

Summer Italian Studies in Bologna

Overview: This 5-week program in the historic university city of Bologna is for students at the second or third year level of Italian language studies. Students will take intensive Italian language courses in the mornings and go on cultural excursions led in the target language in the afternoons. Two short study trips will be organized out-of-town. The first will be to nearby Ravenna, focusing on the historical mosaics of the town. The second will be to Florence, and will explore historical, religious, and artistic sites in the city.

Coursework: Students at the 2nd year level will complete the course equivalencies of Italian 2105 and 2106. Those at the 3rd year level will complete the equivalents of Italian 3105 and 3106. Students at the 3rd year level who have already taken either 3105 or 3106 may enroll with the latter group and earn additional credits toward the minor. These groups will be divided for Italian language instruction, but all students will attend the same organized cultural activities in the afternoons.

Afternoon cultural activities will include guided visits to various museums in Bologna (such as the Pinacoteca, the Morandi Contemporary Art Museum, and museums of music and of ice-cream), various important local cultural sites (including churches with art treasures, the “Sala Borsa” bookstore with its exposed archeological digs, the “Quadrilatero” market, the anatomical theater of the Archiginnasio library, and the main plaza of the city). They will also include activities focused on developing everyday cultural competencies (such as a cooking class, guided trips to caffès, and a trip to the train station). At the end of our stay we will enjoy a celebration dinner alla bolognese.

Bologna is a city nearing 400,000 residents in north central Italy. It is especially well known for its cuisine, for its major university, and for its politics. Founded in 1088, the University of Bologna is the oldest university in the west. Arguably the top university in present day Italy, it now enrolls some 82,000 students. There are interesting political tensions in Bologna, in part driven by its large student and activist populations, and in part driven by its relative wealth: per capita income among residents is among the highest of any city in Italy. To round out the picture of Bologna, the city is foodie central, famed for its lasagna, its tortellini, and the peculiar pasta sauces known as “ragù.” Several factors make Bologna especially convenient for travelers: it is well situated for regional travel, between just one and two hours by train to Florence, Milan, Rome or Venice. In the immediate region, students have easy access to towns like Reggio Emilia, Parma and Maranello, with its Ferrari factory. Bologna itself has tremendous history and great cultural patrimony, yet has few English-speaking tourists: perfect for study of Italian culture and language.

Application deadline: 1 December, then on a rolling basis until the program is full. **Dates:** 28 May - 2 July 2017. **Program fee:** \$3900, with a possibility of adjustment if exchange rates fluctuate significantly. **Contact:** Michael Sguerri, sguerri@vt.edu.