

Middlebury Italian Immersion Program, Summer 2022
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Doing an Italian summer program through Middlebury College was a life changing experience for me.

The immersive experience at the Middlebury Language Schools meets every expectation set since the beginning. The structure of the program, developed over 7 weeks, allowed me to dramatically improve every aspect of my Italian. Contrary to before going to Middlebury, I am now able to hold a conversation in subjects varying from everyday interactions to complex intellectual debates in Italian. I also went from being able to write basic paragraphs to creating beautiful and complex essays on many subjects in the target language.

Although the program is in Vermont, most of the faculty and assistants live in and are from Italy, creating a vibrant community of cultural exchange from which I benefited tremendously. My professor, for example, was born and raised in Northern Italy. Through eating many meals together and class discussions, I gained an understanding of his culture, and by the end of the program I was able to articulate my own personal and cultural experiences in Italian.

The extracurricular activities of the program, conducted in Italian like everything else, kept me busy, healthy, and motivated. I was a part of a big theatre play that helped me develop memorization skills that will be quite helpful with my future language acquisition projects. I also played volleyball with my classmates, cooked Italian pasta, and even did an Italian wine tasting followed by a party.

I highly recommend doing a summer language program through the Middlebury Language Schools system. Apart from basically mastering the target language, my most important takeaway from the program now that I look back at it is the fact that it made me realize what I am capable to achieve if I put all my time and energy into something. The program's complete immersion forces you to do so, and the results are mind-blowing.

I thank everyone responsible for the Language Summer Fellowship I received through Bowdoin which made all this possible. As a result of receiving this funding, I am now able to perform at my Italian 3000-level course on crime fiction and will be able to add essays in Italian in my honors project.