



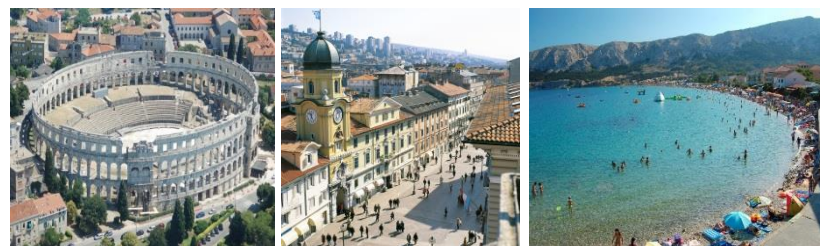
WELCOME TO THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN TCD



The melodic Croatian language – totally different from English – might be a pleasant challenge! Croatian is one of the South-Slavic languages, as well as Slovenian, Bosnian, Montenegrin, Serbian, Macedonian and Bulgarian.

Croats came to their land in the 6/7th century. During the centuries, they have had three scripts: *angular Glagolitic* (from the 9th century; in use until the end of the 19th century), *Cyrillic* (from the 11/12th century; in use until the mid-19th century) and *Latin* (prevailed from the 14th century). Croatian language has three dialects named after the interrogative and relative pronoun *what* (ča/kaj/što) as chakavian, kajkavian, and štokavian. Croatian standard language is based on the štokavian dialect since it covers the most of Croatian territory and it is the language of Croatian literary heritage in Dalmatia, Dubrovnik, and Slavonia. However, the elements of other two dialect are included too.

The aim of the courses is to provide you with a knowledge of Croatian language on elementary, lower intermediate, upper intermediate and advanced level through the activities of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The learning will provide diverse materials about Croatian culture: geography, history, arts and people in the situations of everyday life.



For more information please see the website of the Department of Russian and Slavonic Languages in TCD: <http://www.tcd.ie/Russian/courses/>.

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THE REASONS OF LEARNING CROATIAN

- study, business or diplomatic function in Croatia
- professional interest in Croatian culture
- understanding of Croatian music
- introduction to Croatian literature and film
- be able to recognize Croatian monuments and famous places as a visitor
- talking with Croats – they will be delighted

- The Croatian poet Vladimir Nazor wrote a poem dedicated to Croatian language. He spoke Italian in his family, so he had to learn Croatian in school. Firstly he was not good, but became one of the Croatian writers with the richest vocabulary. Please see the English translation of his poem on the other page.

Vladimir Nazor

Hrvatski jezik

U tebi sam vijek svoj proživio,
Drevni i lijepi jeziče Hrvata;
Rođen na morskome pragu tvojih vrata,
Polako sam te, uz trud, osvojio.

Povede ti me i gdje nisam bio.
Na vrhu gore i na kraju gata,
U kolibici, u kući od zlata
Svuda je meni glas tvoj žuborio.

Htio sam biti glazbalo na kome
Zvuče ko žice, mirišu ko cvijeće
Rojevi riječi u govoru tvome.

Pa, uzdignut nad zipkom i nad grobom,
Da u tebi dišem i da živim s tobom,
I onda, kad me više biti neće.

Croatian language

All my life I have been living in you,
The ancient and beautiful language of Croats;
Born on the sea threshold of your gates
Slowly, with effort, I won you.

You led me even where I have never been.
On the top of the mountain and at the end of the mole,
In a small hut, in a golden house
Your voice was burbling everywhere to me.

I wanted to be an instrument on which
Sound like wires, smell like flowers
Swarms of words in your speech.

So, elevated above the cradle and the grave,
To breath in you and live with you,
Even when I will no longer be.

