



# MONASH UNIVERSITY PRATO CENTRE

A European base for  
research and education

[monash.it](http://monash.it)





## WHO WE ARE

The Prato Centre is Monash University's base for international education programs and a hub for research collaboration. Located in Palazzo Vai, in the heart of Tuscany, you'll find a unique centre embedded in contemporary Italian and European life and culture.

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## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



photo: alessandromoggi.com

**Our centre is a site for intellectual and cultural exchange, bringing people together to meet, learn and collaborate with peers and colleagues from around the world. In Prato, we prepare our students for increasingly global careers through our innovative education and internship and industry-based learning programs across a wide range of disciplines. Our vibrant calendar of research meetings contributes to Monash University's research quality and global impact. We welcome proposals for collaboration in education and research and invite you to visit us when you are next travelling in Europe.**

**DR CECILIA HEWLETT**  
DIRECTOR, MONASH PRATO CENTRE



## ACADEMIC COURSES

### IN SITU LEARNING

Whether it's art, design and architecture, arts, business and economics, education, engineering, information technology, or law, our centre offers innovative programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students in a range of disciplines. Our programs allow students to explore new places, new cultures and new ways of thinking.

### PARLIAMO!

Our students don't have to be an expert in all things Italian to study here. We teach them the ways of the locals with our Parliamo! language and cultural program. They learn the basics of the Italian language and some cultural know-how to help them get around Prato like a local.

## RESEARCH INITIATIVES

### A SITE FOR GLOBALLY INTEGRATED RESEARCH

Our location in Europe makes the centre an ideal place for international research meetings and conferences – we host an average of 35 each year – deepening connections and expanding our network of research collaborations.

We also pursue a number of location-specific research themes including migration, social inclusion and global movement studies. The centre is also home to the Prato Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

## INTERNSHIP AND INDUSTRY-BASED LEARNING EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR TODAY'S WORLD

Through international placements and internships, our students develop a range of skills in inter-cultural communication and adaptability which prepare them for their future global careers.

## SCHOOL STUDY TOURS AN IDEAL BASE TO EXPLORE EUROPE

We provide Australian high school students with an exciting opportunity to study and live in Italy and to have a taste of going to university. We can custom-design short programs in Italian language and culture, music, fine arts, history and art history, to suit tour itineraries.

## ALUMNI NETWORK ENRICHED BY PRATO

Thousands of students have benefited from the transformational experience of studying in Prato. They are now pursuing careers in a wide range of sectors in Australia and overseas. Our alumni form a global community, building on networks and friendships made while in Prato.

## EXECUTIVE SHORT COURSES EFFECTIVE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The centre is not just for Monash students. We offer courses for practitioners and leaders from all sectors who want to further their career development. We draw on Monash experts and industry partners around the globe to deliver our executive short courses.

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“For me, the centre is about collaborative research endeavours. It allows you to meet with European colleagues in a central location, whether you are working on an inter-disciplinary research project or preparing a grant submission together. Meeting in Prato is intensely productive – you take away concrete outcomes that have a real impact on your research activity.”

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SARAH MCDONALD**

ASSOCIATE DEAN, EDUCATION  
DIRECTOR, BACHELOR OF GLOBAL STUDIES  
FACULTY OF ARTS, MONASH UNIVERSITY



## BILL KENT FOUNDATION

### HONOURING THE LIFE AND WORK OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR BILL KENT

The late Emeritus Professor Bill Kent was a distinguished scholar of Renaissance Italy, and our centre's founding director. Established in his memory, the Bill Kent Foundation Fund seeks to continue his passion for bridging the boundaries between past and present and entwining the Australian and Italian communities in friendship and learning. The foundation fund supports the centre by raising money for conferences, scholarships and fellowships.

The foundation fund also helps to develop and maintain the Bill Kent Library – a library that comprises over 2000 titles dedicated to the fine arts, Medieval and Renaissance political and cultural history, and its classical antecedents.

## VISUAL RESIDENCY

### BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL PROFILE IN CREATIVE PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Italy is renowned for the richness of its art, design and architecture. Our visual residency program gives emerging creative practitioners the chance to engage with this culture. This collaborative initiative between the Monash Prato Centre and the faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, allows creative practitioners to incubate new ideas, undertake research, and engage with local institutions and industry in this inspiring location.

## LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

### BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL AND MONASH STUDENTS, LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS

We engage with local people, institutions and industry in many different ways. Popular initiatives with locals and students alike include conversation exchange, family meals, a homestay program, and volunteering in local schools.

## DISTINGUISHED PATRONS

### THE HONOURABLE SIR JAMES GOBBO AC CVO AND CARLA ZAMPATTI AC

Our patrons advocate for the education and research activities of our centre in the Australian community and they contribute to expanding our European networks.

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“What an excellent alternative to exchange. My education has been unbelievably enriched by this program.”

**NADALI DAYANANDA**  
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS



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“Employers seek well-rounded and grounded individuals; the experience of coming to Prato definitely contributes to that and has helped me develop as an individual. It has opened my eyes to more of the world. It teaches acceptance and tolerance, and even Italian, if you stick with it!”

**GIUSEPPE SPANTI**  
BACHELOR OF LAW AND  
BACHELOR OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

## WHY PRATO?

### CLOSE TO THE CULTURAL, INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL WEALTH OF EUROPE

Here students find an unparalleled study experience, including visiting European sites, being exposed to global expertise, and interacting with international peer groups. The centre also acts as a research incubator for experts and specialists, bringing them together to discuss issues of international relevance and complexity in a strategic location. We engage with local institutions and industry to bring both depth and relevance to our programs, ensuring they 'make sense in place', while actively contributing to the contemporary challenges of the city and region.

## FACILITIES AT A GLANCE

- main conference room that seats up to 130 people (250 using video link)
- range of room sizes (up to six parallel sessions)
- fully air-conditioned
- flexible room set-up
- video recording and conferencing
- lecterns with touch screen controller
- wireless Internet access
- qualified on-site technical support
- office space
- reading room and student lounge
- Palazzo Vai garden
- large outdoor terrace
- reception rooms and buffet areas
- accommodation assistance
- multilingual staff
- Bill Kent library
- *Sguardi Australiani* film archive

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRATO CENTRE

OFFICIALLY OPENED 17 SEPTEMBER 2001  
IN PALAZZO VAI

Monash University secured the heritage-listed location with support from the Region of Tuscany and the Municipality of Prato, and with the generous assistance of Rino and Diana Grollo. The late Emeritus Professor Bill Kent, a world authority on the Italian Renaissance, was the centre's founding director. The centre's continued presence in Europe today is testimony to his vision.





## MONASH UNIVERSITY

IN THE TOP 100 OF THE TIMES HIGHER  
EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Monash is the largest university in Australia and a member of the Group of 8. It has campuses and centres in Australia, China, India, Italy, Malaysia and South Africa, and an alliance with the University of Warwick in the UK.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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