

ITALIAN BURSARY PROGRAMME OFFERED TO FOREIGN AND IRE (Italians Resident Abroad) STUDENTS

Public announcement for Academic Year 2013/2014

Introduction

The Italian Government announces the following bursary programme for foreign students and IRE (*Italian Residents Abroad*) to study in Italy during the Academic Year 2013/2014.

The program aims to promote international cultural cooperation and the diffusion of Italian language, science and culture, also promoting the projection of Italian economy and technologies abroad.

The programme is offered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its diplomatic mission in the accredited country of the applicants, to foreign citizens or Italians resident abroad (IRE), living and residing in **selected countries** wishing to study at Italian public universities or other public institutions of higher education. Bursaries will be awarded with a priority to students who shall demonstrate through the excellence of their curriculum the ability to complete with profit their studies in Italian public study institutions.

Please access the list of countries whose citizens may apply to the bursary programme from the page of the web site dedicated to foreign students:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/Opportunita/BorseStudio_stranieri.htm?LANG=EN

Before filling their application, students should contact Italian diplomatic representatives or Italian Cultural Institutes in their country of citizenship, for detailed and country specific information about this offer.

Applicants should study this public announcement carefully and familiarise themselves with the terms for participating in this bursary program before completing the online application procedure. Particular attention should be paid to the following:

- Age limit (*Applicant's age should not exceed 35 years, with some exceptions*);
- Educational background (*Preferably a Masters Degree or equivalent*);
- Required documentation (*Application form, referee reports, academic diplomas and transcripts, applicant's CV*)

1. Thematic areas of study, duration of bursaries offered, prerequisites

Applicants are advised to check the website of the Italian mission in the student's country of citizenship for further details and country specific exceptions to the following, before applying.

Applicants may request three monthly bursaries for:

a) **courses in Italian language and culture:** Applicants are asked to provide proof of enrolment in a foreign university and of having passed at least a **Level A1 Italian language** test. Admittance is only to courses with a minimum duration of 3 months and of an **A2 university level or higher**; applicants must be enrolled in the 3rd year or higher and have passed at least one university level Italian language exam in their home country.

Recommended are the Italian language courses offered by the Universities for Foreigners in Perugia, Siena, "Dante Alighieri" of Reggio Calabria and Roma Tre, or other institutions accredited to certify knowledge of Italian as a foreign language. All beginner level and/or less than 3-month language courses are excluded. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

b) **Courses in Italian language teaching:** Applicants must be **foreign teachers with documented experience in teaching Italian as a foreign language (IFL) in their country**

of origin. Admitted are only courses of a minimum 3-month duration given at the Universities for Foreigners of Perugia, Siena, “Dante Alighieri” of Reggio Calabria and Roma Tre or other institutions accredited in the certification of knowledge of Italian as a foreign language. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

c) Study or research projects at non-private Italian research Centres – Laboratories – Libraries - Archives - Museums: Applicants must duly document study or research projects they intend to carry out at the chosen facility for a period of at least 3 months. Projects must have prior written approval, in a letter to the applicant from an Italian host institution supervisor. The letter must state the supervisor’s willingness to accept responsibility also for assessing the bursaryholder’s performance both during and at the conclusion of the study or research activity.

Applicants may request six or nine month bursaries for:

d) Individual university courses: Applicants must provide certification both of enrolment in a foreign university and of pre-acceptance by the Italian university where they intend to study. Preference is given to bursary applications for Level II individual university courses of a 6-month minimum duration, accompanied by a letter of pre-acceptance from the chosen university. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

e) University degree courses (Levels I or II): Preference is given to bursary applications for Level II University courses accompanied by a letter of pre-acceptance from the chosen university. Applicants must provide proof, valid in their place of residence, of having completed upper secondary school and/or first level university studies depending on the University Level they intend to follow. Bursaryholders may request renewal of the bursary for the subsequent academic years in compliance with the “Memorandum for Bursary-Holders” (Regolamento del Borsista). Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

f) Advanced professional training, art and music courses: Applicants must provide proof, valid in their place of residence, of having completed upper secondary school studies for admission to State or legally accredited academies or conservatories. It is advisable to have a letter of pre-acceptance from the Italian Institution chosen. Eligible courses, of a minimum 6-month duration, include those offered by institutes of advanced professional, art, music and choral training (academies, conservatories, ISIA, etc.), restoration institutes and the National School of Cinema. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

g) Courses in Italian language teaching: Bursaries for teacher training or refresher courses, reserved for foreign teachers of L2 Italian language courses, and university students with a degree equivalent to the Italian short degree who have passed at least one university-level Italian language exam in their country. Bursaries are awarded for specific course programmes with a minimum 6-month duration offered by the Universities for Foreigners of Perugia, Siena, “Dante Alighieri” of Reggio Calabria and Roma Tre, or other accredited institutions authorized to certify knowledge of the Italian language or teaching Italian as a

Foreign Language. Upon completion of the course attended, the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

h) **Masters Degree courses (Levels I or II):** Applicants must have a degree corresponding with the Italian first or second Level degree depending on the Master course chosen and eventual other documentation as requested by their chosen Italian institution. All Level I and II Masters courses must have minimum six month duration and are not exempt from enrolment fees. If the course requires a period of study outside of Italy, payment of the bursary will be suspended during that period. Since admittance to Masters Courses is often on a selection basis, and courses require a minimum number of participants to be held, it is the applicants' responsibility to make sure both of their admittance to the course and its actual start date. Bursary-holders are reminded that they have a right to the awarded bursary only for a period of study to be completed by 31 December 2014, and only if they attend the courses originally chosen. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

i) **Doctorate Courses:** Since admission to research doctorates in Italy is regulated by strict provisions issued by individual universities, in addition to the requirements listed in the previous point, applicants are required to have established contact with the university of their choice before submitting their bursary applications in order to agree on admission requirements.

l) **Schools of specialisation:** (See also “**Masters Degree courses**”, above) Courses must be of minimum six month duration. **Medical studies are categorically excluded from the list of eligible specialisations** (See Legislative Decree no. 257 of 08.08.1991). For admission see also the previous point “**Doctorate Courses**”. Upon completion of the course attended the bursary-holder will have to sit the required exams.

m) **Individual or jointly supervised study or research projects:** (See also “**Masters Degree courses**”, above). Research bursaries are awarded exclusively for research activities at the CNR (*Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*), *Istituto Superiore di Sanità* or other analogous State university facilities, museums, or archives, and for a minimum duration of 6 months. The research project proposal must be submitted with the application, in addition to letters of acceptance from the professor or expert supervisor of the research project proposed by the applicant, and from the director of the Italian academic institution or facility meant to host the bursary-holder. Priority will be given to applicants whose study and research aims are cited in existing bilateral agreements with the researcher's home university. To receive each three months payment, in addition to the documentation cited in the Memorandum for Bursary-Holders (Regolamento del Borsista), bursaryholders will be required to send periodical summary reports of the study or research activities carried out to the Country Contact at Office VII of the DGSP. Such reports shall be signed by the Italian supervisor who produced the above letter of acceptance. All free research programs are not eligible for a bursary.

2. Degrees/certificates awarded

First and second level University Degree – Teaching certificate of Italian as a foreign language – Italian Language Certificate - Certification of individual University course completion - Level I and II Masters Degree – Doctorate Diploma - Certificate of completion of research – Advanced professional, art or music specialisation or diploma.

3. Bursary Selection Committee and Host Institutions

Bursary recipients are selected by the Italian diplomatic mission in the applicant's country of residence through an "ad hoc" committee or jointly with the local authorities. The Italian Government awards and pays the bursary through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Country Promotion (DGSP), Office VII, Rome.

4. University Host Institutions

Bursaries are awarded for study and/or research programmes at public and legally accredited institutions. Bursary recipients study at the Italian universities/institutions of their choice, based on the approval of the selection committee. Pre-enrolment to the chosen Italian Institution will be done through the Italian Diplomatic Representatives in the student's country of citizenship.

Eligible Institutions include:

- Universities, university institutes and polytechnic institutes.
- Advanced training institutes for art and music and conservatories.
- Restoration institutes.
- The National School of Cinema.
- Italian research centres or laboratories, archives and museums that have stipulated agreements with the foreign under-graduate or post-graduate university departments in which the applicant is enrolled, or that offer institutional collaboration to foreign scholars and/or researchers through supervisors appointed by the director of the institution.

Bursaries cannot be granted for the following:

- Foreign institutions (universities, academies, libraries, schools of any sort), even if situated in Italy;
- Private and non-accredited research centres or laboratories.

The only exceptions are for bursaries awarded for designated "Special Projects".

Please check information for foreign students in Italy at the website of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR): <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/>

5. Bursary duration and start dates

The only bursaries to be awarded for the 2013/2014 academic year will be of **three, six or nine month duration**. Exceptions may be made in particular cases. Start dates must be from **January 1st 2014** onward, and duration cannot exceed **31 December 2014**.

6. Age limits for applicants

Unless otherwise indicated in the executive programmes of cultural agreements with individual countries, new bursary or renewal applications **cannot be accepted** from applicants above **35 years of age at the date of expiration ("deadline", see below) of this announcement**. In no case may bursaries be awarded to applicants under legal age. The applicant age limit can be extended to **45 years** for teachers of the Italian language with documented, ongoing Italian language teaching experience in their country of origin.

Since age limits can vary, as some institutions are legally required to set different ones, applicants are advised to check directly with the institutions concerned.

7. How to apply

All applicants must fill in the on-line application form at "**Borse on Line**".
<http://borseonline.esteri.it>

Please read carefully the indications and notes on the website.

8. Application deadline

Application forms must be received on-line by midnight (Italian time) **Friday, May 31st 2013**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the Italian Embassy in their country. Successful recipients will be asked to immediately submit authenticated copies of their documents along with their official translations in Italian. The online application “Borse On Line” for the academic year 2013-2014 has been updated to reflect the new rules. Completion and submission of the online application form presumes acceptance of the rules indicated on the website. Access to a functional, unrestricted and fast internet connection is a necessary pre-requisite for the application process.

9. Language of study

Italian is the required language of study in Italy. A basic knowledge of Italian is necessary even at Universities offering courses in English. Adequate knowledge of the Italian language is indispensable to obtaining a bursary and to enrolment in a university course in Italy, and must be certified in writing. Applicants will need a certificate of intermediate level Italian (e.g. CILS B2, CELI 3, PLIDA B2 or INT.IT Roma Tre) or of equivalent linguistic competence issued by a local organization or language school (e.g. Italian Cultural Institute, Dante Alighieri Society branch etc.). Applicants for enrolment in advanced musical training courses, 3-month language courses or University courses held entirely in English, will have to demonstrate at least A2 level certification of competence in Italian, or equivalent.

10. Number of bursaries available, amounts and bursary, selection Committee

Specific information is provided by the Italian Embassy or Italian Cultural Institute in the applicant's country of citizenship. Please check also the websites of these institutions for more country-specific information.

11. Duties and responsibilities of bursary-holders in Italy

Bursary-holders in Italy must abide by the rules and regulations specified in the updated “Memorandum for Bursary-holders” (Regolamento del Borsista):

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/Opportunita/Promemoria_Borsista.htm?LANG=EN

For other useful information check periodically this page dedicated to foreign students. The non-observance of those rules and regulations will invalidate the bursary.

12. Entry Visa in Italy

All bursary-holders must arrive in Italy with an entry visa for study purposes issued by the Italian diplomatic mission and valid for the entire duration of the bursary. Exemptions from visa requirements include European Union citizens and the citizens of countries with which Italy has bilateral agreements on such matters. Upon arrival in Italy bursary-holders must go, within eight (8) days, to the *Questura* (Police) of the town or city where they will be living during their studies. They should apply at the *Questura* for a residence permit for study reasons. In the case of arrival in Italy before the bursary start date, the bursary-holder will have to apply for the residence permit according to the instructions of the *Questura*.

13. Travel to Italy and back

Bursaries do not usually cover airfares or other travel expenses. Italian diplomatic missions will inform bursary-holders of any exceptions.

14. Bursary payments

Payment of bursaries will take place on a three-months basis and normally during the quarter of reference by bank transfer to an Italian bank or postal account in the name of the bursaryholder, who holds the responsibility for opening the account and transmitting its details to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, Office VII of the DGSP.

For the academic year 2013-2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has signed a Convention with several Italian Universities (Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, Università Bocconi, Università degli studi di Torino, Università degli studi di Milano, Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata, Università per stranieri di Perugia, Università per stranieri di Siena, Università per stranieri "Dante Alighieri" di Reggio Calabria) according to which, among other facilitations, **all bursary payments will be made directly to the students by the University itself with a shortened and simplified procedure.**

15. Health and accident insurance

For the sole period of the bursary granted by the Italian government, foreign bursary-holders are covered by an insurance policy that covers eventual expenses incurred as a result of illness and/or accident. Residence permits for study during periods not included in the duration of the bursary will be issued by the *Questura* only to foreign students with health insurance coverage. Therefore, bursary-holders who arrive in Italy before the start date of the bursary or that need to stay on after its expiration, if they are non-EU citizens (i.e. do not have a **T.E.A.M., E111 or E128 health insurance card** from their home country), will have to take out health insurance at their own expense.

16. Enrolment fee exemptions

Foreign holders of Italian government bursaries enrolled in First Level Degree Courses (*Corsi di Laurea di Primo Livello*) Second Level Degree Courses (*Laurea Magistrale*), Schools of Specialisation (*Scuole di Specializzazione*) (**with the exception of medical studies**) and research doctorates (*Dottorati di ricerca*) are exempt from university enrolment fees (ref: **D.P.C.M. 09/04/2001**).

Students enrolled in individual courses, professional training, art and music courses, Level I and II Masters courses, **will be required to pay related enrolment fees.**

17. Bursary renewal

Foreign students or Italians Residing Abroad (IREs) holding bursaries may apply for renewal for the continuation or completion of a multi-year course of study (*Corsi di Laurea, Scuole di Specializzazione, Dottorati di Ricerca*). The procedures and timeframes for applicants wishing to renew a bursary are the same as for all other new applicants. Bursary-holders requesting the first renewal will have to have passed at least two exams in the preceding year. Subsequent renewals depend on passing all the exams included in the study plan for the preceding academic years and two in the current academic year at the deadline for bursary renewal application. Renewals may be accorded only for a number of years not exceeding the legal length of course of study. Bursary-holders that have passed the age limit (See above, point 6) may not apply for renewal.