

Italy Italian PhD Pathway

Help students for fully funded
PhD studies in Italian Universities.
2022 Edition



Fully Funded PhD Studies

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO PhD STUDIES IN ITALY

2026 Intake Edition

Created by: Team Dare To Dream

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For Academic Year: 2025/2026 (41st PhD Cycle)

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1. INTRODUCTION TO PhD STUDIES IN ITALY

Italy, home to some of the world's oldest universities including the University of Bologna (founded in 1088), offers exceptional PhD programs combining rich academic tradition with cutting-edge research. The Italian research doctorate (Dottorato di Ricerca) represents the highest academic degree and provides comprehensive training for advanced research careers.

Why Choose Italy for Your PhD?

- **World-Class Education:** 60+ universities ranked globally, part of the European Higher Education Area
 - **Fully Funded Opportunities:** Most PhD positions include scholarships with monthly stipends
 - **English-Taught Programs:** Over 70 PhD programs taught entirely in English
 - **Cultural Experience:** Study in a country rich in history, art, and innovation
 - **Affordable Living:** Lower cost of living compared to other European countries
 - **Research Excellence:** Access to world-renowned research institutes and facilities
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2. UNDERSTANDING THE ITALIAN PhD SYSTEM

Program Structure

- **Duration:** 3 years (36 months) mandatory
- **Starting Date:** November 1st (for most programs)
- **Cycle System:** Italy operates on a cycle system (currently 41st cycle for 2025-2026)
- **Requirements:** Original research, coursework, and final dissertation defense
- **Language:** English or Italian (depending on the program)

PhD Stipend & Benefits

Standard PhD Scholarship Benefits:

- **Monthly Stipend:** €1,200-1,353 (net, after taxes)
- **Annual Amount:** €16,243-18,854.52 (gross)
- **Research Budget:** 10% of annual grant for research activities
- **Abroad Research:** 50% increase in stipend for international research stays (up to 12 months)
- **Tuition Fee:** Fully waived for scholarship holders

- **Administrative Fee:** Only regional tax of €140-171.50 per year

3. THE 41ST PhD CYCLE (2025-2026)

CRITICAL DATES FOR 2026 INTAKE

Application Period: May-July 2025

Program Start Date: November 1, 2025

Academic Year: 2025-2026

University-Specific Deadlines:

University	Application Opening	Application Deadline	Official Website
Sapienza University of Rome	May 19, 2025	June 19-July 21, 2025	https://www.uniroma1.it/en/pagina/admissions-2025-2026-phd-programmes
University of Pisa	June 18, 2025	July 18, 2025	https://www.unipi.it/en/education/courses/phd-programmes
University of Bologna	May-June 2025	June-July 2025	https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/phd
Politecnico di Torino	Session 1 & 2	Nov 14, 2025 (final)	https://www.polito.it/en/education/phd-programmes
University of Modena (UNIMORE)	June 3, 2025	June 30, 2025	https://www.unimore.it/en/bando-phd-41
University of Turin	May-June 2025	July 31, 2025	https://en.unito.it/research/phd
University of Milan	June 2025	July 2025	https://www.unimi.it/en/study/phd
University of Genoa	June 9, 2025	July 2025	https://unige.it/en/students/phd-programmes
University of Florence	Summer 2025	August 2025	https://www.unifi.it/en/study-us/phd-programmes

Note: Rankings typically published by September 30, 2025

4. TOP ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES OFFERING PhD PROGRAMS

Leading Institutions:

1. Sapienza University of Rome

- Over 60 PhD programs
- Rankings: Top 150 globally (QS 2025)

- Website: <https://www.uniroma1.it/en>

2. University of Bologna

- Oldest university in the Western world
- Comprehensive research programs
- Website: <https://www.unibo.it/en>

3. Politecnico di Milano

- #1 for Engineering and Technology in Italy
- 96+ PhD scholarships available
- Website: <https://www.polimi.it/en>

4. University of Padua

- Historic institution with cutting-edge research
- Strong international collaborations
- Website: <https://www.unipd.it/en>

5. Polytechnic University of Turin

- Engineering and Architecture excellence
- 96+ PhD positions annually
- Website: <https://www.polito.it/en>

Complete List of Public Universities:

Visit the official Italian Ministry of University portal for the complete list of 61 public universities accepting PhD applications.

5. COMPLETE APPLICATION PROCESS

Step-by-Step Application Guide:

STEP 1: Research & Select Programs

- Browse programs on university websites and **FindAPhD**: <https://www.findaphd.com>
- Consider: Research interests, language of instruction, location, supervisors
- Review specific program requirements in Call for Applications

STEP 2: Check Eligibility

- Master's degree (or equivalent) required
- Some programs accept final-year Master's students
- Non-Italian degrees must be recognized (check CIMEA certification)

STEP 3: Prepare Required Documents

Essential Documents:

1. Academic Documents:

- Master's degree certificate (or enrollment certificate if graduating)
- Complete transcripts with grades
- Bachelor's degree certificate and transcripts
- Degree recognition/equivalency (for non-Italian degrees)

2. Research Documents:

- Research Proposal (1,000-3,000 words)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV/Resume)
- List of publications (if applicable)

3. Reference Letters:

- 1-2 academic recommendation letters
- From professors familiar with your work

4. Language Proficiency:

- **For English Programs:** IELTS (6.5+), TOEFL (90+), or university English proficiency letter
- **For Italian Programs:** CILS or CELI certificate (B2 level minimum)
- **PhD Programs:** Often no language certificate required if research is in English

5. Identity Documents:

- Valid passport
- Passport-size photographs

6. Additional Documents:

- Statement of Purpose/Motivation Letter
- Portfolio (for specific fields)

STEP 4: Online Application

Each university has its own application portal:

- Create account on university's application system
- Fill complete online application form
- Upload ALL required documents in PDF format (usually under 20MB)
- Pay application fee (€25-€50, varies by university)
- Submit before deadline - **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED**

Important: You CANNOT edit after submission unless formally requesting before deadline

STEP 5: Entrance Examination

Most PhD programs require:

- **Written Exam:** Testing subject knowledge and research methodology
- **Oral Interview:** Discussion of research proposal and academic background
- **Online/In-person:** Many universities offer videoconference options for international students

Interview Period: Typically April-June for autumn intake

STEP 6: Results & Rankings

- Ranking lists published by September 30, 2025
- Results posted on university websites and applicant portals
- No individual notifications sent
- Positions assigned based on ranking

STEP 7: Enrollment

- Accepted candidates must enroll within specified deadlines
 - Failure to enroll = loss of position (given to next ranked candidate)
 - Complete enrollment formalities online
 - Pay regional tax and administrative fees
-

6. SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (MAECI) SCHOLARSHIPS

Official Name: Grants for Foreign Students and Italian Citizens Living Abroad

Awarding Body: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

Coverage:

- **Monthly Stipend:** €900 (paid quarterly)
- **Total Grant:** €9,000 for 9 months
- **Tuition Fees:** Full exemption (university dependent)
- **Health Insurance:** Comprehensive medical/accident coverage
- **Duration:** 9 months (renewable based on academic progress)

Eligibility for PhD:

- **Age Limit:** Maximum 30 years old at application deadline (31 for some programs)
- **Academic Requirement:** Master's degree or equivalent
- **Language:** No proof required for English-taught PhDs
- **Nationality:** Citizens from 141 eligible countries
- **Residence:** Must NOT be residing in Italy at time of application

Application Timeline:

- **Opening:** April 2025
- **Deadline:** May 16, 2025 (2:00 PM CET)
- **Start Date:** November 1, 2025

Application Process:

1. Register at: <https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/en/>
2. Complete online application form
3. Upload required documents
4. Submit by deadline
5. Await university admission

6. Receive scholarship award notification from Italian Embassy

Official Website: <https://www.esteri.it/en/opportunita/borse-di-studio/>

Call for Applications PDF: <https://www.esteri.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Call-for-Applications-25-26.pdf>

B. UNIVERSITY-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

1. University of Bologna - International Talents Scholarship

- **Amount:** Partial or full tuition waiver
- **Eligibility:** High academic standing
- **Application:** Automatic consideration with admission
- **Website:** <https://www.unibo.it/en>

2. University of Padua - Excellence Scholarships

- **Amount:** €8,000 per year + full tuition waiver
- **Eligibility:** Outstanding academic performance
- **Timeline:** January-May 2026
- **Website:** <https://www.unipd.it/en>

3. Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa) - PhD Scholarships

- **Coverage:** Full scholarship including accommodation
- **Selection:** Solely merit-based
- **Website:** <https://www.sns.it/en>

4. Politecnico di Milano - PhD Scholarships

- **Amount:** €18,854.52 per year (gross)
- **Positions:** 96+ scholarships available
- **Coverage:** Tuition waiver included
- **Website:** <https://www.polimi.it/en>

5. Sapienza University - Doctoral Scholarships

- **Multiple funding sources:** Regular, PNRR-funded, industry partnerships

- **Coverage:** Full tuition + stipend
 - **Website:** <https://www.uniroma1.it/en>
-

C. REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS (DSU/EDISU/ERSU)

Type: Need-based, fully funded scholarships for all academic levels including PhD

Important Note: These are regional programs - check which applies to YOUR university!

How Regional Scholarships Work:

- Awarded by regional agencies (not universities directly)
- Based on family income and merit
- Cover tuition, accommodation, meals, and living allowance
- Available to both EU and non-EU students

Major Regional Scholarship Programs:

1. DSU Toscana (Tuscany Region)

Managing Body: Agenzia Regionale DSU Toscana

Application Deadline: Early September 2025

Official Website: <https://www.dsu.toscana.it>

Coverage:

- Full tuition waiver
- Free accommodation in university residence
- One free meal per day
- Financial grant: Up to €7,240 per year
- Books and study materials allowance

Universities Covered:

- University of Pisa
- University of Florence
- University of Siena
- Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

- Scuola Normale Superiore

Income Requirement: Family income under €23,000-26,000 annually

Documents Needed:

- ISEE Parificato certificate (obtained in Italy through CAF office)
- Income certificates from home country (translated & apostilled)
- Property ownership documents
- Bank statements
- Family composition certificate

PhD Deadline: Mid-November 2025

Results: December 15, 2025

2. EDISU Piemonte (Piedmont Region)

Managing Body: EDISU Piemonte

Application Deadline: September 3, 2025

Official Website: <https://www.edisu.piemonte.it>

Coverage Options:

Option 1: Accommodation + one meal/day + €3,967 financial aid

Option 2: One meal/day + €6,370 financial aid (self-arranged accommodation)

Universities Covered:

- University of Turin
- Polytechnic University of Turin
- University of Eastern Piedmont
- University of Gastronomic Sciences

Eligibility:

- PhD students not receiving other research grants
 - Annual family income under €23,000
-

3. ER.GO (Emilia-Romagna Region)

Managing Body: ER.GO - Azienda Regionale

Application Deadline: August 31, 2025

Official Website: <https://www.er-go.it>

Universities Covered:

- University of Bologna
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- University of Ferrara
- University of Parma

Grant Amount: €5,000-7,000 depending on status and income

4. LazioDisco (Lazio Region)

Managing Body: DiSCo Lazio

Application Deadline: July 22, 2025

Official Website: <https://www.laziodisco.it>

Universities Covered:

- Sapienza University of Rome
- University of Rome Tor Vergata
- Roma Tre University
- University of Cassino

Benefits: Similar to other regional scholarships

5. ERSU (Sicily Region)

Managing Body: ERSU Sicilia

Application Deadline: Late July - Early August 2025

Official Website: Varies by province

Universities Covered:

- University of Palermo

- University of Catania
 - University of Messina
-

6. ADISU Umbria (Umbria Region)

Application Deadline: Mid-Late August 2025

Official Website: <https://www.adisu.umbria.it>

Universities Covered:

- University of Perugia
 - University for Foreigners of Perugia
-

7. ERDIS Marche (Marche Region)

Application Deadline: August 25, 2025

Official Website: <https://www.erdiss.it>

Universities Covered:

- Polytechnic University of Marche
 - University of Urbino
 - University of Camerino
 - University of Macerata
-

Important Notes About Regional Scholarships:

- **One Scholarship Only:** Cannot combine with other Italian scholarships
 - **Annual Application:** Must reapply each academic year
 - **Merit Requirements:** 2nd year onwards requires specific credits/grades
 - **ISEE Required:** International students need ISEE Parificato
 - **Processing Time:** ISEE takes 2-4 weeks after arrival in Italy
 - **Preliminary vs Final:** Two ranking lists published
-

D. SPECIAL PhD FUNDING PROGRAMS

1. Invest Your Talent in Italy Program

- **For:** Master's and PhD students from select countries
- **Benefits:** Tuition coverage + internships at Italian companies
- **Timeline:** Opens late January 2026
- **Focus:** STEM, Engineering, Economics

2. European University Institute (EUI) Grants

- **Duration:** 4-year PhD program
- **Fields:** Economics, Law, History, Political Sciences
- **Funding:** 150 fully-funded positions annually
- **Website:** <https://www.eui.eu>

3. PNRR-Funded PhDs

- **Source:** Italian Recovery Plan (Next Generation EU)
- **Number:** Thousands of additional positions
- **Focus:** Innovation, digital transformation, sustainability
- **Application:** Through regular PhD calls at universities

4. Industry-Sponsored PhDs

- **Type:** Research positions funded by companies
 - **Benefits:** Higher stipend, industry experience
 - **Application:** Listed in university PhD calls
-

7. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

General PhD Eligibility:

Academic Qualification:

- Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale/2nd cycle) or equivalent
- Minimum 4-5 years of university education (3-year Bachelor + 1-2 year Master)

- Final-year Master's students may apply (must graduate before enrollment)

✔ **Degree Recognition:**

- Non-Italian degrees must be recognized as equivalent
- Contact CIMEA for preliminary assessment: <https://www.cimea.it>
- Some universities accept self-declaration; others require formal recognition

✔ **Language Proficiency:**

- **English programs:** IELTS 6.5+, TOEFL 90+, or equivalent
- **Italian programs:** CILS/CELI B2 level minimum
- **Exception:** Many PhD programs waive language requirements
- **Alternative:** University English proficiency letter from previous institution

✔ **Age Limits (for scholarships):**

- MAECI Scholarship: Maximum 30 years (some programs 31)
- Regional Scholarships: No age limit
- University Scholarships: Varies by program

✔ **Research Experience:**

- Previous research experience beneficial but not always mandatory
- Publications strengthen application
- Strong research proposal essential

Field-Specific Requirements:

Some fields may require:

- Specific undergraduate prerequisites
 - Laboratory experience
 - Programming skills
 - Portfolio (Architecture, Design)
 - Entrance examinations (standardized tests)
-

8. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

Complete PhD Application Documents:

Academic Documents:

- Master's degree certificate (notarized copy)
- Master's transcript of records (with grading scale)
- Bachelor's degree certificate
- Bachelor's transcript
- Diploma Supplement (if available)
- Degree equivalency/CIMEA certificate (if required)
- High school diploma (some programs)

Format: Original + English/Italian translation (certified)

Research Documents:

- Research Proposal (1,000-3,000 words)
 - Research questions
 - Methodology
 - Literature review
 - Expected outcomes
 - Timeline
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - Academic background
 - Research experience
 - Publications
 - Conferences attended
 - Technical skills
 - Languages
 - Publication List (if applicable)
 - Portfolio (for creative fields)
-

Reference Materials:

1-2 Academic Recommendation Letters

- From professors/supervisors
- On official letterhead
- Signed and dated

Statement of Purpose/Motivation Letter

- Why this program?
 - Career goals
 - Research interests
 - Why this university?
 - How you'll contribute
-

 **Language Certificates:**

English Proficiency:

- IELTS Academic (6.5+ overall)
- TOEFL iBT (90+)
- Cambridge CAE/CPE
- OR University English proficiency letter

Italian Proficiency (if required):

- CILS (B2 minimum)
 - CELI (B2 minimum)
-

 **Identity Documents:**

- Valid passport (full copy - all pages)
 - Passport-size photographs (recent)
 - National ID card (if applicable)
-

 **Financial Documents (for visa):**

- Bank statements (€6,000+ per year)
- Scholarship award letter (if applicable)
- Sponsor letter (if applicable)

Financial guarantee

Additional Documents:

- Proof of accommodation in Italy
- Health insurance certificate
- Police clearance certificate (some programs)
- Medical certificate (some programs)

Important Notes:

- All non-English/Italian documents must be translated by certified translator
 - Some documents require apostille or legalization
 - Keep digital copies (PDF, under 20MB per file)
 - Check specific university requirements
-

9. STUDENT VISA PROCESS

A. WHO NEEDS A VISA?

EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens: NO visa required

- Must register residence within 8 days
- Need valid passport or ID card

Non-EU Citizens: YES, student visa required (Type D)

- Apply at Italian Embassy/Consulate in home country
 - Must apply 2-4 months before departure
-

B. VISA TYPES FOR PhD STUDENTS

Long-Stay Student Visa (Type D)

- For stays exceeding 90 days
- Required for all degree programs
- Valid for entire study period

- Processing time: 4-12 weeks
-

C. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Financial Requirements (2025-2026):

- **Minimum Required:** €534.41 per month
- **Annual Total:** €6,947.33 (approximately €7,000)
- **Proof Options:**
 - Bank statements (last 6 months)
 - Scholarship award letter
 - Parent/sponsor financial guarantee
 - Letter from financial institution

Accommodation Proof:

- University housing confirmation
 - Rental agreement
 - Host declaration
 - Hotel booking (temporary)
-

D. VISA APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Required Documents:

1. **Visa Application Form** (Type D - National Visa)
 - Download: <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it>
2. **Valid Passport**
 - Valid for at least 3 months beyond stay
 - Minimum 2 blank pages
3. **University Admission Letter**
 - Official acceptance letter
 - Course details and duration
4. **Proof of Financial Means**

- Bank statements showing €7,000+
- Scholarship documentation
- Financial guarantee letter

5. Health Insurance

- Coverage for medical treatment and hospitalization
- Valid in Italy
- Minimum coverage: €30,000
- Consular declaration OR foreign insurance policy

6. Accommodation Proof

- University residence confirmation
- Rental contract
- Host family declaration

7. Travel Itinerary

- Flight reservation (round-trip)
- Travel insurance

8. Passport Photos

- Recent (last 6 months)
- Biometric standard

9. Language Proficiency

- English/Italian certificate (program dependent)

10. Application Fee Receipt

- Fee: €50 (visa application)
- Payment method varies by consulate

11. Police Clearance Certificate

- From home country (some consulates)

12. Previous Qualifications

- Degree certificates
 - Transcripts
-

E. VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

Step-by-Step Guide:

STEP 1: Secure University Admission (March-August 2025)

STEP 2: Book Appointment (Immediately after admission)

- Contact Italian Embassy/Consulate in your country
- Book visa appointment (2-3 months in advance recommended)
- Appointments fill quickly!

STEP 3: Prepare Documents

- Gather all required documents
- Get translations and apostille where needed
- Make copies of everything

STEP 4: Attend Visa Interview

- Arrive on time
- Bring original documents + copies
- Answer questions about study plans
- Submit biometric data (fingerprints, photo)

STEP 5: Pay Visa Fee

- €50 standard fee
- Payment methods vary by location

STEP 6: Track Application

- Keep receipt with application number
- Processing: 2-8 weeks (country dependent)
- Some consulates offer online tracking

STEP 7: Collect Visa

- Return to consulate/embassy
- Check all visa details are correct

- Passport validity and visa dates
-

F. AFTER ARRIVING IN ITALY

Within 8 Days of Arrival:

Apply for Residence Permit (Permesso di Soggiorno)

Where: Local Post Office (Ufficio Postale)

What to Ask For: "Kit per il rilascio e rinnovo del permesso di soggiorno"

Required Documents:

1. Valid passport + copy (all pages)
2. Visa + entry stamp
3. €16 revenue stamp (marca da bollo) - buy at tobacco shop
4. 4 passport photos
5. University enrollment certificate
6. Accommodation proof
7. Financial means documentation
8. Kit forms (Mod. 209)

Fee: €30-40 (varies)

Processing: 2-6 months

Pick-up: Questura (Police Headquarters) - appointment letter will arrive by mail

Validity: Usually 1 year (renewable annually)

G. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS

1. Tax Code (Codice Fiscale)

Where: Agenzia delle Entrate (Tax Office)

When: As soon as possible after arrival

Cost: FREE

Required: Passport, residence address

Purpose: Essential for all administrative procedures

2. National Health System (SSN)

Where: Local ASL office

When: After receiving residence permit

Cost: Varies (often free for students)

Benefits:

- Italian health card
- Choose family doctor
- EU-wide coverage

3. University Registration

Where: University International Office

When: Before permit processing

Documents: All academic documents, permit application receipt

H. IMPORTANT VISA TIPS

Critical Points:

- Start visa process IMMEDIATELY after admission
- Never book non-refundable flights before visa approval
- Embassy appointments can take weeks - book early!
- Visa processing varies by country (2-12 weeks)
- Some countries have visa facilitation centers
- Keep ALL documents organized in folder
- Make multiple copies of everything
- Check your specific embassy's requirements (may vary)
- Join university Facebook groups for visa experiences

Embassy Finder:

<https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari/>

10. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Q&A)

Application & Admission

Q1: When should I apply for PhD programs in Italy for 2026 intake?

A: Applications for the 41st cycle (2025-2026) open in May-June 2025 and close in June-July 2025. Start preparing documents 3-4 months earlier.

Q2: Can I apply to multiple universities?

A: Yes! You can apply to as many universities as you wish. Each requires a separate application and fee.

Q3: Do I need to contact professors before applying?

A: It's beneficial but not mandatory. For specific research projects, contacting potential supervisors shows interest and helps refine your proposal. For general admission calls, it's not required.

Q4: What if I haven't graduated yet?

A: You can apply as a final-year Master's student. You must provide an enrollment certificate and graduation must be completed before the PhD program starts (November 1, 2025).

Q5: Are all PhD programs in Italy fully funded?

A: Most PhD positions come with scholarships, but not all. Check the specific "Call for Applications" - it lists positions with scholarships vs. without funding.

Scholarships & Funding

Q6: Can I combine multiple scholarships?

A: No. You cannot combine MAECI with university scholarships or regional scholarships. You must choose one primary funding source.

Q7: What's the difference between university scholarships and regional scholarships?

A: University scholarships are paid directly by the university. Regional scholarships (DSU/EDISU) are need-based, provided by regional governments, and require ISEE documentation.

Q8: Do I automatically get a scholarship if I'm accepted?

A: Not always. Some positions are "with scholarship" and others are "without scholarship." The ranking determines who gets funded positions.

Q9: Can I work while doing my PhD?

A: PhD students with scholarships cannot work full-time. Part-time work (up to 20 hours/week) is allowed but must not interfere with research. Some universities offer teaching assistantships.

Q10: What if I don't get any scholarship?

A: You can enroll as a self-funded student (posto senza borsa). You'll pay tuition fees and living expenses yourself, or seek external funding from your government or other organizations.

Language & Requirements

Q11: Do I need to speak Italian?

A: Not for English-taught programs. Italy has 70+ PhD programs entirely in English. Daily life is easier with basic Italian, but not mandatory.

Q12: Is IELTS mandatory for PhD?

A: For English-taught programs, many universities accept:

- IELTS/TOEFL scores
- University English proficiency letter
- Previous degree taught in English

Some programs don't require language certificates at all. Check specific program requirements.

Q13: What if my degree is from a non-Italian university?

A: Non-Italian degrees are accepted. You may need:

- CIMEA recognition/verification
 - Diploma Supplement
 - Official translation Contact the university before applying for preliminary assessment.
-

Q14: Can I do a PhD part-time?

A: Italian PhDs are generally full-time only. Part-time options are rare and must be specifically approved by the university.

Visa & Living

Q15: How long does visa processing take?

A: 4-12 weeks depending on your country. Start immediately after receiving admission. Book embassy appointments 2-3 months in advance.

Q16: Can my family come with me?

A: Yes. Family members can apply for family reunification visas after you receive your residence permit. They'll need separate visa applications.

Q17: How much money do I need per month?

A: Estimated monthly costs:

- **North Italy (Milan, Turin):** €900-1,200
- **Central Italy (Rome, Florence):** €800-1,000
- **South Italy:** €600-800

PhD stipend: €1,200-1,350/month (net) - usually sufficient.

Q18: Is accommodation provided?

A: Some universities offer student housing. Regional scholarship holders may get free accommodation. Otherwise, you need to find private housing (€300-600/month depending on city).

Q19: Can I travel within Europe?

A: Yes! With Italian residence permit, you can travel within Schengen Area for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

PhD Experience**Q20: What is the typical PhD structure?**

A:

- Year 1: Coursework (30-60 hours), initial research, literature review
 - Year 2: Advanced research, publications, possibly teaching
 - Year 3: Complete research, write dissertation, prepare defense
-

Q21: Can I do research abroad?

A: Yes! PhD students are encouraged to spend time abroad. You receive 50% stipend increase for international research stays (up to 12 months).

Q22: How is a PhD evaluated?

A: Through:

- Annual progress reports
 - Publications
 - Conference presentations
 - Final dissertation
 - Public defense (oral examination)
-

Q23: What career opportunities after PhD in Italy?

A: Italian PhD is recognized worldwide. Options include:

- Postdoctoral positions (Italy/abroad)

- University faculty positions
 - Research institutes (CNR, INAF, etc.)
 - Industry R&D roles
 - International organizations
-

Q24: Can I stay in Italy after PhD?

A: Yes! Options:

- Postdoc positions (immediate work permit)
 - Convert to work visa (if job offer)
 - Start business (entrepreneur visa)
 - Seek permanent residency (after 5 years legal residence)
-

Application Strategy

Q25: How competitive are Italian PhD programs?

A: Competition varies by field and university. Acceptance rates range from 10% to 40%. Top programs in STEM fields are highly competitive.

Q26: What makes a strong PhD application?

A: Key factors:

- Strong academic record (especially Master's degree)
 - Clear, feasible research proposal
 - Relevant research experience
 - Good recommendation letters
 - Publications (beneficial but not required)
 - Alignment with university/supervisor expertise
-

Q27: Should I apply for both funded and non-funded positions?

A: Yes! Apply for positions with scholarships primarily, but also consider non-funded positions as backup. You can seek external funding later.

Q28: What if I'm rejected?

A: You can:

- Apply to other universities (multiple applications recommended)
 - Apply next year (42nd cycle)
 - Seek Master's excellence programs
 - Consider other European countries
 - Request feedback from university (sometimes available)
-

Regional Scholarships Specifics

Q29: What is ISEE Parificato and why do I need it?

A: ISEE Parificato is an Italian document that evaluates your family's economic status for international students. Required for regional scholarships (DSU/EDISU). Obtained through CAF offices in Italy after arrival.

Q30: How do I choose the right regional scholarship?

A: Choose based on your university's location:

- University in Tuscany → Apply for DSU Toscana
- University in Piedmont → Apply for EDISU Piemonte
- University in Lazio → Apply for LazioDisco

Check your university website for the applicable regional program.

MAECI Scholarship

Q31: Can I apply for MAECI scholarship without university admission?

A: Yes! MAECI application doesn't require prior admission. However, you must secure admission from an Italian university to receive the scholarship payment.

Q32: When is MAECI scholarship paid?

A:

- First installment: €4,500 (after arrival in Italy)
- Second installment: €2,500 (after enrollment confirmation, February 2026)
- Third installment: €2,000 (based on satisfactory progress)

Total: €9,000 for 9 months

11. LIVING IN ITALY AS A PhD STUDENT

A. Cost of Living Estimates

Monthly Budget (Average):

Expense Category	North Italy	Central Italy	South Italy
Accommodation	€400-700	€350-600	€250-450
Food & Groceries	€250-350	€200-300	€150-250
Transportation	€50-80	€40-60	€30-50
Utilities	€80-120	€70-100	€60-90
Mobile/Internet	€20-40	€20-40	€20-40
Miscellaneous	€100-150	€100-150	€100-150
TOTAL	€900-1,440	€780-1,250	€610-1,030

PhD Stipend: €1,200-1,350/month (sufficient for comfortable living)

B. Accommodation Options

1. University Residences

- Cost: €200-400/month
- Includes utilities
- Often available through regional scholarships
- Limited availability - apply early

2. Private Apartments

- Studio: €400-800/month
- Shared apartment: €300-500/month
- Deposit: 2-3 months rent
- Contracts: Usually 12 months minimum

3. Finding Housing

- University housing office
 - Websites: Immobiliare.it, Casa.it, Idealista.it
 - Facebook groups (university-specific)
 - Start searching 2-3 months before arrival
-

C. Transportation

Public Transport:

- Monthly pass: €30-50
- Student discounts available
- Efficient metro, bus, tram in major cities

Trains:

- Trenitalia: National rail service
- Italo: High-speed trains
- Regional trains very affordable
- Student discount card: Carta Verde (ages 12-26)

Cycling:

- Many cities are bike-friendly
 - Bike-sharing systems available
 - Good option for campus commuting
-

D. Healthcare

Public Healthcare (SSN):

- Enrollment: €150-250/year for students
- Choose family doctor (medico di base)
- Free basic healthcare
- Prescriptions: Small co-pay

International Insurance:

- Alternative to SSN
 - Must cover minimum €30,000
 - Some universities require specific coverage
-

E. Food & Dining

Grocery Shopping:

- Supermarkets: Conad, Coop, Esselunga, Lidl
- Local markets: Fresh produce, cheaper
- Weekly budget: €50-80

University Canteens:

- Meals: €2-5 for students
- Regional scholarship holders: Free meals
- Healthy, affordable option

Eating Out:

- Pizza: €6-12
 - Restaurant meal: €15-25
 - Coffee: €1-1.50
 - Aperitivo (evening drinks with snacks): €8-12
-

F. Campus Life

Research Facilities:

- Well-equipped laboratories
- Libraries with extensive collections
- Computer labs
- Collaborative workspaces

Student Services:

- International student offices
- Career counseling
- Mental health support
- Language courses (Italian)

Activities:

- University sports facilities (CUS)
 - Student organizations
 - Cultural events
 - Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
-

G. Cultural Experience

Best Cities for Students:

- **Bologna:** Student city, vibrant nightlife
- **Pisa:** Academic atmosphere, affordable
- **Milan:** International, modern, expensive
- **Rome:** Historic, cultural opportunities
- **Turin:** Industrial innovation, mountains nearby
- **Florence:** Art, culture, tourism

Learning Italian:

- Many universities offer free Italian courses
- Language exchanges with Italian students
- Tandem partnerships
- Apps: Duolingo, Babbel, Italki

Cultural Tips:

- Italians value personal relationships
 - Lunch is main meal (1-3 PM)
 - Shops close midday (riposo)
 - "Bella figura" - presentation matters
 - Direct communication style
 - Coffee culture: espresso at bar
-

H. Banking & Finances

Opening Bank Account:

- Required for scholarship payments
- Documents: Passport, codice fiscale, residence permit
- Popular banks: Intesa Sanpaolo, UniCredit, BNL
- Student accounts available (low/no fees)

International Transfers:

- Wise (TransferWise): Low fees
- PayPal: Available but higher fees
- Western Union: Fast but expensive

Credit Cards:

- Debit cards more common
 - Credit cards: Available after residence
-

12. OFFICIAL RESOURCES & LINKS

Italian Government & Ministry Websites

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI):

- Official Website: <https://www.esteri.it/en/>
- Scholarships: <https://www.esteri.it/en/opportunita/borse-di-studio/>
- Study in Italy Portal: <https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/en/>

Ministry of University and Research (MUR):

- Official Website: <https://www.mur.gov.it/en>
- PhD Information: <https://www.mur.gov.it/en/areas-of-interest/research/phd>

Universitaly Portal:

- Pre-enrollment: <https://www.universitaly.it/>
 - (Mandatory for non-EU students)
-

PhD Search & Information

FindAPhD - Italy:

- <https://www.findaphd.com/phds/italy>
- Comprehensive PhD listings

PhDPortal - Italy:

- <https://www.phdportal.com/countries/15/italy.html>
- Program search and guides

EURAXESS Italy:

- <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/italy>
 - Research positions and opportunities
-

Visa & Immigration

Italian Embassy/Consulate Finder:

- <https://www.esteri.it/en/servizi-consolari/>

Visa for Italy:

- <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/>

Immigration Policies:

- <https://www.immigrazione.it/>
-

Degree Recognition

CIMEA (Credential Evaluation):

- <https://www.cimea.it/en>
- Statement of Comparability services

ENIC-NARIC Italy:

- European recognition networks
 - <https://www.enic-naric.net/>
-

Top University Official PhD Pages

Sapienza University of Rome:

- <https://www.uniroma1.it/en/pagina/admissions-2025-2026-phd-programmes>

University of Bologna:

- <https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/phd>

Politecnico di Milano:

- <https://www.polimi.it/en/education/phd-programmes>

Politecnico di Torino:

- <https://www.polito.it/en/education/phd-programmes>

University of Pisa:

- <https://www.unipi.it/en/education/courses/phd-programmes>

University of Padua:

- <https://www.unipd.it/en/phd-programmes>

University of Turin:

- <https://en.unito.it/research/phd>

University of Milan:

- <https://www.unimi.it/en/study/phd>

University of Florence:

- <https://www.unifi.it/en/study-us/phd-programmes>

University of Genoa:

- <https://unige.it/en/students/phd-programmes>
-

Regional Scholarship Official Websites**DSU Toscana (Tuscany):**

- <https://www.dsu.toscana.it>

EDISU Piemonte (Piedmont):

- <https://www.edisu.piemonte.it>

ER.GO (Emilia-Romagna):

- <https://www.er-go.it>

LazioDisco (Lazio):

- <https://www.laziodisco.it>

ADISU Umbria:

- <https://www.adisu.umbria.it>

ERDIS Marche:

- <https://www.erdism.it>

ESU Veneto:

- <https://www.esu.pd.it> (Padua)

ARDIS FVG (Friuli Venezia Giulia):

- <https://www.ardiss.fvg.it>
-

Healthcare & Insurance

National Health Service (SSN):

- <https://www.salute.gov.it/>

Travel Insurance Comparison:

- <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/travel-insurance/>
-

Accommodation Resources

Student Housing:

- University housing offices (check individual university websites)

Private Rentals:

- <https://www.immobiliare.it>
 - <https://www.idealista.it>
 - <https://www.casa.it>
 - <https://www.spotahome.com> (verified properties)
-

Language Learning

Free Italian Courses:

- Many universities offer courses to international students
- Italian Cultural Institutes worldwide

Language Apps:

- Duolingo: <https://www.duolingo.com>
- Babbel: <https://www.babbel.com>

- Italki: <https://www.italki.com>
-

Student Community

Erasmus Student Network (ESN):

- <https://esn.org/>
- Local sections in most university cities

Facebook Groups:

- Search "[University Name] International Students"
 - "Study in Italy - International Students"
 - Country-specific groups (e.g., "Indians in Italy")
-

Additional Resources

Italian Tax Authority:

- <https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/>
- For Codice Fiscale

CAF Offices (for ISEE):

- Local CAF offices in every city
- Search "CAF [city name]"

Post Office (for Residence Permit):

- <https://www.poste.it/>

Public Transportation:

- Trenitalia: <https://www.trenitalia.com>
 - Italo: <https://www.italotreno.it>
-

Contact Information

For Questions About This Guide: Visit: <https://dares2dream.com>

Email: [Contact through website]

Emergency Numbers in Italy:

- General Emergency: 112
 - Medical Emergency: 118
 - Police: 113
 - Fire: 115
-

CONCLUSION

Pursuing a PhD in Italy offers an exceptional opportunity to combine world-class research with rich cultural experiences. With numerous fully-funded scholarships, affordable living costs, and internationally recognized degrees, Italy remains an excellent destination for doctoral studies.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Start preparing applications 6 months before deadlines
- ✓ Apply to multiple universities to maximize chances
- ✓ Research scholarship options early
- ✓ Prepare a strong research proposal
- ✓ Begin visa process immediately after admission
- ✓ Join student communities for support
- ✓ Consider regional scholarships for additional funding
- ✓ Learn basic Italian for easier daily life

Timeline Checklist:

- **December 2024 - February 2025:** Research programs, contact supervisors
- **March 2025:** Prepare documents, write research proposal
- **April 2025:** Apply for MAECI scholarship (if eligible)
- **May-June 2025:** Submit university PhD applications
- **June-August 2025:** Wait for results, attend interviews
- **July-September 2025:** Apply for regional scholarships
- **September 2025:** Check rankings, accept offers
- **August-October 2025:** Apply for visa

- **October 2025:** Arrange accommodation, travel
 - **November 1, 2025:** PhD program starts!
-

Remember: Success in PhD applications requires thorough preparation, strong academic credentials, and a clear research vision. Don't be discouraged by competition—apply to multiple programs and showcase your unique strengths.

ABOUT DARE TO DREAM

At Dare To Dream, we believe that education transforms lives and creates opportunities. Our mission is to guide aspiring students through the complex journey of international education, making world-class learning accessible to all.

Our Services:

- University application guidance
- Scholarship assistance
- Document preparation
- Visa consultation
- Post-arrival support

Visit us: <https://dares2dream.com>

Follow us on social media for updates:

- Latest scholarship announcements
 - Application tips
 - Success stories
 - Student experiences
 - Deadline reminders
-

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DISCLAIMER

This guide is compiled from publicly available official sources as of October 2025. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, policies, deadlines, and requirements may change. Always verify information on official university and government websites before making decisions.

The creators of this guide are not responsible for any actions taken based on this information. This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute official advice.

For the most current information, always consult:

- University official websites
- Italian Ministry websites
- Italian Embassy in your country

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END OF GUIDE

May your PhD journey in Italy be filled with groundbreaking research, cultural discoveries, and personal growth. We wish you all the success in your academic pursuits!

Buona fortuna! (Good luck!)



Dare To Dream

www.dares2dream.com