



Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco
visti.sanfrancisco@esteri.it

RESEARCH VISAS (National Visa)

This visa can only be issued upon receipt of the “Nulla Osta” (entry clearance) from the Sportello Unico per l’Immigrazione (SUI – Unified Immigration Desk). Your university or research institution in Italy must make the request to SUI on your behalf.

The research activity for which the visa is requested may be performed, in accordance with the specific agreement “**convenzione di accoglienza**” stipulated with the University or Research Institute, in the form of subordinate work, self employment (independent work) or through a grant or scholarship for research training.

You must submit all required documents. Visa applicants **must appear in person** to submit their visa request, either at this Consulate General or at the appropriate Honorary Consul (please see the [Consular Network](#) link on our website).

Applicants must pay the national visa fee.

Applicants must submit the following documents in original:

- **Passport** or travel document accepted by the Schengen countries valid for a period of 3 months beyond the applicant's last day of stay abroad (**plus: photocopy of the official page with personal data and expiration date**). The passport must have a blank page on which the visa will be affixed. We must keep your passport until the visa is issued; please plan accordingly.
- Proof of **permanent residence** in the United States (only for non-U.S. citizens): U.S. Alien Registration Card or valid long-term U.S. visa (**plus: photocopy of the residence card or the passport page with the U.S. visa**). **U.S. B1/B2 visas are not acceptable for this purpose**. If you are in the United States on a B1 or B2 visa, you cannot apply for a study visa here. You must return to your home country and apply for it through the appropriate Italian Embassy or Consulate in your home country.
- **One [National Visa form](#)** completely and clearly filled out, to be signed by the applicant. For stays of less than 90 days, U.S. citizens do not need a visa at all; non-U.S. citizens must fill out the Schengen Visa application form instead of this one.
- **One** recent ICAO standard **photograph**: 45mm (1,77 inch) by 35mm (1,37 inch) in size, full face, front view, color. The photograph must be glued to the top of the form where indicated.
- **Health insurance** coverage **must** be presented in one of the following manner:



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- A signed **declaration** from your health insurance company stating that you have a policy that will pay for medical expenses, emergency and hospital stays incurred in Italy during your period of stay there. The dates of the program must be mentioned.
- If you cannot obtain the above mentioned declaration or do not have a health insurance policy, then you must show proof of purchase of an Italian health insurance, or present an [Affidavit of Health Insurance](#) stating that you will purchase an Italian insurance policy upon your arrival in Italy, before registering with the local police department (*Questura*).
- **Proof of suitable lodging** (lease, university dorm, hotel, etc. as applicable) that covers your entire stay in Italy. If you are invited by or staying with an individual instead of your university, that individual must fill out and mail you in original the [Declaration of Hospitality](#), with a photocopy of his or her passport and (if your host is a foreign citizen living in Italy) a copy of his or her “permesso di soggiorno”.
- **Current document of identity** (driver License, State I.D., student I.D.)
- **One [Declaration for Mailing Passports](#)** completely and clearly filled out and a **self-addressed** (from yourself and to yourself) **pre-paid US Postal Service envelope** so that your passport can be mailed back to you.

We strongly urge you to take a photocopy of the application and supporting documents with you to Italy, because the domestic immigration authorities may ask you to show the documents submitted to obtain a visa. There are nine time zones of difference between us and them, so if the authorities must wait for us to send them those documents, it may be inconvenient for you.