

**Academics: Course and Credit Information**  
**Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC)**  
Updated August 2011

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### Choosing the Right Subjects

- The UCSC listing of available courses is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID517/>.
- A two-week intensive Italian Language & Culture course is offered prior to the start of the semester courses. There is no additional fee for participation in the Intensive Italian Language & Culture course and the program fee includes accommodations during this time. EuroLearn urges all students to enroll in the pre-semester course, and the EuroLearn program dates accommodate this. This course should be listed on your Intended Subject Plan (ISP) as “Intensive Italian, Level \_\_\_\_”.
- You may also elect to continue your study of the language with an Italian language course offered throughout the semester. This should be listed on your Intended Subject Plan (ISP) as “Semester Italian, Level \_\_\_\_”.
- All EuroLearn students are required to take 12-15 U.S. semester credits (24-30 ECTS) to maintain full time status while abroad. The courses taught in English are worth 3 U.S. semester credits and will be listed as such on the official transcript. The Italian language courses are valued at 3-5 ECTS with both credits and contact hours listed on the transcript. As a general rule, 2 ECTS transfers back as 1 U.S. semester credit. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies for transfer credit at your institution.
- Unless indicated otherwise, courses are taught in English; no previous knowledge of the Italian language is required.

### Prerequisites and Course Approvals

- For the Italian language courses, students are asked to list the proficiency level of their choice. All participants must complete an on-line placement test prior to arrival in Milan and a short interview on the first day of the program. Instructions for this on-line placement exam will be provided at a later date. This is to assure that you are placed in the appropriate proficiency level which corresponds to your Italian level. A change in levels can be accommodated the first days of the program term.
- Students with advanced Italian language proficiency may register for a wide variety of Italian-taught courses offered by UCSC. A minimum of two years of college level Italian is required and a proficiency test will be taken upon arrival to assure you are able to successfully follow the courses taught strictly in Italian. For a listing and description of courses in Italian please contact your EuroLearn coordinator. Please be aware that it is rare for US/Canadian students to possess the level of Italian language proficiency required by UCSC to take courses taught in Italian.
- Where a prerequisite is listed, you are not expected to have taken exactly the same course at your own institution, but you are expected to have studied the same subject area at the same level as the ACT prerequisite.
- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to EuroLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated. If your current course registration is not listed on the transcript you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite.

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## Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing the courses that you would be interested in taking at UCSC in order of priority.
- Once the UCSC timetable has been set (in June for the Fall semester and in December for the Spring semester), your EuroLearn Coordinator will ask you to submit another form listing your courses in order of preference according to the timetable. You will be pre-registered in the available classes as long as you meet the pre-requisites.
- You will finalize your registration upon arrival at UCSC.
- There is no guarantee that all courses will be available every year and timetable conflicts can also arise, so list your selection in order of preference. Please make it clear if you have specific alternatives should your first choice not be available.
- If you choose to enroll in any subjects that were not pre-approved by your home university, you should contact your study abroad office or academic advisor in order to obtain the necessary approval. Be sure to bring your contact's email address with you. You will receive additional information about approvals once we receive your subject choices.

## Academic Differences between Italy and U.S./Canada

The academic year at UCSC for the Italian students is early September until June with Semester 1 running September through January and Semester 2 running February through June with exams taken in January and June respectively. However, the English-taught courses run for a shorter amount of time so study abroad students will take final exams in December for the Fall semester, and in May for the Spring semester (unless he/she has proven proficiency and has enrolled in Italian-taught courses).

You will find that schools in Europe often place more emphasis on individual homework and research time spent outside of the classroom, and the student's initiative is vital to academic success. Assessment in the UCSC program will consist of exams, submission of assignments, and class attendance and participation.

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# GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

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## Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC)

EuroLearn and its partner Universities recognize that the transfer of credits and conversion of marks for students who have participated in the Study Abroad Program is the responsibility of the visiting student's home institution. The following information is a guide to assist in understanding UCSC's numerical grading.

All courses taught in English utilize the U.S. grading system. The Italian Language and Culture and the Regular Italian courses use the Italian grading system. Below is an indicative conversion table from the Italian grading system to the U.S. system that you may use as a reference.

UCSC Scale	US Grade
29-30	A
25-28	B
21-24	C
18-20	D
17 or less	F

Recommended credit: Italian Language and Culture and English courses are worth 3 U.S. Semester credits. Students are required to maintain a minimum of 12 semester credits to assure full-time enrollment and legal status in Italy as a student. Students taking regular courses at UCSC in Italian are required to take 60 ECTS as a full-time semester load.

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