

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS TO BACHELOR'S AND SINGLE-CYCLE MASTER'S DEGREE COURSES FOR STUDENTS WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

Access to higher education courses in Italy is governed by current MUR regulations on the validity of academic qualifications:

<https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/>

Foreign qualifications that allow access to the Italian university system must necessarily have all the following characteristics:

- They are obtained after a total period of at least **12 years of schooling**;
- They meet all the requirements for entry to a **course similar** to the chosen Italian one at universities in the country of the education system they relate to;
- They are obtained after attending **at least the final two years** in a non-Italian education system. FINAL QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED AT THE END OF A SINGLE YEAR OF STUDY IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY ARE THEREFORE NOT VALID (e.g. participation of Italian students in mobility programmes during their fourth year of high school);
- They are issued by **official schools recognised** in the country of the foreign education system;
- **Any examinations or final tests** have been taken and passed when required (e.g. Selectividad [PAU] in Spain, YKS in Turkey...).

In some cases there are specific requirements in addition to those listed above:

US HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The *US High School Diploma* is only valid if it is supplemented through one of these methods:

- Successful completion of at least **three APs** (US Advanced Placements) with a score from 3 to 5 certified by the **College Board** in three different subjects relevant to the required university degree course.
The AP courses taken during the last and/or penultimate year of high school as recorded in the transcript of records are not, in themselves, sufficient.
An AP in Italian language does not count in the case of students who have Italian citizenship or are enrolling in courses entirely taught in English.

OR

- Attendance and successful completion of **one full year of college**.
In this case the credits obtained cannot be considered for credit transfer and recognition of prior learning.

N.B. Italian students who have attended the first three years of high school in Italy and only the fourth year in a US school must complete the fifth year of high school and obtain the Italian diploma "Maturità" or attend and pass at least one full year of college.

UNITED KINGDOM QUALIFICATIONS (GCE / IGCE)

The final *General Certificate of Education (GCE)* and *International General Certificate of Education (IGCE)* qualifications are considered valid if they certify:

- Successful completion of at least **three A-Levels** (Advanced Level) in three different subjects relevant to the requested university degree course with at least a passing grade.
- Successful completion of a combination of **three different A-Level and Cambridge Pre-U** (Principal Subject) **subjects**.

An A-Level or Pre-U in Italian language does not count in the case of students who have Italian citizenship or are enrolling in courses entirely taught in English.

The *Cambridge Pre-U Diploma*, consisting of 3 Principal Subjects + Global Perspective and Research, can be considered in place of the 3 A-Levels.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB DIPLOMA)

The *International Baccalaureate* diploma is only valid if it is an official final qualification awarded by schools accredited by the [**International Baccalaureate Organization \(IBO\)**](#).

Neither the IB courses listed in the transcript of records nor the “IB Diploma Programme Course results” certification are, in themselves, sufficient.

COUNTRIES WHOSE EDUCATION SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR A SCHOOL PERIOD OF LESS THAN 12 YEARS

In case of final qualifications obtained after less than 12 years of schooling the missing period of schooling can be alternatively compensated for by:

- Attendance and successful completion of **one** (in the case of 11-year schooling) or **two** (in the case of 10-year schooling) **full academic years of university**.
- Successful completion of preparatory courses (**Foundation Course or Foundation Year**).
- Achievement of an **official post-secondary qualification** from a non-university higher education institution in subjects related to the chosen Italian course.

N.B. The aforementioned certifications submitted to compensate for missing years of schooling only allow matriculation to the first year and CANNOT, under any circumstances, be considered for assessment of educational background for enrolment in years subsequent to the first one.

The Foundation Course or Foundation Year cannot make up for the lack of specific requirements such as A-Levels / APs or any required final examinations or tests.

PRIOR CHECK OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

When registering for the admission test, candidates who will obtain or have already obtained a foreign qualification will be asked to enter information and attach documents in their possession related to their educational background so that a prior check can be carried out.

Since the preliminary check often precedes the award of the final qualification and successful completion of possible additional examinations or tests and is carried out on the basis of provisional documents, it **does not guarantee eligibility for admission** to the chosen course, which remains conditional on obtaining a qualification from the previous cycle.

2. REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

FOREWORD: every university is entitled to request, with full autonomy, any documentation deemed useful for assessing the suitability of a foreign qualification for access to the chosen course.

The documentation produced by Italian Diplomatic Authorities only plays an informative role in supporting the assessment, which remains the exclusive responsibility of the individual University, and therefore does not guarantee that the qualification is valid for admission to a university course in Italy.

The original final qualification (or certified copy) must necessarily be accompanied by:

1. **Legal translation** into Italian
2. **Legalization or Apostille**
3. **Declaration of Value or Statement of Comparability or Diploma Supplement**

1. For information on **legal translations**, it is possible to contact the Italian Diplomatic Authorities abroad or a sworn translator directly.
Translation is not required for: IB Diploma, French Baccalauréat and university Bachelor's Degree accompanied by Diploma Supplement in Italian or English.

2. **Legalization** certifies a document's authenticity.

In order to have a qualification legalized, it is necessary to contact the Italian Diplomatic Representatives in the foreign country of reference.

The "**Apostille**" replaces **legalization** in countries that are contracting parties to the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961. The full list of countries and the issuing authority for each is available at the following link:

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41>

N.B. The qualification must be legalized or Apostilled in the country of the educational system to which it refers (e.g. an IB Diploma obtained in Great Britain must be apostilled in Switzerland).

Neither legalization nor the Apostille are required if the certificate is issued by one of the following countries that are contracting parties to a bilateral or plurilateral international agreement: **Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy and Germany.**

In short:

Countries that are parties to the Hague Convention	Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy and Germany	Other countries
✗ NO legalization ✓ YES Apostille	✗ NO legalization ✗ NO Apostille	✓ YES legalization ✗ NO Apostille

3. Once the qualification has been Apostilled or legalized, it is possible to apply for the '**Declaration of Value**' (*Dichiarazione di Valore*).

The Declaration of Value is an informative document issued by the Italian Diplomatic Authorities abroad (Embassies/Consulates/Cultural Centres), which provides a description of a qualification obtained in an educational system other than the Italian one and certifies its value in the issuing country.

The Declaration of Value can be replaced by

- a) **Statement of Comparability**
(with a high school diploma)
- b) **Diploma Supplement**
(with a degree qualification)

a) The **Statement of Comparability** is a document issued by CIMEA-NARIC Italia (<http://www.cimea.it/it/index.aspx>) which may replace the Declaration of Value since it serves the same purpose.

It is advisable to opt for the Statement of Comparability especially in those cases where there are delays in issuing the Declaration of Value or it is complicated to travel to the foreign country to submit the request to the relevant Authorities.

b) The **Diploma Supplement** is a certificate that supplements the official qualification obtained at the end of a course of study at a university or higher education institution, issued by these institutions in the countries participating in the "Bologna Process". (http://ehea.info/page-full_members).

It provides a standardized description of the level, content and status of the completed studies and therefore replaces the Declaration of Value.

The Declaration of Value or the Statement of Comparability are NOT required if the qualification obtained is an IB Diploma. The IB Diploma must be Apostilled in all cases.

Students will be asked to provide a digital copy of the documentation at the time of enrolment; while the original documents will have to be handed in afterwards to the Registrar's Office for inspection.

3. ADMISSION, ENTRY AND RESIDENCY FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR STUDY VISAS

Students applying for a study visa must follow the steps below in order to access the chosen course:



Admission to degree courses with a limited number of places available is determined by an entrance test. For courses with a quota reserved to EU citizens or Non-EU citizens with EU equal status and another quota reserved to Non-EU citizens, there are two admission tests for one or the other category respectively.

Taking the test not intended for your category, automatically disqualifies you from the competition.

Candidates with dual citizenship, one of which is Italian or of another EU country, must sit the test for EU citizens, as EU citizenship always takes precedence.

For courses taught in English, a language certificate issued by one of the certifying bodies recognised by MIUR must be submitted at the time of enrolment (<https://www.miur.gov.it/enti-certificatori-lingue-straniere>).

The required level is specified in the relevant Calls for applications.

The certificate is not necessary if the candidate has completed at least the last two consecutive years of school or university entirely in English.

Candidates residing in countries outside the European Union who are admitted and intend to enrol into a course in Italy must follow the procedures to apply for an **entry visa for study purposes**.

The applicant must first complete the **university pre-enrolment application** on the **UNIVERSITALY** portal. At this stage, the applicant will be asked to create a profile, select the chosen University and the Degree Course and upload certain documents such as passport, academic documentation and language certificate when required.

The University will then check the submitted information and attachments and validate the complete application, which will be received by the Italian Diplomatic/Consular Representatives of the candidate's country of residence.

IMPORTANT:

- The applicant may only select **one university and one degree course**.
- **Applications without school documents will not be validated.**
- The **letter of admission** is attached by the University at the time of validation.
- Italian universities do not deal with the visa procedure, which is the exclusive responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- Acceptance of a student by a higher education institution does not automatically guarantee that a visa will be issued.**

Once confirmation of validation has been received, the candidate has to contact the Italian Consulate/Embassy of reference to **apply for the issue of the study visa** and has to complete the **enrolment procedure** at the University at the same time.

It should be noted that pre-enrolment on the UNIVERSITALY portal and matriculation to the course for which one has been admitted are two separate procedures with different purposes.

Candidates who have only submitted a pre-enrolment application through UNIVERSITALY are NOT automatically enrolled and are NOT exempt from sending the required academic documents to the Registrar's Office, even if they have already been uploaded on the aforementioned portal.

Failure to obtain the student visa from the relevant Authority will automatically result in forfeiture of matriculation.

Once the study visa has been obtained and the enrolment process has been completed, the student can enter Italy.

From the date of his/her arrival in Italy, the student will have eight days to go to the post office and submit the application to obtain a **residence permit for study purposes** to the competent police headquarters in the city where s/he intends to reside.

Please note that the procedures for issuing and renewing residence permits are the exclusive responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior.

The student must also apply for the Italian **tax code** issued by the Italian Revenue Agency (*Agenzia delle Entrate*).

Detailed information on visa, residence permit and tax code application procedures can be found on our website at the following link: <https://www.unisr.it/en/servizi/international-students/immigration>