courses available if you wish. You are encouraged to take at least one content half unit in the language you are taking as a beginner student on the Multilingual Studies programme.
Half unit options: IT1230, IT1950, IT1980.

YEAR 2
IT2000 or IT2050 (compulsory language, 1 unit). Plus up to one unit from the half unit courses available if you wish. You are encouraged to take at least one half unit content course in the language you took as a beginner student on the Multilingual Studies Year 1 programme.
Half unit options: IT2340, IT2400, IT2840, ML2301.

FINAL YEAR
IT3009 (Core PR language, full unit).
Plus up to one unit from the half unit or full unit courses available if you wish.
Half unit options: IT3230, IT3430, IT3860, IT3980, IT3990.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND CULTURE (CLC) AND ITALIAN (JOINT HONOURS, 4 YEAR PROGRAMME)
Students taking BA Italian and CLC programmes take a total of two units in Italian, and two units of CLC.

FIRST YEAR.
Either IT1000 (Intensive Italian for Beginners, 1 unit) or IT1050 (Advanced Italian I, 1 unit). Plus one unit from the half unit courses.
Half unit options: IT1230, 1950, IT1980 (i.e., two of these courses).

SECOND YEAR.
IT2000 or IT2050 (compulsory language, 1 unit), plus one unit from the half units options: IT2340, IT2400, IT2840, ML2301 (i.e., TWO of these courses).

FINAL YEAR.
IT3009 (core PR language, full unit).
Plus one unit from the half units and full unit options:
Half unit options: IT3230, IT3430, IT3860, IT3980, IT3990 (i.e., TWO of these courses).

ITALIAN WITHIN EUROPEAN STUDIES.

FIRST YEAR
Normally either IT000 (Intensive Italian for Beginners) or IT1050 (Advanced Italian I).

SECOND YEAR
Normally IT2000 or IT2050.

FINAL YEAR
Normally IT3009 (Advanced Italian III).

For more information, please refer to the European Studies degree programme.

ITALIAN AS A MINOR/SUBSIDIARY SUBJECT.

YEAR 1
One unit in Italian language: Either IT1000 (Intensive Italian for Beginners) or IT1050 (Advanced Italian I).

YEAR 2
One unit in Italian language: IT2000 or IT2050.

FINAL YEAR
One unit in Italian language: IT3009 (Advanced Italian III).
The Year Abroad (YA)

Preparations for the Year Abroad begin in the first term of the Second Year. The year abroad is assessed and formally accredited to the London University degree, counting as two course units. Full information on this will be given at the year abroad briefings and is contained in the Year Abroad Handbook, which all second-year students will receive, but in essence there is one course unit based on your results at university (or a portfolio of work you produce, if you are working abroad) and one course unit for an oral examination taken at Royal Holloway when you return. If your year abroad is divided between two language areas, each of these units will be split into two halves.

Italian progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree foreign language programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme and additionally must pass the compulsory course units in all stages, which normally will be the core language course(s). (Please refer to the relevant Programme Specification for further details.) Students who do not pass the core PR course(s) in the final year will not normally qualify for the award of the degree title in the particular language for which they are registered. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and four, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage four. The two units taken during stage three are included in the average mark for stage two.

For further details on the general rules governing progression and award requirements see UG students handbook.

Progression to the Second Year

A pass in the relevant COMPULSORY language examination (IT1000 or IT1050) is essential for progression to the Second Year (see note on Language Courses above).

You must satisfactorily complete courses to the total value of 3 units in order to progress to the Second Year. The satisfactory completion of a course consists of three elements:

- satisfactory attendance
- satisfactory submission of set work
- a pass in the relevant examinations

Progression to the Final Year

In addition to satisfying the requirements for progression to the Year Abroad (YA)/Third Year (see above) progression into the Final Year normally requires satisfactory
completion of the YA and the associated assessments (13th and 14th units). Students who have been granted a waiver in respect of the Year Abroad are required to satisfy the requirements for progression to the Third Year.

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Italian Resources

Resources in Founders Library.

The following list is by no means comprehensive, but among the journals held by Founders Library are the following, which may be particularly useful to Italian Studies students (some of them are also available online):


Italian DVDs, videos and audio-tapes are also kept and centralised in Founder’s Library.

Web Sites

Here are just a few of the many useful sites you might visit:

Italian Newspapers:

http://www.lastampa.it
http://www.repubblica.it
http://www.corriere.it
http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/

The Italian Bookshop details in London:
www.italianbookshop.co.uk
Address: 5 Warwick St, London W1B 5LU
tel: 020 7240 1634

The Italian Cultural Institute:
www.icilondon.esteri.it/

Italian Society @ RHUL

The Italian Society is organized and run by the students, and the success of the society depends very much on students' initiative and enthusiasm. Participation by students is vital to the society's continuation, so please give it your support. Check the noticeboard for further information.

Theatre and Screenings

Language teaching usually includes a play to be enacted by students at the end of the relevant year. Film screenings are also part of the language provision.