

Italian Student Visa

All U.S. citizens going to Italy to attend a study abroad program longer than 90 days must apply for a student visa, a type of documentation required by the Italian government that allows you to legally stay in Italy for the length of your program. Students will also need to submit a Declaration of Presence or apply for a Permit of Stay upon your arrival in Italy.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact your corresponding Italian Consulate (see information below) to determine what visa process is required for your country of citizenship.

The information provided below is to serve as a guideline to assist you in understanding the Italian Student Visa application process. However, *Italian Consular laws can change at any time without prior notification to this office, you, or the public.* Please note that the information provided is current as of the time of printing this information (April 2026).

**Applying for a student visa, making sure you comply with all the application requirements, and ensuring your legal entry into Italy is your responsibility. No one else can do this for you!
Governments, not universities, determine visa regulations.**

Questions? Contact:

1. **Your Consulate:** The Consulate that has visa-issuing jurisdiction for residents of your home state or country is your ultimate resource for immigration advice and information. **Always verify with the Consulate website that you have the correct documents before you submit your visa application.**
2. **Your Host University/Program:** Many Italian universities and programs offer visa support and resources, so contact your program directly to see what they offer. Your program may send you detailed information about visas via email, so read all correspondence thoroughly. Conversely, your program may direct you back to the Consulate website, so be sure to familiarize yourself with that resource.
3. **The OIE:** As a third-best resource, the OIE is available for immigration guidance. Keep in mind that information from our office on this topic is **not official legal advice** nor are OIE advisors immigration specialists. Rather, the OIE can be a resource for finding information.

How to Apply for a Student Visa

ATTENTION USAC Torino Students: *Students on USAC Torino's program may also choose to use USAC's visa processing support services. Please contact USAC directly for more information.*

To obtain a student visa for Italy, you must apply to the Italian Consulate. You have two options on which Consulate to apply for a student visa:

- Option 1: Apply to the [Chicago Consulate](#) which serves Colorado and those studying full time in Colorado.
- Option 2: Apply to the [Consulate serving your state of residency](#)

While students with residency outside of Colorado may be able to apply through a different consulate, please be aware that the Chicago Consulate is used to working with DU students and the information below applies **only to the Chicago Consulate**. The OIE holds no knowledge of the requirements of other consulates. **The visa process is always your responsibility and the OIE does not provide official visa advice.** *Note that each consulate has the right to set their rules slightly differently.*

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the [Chicago Consulate](#) directly to understand their application requirements and whether these differ from requirements for U.S. citizens. See [here](#) for the Chicago Consulate contact information.

Option 1: Apply to the Chicago Consulate

Students residing or studying full-time in Colorado fall under the jurisdiction of the Chicago Consulate, details of which can be found on the [Chicago Consulate website](#).

Please note that students holding a US, Canadian, UK or Japanese passport, can mail their documents to the Chicago Consulate, provided that you have an appointment booked on Prenot@mi VISAS – Study Appointments to apply for STUDY NATIONAL VISAS – mail or drop off ONLY Visa Office. The forms need to be signed and dated in front of The **Honorary Consul/Consular Correspondent**, or **Notary Public**, before mailing them.

If you wish to go in-person, book an in person appointment at the Chicago Consulate.

A few things to note about applying for a visa:

- The Consulate has strict instructions for what forms must be notarized and by whom. If you don't follow their instructions, they will simply return your application without processing it. **Read the website carefully for this information.**
- Be sure that the packet you mail to the Chicago Consulate includes all the documents detailed on their website **as well as your physical passport.**
- If you are planning on doing an internship, please connect with your program on any additional requirements you may have regarding your immigration procedures.

Note that because you are mailing your physical passport to Chicago, international travel over the months before your program may not be possible.

You can find a [complete list of the items](#) that you need to submit on the [Chicago Consulate website](#). See notes below for additional information pertaining to some documents on this list. Remember that other consulates may have different requirements. **Pay attention to the exact request!**

Items that you will need to submit or bring to your appointment with the consulate will likely include:

- Students will complete the **visa application for LONG-TERM STAY**
 - Be careful that you do not fill out the short-term stay application by mistake, as it is not valid for your term abroad and would be denied.
 - There can be NO MISTAKES on the application form. We recommend that you complete the application form electronically and then print it so that it is clearly legible if possible.
 - **We have compiled a PDF Guide to help you fill out this form [here](#).**
 - This form **must** be notarized by a Consular Representative or Public Notary (see Notarization section below)
- **Recent passport-size photograph (1.2"x1.5" or 3x4 cm)** on a white background, full face, front
 - This must be stapled/glued on to the application form (scanned photos will not be accepted)
 - The Chicago Consulate will accept 2x2 standard US Passport-style photos
- **Original passport and copy of passport information page** You will send your passport to Chicago and get it back after processing. You must also include a clear, full color copy printout of the passport information page (photo page, signature)
- **Copy of Driver's License and Student ID must be mailed** Clear, full color copy printout. Do not mail your originals
 - Bring the originals with you if you make an appointment to appear in person
- **Original and copy of Official Letter of Acceptance** that will come from your study abroad institution
- **Original and copy of Letter of Enrollment from Home Academic Institution** that will be issued by the OIE office and can be found in the Documents tab of your DU Passport (when available)
- **Proof of Financial Means** The six most recent bank statements, or a letter from a US banking institution, on the bank's letterhead, signed by a bank official, indicating account balance and average balance equal to \$1,000 per month of stay in Italy in the official (passport) name of the student only (no cosigners).
 - Round up to the next whole month. If your program is 3.5 months show \$4,000
 - This **should not** simply be a print-out bank balance or screenshot. It should be your physical mailed bank statement or, if your statements are paperless, print out the full statement document for each month.
 - If you receive financial aid, and this is what you will use to cover day-to-day living expenses (as opposed to your own bank account or financial support from an individual), you must present an official letter from your home university stating the amount of aid and time of disbursement.
- **Affidavit of Support:** This form is only necessary if you can not provide the Proof of Financial Means listed above solely in the name of the student.
 - This form must be accompanied by the Proof of Financial Means as listed above relevant to the signer (ie: bank statements or bank letter indicating the necessary account balance).
 - If the account used to show proof of financial means has two or more names, all account owners must sign an Affidavit of Support. If the account used is shared between the visa applicant and another, only the other party needs to complete the Affidavit.
- **Proof of Health Insurance:** You have international health insurance as a DU student. You will receive the appropriate Proof of Health Insurance document from the OIE and this can be found in the Documents tab of your DU Passport (when available). This is different from SHIP.

- [Affidavit of Overseas Health Insurance](#) is required of all students—by signing you understand the health insurance requirement of the Italian government
- **Proof of Lodging:** This proof is often included in the program’s letter of acceptance. Check with your program if you are unsure.
- **Confirmed Flight Reservation** for a round trip
- **Return Envelope:** If you can not collect in person. Envelope must be **USPS Express Mail or Priority Mail** with a **tracking number, pre-paid** and **self-addressed** with a photocopy of the label.
- **Consent to Send by Mail:** You must complete and sign this form in order for the Consulate to mail your visa and passport back to you.
- **Fees:** The Chicago Consulate General only accepts **Cashier’s Checks or Money Orders** made out to Consulate General Of Italy in Chicago, and indicate your full name. See the Consular Fees page (Click on the “Consular Fees” button below the Chicago skyline photo.) for current **VISTO nazionale per motivi di studio** pricing.
 - Visa fees are updated every three months, changes are possible 4/1, 7/1, or 10/1.

Mailing Address

Verify the address at the bottom of the [Chicago Consulate Visas page](#). As of May 2024 the address is as follows:

Consulate General of Italy
500 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 1850
Chicago IL 60611
Attention: VISA OFFICE

What Must Be Notarized—and by Whom

A notary is a person authorized to legally authenticate your signature. **Do not sign any of your documents until you are in the presence of the notary, Honorary Consul, or Consulate.**

The following items (all found on the [Chicago Consulate](#) website) must be notarized:

- Visa application form for [long-term stay](#)
 - This form must be notarized by the Honorary Vice Consulate of Italy in Denver, a representative at the Chicago Consulate, or a Notary Public. **Do not sign the form until you are in the presence of one of the preceding officials.**
- [Affidavit of Support](#), if applicable (you must provide proof of finances-see below)
- [Affidavit of Overseas Health Insurance](#)

Notes on Notarization

All notarization signatures must be gathered within 180 days of the start of your program, not before.

All forms can be notarized by the Honorary Vice Consul in Denver/Consular Officer in Chicago, or any public notary. Simply check Google for listings; banks and UPS stores are examples of places where you can go for notary services.

In order for the Honorary Vice Consul to notarize the copies of your Driver's License and student ID, you must bring the originals to your meeting.

Affidavit of Support: is only needed if you are receiving financial support from another individual (parent etc.). This affidavit can be notarized either by the Honorary Vice Consul or another public notary.

- If that individual is present for your meeting with the Honorary Vice Consul, they can still serve as the notary.
- If that individual **cannot** be at your meeting with the Honorary Vice Consul, or you are mailing in without an appointment with the Honorary Consul, they may get the form notarized by their bank/another public notary.
- In either case, you will need to bring/mail the appropriate proof of financial means outlined by the Chicago Consulate.

The **Affidavit of Overseas Health Insurance** can be notarized either by the Honorary Vice Consul or another public notary.

Some notaries do charge for notarization services. If this is the case, you are responsible for these fees, regardless of CGS status.

Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Denver

Remember, it's up to you, not the Honorary Vice Consul, to make sure that your application is CORRECT and COMPLETE.

The Honorary Vice Consul can serve as notary for students using the Chicago Consulate

- [Contact Information and Address](#)
- Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Denver's [Website](#)

The Honorary Consul typically has hours open to the public weekly. These times can be found on the Consul's [website](#). Students should follow the website instructions to schedule an appointment.

Schedule your appointment only when you have all the application items ready to be signed.

Mailing your Visa Application and Passport and Your Return Envelope

Per the Honorary Vice Consulate's [website](#), you are responsible for mailing your own visa application and all supporting documents to the Chicago Consulate. However, you should bring all documents with you to your appointment at the Honorary Vice Consulate.

You should bring two envelopes:

1. To mail your application to the Chicago Consulate
2. Self-addressed return envelope for the Consulate to mail back your forms.

The envelopes must be **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICES EXPRESS MAIL or PRIORITY MAIL with a tracking number, pre-paid and addressed.** See the Honorary Vice Consulate's [website](#) for more detail.

Paying for Your Visa

As of December 2015, the Italian Student Visa now has a **visa application fee of about 50 Euros.** You will need to bring a money order to the meeting with the Honorary Vice Consul. You can get money orders at the US Post Office and should address the order to "The Consulate General of Italy in Chicago."

The Chicago Consulate sets the currency exchange rate and the dollar amount that would meet the 50 Euro requirement. This amount is edited every quarter. Students can enquire with the Honorary Vice Consul regarding the exact amount of that money order in U.S. Dollars, or they can check the official amounts on the [Chicago Consulate's website](#) (Consular Fees in the quick links bar and look up **VISTO nazionale per motivi di studio**).

Staying in Italy Past the End of the Program

Your visa only allows you to stay in Italy until the end date of the program, with a few days' grace period to depart the country. If you plan to stay in Italy longer, it is your responsibility to contact the Chicago Consulate *prior to applying for your visa* to determine what is needed to extend your stay.

Option 2: Apply to the Consulate serving your state of residency

If your permanent residency is in or close to a city with an Italian Consulate, you may decide to work with that Consulate if eligible. To find out to which Italian Consulate you can submit your visa application to, go to the [Italian Consulate Network](#) site.

Please be aware that some consulates require you to appear in person to make your application (though they may also work with Honorary Consuls). If that is the case, **you may be required to travel to the city in which the consulate is located, potentially for your appointment and to collect your passport.** CGS benefits from DU does not reimburse for travel expenses related to obtaining the visa, only the visa application itself.

The OIE does not hold any knowledge of visa processes outside of the Chicago Consulate. Students are urged to do detailed research on their process before electing to work through a different Consulate and **should contact their program for further guidance.**

When to Apply for a Student Visa

The visa application process can take several weeks. You can submit your visa application documents **within 180 days of your program start date (BUT NOT before that time), and with no less than FIVE WEEKS prior to the start of the program.**

Your notary/Consular signatures must also be within the 180-day start of your program window.

You should begin gathering the required documents immediately and should work to get forms signed as soon as possible. Issuance of a student visa is dependent upon the satisfactory health and character clearance conducted by the Italian government. If your application needs to be revised, it may take more time to finalize the process. ***Delaying your student visa application until the last moment may interfere with your travel plans and may result in failure to receive a visa.***

Due to the processing time, do not plan any international travel within 90 days of your program start. Remember that you will need to submit your physical passport to the Consulate along with your visa application, and there is no guarantee that you will have your passport back from the Consulate in time for you to undertake additional travel.

Immigration and Permit to Stay/Declaration of Presence

Your program abroad will help to facilitate this process. Sometimes, this means that the program/university abroad will tell you where to take these documents, other times, they may process the documents on your behalf.

The Permit to Stay and Declaration of Presence are legal documents that register non-EU citizens with the local Italian government officials so that they may remain in the country legally. By law they must apply for a *Permesso di Soggiorno* ([Permit to Stay/Resident Permit](#)) or Declaration of Presence within eight (8) business days of their arrival in Italy at one of the appropriate Public Offices as required by the procedure.

In most cases, you will need copies of all the documents you sent with your visa application, including but not limited to:

- Your Letter of Enrollment from DU (provided by the OIE)
- Your Letter of Enrollment from your host university in Italy
- 4 passport photos (take extra photos with you, they might be useful)
- A valid identification document/card and a photocopy of it (passport)
- Copy of the health insurance certified by the Italian Consulate or Embassy in your home country (the copy you will get back from the Consulate with your visa)
- Copy of the visa
- Proof of your means of financial support
- A residence declaration (recommended) released by your house owner/landlord in your city.
- Permit to Stay processing fee (Note: Cherrington Global Scholars will be reimbursed for the Permit to Stay application fee **if you provide an original receipt to your OIE Advisor by the deadlines outlined in the [DU Study Abroad Policies](#) and the [DU Study Abroad Handbook](#)**).

The residence permit is generally issued according to the visa (type and duration) that has been issued by the Consulate, and it is the only document (not the visa itself) which entitles foreigners to stay in Italy. For this reason, the residence permit must be carried at all times and must be shown with the passport at the request of the Italian authorities; it allows the foreigners to exit and reenter Italy for the entire period of its validity.

Travel Arrangements & CGS Reimbursement Processes

Refer to your DU Passport Account as well as OIE pre-departure emails regarding transportation logistics for details on booking your flights to and from Italy. Remember that if you are a CGS student, you are responsible for booking your tickets per the instructions provided in DU Passport and the [DU Study Abroad Handbook](#). CGS Reimbursement Processes and deadlines are outlined in that information as well as in the [DU Study Abroad Policies](#).

Students who are Cherrington Global Scholars can submit receipts to be reimbursed for the Student Visa application fee (50 Euro) as well as the Permit to Stay/Declaration of Presence application fee (usually around 30 or 140 Euros) but not additional immigration costs. These fees are subject to change and you should check with your consulate for the most updated information. Please note reimbursement is subject to the deadlines outlined in the DU Study Abroad Policies. **Only the application fees themselves are eligible for reimbursement, not any additional visa costs (including travel to the Consulate if necessary).**