



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

THESE INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO INTERNSHIPS – FOR INTERNSHIPS, YOU MUST REQUEST A SEPARATE, SPECIFIC SET OF INSTRUCTIONS.

FLIGHT TICKETS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS VISA

NOTICE:

Beginning 26 May 2026, visa applicants enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD program at a public or private Italian university must provide a [Declaration of Value \(Dichiarazione di Valore\)](#) or a [CIMEA Statement of Comparability](#) when they apply for a visa. These documents can take several weeks to obtain, especially during peak season (summer); applicants are urged to apply early.

SCHENGEN STUDY VISAS (CLASSES OR STUDIES OF 90 DAYS OR LESS)

For courses of 90 days or less, 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 studying. Therefore, **U.S. citizens do not need and cannot receive** a study visa for a course of 90 days or less.

Citizens of countries that do not receive that privilege must instead apply for a Schengen study visa. The requirements are identical, except that (1) **Schengen** study visas are **free**, (2) Schengen study visa applicants can fill out an E-application at <http://e-application.esteri.it> to speed up their appointments. Please print the application and bring it to the appointment.



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STUDY VISAS (National or Schengen Visa)

Applicants must submit their complete applications in person at the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco. For appointment instructions, please see [our webpage](#).

As of 11 June 2025, citizens of the **U.S., Canada, U.K., and Japan only** may **instead** visit an Honorary Consul's office to have their signatures authenticated on page 4 of the application form and then submit their complete application packets by mail. A list of Honorary Consuls in our jurisdiction can be found on [the Consular Network webpage](#). The Honorary Consuls are volunteers and their availability is not guaranteed. Harassment of an Honorary Consul is unacceptable behavior.

Students are considered resident at their universities **or** at their homes. Students must be able to show a proof of residence in our jurisdiction, such as a university photo ID, a state ID with current address, etc. For a description of our jurisdiction, please see [our webpage](#).

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. **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. The passport must have **two** blank pages and cannot have been issued more than ten years ago.
 - o **Plus: photocopy of the page(s) with photograph, personal data, expiration date, and signature).**
 - o We must keep your passport until the visa is issued; please plan accordingly.
2. Proof of **long-term residence** in the United States (only for non-U.S. citizens): U.S. Alien Registration Card (green card) or valid long-term U.S. visa that is **NOT** a B1/B2 visa.
 - o **Plus: photocopy of the green card or the passport page with the U.S. visa.**
3. **Proof of residence in our jurisdiction** (lease or rental agreement, university or state ID, or medical or utility bill that shows an address in our jurisdiction)
 - o **Plus: photocopy** for us to keep (**only** if you are using an ID as proof of residence).
4. **One Application form** completely and clearly filled out, and signed by the applicant. Please use the proper application form: [National Visa](#) (more than 90 days) or [Schengen Visa](#) (90 days or less, 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)
5. **One** recent ICAO standard ID **photograph**: 45mm (1.77 inch) tall by 35mm (1.37 inch) wide, full face, front view, color. We will scan this photo into the system and print it on the visa.
 - o The ID photo must be **glued** to the top of the form where indicated. No staples.
 - o For details, [please see the guide](#).
6. **The nonrefundable study visa application fee** must be paid in exact amount by **cashier's check** or **money order** made out to the Consulate General of Italy. The fee adjusts every three months - Jan. 1st, April 1st, July 1st, Oct. 1st – based on the government's official euro-dollar exchange. The current fee can be found on our website on the 'Visa' or 'Fees' pages.



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7. **Letter in Italian, signed by a program administrator in Italy, which shows your name, your dates of study, and the type of course you are attending.**
 - 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 local police in Italy will not accept letters in English or signed by someone they cannot contact in case of emergency.
 - **The letter must include your full name and the exact dates your courses begin and end.** The visa will be issued for these specific dates. If your school is uncertain about the exact date (i.e., the scheduling of final exams is not set yet), then they should specify the longer date.
 - **Students applying for full-time enrollment or “corsi singoli” at an Italian public university,** should register on the University portal as requested by the university and, if a “Dichiarazione di Valore” is required, please see [the instructions](#) posted by the Education Department of this Consulate General; for any questions about this process, please contact sanfrancisco.education@esteri.it
8. **Language and art programs only: proof of continuity of study** such as a transcript, diploma, or letter from your current school showing you have already studied in your home country the subjects you intend to study in Italy.
 - For language courses, applicants must demonstrate that they have reached a point in their studies that requires immersion. Applicants who cannot provide certificates or transcripts must contact the office to schedule an interview in the Italian language after they have submitted their study visa application.
9. **Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD programs in Italy only:** a [Declaration of Value \(Dichiarazione di Valore\)](#) or a [CIMEA Statement of Comparability](#) for the previous educational credential. The latter can be requested online by the applicant. These documents can take several weeks to obtain, especially during peak season (summer); applicants are urged to apply early. For any questions about this process, please contact the Education Department of this Consulate General at sanfrancisco.education@esteri.it
10. **Financial guarantee** must be presented in one of the following manners:
 - If you are financially responsible for yourself: present your entire, most recent **bank statement** indicating your **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 a family member is financially responsible for you, please present both their **notarized Affidavit of Financial Support**, completely filled out, and (1) a **letter** from their bank, on the bank’s letterhead, signed by a bank official and with a recent date, or (2) their entire, most recent **bank statement** showing an **account balance** which must equal or exceed the minimums established by the Ministry of the Interior’s Directive of March 1st, 2000 ([available here](#)).
 - **If the Affidavit of Financial Support is not notarized, the application can be rejected.**
 - If your parent is outside the United States, they must go to the nearest Italian Embassy or Consulate to have their signature notarized by one of our colleagues there.
 - **Student loans and credit cards will not be accepted.**



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11. **Health insurance** coverage **must** be presented in one of the following manner:
 - **A letter from your health insurance company** stating the specifics of your policy (out-of-pocket maximums, coinsurance rates, deductibles, etc) and that your coverage applies in Europe.
 - If you cannot obtain such a letter or your insurance policy is deemed inadequate, 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).
 - **NO** medical insurance cards. Submitting a medical insurance card alone will mean the rejection of the application.
 - Please note that most domestic US health insurance policies, especially those provided by private employers, do not meet EU standards for coverage (high deductibles, coinsurance, etc).
12. **Proof of suitable lodging** (lease or university dorm as applicable) that covers your entire stay in Italy. If you will be living with a family member or friend instead, 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”.
13. **One [Declaration for Mailing Passports](#)** completely and clearly filled out.
14. **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.
 - We do not offer in-person pick-up.
15. **For minor applicants (applicants under 18 years of age) only**, one of the parents must submit the visa application on behalf of the applicant, who must also be present at the appointment. Employment verification, support, and so forth must be for the parents. Both parents must sign a [form authorizing the travel abroad](#) and bring **the child's birth certificate** to show they are the parents. The signatures on the form must be authenticated by a United States notary public or an Italian Consular officer.
 - **Minors under 14 years old cannot apply for study visas.**
 - For minors, the school or program **must** apply to the domestic authorities for permission to invite them. Study visas will **only** be issued to minors if we receive from the Ministry a list of approved students that includes them. These lists are generally sent to us 2-3 weeks prior to the start of classes in each semester.



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VISA DURATION

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 them. 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 San Francisco and Rome, so if the authorities must wait for us to send them those documents, it may be inconvenient for you.