



Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Student Profile



Loredana Imogen Leonard

Ciao! My name is Loredana Imogen Leonard. My Italian journey began at CO.AS.IT Five Dock where I attended from Kindergarten to Year 8. My commitment to learning Italian then led me to taking advanced language classes, including CELI 3 and HSC Italian Continuers classes. These formative years laid the groundwork for what was to come.

In high school, I participated in an accelerated program for Italian Continuers, an endeavour that paid off immensely. I was thrilled to be awarded second place in the state in Italian Continuers! My achievements are owed to the inspiring and dedicated teachers who made each learning moment truly exceptional.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my learning Italian was the opportunity to cultivate lifelong friendships. I now find myself attending university with one of my former classmates, sharing a bond forged not just in the classroom but through our shared love for Italian language and culture.



“Don't shy away from speaking and embrace imperfection. Mistakes are steppingstones to growth.”

Learning Italian profoundly deepened my connection to my own family and cultural heritage. Bilingualism opened the door to conversations with my Nonni (grandparents), a gift I will forever cherish. Speaking Italian fosters a sense of family and connection that is truly invaluable. Furthermore, it allowed me to connect with friends and relatives still residing in Italy, bridging geographical divides with the power of language.

Reflecting on my language learning journey, I would offer my 10-year-old self a piece of advice: Don't shy away from speaking and embrace imperfection. Mistakes are steppingstones to growth. While listening, reading, and writing skills are vital, the art of conversation is where the true joy of language learning resides.

Thanks to my community language school, I've developed an insatiable love for my community language and I'm currently pursuing Italian studies at university. This program has so profoundly shaped my life that I can't recommend it enough, and I believe you would be surprised by where it could lead you.