



Study programs in Tuscany



Monash University Prato Centre Tuscany, Italy

The Monash University Prato Centre provides secondary school students with an exciting opportunity to study and live in Italy while attending courses at Australia's most internationalised University. The Centre can organise intensive courses in a variety of disciplines.

Located in the elegant 18th century Palazzo Vai in the historic centre of the medieval Tuscan city of Prato, the Monash University Prato Centre aims to develop and expand opportunities for Australian students to study in Europe. It is the largest Australian academic institution of its kind in Europe.

Opened in 2001, the Monash University Prato Centre has established relationships with local schools in Prato, as well as with many other cultural and educational institutions. Australian schools can benefit from these relationships by having the opportunity to participate in art, music, history, and language and culture classes at local schools alongside Italian peers.



A great location

The city of Prato is a two hour train trip from Rome and within easy striking distance of Florence, Pisa, Siena, Lucca, San Gimignano and Bologna.

Surrounded by medieval towers and Renaissance masterpieces, Prato remains off the beaten tourist track. Students will enjoy an authentic experience of Italy today that will enrich and deepen their understanding of cultural diversity.

Italian Language and Culture



The Centre can provide tailor-made programs of varying lengths to suit each group's specific learning needs based on their language level and knowledge.

All programs are taught by experienced local teachers and are designed to maximise the opportunities to put classroom learning into practical use; we suggest a minimum of 18 hours language tuition to allow sound curriculum development and delivery. Combining this with a visit to a local school gives the program a stronger academic base and a true 'immersion' experience for students.

A sample 5-day program – 30 hours of tuition

Time	Day 1
9–9.30am	Welcome orientation <i>MUPC will provide a mandatory orientation and briefing session of approximately 30 minutes. Please ensure it is factored into the timetable.</i>
9.30am – 12.30pm	Tuition (3hrs)
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30 – 4.30pm	Contemporary 'Italians': people, food, and culture (3hrs) <i>This activity could be followed by a Show Cooking demonstration and dinner at a local restaurant</i>
Time	Day 2
8am – 12pm	Participating in lessons at a local secondary school (4hrs) <i>Secondary schools in Italy start lessons at 8am</i>
12 – 2pm	Lunch
2 – 4pm	Interview people from the local community (2hrs)
Time	Day 3
9.30am – 12.30pm	Tuition (3hrs)
12.30 – 2pm	Lunch
2 – 3.30pm	Publicity: create a slogan and billboard (1½hrs)
3.30 – 5pm	Meeting and conversing with students from a local secondary school (1½hrs)
Time	Day 4
9.30am – 12.30pm	Tuition (3hrs)
12.30 – 2pm	Lunch
2 – 5pm	Video activities: 'Italian cinema' (3hrs)
Time	Day 5
9.30am – 12.30pm	Tuition (3hrs)
12.30 – 2 pm	Lunch
2 – 5pm	Teamwork quiz followed by treasure hunt in the historic centre of Prato (3hrs)

What we can offer secondary schools

- A base for secondary school study tours to Italy and Europe
- High quality tuition
- Short courses in various disciplines
- Tuition by local experts, in small classes
- Classroom, computer and internet facilities
- Visits to local secondary schools and the opportunity to participate in classes
- Unique experiences and engagement with local communities
- Assistance in organising low cost accommodation and meals in Prato
- Guided tours of Prato or Florence

Unique opportunities

- Exclusive access to museums
- Exposure to local expertise
- Authentic experience of contemporary Italy
- Opportunities to engage with local families

“An amazing learning experience and a place I would absolutely love to come back to in the future... Grazie Monash!”

Emily

Year 11 student
St Francis Xavier College, Canberra



Alternative short courses available at the Prato Centre



Music

Joint classes and practice sessions with local musicians and students from the Giuseppe Verdi music school in Prato can be arranged. The Monash Centre has a large elegant performance space and can assist in the organisation of combined concert programs.



History and Art History

Taught by specialists in the field, courses in History and Art History provide students with the opportunity to experience Renaissance masterpieces of art and architecture in their original context. The City of Florence comes alive as students are guided through the streets, churches and piazzas that were home to prominent families, artists and thinkers that made the Renaissance. Class-based exercises are balanced by in situ teaching as students familiarise themselves with the major political, artistic and intellectual movements of the age. Day trips introduce students to rival powers, such as Siena and Pisa, and help situate Florence in the wider political climate.

Fine Arts

Printmaking workshops

These workshops expand students' visual vocabulary as they work in close relationship with the cities around them, their landscapes, museums and people. These experiences are brought back to the print shop and are integrated into the art making process. These courses are open to students at all levels but we do advise that they have a keen interest to learn and some knowledge of drawing and sketching.

Fresco workshops

3, 5 or 7 day introductory workshops. Each student will become acquainted with all the steps of *buon fresco* and *fresco secco* painting, development of the cartoon and pounced tracing, mix colours, building plaster coats, laying of intonaco and experience the golden hour, the best time of the day for the fresco painter. This course enables students to examine historical examples of this technique in situ.



Facilities

- Classrooms of varying sizes
- Performance space (130 person capacity)
- Two networked computer laboratories
- Wireless internet access
- AV equipment
- Office space available
- Reading Room and Student Lounge
- Large outdoor terrace

Please note: There is no on-site student canteen or accommodation available.

“Staying in Prato and studying at Monash Prato Centre made it possible to live as part of the community, and to get to know many local people and businesses. Prato is a beautiful jewel of a Tuscan city, and I loved being there.”

Fiona Millimaci

Head of Languages
Chisholm Catholic College, Perth



Local Engagement Opportunities



In Prato, your students will benefit from unique expert-facilitated interaction with the community.

Here are some examples of local engagement activities that can be incorporated into your program.

- Participate in lessons at a local school (3–4hrs)
- Cultural immersion; meeting and conversing with secondary school students (1hr)
- Visits to places of interest in Prato, e.g., Palazzo Pretorio Museum or a commercial enterprise such as the Antonio Mattei famous biscuit factory (1½–2 hours)
- Take part in a workshop at the Textile Museum
 - Fashion Trend Workshop: A journey to discover the trends from the fifties to the present day. The lesson concludes with the creation of a mood board (2 hrs)
 - Printing Workshop: Decorate a cotton shopper bag using the technique of screen printing (3 hrs)

Activities at the Textile Museum are available Tuesday to Friday 9am–5pm. The museum is closed on a Monday.

- Treasure hunt in the historic centre of Prato (1½ hrs)
- Meet and interview people from the local community (1 – 1½ hrs)
- Cooking lesson at a local restaurant (3 hrs – early evening, includes dinner)
- Take a day trip to a nearby place of interest, e.g., Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Siena and Pistoia

Monash University Prato Centre can provide advice as to suitable itineraries but recommends working with a registered travel agency to organise airfares and accommodation outside of Prato.



“I really enjoyed being at Monash because it is in a great location in the city and the building is gorgeous. Being based in Prato was fantastic; we had the chance to feel like one of the locals.”

Annie
Year 11 Student
St Catherine’s School, Melbourne

Monash University Prato Centre is the largest Australian academic institution of its kind in Europe, it also:

- hosts short and semester length university undergraduate courses;
- provides facilities for graduate students and office space for visiting academics;
- hosts workshops, seminars and major conferences in a variety of disciplines, often in conjunction with other institutions/organisations; and
- presents and supports cultural events such as art exhibitions, Australian film festivals, musical and theatre performances



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For further information, visit our website:
monash.it/study/secondary-school-study-programs