

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS*

FOUNDATION COURSE IN ENGLISH

Pre-University Preparatory Programme
2026/2027 Academic Year

For the 2026/2027 academic year, the IaD School of Tor Vergata University of Rome will be running a Foundation Course taught in English. The Course is offered under Article 6(1) of Ministerial Decree No. 270/2004, which allows Italian universities to provide preparatory training activities for students entering degree programmes.

Article 1 – Purpose

The Foundation Course is a one-year, English-taught programme that prepares international students for degree-level study at Italian universities. It is open to two groups of applicants:

- a. those who have completed secondary school abroad but either fall short of the 12 years of schooling required for admission to Italian universities or do not hold a school-leaving qualification that is recognised for university entry in their home country or in Italy;
- b. who do meet the 12-year requirement but want to improve their academic grounding and their language proficiency before beginning a degree.

Over the course of the year, students will develop their Italian and English, learn the subject-specific terminology used in their chosen field, and gain the preparation they need to perform well in the University's degree-programme admission tests.

Article 2 – Programme structure

The Foundation Course offers two pathways. Students must select one at the time of enrolment; the choice is final and cannot be changed later:

- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences

First semester (common to both pathways)

Subject	Equivalent Credits
Italian Language	20
English Language	10
Total	30

Students who already hold a CEFR B2 (or higher) language certificate from an accredited body, as well as native English speakers and those with English as a second language, may be granted credit for the relevant course and exempted from attending it – see Article 3(a) for details.

Second semester – the remaining 30 Equivalent Credits (EC) break down as follows:

Social Sciences	Natural Sciences
Italian Literature and Culture (6 EC)	Biology (6 EC)
Geography and History (6 EC)	Chemistry (6 EC)
Principles of Economics (6 EC)	Mathematics (6 EC)
Political Institutions (6 EC)	Physics (6 EC)
Mathematics (6 EC)	Political Institutions (6 EC)
Total: 30 Equivalent Credits	Total: 30 Equivalent Credits

Both pathways provide useful preparation for any admission tests set by the University's degree programmes.

Article 3 – Eligibility requirements

To be considered for admission, applicants must meet **both** of the following requirements:

a. English language proficiency. A certificate at **CEFR level B1** or above is required, issued by one of the following bodies: IELTS; TOEFL; CFE; British Institutes; Cambridge University Press & Assessment; Educational Testing Service (ETS); Pearson Education Limited; Trinity College London. This requirement is waived for native English speakers and for those whose second language is English, provided they supply official documentation to that effect.

b. Secondary school leaving qualification. Applicants must hold the final diploma that completes upper secondary education and that, in the country where it was awarded, grants access to university. Students who are currently in their final year (for example, year 11 in an 11-year system or year 12 in a 12-year system) may apply by submitting report cards for every preceding year; their enrolment will then be confirmed only once the final diploma has been awarded.

Please note: Applicants who have not completed the full cycle of secondary education in their school system – for instance, those with 11 years of schooling in a system that requires 12 or 13) are **not** eligible.

Higher-level qualifications such as Bachelor's or Master's degrees will not be considered and will result in the applicant's exclusion from the Foundation Course.

Article 4 – Documents required

The documents below must be uploaded to the University's online portal so that the eligibility and authenticity of each applicant's secondary school qualification can be verified and the application assessed.

A) Qualification from a signatory country of the Lisbon Recognition Convention¹

Upload the following:

¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Holy See (Vatican City State), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Hungary, United Kingdom, United States of America.

- passport;
- final secondary school diploma;
- final-year report card, with an official translation into English;
- ARDI Certificate of Correspondence, downloadable for free from the [ARDI database](#), or alternatively a Declaration of Value issued by the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was awarded;
- [CIMEA Statement of Verification](#), or alternatively an official translation into Italian of the school diploma together with the legalisation of the said diploma by the Italian Diplomatic Representation in the relevant country. If that country is a party to the Hague Convention (1961), an Apostille from the designated national authority may be submitted instead of legalisation by the Italian Embassy;
- English language certificate at **CEFR level B1 or above**, as specified in Article 3.

B) Qualification from a non-signatory country of the Lisbon Recognition Convention

Upload the following:

- passport;
- final secondary school diploma;
- final-year report card, translated into English;
- [CIMEA Statement of Comparability](#), or alternatively a Declaration of Value issued by the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was obtained;
- [CIMEA Statement of Verification](#), or alternatively an official translation into Italian of the school diploma together with the legalisation of the said diploma by the Italian Diplomatic Representation in the relevant country. If that country is a party to the Hague Convention (1961), an Apostille from the designated national authority may be submitted instead of legalisation by the Italian Embassy;
- English language certificate at **CEFR level B1 or above**, as specified in Article 3.

Applicants who are still in their final year, or who have recently finished but have not yet received their diploma, may apply with the following provisional documents in the meantime:

- a certificate of enrolment in the final year, issued by the school, together with an official translation into English;
- report cards for all previous school years, officially translated into English;
- English language certificate at CEFR level B1 or above, as specified in Article 3.

In such cases, the full set of definitive documents for the applicant's country must follow by **15 October 2026**.

Article 5 – Places, dates and deadlines

There are **250 places** on the Foundation Course. The course will run only if at least **25 students** enrol. The Foundation Course will only go ahead once the minimum enrolment has been reached. The University does, however, reserve the right to run the course with fewer students where particular internationalisation needs justify doing so.

Applications are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Candidates may apply using **one** of the following application windows:

First window: 29 April-16 July 2026

Outcomes will be emailed by the end of July 2026. The first instalment of €1,016 (including €16 stamp duty) is due within 10 days of the acceptance notification.

Second window: 31 August-30 September 2026

Outcomes will be emailed during the first week of October 2026. The first instalment of €1,016 (including €16 stamp duty) is due within 10 days of the acceptance notification.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for the Foundation Course only **once they have all the required documents**.

Article 6 – How to apply

Applications must be submitted online at the following link:

[Page in Italian](#)

[Page in English](#)

Step-by-step guidance on the procedure is available at this [link](#).

Applications with missing or incomplete documentation will be rejected outright. See Article 4 for the full list of required documents.

Article 7 – Enrolment and fees

After receiving an application, the International Students Office will review it and check the supporting documents. If the application is successful and the applicant has already submitted all the documents required under Article 4, fees are due in three instalments:

- **First instalment:** €1,016 (including €16 stamp duty), due within 10 days of receiving the acceptance – or conditional acceptance – notification;
- **Second instalment:** €1,000, due by 4 November 2026;
- **Third instalment:** €2,000, due by 15 March 2027.

Once the first instalment has been paid, applicants will receive an email explaining how to download their letter of acceptance, setting out the remaining payment deadlines, and providing access to the Italian and English language placement tests. Payment also unlocks immediate access to the self-study Italian language courses.

Please note that the first two instalments must both be paid before enrolment is finalised and access to the first-semester online classes is granted. **These fees are non-refundable, including in the event that a visa is refused.**

N.B. Students who miss any payment deadline will be removed from the programme.

Article 8 – Visa procedure for non-EU students residing abroad

Once admitted and in receipt of the letter of acceptance, students must apply for a study visa through the University portal (www.universitaly.it) **by 30 November 2026**.

They will need to:

- **Complete the pre-enrolment form**, entering their personal details exactly as shown in their passport (accuracy is essential, since this information is forwarded directly to the Embassy or Consulate responsible for issuing the visa) and selecting:
 - 2026/27 academic year;
 - Tor Vergata University of Rome;
 - Foundation Course;
 - the Embassy or Consulate that will issue the entry visa.
- **Attach the following to the pre-enrolment form:**
 - passport;
 - English language certificate (as per Article 3) and, if held, any Italian language certificate;
 - letter of acceptance;
 - all documents previously submitted as part of the admission application.
- **Wait for the University to validate the application**, then contact the relevant Italian Embassy or Consulate to confirm what the visa requires and to book an appointment.

It is strongly recommended that students contact the Embassy or Consulate well in advance, to make sure the visa is issued in time for the start of on-campus teaching in March 2027. Students should carefully check the specific requirements of the authority in their country before applying to the Foundation Course.

Article 9 – Completing enrolment

To complete enrolment, which must happen before the third instalment deadline, students must present all original documents – previously uploaded to the Delphi system – in person at the International Students Office (Via Cracovia 50, Building D, Ground Floor, room 001). The staff will check the authenticity of the documents and, once satisfied, will issue the payment slip for the third and final instalment of €2,000, which is due **by 15 March 2027**. Students should plan to arrive in Italy at least a week before this deadline, to allow time for the paperwork and to be ready when on-campus classes begin.

International students who hold refugee status or who have applied for temporary protection under Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 are exempt from all three fee instalments, subject to presenting a valid residence permit.

Article 10 – Start of classes

Classes begin in **November 2026**. **The first semester is delivered online**. From the second semester (**March 2027**) onwards, all teaching moves to campus and is held exclusively in person.

The timetable and course syllabi will be published on <http://www.scuolaiad.it/> before the start of the academic year.

Article 11 – Attendance and examinations

Attendance is compulsory for all classes, both online and on campus, and is monitored by the teaching staff. Each module ends with a final examination, which is open only to students who have attended at least 60% of that module's classes.

Article 12 – Applicants under 18 not residing in Italy

Under-18 applicants may be admitted on condition that they turn 18 **by 31 March 2027** at the latest. In practice, this means only students born **on or before 31 March 2009** may apply.

The parents of under-18 applicants must:

- provide a signed declaration of consent for their child's participation in the programme;
- appoint a legal guardian who resides in Italy and who will remain responsible for the student for the full duration of the Foundation Course and until the student's 18th birthday;
- submit a power of attorney for the application for the student's Italian tax code (*codice fiscale*);
- attach copies of both parents' identity documents;
- attach a copy of the guardian's identity document.

Every document listed above must be a certified true copy, bearing the signature and stamp of the relevant authority, and must be accompanied by a translation into Italian.

Article 13 – Duration and final award

The Foundation Course runs for one academic year, from November to July. Students who pass all the exams on their chosen pathway will receive:

- the Foundation Course certificate of completion;
- confirmation that they meet the minimum entry requirements for Bachelor's degree programmes and single-cycle Master's degree programmes;
- exemption from the placement tests for open-access degree programmes at Tor Vergata University of Rome. Students who wish to apply for restricted-entry programmes (whether capped at national or local level) will still need to sit the relevant admission test.

No partial certificates will be issued for attendance alone or for passing individual examinations.

IMPORTANT: completing the Foundation Course does not automatically entitle a student to a place at any other Italian university. Anyone planning to enrol elsewhere should contact the relevant admissions office beforehand to find out what that institution requires.

* *This English text is a courtesy translation and is not legally binding.*