



September 28, 2017

W. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
Office of Academic Affairs  
Campus

Dear Randy,

I endorse the new proposed major in Italian studies with the option to explore Italian literature, history and culture in English. Structured as an interdisciplinary major, the Italian studies major will include courses addressing Italian themes in History, History of Art, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Music, Architecture, and Classics.

The clear benefit of the proposed Italian studies major is to allow students with less interest in developing advanced proficiency in Italian language to explore Italian literature, history, and culture through courses taught in English. Additionally, the Italian studies major will be an attractive second major, especially for majors in History of Art, Comparative Studies, History, and Classics. Finally, the Italian studies major will prepare students for various national and international graduate programs in Italian Studies, such as our own Italian Studies PhD, which also offers courses taught in Italian and English.

By drawing on the strengths of our world-class interdisciplinary curriculum in the Arts and Humanities, in particular, I am confident that the Italian Studies major will provide students with an attractive option in global education in the liberal arts.

Highly interdisciplinary, forward-thinking, and anchored in our long history as a major research university with extraordinary resources in global education, the Italian studies major will attract and engage the brightest students to Ohio State. I hope that the University will look favorably on this proposal and support its realization.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Hahn  
Professor and Divisional Dean

cc: Associate Professor Dana Renga, Chair, Department of French and Italian  
Professor Janice Aski, Department of French and Italian