

ITALIAN STUDIES

Major Map

Immerse yourself in the rich language, culture, and history of Italy.

The **Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian Studies** in the College of Letters & Science is an interdisciplinary enterprise. Students will find courses in Italian language, literature, history, cultural studies, film, and folklore, both in Italian and English. The Department of Italian Studies is widely acknowledged to be one of the leaders and innovators in our field in North America and internationally.

While the department still has strong roots in its traditional mission of teaching and promoting the language and literature of Italy, it has broadened its scope to include multiple disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives and to view the country, its language, and its peoples in regional, national, European, Mediterranean, and even global contexts, from the Middle Ages and Renaissance down to the present day.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Practice your Italian language with **peer tutoring and conversation sessions**.
- Carry out research under the guidance of a faculty member as part of the **Italian Studies Honors Program**.
- Present at the department's annual **Bocciardi Undergraduate Conference**.



Photo credit: Andrea Rocha

“ Studying Italian...has not only enriched my academic career at Cal but also shaped me to be someone who dares to get outside of my comfort zone. ”

— Class of 2019 graduate

UC Berkeley

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Italian Studies

CURRICULUM

The Department of Italian Studies offers **courses** in Italian language, literature, history, cultural studies, film, and folklore in both Italian and English. You will also discover that courses with significant Italian content are often taught in other departments and programs, including history of art, music, comparative literature, film studies, anthropology, political science, history, and medieval studies, which may be applied to major or minor requirements by advance consultation with the Undergraduate Student Services Advisor.

Learn more at italian.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/major-minor

OPTIONS IN ITALIAN

We offer a **Minor in Transnational Italian Studies**, requiring only one year of elementary Italian language with remaining requirements conducted in English. We also offer courses that fulfill L&S breadth as well as Reading and Composition (R&C) requirements.

Want to learn Italian? Consider ITALIAN 1R (for those who already speak French, Spanish or Portuguese), ITALIAN W1 (a combined online/in-person elementary Italian class), or summer language study **abroad in Italy**.

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Upon acceptance to UC Berkeley, you are admitted to the College of Letters & Science as an undeclared student. To declare the Italian Studies major, contact the **Undergraduate Student Services Advisor** as early as possible in order to plan an individualized course of study. The earliest you can declare the major is following the completion of one year of elementary Italian or the equivalent.

If you entered UC Berkeley as a transfer: register for a **language placement assessment** with the language coordinator to determine the level of language you should enroll in next, and meet with the Undergraduate Student Services Advisor as soon as possible after you arrive at UC Berkeley.



Photo credit: UC Education Abroad Program

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Italian Studies is an interdisciplinary degree that helps students explore a wide range of interests and opens the door to a wide variety of careers. Graduates with an Italian Studies degree from UC Berkeley pursue diverse career paths, including education, translation, international business, diplomacy, and cultural preservation. The major's emphasis on language proficiency, cultural literacy, and critical thinking makes it valuable in global industries such as tourism, journalism, and nonprofit work. Additionally, many graduates continue with advanced studies in Italian literature, art history, or related fields.

UC Berkeley offers a number of career resources for students studying Italian Studies. The College of Letters & Science spotlights **career pathways** for students in the Arts & Humanities, and offers **advising** for undergraduates pursuing medical or health professions programs, law school, or masters and PhD programs. Additionally, **Berkeley Career Engagement** provides career and graduate school advising, job and internship listings, and events such as career and graduate school fairs.



SPOTLIGHT

Lily, class of 2021

Lily Chavez (BA, Italian Studies and Political Science) is a diplomat with the US Department of State.

Why did you choose Italian Studies? Italian Studies has great professors who are incredibly passionate about teaching. The class sizes are small so you can make meaningful friendships with your classmates.

How did your degree shape your career? It inspired me to pursue a career in international affairs. I live overseas and study foreign languages.

What skills do you use that you learned as an Italian Studies student? Communication skills—in particular presentation skills in foreign languages.

Advice for students? Step out of your comfort zone!

EMPLOYMENT

Alumni find employment in a variety of fields and industries after graduation. Examples include:

Business Platform Agent
Clinical Services Coordinator
Consultant
Culinary Producer
Diplomat
English Teaching Assistant
Foreign Services Officer
Lawyer
Restaurant Partner
Victims' Rights Advocate

GRADUATE STUDY

Alumni pursue graduate education to gain more depth of knowledge in their field as well as prepare for jobs that require advanced degrees. Examples include:

Art History
Biomedical Engineering
Biomedical Technology
Comparative Literature
Educational Leadership
Historical Musicology
International Affairs
International Business
Italian Studies
Law
Museum Studies

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT TIMELINE

Italian Studies

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

Plan your studies

Start exploring with **L&S 1** and first-year guides from **L&S** and **Arts & Humanities**.

Visit **L&S Advising** for help with **major exploration** and **degree requirements**.

Familiarize yourself with the **Italian Studies major**; start on the Italian language sequence (take a **placement exam** if needed).

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Discover new interests in a **Freshman Seminar**, **Berkeley Changemaker**, or **A&H Compass or Gateway** course.

Meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Continue exploring with a **Sophomore Seminar** or **Big Ideas course**.

Look into **study abroad**; see **resources** from the department.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor such as **Applied Language Studies**.

Complete **lower division requirements** in elementary and intermediate language, and declare the major.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** like the **Italian Society at Berkeley**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Practice your Italian with a **peer tutor**.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Attend the department's **Bocciardi Undergraduate Conference**.

Develop your skills in the **Berkeley Student Leadership Academy**.

Explore research opportunities on the **OURS** website; apply to **URAP** to work on a faculty research project.

Apply for a **FLAS award**.

Explore the **Berkeley Language Center**.

Pursue your career goals

Visit **UHS Career Counseling** and **Berkeley Career Engagement**.

Start exploring **career paths** for the major; check out career resources on the **Arts & Humanities** website.

Begin **making a plan** to get career ready.

Create or update your **resume** and **LinkedIn** profile.

Use **Handshake** to start connecting with career events and opportunities.

Meet with a BCE **career educator** to discuss career options and goals.

Build your **network** and explore career fields via **job shadowing** and **informational interviews**.

Pursue an **internship** to build skills and explore fields.

Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the **Graduate Division**, **L&S Advising**, and **BCE**; look into the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship**.

THIRD YEAR

Begin taking **upper division requirements** in Italian language, culture, and electives.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Develop your writing and critical thinking in an **Art of Writing seminar**.

Consider applying to the **Italian Studies Honors Program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Help other students as an **Italian peer tutor** or member of the **A&H Dean's Leadership Team**.

Check out the **Public Service Internship, College Corps, and Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Welcome new students to Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.

Have original creative work in Italian? Submit to **Vagabond** multilingual journal.

Share your language skills in the **SLC Language Exchange Program**.

Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.

Join a professional association such as the **Modern Language Association**.

Interested in public service careers? Consider applying to the **John Gardner Fellowship, Huntington Award, or Truman Scholarship**.

FOURTH YEAR

Finish all upper division requirements and electives.

Join a thesis writing workshop at the **Townsend Center** or **Student Learning Center**.

Complete any remaining **degree requirements** and **prepare for graduation**.

Interested in teaching? Give it a try by teaching your own **DeCal course**.

Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize, American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your work to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Fund your post-grad study in Italy with the **Biasin Prize**.

Check in with a BCE **career educator**.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events**.

Apply to graduate school or post-graduate programs such as the **SITE** program in Italy.

Meet employers at **info sessions, on-campus recruiting, and career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Make progress on language or other degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course.

Spend the summer in **Trieste and Venice** with Berkeley Summer Abroad, or Florence or Rome through **UCEAP**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital, Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Pursue a **summer minor or certificate**—check out programs in **Digital Humanities, Teaching English, and Performance and Culture**.

Apply to the **GiGS program** to learn about graduate school.

Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.

TRANSFER STUDENT TIMELINE

Italian Studies

FIRST SEMESTER

SECOND SEMESTER

Plan your studies

Get your bearings with **L&S 198 Transitioning to Cal** and transfer guides from **L&S** and **Arts & Humanities**.

Meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Review **info for transfers**, determine your **language placement**, and begin **upper division coursework** in the major.

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Verify you have completed the major prerequisites and declare the major.

Continue with upper division coursework in Italian language, culture, and electives.

Look into **study abroad**; see **resources** from the department.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor such as **Applied Language Studies**.

Consider applying to the **Italian Studies Honors Program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** like the **Italian Society at Berkeley**.

Connect with the **Transfer Student Center** or **Re-entry Student Program**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Practice your Italian with a **peer tutor**.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Attend the department's **Bocciardi Undergraduate Conference**.

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Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** and **events**.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Get ready for Berkeley with **RHETOR 100 Writing at the University**.

Thinking about a PhD? Apply to the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** before your first semester.

Make progress on language or other degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course.

Spend the summer in **Trieste and Venice** with Berkeley Summer Abroad, or Florence or Rome through **UCEAP**.

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LEARN MORE

Undergraduate Advising

Have questions about Italian Studies or choosing a major?

The Department of Italian Studies offers complete **advising services** for undergraduates interested in Italian Studies, including language placement, majors, double majors & minors, transfer students, summer sessions, breadth requirements and R&C in English, and study abroad opportunities. For advising hours, contacts and additional information, visit italian.berkeley.edu or email issaug@berkeley.edu.

The College of Letters & Science helps students with non-major-specific academic topics, including major exploration, general program planning, finding campus resources, and pre-professional graduate programs. L&S College Advisors are available for in-person and virtual meetings. Visit lsadvising.berkeley.edu or email asklms@berkeley.edu.



Scan to explore more
Major Maps!

majormaps.berkeley.edu

Related Programs

Looking for programs similar to Italian Studies? UC Berkeley also offers the following major, minor, and certificate programs:

- **Applied Language Studies**
- **Comparative Literature**
- **Film and Media**
- **History**
- **History of Art**
- **Linguistics**
- **Medieval Studies**



Photo credit: UC Education Abroad Program