# Bergamo's 66th year of advanced Montessori courses and research

## *A full-time course for one academic year*

Founded by Mario M. Montessori in 1961, the 'Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani' of Bergamo was the first A.M.I. (Association Montessori Internationale) centre specially set up to prepare Montessori teachers for elementary school and is therefore the A.M.I. centre with the longest tradition of holding advanced Montessori courses. During the early years, Mario Montessori lectured extensively for the Bergamo Course and the knowledge and experience developed over the years constituted a basis for all 6-12 training courses.

The C.I.S.M. Foundation is a centre of studies because it has undertaken research on Maria and Mario Montessori's unpublished contributions to Montessori methodology.

The C.I.S.M. Foundation is an international centre because it draws students from all continents and countries. Thus, for the courses that have already been held, students have come from 51 different countries: 24 European and 27 belonging to other continents.

During the academic year 2026-2027, the Bergamo Centre will be holding its 66th full-time annual course: years that represent a constant and profound commitment to the work carried on in the name of both Maria and Mario Montessori.

September 1st 2026 to June 30th 2027
Baiba Krumins Grazzini - *Course Director*

**Association Montessori Internationale**

161, Koninginneweg
1075 CN Amsterdam – Netherlands
www.montessori-ami.org

## ÉDUCATEURS SANS FRONTIÈRES

Montessori pedagogical principles are rooted in a social movement intended to champion the cause of all children, in all strata of society, of all races and ethnic backgrounds, within and beyond the context of educational institutions. AMI periodically holds orientation sessions for those who wish to work in different fields as "educators without borders". (See AMI website)

**Fondazione Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani**

A non-profit educational institution (D.P.R. 27-9-1980, n. 931)
Via Clara Maffei, 16 – 24121 Bergamo – Italy
Phone +39 035 234894
montessoribergamo@gmail.com
www.montessoribergamo.it
www.mariomontessori.org

## THE COURSE PROGRAMME

Montessori: Child Psychology – Educational Psychology (psychology of learning and teaching) – Methodology – Moral Formation – Social and Practical Life Activities – Music – Art – Geology – Chemistry – Physics – Geography – Biology – History: all developed in relation to one another and within the context of a cosmic vision. Development of Language – Development of the "Mathematical Mind": Arithmetic – Geometry – Algebra.
The Course Director reserves the right to modify the schedule, syllabus, and facilities according to the circumstances or the needs of the course.
**Language:** English.
**Schedule:** The schedule for the whole academic year is handed out at the beginning of the course.

## STUDYING IN BERGAMO

Ten months in Italy offers students an experience of historic, artistic and educational interest, as well as experience in the human dimension of Italian culture. Likewise, students of different nationalities have the opportunity of cultural and professional exchange which can provide a valuable stimulus for their work. This kind of exposure to other cultures fits perfectly with the Montessori principle of creating "citizens of the world", a concept as valid for elementary teachers as for elementary children.
In 1965, in his foreword to "The Advanced Montessori Method" (Kalakshetra edition), Mario M. Montessori wrote that the methodology to be found in this book is only "the corner stone of a majestic building", and that, whilst little has been published to illustrate this evolution, it is "being spread in the yearly courses given by the International Centre of Montessori Studies in Bergamo (...)".
The International Centre for Montessori Studies Foundation has had the experience of presenting sixty-five international courses dealing with the Montessori approach to education for the elementary child. The long experience of the Centre is of indispensable value in providing students with an in-depth preparation that is as broad and complete as possible.From the beginning, the then Directors of the International Centre for Montessori Studies Foundation, Camillo Grazzini and Eleonora Honegger, worked extensively under the inspiring guidance of the late Dr. Mario M. Montessori who was President of the International Pedagogical Committee of A.M.I. and Director of Studies of the Centre.
Following the plan for cosmic education as laid down by Maria Montessori, new research and materials were developed. The research, study and experience are offered directly to the students of this course. The Bergamo Course provides the students with an excellent and intensive preparation for undertaking a "new education" for children aged six to twelve, with emphasis on the understanding of the entire cycle of the elementary school.

## BERGAMO AND THE CENTRE

Bergamo is located at the foot of the Alps in Northern Italy, and has a population of about 120,000. It is situated in a picturesque setting, partly on a plain (lower town) and partly in the hills (upper town). The city dates back to the ancient Roman period of history. In the 6th century the Lombards ruled the town; in the 14th century it fell under the rule of the Duchy of Milan. The city flourished in the late 15th century under Venetian government. The old quarter is perfectly preserved from medieval times.
In 2018, the Centre moved from its previous location on via Pignolo to its current location on via Clara Maffei. It is now just a few minutes' walk from the centre of the lower town and from the Bergamo railway station.

## LIVING FACILITIES

The Centre has neither dormitory nor restaurant facilities to offer students.
The following prices are approximations to help students in making their budget:
**a)** Religious institutions: monthly 350 EURO
**b)** Single furnished rooms in family homes: monthly about 500 EURO
**c)** Furnished apartments: monthly about 450 – 1,100 EURO
Furnished apartments can be shared. The heating may or may not be included in the monthly rent.

**The Centre does not accept any responsibility for student accommodation.**

• There are licensed rental agents in Bergamo, who work quite independently of the Centre and who can be contacted for accommodation. Relevant information will be sent to the student together with the letter of acceptance.
• All students should arrive a few days before the beginning of the course in order to be sure of suitable accommodation and to begin the process of obtaining the student sojourn permit.

**Note**:

• In order to protect individual privacy, the Centre does not furnish names and addresses of either present or past students.
• In choosing appropriate clothing, it will help prospective students to know that the winter climate of Northern Italy is cold, rainy and foggy, and that the standard of European heating may vary greatly. Furthermore, there are occasions for which formal dress is required.
• Please ensure that all personal electrical appliances are compatible with Italian voltage (220 volts).
• Students should note that the course involves expenses connected with transport for observations and with school supplies.
• In order to obtain the required sojourn permit, each non-EU student must provide 4 passport-size photographs and documentation to show adequate financial means of support.
• All students should come to the Centre as soon as they arrive in Bergamo.

## MEDICAL INSURANCE

• Each student (and also each relative wishing to live in Bergamo) must have medical insurance (including hospitalization) which is valid for Italy and which is valid for the entire period of the student's stay in Italy.
Only a student may take out medical insurance in Bergamo, with:
**1)** WELCOME ASSOCIATION ITALY: www.waitaly.net/en/
Following instructions one can find the "Non-European Union citizen requesting residence permit over 90 days" page. Student insurance for one year: 130 EURO (online procedure only).
**2)** SERVIZIO SANITARIO NAZIONALE (S.S.N.). This is the same medical insurance as that of an Italian citizen. This possibility is offered to students (at discounted cost) once they are in possession of a sojourn permit and the student then has insurance coverage for the duration of the sojourn permit/course. Payment has to be made in two instalments since there are two calendar years involved in the academic year of the course. All payments should be made to Regione Lombardia, and the insurance cards are issued by the Azienda Sanitaria Locale (A.S.L.) office in Bergamo.
Students from EU countries should come with their European Health Insurance card. For further information, students should contact the Italian Consulate for their area.

**ENROLMENT**

By enrolling on an A.M.I. course, the students acknowledge and accept that:

• Admission to the course does not guarantee certification.

• The course leads to a diploma which entitles the holder to teach children of the ages specified on the diploma. The diploma does not entitle the holder to prepare teachers. Individuals interested in teacher training should apply to A.M.I. Head Office for the Training of Trainers Programme.

• The albums which the students prepare on the basis of the lectures are meant for their own classroom use and are not to be printed, published or reproduced in any form for any other use.

• The material purchased from F.CISM must not be reproduced or sold, either in Bergamo or elsewhere, since it is the property of the International Centre for Montessori Studies Foundation and of the Association Montessori Internationale. Both these organizations reserve the right to prosecute any abuse.

**APPLICATION**

• Application form and documents/records must be sent by mail.

• Students must inform the Centre of their full postal address (not just their e-mail address) so that the Centre can send the relevant papers by mail.

• All application documents should be submitted together, **in a single packet.**

• The application form must be completed by the prospective student personally and must state clearly:

**1)** The academic year for which the student is applying.

If the academic year is not indicated in the application form, the Centre will assume it is the soonest one possible.

**2)** The status chosen for the course, either "Candidate for Diploma" or "Auditor".

• The application form and all correspondence must bear the personal signature or name of the prospective student.

• There is no deadline as such for application, but there is a limit to the number of student places. Furthermore, all non-EU students need student visas and have to allow plenty of time for dealing with this process.

**COURSE FEES**

**a) Application fee (to be paid on applying):** 400 EURO

(late application or late payment of the application fee, that is, dated from May 1st on, will require an additional 50 EURO fee).

This fee (minus the bank charges) is **refundable** if the student is not accepted for the course; it is **not refundable** if the student is accepted.

**b) Tuition fee (to be paid by Sept. 1st 2026)**: 10,000 EURO

(if the student applies by March 31st, the application fee will be deducted from the tuition fee)

• It is understood that enrolment is for the full academic year, without any reduction or reimbursement for students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the course.

**c) Exam fee (to be paid by Sept. 1st 2026)**: 400 EURO

**d) A.M.I. Membership fee (to be paid by Sept. 30th 2026)**: 30 EURO

• The students will pay collective membership fees all together, directly to A.M.I. Head Office, during the first month of the course. This fee is **not to be included** in the payments made to the Centre.

**PAYMENT**

Payments must be made in EURO only and in the form of bank transfers. Payment for the fees must be made out only to the: Fondazione Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani – Via Clara Maffei,16 – 24121 Bergamo, Italy.

**Transaction costs involved in transfers must be reimbursed by the students once they are in Bergamo.**

THIS APPLIES FOR THE 2026/2027 COURSE AND IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF REGISTRATION.

This issue (January 2026) renders all previous issues null and void. © Copyright 2026 by F.C.I.S.M. - Via Clara Maffei, 16 - 24121 Bergamo, Italy. All rights reserved. No part of this brochure may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Centre.