

Italy
Canadian College Italy
“The Renaissance School”

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Type of School: Coeducational university preparatory
Religion Affiliation: Nondenominational
Grades: 10-OAC/12 plus AP¹
Boarding Grades: 10-OAC/12 plus AP
Application Deadline: Open
Scholarship Deadline: N/A

Location

The College is set in the downtown area of the ancient yet modern town of Lanciano a safe community (population 40,000), in eastern Abruzzo. About 15 minutes drive to the placid beach shore of the Adriatic sea and less than three hours' bus trip to Rome, Lanciano has excellent train and bus service to all Italy and Europe.

The town has carefully preserved many artifacts, fossils and architectural elements from all eras of its long history. Existing as Anxanum in Roman times, it became a fair and trading centre in the medieval and renaissance eras, and then fell into isolation and invisibility, typical of Abruzzo and other rural regions before joining into and playing its part in the Risorgimento, nineteenth century unification under Garibaldi and Cavour, and the two world wars of the twentieth century. With a friendly, vigorously heritage-conscious citizenry and council, and recent government-aided development of industry and tourism throughout the local area to supplement the basic vegetable, olive and wine economy, Lanciano appears amongst the happier and more comfortable places for living in modern Italy

History

Canadian College Italy (The Renaissance School) was founded in 1995 by the current Head of School, Marisa DiCarlo D'Alessandro with the purpose of giving students the opportunity to study in English within their own curriculum while living in Italy. The School is a federal nonprofit organization, governed by a Board of Directors. The majority of board members are representatives of both European and North American universities. The annual operating expenses of 2 billion lire are covered largely by school fees.

The School is inspected and accredited by the Ministry of Education in Ontario. The

¹See Appendix V.

School is also a member of the European Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and to date its graduates have advanced to many North American Universities.

Philosophy

To enable, engage and empower students to achieve their maximum potential and become confident, strong individuals capable of flourishing in a global environment.

Campus

The College occupies several buildings combining the ancient and the modern. The buildings, all in the historical center of the town and all within a short walking distance of each other, include the School, the inn, and the residences. The main school at Via Cavour 13 is a newly restored fourteenth-century building with an interior atrium. The building houses the school library (10,000 volumes), the computer room, offices, the tuck-shop, and classrooms. The School's state-of-the-art science laboratories are part of Italy's largest biomedical research center. Students take a shuttle bus to the science center for biology, chemistry, and physics classes. The School's art workshops for painting, sculpting, silk screening, jewellery, and photography are located at the Art Institute, just minutes from the main school building.

Boarding Facilities

To house up to 150 students, CCI maintains four multi-level residences (three girls', one boys') names Cavour, Garibaldi, Maggiore and Santa Maria. Each residence customarily develops a mini-family, sometimes more than one inside the school community. The family atmosphere is encouraged and fostered as important in making each residence a home away from home. The four named residences also create, in effect, a "house" system similar to independent schools in both Europe and North America. Whatever the family feel and house loyalties, the residence management and operations are rigorously professional. During after-school hours, each residence is overseen by senior, responsible and consistently accessible live-in dons who are employed solely for the residences or are teachers with course responsibilities in addition to their residential ones.

The School also maintains an inn, the Allegria, where students have their meals in dining rooms accommodating up to 200 persons. CI students enjoy an excellent Mediterranean diet featuring much pasta, fresh vegetables and fruits, salads and olive oil. The Allegria includes recreation and games rooms where students can relax, play, and present drama and comedy skits. There is also a coffee bar centered around a large corner fireplace. Once a hotel, the Allegria has eight bedrooms which are left to visiting parents or guests of the School who are also welcome to dine with the students.

Health and Safety

There is a school doctor available for consultation by students. Other medical and dental facilities

and a modern hospital are available in town.

Administration and Faculty

Since 1998, the Head of School has been Marisa DiCarlo D'Alessandro, B.P.H.E, B.Ed., M.B.A. Prior to this position, Ms. D'Alessandro was a high school teacher, and the founder, director of the school. Ms. D'Alessandro succeeded Ms. Janette Doupe, the founding head, who returned to Canada as the College's admissions officer. Ms. Doupe is a former Principal of Havergal College.

In 1998/99, there were 11 full-time teachers on staff, and two parttime. Four have post-graduate degrees. Teachers are all trained in Canada and/or the United States and are on leave from their local boards for a period of up to five years.

Student Body and Student Dress

In 1998/99, College enrollment totalled 125, 40% of whom were boys, 60% girls. About 50% of the student body came from Ontario, but all other Canadian provinces were represented. In addition, there were students from the United States, Europe (Belgium, Germany, Italy), and Saudi Arabia although most of these are the sons or daughters of Canadians stationed abroad.

Students are required to wear a school uniform during class time only. Uniforms are not worn during study hall, on evenings or weekends.

Academic Calendar and Programme

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The first semester starts the beginning of September and finishes with examinations at the end of January. Second semester starts the end of January and finishes in mid-June.

During the school week, the daily schedule is as follows:

7:00 a.m. Wake-up
7:30 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in Dining Hall
8:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. Morning Assembly at School
8:30 a.m.- 9:50 a.m. Period 1 classes
10:00 a.m.- 11:20 a.m. Period 2 classes
11:20 a.m.- 11:40 a.m. Break
11:40 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Period 3 classes
1:00 p.m. Lunch in the Dining Hall
1:50 p.m.- 3:10 p.m. Period 4 classes
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Study period (Mon.-Thurs. in School)
5:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. Personal time / Extracurricular activities
7:30 p.m. Dinner in Dining Hall
8:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. Study period (Mon.-Thurs. in Residence)
9:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Personal time
10:30 p.m. Residence curfew
11:00 p.m. Room curfew
11:30 p.m. Lights out

On the weekend (Friday and Saturday), curfew is at 12:30 a.m. and lights are to be out at 1:30 a.m.

The compulsory credits normally required from Grade 10 to graduation are: 4 English, 1 Mathematics, 1 Science, 1 History or Geography and 1 Social Science (senior division).

Optional courses offered according to demand include: Computer Education; Modern Languages (French, Italian); Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Classical Civilization, Modern Western Civilization, Economics, Law, Politics, Urban Studies, World Issues, World Religion; Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts and Philosophy.

Students take a maximum of four credit courses per semester and a total of eight courses during the full academic year.

All courses, except those in Modern Languages are taught in English; CCI does not offer English as a Second Language.

Two educational partnerships have been developed by the School to enhance the Science and Art programmes. The first is the liaison with the Mario Negri, Italy's largest biomedical research center. CCI has its own state-of-the-art science lab within this internationally acclaimed research center. A shuttle bus takes all science students to the center (a 7-minute ride) for courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. The research team at the Mario Negri is invited to give lectures to the students as an enrichment segment to the regular course of study. Students have hands-on experience in the research labs and witness the latest developments in scientific research.

The second partnership is with the nearby Art Institute, the Liceo Artistico, where CCI students have their own workshops for painting and sculpture. Students can also enjoy the workshops for textiles, jewellery, ceramics, and photography.

In addition to working towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, students may enrol in Advanced Placement courses for the Advanced Placement International Diploma and students will have the opportunity to write AP examinations in May. CCI is also a testing centre for SAT examinations.

Information Technology

There is a computer room in the main school building.

Student Activities and Student Conduct

Students have the opportunity to complement their classroom work with extensive travel throughout Italy. Every second week there is a weekend trip to a different city in Italy which is included in the tuition fee. These include skiing in Passo Lanciano and Roccaraso, two of the most famous ski resorts in the Apennines, both at an altitude of 2015 meters and yet only an hour drive away from the School. During the Christmas and March breaks, there are extended trips to several countries in Europe including France, Spain, Greece, and England.

Students are encouraged to participate in the intramural programme for basketball and volleyball, which is held after school in one of the local high school gymnasiums. Rugby, soccer, swimming, and cycling are also popular. Most of the students join the fitness club and participate

in daily weightlifting and aerobics. The School does not have sports teams; however, exhibition games are encouraged with other schools. The skiing in the area is superb.

The elected Student Council has a voice in making school rules, which are enforced by the staff. Classes and College activities require compulsory attendance; any planned absence must be cleared with teachers and residence don. Failure to attend class without valid reason will result in the student being considered "non in good standing". Smoking is not permitted on any school property, including the residence and possession of use of illegal drugs or alcohol is forbidden.

Admission and Costs

CCI accepts students based on their academic performance, character, special interests and talent. The College looks for applicants who are serious about expanding the scope of their education and eager to accept new challenges.

Students may enroll for a minimum of one semester to a maximum of four academic years. There are no entrance examinations for admission. A student's previous school record and recommendation from a teacher and principal are considered in the application process. Applicants must submit a recent photograph and receive a personal interview in Toronto, Montreal, New York, London (England), Monaco or Lanciano.

A non-refundable \$100.00 application fee is required to accompany the application. A registration fee of \$3,000 will reserve a place for the student after acceptance.

Students from in and outside Ontario qualify for admission after grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

In 1999/00, fees for the full year are \$25,000 and for one semester only, \$13,000. Fees include tuition, room and board, school accident insurance, all bi-weekly day excursions in Italy, and a towel and laundry service. Fees do not include airfare to and from Italy, baggage shipment, extended weekend trips, school supplies/textbooks, athletic clubs, health insurance, insurance for personal effects, and extra-curricular private lessons.

A sundry fund is invoiced in the amount of \$850 for the full year and \$425 for one semester. The fund may include such items as registration with town authorities, shuttle trips to and from the airport, additional non-scheduled field trips, yearbook, art/science laboratory supplies, and university application fees. A full accounting is kept for each student and any unused funds are reimbursed at the end of term.

For Further Information:

View:: Canadian College Italy, Lanciano (video)

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Switzerland
Neuchâtel Junior College
"Minds on the Move"

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Type of School: Independent coeducational university preparatory
Religious Affiliation: Nondenominational
Grade: OAC/12 (Ontario) plus AP¹
Boarding Grade: OAC/12 (Ontario) plus AP
Application Deadline: Varies
Scholarship Deadline: June 1

Location

The College occupies about one acre of land in Neuchâtel (population 50,000), the capital of the canton of the same name, and a centre of French culture in Switzerland. Set about 60 miles from the Swiss Alps, on the blue-grey waters of Lake Neuchâtel, the largest lake that is entirely Swiss, the town dates back to antiquity.

Besides being located right across the street from the train and bus station, the programme campus sits beside the City's post office, making it easy for students to send mail home daily. The downtown core is a mere few blocks away, and with its many schools, playing fields, tracks, gymnasia, ice rinks, and historical points of interest, the entire city of Neuchâtel has become, over the years, NJC's campus.

Neuchâtel has always been a students' town. It does possess some light industries such as watchmaking and chocolate manufacturing, but its schools and University have for many years given it an enviable academic reputation. The town's citizens are hardworking and sober, the town's pleasures simple and unsophisticated. Neuchâtel possesses good library facilities and enjoys frequent concerts, lectures, and plays by prominent artists.

The town is excellently situated as a centre from which to visit other places of interest. Good roads and excellent train service connect the city with Lausanne and Geneva to the west, and with Bâle, Berne and Zurich to the east. The French frontier lies only 20 miles (32 km) away, the Black Forest of Germany is 75 miles (120 km) distant, and the Italian boarder about 100 (160 km).

History

¹See Appendix V.

The 39 young Canadians who arrived in Neuchâtel in early September 1956 to establish a Canadian presence which has lasted to this day, represented the fulfillment of Leonard Wilde's dream.

Wilde was an Englishman who had led a peripatetic existence on several continents after graduating from Oxford and who had become a professor of English at Neuchâtel's École Supérieur de Commerce in 1949. It was not long before he realized that the town was an ideal place for young English-speaking people to acquire French while studying for entry into university in their homeland, and to do some traveling in the intervals of such study. Having already taught in the United States it seems he thought of that country as a source of supply of young Anglophones ready to learn French.

With the approval of M. Jean Grize, Director of the École Supérieur de Commerce, and one very enthusiastic over the idea, Mr. Wilde took a leave of absence, during 1951/52, in order to tour the United States, visiting schools and educational authorities. Due to the difficulty of establishing a programme acceptable to students from diverse states, there was no great success in this scheme.

In 1954/55, he returned again to the New World. Teaching at Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island, he made several trips to California seeking support. Eventually, frustrated in his relations with that State's Department of Education, he accepted the suggestion of some of his pupils at Shawnigan Lake, that he should concentrate on Canada. During the summer of 1955, Mr. Wilde traveled extensively in Eastern Canada, meeting interested parents who were advised by newspaper advertisements of his local stops. Thus when the College opened in 1956, it was a "Canadian school".

In its early years, the College was very much a part of the École Supérieur de Commerce. All laboratory work was undertaken there. The College also enjoyed the use of several classrooms in the school building on the Passage Maximilien de Meuron.

Numbers grew steadily through the years. Most teachers were Swiss, although in the 1960's, more Canadians began to appear. In 1965, the founding Director, Mr. Wilde was killed in an automobile accident, he was replaced by James Thayer, who led the College until 1987. Thereafter by policy, school staff, including the principal, have five year terms

For three years after the programme opened, it was closely monitored by Swiss educational authorities. In 1959, satisfied with its quality, the City of Neuchâtel granted the College a permanent charter, allowing it to continue as an independent body with its own school board, le Conseil de Fondation. The charter also provided for a Canadian Board of Governors to advise the College in educational and financial matters, and in 1960, the Board was established. Today, all members are NJC alumni. The College is therefore unique in that it is controlled by twogoverning bodies, one in Switzerland, the other in Canada.

The College is a member of the Swiss Group of International Schools as well as the Canadian Association of Independent Schools². Representatives of the Ministry of Education of the Province of Ontario inspect the programme, allowing it to award the most senior graduation diploma of that province. Graduates of the College normally proceed to major Canadian

²See Appendix III.

and international universities.

Philosophy

The goal of NJC is to offer students preparing for a post secondary education an academically stimulating, culturally rich and internationally enlightened education of the highest standard.

NJC

attempts to help students achieve a better understanding of themselves and of their world around them by encouraging academic achievement, self-discipline, mutual respect and a global perspective, all within a safe and nurturing environment. NJC promises to be accountable to both

students and their parents in its efforts to offer the most well-rounded preparation for university and adult life available.

Campus

The College contains two buildings. The Foyer is an historical building that NJC purchased in 1965. In this building are the administration offices, guidance office, the Mitchelson Desktop Publishing Centre, teachers' workroom, and student common rooms including the Salon, which has a piano and leads out onto the terrace that overlooks the City, LacNeuchâtel, and the Alps. On the lower level there are a ping pong table, a dark room for photography, and a ski room where the students may store their ski equipment. The programme Principal, Guidance Counselor and concierge all reside in the Foyer. Antique furniture is in abundance, and as one walks through the front door, one immediately gets a strong sense of the programme's rich history, as the walls are covered with photographs and memorabilia.

The Pavilion is the more modern building built in the early 70s. This is where the classrooms, the Jerry Janda Resource Centre, and science lab are located. The Pavilion also has a tuck shop and a TV room, equipped with a VCR, so that students can gather to watch movies in the evenings or on weekends.

As a typical Swiss school, the College contains no gymnasium or other sports facilities and because of the School's excellent relationship with its community, it is able to rent whatever facilities it requires for programming.

Boarding Facilities

While fees include room and board, Neuchâtel Junior College has no residences per se. Rather, students are lodged with local families or in pensions. The maîtrise de pension maintains close contact with the programme, and informs authorities at once in case of illness, unjustified absence or undesirable behaviour. She is also willing to counsel her guests in the customs that seem strange to them and advise them of the facilities that the town affords.

Health and Safety

The College has a designated English-speaking doctor, although not on site. Nearby are good hospitals with other excellent English-speaking doctors. Programme fees include accident insurance for any injury received during the school season. Fees do not include medical insurance.

Administration and Faculty

Since 1996, the Principal of the College has been Ms. Nancy Edwards, B.A., B.Ed., LL.B. Ms. Edwards, whose undergraduate degree is in English, studied philosophy and law for three years at the University of Oxford. Before teaching, she practiced law in both Oxford and Toronto. As well as being principal Ms. Edwards teaches the Writer's Craft and Law courses at the college.

In 1999/00, including Ms. Edwards, the full-time staff numbers 11, of which 8 are Canadian; 5 are men, 6 women. Because the College holds particular appeal to teachers, it is able to draw on the best, all with specialist qualifications and the five year term limit ensures that teachers continue to be current in their subject and fresh in their approach to the College programme.

Student Body and Student Dress

Each year, the College enrolls about 90 students. In 1998/99, 60% of residents come from Ontario, 20% from the West, 5% from Quebec, 5% from the Maritimes, 5% from the United States and a final 5% from come from various parts of Europe (although most European students are youngsters of Canadians relocated to that continent by government or private business.)

On average, there are three girls to each boy.

In the College, students are expected to dress neatly at all times. In Switzerland, they face the same climate as prevails in the Northern states of the U. S. or in Canada, and no great change in wardrobe should be necessary. Swiss homes and schools are well heated, but they are not normally kept at as high a temperature as is usual in North America.

Academic Calendar and Programme

AT NJC, the academic year is divided into two semesters. The first extends from early September to the end of January, the second from early February to the mid June, with two week breaks

at Christmas and Easter, during which times most students join school organized-tours to other parts of Western Europe and/or North Africa. Students are prepared for these tours by a series of lectures and slide shows.

During the school week, students typically observe the following routine:

8:30 a.m. Classes begin

11:50 a.m. -2:05 p.m. Lunch

2:05 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Classes

Students' timetables are varied so that classes are not undertaken at the same times each day.

Core course offerings include two English courses (English Literature and Writer's Craft), Mathematics (Finite, Calculus, and Algebra & Geometry), Science (Biology, Physics, and Chemistry), French (Core, Extended, and Immersion), Geography (World Issues), Economics, and History (Modern Western Civilization).

To enrich the programme, keeping in mind the programme's excellent location in Europe for travel, NJC also offers a number of electives, including Visual Arts (classes are held in a local state-of-the art studio), Classical Civilizations (History), German, Law, Accounting, Dramatic Arts, Politics, Science and Society, Computer Studies, and Philosophy.

While the core subjects are offered in both semesters, some of the elective courses are offered in only one of the two semesters.

NJC also offers the following AP courses: French Language, German Language, English Language and Composition, Calculus and Chemistry.

Normally, except for language courses, classes are taught in English. Guest speakers from the international community are regularly invited to speak to the students on a number of subjects to enhance the in-class instruction.

The study of French is obligatory at the college. Students who do not take an OAC or AP French course must take a non-credit course in conversational French geared to their level involving two hours of class time a week.

Classes are small (students teacher ratio is about 10:1); standards are high. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own results. There is no scheduled study period, or someone watching over the students' shoulders although students are expected to study during the weeknights unless participating in organized activity.

The Guidance Office provides services in career and university planning, academic counselling, and personal counselling. Regular workshops and guidance appointments are available to assist students with university and scholarship applications. NJC is a designated Test Centre for SAT's and will assist students preparing to write these tests.

Parents stay in touch with their youngsters' progress through formal reports that are mailed to parents 4 times annually (twice each semester). In addition, the Principal also keeps the parents informed about activities at the College through a monthly newsletter.

Information Technology

The Jerry Janda Resource Centre offers 20 Dell computers, the latest software, unlimited Internet and e-mail access, and houses the print library. The Mitchelson Publishing Centre is also equipped with the latest technology, including scanners that allow students to produce their own school newspapers, flyers and yearbooks.

Student Activities and Student Conduct

The College offers structured, organized travel to expose students to variety of cultural and

historical sites across Europe. These trips are integrated into the curriculum, enriching both the travel and the academic programme. Countries visited on school-organized trips include Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Thailand. In addition, students are free to travel independently in Europe on weekends.

In addition to the travel opportunities designed to enhance the academic strengths of the College, students have the option of participating in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

School activities include Drama (school plays and the occasional skit night), the European International Debating, Acting, and Speech Competition (once each semester), the model UN in The Hague which involves 3,000 students from around the world, Club activities from photography or computers to young entrepreneurs, a Costume Party at Hallowe'en, Mock parliaments, Casino night, Charity dinners, Mountain-top picnics, Boat and bicycle tours around Lac Neuchâtel, Historical walks through the City, Theatre nights and Opera.

The programmes also sponsors teams in soccer, rugby, skiing, swimming, hockey, volleyball, basketball, rowing, hiking, sailing and diving. Students are encouraged to join local teams / clubs, not only for extra-curricular interests but to perfect their French. Permission is accorded to attend any such activities during the week nights. These local teams / clubs include all of the preceding, plus water polo, equestrian, aerobics, weight training, track & field, figure skating, squash, tennis, windsurfing, kick-boxing, dance (both modern and ballet), field hockey, and music.

Upon graduation, selected students are able to become summer interns at the Canadian Embassy in Berne as well as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. These are opportunities to learn more about diplomatic careers and the workings of international organizations.

Students who wish to attend church may do so. While the town is predominantly Protestant, there is a Catholic Church and Catholic students will find that on days of obligation there are evening Masses. While there is no synagogue in Neuchâtel, there is one in nearby Chaux-de-Fonds.

At the programme, regulations to be noted include that attendance at all classes is mandatory and more than 15 absences will normally result in the failure of the student to achieve credit for a course; students may not drive a car or motorbike and they may not hitchhike; possession or use of illegal drugs as well as excessive drinking of alcohol is forbidden. Smoking is not permitted in the College. Students are also not permitted from being absent from meals without notifying their host family nor are they to be absent overnight without notifying their family as well as the Principal. In general, students are expected to avoid behaviour which may cause themselves or others in the college community discomfort or embarrassment.

Admission and Costs

Neuchâtel Junior Colleges selects students on the basis of their academic performance, character, interests and talents. The College favours students who respond constructively to new challenges and who seriously desire the enrichment of an international education.

Applicants must write a short essay, describing themselves and their interests. They

must also outline their reasons for wishing to come to Neuchâtel, their future plans and their selection of subjects. The Admissions Committee will consider each application carefully upon receipt of a complete transcript of secondary school marks and a confidential report from a current teacher as well as a letter of recommendation from someone outside the programme deemed to be a good judge of character (for example, an employer, coach, camp director).

A physical examination by a practicing physician is also required. This report must be forwarded to the College prior to the student's arrival.

Students from Quebec qualify for entrance into NJC once they have obtained Le diplôme des études secondaires. One year at NJC replaces the two-year CEGEP programme. Students outside Ontario are encouraged to have obtained the Secondary Programme Diploma in advance of application, although in exceptional cases, those who have completed Grade 11 will be admitted.

In 1999/00, costs for the academic year are 25,500 Sw. Fr ; for one semester, fees are 14,300 Sw. Fr. These costs include tuition, room and board, resident permits, accident insurance, transportation to and from school. Fees do not include airfare to and from the programme, school supplies, school trips, pocket fees, events fees etc.

The programme receives substantial subsidization from the city of Neuchâtel and partial scholarships in the amount of 2,000 Sw. Fr. are awarded annually to four outstanding students based on academic merit as well as personal recommendations.

For Further Information

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