



# Consolato Generale d'Italia

## Ufficio Scolastico

32A Melville Street - Edinburgh EH3 7HA tel.0131-2253726 –

fax.0131- 226 2923

e-mail: [ufficioscolastico@hotmail.com](mailto:ufficioscolastico@hotmail.com)

## CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY - EDUCATION OFFICE AND FOREIGN SCHOOL OF EDINBURGH

The purpose of our Education Office is to promote the teaching of the Italian language in Scotland and Northern Ireland, according to International Agreements. Specifically our mission is:

- To spread Italian Language and culture;
- To stimulate cultural integration between Italy and Scotland through linguistic and communicative proficiency, reinforcing one's own identity in relation to other cultures;
- To promote the educational values in learning a foreign language;
- To contribute to the European identity and multicultural education.

We pursue these aims through all of our activities: classes, courses, production and delivery of original teaching resources, teacher training, providing useful information and cooperation for cultural exchanges and links between schools in Italy and Scotland.

The Education Office manages the Foreign School of Edinburgh, which currently consists of six teachers, one administrative staff and one Education Officer provided and financed by the Italian ministry of Foreign Affairs. In accordance with agreements between the Consulate General and the Local Authorities our teachers teach in six clusters:

- Holyrood - Edinburgh
- Craigmount – Edinburgh;
- St Roch's - Glasgow
- St. Mungo's – Glasgow;
- St. Maurice's - North Lanarkshire;
- Trinity/St. Lucke's - Renfrewshire/East Renfrewshire.

The above school selection has resulted from agreements reached between the school's respective local authority and the Italian Consulate. Thus, it could be possible to offer our competence to other or more schools. To take matter forward we require an agreement with a local authority and a guarantee of three years of continuity, at least.

Our teachers are highly qualified to teach Italian as a foreign language and have a wide range of skills to adapt their methods for each individual target: from pre-school education to adult classes, teacher training and Italian for holidays. They are also

strongly focused on being a live testimonial of Italian culture and bring to teaching all of their personal interests and affection for our country, sharing it with the students. They have to work for our Institution for a minimum of two years and the Education Officer has responsibility to make decisions regarding the schools where they have to teach in. Their role, apart from teaching Italian, is also to support the school's Modern Language Department, providing all the possible material and resources. Furthermore, they train Scottish teachers according to the agreements with Local Authorities. In their tasks our teachers are supported by the Education Office, which produces resources useful for schools and teachers of Italian, completely free of charge. However, whilst the Italian Government finances all its activities the Education Offices does not provide financial support in terms of funding.

The currently appointed Education Officer, Anna Rita Benedetti, was a Head Teacher in a high school with previous experiences in pre-school and primary education. When she applied for this position she had to attend a competition consisting of exams and tests on professional proficiency in management and IT. She also had to give proof of her intercultural and educational skills. She has been appointed for four years.

The Education Office also supervises the Centro Promozione Italiana (CPI) or Italian Promotional Centre. This is a non-profit making organisation located in Edinburgh whose courses are open to people with Italian roots. These are offered in different locations all over Scotland and Northern Ireland. CPI is the reference point for those who want to start or continue studying Italian language and culture. Courses are held from September to June. The Centre offers cultural activities and resources: Italian films, music, books and Italian materials for school projects. The Italian government finances the activities of the CPI for some of its expenses.

All teachers interested in learning more about Italy, its language and culture, are more than welcome, to contact the Education Office:

Ufficio Scolastico,  
32A Melville Street,  
Edinburgh EH3 7HA  
Tel. 0131 2253726  
E-mail [ufficioscolastico@hotmail.com](mailto:ufficioscolastico@hotmail.com)  
Education Officer: Anna Rita Benedetti

And CPI:  
Centro Promozione Italiana  
2, Stafford Street  
Edinburgh EH3 7AU  
Tel. 044 131 2263169  
E-mail [centropromozioneitaliana@hotmail.com](mailto:centropromozioneitaliana@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Giuseppe Di Biasio

NB: In addition to the above there is also the Italian Cultural Institute, located in Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, which provides classes in Italian for adult learners. However, their funding arrangements are handled separately from the Education Office.

