



the school

In operation since 1984, the Italian Language and Culture Center "Torre di Babele" is a school specializing in teaching Italian to foreigners, authorized by the Italian Ministry of Education. The school is located in the central and elegant Art Nouveau neighbourhood near "La Sapienza" University of Rome, the historical park "Villa Torlonia" and the main train station "Termini".

The school's air conditioned building houses bright, spacious classrooms on two floors and opens onto a large garden where courses are also held, and where students can relax during their breaks and free time.

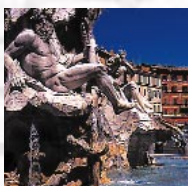
Courses run year round and are attended by students from all over the world. All courses are taught in small groups, on average 7 or 8 students with a maximum of 12. This limited class size offers individual attention as well as a friendly and relaxed atmosphere in which to learn the language.

rome

Rome is a modern and lively metropolis offering a vast range of sights and entertainment to delight its visitors, in addition, of course, to the beauty and variety of the monuments for which it is famous throughout the world. In fact, the possibilities for enjoying its beauty, history and lifestyle are truly infinite, while its mild climate makes it possible to visit and appreciate the city at any time of the year.

To help students become acquainted with the city, courses are supplemented by a varied program of cultural and leisure time activities.

An excellent public transport system provides easy access to surrounding areas, including the Castelli Romani, the lakes of Nemi, Bracciano and Albano, the Etruscan necropolis of Cerveteri and Tarquinia and the beaches along the coast.





courses

All courses are taught by highly trained instructors specializing in teaching Italian as a foreign language. The permanent teaching staff is directed by a curriculum coordinator, who also supervises the development of new and up-to-date teaching materials.

method

The teaching method is based on communication. Students actively exercise the four fundamental functions of the language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Particular attention, however, is given to conversation, in order to develop students' abilities to express themselves and communicate in Italian from the very beginning of the course. Naturally, this method includes the study of syntax and grammar, so essential to language learning but which, alone, are not sufficient for acquiring a real command of the language.

teaching materials

In its non-stop effort to offer the finest methods and materials, the school has developed its own textbooks and cassettes.

In addition, authentic materials have been carefully collected and are used throughout the courses: slides, video-cassettes, radio excerpts, newspaper and magazine articles, films, literary texts, songs, etc.

test

Before the beginning of their first course, students are given an oral and a written test to determine their knowledge of the language and thus ensure that they are placed in the appropriate level.

Students must pass a test at the end of each level in order to move up to the next.

levels

Each type of course is offered at all levels, from absolute beginner to the most advanced and skills-perfection levels.

The structure and the contents of the levels offered are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (C.E.F.).

Common European Framework	Levels according to C.E.F.	Corresponding levels Torre di Babele	Exams and certificates
Basic User	A1 Breakthrough	1st level	CILS A1
	A2 Waystage	2nd level	CILS A2 / CELI 1
Independent User	B1 Threshold	3rd level	CILS 1 / CELI 2 / ele. IT / Torre di Babele Intermediate
		4th level	
	B2 Vantage	5th level	CILS 2 / CELI 3
		6th level	
Proficient User	C1 Proficiency	7th level	Torre di Babele Advanced
		Skill Perfection A	CILS 3 / CELI 4
	C2 Mastery	Skill Perfection B	CILS 4 / CELI 5 / IT
		Skill Perfection C	

types of courses

general information

- Group courses begin every two weeks.
- Groups have an average of 7 or 8 students, with a maximum of 12.
- The mini-groups of the Intensive-Plus Course have no more than 3 students.
- Groups include participants of many different nationalities.
- Lessons are held mornings and afternoons Monday through Friday.
- Each type of course is offered at all levels.
- Each hour of lessons lasts 50 minutes.
- Group courses are conducted daily by two different teachers, each of whom teaches two hours at a time.



intensive course

This course includes four hours of group lessons a day. Based on their level, participants can acquire a basic knowledge of Italian or improve and perfect the knowledge they already have.

intensive-plus course

This course includes four hours of group lessons plus one more hour in a mini-group daily. The mini-group makes it possible to further pursue and perfect the material covered in the first part of the lesson.

super-intensive "B" course

This course includes four hours of group lessons plus 2 hours of individual lessons daily, allowing students to reach specific learning goals more quickly.

preparatory course for C.I.L.S. exam (Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language of the University for Foreigners in Siena)

As preparation for the CILS Exam, we suggest this specifically designed course taught by our instructors specializing in this area. The course includes 10 or 20 hours of individual lessons. The Superintensive "A" and "B" courses can also provide effective preparation for this exam.



non-intensive course

These courses are designed for people staying in Rome for longer periods of time, and consist of two-hour lessons held twice a week in the morning, afternoon or evening. Non-intensive courses are available from October to June.

individual course

The school offers individual courses that cater perfectly to personal and professional needs at all language levels. Individually tailored programs are built around students' specific needs and are based on their own pace and learning styles.

senior class

Vacation/study for participants age 50 and up. The two-week course is offered four times a year, in the spring and fall.



super-intensive "A" course

This course includes four hours of group lessons plus one hour of individual lesson daily. The individual lessons offers the chance to personalize the course material.



certificates and exams

certificate of attendance

At the end of the course, the school will issue a certificate of attendance indicating the level of course completed.

"Torre di Babele" exam

At the end of the 4th and 7th levels, students can take a written and oral exam in order to obtain the "Torre di Babele" Italian Language Certificate. The exam has 5 components: reading, writing, grammar, listening and speaking, with a special emphasis on real-life tasks. Exams are given at the end of each month.

C.I.L.S. exam

Our school is a preparatory center for the C.I.L.S. Exam (Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language) offered by the Università per Stranieri in Siena. The exam is divided into four levels and is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is given twice a year - in the beginning of June and again in the beginning of December. Registration is required one month in advance. The school organizes specially designed preparatory courses for this exam.

senior class

Vacation/study for participants age of 50 and up.

This course offers the chance to combine the study of Italian with a pleasant, rewarding holiday in Italy.

The course is conducted in small, international, same-level groups in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

A rich cultural program goes along with the course, including guided tours of Rome with experts in the history of art and architecture, excursions to the environs of Rome, a full-day weekend trip and a seminar on Italian food and wines. In addition, trips to museums, concerts and other cultural events can be organized.

We offer stays in single rooms in private Italian homes during the course. This type of accommodation includes the use of the kitchen. On request, hotel accommodation can also be arranged.

A detailed description of the course is available on request from our office.





cultural program

Living in Rome – even for a short time – is a unique experience, full of opportunities. Rome is a lively metropolis, with an exciting cultural scene. The city offers a broad range of events throughout the year to satisfy the tastes of all age groups. It is the world's largest outdoor museum, with hundreds of churches and countless monuments. It is rich with museums, galleries, theaters and cinemas, and offers live music of all types – opera, classical, jazz, rock.

The school's cultural program makes it possible to enjoy the city and its events more fully.

The following activities are offered on a regular basis:

- Introduction to Rome: the city, its services, and cultural events
- Guided tours of Rome: art history itinerary; architecture itinerary
- Presentation and viewing of films of representative Italian directors
- Italian literature: the new Italian writers
- The regions of Italy: history, culture, traditions, and life today
- Italian opera
- Italian songwriters
- Weekend excursions during the weekend to Naples, Pompeii, Orvieto, Florence and the seaside
- Evenings out at restaurants with teachers
- Excursions and visits to the city's glorious parks
- Italian cooking
- Sports: soccer and beach volleyball games

During the summer, the city hosts the famous "Estate Romana" arts festival, offering an impressive number of outdoor events, including concerts, dance, theater, cinema, etc. In this period, the school organizes evenings out, with teachers accompanying students to various events. Participation in the school's cultural program is free of charge. Students pay only when trips, meals, museum entrance or other paid events are involved.



seminars

The school organizes seminars led by experts in various fields of culture. These seminars are designed for those who have at least an intermediate knowledge of Italian. The minimum number of participants in each group is five. The cost of the seminars is additional.

- Italian literature
- Architecture
- Italian cinema
- Art history
- Italian cooking
- Italian wines

accommodations

On request, the school offers participants a variety of housing options for the duration of their course.

room in an apartment with other students
Accommodations in apartments of two or more bedrooms, with other students from our courses and/or with Italian students. Kitchen and bathroom are shared.

room in shared apartment
Accommodations in apartments with local residents (usually young couples or singles, rarely families with children). The kitchen and bathroom are shared.

We recommend reserving rooms as much in advance as possible. In both types of shared apartment, students can reserve a single or double room from the Sunday before the course begins to the Saturday morning immediately following the end of the course. The rent must be paid at the beginning of the stay. Rent includes gas, electricity and sheets. Towels are not provided. If a room is not available in one of the student apartments, the school will reserve a room in an apartment with locals, or vice versa.

In shared apartments, it is possible to request breakfast or half-board service. Rooms are not booked for participants in the non-intensive courses. Requests for housing other than the types offered here can be made to our reception office.

room in a hotel
It is possible to reserve a room in hotels of various categories.



other services

"pick-up " service
On request, the school can organize transport service from the train station or airport to the accommodations and vice versa.

cafeteria
During breaks students can use the cafeterias next door to the school or the students' room off the garden, where hot and cold drinks are available.

internet
Free of charge internet points are available for all students during school hours.

Tandem service
Free of charge, the school offers an inter-linguistic exchange program with Italians, so students can practice and improve their Italian outside school.



teacher training

The school's regular teaching activities are complemented by the ongoing work of an applied research group. The objectives of this group are, on one hand, the development of new instructional material (course books, listening exercises, videos, etc.), and on the other, the preparation of training and refresher programs for teachers.



training seminar

This seminar is designed for both Italians and foreigners wishing to enter the profession of teaching Italian as a second language. The course has a duration of two weeks for a total of fifty hours, and is divided into two parts - theory and practice.



Through first-hand teaching practice, trainees apply the linguistic theory they have learned to the realities of the classroom.

DITALS certificate

The DITALS exam, certifying qualification to teach Italian to foreigners and overseen by the University for Foreigners in Siena, can be taken at "Torre di Babele". Exams are scheduled during the months of June and December.





Tandem partner schools:

Germany / Berlin, Bielefeld, Bremen, Frankfurt, Göttingen, Hamburg, Köln, München
 England / Totnes / Ireland / Dublin / France / Lyon, Montpellier, Paris, Toulouse / Italy / Florence, Naples, Rome, Venice / Spain / Barcelona, Cadiz, Granada, Madrid, Malaga, San Sebastian / Argentina / Buenos Aires, Cordoba / Chile / Santiago

In addition, the Tandem organization offers:

- Teacher training and specialization in the Tandem method
- Literature and research archive
- A contact point for the creation of new Tandem schools
- Projects designed for universities, adult education centers (including international institutes) and other organizations
- Self-teaching system for German and Basque



tandem international

The Italian Language and Culture Center "Torre di Babele" is associated with the "Tandem" network of international language schools. "Tandem" is a method that encourages the expansion and development of language skills through inter-linguistic exchange. A "Tandem" is composed of two native speakers of different languages (Italian and another language), who are highly motivated to meet on a regular basis to improve their knowledge of the second language through conversation in the two languages. These meetings offer the opportunity to become better acquainted with Italian culture through personal contact. This service is offered free of charge to our students and can be requested at the beginning of each course.

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Tandem International
www.tandem-schools.com

Tandem Community
www.tandemcity.com

special programs

"Torre di Babele" offers special courses for groups of high school and university students.

The language course and related cultural activities take the specific needs and interests of course participants into account.

On request, the school can provide further information, detailed programs and prices.



italian cooking

For those who love Italian food, "Torre di Babele" offers two types of cooking courses:

professional courses

For those interested in a professional career as a chef, pizza maker, pastry cook, or sommelier, the school offers the possibility of attending professional courses at a cooking school recognized by the Lazio Chefs Association. Each professional course includes a final exam and certificate.

Courses begin in January, April and September.

Complete course programs are available on request from our office.



Courses offered are as follows:

chef

Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Levels. Practical courses teaching basic and more advanced cooking techniques.

pastry chef

Basic course: under the instructor's guidance, students prepare creams, puddings, base dough, classic pies, semifreddi (soft ice-cream), chocolates, decorations, savory and sweet pastries.

pizza maker

Basic course: a practical course to learn to make pizza by the slice, slow-rising or traditionally-made round pizzas, and fried foods.

italian cooking for non-professionals

For those who love Italian food and want to learn to prepare traditional dishes (appetizers, pasta, meat, fish, vegetables, pizza, desserts, etc.), "Torre di Babele" offers a hands-on individual course in the home of the cooking instructor. These courses can be combined with our language courses. Each session lasts three hours during which a complete menu is prepared – appetizer, appetizer, first and second courses, vegetables and dessert – and eaten (lunch or dinner). These courses can be booked in advance and are offered year round, except the month of August. The number of meetings will be decided by the student.





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"Torre di Babele" was founded in 1984 and is officially authorized by the Italian Ministry of Education

The school is associated with

A.S.I.L.S. Associazione Scuole di Italiano come Lingua Seconda

E.L.I.T.E. European Federation of National Associations for Teaching Mother Tongues to Foreign Students

TANDEM INTERNATIONAL

