

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Bachelor of Arts Programme in Italian
CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Italian language and culture programme offered as a major or a minor by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures comprises six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in the range of 24-72 hours. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 4,000 words in Italian. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. The categories of Italian courses are as follows:

1. Introductory language courses (6 credits)

These first-year courses emphasize the learning of the Italian language. Students acquire a basic knowledge in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. Students acquire a vocabulary of 1,000 to 1,500 words and are expected to demonstrate that they are able to use this vocabulary within the four areas of competence mentioned above. Assessment includes in-class tests, regular assignments, participation in class, discussions, online reading and listening, with a total written output of not more than 2,000 words in Italian. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Italian language.

2. Advanced language courses (6 credits)

These advanced language courses build on the first-year, introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of the Italian language at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the Italian language. As in the first-year language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment includes in-class tests, regular assignments, essays, small research projects, portfolios, participation in class, discussions and/or short oral presentations, with a total written output of not more than 4,000 words in Italian. It must be emphasized that assessable output is not only in written form, but also includes a student's performance in terms of spoken, listening, and reading proficiency in the Italian language.

3. Survey courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on particular cultures and languages through the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, history of the language, etc. They are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials/seminars, or by lectures only. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to give presentations on particular topics. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to introduce assessment tasks which are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks will normally include in-class tests, assignments, oral presentations, participation in class, discussions as well as the writing of essays, reports, and

projects totalling not more than 4,000 words (in Italian or English). Assessment will also include linguistic analyses and portfolios.

4. *Study Abroad courses* (6 credits)

Usually offered during the summer between the second and third years or the third and fourth years, and organized by several universities and teaching institutions from one of the countries where the Italian language is spoken. These courses are designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the first two or three years of studying Italian. These courses prepare students for more advanced work in their final year of study. The percentage of assessment by coursework and/or by final examination will vary depending on the host institution.

5. *Workshop courses* (6 credits)

These courses aim at enriching the students' foreign language and culture knowledge through individual and group work and through the application of practical skills. These courses include business courses, language elective courses and a capstone course. Assessment for the business and language elective courses include in-class tests, regular assignments, online reading and listening, essays, reading assignments and oral presentations with a written output of not more than 4,000 words in Italian. The capstone course aims at developing autonomy in Italian language learning and the final assessment is done on the basis of a portfolio of autonomous work carried out during the semester which will include a selection of activities undertaken by students.

6. *Internship* (6 credits)

The objective of this course is to offer students an internship learning experience, along with the opportunity to earn credits towards their degree, while working in an organisation outside the campus. The internship experience draws on the Italian Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of Italian in the community. The duration of the internship depends on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation. Students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report in Italian (800-1,000 words) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice in liaison with a relevant teacher at the Italian Programme of HKU.

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