



## Study Visa Overview

This visa type is valid for all students enrolling in the **first academic year** in courses provided by public or private Universities and Institutions accredited by the Italian Ministry of University and Research:

a. **University Enrolment:**

- Foundation course;
- 3-year Bachelor's degree (*Laurea triennale*);
- 2-year Master's degree (*Laurea magistrale*);
- 5 or 6-year-single-cycle Master's degree (*Laurea Magistrale a ciclo unico*).

b. **Post-Graduate Courses:**

- University master of first level or second level (*Master universitario di I livello and Master universitario di II livello*);
- PHDs (*Dottorato di ricerca*).

c. **Italian Language Courses** (*Corsi di lingua e cultura italiana*)

d. **Single University Course** (*Corso Singolo Universitario*)

e. **Other courses** provided by the following institutions: AFAM (*Istituti di alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica*), SSML (*Scuole superiori per mediatori linguistici*), Postgraduate Institutes of Psychotherapy (*Istituti di Specializzazione in Psicoterapia*) and ITS (*Istituti Tecnici Superiori*).

## Study Visa Categories

- 1- Schengen Visa (Category – C): up to 90 days
- 2- National Visa (Category – D): from 91 up to 365 days with multiple entries

## Deadline

The deadline to apply for the Study Visa **for University Enrolment and AFAM courses is specified in the checklist** of the dedicated academic year of enrolment.

## Timeline

Applications are accepted within the following timeframe:

- no more than 6 months before the planned travel date;
- no less than 15 days before the planned travel date.

The procedure can take up to a maximum of 90 calendar days.

Please note that the passport is returned to the applicant only once a final decision is taken.

## Who can apply

Only applicants holding a valid Abu Dhabi residence visa can apply at the Embassy of Italy in Abu Dhabi. GCC citizens can apply if they prove that they are Abu Dhabi residents by submitting their Emirates ID, Tawtheeq / title deed and water and electricity bills (theirs, or their sponsors').

Residents of Dubai and Northern Emirates have to refer to the Consulate General of Italy in Dubai.

## How to book an appointment

Appointments at the Embassy can be booked through the portal [Prenot@ami](mailto:Prenot@ami) ([prenotami.esteri.it](http://prenotami.esteri.it)).

The Embassy reserves the right to invite the applicant for an interview or to request additional documents.

## Pre-Enrolment

Students shall apply for the pre-enrolment online through the web page [universality.it](http://universality.it).

Once the University approves the pre-enrolment, the student will receive an email instructing them to contact the Embassy to apply for a study visa.



## Authenticity and Comparability

Before applying for a visa, the student must obtain the attestation of authenticity and comparability of their educational qualifications.

For both procedures, the student must refer to the country where the accreditation body responsible for their curriculum is headquartered, regardless of where the school is physically located.

The Consular Office of the Embassy of Italy in Abu Dhabi can recognize the authenticity and comparability only of certificates obtained in the UAE under the following curricula: Emirati, SABIS, and MOE.

To attest the **authenticity**, educational certificates must be either legalized or apostilled.

- **Legalization** applies to certificates issued by institutions whose accreditation body is headquartered in a country **not party** to the 1961 “*Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Document*”. It can be obtained by contacting the Consulate or Embassy of Italy competent for the area where the accreditation body of the curriculum is headquartered.
- **Apostille** applies to certificates issued by institutions whose accreditation body is headquartered in a country **party** to the 1961 “*Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Document*”. It can be obtained by contacting the competent Government Authorities of the country where the Institution is headquartered.

**If the University in Italy accepts CIMEA Statement of Verification as proof of authenticity, the Visa Office may also accept it, in lieu of what listed above.**

Diploma, transcripts and A-Levels/APs/IB certificates, including the Apostille, must be translated into Italian by a legal translator. The translation as well must be legalized or apostilled.

In addition to their authenticity, the student must prove the certificates’ **comparability** with the correspondent degree in the Italian educational system.

For this purpose, the student shall submit one of the following:

- **Declaration of Value (DOV):** the student must request it from the Consulate or Embassy of Italy competent for the area where the accreditation body of the curriculum is headquartered.
- **CIMEA Statement of Comparability (SOC):** in case the University in Italy accepts the CIMEA Statement of Comparability (SOC) as proof of comparability, the Visa Office may also accept it in lieu of the Declaration of Value. To apply for the CIMEA SOC, kindly access the webpage [www.cimea.it](http://www.cimea.it).

### **For the Laurea, First-Level Diploma, and Single-Cycle Diploma:**

- At least a secondary school diploma equivalent to Grade 12.
- Official proof of successful completion of any preliminary admission test required for university enrollment in the country of origin, where applicable.

### **For the Laurea Magistrale, Second-Level Diploma, and Master's Degree:**

- A diploma or degree granting access to second- or third-cycle higher education, or an equivalent qualification.
- A complete transcript of records, translated into Italian by a recognized legal translator (for a list of translators, [click here](#)).

### **For the Foundation Course:**

- A secondary school diploma indicating the final grade obtained.



**VISA SUBMISSION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 2026 (EXCEPT FOUNDATION COURSE) :**

**Students enrolling in a university course (Laurea, Laurea Magistrale, corsi accademici AFAM) must apply for a visa by November 30th 2026, even if they are attending classes online.**

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

<b>1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Visa <a href="#">Application form</a> duly completed and signed. In case of minors, the form must be signed by both the parents.
<b>2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">One passport size color photo</a> , with white background, maximum 6 months old.
<b>3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A valid original passport <a href="#">recognized by Italy</a> (and a photocopy). The passport shall be not older than 10 years, shall be valid for at least 90 days from the date of expiry of the requested visa and shall contain at least two blank pages. <b>Damaged and unrecognized passports cannot be accepted.</b>
<b>4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photocopy of the <b>UAE Residence Visa</b> issued in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi ( <b>Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra regions</b> ), valid for at least 90 days from the intended return date.
<b>5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photocopies of previous Schengen, USA or UK visas, if any.
<b>6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Admission letter confirming the pre-enrollment released by the UNIVERSITALY portal.
<b>7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of sufficient means of subsistence: minimum €10.179,85 per year. In order to comply, the applicant must provide the following: 1. If not financially independent: a NOC from parents stating their commitment to financially support the student for the whole duration of stay (along with a copy of the passport and UAE visa of the sponsoring parent) b Supporting relative guarantees: i Salary Certificate, Title of Deed in the UAE, etc; ii Bank statements of the supporting relative's account in the UAE, covering the last 3 months; 2. If financially independent: a Own salary certificate and NOC issued by a local employer, along with a copy of the signatory's ID or passport; b bank statements of a personal account in the UAE, covering the last 3 months; <b>Note: Online bank statements or copies will be accepted only with an original bank stamp.</b> <b>Only financial resources located in the UAE are deemed valid.</b> <b>Family financial support is deemed valid if provided by relatives (up to the 4<sup>th</sup> degree); a legalized and translated family status certificate must prove the family relationship status.</b>
<b>8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of the availability of the financial means needed for repatriation (in addition to point 7).
<b>9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of a suitable accommodation in Italy (Campus accommodation, rental agreement or a confirmed hotel booking of at least 30 days). In case of an accommodation in a private house, the owner must provide the Declaration of <a href="#">Hospitality Form</a> duly signed in front of a notary public.
<b>10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	An international insurance policy with <b>full and unlimited coverage for hospitalization</b> during the entire stay in Italy. A detailed table of benefits must be provided. Only individual policies will be considered (no family, group or company policies are accepted). If the University is providing a Medical Insurance, the applicant must provide a medical insurance covering the first month. If the insurance certificate was issued abroad, a declaration issued by the relevant Italian Consulate/Embassy stating its validity in Italy is needed.
<b>11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of veracity and authenticity of the relevant diploma, by any of: Declaration of Value/ Legalization issued by the competent Italian Embassy or Consulate / Statement of Verification released by CIMEA.



12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Original and copy</b> of the final academic qualification duly legalized by the UAE Ministry of Education (ADEK/KHDA) and by MOFA, then translated into Italian by a recognized legal translator (for a list of translators <a href="#">click here</a>).</p> <p>Additionally, if the Diploma or the University degree was issued abroad, it must be legalized by the competent Italian Embassy/Consulate of the Country where the document was issued, or duly Apostilled.</p>
13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Official, positive result in any preliminary admission test required in Italy for enrollment (e.g. IMAT);</b></p>
14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If the course will be taught in Italian, adequate knowledge of the Italian language must be attested by University in the enrollment form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B1 minimum for any foundation course;</li> <li>• B2 minimum for any other course (Laurea, Diploma, etc).</li> </ul> <p>If the course (any course: Laurea, Diploma, etc ) will be taught in English to non-mother tongue students, at least a B2 level, certified by an internationally recognized institution (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, etc), is required.</p>
15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of payment of enrollment fee, if any;</p>
16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If the student is a minor, parents must appoint a custodian in Italy for the whole time the student will be underage.</p> <p>In order to do so, the parents must provide the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declaration signed in front of a notary public in the UAE, mentioning full details of the person to be appointed as custodian. The custodian must be legally resident in Italy. The declaration must be legalized by MOFA and then translated into Italian by a legal translator (for a list of translators <a href="#">click here</a>).</li> <li>• A declaration of the custodian in Italy in which he or she clearly agrees to be appointed. The signature of the custodian must be legalized by an Authority in Italy (i.e.: Comune or Prefettura). A copy of an ID of the custodian must be provided.</li> </ul>

I understand that an application without a complete set of documents may result in the refusal of my visa application. The submission of a complete file does not guarantee the issuance of a visa. The passport will not be returned until the final decision on the visa is adopted.

**I also understand that, if the visa is granted, within eight working days from the arrival in Italy, I must apply for the Permit of Stay ("Permesso di soggiorno") at the relevant Police Headquarter ("Questura").** The form must be filed through authorized Post Offices (*Sportello Amico*), using the relevant kit available there. Following that, I will receive an invitation letter with the details of the appointment scheduled by the Police Headquarters. The day of the appointment 2 pictures will be required.

I, the undersigned, declare that I have read the <a href="#">information on the protection of personal data concerning the issuance of an entry visa in Italy and in the Schengen Area (General Data Protection Regulation/GDPR (EU) 2016/679, art.13)</a>	<b>Initials:</b>
--	------------------

<b>E-mail address (capital letters)</b>	<b>Mobile number</b>
<b>Place and date</b>	<b>Applicant's signature (parents' signatures in case of minors)</b>