torre di babele





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 listening materials. In addition, authentic materials have been carefully collected and are used throughout the courses: slides, videos, 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.).

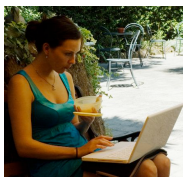
Common European Framework	Levels according to C.E.F.	Corresponding levels Torre di Babele	Exams and certificates
Basic User	A1 Breakthrough	1st level	CILS A1
	A2 Waystage	2nd level	CILS A2 / CELI 1
Independent User	B1 Treshold	3rd level	
		4th level	CILS 1 / CELI 2 / ele. IT / Torre di Babele Intermediate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

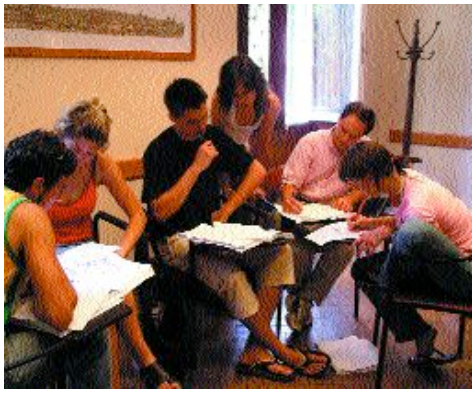
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types of courses

general information

- Group courses begin every two weeks
- Non-beginners can start every Monday
- 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 lesson lasts 45 minutes





intensive standard course
This course includes four 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.

middle term intensive standard course
This course includes four lessons a day. Participants acquire basic knowledge of Italian or develop and perfect the skills they already have. It offers the right answer to students willing to spend a longer time in Rome. Minimum length 6 weeks at special reduced fees.

long term intensive standard course
This course includes 4 lessons daily for a minimum of 12 weeks, and is priced at a special savings.

intensive course "espresso"
This course includes 3 lessons a day. Students acquire basic knowledge of Italian or develop and perfect their linguistic skills. Maximum length 4 weeks.

intensive-plus course
This course includes four group lessons plus one more lesson 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 "A" course
This course includes four group lessons plus one individual lesson daily. The individual lesson offers the chance to personalize the course material.

super-intensive "B" course
This course includes four group lessons plus 2 individual lessons daily, allowing students to reach specific learning goals more quickly.

preparatory course for CILS exam
(Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language of the University of Siena for foreigners)

• Group intensive course CILS
This course, held by teachers specialized in the exam preparation, includes 2 meetings weekly for 5 weeks during the months of May and November.

• Individual course CILS
This course allows to reach a specific exam preparation under the guide of a specialized teacher.
The Super-intensive "A" and "B" courses can also provide effective preparation for this exam.

non-intensive course
This course is designed for people staying in Rome for longer periods of time, and consist of two lessons held twice a week in the 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 over. 2-week courses offered in the spring and fall.



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
CILS - Certificazione di Italiano come Lingua Straniera (Certification in Italian as a Foreign Language) - is the official recognition of communicative competence in Italian as a foreign language.
The CILS certification is issued by the University for Foreigners of Siena and is recognized by the Italian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
The school is an authorized center for the CILS exam, which is given in June and December.
Registration is required one month in advance.



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.

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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 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
- Pronunciation, rhythm and intonation

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 with locals
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 with locals 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 snacks, hot and cold drinks are available.

internet
Free of charge internet points are available for all students during school hours. Wi-fi access is also available in the school garden.

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

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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.

DITALS certificate

The DITALS exam, certifying qualification to teach Italian to foreigners and overseen by the University for Foreigners of Siena, can be taken at "Torre di Babele". Examination is offered in the February, July, October and December sessions.

teaching practice for DITALS
For those who have had no classroom experience or who wish to prepare for the DITALS examination, the school offers a practice teaching program for 2 or more weeks under the supervision and guidance of an experienced instructor.





training course for teachers of Italian as a second language
Designed for both Italian and non-native speakers of Italian who wish to pursue the teaching of Italian as a second language. Courses are offered for 2, 3 or 4 weeks, covering the theory and practice of teaching Italian to speakers of other languages. The 4-week course also includes supervised practice teaching in the classroom. All courses are accredited by the University for Foreigners of Siena and serve as preparation for the prestigious DITALS certification. Complete information is available in our teacher training course brochure, or online at www.torredibabele.com/formazione.htm

refresher course for italian language teachers abroad
Over the Easter holiday and during the first two weeks of July, our school offers a refresher course for Italian language teachers working abroad. The course covers language teaching theory and practice, as well as Italian culture. The two-week course is made up of 52 lessons, including cultural activities such as guided tours highlighting Rome's history and art, excursions, and a wine and food seminar. It is also possible to attend for one week only, as the course is organized in independent one-week modules.



tandem international

The Italian Language and Culture Center "Torre di Babele" is associated with the "Tandem International" network of language schools. "Tandem" is a method that encourages the expansion and development of language skills through interlinguistic 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.



Tandem school network

Germany / Hamburg, Berlin, Bielefeld Bremen, Cologne, Dresden, Frankfurt Göttingen, Munich
Great Britain / Totnes, London
Ireland / Dublin
France / Montpellier, Toulouse
Italy / Florence, Rome, Venice
Spain / Barcelona, Cadiz, Granada Madrid, San Sebastian, Valencia
Chile / Santiago
Canada / Montreal

Tandem International
www.tandem-schools.com

in addition
the Tandem organization offers

- Teacher training and specialization in the Tandem method
- Literature and research archive
- Projects designed for universities, adult education centers (including international institutes) and other organizations

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other courses

italian cooking

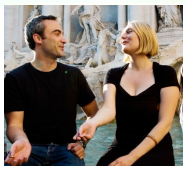
For those who love Italian food, "Torre di Babele" offers two types of cooking courses.

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. Courses begin in January, April and September.

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 – aperitif, 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. The number of meetings will be decided by the student.





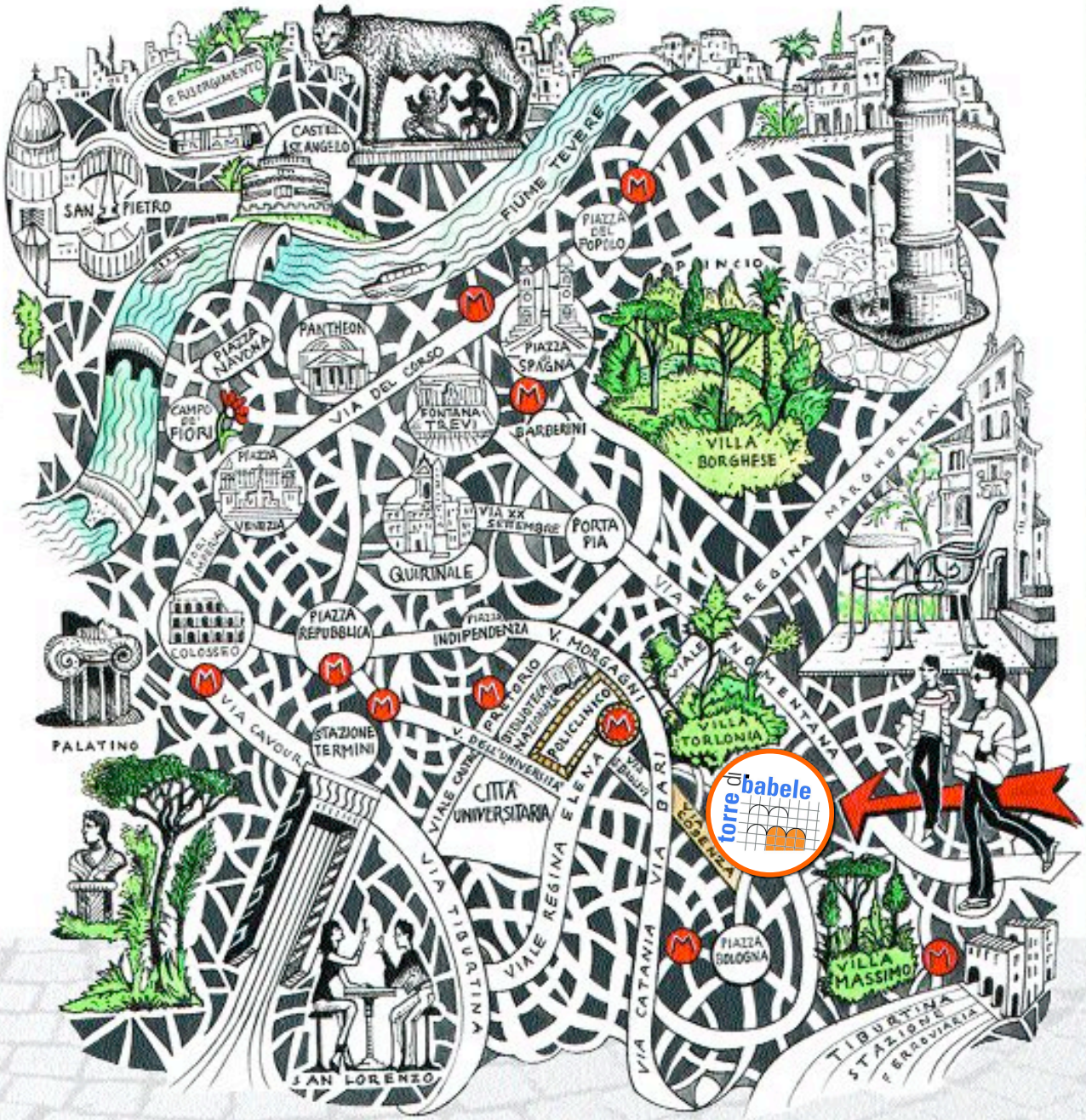
language and design experience design speaks italian

An intensive Italian language course in Rome for lovers of design, fashion, graphic arts, film, photography. "Torre di Babele" together with the Istituto Europeo del Design in Rome offers a three week full immersion course in Italian language and style, in the world capital of art, crossroads of culture and thriving cosmopolitan city. Beyond studying the language, participants get an insider's view of a range of creative disciplines from film and photography to visual arts, fashion and architecture. The program covers design theory and planning, with visits to advertising agencies, design firms and fashion studios.



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.



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

SINCERT ISO 9001 BUREAU VERITAS Certification

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 Associations for Teaching Mother Tongues to Foreign Students
TANDEM INTERNATIONAL

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