



**PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY, RESIDENCY AND ENROLMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE RESPECTIVE RECOGNITION OF
QUALIFICATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES IN ITALY FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024**

ATTACHMENT 1

Valid foreign qualifications for enrolment at higher education institutions

With regard to the evaluation of foreign school qualifications eligible for admission to first cycle courses in Italy (upper secondary school diplomas), it is noted that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, many foreign countries have adopted exceptional measures in order to guarantee the completion of the school cycles and the award of the relative final qualifications. The Italian higher education institutions are therefore invited to apply the criteria established by the Lisbon Convention for the aforementioned cases, with the assistance of the guidelines produced by CIMEA, that is, the recognition of the same academic rights that a given final school qualification officially confers in the foreign reference system, unless proven substantial differences exist, including reference to the duration of the overall pre-university schooling required in Italy, which is confirmed to be twelve years.

1. QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED AFTER A PERIOD OF SCHOOLING OF AT LEAST 12 YEARS

These qualifications are valid for access to *Laurea* courses and single-cycle *Laurea Magistrale* degree courses at Italian universities and to *Diploma accademico di primo livello* courses at AFAM institutions, as long as they allow access to universities in the country where issued and to a course similar to that chosen in Italy. These qualifications allow the continuation of studies in Italian higher education institutions if they have been awarded on the basis of at least the last two years of attendance with a positive result in the foreign education system. It will be the responsibility of the higher education institutions to perform this check taking into account the entire scholastic education followed, in line with the national and international regulations in force, and on the basis of their autonomy.

As a general principle, the Italian higher education institutions will also take into account the admission requirements required in the foreign systems of reference, including any thresholds and/or minimum grade requirements, the level of education achieved and the presence of curricular components relating to specific subjects/disciplines, in consideration of their number, their nature and content, all this without prejudice to the specific cases referred to in the following points of this Attachment.

The Italian higher education institutions may still request additional admission requirements, in line with their own regulations and with the chosen course of study.

In the calculation of the twelve years, the pre-school year may be taken into consideration, where applicable and officially recognised as an integral part of the scholastic path at a national level, on the condition that the attendance of this year is compulsory and an integral part of the curriculum and that the programme foresees the teaching of reading and writing of the language of the country, and the initial notions of arithmetic.



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2. QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED AT THE END OF A PERIOD OF SCHOOLING WHICH DO NOT ALLOW DIRECT ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

2.1 QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED AT THE END OF A PERIOD OF SCHOOLING OF LESS THAN 12 YEARS

In order to compensate for any missing years of schooling, where it is necessary to evaluate qualifications obtained at the end of a school education of less than 12 years, higher education institutions may alternatively request:

1. The academic transcripts certifying the passing of all the exams foreseen for the first year of university studies in the case of the eleven-year local school system, or the academic transcripts certifying the passing of all the exams scheduled for the first two academic years in the case of a ten-year local school system.
2. An official Italian or foreign post-secondary study qualification obtained in a non-university higher education institution in a subject related to the chosen course, lasting one year in the case of an eleven-year local school system, or two years in the case of a ten-year local school system, respectively.
3. Certificates from other Italian universities regarding the completion of a foundation course which compensates for the years of missing education. These certificates may also be accepted in cases in which they are issued by foreign higher education institutions recognized and/or accredited in the foreign system in question and, at the same time, prove to be official qualifications belonging to the foreign system in question.
4. Certificates awarded in-house relating to the passing of foundation courses, including those of less than one academic year, which impart adequate knowledge, competences and skills to attend the chosen course of study within the same institution.

The aforementioned additional and complementary certifications to upper secondary school qualifications obtained with less than twelve years of schooling allow in Italy only enrolment in the first academic year and cannot be evaluated further for enrolments with a course abbreviation, in order to avoid a double assessment of the same qualifications.

The certifications for passing foundation courses can also be used in order to fill those additional requirements required for entry to the courses, which are different from the years of schooling, but in no case can they remedy the absence of a “Diploma of upper secondary school or other qualification obtained abroad, recognised as eligible” (Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and Presidential Decree 212/2005).

2.2 MISSING DOCUMENTATION REFERRING TO THE PASSING OF ACADEMIC COMPETENCE EXAMS



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In the event that there are tests of academic competence in foreign school and higher education systems, which are mandatory or normally required for admission to courses at universities of the respective countries of origin, these certificates must necessarily be presented in order to guarantee entry to Italy for the same academic courses. It should be remembered that the requirement indicated in point 2 of this document, referring to the total schooling of 12 years, must in all cases always be respected, even in the presence of a certificate of successful completion of any academic competence tests.

In the absence of this certification, higher education institutions may alternatively request:

1. Proof of enrolment in a university course in another country and/or foreign system different from that of origin with reference to the final secondary school qualification, as well as the relative certification of passing all the exams required for the first year of university studies carried out in the aforementioned academic path. In the event that a final secondary school qualification of 11 years of overall schooling is presented, the relative certification of passing all the required exams must be attached with reference to the first two years of university studies carried out in the foreign country.
2. An official Italian or foreign post-secondary study qualification obtained in a non-university higher education institution and in a subject similar to the chosen course, with a minimum duration of one year. In the event that a final secondary school qualification of 11 years of overall schooling is presented, the relative official Italian or foreign post-secondary study qualification must have a minimum duration of two years.
3. Certifications by Italian universities relating to the successful completion of foundation courses. These certificates may also be accepted in cases in which they are issued by foreign higher education institutions recognized and/or accredited in the foreign system in question and, at the same time, prove to be official qualifications belonging to the foreign system in question.

The aforementioned additional and complementary certifications to secondary school qualifications obtained in the absence of documentation proving the passing of the academic competence tests, only allow enrolment in the first academic year in Italy and cannot be further evaluated for enrolments with course abbreviation, in order to avoid a double evaluation of the same qualifications.

It should be remembered that the certifications for passing foundation courses cannot in any way remedy the absence of a “Diploma of upper secondary school or other qualification obtained abroad, recognised as eligible” (Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and Presidential Decree 212/2005).

As already indicated in point 1 of this Attachment, Italian higher education institutions will also take into account the admission requirements requested in the foreign systems of reference, including any thresholds and/or minimum grade requirements, the level of education achieved and the presence of curricular components relating to specific subjects/disciplines, in consideration of their number, their nature and content, all this without prejudice to the following points of this Attachment. In order to remedy the absence and/or failure to achieve these additional requirements, the higher education institutions may follow the suggestions set out in the following point.



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**2.3 FINAL SECONDARY SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS WHICH BY THEIR NATURE DO NOT
ALLOW DIRECT ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

In the event that in the foreign system in question there are different types of final upper secondary school qualifications which allow local access to different higher education courses and/or institutions, or do not always allow direct access to university institutions, for the purpose of their acceptance for entry to first-cycle courses of university education in Italy, higher education institutions may request one of the following elements in addition to these final qualifications:

1. Proof of enrolment in a university course in another country and/or foreign system different from that of origin with reference to the final secondary school qualification, as well as the relative certification of passing all the exams required for the first year of university studies carried out in the aforementioned academic path. In the event that a final secondary school qualification of 11 years of overall schooling is presented, the relative certification of passing all the required exams must be attached with reference to the first two years of university studies carried out in the foreign country.
2. An official Italian or foreign post-secondary study qualification obtained in a non-university higher education institution and in a subject similar to the chosen course, with a minimum duration of one year. In the event that a final secondary school qualification of 11 years of overall schooling is presented, the relative official Italian or foreign post-secondary study qualification must have a minimum duration of two years.
3. Certifications by Italian universities relating to the successful completion of foundation courses. These certificates may also be accepted in cases in which they are issued by foreign higher education institutions recognized and/or accredited in the foreign system in question and, at the same time, prove to be official qualifications belonging to the foreign system in question.

The aforementioned additional and complementary certifications to secondary school qualifications obtained in the absence of documentation proving the passing of the academic competence tests, only allow enrolment in the first academic year in Italy and cannot be further evaluated for enrolments with course abbreviation, in order to avoid a double evaluation of the same qualifications.

In the case of a request for access to first-cycle courses organized by institutions belonging to the Higher Artistic, Musical and Dance (AFAM) system, foreign upper secondary school final qualifications may be accepted which, while not allowing direct access to university courses, allow local access to the same courses in institutions corresponding to those of the AFAM sector, in consideration of their nature and specific disciplinary contents.

It should be remembered that the certifications for passing foundation courses cannot in any way remedy the absence of a "Diploma of upper secondary school or other qualification obtained abroad, recognised as eligible" (Ministerial Decree 270/2004 and Presidential Decree 212/2005).

As already indicated in point 1 of this Attachment, Italian higher education institutions will also take into account the admission requirements requested in the foreign systems of reference, including any thresholds and/or minimum grade requirements, the level of education achieved and the



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presence of curricular components relating to specific subjects/disciplines, in consideration of their number, their nature and content, all this without prejudice to the following points of this Attachment. In order to remedy the absence and/or failure to achieve these additional requirements, the higher education institutions may follow the suggestions set out in the following point.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY UNIVERSITY INSTITUTES OF ECCLESIASTICAL STUDIES LOCATED IN ITALY AND APPROVED BY THE HOLY SEE

Pending implementation of the recent “Agreement between the Italian Republic and the Holy See for the Application of the Lisbon Convention on the recognition of qualifications relating to higher education in the European Region” of 13 February 2019, and awaiting further indications in this regard, these titles must be endorsed by the competent ecclesiastical authorities. Candidates with such authenticated qualifications need only present a copy of the qualification to the University in question and produce the original after the admission tests, at the time of a consequent actual enrolment.

4. UNITED STATES HIGH SCHOOL QUALIFICATION

Students holding a *High School Diploma (HSD)* who have passed at least three US “*Advanced Placements*” (APs) with a score from 3 to 5, in three different subjects and related to the university course selected can be enrolled in the first academic year. The holding of an “AP” in Italian will be a mandatory requirement only for students with foreign citizenship. An “AP” in Italian will not be acceptable in the case of students with Italian citizenship or in the case of enrolment in courses taught entirely in English. These qualifications allow the continuation of studies in Italian higher education institutions if they have been awarded on the basis of at least the last two years of attendance, with a positive outcome, in the foreign education system.

It will be the responsibility of the higher education institutions to perform the evaluation of qualifications taking into account the entire education path followed, in line with the national and international regulations in force, and on the basis of their autonomy.

Students in possession of a *High School Diploma* which is followed and supplemented by a complete year of subsequent academic study can also be enrolled. This enrolment will be possible even if the attendance of the course following the award of the *High School Diploma* qualification takes place in university institutions of a third country. In this case, the competent academic bodies of the Italian higher education institutions evaluate the overall adequacy of the study path itself, which cannot in any case last less than one year. It is understood that, in such cases, the year of university studies evaluated for enrolment purposes cannot be further evaluated for enrolments with course abbreviation, in order to avoid a double evaluation of the same qualifications.

5. UNITED KINGDOM QUALIFICATIONS



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The final qualifications called *General Certificate of Education (GCE)* and *International General Certificate of Education (IGCE)*, issued by official certification bodies of the United Kingdom, allow enrolment if they certify that at least three subjects have been passed at an advanced level (*A level*) relevant to the course of study requested, with at least a minimum grade (*passing grade*). The presence of an *A level* in Italian will be required only for students with foreign citizenship, therefore it cannot be counted as part of the three *A levels* required in the case of students with Italian citizenship or in the case of enrolment in courses taught entirely in English.

A combination of 3 different subjects can also be evaluated between *A level* and *Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects*. The *Cambridge Pre-U Diploma*, composed of 3 *Principal Subjects* + *Global Perspective and Research*, can be evaluated by institutions of higher education as an alternative to the 3 “A levels” for access to first cycle degrees. It is understood that the presence of an *A level* or a *Pre-U Principal Subject* in Italian will be requested only of students with foreign citizenship, so it cannot be counted as part of those required in the case of students with Italian citizenship or in the case of enrolment in courses taught entirely in English.

The final Diplomas awarded by the British schools listed in Attachment 2 - Paragraph 3, are valid for enrolment at Italian universities in accordance with and following the specific conditions set by the agreements signed between Italy and Great Britain.

Scottish qualifications can be accepted for enrolment if they certify the passing of at least three *Advanced Highers* or, alternatively, 2 *Advanced Highers* and at least 4 *Highers*.

6. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) QUALIFICATIONS

The Diploma of the International Baccalaureate allows access to higher education in Italy as long as the final qualification, issued by an educational institution recognised by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), meets the following general requirements:

- at least 24 points in six subjects of choice, 12 of which must be obtained at “Higher Level”;
- pass awarded in the three principal subjects: *Theory of Knowledge (TOK)*, *Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)* e *Extended Essay (EE)*.

IB courses alone, held at educational institutions accredited for the award of the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate, before an IB Diploma Programme Course Results certification, a Migration Certificate, or other certification issued independently by the educational institution which does not belong to the national reference system, are not final qualifications and therefore must not be considered suitable for access to higher education.

The diplomas issued by these educational institutions are valid for enrolment in Italian universities provided that the students in possession of the diploma in question have been admitted to the International Baccalaureate course after having obtained the promotion or the eligibility for the penultimate year of the upper secondary school in accordance with the school system of origin (i.e. the 11th class or 12th class of overall schooling depending on whether, respectively, the school



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system of origin is organised over 12 years or 13 years of total schooling). In the event that the International Baccalaureate Diploma has been awarded after 11 years of overall schooling, higher education institutions must request a compensation for the missing year as indicated in Attachment 1, Paragraph 2.

Please refer to Attachment 2 for information on exemption from the Italian language test and for the complete list of IB schools registered in the list of the Minister of Education pursuant to Art. 2, Law 738/86 and that, under the conditions provided for by the Ministerial Decree of 18/10/2010, in application of Presidential Decree n. 164 of 2 August 2010, issue qualifications equivalent to the qualifications of “Diploma for passing the final State examination of the upper secondary school education course of study”, in compliance with the provisions of the aforementioned reference legislation.

For the purposes of certifying the elements of the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate qualification referring to the listed schools present in the aforementioned list and to the others officially recognised by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), higher education institutions may request candidates in first-cycle courses in Italy in possession of this qualification to submit the Statement of Comparability issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre (CIMEA), instead of an eventual Declaration of Value, taking into account the fact that these recognised schools operate in different countries globally.

7. QUALIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

The European Baccalaureate qualifications obtained at the European Schools referred to in Law n. 151 of 6 March 1996: “*Ratification and execution of the convention containing the statute of European schools, with attachments, made in Luxembourg on 21 June 1994*” and Law n. 400 of June 1978: “*Ratification and execution of the additional protocol to the protocol of 13 April 1962 concerning the creation of European schools, signed in Luxembourg on 15 December 1975*”, and awarded by accredited European Schools, allow access to higher education in Italy.

For the list of European schools and accredited European schools, and for information on exemption from the Italian language test, see Attachment 2.

8. QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY BRITISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, SWISS AND GERMAN SCHOOLS OPERATING IN ITALY

The final diplomas of the British schools (“*St. George's British International School*”, “*The New School*” of Rome and “*Sir James Henderson School*” of Milan), of the French high schools (“*Chateaubriand*” of Rome, “*Stendhal*” of Milan and “*Jean Giono*” of Turin), of the Spanish high school (“*Cervantes*”), of the Swiss schools (Swiss School of Rome and Swiss School of Milan) and of the German schools (“*Deutsche Schulen*” of Milan, Genoa and Rome) are valid for enrolment in Italian universities pursuant to and under the specific conditions set out in the agreements concluded by Italy, respectively, with Great Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany.



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For the list of the schools and for information on exemption from the Italian language test, see Attachment 2.

9. FINAL QUALIFICATIONS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

The final diplomas of secondary education institutions in the Republic of San Marino are equivalent for all legal purposes to the corresponding upper secondary education qualifications of the Italian school system, pursuant to Art. 1 of the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in San Marino on February 28 1983 (Law of ratification and execution n. 760 of 18.10.1984) and relative integration introduced by the exchange. Possession of these qualifications allows exemption from the Italian language test.

10. QUALIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE “INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF TRIESTE” (Art. 393 of Legislative Decree n. 297/1994)

The qualifications issued by the International School of Trieste are equivalent to the final upper secondary education qualifications of the Italian school system and allow access to higher education in Italy. For information on exemption from the Italian language test, please refer to Attachment 2.