Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AND ITALIAN CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD (IRE)
AWARDED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

DEADLINE MARCH 26th 2026

The **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) offers scholarships** in favour of **foreign students and Italian citizens living abroad (IRE)** for the **2026-2027 academic year** in order to foster cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technological fields, to support Italy's economic system in the world and to promote the Italian language and culture (according to the Italian law 288/55 and its subsequent amendments and additions).

Scholarships are offered for study, training and/or research programmes at **public or legally recognised private Italian institutions**. Scholarships are awarded exclusively for the **onsite attendance** of academic courses **on the Italian territory**.

The list of **eligible countries** can be found on the *Study in Italy* portal: https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/.

Selection is based on citizenship. Applicants may apply for one country only.
Scholarships reserved for Italian citizens living abroad (IRE) are offered exclusively to students holding only the Italian citizenship and exclusively for the following countries, where they must be resident: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Peru, United Kingdom, Senegal, Spain, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela.
Holders of dual citizenship (Italian and foreign) may apply only through the selection process of the foreign beneficiary country, indicating their foreign citizenship in the "Citizenship" field on the *Study in Italy* portal.
Holders of multiple foreign citizenships may apply for only one selection process, choosing one of the beneficiary countries of which they are citizens, and must indicate the citizenship of the selected beneficiary country in the "Citizenship" field on the *Study in Italy* portal.

Art. 1
TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1.1 Master's Degree programmes (Laurea Magistrale, 2nd cycle)

Scholarships for Master's Degree programmes are awarded for a **period of study of 9 (nine) months** and are potentially renewable.
To enrol in the first year of a Master's Degree programme (Laurea Magistrale – 2nd cycle) in Italy, applicants must have completed a 1st cycle programme, equivalent to an Italian Bachelor's Degree (Laurea triennale).
Please note: for some Master's Degree programmes, enrolment is subject to passing admission tests and/or completing a pre-enrolment procedure. Applicants are encouraged to carry out the necessary checks with the chosen institution and/or in the *Universitaly* portal: https://www.universitaly.it/.
Please note: for Master's degree programmes that involve agreements between Italian universities and universities abroad (e.g. Joint degree, Double degree, etc.) applicants are invited to verify that they will be able to be duly enrolled at the Italian institution and to obtain a valid enrolment certificate for the academic year 2026-2027, as this certificate is a mandatory requirement for the disbursement of the scholarship.

1.2 Higher Education for Fine Arts, Music and Dance (AFAM) programmes (1st and 2nd cycle)

Scholarships for programmes of Higher Education for Fine Arts, Music and Dance (AFAM), for both 1st and 2nd cycle, are awarded for a period of study of 9 (nine) months and are potentially renewable. To enrol in an AFAM programme in Italy, applicants must possess the academic qualifications required by the chosen institution.
Please note: for some programmes at AFAM institutions, enrolment is subject to passing admission tests and/or completing a pre-enrolment procedure. Applicants are encouraged to carry out the necessary checks with the chosen institution and/or in the *Universitaly* portal: https://www.universitaly.it/.

1.3 PhD Programmes

Scholarships for PhD programmes are awarded for a **period of study of 9 (nine) months** and are potentially renewable.
To enrol in a PhD programme in Italy, applicants must possess the academic qualifications required by the chosen institution and must have passed an admission test.

Please note: applicants are encouraged to check whether a pre-enrolment procedure is required with the chosen institution and/or in the *Universitaly* portal: https://www.universitaly.it/.

1.4 Research projects

Scholarships for Research projects under academic supervision, including co-tutorships, are awarded for a **period of study of 9 (nine) months and are not renewable**.
This type of scholarship can be awarded for research projects carried out in Italy at both public and legally recognised private Italian universities, public Italian Research Institutions, recognised museums and archives.
When applying for this kind of scholarship applicants must submit the invitation letter from their supervisor and their research project.

1.5 "Italofonia" scholarships for intensive Italian language and culture courses

Scholarships for Italian language and culture courses are awarded for a **period of study of 3 (three) months**. This type of scholarship can be awarded to applicants whose proficiency level in Italian is at least equivalent to **level A2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

1.6 Bachelor's Degree (Laurea Triennale, 1st cycle) or Single-Cycle Degree (Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico) programmes: "Costruiamo il futuro" scholarships

This type of scholarship is reserved exclusively for the purposes of renewal to **students who benefited from the "Costruiamo il futuro" scholarship according to articles 1.6 and 7** of the "Call for applications for the academic year 2025-2026 for foreign students living abroad and Italian citizens living abroad (IRE) awarded by the Italian government".
"Costruiamo il futuro" scholarships are awarded for a **period of study of 9 (nine) months** and are potentially renewable.

Art. 2
ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have a valid passport or identity document and they must upload a legible copy of this document at the time of registration on the *Study in Italy* portal, under penalty of exclusion.

Applicants who also have the Italian citizenship must declare it when applying for the scholarship and must upload a proof of the Italian citizenship (valid passport or ID card or a valid citizenship certificate) on the *Study in Italy* portal.

Applicants must meet the requirements listed below on the date of application or by the dates expressly specified.

2.1 Academic qualifications

Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1** and **1.2** must possess the **academic qualification required for enrolment** at the chosen programme.

Applicants who already gold a certificate confirming the award of their academic qualification must upload it on the *Study in Italy* portal when applying for the MAECI scholarship.
Applicants who do not yet possess the academic qualification required to enrol in the chosen programme must declare it on the *Study in Italy* portal when applying for the MAECI scholarship. If required, this certificate must be uploaded at a later stage following the instructions in art. 7.2.

Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraph **1.3** must upload, in addition to the certificate confirming the award of their academic qualification, the admission letter to the PhD programme when applying for the MAECI scholarship. Under no circumstances will pre-admission letters be considered valid.

When applying, applicants who do not yet possess the admission letter must declare it on the *Study in Italy* portal and must upload the invitation letter from their supervisor. If required, the admission letter must be uploaded at a later stage following the instructions in art. 7.2.

As for the programmes indicated in paragraphs 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 it will not be possible to upload any supplementary documents after submitting the application.

2.2 Age requirements

Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1, 1.2, 1.5** and **1.6** must be of age and shall not exceed the age of **28** by the deadline of this Call (born starting from 27th March 1997), with the sole exception of renewals. Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraph **1.3** must be of age and shall not exceed the age of **30** by the deadline of this Call (born starting from 27th March 1995), with the sole exception of renewals.
Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraph **1.4** paragraph must be of age and shall not exceed the age of **40** by the deadline of this Call (born starting from 27th March 1985).

2.3 Language proficiency

Candidates applying for scholarships for **Italian-taught** study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1** and **1.2** must possess a certificate or a document stating their proficiency level in the Italian language. The minimum level required is **B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
Alternatively, only applicants who were enrolled and have attended an Italian-taught university programme or Italian language course, can upload a language certificate, issued by the person responsible for the abovementioned courses, attesting the achievement of the required level of proficiency in Italian: at least **B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
When applying, applicants must upload this certificate or document on the *Study in Italy* portal.
When applying, applicants who do not yet possess the certificate or document stating their language proficiency must declare it on the *Study in Italy* portal and, if required, must upload this document at a later stage following the instructions in art. 7.2.

Please note: depending on the chosen institution, additional certificates may be required by it. Applicants are encouraged to carry out the necessary checks.

Candidates applying for scholarships for **English-taught** study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1** and **1.2** must possess a certificate or a document stating their proficiency level in the English language. The minimum level required is **B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
Applicants who have completed an entirely English-taught Bachelor's degree may upload on the *Study in Italy* portal a document stating that the study programme was entirely held in English.

Applicants from countries where English is an official language can upload on the *Study in Italy* portal a self-declaration stating at least a **B2** proficiency level in English, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
No proof of proficiency in the Italian language is required for programmes entirely taught in English.
The certificate or document attesting the proficiency level in the English language must be uploaded on the *Study in Italy* portal, when applying.
When applying, applicants who do not yet possess the certificate or document stating their language proficiency must declare it on the *Study in Italy* portal and, if required, must upload this document at a later stage following the instructions in art. 7.2
Please note: depending on the chosen institution, additional certificates may be required by it. Applicants are encouraged to carry out the necessary checks.

Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.3** and **1.4** do not need to prove their language proficiency level.
Please note: depending on the chosen institution, additional certificates may be required by it. Applicants are encouraged to carry out the necessary checks.

Candidates applying for scholarships for language courses indicated in paragraph **1.5** must upload on the *Study in Italy* portal a certificate or a document stating their proficiency level in the Italian language. The minimum level required is **A2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
Applicants who have attended an Italian language course or in an Italian-taught course at university or at an Italian Cultural Institute can upload a language certificate, issued by the person responsible for the abovementioned courses, attesting the achievement of the required level of proficiency in Italian: at least **A2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Once the application is submitted, it will not be possible to upload any supplementary documents.

Candidates applying for the renewal of scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraph **1.6** are exempt from submitting certificates or documents attesting their Italian language proficiency.

2.4 Ineligibility

2.4.1 Education

Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5** and **1.6** must meet all of the following requirements simultaneously:

a) Not being enrolled in and/or not have obtained a secondary school diploma (Italian or foreign) in Italy;

b) Not being enrolled in and/or not have obtained a degree from a public or private Italian higher education institution (university and AFAM) on the Italian territory;

c) Not being enrolled in and/or not have obtained a degree from a foreign higher education institution, whether public or private, located in Italy;

d) Not have carried out research projects with a MAECI scholarship during the last 5 academic years (i.e. from the academic year 2021-2022 to the academic year 2025-2026 inclusive);

e) Not enrol in a year of the chosen programme other than the first year.

These requirements do not apply to candidates applying for the scholarship renewal.

2.4.2 Other ineligibilities

Employees of the Italian Public Administration and their first-degree descendants are excluded from the award of scholarships.

MAECI scholarships are neither available nor granted for attending the following programmes:

- Bachelor's Degree programmes (1st cycle or "Lauree triennali"), except for AFAM programmes and without prejudice to the provisions set out in article **1.6**;

- Single-cycle Degree Programmes ("Lauree magistrali a ciclo unico");

- First- and second-level university Master's programmes ("Master Universitari"), specialisation courses, one-year university courses;

- Single courses.

MAECI scholarships are neither available nor granted to students enrolled beyond the legal duration of their degree programme (it: "fuori corso") nor to part-time students.
Applications submitted by candidates who do not meet the required eligibility criteria will not be considered valid.

Art. 3
RENEWALS

Applicants who benefited from a MAECI scholarship in the 2025-2026 academic year may apply for a scholarship renewal for continuing or completing a multi-year full-time study programme in the 2026-2027 academic year, provided that the legal duration of the programme is not exceeded. The renewal application must be submitted for the same study programme attended in the 2025-2026 academic year at the same institution.
Scholarship renewals are awarded on a priority basis to applicants who are duly enrolled and who submit, when applying, a certificate or an updated self-declaration, downloadable from the university website with their hand-written signature, certifying the achievement of at least 15 university credits (CFU). Applicants who have not achieved 15 university credits at the time of applying can still submit their application and must upload a certificate or an updated self-declaration, downloadable from the university website with their hand-written signature, certifying the university credits obtained.
Candidates applying for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraph **1.3** must upload a positive evaluation letter from their supervisor.

The renewal application must be submitted through the *Study in Italy* portal following the standard procedure.

Renewal applications are not possible for scholarships for study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.4** and **1.5**.

Art. 4

FUNDING PERIOD

Scholarships indicated in paragraphs **1.1**, **1.2**, **1.3**, **1.4**, and **1.6** of this Call have a fixed duration of **9 (nine) months** starting from **November 1st, 2026** and ending on **July 31st, 2027**, that cannot be deferred to the following academic year.
Scholarships indicated in paragraph **1.5** of this Call have a fixed duration of **3 (three) months**. They can be benefited starting from **January 1st, 2027** and must end by **September 30th, 2027**. They must necessarily start on the first day and end on the last day of the relevant quarter.

The number of assigned months, the scholarship exact starting and ending dates, the chosen study programme and institution are formalized via the *Dichiarazione di assegnazione di borsa di studio* (awarding letter) by the relevant Italian diplomatic representation. Scholarship winners will be required to read and accept the awarding letter, which is the official document awarding the scholarship and, as such, cannot be modified.

Art. 5

"ATTANASIO" SCHOLARSHIPS

In memory of Ambassador Luca Attanasio and his entourage, the chosen Carabiniere Vittorio Iacovacci and the driver Mustapha Milambo, a reserve of three 9-month scholarships will be offered, also for the 2026-2027 academic year, to applicants from Morocco, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo enrolling or pursuing their studies in the fields of international relations, cooperation for development, international humanitarian and human rights law, with a preference for the following Master's Degrees: LM-38 (Modern languages for communication and cooperation), LM-52 (International relations), LM-62 (Political sciences), LM-81 (Cooperation for development sciences), LM-87 (Social service and social policies).

Art. 6

WIKIAFRICA EDUCATION – HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

In collaboration with Aurora Foundation, MAECI grantees from Africa and speaking African languages are offered the opportunity to take part in the WikiAfrica Higher Education Initiative, promoting the active participation of students with the aim of making specialized information on

Africa available online. The initiative is developed by Moleskine Foundation in partnership with Wikimedia Foundation and Aurora Foundation.

Art. 7

HOW TO APPLY

7.1 Application

Applications must be submitted exclusively online, following prior registration, through the *Study in Italy* portal:

https://studyinitaly.esteri.it

When registering on the portal, applicants are strongly advised to use an email address that they check regularly, as all subsequent communications will be sent to that address.

Online applications must be received at the latest **at 14:00 (Italian time) on March 26th 2026.**
Only applications and documents submitted through the *Study in Italy* portal will be considered valid.

Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the final days to submit their application. Any slowdowns of the portal due to a high volume of traffic will not be considered valid grounds for failure to submit the application.

All the necessary information to correctly register on the portal and to submit the application can be found at the following links:

- Website guidelines: https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/Static/GuidaAlSito
- FAQ: https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/Static/FAQ

7.2 Supplementary documents

Applicants can upload the following supplementary documents:
- Academic qualification valid for admission to the study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1** and **1.2** (see art. 2.1)
- Admission letter to the PhD programme for the study programme indicated in paragraph **1.3** (see art. 2.1)
- Language proficiency certificate (Italian or English) for the study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.1** and **1.2** (see art. 2.3)

The submission of supplementary documents is not possible for the study programmes indicated in paragraphs **1.4, 1.5, 1.6** and **3**.

It will not be possible to independently upload supplementary documents to the *Study in Italy* portal. This function will be enabled on the portal exclusively for applicants who have indicated the need for it when completing their application and who appear in the merit ranking.

Supplementary documents, only if expressly requested, must be uploaded to the *Study in Italy* portal no later than **14:00 (Italian time) on July 1st 2026.**

Any documents uploaded without explicit authorization on the portal after the application has been sent will not be considered for the selection process.

Art. 8

SELECTION AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

8.1 Selection of applicants

Applications will be evaluated by a committee established by the relevant Italian diplomatic representation.

8.2 Awarding procedures

The awarding of scholarships consists of the following stages:

1. Comparative evaluation of applications received through the *Study in Italy* portal based on the fulfilment of the requirements and on criteria related to the merit of the applicant's educational background, for the purpose of potential admission to the interview;
2. Interview with only those applicants who have successfully passed the comparative evaluation stage;
3. Publication of the merit ranking;
4. Potential uploading of supplementary documents by the applicant, if required, as per articles 2.1, 2.3, and 7.2;
5. Acceptance/decline of the scholarship by the applicant;
6. Receipt of the scholarship awarding letter and its acknowledgement and acceptance by the recipient.

8.3 Merit ranking

The relevant Italian diplomatic representation will publish the ranking of winners and any reserves on its website. The ranking is unquestionable. Only winners will be notified via the *Study in Italy* portal. The absence of an applicant's protocol number or name from the list of winners and reserves published by the Diplomatic representation implies that the applicant has not been awarded the scholarship. If the ranking cannot be published for privacy and/or security reasons, winners will be notified individually.

8.4 Enrolment, tax identification number and visa

Scholarship recipients must take all necessary steps to pre-enrol and/or enrol at the chosen institution. Where required, the application for the tax identification number (codice fiscale) and study visa must be submitted to the relevant Italian diplomatic representation before the scholarship's starting date and, in any case, in sufficient time to ensure their issuance in compliance with the scholarship's funding period.

Art. 9

TUITION FEES

Some universities exempt scholarship recipients from the payment of enrolment and tuition fees according to the regulations governing university autonomy (Italian legislative decree dated 29th March 2012, number 68). Scholarship recipients must inquire with their chosen institution regarding any obligation to pay tuition fees, which, if applicable, are not refundable by MAECI. Regional fees are due in any case, have to be paid by the student and are not refundable by MAECI.

The exemption does not apply to intensive Italian language and culture courses. Enrolment and tuition fees must always be paid for this kind of courses.

Art. 10

HEALTH INSURANCE

Scholarship recipients will be covered by a collective health insurance, contracted by MAECI, in case of expenses due to illness or accident, exclusively for the duration of the scholarship.
Illness depending on pre-existing physical or pathological conditions as well as dental care is excluded from the insurance coverage.
Scholarship recipients from EU countries are advised to bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with them.

Art. 11

PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The winner of a MAECI scholarship indicated in paragraphs **1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4** and **1.6** of this Call will receive a **total amount of 10,800 (ten thousand eight hundred) euros**, which will be disbursed to the Italian current account in their name in 3 (three) instalments.
With the exception of renewals only, for the purpose of payment of the scholarship, scholarship recipients must communicate and provide proof of their date of entry into Italian territory, in relation to which the MAECI reserves the right to request any supporting documentation:

- the total scholarship amount is intended for scholarship recipients who are regularly present in Italy by 15th November 2026;
- for those arriving on or after 16th November 2026, the scholarship will be reduced proportionally based on their date of arrival in Italy.

For winners of a MAECI scholarship indicated in paragraph **1.4**, the relevant date for disbursement is the starting date of the research activity on the Italian territory certified by the project supervisor.

The three (3) instalments are divided as follows:

- The first instalment, amounting to 5,500 (five thousand five hundred) euros, intended to support students during their arrival and settling-in phase in Italy, will be paid **starting from** November 2026 upon verification of the scholarship recipients' presence on the Italian territory and confirmation of their enrolment, as certified to MAECI directly by the chosen institution;
- The second instalment, amounting to 2,300 (two thousand three hundred) euros will be paid **starting from** February 2027 upon verification of the continued regular enrolment, as certified to MAECI directly by the chosen institution.
- The third and final instalment, amounting to 3,000 (three thousand) euros will be paid **starting from** June 2027 upon verification of satisfactory academic progress through a university transcript of exams taken or through certification from the institution, where applicable. A satisfactory progress is achieved by obtaining 27 university credits (CFU) during the academic year 2026-2027 for the study programmes referred to in paragraphs **1.1**, **1.2** and **1.6**, and the supervisor's statement for the study programmes referred to in paragraphs **1.3** and **1.4**.

The same amounts and timelines mentioned above apply also to renewals.

The winner of a MAECI scholarship as indicated in paragraph **1.5** of this Call will receive a **total amount of 3,600 (three thousand six hundred) euros**, disbursed to the Italian current account in their name in a single instalment. The scholarship will be paid **at the end of the funding period**, upon verification of the scholarship recipient’s presence on the Italian territory within 15 days from the scholarship starting date, enrolment at the chosen institution and satisfactory progress.
The scholarship will be reduced proportionally for those who arrive on or after the 16th day from the scholarship starting date.
For the purpose of payment of the scholarship, scholarship recipients must communicate and provide proof of their date of entry into Italian territory, in relation to which the MAECI reserves the right to request any supporting documentation.

The scholarship will be paid, according to the necessary administrative timeline, exclusively upon verification of the date of entry in the Italian territory, enrolment at the chosen institution specified in the awarding letter (*Dichiarazione di Assegnazione*) and submission of the required documents (Italian tax identification number and IBAN number) by the recipient.

The scholarship cannot be paid during any transitional or preparatory courses for the programme indicated in the scholarship awarding letter, but only after enrolment in the said programme has been completed.

Art. 12
INCOMPATIBILITY

The scholarship is incompatible with any other scholarship offered by the Italian Government or any other Italian public institution, including those of the regional right to education.

The scholarship is compatible with internships abroad, Erasmus and Erasmus+ programmes as well as with other programmes funded by international institutions, but **it will not be paid** during periods of study, research and internship outside of Italy.

In the event of absence from the Italian territory exceeding 15 consecutive days, the scholarship recipient must notify the competent office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, providing an adequate reason and/or supporting documentation. The office, after evaluating the reason for the absence, reserves the right not to reduce the scholarship amount. The scholarship recipient may request such an evaluation only once during the entire funding period of the scholarship.
An exception is made for absence from the Italian territory during the suspension of academic activities for the Christmas holidays, for which no notification is required. Students may be absent up to 5 days before and 5 days after the suspension of academic activities. Students are invited to check the academic calendar of their enrolled institution.

Art. 13

INTERPRETATION AND JURISDICTION

In the event of conflicting interpretations of the clauses of this Call for applications, the Italian version shall prevail. The competent court shall be the Court of Rome.

Useful references:

universitaly.it
https://europa.eu/europass/en/common-european-framework-reference
Il visto per l'Italia
https://www.mur.gov.it/it/aree-tematiche/universita/le-universita/universita-non-statali-riconosciute
https://www.mur.gov.it/it/aree-tematiche/afam/gli-istituti
https://ardi.cimea.it/it