

## **Fully Funded PhD in Italian Studies at UC Berkeley**

**Italian Studies at UC Berkeley invites applications to the MA/PhD program beginning in Fall 2025.**

The Department of Italian Studies at UC Berkeley was designed to encourage innovative work that crosses disciplinary boundaries, while still grounding students in the fundamentals of the Italian literary and cultural traditions from the thirteenth century to the Present. We treat Italy as a matter of canonical works and questions, a center of gravity in multiple creative media (including film) and as a 'place' (physical, imaginary, political, economic, etc.) that must be situated multiply, as part of Europe, the Mediterranean, and the rest of the globe. Our special strengths are in:

- Dante and medieval studies
- Renaissance studies and the global early modern
- colonialism, decolonial and postcolonial theory
- critical race, diaspora, refugee and migration studies
- Fascism and authoritarianism
- Literary and cultural theory
- film and media studies
- book history, material texts and the digital humanities
- gender studies and feminist thought
- Gramsci and "Italian Theory"
- transnational and regional identity politics
- multilingualism and translation studies

Our department is committed to creating and sustaining a sense of belonging for all its members. Just as our program's intellectual imperative is to consider Italy as a place and a cultural construct that must be situated with respect to multiple perspectives, in our research and teaching we strive to open new spaces of inquiry and inclusivity by interrogating histories of race, gender, class, and power across the long cultural trajectory of Italy from the medieval to now.

Our department is well-known for our interdisciplinary profile; the innovative, even ground-breaking, contributions of each of our [faculty](#) to Italian and other disciplines; and our professional and versatile PhDs. In addition to tenure-track faculty positions at Vassar, Duke, the University of Texas, Austin, Rutgers University, the Ohio State University, and the University of Arizona, our graduates have gone on to pursue meaningful work in higher education administration, community college instruction, publishing, and developmental editing.

**Specializations.** We encourage students to take advantage of related academic programs on the UC Berkeley campus, including the campus-wide Designated Emphases (DE) (in the concurrent [PhD program in Medieval Studies](#), along with DEs in [Renaissance and Early Modern Studies](#), [Film and Media](#), [Folklore](#), [Women, Gender, and Sexuality](#), [Critical Theory](#), and others)

**Study in Italy.** as well as opportunities for study abroad with Italian universities (recent examples include the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa; the University of Rome, La Sapienza; the University of Naples, Federico II, the University of Genoa).

**Funding and support.** All of our MA/PhD students are fully funded. When serving as graduate student instructors, they are represented by the [UAW 2865](#)—a labor union of over 36,000 academic workers across the UC system. In addition to covering tuition, fees, and health insurance, we offer **a minimum of six years of support** in the form of generous fellowships, teaching assignments, summer stipends, and support for additional coursework (for instance, intensive summer language study) and/or research and conference travel. Other paid professional development opportunities (as a faculty research assistant or grader, as antiracism coordinator, or as events and social media coordinator) are also available.

**Pedagogical training.** We are proud of the range of teaching experiences we make available to our graduate students, and of the support they receive as they learn to become dynamic and effective instructors of Italian language and culture. Our celebrated language teaching faculty work at the cutting edge of the discipline, regularly revisiting their pedagogy to match developments in the field and to reflect the diversity of our student body.

**Chair of Italian Culture.** The department regularly hosts visiting professors from Italy, who offer graduate seminars and contribute to the intellectual profile of our faculty. Visitors have included

**Deadline for applications is January 8, 2025.** For inquiries about the graduate program, please contact Head Graduate Advisor Rhiannon Welch ([r.welch@berkeley.edu](mailto:r.welch@berkeley.edu)), or any faculty member of the department.