



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

NOTICE

As of 15 February 2016, applicants for the **national** study visa (classes or studies over 90 days) **must pay the national study visa fee**. Unfortunately, **national** study visas are **no longer free**. Please disregard previous instructions about national study visa fees. **Schengen** study visas remain **free of charge**.

SCHENGEN STUDY VISAS (CLASSES OR STUDIES UNDER 90 DAYS)

For periods of time under 90 days, the Consulate cannot issue a national study visa. U.S. citizens (and certain other nationalities, [per our webpage](#)) can stay in the Schengen Zone (including Italy) for up to 90 days every six months without a visa for purposes that include study. Therefore, **U.S. citizens do not need and cannot receive** a study visa for less than 90 days.

Citizens of countries that do not receive that privilege must instead apply for a Schengen study visa. The requirements are identical, except that (1) the **Schengen visa requires fingerprinting**, and (2) **Schengen** study visas remain **free of charge**. Applicants for a Schengen study visa **must appear in person at this Consulate** to be fingerprinted and cannot apply by mail through an Honorary Consul.



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STUDY VISAS (National or Schengen Visa)

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).

Students are considered resident at their universities or at their homes. Students must be able to show either a student ID from a university in our jurisdiction or a state ID with an address in our jurisdiction. For a description of our jurisdiction, please see [our webpage](#).

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.
- **Proof of residence in our jurisdiction** (driver's license, state ID, utility bill, or bank statement that shows an address in our jurisdiction) in original and **one photocopy** for the Consulate to keep (do not under any circumstances mail or leave us an original ID that is not a passport).
- **One Application form** completely and clearly filled out, to be signed by the applicant. Please use the proper application form: [National Visa](#) (more than 90 days) or [Schengen Visa](#) (up to 90 days, non-U.S. citizens only). Schengen study visa applicants must be fingerprinted and therefore cannot visit an honorary consul but must come to the Consulate General in San Francisco)
- **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.
- **The study visa application fee** must be paid in exact amount by **cashier's check** or **money order** upon presentation of the visa application regardless of the outcome of the request. The fee adjusts every three months - Jan. 1st, April 1st, July 1st, Oct. 1st – based on the government's official euro-dollar exchange.
- **Complete documentation on the course** or cultural program that will be attended. One of the following:



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- An **official letter of acceptance from an Italian academic institution** and a photocopy of the same.
- A **letter of acceptance from an American academic institution** stating that you have been accepted and admitted to its center in Italy. The letter must be addressed to the Visa Office of this Consulate General, and must indicate the address of the center in Italy, the period of study by date and bear the seal of that institution.
- A **letter of acceptance from an American academic institution** providing for the Study Abroad Program, **and a letter of acceptance from the accredited academic institution in Italy**. Both letters must be addressed to the Visa Office of this Consulate General, and must indicate the address of the center in Italy, the period of study by date and bear the seal of that institution.
- This letter must be presented to the Questura (police department) in Italy for you to receive your permesso di soggiorno (residency permit), so you cannot be exempted from this requirement under any circumstances.
- **The letter must be written in Italian and signed by a school administrator in Italy**; the police will not accept letters in English or signed by someone they cannot contact in case of emergency.
- Students applying for full-time enrollment or “*corsi singoli*” at an Italian University, must first contact the Education Department of this Consulate General (sanfrancisco.education@esteri.it).
- **Financial guarantee** must be presented in one of the following manners:
 - If you are financially responsible for yourself: present a **letter** from your bank (on the bank’s letterhead, signed by a bank official and with a recent date) **or** present a **bank statement** indicating the **account balance**. The account balance must equal or exceed the minimums established by the Ministry of the Interior’s Directive of March 1st, 2000 ([available here](#)).
 - **If parents are financially responsible for you**: present their **Affidavit of Financial Support** stating their financial commitment for expenses incurred in Italy, plus a **letter** from your bank (on the bank’s letterhead, signed by a bank official and with a recent date) or a **bank statement** indicating the **account balance**. The account balance must equal or exceed the minimums established by the Ministry of the Interior’s Directive of March 1st, 2000 ([available here](#)).
- **If your school or another institution is providing financial aid**, present a letter from that institution’s Financial Advisor stating amount granted. It must equal or exceed the minimums established by the Ministry of the Interior’s Directive of March 1st, 2000 ([available here](#)).
- **Health insurance coverage must** be presented in one of the following manner:
 - 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.



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- 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 Questura (police department).
- **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”.
- **Round trip flight tickets** Note: for students staying 365 days or longer in Italy, the return ticket is not obligatory.
- **One [Declaration for Mailing Passports](#)** completely and clearly filled out.
- **A self-addressed** (from yourself and to yourself) **pre-paid US Postal Service Priority or Express Mail envelope** so that your passport can be mailed back to you.

The study visa can **only** be issued for the dates requested by the academic institution. We **cannot** accommodate an applicant’s request for more days. Study visas will only be issued for programs with classes of **at least twenty hours per week**.

U.S. citizens, or citizens of nations that are party to the Schengen Accord or similar treaties (see “General Information for Schengen Visas” on our webpage for a list of these nations), can stay in Italy or other Schengen Zone countries for a period of up to 90 days every six months without a visa. These days are “suspended” during the validity of a visa, so a U.S. student can enter 45 days before and leave 45 days after the validity of his or her visa, or enter 89 days before and leave 1 day after, or any other combination that suits him or her. Students from countries that have not signed similar accords must enter and leave only within the dates on their visas, and must adjust their schedules accordingly.

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.