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Research*

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

*Directorate-General for  
Internationalization and Communication*



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
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*Directorate-General for Services to Citizens  
Abroad and Migration Policies*

MINISTERIAL MEMORANDUM CONTAINING THE PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY, STAY AND  
ENROLMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FOR THE RECOGNITION OF  
QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN ITALY

VALID FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 2026-2027 AND 2027-2028



PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY, STAY AND ENROLMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FOR THE  
RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN ITALY VALID FOR  
ACADEMIC YEARS 2026-2027 AND 2027-2028

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## PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY, STAY AND ENROLMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FOR THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN ITALY VALID FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 2026-2027 AND 2027-2028

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

These Procedures, valid for the academic years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028, are drawn up on the basis of the results of the annual meeting of the Working Group established by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) in agreement with the Italian ministries of Education and Merit (MIM), of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and of the Interior. The purpose of these procedures is to coordinate and guide the policies of Italian higher education institutions, diplomatic and consular missions and the police headquarters (*Questura*) on entry, stay, enrolment and recognition of the qualifications of international students in higher education programmes in Italy.

The final decision on the issue of a student visa is the exclusive competence of the diplomatic and consular missions. The lifting of any reservation, the validation of the application for pre-enrolment in a degree programme and the related documentation produced by higher education institutions do not guarantee that applicants will obtain an appointment with the diplomatic and consular missions to submit a visa application, nor do they automatically imply a guarantee that a visa will be issued. All these elements simply support the assessment procedures carried out by the diplomatic and consular missions. Missions not only have to verify that applicants meet the requirements for a student visa/enrolment, but they also have the obligation to assess the absence of migration risk for the prospective student (Article 4(2) of Italian Inter-ministerial Decree No 850/2011).

This assessment of migration risk relates to the set of elements from which it can be reasonably deduced that the purpose of the trip and transfer to Italy is the actual attendance of a higher education degree programme. Among these elements, the socio-economic condition of the student and their family, the type and quality of prior studies and the consistency of the chosen educational path are of particular importance.

The assessment of foreign qualifications for the purposes of enrolment in Italian higher education programmes is the exclusive responsibility of higher education institutions, as laid down in Article 2 of Italian Law No 148/2002. Documentation on a qualification produced by diplomatic and consular missions and/or other bodies and institutions is not mandatory and is not binding for the decisions falling within the competence of individual higher education institutions as regards admission to the chosen degree programme.

The administrative procedure for issuing and renewing residence permits is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior and is governed by the Consolidated Law on Immigration, the rules on the status of foreign nationals (Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998), its implementing regulation (Italian Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999) and Italian Law No 68 of 28 May 2007 on short-term stays by foreign nationals for visits, business, tourism and studies.

For the academic year 2026-2027, visa applications must be lodged with the relevant diplomatic and consular missions **by 30 November 2026 at the latest**. For the academic year 2027-2028, the deadline for lodging visa applications is **31 October 2027**.

This deadline applies to applications for visas for attending higher education degree programmes, i.e. bachelor's and master's degrees issued by Italian universities, conservatoires, art colleges and higher schools of design.

For all other types of courses (masters, PhDs, Erasmus programmes, individual courses and foundation courses), there are no time limits on the submission of applications, which, however, cannot be later than the start of teaching activities. If the deadlines are extended, higher education institutions may continue their own procedures for recruiting international students and the associated assessment of the eligibility of the foreign qualifications they hold, while diplomatic and consular missions may process visa applications until all pre-enrolment applications have been received, provided that they are received by the dates specified and



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subsequent updates. In addition, with reference to the deadlines of **30 November 2026** and **31 October 2027**, higher education institutions must indicate on their websites the exact deadlines for submitting a visa application for enrolling in each degree programme on offer, on the basis of the specific requirements linked to the start of teaching activities. These deadlines may also be earlier than **30 November 2026** and **31 October 2027**.

Pre-enrolment applications in Italian higher education institutions for visa applicants must be submitted exclusively via *UniversItaly*,<sup>1</sup> a free website which is the official portal of the Italian Ministry of University and Research.

The Italian Ministry of University and Research reserves the right to issue subsequent additions or amendments to these procedures after consultation with the other competent ministries.

### SCOPE

These procedures **shall apply** to the following categories:

- a) students and applicants who have obtained a final or partial foreign qualification and who intend to enrol in an Italian higher education institution (for the part concerning enrolment and qualification recognition procedures);
- b) foreign applicants who require a long-term<sup>2</sup> entry visa to enrol in an Italian higher education institution (for the part relating to the formalities to be carried out at diplomatic and consular missions);
- c) students who need to obtain and/or renew a residence permit (for the part relating to the administrative procedure for the issue or renewal of a residence permit).

It should also be noted that the procedures for issuing entry visas and residence permits **shall not apply** to the following categories:

- d) nationals of the countries of the European Union, as well as those from Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of San Marino and the Holy See;
- e) foreigners already legally in Italy, as expressly referred to in Article 39(5) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998;<sup>3</sup>
- f) students already present in the Schengen area who hold a scholarship under European Union education, training and research programmes. By analogy, the instructions given for the ‘Erasmus Mundus’ action extended to the ‘Erasmus +’ programme, as well as any other instructions on entry visas provided by the Visa Unit of the Directorate General for Services to Citizens Abroad and Immigration Policies (DGIT) of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.universitaly.it>

<sup>2</sup> In the case of dual nationality, one of which is Italian nationality or that of another EU country, Italian nationality or that of another EU country shall prevail for the purposes of this memorandum (Article 218 (19) of Italian Law No 2 of 31 May 1995).

<sup>3</sup> ‘The following categories shall be granted access to higher education or higher training courses and to university specialisation schools under the same conditions as Italian students: foreign nationals holding an EU residence permit for long-term stays, employment, self-employment, family reasons, asylum, subsidiary protection or religious reasons on the grounds referred to in Articles 18, 18-bis, 20-bis, 22 (12-quater) and 42-bis; holders of a residence permit issued pursuant to Article 32(3) of Italian Legislative Decree No 25 of 28 January 2008; foreign nationals who have been legally living in Italy for at least one year and who hold upper secondary school qualifications obtained in Italy; foreign nationals living anywhere who hold final diplomas issued by Italian schools abroad or by foreign or international schools in Italy or abroad which are covered by bilateral arrangements or by special legislation for the recognition of qualifications and fulfil the general conditions required for entry for studies.’



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the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) apply to them as well.

In the cases above, since the prospective student does not need to apply for an entry visa, a declaration of presence pursuant to Article 39 (4-bis) of the Consolidated Law on Immigration will be sufficient.

As regards the procedure and documentation required for assessing the qualifications of students taking part in programmes organised jointly by two or more Italian and foreign institutions, please refer to the provisions of the relevant agreements signed by the higher education institutions for the implementation of such programmes (see Article 3(10) of Italian Ministerial Decree No 270/2004 and Article 3(8) of Italian Presidential Decree No 212/2005).

Pursuant to the last part of Article 46(4) of Italian Presidential Decree No 394/1999, as amended, in order to grant students access to subsequent specialisation or doctoral programmes, student visas may be renewed for the total duration of the programme and eventually for an additional year.

Pursuant to Italian Law No 352 of 11 July 1986 on the 'Equivalence of qualifications awarded by the European University Institute in Florence with the qualifications of PhD' and to the decree of 27 February 2023 on the 'Recognition of academic qualifications awarded by the European Public Law Organisation (EPLO)', the European University Institute (EUI) and the European Public Law Organisation (European Law and Governance School) (EPLO/ELGS) are recognised as international academic institutions within the Italian system, which organise degree programmes as well as academic and research activities in Italy. In order to obtain a student visa and a residence permit and with reference to the rules on the recognition of qualifications, the above institutions shall follow the procedures described in these Procedures without using the UniversItaly platform. They shall instruct their prospective students in need of a visa to apply directly to the competent diplomatic and consular missions, which shall take charge of applications and provide applicants with all relevant information.



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## Part I – PROCEDURES WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

### 1. Pre-enrolment

International students with their permanent address (*residenza*) abroad who apply for visas in order to enrol in higher education undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in Italy must follow a ‘pre-enrolment’ procedure through the UniverItaly portal before enrolling in their target institutions.

This procedure also applies to international students with their permanent address (*residenza*) abroad who apply for visas in order to enrol in any specialisation schools, PhD programmes, specialist training courses, first- and second-level university masters, individual higher education courses, university Italian language and culture courses as well as foundation and preparatory courses at higher education institutions in art, music and dance (AFAM).

For admission to programmes accredited at the Higher Schools for Language Mediators (SSML), the Institutes of Specialisation in Psychotherapy and the institutions authorised to issue higher education qualifications in art, music and dance pursuant to Article 11 of Italian Presidential Decree No 212 of 8 July 2005, the same procedures apply as for enrolling in programmes of the same level and nature at Italian universities and higher education institutions in art, music and dance.

Pursuant to Article 46(1) of Italian Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999 (Access of foreigners to universities), ‘by 31 December of each year, universities shall determine the number of places (quota) to be allocated to the enrolment of foreign students in university programmes for the following academic year.

...’

Before the opening of pre-enrolments on the UniverItaly portal, each university shall agree on this number with the Italian ministries of University and Research and of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Within the same deadline, they shall also communicate the number to CINECA for inclusion on the portal and activation of the ‘monitoring support’ described below. Pursuant to Article 46(1) of Italian Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999, implementing protocols of cultural agreements, development cooperation programmes and agreements between Italian universities and universities in the countries concerned allow for enrolment outside of the above-mentioned quotas. This only applies to foreign students holding a scholarship awarded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by the Government of their country of origin for the entire duration of their degree programmes.

The deadlines for pre-enrolment procedures for degree programmes with non-competitive admission shall be defined by each individual higher education institution and published on its website.

Applications for admission tests – such as those relating to degree programmes in Architecture – follow the procedures described on the UniverItaly portal. Students must submit their applications for any admission tests online. This is without prejudice to their application for an entry visa to be submitted to the diplomatic and consular missions. This procedure must be launched and formalised no later than by the deadlines set for enrolling in bachelor’s and master’s degree programmes with competitive admission.

From the 2026-2027 academic year, after the end of the pre-enrolment period, **the competent higher education institutions may validate a number of pre-enrolment applications not exceeding the relevant number of places allocated to the enrolment of foreign students plus 20%.**

Once this maximum number of validations has been reached, a dedicated ‘monitoring support’ on the UniverItaly portal will alert the relevant institution and prevent it from validating any more pre-enrolment requests.



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If an enrolment or visa application is rejected, the university concerned will immediately be able to validate another pre-enrolment application on the UniversItaly portal. This will only be possible until the number of visas for each university issued by the diplomatic and consular missions reaches the number of places the relevant university has allocated to the enrolment of foreign students.

By way of exception, higher education institutions may request the validation of an additional number of pre-enrolment applications. This request must come from the competent academic bodies and must be based on specific and justified academic and teaching needs linked to the activation or re-funding of educational programmes, the allocation of extraordinary funding or additional scholarships.

Only candidates whose pre-enrolment applications have been validated may submit a request for a student visa at the Italian diplomatic and consular mission competent for the applicant's country of residence.

Once their pre-enrolment application has been validated by the competent higher education institution, candidates must apply for a student visa to the Italian diplomatic and consular mission competent for their country of residence.

### **2. Pre-enrolment application**

Higher education institutions shall inform students interested in their programmes that they must follow the procedure described below.

- a) Enter the UniversItaly portal and complete the relevant 'pre-enrolment application'. Once their application has been digitally validated by their target academic institution, they must submit this documentation to the Italian diplomatic and consular mission competent for their country of residence.
- b) If they hold a qualification listed in Annex 1 of these Procedures, they must select only one of the degree programmes in the active database within the pre-enrolment application on the UNIVERSITALY portal;
- c) If they hold a qualification listed in Annex 2 of these Procedures, they may choose a degree programme regardless of any quotas.

If an applicant is attending the final year of secondary school and is going to pass their final examination and/or any required national college entrance exam, or if the university has indicated in the pre-enrolment application that eligibility for their chosen programme is subject to further requirements, their application is considered as accepted with reservations, pending validation by the competent university on the UniversItaly portal.

With regard to the abolition of the prohibition on double enrolment in higher education programmes as a result of Italian Law No 33 of 12 April 2022 and subsequent instructions contained in MUR Decree No 930 of 29 July 2022 and MUR Decree No 933 of 02/08/2022, it should be noted that that provision has no effect on these Procedures. The procedures described in the present document remain unchanged as regards applications for visas and residence permits for individual programmes.

### **3. Evaluation and validation of applications**

In accordance with the number of places allocated annually by each university to the enrolment of foreign students, higher education institutions carry out their own preliminary assessment of individual applications. In order to do so, they request from the student a copy of their study documentation and any other document deemed useful for the purposes of that assessment. The institution validates the pre-enrolment request by entering the relevant data on the UniversItaly portal, indicating whether and for which documents authenticity has been verified and indicating which documentation is necessary for assessment purposes.



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Higher education institutions **must clearly include the information below** in their instructions on the assessment of applications from international visa applicants, as well as in their communications with them:

1. The preliminary acceptance of a candidate by the university shall not confer any right to obtain a visa, this being the sole responsibility of the individual diplomatic and consular missions;
2. The issuing of a student visa by the competent diplomatic and consular mission does not confer any right to the completion of enrolment for a degree programme, this being the exclusive responsibility of the individual higher education institutions;
3. The preliminary acceptance of a candidate by the university shall not confer any right to complete enrolment, including in cases of:
  - a. obtaining the relevant visa;
  - b. physical presence in Italy;
  - c. eligibility and/or actual provision of scholarships/contributions of all kinds;
  - d. acceptance of the candidate with reservations in order to be able to start teaching activities;

bearing in mind that, in order to complete enrolment, the institutions must have carried out the necessary checks with regard to the authenticity of all the academic documentation produced.

It should be pointed out that **the possibility referred to in point 3 is a borderline case** since, as a general rule, depending on the characteristics of the degree programme chosen by a candidate, higher education institutions obtain the certificates necessary to assess the suitability of their foreign qualification and verify its authenticity before submitting any visa applications, in order to prevent a validly pre-enrolled candidate from being unable to finalise their enrolment once they arrive in Italy.

**If an international student who has obtained a visa does not enrol, the higher education institution must promptly notify the diplomatic and consular mission by certified email so that the latter can immediately revoke the entry visa. This communication must also be transmitted via certified email to the relevant police headquarters.**

#### **4. Information and documentation**

Information relating to pre-enrolment procedures is provided by higher education institutions directly to prospective students via their own websites and portals. This information must also include details on the methods of assessment and pre-acceptance of candidates, the deadlines for submitting pre-enrolment applications for each individual degree programme, the number of places available for each programme, the presence of any entrance exam and/or initial proficiency assessment and the relevant documentation to be produced, including with reference to the evaluation of foreign qualifications.

We recall that Uni-Italia, a non-profit association, supports foreign applicants to degree programmes through its centres abroad by offering guidance and assistance also for the procedure to be carried out through the UniversItaly portal.

Applicants to degree programmes at higher education institutions are required to provide the documentation which the institution deems necessary for assessing the eligibility of individual applications, with reference to verification of the fulfilment of the academic admission requirements and the foreign qualification.



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Higher education institutions are autonomous in terms of the documentation to be requested from applicants to their degree programmes.<sup>4</sup>

With regard to international students who do not apply for a visa, higher education institutions are invited not to request a Declaration of Value on the qualifications they hold, given that this category of students does not need to apply to any diplomatic or consular mission in order to enter Italy.

The documentation normally required by higher education institutions regarding possession of the appropriate qualifications for admission to a degree programme is listed below.

(i) For access to undergraduate degree programmes:

- a) successful completion of secondary<sup>5</sup> education of at least 12 years of schooling<sup>6</sup> or a replacement certificate for all legal purposes. At the discretion of the individual higher education institution, the final degree may alternatively be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre (CIMEA) or possibly by a Declaration of Value;
- b) certificate attesting the passing of the national college entrance exam possibly required for admission to university in the country of origin;
- c) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- d) any other documentation requested by the university, including regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification.

(ii) For access to second-cycle degree programmes:

- a) an official foreign qualification<sup>7</sup> corresponding to the first cycle according to the qualifications framework of the Bologna Process and level 6 according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) obtained at a higher education institution which allows on-site continuation of studies at academic institutions at the next level (second cycle of the Bologna Process/level 7 EQF). The foreign qualification must show no substantial difference according to the principles of the Lisbon Convention and the national methodology adopted by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA).<sup>8</sup> At the discretion of the individual higher education institution, the final qualification may alternatively be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA) or possibly by a Declaration of Value;
- b) certificate issued by the competent university certifying the examinations passed (transcript of records) and, for each discipline, the programmes for obtaining the qualifications referred to above; the syllabus can be attested by the Diploma Supplement, if adopted;

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<sup>4</sup> This autonomy is laid down in Article 2 of Italian Law No 148/2002 and, respectively, in Ministerial Decree No 270/2004 for universities and in Presidential Decree No 212/2005 for AFAM institutions. Therefore, the provisions of Article 33(5) of Italian Presidential Decree No 445/2000 apply in these cases.

<sup>5</sup> The qualification may be replaced by a provisional attestation/certification issued by the competent foreign authority in accordance with the rules of the country in which the qualification was obtained in cases where such attestation/certification is present within the foreign regulatory framework and is capable of officially certifying that the candidate has obtained the qualification in question. The above cases of provisional attestations/certifications do not include in any way self-declarations made by the candidate and/or by non-official bodies/institutions and/or bodies not officially entrusted with such tasks in the foreign system.

<sup>6</sup> If the secondary education qualification was obtained after less than 12 years of schooling, see Annex 1.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 5.

<sup>8</sup> See the [Evaluation methodology used in the procedures for the recognition of foreign qualifications in Italy](#) published by the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre (CIMEA), which is in line with the principles of the Lisbon Convention, its application in the Italian system and the practices shared at international level by the centres belonging to the ENIC and NARIC networks.



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- c) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- d) any other documentation requested by the university, including regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification.

(iii) For admission to third cycle degree programmes:

- a) an official foreign qualification<sup>9</sup> corresponding to the second cycle according to the qualifications framework of the Bologna Process and level 7 according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) obtained at a higher education institution which allows on-site continuation of studies at academic institutions at the next level (third cycle of the Bologna Process/level 8 EQF). The foreign qualification must show no substantial difference according to the principles of the Lisbon Convention and the national methodology adopted by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA).<sup>10</sup> At the discretion of the individual higher education institution, the final qualification may alternatively be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA) or possibly by a Declaration of Value;
- b) certificate issued by the competent university certifying the examinations passed (transcript of records) and, for each discipline, the programmes for obtaining the qualifications referred to above; the syllabus can be attested by the Diploma Supplement, if adopted;
- c) in the case of access to specialisation courses where a specific professional qualification is required, proof of having obtained such a qualification in Italy before start of academic activities;
- d) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- e) any other documentation requested by the university, including regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification.

In the event that an applicant to a degree programme presents a foreign qualification obtained on the basis of studies mainly carried out in Italy, the partial or full recognition of that qualification is subject to the accreditation procedure of the institution operating in Italy. This is in accordance with Decree No 214 of 26 April 2004 'Regulation laying down criteria and procedures for foreign higher education institutions operating in Italy for the purpose of recognising the qualification they have issued (implementing Article 4 of Italian Law No 148 of 11 July 2002)', implementing Article VI.5 of the Lisbon Convention. Higher education institutions are therefore invited to indicate this requirement in their documentation relating to enrolment in degree programmes when holding foreign qualifications.

With reference to the recent Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)18 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on countering education fraud,<sup>11</sup> higher education institutions are invited to report to the competent authorities, including the relevant diplomatic and consular missions, cases of individual candidates who have submitted false, counterfeit and/or altered academic documentation. Higher education institutions are also invited to report such cases to the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre (CIMEA) for monitoring purposes, in line with Article 16 of the above-mentioned Recommendation.

Higher education institutions are also invited to put in place useful tools to facilitate the entry of candidates with a foreign qualification, in line with the *'Recommendation of the Council of the European Union on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education*

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<sup>9</sup> See footnote 5.

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/-/countering-education-fraud>



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*and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad*'.<sup>12</sup> In line with the aforementioned Recommendation, in order to support higher education institutions in defining the comparability of qualifications for countries that are parties to the Lisbon Convention, these institutions are invited to use the [\*Automatic Recognition Database – Italia \(ARDI\)\*](#).

### 5. Degree programmes with competitive admission

Please find below the information on the following degree programmes with competitive admission:

- bachelor's and master's degree programmes directly aimed at training architects;
- Master's Degree in Primary Education.

In order to access these courses, it is mandatory to take an admission test, the dates of which are defined in the notices prepared by the individual universities.<sup>13</sup>

After the admission tests, each university shall draw up and publish the ranking list for the reserved quota for the relevant year, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective call. In order to determine to which quota a single applicant for a programme with selective admission belongs, reference should be made to Article 5(39) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998 and subsequent amendments and additions.

The new reference for the admission procedures to integrated master's degrees in medicine and surgery, dentistry and veterinary medicine is Italian Law No 26 of 14 March 2025, which was published in the Italian Official Journal (*Gazzetta Ufficiale*) of 18 March 2025.

The procedures for international students to enrol in these programmes will be set out in a subsequent notice.

### 6. Language Proficiency

Higher education institutions are responsible for assessing the language proficiency required to access their degree programmes. Each institution shall independently organise a test of Italian language proficiency, identifying the level required (at least B2) for all bachelor's and master's degree programmes, with the exception of the cases below. With reference to *foundation courses* delivered in Italian or in another language, higher education institutions are also required to verify that the student has a language proficiency of at least B1 level.

This test shall be organised before any visa application and preferably remotely, in order to certify the required language proficiency at the stage of student visa application, speed up these procedures and avoid placing an

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<sup>12</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H1210\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01))

<sup>13</sup> According to the ruling of the Italian Council of State, Plenary Session No 1/2015, passing the test for admission to bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the health sector provided for in Article 4(1) of Italian Law No 264 of 2 August 1999 is not compulsory for students coming from foreign universities and requesting transfer to years beyond the first of those programmes. Authorisation to transfer is in any case subject to compliance with the unavoidable limit on the number of available places set by the target university for each year of programme during the annual planning and to verification of the student's academic records. To this end, universities shall specify analytically in their calls for applications the criteria for the recognition of credits obtained abroad and for the assessment of equivalences as well as the number of places available for transfer to each year of programme beyond the first. Within the framework of its autonomy, each university may also provide for additional admission tests for students applying for transfer to years beyond the first, in order to assess their knowledge, competences and skills, in accordance with the principles of the Lisbon Convention.



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excessive burden on the applicant.

The result of the language proficiency assessment must be certified and uploaded by the university in the pre-enrolment application, so as to exempt the diplomatic and consular missions from the same task. Even in the case of degree programmes taught in another language, language proficiency must always be assessed and included in the pre-enrolment application. Given that no Italian language proficiency test is required for such programmes, the candidate will have to provide appropriate certification of adequate proficiency of the official language of the programme. Those who have not passed the language proficiency assessment test cannot be admitted to any further competition or aptitude tests.

Applicants who have obtained Italian proficiency certificates of at least B2 level CEFR by recognised certification bodies, including in agreement with the Italian Cultural Institutes abroad, are exempt from the Italian language proficiency test, but are still subject to the limit of the respective quota of places reserved for foreign citizens with their permanent address (*residenza*) abroad applying for a visa. These certificates of proficiency can be obtained in the country of origin and in partner examination centres worldwide.

For enrolment in undergraduate degree programmes, the following categories are exempt from the language proficiency test, irrespective of the number of places reserved:

- a) students who hold a five- or four-year upper secondary education diploma from Italian state schools and state-accredited private schools abroad;
- b) students holding one of the final secondary school qualifications listed in Annex 2;
- c) holders of certificates supplementing middle school qualification (*scuola media*) obtained in Argentina, attesting to attendance at a programme including the teaching of the Italian language for at least five years, pursuant to Italian Law No 210 of 7 June 1999 (published in the Italian Official Journal No 152 of 1 July 1999);
- d) students who have obtained the Italian Language and Culture Diploma at the Universities for Foreigners of Perugia or Siena;
- e) students who have obtained certificates of Italian language proficiency at levels C1 and C2 of the Council of Europe, issued under the Italian language quality certification system (*Certificazione Lingua Italiana di Qualità – CLIQ*), including in agreement with Italian Cultural Institutes abroad or other accredited bodies.

For enrolment in master's degree programmes or other programmes, students holding the qualifications referred to in points d) and e) above are exempt from the university's language proficiency assessment provided for independently by the university.

## **7. Beneficiaries of international protection**

On the basis of the Lisbon Convention – ratified in Italy by Law No 148 of 11 July 2002 – and having regard to Article 26 of Legislative Decree No 251/2007, as amended pursuant to Legislative Decree No 18 of 21 February 2014 (introduction of paragraph 3-bis), on the basis of their autonomy and in line with the possibility given by current legislation, higher education institutions are invited to carry out recognition ‘...of degree programmes and study periods carried out abroad as well as of foreign qualifications for the purposes of access to higher education, continuation of university studies and obtaining Italian university qualifications’ (Article 2 of Italian Law No 148/2002). They are also invited to make all necessary efforts to put in place internal



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procedures and mechanisms to evaluate the qualifications of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who are already in Italy, including in cases where part or all of the relevant documents proving qualifications are not present.

Higher education institutions will be able to draw on the experience and certification produced by the ENIC-NARIC centres, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) and internationally established good practices for the recognition of these qualifications and for the preparation of the relevant evaluation procedures.

### 8. Enrolments

Each higher education institution provides accurate information on enrolments in its programmes. If international students do not have a valid residence permit when enrolling or if they do not meet all the requirements for completing enrolment in general, enrolment in the required degree programme shall be subject to reservations until June of the year following the submission of application. In those circumstances, at the request of the competent institution, the police headquarters will notify the student whether the residence permit has actually been issued or whether their application has been rejected.

In order to complete student enrolment, higher education institutions are responsible not only for assessing the suitability of the qualification for the chosen programme, but also for verifying the authenticity of the academic documents submitted.<sup>14</sup> In order to do it, they may use the methods they consider most appropriate, in line with the controls already carried out at the pre-enrolment stage, such as requesting apostilles and legalised documents,<sup>15</sup> directly contacting the foreign institution, using online verification tools, using the verification statements proposed by the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre (CIMEA), etc.

The evaluation of foreign qualifications for the purposes of enrolment in Italian higher education programmes is the exclusive responsibility of higher education institutions, as laid down in Article 2 of Italian Law No 148/2002. The institutions may request documentation from the Italian diplomatic missions concerning the educational qualifications held by applicants to their programmes. In any case, this documentation is not binding in the evaluation of foreign qualifications carried out by individual higher education institutions for admission to their programmes. During the evaluation of foreign qualifications for the purposes of enrolment, the documentation required of students is determined by the individual higher education institutions. Higher education institutions will publish in the UniversItaly portal the results of their evaluation procedure of foreign qualifications for the purposes of enrolment in degree programmes in Italy and the information on the verification of the authenticity of the documents submitted by individual candidates. This is done also for the benefit of diplomatic and consular missions processing visa applications.

Tuition fees are normally paid before enrolment is completed; therefore, this can only be done once the relevant visa has been issued by the competent diplomatic or consular mission.

After enrolment, the higher education institution will confirm on the UniversItaly portal that this procedure has been completed.

If the student does not enrol, the higher education institution must promptly notify the diplomatic and consular mission giving full explanation so that the latter can immediately revoke the entry visa. **This notification shall also be submitted to the competent police headquarters.** Failure to enrol must be duly reported via the

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<sup>14</sup> It should be noted that, before issuing the visa, the diplomatic missions could carry out further verifications on the authenticity of the qualifications presented, including the language proficiencies required by this memorandum.

<sup>15</sup> See Note 4.



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UniversItaly portal.

Therefore, with effect from **31 January of the relevant academic year**, applicants to bachelor's and master's degrees who have not yet been enrolled on the UniversItaly portal will have their entry visas revoked. At the same time, the relevant diplomatic and consular mission will notify the relevant police headquarters.



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## Part II – PROCEDURES WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS

### 1. Student visas

After carrying out their own checks, the diplomatic and consular missions shall issue a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) to applicants for higher education courses in Italy who meet the following criteria: they have duly pre-enrolled on the UniverItaly portal, their chosen higher education institution has validated their application and lifted any reservation. The visa is valid for 365 days and multiple entries. Once the visa has been issued, the diplomatic and consular missions confirm on the UniverItaly portal that the procedure has been completed.

The following are the only two cases in which a visa application may be submitted against a pre-enrolment application validated **with reservations**:

- a) the candidate is not yet physically in possession of the relevant local qualification. In this case, in order to submit the visa application, the student must provide a certificate issued by the competent foreign authority in accordance with the rules of the country in which the qualification was obtained. This is only possible if such a certificate exists within the foreign legal framework and is capable of officially certifying that the candidate has obtained the qualification in question. This does not include in any way self-declarations signed by the candidate and/or certificates issued by non-official bodies/institutions and/or by bodies not responsible for these tasks in the foreign system.
- b) the candidate must take the language proficiency test and/or admission examination in person at the chosen higher education institution.

In cases a) and b), if the requirements are met, the diplomatic and consular missions shall issue a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) valid 100 days in order to enable candidates to take the required examinations. If they pass the selection, they can enrol without having to return to their country of origin. If the language proficiency test and/or admission examination take place before the admission qualification is obtained or at a time that does not allow the regular pre-enrolment to be completed, students will have to apply for a short-term entry visa for study (Uniform Schengen Visa for stays of less than 90 days).<sup>16</sup> The duration of this visa will depend on the student's actual needs, provided that the conditions and requirements for this type of visa are met. The competent diplomatic and consular mission will only issue the final type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) valid for 365 days and multiple entries at a later time, when the student will have been admitted to the chosen course and will have returned to their country of origin. The student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) can only be issued for the initial enrolment in a degree programme at a higher education institution. In no case may this visa be issued to foreigners enrolled in subsequent academic years.

Pursuant to Article 39(5) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998, as amended by Article 26 of Italian Law No 189 of 30 July 2002 amending immigration and asylum legislation, Italian citizens who hold a foreign qualification, EU citizens wherever they reside and non-EU citizens who are legally resident in Italy or in a country of the European Union have access to higher education programmes without the need for a visa and without quota restrictions to the chosen degree programme if they hold a qualification corresponding to the Italian qualification required, provided that it is recognised as suitable according to the independent assessment carried out by the individual higher education institution. These candidates shall submit their applications for

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<sup>16</sup> The citizens of [these countries](#) are required to obtain a short-term visa. [Requirements](#) for obtaining a short-term visa.



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enrolment directly to the selected higher education institution in accordance with the procedures, deadlines and documentation laid down by each institution and in accordance with these Procedures. They shall have access to admission assessment on an equal footing with holders of Italian qualifications. EU citizens shall apply for registration with the municipality where they intend to live under the conditions, procedures and deadlines laid down in Italian Legislative Decree No 30 of 6 February 2007.

### 2. Requirements for obtaining a visa

Without prejudice to the assessment of the migratory risk (see Article 4(2) of Inter-ministerial Decree No 850/2011 referred to in the Introductory Note to these Procedures), in order to obtain a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) and, subsequently, a residence permit, international students must prove that they meet the requirements below.

- a) Economic means of subsistence for the intended stay. These resources are quantified at EUR 10,179.85 per year.<sup>17</sup> The availability of these means of subsistence must come from lawful and traceable sources and must preferably be personal or, alternatively, provided by the household (up to the fourth degree of kinship). Where permitted in the country of origin, preference should be given to revolving current accounts or escrow accounts in the name of the student.

With regard to the traceability of the means of subsistence, it is the responsibility of the diplomatic and consular missions to ascertain the origin of those funds and whether they are actually attributable to the student or, in any case, to their household. This may be done including by assessing the movement of the current account and the consistency of the funds with the income and overall assets of the student and their household.

The economic means of subsistence may also be provided by Italian institutions and bodies with established claims, including universities, local governments, foreign institutions and bodies considered reliable by the Italian diplomatic missions. In the absence of an explicit scholarship certificate, the mere application or fulfilment of the eligibility requirements for a scholarship awarded by Italian regional agencies for the right to study cannot be taken into account in the calculation of means of subsistence.

In any event, those financial resources must form part of a broader assessment of the socio-economic background of the student's family or of their sponsor, in order for there to be reasonable grounds for believing that those financial resources will also be available for the continuation of the student's studies.

- b) Adequate accommodation in Italy. The mere application or fulfilment of the eligibility requirements for a place at university halls of residence does not constitute a valid document for attesting the availability of suitable accommodation.
- c) Appropriate insurance cover for medical care and hospitalisation pursuant to Article 39(3) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286/1998 and of the Directive of the Ministry of the Interior of 1 March 2000. When applying for a residence permit, students must prove they have such cover. The following options are accepted:
  - consular declaration confirming the right to health care under an agreement between Italy and the applicant's country of origin;

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<sup>17</sup> Within the meaning of Article 4(3) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286/1998 and point 17 of Annex A to Italian Legislative Decree No 850/2011, the amount is set out in the table of the Directive of the Ministry of the Interior of 1 March 2000.



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- foreign insurance policy providing forms of assistance valid in Italy and without any limitations or exceptions to the rates laid down for urgent hospitalisation throughout its duration;
- insurance policy with Italian bodies or companies accompanied by a declaration from the insurer specifying that there are no limitations or exceptions to the rates laid down for urgent hospitalisation throughout its duration.

It should be noted that, with effect from 11 January 2025, fingerprinting is also mandatory for national visas (see Italian Legislative Decree No 145/2024).

When issuing a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) to a candidate, the competent diplomatic and consular mission must confirm on the *UniversItaly* portal that this procedure has been completed.

The *UniversItaly* portal must be updated even if the visa application is rejected or if the applicant withdraws their visa application.

### 3. Information and documentation

Diplomatic and consular missions make all information relating to the procedures for applying for a student visa known.

We recall that the non-profit association *Uni-Italia* supports foreign applicants to degree programmes through its centres abroad by offering assistance to facilitate study visa applications in cooperation with the diplomatic and consular missions.

When applying for an entry visa for undergraduate degree programmes, candidates must submit to the diplomatic and consular missions the preparatory documentation listed below.

- a) Original diploma of secondary education, obtained after at least 12 years of schooling.<sup>18</sup> The diploma must be accompanied either by a statement of comparability and verification of authenticity issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA)<sup>19</sup> or by a Declaration of Value just for comparability if this document does not specify that the authenticity of the diploma has been verified. If an applicant for a visa is not yet in possession of the relevant local qualification at the time of application, they may submit a provisional certificate issued by the competent foreign authority in accordance with the rules of the country in which the qualification was obtained. This is only possible if such a certificate exists within the foreign legal framework and is capable of officially certifying that the candidate has obtained the qualification in question. This does not include in any way self-declarations signed by the candidate and/or certificates issued by non-official bodies/institutions and/or by bodies not responsible for these tasks in the foreign system.
- b) certificate attesting the passing of the national college entrance exam possibly required for admission to university in the country of origin;
- c) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- d) any other documentation regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification.
- e) for visa applications for degree programmes taught in a language other than Italian, higher education

<sup>18</sup> If the secondary education qualification was obtained after less than 12 years of schooling, see Annex 1.

<sup>19</sup> In the case of qualifications obtained in a signatory country to the Lisbon Convention, this statement of comparability can be directly downloaded from the [Automatic Recognition Database – Italia \(ARDI\)](#).



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institutions will have to check that any non-native speakers have an appropriate proficiency of the foreign language in which the course is taught and of the level required. To this end, higher education institutions may exclusively rely on appropriate certificates of proficiency in the language in which the course is taught attesting to a level not lower than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) issued by internationally recognised institutions. Alternatively, equivalent certificates issued by the higher education institutions concerned may also be valid, provided that they certify that candidates have language skills of the level required in all four skills (oral comprehension, written comprehension, oral production and written production).

- f) a summary of the application for pre-enrolment as validated by the higher education institution.<sup>20</sup>Please note that only candidates who have valid pre-enrolment applications without reservations may apply for a student visa. The only exceptions are applications with reservations referred to in points a) and b) of Part II, paragraph 1 (student visas) of these Procedures.

When applying for an entry visa for postgraduate degree programmes, candidates must submit to the diplomatic and consular missions the following preparatory documentation:

- a) depending on the cycle of the degree programmes for which the application is submitted, an official foreign qualification<sup>21</sup> corresponding to the first or second cycle according to the qualifications framework of the Bologna Process and level 6 or 7 according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) obtained at a higher education institution which allows on-site continuation of studies at academic institutions at the next level (second or third cycle of the Bologna Process/level 7 or level 8 EQF). The foreign qualification must show no substantial difference according to the principles of the Lisbon Convention and the national methodology adopted by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA). If an applicant for a visa is not yet in possession of the relevant local qualification at the time of application, they may submit a provisional certificate issued by the competent foreign authority in accordance with the rules of the country in which the qualification was obtained. This is only possible if such a certificate exists within the foreign legal framework and is capable of officially certifying that the candidate has obtained the qualification in question. This does not include in any way self-declarations signed by the candidate and/or certificates issued by non-official bodies/institutions and/or by bodies not responsible for these tasks in the foreign system;
- b) for the purposes of issuing a visa, the qualification must be accompanied either by a statement of comparability and **verification of authenticity** issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA)<sup>22</sup> or by a Declaration of Value just for comparability if this document does not specify that the authenticity of the diploma has been verified;
- c) certificate issued by the competent higher education institution attesting to the examinations passed and, for each discipline, the detailed programmes for obtaining the qualifications referred to above. When the number of places that each higher education institution reserves for the individual programmes is published, prospective students may verify whether or not they are exempted from translating this certificate and for which foreign languages. Post-secondary studies (examinations and credits) already completed may be attested by the *Diploma Supplement*, where adopted;
- d) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- e) any other documentation regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification that the

<sup>20</sup> If the higher education institution does not validate the pre-enrolment application and the application for an entry visa has already been received by the competent diplomatic and consular mission, the application shall be automatically rejected.

<sup>21</sup> See footnote 18.

<sup>22</sup> See footnote 19.



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diplomatic and consular missions deem necessary;

- f) for visa applications for degree programmes taught in a language other than Italian, higher education institutions will have to check that any non-native speakers have an appropriate proficiency of the foreign language in which the course is taught and of the level required. To this end, higher education institutions may exclusively rely on appropriate certificates of proficiency in the language in which the course is taught attesting to a level not lower than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) issued by internationally recognised institutions. Alternatively, equivalent certificates issued by the higher education institutions concerned may also be valid, provided that they certify that candidates have language skills of the level required in all four skills (oral comprehension, written comprehension, oral production and written production).
- g) a summary of the application for pre-enrolment as validated by the higher education institution.<sup>23</sup> Failure by the institution to validate and/or lift any reservation on the application for pre-enrolment shall result in the automatic rejection of the application for an entry visa. The only exceptions are the cases referred to in points a) and b) of Part II, paragraph 1 (student visas) of these Procedures.

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<sup>23</sup> See footnote 20.



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### **Part III – PROCEDURES WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

#### **1. Application for a residence permit**

The administrative procedure for issuing and renewing residence permits is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior and is governed by the Consolidated Law on Immigration, the rules on the status of foreign nationals (Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998), its implementing regulation (Italian Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999) and Italian Law No 68 of 28 May 2007 on short-term stays by foreign nationals for visits, business, tourism and studies.

Within eight working days of their arrival in Italy with a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*), candidates must submit an application for a residence permit for study to the competent police headquarters of the city in which they intend to live. Applications may be submitted to post offices or to counters possibly present at higher education institutions using the appropriate kit available at the post offices.

When the application for a residence permit is submitted, the foreign national is identified and must pay the relevant fees. When the application is submitted to the post office, prospective students receive an appointment, indicating the date on which they will have to go to the relevant offices of the police headquarters with photographs in order to be recorded and fingerprinted.

When at the police headquarters, if their application is to be supplemented by additional documentation,<sup>24</sup> prospective students shall receive appropriate information directly from the Immigration Office pursuant to Article 10a of Italian Law No 241/1990. This additional documentation does not refer to the production of a Declaration of Value, as this document is no longer required as a result of Council of State judgement No 4613 of 4 September 2007.

The post office issues a receipt for the submission of the application for a residence permit, which is equivalent to the receipt issued by the police headquarters. This receipt makes it also possible to attest that the person is legally present in Italy.<sup>25</sup>

Students entering with a short-term visa (Uniform Schengen Visa) shall comply with the prescribed residence procedures under Italian Law No 68 of 28 May 2007. This is done in accordance with the procedures laid down in the memorandum of the Minister of the Interior of 26 July 2007 laying down the procedures for submitting the declaration of presence made by foreign nationals for short-term stays. Pending verification that they meet all the requirements laid down, candidates will in any case be admitted to admission tests with reservations.

#### **2. Renewal of the residence permit**

After enrolling in a higher education course, at least 60 days before their residence permit expires, students must apply for renewal of their residence permit for the entire year to the chief of police (*questore*) of the Province in which they live. At the time of renewal, foreign students who entered Italy on a type-D student visa for enrolling at universities (*Immatricolazione Università*) must prove that they hold a certificate of enrolment at the University and that they meet all the conditions laid down for the issue of the visa and the corresponding residence permit.

<sup>24</sup> In order to complete their applications for a residence permit, students may avail themselves of the free and qualified assistance of the institutions for advice and social assistance (*patronati*) and of municipalities that have set up such a service.

<sup>25</sup> The Post Office Counter Clerk also issues a letter containing all the information relating to the appointment at the police headquarters, i.e. the date, time and place where candidates have to go for the subsequent examination of their application. Information on the procedure can be obtained at [www.poliziadistato.it](http://www.poliziadistato.it), [www.portaleimmigrazione.it](http://www.portaleimmigrazione.it) or at the freephone number 803160. If the issuance of the residence permit is delayed as a result of recording, photographing and fingerprinting procedures, the enrolment at the university will be subject to reservation. In order to lift the reservation, the higher education institution must receive a copy of the residence permit. Alternatively, if impediments have emerged that were not known before, at the request of the competent institution, the police headquarters will issue a notice indicating that the application for residence permit has been rejected.



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Residence permits for study at higher education institutions (*Università*) shall be renewed ‘[...] to students who have passed an examination in the first year of their programme and at least two examinations in the following years [...]’. This requirement must be met in terms of credits as determined by the universities. In addition, ‘for serious health reasons or reasons of *force majeure* which must be duly documented, the residence permit may also be renewed to students who passed only one examination, without prejudice to the total number of renewals. However, their residence permit may not be renewed for more than three years beyond the duration of their degree programme.’<sup>26</sup> A residence permit for study may also be renewed for the purpose of continuing studies by enrolling in a degree programme other than that for which the foreign student entered Italy. This variation is subject to approval by the academic authorities. In order to qualify for this type of renewal, students must not have withdrawn from studies.<sup>27</sup>

Please note that if a foreign student already enrolled at an Italian higher education institution has withdrawn from studies and applies for a new enrolment in another degree programme at the same or another institution, they will not be able to use the specific visa and study residence permit issued at the time of their previous enrolment.

The formalisation of a student’s withdrawal from studies means that the conditions required for their residence in Italy are no longer met. This implies the automatic revocation of their permit,<sup>28</sup> which means that the condition for their authorised stay in Italy is no longer met. This results in the obligation to leave the country.

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<sup>26</sup> Article 46(4) of Italian Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999.

<sup>27</sup> Within the meaning of Article 1(3)(b) of Italian Legislative Decree No 154 of 10 August 2007. Transfer to a study programme other than that for which the visa was issued is only possible for state university programmes. Transfers to private programmes are not allowed. The implementing rules for transfer are laid down in the Memorandum of the Ministry of the Interior No 400/C/2008/899/P/12.214.27BI of 21 February 2008.

<sup>28</sup> Article 5(3),(4) and (5) of Italian Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998 (Consolidated text of the provisions governing immigration and the rules on the status of foreign nationals) and subsequent amendments.



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**Part IV – HIGHER TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTES (ITS ACADEMIES)**

Higher technological programmes offered by ITS academies<sup>29</sup> are the responsibility of the Italian Ministry of Education and Merit. The same procedures apply to visa applicants who wish to enrol in these programmes as for enrolment in university degree programmes, with the exception of pre-enrolment procedures and programme quotas which do not concern this sector. Candidates shall submit their application for enrolling in a higher technological programme directly to the relevant ITS academy in accordance with its procedures and deadlines. **The online ‘pre-enrolment application’ on the UniversItaly portal does not apply to higher technological institutes (ITS academies). Please refer to the instructions of the Ministry of Education and Merit on the procedures to be followed within the [ITS Academy system portal](#).**

When enrolling, applicants shall present their educational qualifications, duly accompanied by the following documents:<sup>30</sup>

- a) an original diploma (or a certified copy) of the secondary education qualification obtained after at least 12 years of schooling. A replacement certificate valid for all legal purposes is also accepted. Alternatively, and at the discretion of the relevant ITS academy, the qualification must be accompanied either by a statement issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA) or, where appropriate, by a Declaration of Value;
- b) certificate attesting to successful completion of any national entrance exam possibly required for admission to similar institutions in the country of origin. This requirement only applies in cases where the foreign system provides for an entrance exam for admission to institutions comparable to ITS academies;
- c) any translations into Italian of the documents referred to in points a) and b);
- d) any other documentation requested by the relevant ITS academy, including regarding verification of the authenticity of the foreign qualification.

Following confirmation of acceptance by the relevant ITS academy, candidates apply to the relevant diplomatic and consular mission for a student visa with a validity linked to the duration of the programme. ITS academies receiving the application for admission to these programmes shall notify the competent diplomatic and consular mission of the acceptance of the student. Also in the case of these programmes, the assessment of admission qualifications is the sole responsibility of the higher technological institutions.

If an ITS academy has decided to request a statement of comparability of the foreign qualification issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA) and the candidate has obtained it, a declaration of value is no longer necessary. ITS academies will communicate to the relevant diplomatic and consular missions all information relating to the duration and nature of the programme in question. Following confirmation of acceptance by the relevant ITS academy, candidates apply to the relevant diplomatic and consular mission for a student visa with a validity linked to the duration of the programme. If an admission examination in person at the chosen higher technological institution is required, a student visa will be issued which is valid 100 days. If the candidate passes these tests, they will enrol in the programme and apply for an extension of their residence permit without having to return to their country of origin.

As regards language proficiency in Italian or any other language in which the programme is taught, the same provisions established for university programmes apply.

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<sup>29</sup> [Higher Technological Institutes \(ITS Academies\)](#) are the non-academic higher education segment that meets the demand of companies for new and highly technical and technological skills to promote innovation processes.

<sup>30</sup> The qualification of secondary education obtained abroad after at least 12 years of schooling may also be different than that required for entry to academic institutions, bearing in mind that in many foreign systems there are qualifications issued by vocational upper secondary schools that do not allow entry to academic studies but allow entry to technical programmes comparable to those offered by ITS Academies.