
1 Education

In Italy there is a right and duty to receive education, which starts at the age of 6.

The national education system consists of public and private schools. The compulsory school encompassed two study paths: the first cycle includes the primary and secondary school system; the second cycle comprises the high school system and the system of technical and vocational education/training. All the paths of the second cycle allow university access.

1.1 Kindergartens or crèches

263. As from what age may I enrol my sons to kindergartens or crèches?

Kindergartens are open to children aged between 3 months and 3 years.

264. How long do kindergartens last?

3 years.

265. Who manages kindergartens?

Municipalities or private institutions.

266. How do I enrol my children in a municipal kindergartens?

You have to submit a request for admission during the periods and in the centres designated by the municipality. In the request you can indicate up to four childcare facilities in order of preference, in the municipality where you reside in or where you work. Different scores will be assigned to your request according to the working condition of the parents, the presence of other legally dependent children and any possible social or health problems. A list is then set up with the names of those admitted. For further information go to the town hall in the municipality where you reside, since access conditions may vary depending on municipal specific regulations.

267. How much does it cost to enrol in a day-care centre?

The tuition for municipal day-care centres is differentiated by categories and income brackets; the tuition fee for enrolling in private day-care centres is set autonomously by each centre. The Spring Class, a new service targeting children under two years of age, was activated during the 2007/2008 school year. These classes are associated with the state authorized private Nursery School and offer daycare service for children between 24 and 36 months of age. To access them, it is necessary to directly address the director of the school.

1.2 Nursery school

268. From which age is it possible to enrol children to the nursery school?

Children can be enrolled if they will turn three years old before April 30 of the year of enrolment.

269. How long do nursery schools last?

3 years.

270. Who manages nursery schools?

Municipalities, State or private institutions.

271. Where may I enrol my children to the nursery school?

At the Department for School Services of your Municipality in case of enrolment to the municipal nursery school; at the secretary's office of the relevant school in all the other cases. In public schools, enrolments take place according to a list.

272. How much does it cost to enrol in a Nursery School?

The tuition for municipal schools is differentiated by categories and income brackets. The tuition fee for enrolling in private schools is set autonomously by each school.

1.3 The first cycle

PRIMARY SCHOOL

273. Beginning at what age is it possible to enrol children to primary schools?

As to the first class, enrolment is compulsory at the age of 6, whereas it is optional at 5 years and a half (enrolment is open to children who turn 6 within 30th April of the reference school year).

Attention: the regulations concerning optional enrolment at 5-and-a-half years may vary in the future. You can directly ask the school you have chosen for information regarding any eventual updates

274. How long does primary school last?

5 years.

275. Whom shall I address for further information?

The Educational Department of the relevant school of your Municipality, in case of public school, or private schools.

FIRST DEGREE SECONDARY SCHOOL

276. What is it?

It is an educational path following primary school.

277. How long does it last?

3 years.

278. Whom shall I address for further information?

The Educational Department of the relevant school of your Municipality, in case of public school, or private schools

1.4 The Second Cycle

279. What is the second cycle?

The second cycle includes high schools and vocational education/training. All options allow to access University.

Attention: as of the 2010/2011 scholastic year, in accordance with the approved reforms that have changed the Italian scholastic system, the secondary schools and professional and technical institutes will be reorganized. The competent Ministry will carry out an informational campaign in order to inform people of the changes and orient the students. All relevant information can be obtained online at www.pubblica.istruzione.it.

280. Is it possible to shift from one path to the other?

Yes, and it is also possible to change focus (or “major”) within the same itinerary, using the teaching initiatives offered by the school; when the students turn 15, different learning methods are provided for:

- Full-time study;
- School-work alternation with stage at cultural, social and productive realities including abroad;
- apprenticeship.

HIGH SCHOOLS / *LICEI*

281. How many types of *Licei* are there in Italy

Artistic (with 6 different options), Classic, Human Science with an economic and social option, Linguistic, Musical and Choruses, Scientific with an option for applied science. High-schools are divided into 2 two-year periods followed by a fifth year for the guidance to next education.

282. How long does the education path in high-schools last?

5 years.

283. At the end of the *Liceo*, shall I make an exam?

Yes, the state exam at the end of the fifth year. It is used for university and artistic, musical and chorus education.

TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

284. Technical and professional education

Technical education/training is a 5-year course that meets the specific needs of the local Italian production sector, especially in trade, tourism, industry, transport, construction, agriculture, and social service activities (targeted to individuals). There are several courses and levels of specialization. The main ones include: bank accountant and bookkeeper; specialized industrial technical director; agriculturalists; surveyor; tourism expert. Professional education consists of a 5-year course but provides for the possibility of being issued a professional certificate after 3 years. Both paths end with a state exam and allow to access university).

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

285. What is it?

These are 3 and 4-year courses after which a certificate of professional expertise is issued to the students; the certificate is recognized at the national and European level and is immediately usable in the labour market.

286. Can I enrol in university afterwards?

Yes, but only if you have achieved at least a four-year qualification and have attended a one-year preparatory course that prepares you to take the state exam, which will then be necessary for enrolment in a university or advanced artistic, musical and chorus training.

The four-year qualification (diploma) obtained at the end of the professional training and education also gives you the right to access further education and professional training (see below).

1.5 University

287. How is University structured?

University is structured in two levels and in any department the student can achieve:

- A first three-year level (Graduation)
- A second two-year level (Specialisation)

288. Who may enrol in universities?

Those who own a *liceo* diploma or a professional qualification enrol in Universities to obtain a graduation.

289. How can I enrol in university?

Access to Italian universities is open to the following categories:

- EU citizens wherever residing, or non-EU citizens residing in Italy for enrolment purposes;
- Foreign citizens present in Italy with regular residence permit;
- Foreign citizens residing abroad and owning a visa for study reasons.

290. What academic qualifications are necessary for enrolment in university?

1. Those obtained after a school period of at least 12 years. If the study period outside of Italy is lower than 12 years, in addition to the original diploma of secondary education you shall also produce a certification issued by the University of origin and stating that all exams were passed:

- for the first year of university studies, if the student has attended their local school system for eleven years;
- for the 2 first academic years, in the case of a 10 year school system.

291. When and where shall I file the enrolment application

The enrolment application must be submitted to the Secretary for Students with a foreign diploma, according to the same terms laid out for Italian students (generally between July and September).

292. Which documents do I have to submit for enrolment?

Your educational title, legally recognised/translated by the appropriate Italian Diplomatic Representation.

293. How many places are available in the Universities for foreign students residing abroad?

The Decree Law no. 145 of 23rd December 2013 eliminated the quotas for foreign students attending Italian universities, exception made for the compliance with the procedures to access closed-number universities.

294. If I have a diploma testifying my competence in Italian, will I have a higher score when inserted in the classification list of eligible students for enrolling in a university?

Yes, at discretion of the University where you apply for enrolment, the following may be considered preferential titles:

- any diploma of competence in Italian language and culture attained in the “Universities for Foreigners” in Perugia and Siena;
- the Italian language certificate issued by University Rome 3, or by the University for foreigners of Perugia and Siena;
- the Italian language certificates issued abroad.

295. I am a university student; can I renew my Permit to Stay for study purposes?

The visas and the permits to stay for study reasons are renewable for students that:

- passed a test of profit during the first year of study and at least two tests per year in the following years.
- Give evidence of health problems, in which case one test is sufficient to renew the residence permit.

However, renewals cannot be issued for more than three years past the legal duration of the academic program.

Attention: Law no. 128 of 28th November 2013, changed the period of validity of residence permits for study reasons, deciding that such duration will be multiannual, namely corresponding to the period of study or training attended, subject to an assessment of the annual progresses achieved. Such amendment will come into force as soon as the Implementing Regulation of the Consolidated Law on Immigration is adjusted to the new provisions.

296. I have come to Italy to enrol in university. Can I change my graduation course?

Yes, upon authorisation of the University.

297. Can I request additional renewals of my Permit to Stay in order to achieve a specialization (Master) or a PhD?

Yes.

298. How much does university enrolment cost?

It depends on which university and which major/concentration (literature, science, etc.) you choose. In any situation, the university education can be quite costly.

299. Can I obtain a scholarship or other economic support?

Yes, foreign students can receive scholarships, honour loans and free or economic housing. When the general classifications lists for attributing these forms of assistance are compiled, the Regions and the Universities can nonetheless reserve a percentage of the available places for foreign students. For additional information on how to access said services, please address the Foreign Students Secretary’s Office of your university.

1.6 Advanced professional training

300. What is it for?

It is a one- or two-year advanced professional and technical training course that includes training internships and prolonged apprenticeships and provides higher level professional and technical qualifications that are greatly requested within the labour market.

301. Who manages advanced professional training?

Professional training falls within the educational options of the Regions, according to a three-year plan. To read all the options, please visit the website <http://www.indire.it/ifts/nuovo/> or <http://www.bdp.it/ifts/2003/home.php>.

302. How much does it cost to attend a vocational training course?

Attendance of courses is free; in some cases, a reimbursement is even offered, calculated on an hourly basis.

303. What requisites must I have in order to be admitted to a professional training course?

Access is provided to youngsters and adults owning a higher secondary level diploma or a technical diploma obtained at the end of four-year courses of vocational training.

Access is also allowed to those who are admitted to the fifth year of Licei and those who do not own higher secondary education diploma. In the latter cases, the procedures are activated to test the skills acquired during the education, training and labour courses following compulsory education.

1.7 Recognition of academic qualifications

304. I would like to complete my university studies in Italy. What do I have to do?

To be able to continue your studies in Italy, you must present a request to the University or Institute of University Education that interests you: based on the University or Institute's own autonomous decision and possible bilateral accords and international conventions on the subject, the University or institute decides whether or not to recognize your foreign academic titles.

When submitting the application, the following documents shall be attached:

- a photocopy of the high school diploma that has been translated and legalized and the declaration of value from the competent Italian Consulate;
- a photocopy of the university degree, with the same requirements for the high school diploma, as listed above (if you are applying for an advanced degree or a master);
- a certificate regarding the university exams you have completed, duly translated and legalised;
- a programme of the exams completed;
- a photocopy of your identity document or Permit to Stay.

305. And then what happens?

The academic authorities will appraise your academic title and degrees, declaring them to be wholly or partially equivalent to an Italian degree: in the first case, all your examinations will be recognized; in the second, only some of them. The University has to decide within 90 days from the presentation of the application.

1.8 Recognition of professional titles

306. I have a professional qualification. What do I have to do to have my title recognized in Italy?

You shall submit the application to the competent authority. (see page <http://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Documenti/Documents/Lavoro/elenco.pdf>)

307. How long does it take to have a professional title recognized?

Within thirty days as from the reception of the application, the Competent Authority evaluates the completeness of the documentation requested.

Within four months as from the submission of the application or its eventual integration, the competent Authority recognises the title through the issuance of a decree.

308. I am a doctor/nurse. Whom shall I address?

For all titles/degrees in the field of nursing and medicine, the Ministry of Health, is responsible for the recognition procedures.

309. I am a lawyer / accountant / biologist / chemist / agricultural economist / geologist / engineer / psychologist / work consultant / surveyor / journalist / agrarian or industrial expert. Whom shall I address?

The Ministry responsible for recognizing these professional titles is the Ministry of Justice.

310. I am a consultant for industrial property/trade mediator. Whom shall I address?

The ministry responsible for recognising these professional titles is the Ministry for Economic Development

311. I am a teacher. Whom shall I address?

The Ministry responsible for recognizing these professional titles is the Ministry of Education, University and Research.