



Embassy of Italy
Seoul

A Practical Guide for Korean Students

STUDY IN ITALY

Admission

Visas

Student Life



Study in Italy

A Practical Guide for Korean Students

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Important: Rules, dates and fees change every year. Before you take any step, check the latest information on [University](#), on the [MUR](#) website and on the official website of the university or institution you have chosen.

Your Journey at a Glance

Not sure where to begin? Here is the whole path in seven steps. Italian terms are explained in the Glossary at the end. Part A covers steps 1 to 6; Part B covers step 7 and your life after graduation.

Step	What you do	Where to read
1	Explore. Learn how the Italian system works and look for programmes that match your interests.	Sections 2-3
2	Check the requirements. Find out what each programme asks for: diploma, language, entrance test.	Sections 4-6
3	Decide. Check that studying in Italy fits your plans.	Section 1
4	Prepare your documents. Collect your Korean documents and find out how they will be evaluated.	Section 7
5	Look for funding. Compare fees and scholarships, and note their deadlines.	Section 8
6	Apply and get your visa. Apply, complete pre-enrolment on Universitaly, then apply for the visa.	Section 9
7	Arrive and settle in. Enrol, find a place to live and get to know student life.	Sections 10-12

Part A - Deciding and applying

Part A helps you decide whether to study in Italy and guides you through the application: how the system works, how to choose a programme, how to prepare your documents, how to find funding and how to obtain your visa (Sections 1 to 9).

1. Why study in Italy?

Choosing where to study is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your future. Choosing Italy means far more than earning a degree: it is an enriching experience that stays with you for a lifetime. Home to the University of Bologna, founded in 1088 and recognized as the oldest university in continuous operation in the Western world, Italy has kept its academic tradition alive for nearly a thousand years. Today, you can live in cities where history is seamlessly integrated into daily life while studying in some of Europe's most respected institutions.

While many students in Korea naturally associate Italian education with art, music, and design (where Italian academies and conservatories lead the world) Italy's academic strengths extend far beyond the arts. Italian universities are internationally recognized for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with particular strength in fields such as aerospace engineering and biotechnology. This excellence is clearly reflected in global rankings. For instance, the Politecnico di Milano ranks 14th worldwide for Mechanical, Aeronautical, and Manufacturing Engineering, 20th for Engineering and Technology, and rose 11 places to 87th overall in the QS World University Rankings 2027. Overall, 26 out of 47 Italian universities improved their positions in the latest QS rankings, demonstrating how excellence in science and the humanities go hand in hand.

For Korean students, this academic landscape is more promising than ever. In 2026, Italy and Korea elevated their relationship to a Special Strategic Partnership. Through a bilateral agreement between the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT and the Italian Ministry of University and Research, both governments are supporting joint research projects from 2026 to 2028 in high-tech fields like advanced biotechnology, space, aviation, and artificial intelligence. This partnership creates an ideal environment for scientific exchange between the two countries to thrive.

In addition to strong bilateral ties, an Italian degree serves as a gateway to broader opportunities across Europe. As part of the European Higher Education Area, Italian qualifications are easily comparable and widely understood throughout the continent. Furthermore, holding a valid residence permit allows you to travel across other Schengen countries for short stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

Starting your academic journey in Italy is both accessible and manageable. Numerous degree programmes are taught entirely in English, so you do not need to speak fluent Italian on day

one. Although learning the language is not required to begin, putting in the effort to learn Italian is well worth it, as it enriches daily life, helps you build lasting friendships, and opens career doors if you choose to work in Italy after graduation. From a financial perspective, studying in Italy is often much easier on your budget than in other major destinations. Public university tuition is generally lower and is frequently calculated based on your family's financial situation, with scholarships and fee reductions available if you meet the requirements. Throughout this transition, international offices at Italian universities provide comprehensive support, assisting new students with everything from orientation to practical settlement in their host city.

Beyond the classroom, studying abroad is a transformative personal journey. You will immerse yourself in an extraordinary way of life, from world-renowned food culture and historic architecture within walking distance to vibrant friendships built through student associations, Erasmus+ exchanges, and sports. While adapting to a new language, system, and routine brings its challenges, that is precisely what makes the experience so valuable. By taking on this challenge, you will develop independence, adaptability, and cross-cultural skills that set you apart in a global job market.

2. Understanding the Italian higher education system

Before you start looking at programmes, it is important to understand the difference between Universities and AFAM Institutions.

Universities (*università*) offer academic, research-based education in almost every field: sciences, engineering, medicine, law, economics, humanities and more.

AFAM institutions (*higher education institutions for artistic, musical and choreographic training*) are a separate system for the arts, music, dance, drama and design. Here the focus is training the students in becoming professionals through practice.

Both systems award higher education qualifications and follow a similar structure. However, they have different institutions, different rules and different admission procedures.

2.1 Universities

Italian universities follow the three-cycle structure of the Bologna Process: bachelor's, master's and PhD. They use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), which is called CFU (*Crediti Formativi Universitari*) in Italy. Here is a quick overview:

Degree	Italian name	Duration	ECTS/CFU	Entry requirements
Bachelor's Degree	<i>Laurea</i>	3 years	180	Upper secondary school diploma or equivalent
Master's Degree	<i>Laurea Magistrale</i>	2 years	120	Bachelor's Degree (specific requirements vary by programme)
Single-Cycle Master's Degree	<i>Laurea Magistrale a Ciclo Unico</i>	5-6 years	300-360	Upper secondary school diploma or equivalent
PhD	<i>Dottorato di Ricerca</i>	~ 3 years	-	Master's Degree or equivalent qualification
First-level Master Universitario	<i>Master Universitario di I livello</i>	~ 1 year	60	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
Second-level Master Universitario	<i>Master Universitario di II livello</i>	~ 1 year	60	Master's Degree, Single-Cycle Master's Degree or equivalent

Bachelor's Degree (*Laurea*): the *Laurea* is the first level of university education. It normally takes three years of full-time study and gives you a solid foundation in your field. It is usually the starting point for a *Laurea Magistrale*, although some master's programmes set their own admission requirements.

Master's Degree (*Laurea Magistrale*): the *Laurea Magistrale* is the second cycle. It lets you go deeper and build more specialised knowledge in your field. Admission depends on your previous studies and on the academic requirements set by each university.

Single-Cycle Master's Degree (*Laurea Magistrale a Ciclo Unico*): some professions need a longer, continuous programme that joins the first and second cycles into one degree. Single-cycle programmes include:

- Medicine and Surgery (6 years)
- Dentistry (6 years)
- Law (5 years)
- Pharmacy (5 years)
- Veterinary Medicine (5 years)
- Architecture (5 years)

PhD (*Dottorato di Ricerca*): the *Dottorato di Ricerca* is the highest level of education in Italy. It focuses on original research and advanced research skills, and combines research work with academic training. You normally need a master's degree or an equivalent qualification to apply.

Master's Programme (*Master Universitario*): this is where many people get confused: in Italy, the word "Master" can mean two different things. A *Master Universitario* is a postgraduate programme offered by a university, but it is not the same as a *Laurea Magistrale*. It offers specialised, professionally oriented training after a university degree, and it sits outside the three-cycle system. Admission requirements, duration and curriculum depend on each programme, so check the details before you apply.

2.2 AFAM: Higher education in art, music and dance

The AFAM system (*higher education institutions for artistic, musical and choreographic training*) is the higher education system for the **arts, music, dance** and **design**. AFAM institutions' qualifications are recognised in Italy and have a structure similar to the first and second cycles of university education. AFAM institutions include:

- **Accademie di Belle Arti (Academies of Fine Arts):** higher education in painting, sculpture, graphic arts, design, set design, fashion, restoration, new media and related fields.
- **Conservatori di Musica (Music Conservatories):** higher education and professional training in music, including instrumental and vocal performance, composition, conducting and music technology.
- **ISIA (*Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche*, Higher Institutes for Artistic Industries):** mainly design, including industrial, product and communication design.
- **Other institutions:** the National Academy of Dramatic Art, the National Academy of Dance, and other public and legally recognised private institutions.

Degree	Duration	ECTS (CFA)
Laurea	Normally 3 years	180
Laurea magistrale	Normally 2 years	120

In AFAM institutions, credits are called CFA (*crediti formativi accademici*) and correspond to ECTS credits. Some programmes (for example, certain restoration programmes) follow a single-cycle structure instead.

Important: AFAM qualifications have legal recognition within the Italian higher education system, but admission requirements and the status of each qualification can vary. Check the details directly with the institution that offers the programme.

2.3 Private academies

Italy also has private academies and institutions, but there is an important distinction between institutions that are [legally recognised](#) by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and those that are not.

Some private schools and academies offer valuable professional or practical training in art, design and music, but the qualifications they issue should not be assumed to have the same status as recognised AFAM degrees. Even in recognised institutions, the recognition covers specific courses, not the whole institution.

Do not choose an institution only on the basis of its name or its promotional materials. Always check the official status of the institution, and the recognition of your specific programme, with the Ministry and with the institution itself.

3. Finding the right university and programme

Choosing where and what to study starts with a few official sources, and a few practical questions to ask about each programme before you apply.

3.1 University

[University](#) is the official portal of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR), and it is usually the best place to start. You can use it to explore university and AFAM programmes, check admission requirements and procedures, and find scholarships and financial support. You can filter programmes by subject area, degree level, city and language of instruction.

For non-EU students who need a study visa, University is also where the compulsory pre-enrolment procedure takes place. Pre-enrolment is a separate step from applying to the university: you usually need both, and the order and dates depend on the programme and on the yearly MUR calendar. For some regulated programmes, such as English-taught Medicine, the application itself is also made through University. Remember that you can pre-enrol in *one programme only* per academic year.

3.2 MUR (Ministry of University and Research)

As the government body in charge of Italian higher education, the Ministry of University and Research ([MUR](#)) publishes yearly guidelines for international student entry, stay, and enrolment. The criteria for admission and for the recognition of qualifications come from this regulation. Because rules and deadlines are updated every year, read the latest document together with your university's website.

3.3 Uni-Italia

[Uni-Italia](#) promotes Italian higher education abroad. It organises “*Study in Italy*” events and, through its centres abroad, offers guidance and practical support to international students, including help with the University procedure. It is a good contact if you prefer to talk to someone rather than work through official portals on your own.

3.4 Study in Italy

On the [Study in Italy](#) portal, run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), you can search and apply directly for annual Italian Government scholarships. However, the portal is not just for scholarships: it also serves as an all-in-one guide covering Italian universities, study programmes, visa procedures, and practical advice for living in Italy.

Do not mix them up. *University* is for finding programmes and for pre-enrolment. *Study in Italy* is for Italian Government scholarships.

3.5 Websites of individual universities and AFAM institutions

Official portals give you the big picture, but the details that matter for your application are on each institution's own website: course content, specific admission criteria, teaching staff, facilities and student life. Once you have a shortlist, visit the international students' page of each university or AFAM institution. It is usually the most accurate and up-to-date source, and course details are often updated there before they appear on the central portals.

4. Admission requirements and application

4.1 Admission requirements

Requirements vary by programme, but the general academic entry criteria are as follows:

- **For a bachelor's degree:** a recognised secondary school diploma awarded after at least 12 years of schooling. Korean secondary education lasts 12 years, so this requirement is fully met. **For Korean students, the high school diploma is sufficient for admission, and taking the national university entrance exam (*Suneung*) is not mandatory.** (Students from countries with a shorter school system may need an extra Foundation Year in Italy).
- **For a master's degree:** a relevant bachelor's degree in a related field of study.

Depending on your chosen degree programme, you may also need to submit a portfolio or pass an entrance exam, such as the TOLC for Engineering and Economics or the IMAT for Medicine. Additionally, you will need to demonstrate language proficiency (**either in English or Italian, depending on the language of instruction of your programme**) so be sure to check which official language certificates your target university accepts.

4.2 Application deadlines

Deadlines depend on the university, the programme and, for non-EU students who need a visa, the yearly MUR calendar for pre-enrolment and enrolment. These dates can change from one academic year to the next, so do not rely on last year's calendar.

4.3 Admission tests

In Italy, while many degree programmes offer open access, others have a limited number of places (*numero chiuso*). For these restricted-access programmes, meeting the minimum entry requirements is not enough: admission depends on your ranking in a selection process or entrance examination.

Admission tests can be set either locally by the individual university or at national level by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) for nationally regulated or high-demand fields, such as Architecture. Test formats, examination dates, and preparation guidelines vary according to the field of study and are published directly by universities or the Ministry.

It is crucial to research your programme's admission requirements well in advance. Restricted-access programmes not only affect how competitive your application will be, but also impact your overall application timeline, as many entrance exams have early registration deadlines.

4.4 Academic calendar

The Italian academic year is usually divided into two semesters: from September or October to January, and from February to June. Exact dates vary by university. Exam sessions normally follow the end of each semester, and there are often extra sessions in the summer.

5. How to study medicine in Italy

Medicine is one of the most common goals for international students. There are two ways to enrol, depending on the language of the programme: in English or in Italian.

A. English-taught programmes (IMAT)

1. Find out which universities teach the programme in English.

Only some Italian universities offer Medicine and Surgery, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine entirely in English. Some private universities run their own admission tests, with their own calendar and rules: check the website of each university on your shortlist.

2. Read the MUR admission notice.

Admission to English-taught Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine is regulated at national level. Every year, MUR publishes the official call, with the test date, the seats available at each university and the registration rules. Non-EU applicants register and complete the admission process on [Universitaly](#).

3. Take the IMAT (International Medical Admissions Test).

The IMAT is the single national entrance exam for English-taught Medicine and Surgery, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine at state universities. You take one test, not a separate one for each university, and your score is used to build a national ranking. In the 2026/27 call, Veterinary Medicine has its own ranking. The test covers reading skills and general knowledge, logical reasoning and problem solving, biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. It is normally held in September, but the exact date changes every year, so check the current call on the MUR website. There are also IMAT test centres outside Italy; the locations change from year to year, so check which cities are available.

4. Complete the [Universitaly](#) pre-enrolment and the student visa procedures.

You do this after you have been admitted.

B. Italian-taught programmes (open semester)

If your Italian is good, you can also apply to the Italian-taught programme at a state university. Lectures, exams and clinical training are all in Italian, so you need a solid command of the language, not just a certificate. Instead of a single entrance test, access works through an **open semester** (*semestre aperto*) that every applicant follows before the selection. The rules are set by a yearly MUR decree.

1. Reach level B2 in Italian.

Non-EU students who live abroad must prove B2 Italian, either with a certificate from a recognised body (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes the list of accepted certificates) or by passing the Italian language test organised by the universities. Each university sets its own deadline, and some ask for the proof before lessons start, so plan your language studies well in advance (see Section 6).

2. Apply on Universality.

You apply online for the open semester. You choose Medicine and your preferred universities and, at the same time, a related programme (*corso affine*) as a second option; the yearly MUR decree sets how many universities and related programmes you can list. Non-EU applicants who live abroad and need a visa compete for a quota of places reserved for them, and these places are few. In 2026/27, for example, one large university reserved 10 places for this group, against 425 for other applicants. The application window is short (in 2026/27, from mid-July to the first days of August), so have your documents ready. For your visa, you must also complete the pre-enrolment, which can be made for one programme only. Pre-enrolment alone is not enough: you must also register for the open semester and meet the Italian language requirement.

3. Get your visa and arrive on time.

Once your pre-enrolment is accepted, you apply for the study visa (see Section 9). Lessons start early in the academic year (in 2026/27, on 1 September), so do not leave the visa for the last minute.

4. Follow the open semester.

For about three months you attend three courses taught in Italian: Chemistry (with an introduction to biochemistry), Physics and Biology, worth 6 credits each (18 in total). The exams are written, last 45 minutes each, and take place at the same time at all universities.

5. Wait for the ranking.

Your results are used to build a national ranking, with seats reserved for your category. If your score is high enough for a place at one of the universities you chose, you continue to the second semester and the rest of the programme. If not, you continue in your related programme, so choose it carefully: it should be something you would be happy to study.

6. How to learn Italian

If you want to study in an Italian-taught programme, or to work in Italy after your degree, you will need a good knowledge of the Italian language. This section shows you where to start, both in Korea and in Italy.

6.1 Language levels and certificates

Language levels follow the European framework, from A1 (beginner) to C2 (advanced).

Level	Description	What you can do
A1-A2	Beginner	You can introduce yourself, shop, order food and handle simple everyday situations.
B1-B2	Intermediate	You can deal with most situations, talk about your studies and follow lessons. Many Italian-taught programmes ask for B2.
C1-C2	Advanced	You can use Italian fluently for academic and professional work.

Four institutions issue the Italian **language certificates** that are recognised through the network of Italian Cultural Institutes abroad. Together they form the quality association CLIQ (*Certificazione Lingua Italiana di Qualità*):

- **CILS:** University for Foreigners of Siena;
- **CELI:** University for Foreigners of Perugia;
- **CERT.IT:** Roma Tre University;
- **PLIDA:** Società Dante Alighieri.

Each certificate has several levels, from A1 or A2 up to C2, and you do not need a previous degree to take the exam. Exams take place in Italy and, through the Italian Cultural Institutes, in many other countries. Before you register, check which certificate and which level your university or programme accepts. At level B2, the exams are CILS Due - B2, CELI 3 and PLIDA B2.

Which level do you need? For **Degree programmes taught in Italian** (*Laurea*, *Laurea Magistrale* and single-cycle): the university tests your Italian before you apply for the visa, at a level of at least **B2**. The test is usually organised online. The university uploads the result to your pre-enrolment on Universitaly, so the Embassy does not need another certificate.

6.2 Before you leave Korea

If you live in Seoul, it might be a good idea to give a glance at the [Italian Cultural Institute's](#) Italian language and cultural courses. As an office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it offers lectures with qualified native-speaker teachers, a fully equipped library, and two exam sessions a year for Italian language certificates.

6.3 Learning Italian once you are in Italy

- **University language centres** (*Centro Linguistico di Ateneo, CLA*). Many universities run Italian courses for international students. Some are free for degree students, but places are often limited, so register as soon as you arrive. Some centres also organise free conversation groups and prepare you for certificate exams.
- **Universities for Foreigners.** The universities for foreigners in Siena and Perugia specialise in Italian language and culture. They offer Italian courses and run the CILS and CELI exams.
- **Language schools.** Private schools and local committees of the Società Dante Alighieri offer intensive courses, from a few weeks to a whole semester. Prices vary.
- **Public adult education centres** (*CPIA*). These state schools offer Italian courses for foreigners, from beginner to intermediate level (up to B1), often free or for a very small fee.
- **Conversation groups and associations.** Libraries, cultural associations and student groups (such as your local ESN section) often organise language cafés and tandem exchanges, where you practise Italian and help someone else with Korean or English.

7. Documents and recognition of Korean qualifications

If you studied in Korea, you will need documents that prove your educational background when you apply to an Italian university or AFAM institution. The exact documents depend on the level of study, the institution and the programme. Check your chosen institution's admission requirements **before** you prepare or request any document.

7.1 What documents may be required?

Depending on the programme and the level of study, you may be asked for:

- your **high school diploma and academic records**, for a bachelor's degree or a first-level AFAM degree (*laurea*);
- your **bachelor's degree and transcripts**, for a master's degree or a second-level AFAM degree (*laurea magistrale*);
- your **master's degree and academic records**, for a PhD;
- a description of the subjects you studied, or course syllabi, if requested;
- proof of language proficiency, if the programme requires it;
- certified translations into Italian or another language specified by the institution;
- documents proving that your qualification is authentic and valid, where required;
- a **Declaration of Value** (*Dichiarazione di Valore*) or a **CIMEA Statement of Comparability and/or Verification**, if the institution asks for it.

Requirements differ from one institution to another, so do not request extra certification or legalisation before checking what your programme actually asks for.

Korea is a party to the Hague Apostille Convention, so Korean documents are normally legalised with an Apostille. Ask your institution whether you need one.

- For further information about Apostille, consult: [서류 및 번역 공증 - Ambasciata d'Italia Seoul](#)

7.2 How are Korean qualifications evaluated?

A Korean qualification is not automatically converted into an Italian one. Italian universities and AFAM institutions evaluate foreign qualifications themselves, within their autonomy and under the applicable rules. Each one decides whether your previous qualification is enough for the programme you want. For example:

- a Korean high school diploma may be evaluated for admission to a bachelor's degree or a first-level AFAM degree;
- a Korean bachelor's degree may be evaluated for admission to a *Laurea Magistrale* or a second-level AFAM degree;
- a Korean master's degree may be evaluated for admission to a PhD programme.

Your qualification must normally give you access to the corresponding level of study in Korea, and it must meet the academic and subject-specific requirements of the Italian programme.

7.3 Declaration of Value (*Dichiarazione di Valore*)

The Declaration of Value (*Dichiarazione di Valore*, or DoV) is an official document issued by Italian embassies or consulates. It describes a foreign qualification: who issued it, how long the programme lasted, the entry requirements, the grading scale and what the qualification is worth in its home country.

A DoV is for information only. It does not recognise or convert your degree into an Italian one. That decision always stays with the university, AFAM institution or authority that reviews your application.

You might need a DoV to:

- apply for further university studies;
- ask for formal recognition of your degree;
- pursue professional recognition, where required.

However, **not every student needs a DoV**. Some universities accept or ask for other documents, such as CIMEA statements. Before you apply for a DoV, check whether your institution requires it and which documents it wants you to submit.

- For further information about the DoV, consult the Korean-language guide published by the Embassy of Italy in Seoul: [학력가치확인서 \(Dichiarazione di Valore\) 신청 안내](#)

7.4 CIMEA Statements of Comparability and Verification

CIMEA (*Centro di Informazione sulla Mobilità e le Equivalenze Accademiche*, the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence) is the national information centre for the recognition of foreign qualifications. Its services help institutions and students understand foreign qualifications:

- **Statement of Comparability:** assesses the level of a foreign qualification in relation to the Italian and European higher education framework;
- **Statement of Verification:** confirms that a qualification and the institution that issued it are authentic.

A Statement of Comparability is **not** formal recognition of your qualification, and it does not bind the university or any other competent authority. Whether you need a CIMEA document depends on the institution, so read its admission instructions first.

8. Tuition fees and scholarships

8.1 Tuition fees

Tuition fees at Italian public universities are generally lower than in many other major study destinations. They are calculated on the basis of your household's economic situation (ISEE), so what you actually pay can be much lower than the official maximum. International students whose families live abroad prove their situation with the ISEE Parificato (see Section 8.5).

Under national guidelines, students with an ISEE below €22,000-€27,000 (depending on the university) qualify for the **No-Tax Area** and pay only fixed statutory charges (regional tax and duty stamp, usually around **€157 - €160/year**).

For example (approximate figures; thresholds and amounts change every year, and some universities apply a separate fee table to non-EU students, so check the current table for your category):

- **Università di Bologna (Unibo):**
 - *Minimum fee (No-Tax Area up to €27,000 ISEE): €157.04/year.*
 - *Maximum fee (higher income or no ISEE submitted): Approx. €2,200 - €3,000+/year* (varies by degree programme).
- **Politecnico di Milano (Polimi):**
 - *Minimum fee (No-Tax Area up to €22,000 ISEE): €157.04/year.*
 - *Maximum fee (top income tier): Approx. €3,880/year* (figure for EU and equivalent students; check the table for non-EU students).
- **Sapienza Università di Roma:**
 - *Minimum fee (No-Tax Area up to €24,000 ISEE): €156.00/year* (statutory fees only).

- *Maximum fee (top income tier):* Approx. **€2,800 - €3,000/year** (depending on the area of study).

8.2 Scholarships at a glance

Type	Who offers it?	What it may provide
MAECI scholarships	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Financial support for eligible international students
University scholarships	Individual universities	Tuition reductions, scholarships or other benefits
Regional scholarships	Regional bodies for the Right to Study	May include financial support, accommodation and/or meals
Other opportunities	Foundations, institutions and other organisations	Varies

Where to start. Begin with the MAECI scholarship and with the scholarships of the universities on your shortlist. Regional grants are usually requested once you are enrolling, so they come later in your journey.

8.3 MAECI scholarships

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) offers merit-based scholarships to foreign students wishing to study, train, or conduct research at eligible Italian institutions. The programme aims to foster international cooperation in culture, science, and technology, as well as to promote the Italian language and culture globally.

Selection is competitive and managed annually by Italian Embassies and Consulates abroad, which evaluate candidates based on their academic achievements, CV, and motivation letter.

Depending on the annual call for applications, scholarships may be available for:

- Master's Degree programmes (*Laurea Magistrale*);
- Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance (AFAM) programmes;
- PhD programmes and research projects under academic supervision;
- Italian language and culture courses.

Scholarships are generally meant for activities carried out **in Italy**, at public or legally recognised private institutions.

How to apply: apply online through the [Study in Italy](#) portal. Read the annual call carefully: it sets the eligible countries and programmes, the academic and language requirements, any age limits, the documents you need, the deadline, and the selection and interview procedure.

A MAECI scholarship does **not automatically waive your university tuition fees**. Ask your university whether scholarship holders are exempt from tuition and enrolment fees, because other fees may still apply. You must also complete the admission and enrolment procedures

of your chosen institution and, where needed, get the visa and the *Codice Fiscale* (Italian tax code). The scholarship may include health insurance for its duration, under the conditions set out in the call.

Important: MAECI scholarships follow an annual call for applications. Amounts, eligible programmes, countries, deadlines and other conditions can change every academic year.

Useful links: [2026/27 call for applications](#) and [scholarships for foreign students](#) on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

8.4 University scholarships

Many universities offer their own scholarships and fee reductions to international students. You can find a list on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: [scholarships offered by Italian universities](#). Also check the website of each university on your shortlist.

8.5 Regional study grants (*Borse di Studio Regionali*)

Regional study grants are public scholarships managed by regional bodies for the right to higher education, such as **DiSCo Lazio** (Lazio), **ADISURC** (Campania), **EDISU** (Piedmont) or **ER.GO** (Emilia-Romagna). They are open to Italian and international students enrolled at public universities in the region, and they are **based on need and merit**. If you are awarded one, you may receive:

- a **stipend**, paid in two instalments during the academic year;
- a **tuition waiver**, including the regional education tax;
- a free or discounted **bed in a university residence**;
- free or discounted **meals** at university canteens (*mense*).

Good to know: International students whose families live abroad prove their family's economic situation with a document called the *ISEE Parificato*. To get it, you collect official certificates from Korea (household composition, income and assets), have them translated and legalised, and submit them to a *CAF* (tax assistance centre) in Italy. Ask your university's international office or the regional body to guide you through the process.

Merit rules: in your first year, the grant depends mainly on financial need, but you must earn a minimum number of credits (CFU) by the deadline to keep it. In later years, you need a minimum number of CFU and meet the grade requirements. You cannot receive a grant for a degree of the same level as one you already hold: for example, a Korean bachelor's degree rules out a grant for a second bachelor's degree in Italy.

9. Student visa

Non-EU citizens planning to study in Italy for more than 90 days must obtain a national study visa (Type D) prior to departure. For short-term stays of up to 90 days (e.g., attending short courses or taking entrance exams) South Korean citizens are exempt from short-stay Schengen visas (Type C), whereas nationals of other non-EU countries may still need to apply for one.

Visa	For which courses	How long it is valid
Study: university enrolment (type D, multiple entries)	<i>Laurea, Laurea Magistrale</i> (two-year or single-cycle) and AFAM courses	365 days. If you must take an admission or language test in Italy: until 31 January of the academic year (at least 100 days)
Study: postgraduate (type D)	Specialisation and improvement courses, PhDs and first- and second-level university masters	The length of the course
Study: language, foundation and single courses (type C or D)	Academic-level Italian language courses at the Universities for Foreigners of Perugia, Siena and Reggio Calabria and at Roma Tre; foundation courses; single courses	The length of the course

9.1 When and how to apply

1. Pre-enrol on University.

Choose your programme and complete the pre-enrolment (see the section on finding the right university). You can pre-enrol in **one** programme only.

2. Wait for the university to validate it.

For degree programmes, a university can validate only as many applications as the places it reserves for students living abroad. So do not wait until the last moment. You can apply for the visa only with a pre-enrolment that has been validated without reservations, or with a reservation limited to a language or admission test that you still have to take.

3. Apply at the Embassy.

Apply at the Embassy of Italy in Seoul once your pre-enrolment has been validated on University. Many students apply between May and September before the start of the academic year, but the final deadlines are in the box below.

4. Wait for the decision.

The Embassy records the result (visa issued or refused) on University.

Deadlines. For degree programmes (*Laurea, Laurea Magistrale*, first- and second-level AFAM diplomas, including single-cycle programmes), your visa application must be submitted by **30 November 2026** for the academic year 2026/27 and by **31 October 2027** for 2027/28. For masters, PhDs, specialisation schools, Italian language courses, exchange programmes, foundation courses and ITS courses, you can apply at any time of the year, but not after the course has started. In practice, apply as early as you can: you must be in Italy in time for the start of lessons, and some courses start in September.

9.2 Documents you need

Document	What the Embassy checks
Passport	A valid passport.
Pre-enrolment	The summary of your pre-enrolment, as validated by the university.
Financial means	At least €10,179.85 for the first academic year, plus money for your return journey (a return ticket is accepted as proof). The money must come from lawful and traceable sources, and cash is not accepted.
Accommodation	A valid hotel booking for the first period, a signed rental contract, a suitable hosting declaration, or the assignment of a place in a university residence. An application or eligibility for a residence is not enough.
Health insurance	Cover for medical treatment and hospital stays, with no limits on urgent hospital care for the whole period.
Qualifications	Your diploma (and, for master's and PhD, your transcripts), with CIMEA statements or a Declaration of Value, and certified Italian translations.

Important: If you enroll in a different course from the one for which you got your visa, or you give up your studies, you must go back to Korea and apply for a new visa. You cannot use the Stay permit you obtained for the first course.

- For further information, consult the instructions from the Embassy of Italy in Seoul:
 - [유학 비자](#)
 - [대학 입학](#)

Special Note: military service for Korean male students. Korean men aged 25 or over who have not fulfilled their military service must secure an [Overseas Travel Permit](#) (국외여행허가) from the Military Manpower Administration ([MMA](#)) before leaving Korea, as well as timely extensions. Contact the MMA directly before applying to confirm your study plan.

Part B - Living in Italy

Part B is for the moment you arrive and for your life as a student: the first weeks and the paperwork (Section 10), daily life (Section 11), costs (Section 12) and your options after graduation (Section 13).

10. After arrival in Italy

In your first weeks in Italy, four tasks matter most: your stay permit, your tax code, your health care and your bank account. None of them is difficult, but they depend on each other, so the order helps.

10.1 Your first weeks: what to do and in what order

Task	When	What you need first
Stay permit	Within 8 working days of your arrival	Study visa, proof of enrolment, health insurance, proof of funds
Tax code (<i>codice fiscale</i>)	In your first days, ideally in the same week	Passport and study visa
Health registration and GP	Once you have the permit receipt, the tax code and an address	Permit receipt, tax code, proof of address, proof of payment
Bank account	As soon as you have the tax code and an address	Passport, permit receipt, tax code, proof of address, enrolment certificate

Your address matters. Banks and health offices usually ask you to prove where you live, with a registered rental contract or a hosting declaration (*dichiarazione di ospitalità*) that your host has filed with the police. Ask your landlord or host for the right document before you start.

10.2 Stay permit (*permesso di soggiorno*)

Your study visa lets you enter Italy, but the permit is what allows you to stay for the length of your studies. **You must apply within 8 working days of arriving in Italy.**

How it works

1. Collect the postal kit.

Go to a Poste Italiane post office with a *Sportello Amico* counter and ask for the permit kit. You can also ask your university's international office to help you fill it in.

2. Prepare your documents.

- Photocopies of your passport and visa
- Certificate of enrolment
- Bank statement or Certificate of Scholarship
- Hosting declaration (or other proof of accommodation)
- Health insurance policy
- Passport photo

3. Pay and send the kit.

You hand the kit in at the post office, where you also pay. Expect to pay a €16 revenue stamp (*marca da bollo*, sold at tobacconists), a €70.46 postal payment that covers the electronic permit card and the administrative contribution, and a handling fee of about €30 at the post office.

4. Keep your receipts and go to your appointment.

The post office gives you receipts and a date for the appointment at the Questura, where your fingerprints and photo are taken. Later you will be called to collect the permit card.

Keep the postal receipt safe. While you wait for your card, the receipt is your proof that you are in Italy legally. You will need it for the health office and the bank, so make copies and carry one with your passport.

Good to know: A study permit lets you work part-time, up to 20 hours a week (1,040 hours a year). To renew it, apply early, usually 60 to 90 days before it expires, and be ready to show that you are making progress in your studies.

10.3 Tax code (*codice fiscale*)

The *codice fiscale* is a 16-character personal tax code. Despite the name, you need it for much more than taxes: for university enrolment procedures, a rental contract, health registration, a bank account and even a mobile phone contract. It is issued **free of charge**.

How to get it: Check with your host university first. Many Italian universities have a dedicated international desk (or even an on-campus Agenzia delle Entrate pop-up office) that issues the Codice Fiscale directly on-site during orientation. If your university does not provide this service, you can obtain it yourself by visiting any local office of the [Agenzia delle Entrate](#) (the Italian Revenue Agency). Simply bring your passport and visa (or residence permit receipt) and fill in form AA4/8. If required, book an appointment online beforehand; the code is usually issued on the spot as an official paper certificate.

10.4 Health care and your family doctor (*medico di base*)

You needed health insurance to get your visa and your permit. Once you are in Italy, you have two options: keep a private policy, or join the public National Health Service (*Servizio Sanitario*

Nazionale, SSN) by paying a yearly contribution. Joining the SSN has a clear advantage: you get a family doctor, who you can see for free, and a health card.

For students, voluntary enrolment costs **€700 per calendar year**. This is the standard amount for students without income other than scholarships; other situations can cost more. The enrolment always runs from 1 January to 31 December, and it cannot be split or reduced. So, if you arrive in September, you still pay the full amount. Some regions allow you to pay for the current and the following year together, which covers a full academic year. *Older university pages may still show €149.77, but this was the student price until 2023.*

How to register

1. Pay the contribution.

In most regions you pay with an *F24* form, which a bank or post office can help you fill in. The exact method and payment code depend on the region, so check your health authority's website. Keep the receipt.

2. Go to your local health office.

This is the *ASL (Azienda Sanitaria Locale)* in the area where you live. Bring your passport, your permit or the postal receipt, your tax code, the payment receipt, your enrolment certificate and proof of your address.

3. Choose your GP (*medico di famiglia*).

At the counter you choose a doctor from the list of general practitioners in your area. The ASL then sends your health card (*tessera sanitaria*) by post.

How it works in practice: Your GP is the first person to see for common health problems. He or she can write prescriptions and refer you to specialists. For some specialist visits and tests you pay a small fee (*ticket*), just like Italian citizens. Bring your health card whenever you see a doctor or collect medicine from a pharmacy. In Italy, you do **not** go directly to a hospital or emergency room for minor everyday illnesses. Emergency rooms (*Pronto Soccorso*) are strictly reserved for urgent, life-threatening conditions, severe accidents, or sudden major trauma. Visiting an emergency room for mild conditions (such as a routine flu, minor cold, or non-urgent symptoms) can result in long wait times and a potential fine.

Two things to remember. First, your enrolment ends every 31 December, so renew it each year. Second, the health card you receive as a voluntary member does not work as a European Health Insurance Card (*TEAM*) in other countries, so keep your travel insurance for trips abroad.

10.5 Opening a bank account

A bank account is not compulsory, but it makes life much easier. You may need an Italian IBAN to pay rent and bills, and scholarships and grants are usually paid into an Italian account. Foreign cards work, but they often come with extra fees.

Usually, banks ask for:

- your passport;
- your Stay permit, or the postal receipt if you are still waiting for it;
- your tax code;
- proof of your address in Italy (registered address or a declaration of domicile);
- your university enrolment certificate.

Choosing an account. Fees and conditions differ a lot, so compare a few options before you decide. Online accounts and prepaid cards, from banks or from Poste Italiane, are often cheaper for students than traditional accounts, and many banks offer special conditions for young people. Ask what the monthly fee is, whether the debit card has a fee, and whether you can handle everything online or in English.

11. Practical life in Italy

This section covers the practical things that most often surprise newcomers: where to live, how to meet people, when everything is closed and which documents to carry with you.

11.1 Finding a place to live

You have three main options:

- **University or regional residences.** These are the cheapest option, but places are limited and the application deadlines are early. Ask your university's international office, or the regional body for the right to study, how to apply.
- **A room in a shared flat.** This is the most common choice for students. You have your own room (single or double) and share the kitchen and bathroom with other students.
- **A studio or one-bedroom flat.** This gives you more privacy, but it usually costs more.

Many students book a temporary place for their first weeks and look for a flat once they have arrived. That way you can see the home in person before you pay anything. You can search through your university's housing service, real estate agencies and student housing websites. If you use an agency, ask in advance whether you have to pay a fee.

Beware of scams. Never pay a deposit or rent before you have seen the home and signed a contract. Be careful with landlords who live abroad, who ask for payment by untraceable methods, or who offer a flat at a price that seems too good to be true.

11.2 Rental contracts for students

In Italy, a rental contract must be in writing and registered with the tax authorities. For students there is a special contract that is designed for people who study away from home. Here are the key points to know before you sign.

The student contract

- **Duration:** from 6 months to 3 years. At the first expiry date, it renews automatically for the same period, unless you give notice before the end (usually between one and three months before the expiry date).
- **Leaving early:** you can usually leave before the end only for serious reasons, such as a change in your study plans, with three months' notice sent by registered letter. Check the exact rules in your contract.
- **Security deposit** (*deposito cauzionale*): it cannot be more than three months' rent. The landlord must give it back at the end of the contract, after checking the condition of the home.
- **Subletting:** it is normally not allowed. If you rent a room from another tenant instead of from the owner, ask to see the main contract and make sure the owner agrees.

Other contract types, such as the standard four-year contract, are usually longer and make it harder to leave early. If the landlord offers one, ask whether a student contract is possible instead.

Registration and papers

- **The contract must be registered** with the Agenzia delle Entrate. This is the landlord's duty, normally within 30 days. Ask for a copy of the registration receipt. Avoid any contract that is not registered, because you would have no protection, and you would not have the proof of address that you need for your permit, your health registration and your bank account.
- **Shared contracts:** if you and your flatmates sign one contract together, you are usually all responsible for the whole rent. Check this before you sign, and choose your flatmates carefully.
- **Notifying the police:** Italian law requires the landlord or host to tell the local police within 48 hours when a non-EU citizen moves in. This is the landlord's responsibility, but ask for a copy of the declaration, which can help you with other procedures.

Before you sign, read the contract carefully, or ask someone to read it with you. Many international offices can help. When you move in, check the home with the landlord, write down any damage and take dated photos. This protects your deposit when you leave.

11.3 Student associations and international communities

Meeting people is one of the best ways to feel at home. Here is where to start:

- **ESN (Erasmus Student Network).** ESN has local sections in about fifty Italian university cities. Despite the name, it is open to international students in general, including students who come for a full degree. It organises welcome events, trips, parties and language activities, and many sections run a buddy programme that pairs you with an Italian student. Its membership card, the *ESNcard*, gives access to events and to discounts in many cities.

- **Your university's international office and student associations.** Most universities have student groups for sports, music, volunteering and culture, and many organise orientation days and welcome activities for international students. Ask at the international office.
- **University sports centres.** Many university cities have a university sports centre (often called *CUS*) with affordable courses and teams.

Try to mix: join at least one activity where you meet Italian students, not only other international students. It is the fastest way to practise your Italian and to learn how things work.

11.4 Public holidays and opening hours

Italy has twelve national public holidays. On these days, public offices, banks and most shops are closed, and public transport runs on a reduced schedule.

Date	Holiday
1 January	New Year's Day (<i>Capodanno</i>)
6 January	Epiphany (<i>Epifania</i>)
March or April (changes every year)	Easter Sunday (<i>Pasqua</i>) and Easter Monday (<i>Pasquetta</i>)
25 April	Liberation Day (<i>Festa della Liberazione</i>)
1 May	Labour Day (<i>Festa del Lavoro</i>)
2 June	Republic Day (<i>Festa della Repubblica</i>)
15 August	Assumption (<i>Ferragosto</i>)
4 October	St. Francis of Assisi
1 November	All Saints' Day (<i>Ognissanti</i>)
8 December	Immaculate Conception (<i>Immacolata</i>)
25 December	Christmas Day (<i>Natale</i>)
26 December	St. Stephen's Day (<i>Santo Stefano</i>)

Every city also celebrates its patron saint on a local holiday, for example 7 December in Milan and 29 June in Rome. Universities also close for the Christmas and Easter breaks and, in many cases, for part of August.

Unlike in Korea, where public holidays falling on a weekend are replaced by a substitute holiday, in Italy **weekend holidays are not carried over** to the following Monday.

Opening hours. Hours differ from city to city, but these habits are common:

- Many small shops and offices close for a long lunch break, often between about 13:00 and 15:30, and some are closed on Sunday and on Monday morning.
- Large supermarkets and shopping centres in big cities usually stay open all day, often including Sundays.
- Public offices are often open only in the morning and on some afternoons. Book appointments where possible.

- Around **Ferragosto** (15 August), many small businesses close for one to three weeks. Do not leave important paperwork for mid-August.
- Pharmacies work on a rotation basis: when your local one is closed, a sign on its door shows which pharmacy is open (*farmacia di turno*).

Before a long weekend or a holiday, buy what you need, and check the calendar when you book an appointment at the Questura, the bank or a university office.

11.5 Always carry your documents

Italian law requires foreign citizens to carry two documents and to show them if the police ask for them: your **passport (or another identity document)** and your **Stay permit**. While you are waiting for the permit card, the postal receipt of your application takes the place of the permit (see Section 10).

Do not leave them at home. If you cannot show your documents to a police officer without a good reason, you can face a criminal charge, even if you do have a valid permit.

- Carry the **originals** of your passport and permit (or receipt).
- Keep **photocopies and photos on your phone** in a separate place, in case you lose the originals.
- If a document is lost or stolen, **report it to the police** (*denuncia*) and ask for a copy of the report. Then contact the Embassy of the Republic of Korea about a new passport, and your Questura about the permit.

11.6 Emergency contacts

In an emergency, dial **112**, the single European emergency number. The operator will put you in contact with the service you need:

- Ambulance and medical care (118) [118 Italia servizio di urgenza ed emergenza medica - h24](#)
- Polizia di Stato (State Police, 113) [Polizia di Stato](#)
- Carabinieri (military police, 112) [Arma dei Carabinieri](#)
- Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police, 117) [Guardia di Finanza](#)
- Vigili del Fuoco (Fire Brigade, 115) [Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco](#)

12. Cost of living

Living costs in Italy depend heavily on where and how you live. Your choice of city and, above all, your accommodation make the biggest difference: the average room in a shared flat in Palermo costs less than half as much as in Milan.

Your monthly budget revolves around five categories:

- **Rent** (*affitto*): your largest expense, usually between 40% and 60% of your monthly budget.
- **Utilities** (*utenze*): electricity, gas, water, internet and the waste tax. Expect about €70-120 per month if they are not included in the rent, and more in winter because of heating.
- **Food and groceries**: about €200-300 per month if you cook at home. University canteens (*mense*) serve subsidised meals, usually for a few euros.
- **Transport**: about €15-45 per month with a student pass, depending on the city. Many students also use a bicycle.
- **Personal and social spending**: phone, books, leisure, clothes, coffee and trips. Budget about €100-200 per month, depending on your lifestyle.

Yearly and one-off costs. Do not forget these:

- **Health care**: €700 per calendar year if you join the National Health Service, or the cost of a private policy.
- **Stay permit**: about €117 for the first application.
- **Security deposit**: up to three months' rent, which you get back at the end of the contract.
- **Agency fee**, if you find your home through a real estate agency (ask in advance).

13. After studying in Italy

Italian law allows international graduates to stay after their studies. If you obtain a degree in Italy, you can apply for a new stay permit, called *permesso di soggiorno per ricerca lavoro o imprenditorialità degli studenti* (Stay permit for job search or entrepreneurship of students). It is governed by Article 39-bis.1 of the Consolidated Immigration Act (Legislative Decree No. 286/1998). It is a **Stay permit, not a visa**: you request it in Italy. It lasts between **9 and 12 months**, and its purpose is to look for a job or start a business that fits the studies you have just completed.

Who can apply: students who have obtained in Italy a bachelor's or master's degree (including single-cycle degrees), a first-level or second-level AFAM degree (formerly called academic diploma), a *Master Universitario*, a PhD or a higher technical diploma (ITS).

When to apply: start the procedure before your study permit expires and make sure your application is submitted in time. Do not wait until the last day.

To apply you must meet the following conditions:

- **Income.** You must show a minimum annual income from lawful sources. The reference is the annual amount of the *assegno sociale* (social allowance), which is about €7,000 a year at the time of writing and is updated every year. Ask your Questura which documents it accepts as proof.

- **Health coverage.** You must have a private insurance policy valid in Italy, or be enrolled voluntarily in the National Health Service.
- **Proof of your qualification.** You must attach the document that proves your degree or diploma. If it is not ready yet, you can submit it within 60 days of your request.
- **Availability to work.** You must declare your immediate availability to work, and to take part in the active labour market measures of the employment service (*Centro per l'Impiego*).

Then apply at the Questura, with a procedure similar to the one for your first permit. Ask your Questura or your university's international office for the current steps.

Check the details. Procedures can differ from one Questura to another, and rules change from time to time. Always confirm the current requirements before you apply.

Glossary: key terms explained

Italian higher education uses many acronyms and Italian words. Here are the ones you will meet most often, in alphabetical order.

Term	What it means
AFAM	<i>Alta Formazione Artistica, Musicale e Coreutica</i> . Higher education institutions for artistic, musical and choreographic training: fine arts academies, music conservatories and design institutes. Since 2026, their degrees are called <i>laurea</i> and <i>laurea magistrale</i> .
Apostille	A certificate that makes a public document valid in other countries that joined the Hague Convention. Both Korea and Italy are parties.
ASL	<i>Azienda Sanitaria Locale</i> . The local health authority. It registers you with the National Health Service and assigns your family doctor.
Assegno sociale	The social allowance. Its annual amount is the reference for the minimum income required for some permits of stay.
CAF	<i>Centro di Assistenza Fiscale</i> . A tax assistance centre. Among other things, it prepares the ISEE certificate.
CEFR / QCER	The European framework for language levels, from A1 (beginner) to C2 (advanced).
Centro per l'Impiego	The public employment service. International graduates register here to ask for the job-search permit.
CFU / ECTS	University credits. In Italy they are called CFU (<i>Crediti Formativi Universitari</i>) and match the European ECTS system. One credit is about 25 hours of study. AFAM institutions call their credits CFA (<i>Crediti Formativi Accademici</i>).
CIMEA	The Italian information centre on the recognition of foreign qualifications. It issues Statements of Comparability and Verification.
CLA	Centro Linguistico di Ateneo. The language centre of a university. Many offer Italian courses for international students.
CLIQ	<i>Certificazione Lingua Italiana di Qualità</i> . The quality association of the four bodies that issue the recognised Italian language certificates (CILS, CELI, CERT.IT and PLIDA).
Codice Fiscale	The Italian tax code, a personal identification number. You need it for many everyday procedures, such as renting a home or opening a bank account.
Deposito cauzionale	The security deposit paid to the landlord, usually up to three months' rent. You get it back at the end of the contract.

Dichiarazione di ospitalità	A declaration that a landlord or host must submit to the local police (Public Security Authority) within 48 hours when a non-EU citizen moves in.
Dichiarazione di Valore (DoV)	An official document issued by Italian embassies or consulates that describes a foreign qualification. It is for information only and does not recognise your degree.
Erasmus+	An EU programme that supports students who study or do an internship abroad at a partner institution. Participation, the recognition of credits (ECTS) and the grant depend on the agreements of your university and on a selection.
ESN	Erasmus Student Network. A student association with local sections in many Italian university cities. It welcomes international students, including degree students.
IMAT	International Medical Admissions Test. The national entrance test for English-taught Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine at state universities.
ISEE Parificato	A certificate of a family's economic situation for international students whose families live abroad. It is used to calculate fees and to apply for regional grants.
ITS	<i>Istituto Tecnologico Superiore</i> . A higher technical institute that awards a higher technical diploma (<i>diploma di tecnico superiore</i>).
Laurea	Bachelor's degree (3 years).
Laurea Magistrale	Master's degree (2 years).
Laurea Magistrale a Ciclo Unico	Single-cycle master's degree (5-6 years), for example in Medicine or Law.
MAECI	The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It offers Italian Government scholarships.
Marca da bollo	A revenue stamp, sold at tobacconists. You need one for your Stay permit application.
Master Universitario	A postgraduate programme, usually lasting one year, with a professional focus. It is not the same as a <i>Laurea Magistrale</i> .
Mensa	University canteen.
MUR	The Ministry of University and Research. It sets the national rules for higher education.
Numero chiuso	A programme with a limited number of places. Admission depends on your ranking in a test or selection.
Permesso di soggiorno	The stay permit issued by the Italian police (<i>Questura</i>). Non-EU citizens need it to stay in Italy for more than 90 days for a specific purpose, such as study or work.
Pre-enrolment	A compulsory online step on Universitaly for non-EU students who need a visa. It is separate from your application to the university, and you can pre-enrol in one programme only.
Questura	The local office of the State Police. Its immigration office takes your fingerprints and issues your Stay permit.

Schengen Area	An area of 29 European countries without internal border controls. With a residence permit, you can usually travel to other Schengen countries for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.
Semestre aperto	The “open semester”: a first semester with three common courses (Chemistry, Physics, Biology) followed by national exams. It is the entry route to Italian-taught Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine at state universities.
Sportello Unico per l’Immigrazione	The one-stop office, at the Prefecture, that handles work permit applications for foreign workers.
SSN	<i>Servizio Sanitario Nazionale</i> . The Italian public health service. Students can join it voluntarily by paying a yearly contribution.
Tessera sanitaria	The Italian health card. You receive it when you register with the SSN, and you show it at the doctor’s and at the pharmacy.
TOLC	An entrance test used by some programmes, for example in Engineering and Economics.
Uni-Italia	An association that promotes Italian higher education abroad and supports international students.
University	The official portal for finding programmes and for pre-enrolment.
Visto D	A national visa for stays longer than 90 days, issued by the Italian Embassy before you travel (type D).

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3rd Floor, Ilshin Building, 98 Hannam-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul 04418

Sito web: ambseoul.esteri.it

Instagram: [@italyinkorea_](https://www.instagram.com/italyinkorea_)

Facebook: [@italyinkorea](https://www.facebook.com/italyinkorea)

X: [@italyinkorea](https://twitter.com/italyinkorea)