



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” (authorization) from the Sportello Unico per l’Immigrazione (SUI – Unified Immigration Desk). The university or research institution in Italy that is sponsoring the applicant’s request must reach out to their local SUI office for instructions on how to obtain this authorization. The Consulate cannot issue the visa until the nulla osta is received.

The research activity for which the visa is requested may be performed, in accordance with the specific agreement (“convenzione di accoglienza”) stipulated between the applicant and their university or research institute in Italy, in the form of subordinate work, self employment (independent work), or through a grant or scholarship for research training.

WITHOUT A DOMESTIC SPONSOR IN ITALY NO VISA CAN OR WILL BE GRANTED.



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You must submit all required documents. For appointment instructions, please see [our webpage](#).

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. The passport must have **two** blank pages. (**plus: photocopy of the page with personal data and expiration date, plus page with signature if it does not appear on the same page**).
- **Proof of physical residence** in our jurisdiction, such as a photocopy of driver's license, state ID, or utility bill (please do not send us original IDs other than passports).
- **Proof of legal permanent residence** in the United States (only **non-U.S.** citizens): U.S. Alien Registration Card or valid long-term U.S. visa, valid for at least three months beyond the intended departure from the Schengen member states. **U.S. B1/B2 visas are not acceptable for this purpose.** B1/B2 visa holders must apply at a Consulate in their home country. (**plus: photocopy of the residence card or the passport page with the long-term U.S. visa**). Non-U.S. students must have a valid I-20 Form and exchange visitors a valid I-66.
- **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:
 - 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".
- **Photocopy of the "nulla osta" sent to the Consulate from the SUI office**; if this cannot be obtained, the "protocol number" (numero di protocollo), or other proof of the nulla osta's issuance will also suffice. This helps the office expedite the visa processing.



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- **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.