

ITALIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

In line with the qualification's framework of the European Higher Education Area - QF for the EHEA, the Italian Higher Education System, both for universities and other educational institutions, is divided into 3 cycles. In order to attain a higher education course a minimum of 13 years of education at school are required (for the European benchmark 12 years of education are suitable).

Italian Higher Education system breaks down into three cycles:

	DEGREE LEVELS	CREDITS	YEARS
FIRST CYCLE (bachelor degree)	Laurea (universities) Diploma Accademico di I livello (AFAM institutions)	180 180	3
SECOND CYCLE (master degree)	Laurea Magistrale (universities) Diploma Accademico di II livello (AFAM institutions) Master universitario di 1º livello Laurea Magistrale a ciclo unico	120 120 ≥ 60 300 to 360	2 2 5 to 6
THIRD CYCLE (PhD level)	Dottorato di ricerca (universities) Specializzazione di 2º livello Master universitario di 2º livello Diploma accademico di formazione alla ricerca (AFAM institutions)	≥ 60	3 2
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WHO WE ARE



Founded on 30th July 2010 jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of University and Research, the Ministry of Interior, the Uni-Italia Association has the aim of promoting Italian Higher Education and the mobility of foreign students and researchers towards Italian universities as well as encouraging academic cooperation between Italy and other foreign countries. Since March 15, 2022, ITA Agency and CRUI - Conference of Italian University Rectors, have joined Uni-Italia, thus giving the Association a new lease of life, providing new and additional fields of expertise and knowledge that are fundamental for the promotion of Italian supply.

The Association is present in several countries including China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco and Vietnam.

Uni-Italia works closely with Italian diplomatic offices abroad where Centres of promotion and orientation to study in Italy are located in. All these Centres cooperate with the Italian Cultural Institutes and the Italian Consulates abroad, especially in promoting Italian higher education programs, selecting and assisting students with their first enquiries made in their own countries.

WHY STUDY IN ITALY

Founded in the XI century, Italian Universities are the oldest educational institutions in the Western world, and they represent the vanguard of higher education especially in the field of Culture, Industrial Design, Architecture, Applied Sciences, Medicine, Economics and Arts.

- 1. Excellence: studying in Italy provides the possibility of achieving a high-prestige degree in Italian universities and academies recognized worldwide.
- 2. Professionalism: Italian universities and academies provide very high competences, and they also support and counsel students during their studies.
- Labour market opportunities: Italy is in the vanguard in several fields of higher education many of which correspond to the most developed professional sectors of the labour market.
- 4. Flexibility: higher education programs are based on a credits system (ETCS, European Credit Transfer System) by which students can make their plan of studies according to their needs.
- 5. Scholarships and Fellowships: several universities and academies offer scholarships or fellowships, with services for lodging and catering.
- Quality of life: Italy is rich in art, culture, traditions and literature, and home of the greatest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. You can enjoy a high and unique quality of life and a welcoming atmosphere.

A RICH AND VARIOUS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Many prominent institutions for higher education can be found in Italy, especially in the field of: Architecture and Design; Sciences and Engineering; New Technologies; Economics and Management; Agriculture; Human Sciences; Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage; Cinema, Dance, Drama and Advanced Musical Studies. The Italian government considers the field of Research to be part of its strategy for maintaining high standards in the sphere of world technological development. Basic research continuously feeds technological knowhow and enables progress in international relations. The Italian activity in European scientific research is highly appreciated, particularly so in matters regarding energy, environment and transport.

The Italian higher education system is various and diversified and is made up of about 800 institutions consisting of:

- Universities, mainly divided in public and private;
- National research centers:
- AFAM Institutes, divided into the sectors of Visual, Musical, Dance and Dramatic Arts:
- High Schools for Linguistic Mediators (SSML): they issue qualifications equivalent to university degrees in Sciences of linguistic mediation;
- Institutes of specialization in Psychotherapy: issue third cycle qualifications equivalent to the Specialization Diplomas issued by universities;
- Higher Technical Institutes (ITS): these are NON-university tertiary training institutes. These
 institutes were born from the awareness of creating a solid link between the world of
 education and the industrial world.;
- Other Institutes, such as the Higher Institute for Conservation and Restoration, the School of the Opificio delle Pietre, the School of the Central Institute for Archives and Book Pathology Alfonso Gallo.

English-taught degrees: In Italy, students can find a suitable study program in any field. To study in Italy, it is not necessary to know Italian language, as you may find around 600 undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses entirely held in English. Plus, by adding all the summer/winter courses, PhD courses, "Master di I livello" and "Master di II livello", the list goes up to more than 1.500 courses taught in English.