



ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2008/2009 for AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is offering **scholarships for the 2008/2009 academic year to Australian citizens.**

The scholarships can be allocated as LONG-TERM (one academic year, i.e. 6, 9 or 12 months) or as SHORT-TERM (1, 2 or 3 months).

The scholarship can be used to attend the following institutions:

- **Universities**
- **Academies of Fine Arts and Conservatories of Music**
- **Restoration Schools**
- **National Cinema School**
- **Research Centres or Laboratories**
- **Libraries, Archives, Museums and other public institutions.**

With the exception of the *European University Institute* (Istituto Universitario Europeo), **scholarships can not be granted to attend courses at:**

- **Foreign institutions such as universities, academies, libraries, schools of any nature.**
- **Private schools or laboratories not officially recognised.**

The candidate can apply for a scholarship to perform/attend:

- **Italian language courses.** Duration: **1, 2 or 3 months.**
- **Single university courses.** At the end of the course the scholarship holder will have to sit for the relevant exam/s.
- **Corsi di laurea (university courses).**
- **Various courses** at Academies of Fine Arts, Conservatories of Music, National Cinema School, etc.
- **Research in any field.** **The candidate must attend a graduate or postgraduate university course as well as hold a letter of acceptance from the Italian academic institution.** At the end of the course the scholarship holder will have to sit for the relevant exam. This requirement does not apply to those who intend to perform their research at institutions such as CNR, *Istituto Superiore della Sanità* and similar.
- **Post-graduate studies** - *Corsi di Perfezionamento, Corsi di specializzazione, Master, Ph.D.* (all disciplines, excluding medical disciplines).
- **Italian language and culture courses for Italian teachers.** Minimum duration: **1 month.** These short Italian language and culture courses are reserved to **Italian language teachers and university students of Italian** who are at least at their 3rd year of university. The Italian language and culture courses have to be taken at one of the Universities for Foreigners (i.e. Perugia, Siena or Roma Tre), or at any other

institution who can issue an official certification for the knowledge of Italian as a foreign language.

LENGTH OF THE SCHOLARSHIP:

With the exception of scholarships to attend short Italian language courses (1, 2 or 3 months), it is only possible to apply for 3, 6, 9 or 12 month scholarships. It is not possible to accept scholarship applications indicating a different duration.

PREREQUISITES FOR APPLYING:

Knowledge of the Italian language:

All applicants must possess a good knowledge of the Italian language, which will have to be proven by producing relevant certifications as well as through an interview conducted at the Italian Institute of Culture, by a lecturer of Italian at the nearest University or at the Cultural Office of the Italian diplomatic mission with territorial jurisdiction over the candidate's place of residence.

The only exceptions to this requirement are:

- If the candidate intends to use the scholarship to attend an **Italian language and culture course**.
- In case of independent research scholarships, provided that the candidate has obtained a letter from an Italian academic assuring his/her willingness to supervise the student in English or another vehicular language.

Necessary qualifications:

- **For Italian language courses:** school leaving certificate (*Higher School Certificate*).
- **To enroll in a *corso di laurea*:** a qualification valid for admission to an Australian university (i.e. *Higher School Certificate* and *University Admission Index*).
- **For admission to single university courses or independent research:** enrolment in an Australian university as proven by the relevant academic record. **An academic transcript translated into Italian is required to enroll in such courses.**
- The candidates for ***Corsi di perfezionamento/specializzazione, Master or Ph.D.*** must hold an academic title equivalent to an Italian *laurea*.
- **For admission to Academies of Fine Arts or Conservatories of Music:** a title valid locally for admission to Academies or Conservatories.

Age limit: 18-35 years (i.e., this age must not have been reached by the last useful day for the lodging of the application). **Such age limit does not apply to teachers of Italian as long as they are currently working as Italian teachers.**

PLEASE NOTE: Some institutions set special age limits, such as the National Cinema School (*Scuola Nazionale di Cinematografia*), where the age limit to apply is **27 years**. **It is therefore advisable to check with the chosen institution whether special age limits apply to enroll in their courses.**

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE PREREQUISITES WILL INVALIDATE THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

EACH SCHOLARSHIP CONSISTS OF:

- quarterly instalments in Euros (*).
- Health insurance premiums.
- Possible reductions on course fees.

(*) The exact amount of the scholarship will be confirmed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a later stage.

Please note that neither long nor short term scholarship provides any travel or lodging allowance.

CLOSING DATE FOR LODGING THE APPLICATION: 12 MAY 2008.

The application (**in two copies**), complete with passport size photos **and bearing the original signature of the candidate**, must be filled in **IN ITALIAN** on the proper ministerial form with the assistance, if needed, of the Italian Institute of Culture. **The application will have to be sent to:**

**Embassy of Italy
12 Grey Street
Deakin ACT 2600**

Each application must contain the following documents:

- **Official application form**, which can be obtained from the Italian Institute of Culture as well as on the IIC's website: www.iicsydney.esteri.it.
- One recent **passport size photograph**.
- **Photocopy of the photo page of the passport OR of the birth certificate**.
- **Curriculum vitae and academic record** showing particular reference to the activities carried out in the chosen field relating to the scholarship application.
- **A clear study or research plan** to be developed in Italy at a **public or officially recognized institution**, supported, where possible, by evidence of the candidate's admission in the schools or institutions where the candidates intend to enroll. Alternatively, the candidate can provide evidence of the request of enrolment in the chosen course. Priority will be given to candidates who have already established contacts with the hosting institutions, securing their admission into their courses/research facilities. **The study plan must be detailed in the special space provided in the application. Appendixes, clearly referred to in the application form, can be enclosed as a separate attachment.**
- **Photocopies of at least two letters of reference by Australian academic authorities** (the originals will have to be produced in case the applicant is proposed for the scholarship).
- **Photocopy of the *Higher School Certificate (with Record of Achievement and University Admission Index)***.
- **Photocopies of any Degrees or Diplomas awarded plus the academic transcript.**
- In the upper margin of the application's form must be clearly stated if the applicant intends to apply for a **short- or a long-term scholarship** (S.T. or L.T.), or alternatively for both types of scholarship (L./S.T.).

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The period of fruition of the scholarship goes from the 1st of October 2008 to the 30th of September 2009.** The period extends to the 31st of March 2010 in the case of Masters and Phd's.
- **The name of the institution and the dates of the course must be clearly stated in the application form.** These cannot be changed unless there are valid reasons, which must be documented, and are in any case subject to approval by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the 23rd of May 2008 a joint Australian-Italian Committee will meet at the Italian Embassy in Canberra to examine the scholarship applications lodged all over Australia and select a certain number of candidates for the granting of the scholarships.

Subsequently the Italian Embassy in Canberra will send a notification to all the candidates who have been selected by the joint Australian-Italian Committee, asking them to provide them with the **following additional documents:**

- **Original of Degree or Higher School Certificate** valid for admission to the courses that the candidate intends to attend, accompanied by its translation into Italian.
- **The originals of the letters of reference** included in the application form (at least two letters).
- **A medical certificate.**
- **A lettera d'impegno**, also compiled on the provided ministerial forms.
- **Declaration** that the candidate is not benefiting of any other scholarship from an Italian institution in the same period of this scholarship.

Enrolment in the chosen courses:

- **The scholarship holders will be pre-enrolled in the chosen courses by the Italian Embassy in Canberra.** It is advisable to check with the relevant Italian authority (be it Italian the Institute of Culture, Education Office of the Italian Consulate or Italian Embassy) which documents are required for such pre-enrolment.

Please note that the scholarship allowance will be paid every three months, and that the first payment will take place approx. 6 weeks after the start of the scholarship, with the exception of 1 or 2 month scholarships, in which case the allowance will be paid during those months. In order to receive such payments, the scholarship holder will need to provide official certificates of attendance issued by the relevant institution. Failure to produce such certificates will cause the scholarship to be discontinued.

For any further information regarding the Italian Government scholarships, please contact the:

ITALIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURE
Lvl. 45, Gateway, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney
Ph.: 02 9392 7939

iicsydney@esteri.it www.iicsydney.esteri.it
during the following office hours:

Monday-Thursday 9.00am - 6.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 1.30pm

DISCLAIMER

The above information is given only as a help to the candidates and represents an abstract from the official *Bando di concorso*, which can be found on the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs's website (www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/Opportunita). The Italian Institute of Culture does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the translation or the completeness of the information. The only document to be taken into consideration is the official *Bando di concorso*.