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Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy 2026

Drawn by world-class universities, affordable education, and funding opportunities, thousands of international students choose to study in Italy every year for higher studies. From fully funded and 100% tuition-free scholarships to monthly stipends of up to **€900-€1,100 (approximately INR 98,000-1.19L)**, students can access financial support that covers tuition fees, accommodation, health insurance, and other essential expenses. Popular options include the **Italian Government Scholarship (MAECI)** and **Invest Your Talent in Italy**, along with several regional and university-funded scholarships.

Whether you're aiming for a **bachelors, masters, PhD, research, or postgraduate** program, there are funding opportunities available across study levels. While not every scholarship covers all expenses, many offer substantial financial support, helping students focus more on their studies and less on the cost of studying abroad.

Government Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy

If you're looking for **scholarships backed by a national authority**, government-funded programs are often the best place to start. These scholarships are designed to attract talented international students and can provide substantial financial support throughout your studies in Italy.

The table below highlights major government-funded scholarships in Italy, along with their study levels and the financial support available to international students:

Scholarship Offered	Study Level	Coverage in the Scholarship
MAECI Scholarship	Master's, AFAM, PhD & Research	€900 (approximately INR 98,000) per month for 6 or 9 months , health and medical insurance, and exemption from tuition fees where provided by the host institution.
Invest Your Talent in Italy (IYT)	Master's & Postgraduate	€10,800 (approximately INR 11.76L) grant for a 9-month study period, tuition fee exemption (except regional tax where applicable), internship in an Italian company, and Italian language and culture course.

Note: Both scholarship programs are administered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). The annual call specifies eligible countries, participating universities, and application timelines.

Regional Scholarships in Italy

Beyond government-funded programs, several Italian regions offer scholarships to help students manage the cost of studying and living in Italy. These scholarships are particularly attractive because they can cover multiple expenses and are often awarded based on financial need.

The table below showcases regional scholarship programs offered across Italy to support students:

Scholarship Offered	Study Level	Coverage in the Scholarship
DSU Regional Scholarships	Bachelor's, Master's & PhD	Eligible students may receive a combination of tuition fee exemption, financial grant, accommodation and subsidised dining services based on their financial status and regional regulations.
ER.GO Emilia-Romagna Scholarship	Bachelor's, Master's & PhD	Financial grant, accommodation services, dining benefits and tuition-related support according to the annual regional call.
EDISU Piemonte Scholarship	Bachelor's, Master's & PhD	Financial assistance, accommodation, meal services and tuition benefits based on eligibility requirements.
DiSCo Lazio Scholarship	Bachelor's, Master's & PhD	Financial support and student welfare services according to annual funding and eligibility criteria.

Note: Regional scholarships are primarily **means-tested**. The amount and type of support depend on the applicant's economic condition (ISEE or equivalent), residence category, and available regional funding. Being eligible does not automatically guarantee receipt of every benefit.

University Scholarships in Italy

Many of Italy's leading universities offer scholarships to attract talented students from around the world. These awards can range from tuition fee waivers to substantial financial grants, helping make a world-class education more affordable for international students.

The table below features popular scholarship opportunities offered by leading Italian universities across various study levels:

Scholarship Offered	Study Level	Coverage in the Scholarship
International Talents at Unibo - University of Bologna	Master's	Tuition fee waiver and financial support as specified in the annual scholarship call. Applicants should refer to the current call for the exact scholarship amount.
Padua International Excellence Scholarship	Bachelor's & Master's	Scholarship awarded to highly talented international students. The scholarship value and number of awards are announced each academic year in the official call.
University of Padua Fee	Bachelor's &	Full tuition fee waiver for selected international

Scholarship Offered	Study Level	Coverage in the Scholarship
Waivers	Master's	students enrolled in eligible English-taught programs.
Talent4UniTo Scholarship -University of Turin	Master's	€20,000 (approximately INR 21.78L) (gross) over two academic years for selected international students enrolling in eligible English-taught postgraduate programs.
Politecnico di Milano Merit Scholarships	Master's	Merit-based scholarships and tuition fee waivers are awarded according to the official annual scholarship call.

Note: Scholarship amounts, renewal requirements, and eligibility criteria vary by university and annual funding availability. Applicants should refer to the official scholarship webpage of their chosen institution for the latest details.

Who is Eligible for Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy?

Eligibility requirements **differ depending on the scholarship**. However, most government, regional, and university scholarships have several common requirements.

A. Nationality Requirements

Applicants generally must:

- Be an international student applying to an eligible Italian higher education institution.
- Meet any nationality requirements specified by the scholarship program.
- Apply to a participating university where required.

B. Academic Eligibility Requirements

Applicants are generally expected to:

- Meet the admission requirements of the chosen Italian university.
- Hold the required qualification for the intended program.
- Demonstrate good academic performance.
- Satisfy any program-specific academic criteria.

Research-based scholarships may also evaluate the applicant's academic achievements and research potential.

C. Language Requirements

Depending on the program, applicants may need to demonstrate proficiency in:

- English (for English-taught programs)
- Italian (for Italian-taught programs)

Accepted language qualifications depend on the admission requirements of the participating university.

D. Financial Eligibility (Regional Scholarships)

For regional scholarships such as **DSU**, **ER.GO**, **EDISU**, and **DiSCo**, applicants must also satisfy the financial eligibility criteria established by the respective regional authority. Supporting financial documentation is generally required during the application process.

Who cannot apply?

Applicants may not be eligible if they:

- Do not satisfy the admission requirements of the university.
- Fail to meet the scholarship-specific eligibility criteria.
- Submit incomplete or incorrect application documents.
- Miss the scholarship application deadline.
- Do not meet any academic, language, or financial requirements specified in the official scholarship guidelines.

How to Apply for Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy?

With **government, regional, and university scholarships** all offering funding opportunities, the application process can seem overwhelming at first. Breaking it down into a few simple steps can make it much easier to stay on track and submit a strong application.

The given steps should be followed for most of the scholarships:

- **Step 1: Choose a Scholarship**

Shortlist scholarships that match your study level, nationality, academic profile, and preferred university or program.

- **Step 2: Apply for University Admission**

Most scholarships require admission or pre-admission to an eligible Italian university before applying for funding.

- **Step 3: Submit the Scholarship Application**

Complete the application through the relevant portal, such as MAECI, Invest Your Talent in Italy, DSU, ER.GO, EDISU, DiSCo, or the university portal.

- **Step 4: Upload Required Documents**

Submit all supporting documents before the deadline, ensuring every file is complete, accurate, and valid.

- **Step 5: Await the Results**

Applications are evaluated based on published criteria, and successful candidates are notified through the official portal or email.

Documents Required for Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy

Having the right documents ready can save **you both time and effort** during the application process. Although **every scholarship has its own requirements**, there are several documents that most applicants are commonly asked to provide, such as:

- Valid passport
- Academic transcripts
- Degree certificates
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Statement of Purpose (SOP) or motivation letter
- Letter of recommendation
- Proof of university admission or pre-admission (where applicable)
- English or Italian language proficiency certificate, if required
- Financial documents (primarily for regional scholarships such as DSU)
- Research proposal (for research or doctoral programs)
- Any additional documents specified in the official scholarship guidelines

Note: Requirements may vary by scholarship. For example, the Invest Your Talent in Italy (IYT) program may require an academic transcript, bachelor's degree certificate, one-page CV, passport, English language certificate, and a short motivation video.

Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy Deadlines

When it comes to scholarships, timing matters just as much as eligibility. **Italy doesn't follow a single scholarship calendar**, which means application deadlines can vary depending on the scholarship provider, region, university, and program.

The application period generally follows this timeline:

- **MAECI Scholarships:** Applications usually open between **March and May**, with exact deadlines

announced through the annual MAECI call.

- **Invest Your Talent in Italy:** Applications generally open in **April** and close in **May** for programs beginning in the following academic year.
- **Regional Scholarships (DSU, ER.GO, EDISU, DiSCo):** Applications are typically invited between **July and September**, depending on the region.
- **University Scholarships:** Most universities accept scholarship applications between **January and May**, although timelines vary by institution and intake.

Note: Scholarship schedules may change from year to year, so always refer to the official scholarship or university website for the latest deadlines.

Selection Process for Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy

Receiving a scholarship isn't just about meeting the eligibility requirements. Most scholarship providers in Italy look at **several aspects of your profile** to identify students who are academically strong, well-prepared, and a good fit for their programs.

Here's how the selection process works:

- **Application Screening:** Applications are first reviewed to ensure all eligibility requirements are met and required documents are submitted correctly.
- **Academic Evaluation:** Your grades, qualifications, academic achievements, and overall suitability for the chosen program are carefully assessed.
- **Additional Assessment:** Depending on the scholarship, reviewers may also consider your motivation letter, CV, language skills, research proposal, professional experience, or financial need.
- **Admission Verification:** Many scholarships require applicants to secure admission or pre-admission to an eligible Italian university before funding is awarded.
- **Final Selection:** The final decision is made after a comprehensive review, and successful candidates are informed through the official portal or email.

How to Check Scholarship Status?

After submitting your scholarship application, the waiting period can feel long and uncertain. The good news is that most **scholarship providers offer regular updates through application portals and email**, making it easier to track your progress and stay informed throughout the process.

Here are the general steps to check your scholarship status:

- **Step 1: Log in to the Official Scholarship Portal**

Access the scholarship portal using your registered credentials to view updates related to your application status.

- **Step 2: Check Your Application Dashboard**

Look for sections such as "My Applications" or "Application Status" to see the latest progress.

- **Step 3: Monitor Your Registered Email**

Important updates, document requests, interview invitations, and final decisions are usually shared via email.

- **Step 4: Respond to Any Additional Requests**

If the provider requests extra documents or information, submit them promptly to avoid delays.

- **Step 5: Accept the Scholarship Offer**

If selected, follow the instructions carefully and complete all acceptance and enrolment formalities within the given deadline.

Note: For MAECI Scholarships, selected applicants are required to accept the scholarship through the **Study in Italy** portal within the deadline mentioned in the official notification.

Common Reasons for Rejection of Fully Funded Scholarships in Italy

Having a rejection from a scholarship can be frustrating, especially after spending weeks on your application. Knowing **what scholarship committees look for** can help you submit a stronger application and improve your chances of success.

Some common reasons for rejection include:

- **Eligibility Not Met:** Even a small mismatch with the scholarship requirements can make your application ineligible from the start.
- **No University Admission:** Many scholarships require admission first, so not securing a university offer can be a major obstacle.
- **Application Mistakes:** Missing details, incorrect information, or incomplete sections can create a negative impression during evaluation.
- **Missing Documents:** Incomplete paperwork makes it difficult for reviewers to verify your qualifications and eligibility.
- **Language Requirements Not Met:** Not meeting the required English or Italian language standards can affect both admission and scholarship eligibility.
- **Weak Academic Record:** Strong competition means applicants with better grades or achievements often have a clear advantage.
- **Poor SOP or Research Proposal:** A weak motivation letter may fail to explain your goals, strengths, and reasons for applying.
- **Missed Deadline:** Applications submitted after the deadline are usually rejected, no matter how strong the profile is.

- **Insufficient Financial Proof:** Need-based scholarships require accurate financial documents to confirm eligibility for funding support.
- **Interview or Assessment Issues:** Missing an interview or struggling to present your goals clearly can hurt your selection chances.

Conclusion

A scholarship can completely change the way you experience studying abroad, and Italy offers plenty of opportunities to make that happen. From government-funded programs like **MAECI** and **Invest Your Talent in Italy** to regional and university scholarships, students can access support that covers tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses, health insurance, and monthly stipends of up to **€900-€1,100 (approximately INR 98,000-1.19L)**.

The best part is that these opportunities are available across **bachelor's, master's, PhD, and research programs**. With a little planning, careful attention to deadlines, and a strong application, funding your education in Italy can become a realistic goal. The earlier you start your scholarship search, the more options you'll have to turn your study plans into reality.

*Have more questions? **Book a Free 1:1 Live Session with upGrad Experts Today!***

We are here to help!

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