

**MAZZESCHI**

# **ITALIAN IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP**

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NEWS, UPDATES AND CURIOSITIES ON ITALIAN  
IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP



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## LIVING AND WORKING IN ITALY: 20 FAQs

### 1) Do I need a visa to travel to Italy?

It depends on the nationality, purpose of the visit, duration of the stay. Italy has an agreement with certain countries that permits the entry into Italy for up to 90 days any 180 day period without the need for a visa.

### 2) What do I need to work in Italy?

You can only work in Italy if you have obtained a work permit (Nulla Osta), a work visa and have applied for a residence permit (permesso di soggiorno), or if you have a Residence permit allowing work (family permit, permit for subordinate employment or self-employment etc.).

You cannot work simply obtain a VAT registration (Partita IVA) or a tax code (codice fiscale).

### 3) Can I extend my 90-day stay/visa?

As a general rule, no. It is possible to request the extension only for reasons of force majeure, humanitarian reasons or serious personal reasons.





4) Can I be in Italy while my work permit application is pending?

Yes, you can be in Italy as a business visitor or as a tourist for max 90 days in 180 days

5) Can I apply for my work visa while I am in Italy?

No. Visas cannot be issued by authorities based in Italy. They can only be issued by the Italian Embassies/Consulates outside Italy. Generally, the Consulate/Embassy that receives the application is the one that has jurisdiction over the applicant's address in the country of residence.

6) Do I need to register when I enter Italy with my visa?

Whether you enter Italy on a short-term or a long-term stay, you need to comply with registration requirements within 8 days from arrival, by applying for a residence permit or by declaring your presence according to your type of visa.

7) Do I need to renew the visa when it expires?

A visa issued for a long-term stay is an authorization to enter the country but it requires the application of a residence permit (permesso di soggiorno) within 8 days from entry. From the moment the residence permit is issued, it substitutes the visa. The visa does not require renewal, it is the residence permit that must be renewed through an in-country procedure

8) Can I work in other EU countries with my Italian permit?

Generally speaking, an Italian residence permit allows the holder to circulate within the Schengen area up to a maximum of 90 days in any 180 days as a visitor but does not allow any work activity in another EU country. An exception to this is given by the permit issued pursuant to the EU ICT Directive: the holder of an ICT permit can move to work in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer in another member state for up to 90 days in any 180 days without requesting an additional permit.



### 9) Can I travel while I am waiting my permit of stay extension?

While waiting for the residence permit renewal, the holder can return to their home country or travel to other non-Schengen countries (visa requirements to be checked) but it is strictly forbidden to pass through any Schengen country, even for a short airport layover.

### 10) Can dependants work in Italy?

Holders of family permits (permesso di soggiorno per motivi familiari) are allowed to work in Italy

### 11) Who Qualifies as a Dependant?

For the purpose of applying for a family permit as a family member of a NON-EU national, the following are recognised as dependants: (i) spouse, regularly married and of full legal age (at least 18), also same sex; (ii) children under 18 (also spouse's children provided the other parent consent is granted); (iii) children over 18, only if financially dependent due to total disability; (iv) financially dependent parents, provided they do not have any other children in their country of origin; (v) parents over 65 if they do not have any other children who can financially support them in their home country because of serious health reasons.

### 12) More favourable rules apply to family members of an EU citizen residing in Italy.

The following can apply for a family permit: spouse; direct descendants, also of the spouse (i.e. children, grandchildren, etc.) under 21 or financially dependent; financially dependent direct ascendants, also of the spouse (i.e. parents, grandparents, etc.). An application may be possible also for other family members (under certain circumstances) and for the partner with whom the EU citizen has a durable relationship, duly attested by means of official documents

### 13) I am a non-EU citizen married to an Italian/EU citizen. Can I come to live in Italy?

Yes, provided that your Italian/ EU spouse takes residency in Italy.

### 14) Can I rent an apartment before obtaining my work visa?

Yes, this is possible. To rent an apartment you only need a tax code (codice fiscale).

### 15) Can I obtain the Italian tax Code (codice fiscale) before I have my visa and go to Italy?

Yes, you will only need to provide a copy of your passport and your foreign address.

### 18) When can I apply for permanent residency?

After 5 years of legal and continuous stay in the country, a foreign national can apply for a permanent residence permit, named EU permit for long term residents (permesso di soggiorno UE per soggiornanti di lungo periodo). Generally speaking, the issuance of this permit is subject to: (i) possession of a valid residence permit; (ii) knowledge of Italian language (at least A2 level of the Common European Framework); (iii) have a minimum income not lower than the annual amount of the social allowance and have filed tax returns in Italy; (iv) submission of police clearance.

### 19) What are the requirements to obtain citizenship by residency?

Legal residents (i.e starting date is the day you register with the City Hall not your entry in Italy) may be able to apply for citizenship after 10 years of residency.

### 20) Will my permit of stay be cancelled if I leave Italy for long periods?

The permit cannot be renewed or extended if the holder has left Italy for more than 6 consecutive months or in case of two year permits, if the holder has left Italy for more than half the validity of the permit consecutively (e.g. 12 consecutive months for a permit with a validity of 24 months).



## ITALY: HEALTHCARE RIGHTS FOR EU AND NON-EU EXPATS AND VISITORS

### ITALIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

- Each region (such as Lombardy, Tuscany, etc.) is responsible for organizing and delivering health care through local health authorities (Aziende Sanitarie Locali/ASL or USL)
- USLs provides hospitalization and treatment (including tests, surgery, and medication during hospitalization), visits to family doctors/ pediatricians (GPs), specialist medical assistance, discounted medicines, laboratory services, appliances, ambulance services.
- Urgent and essential services are guaranteed to anyone, also to irregular immigrants. Temporary visitors can receive health services by paying for the costs of treatment.





# HEALTHCARE RIGHTS FOR NON EU EXPATS

As a general rule, every foreign citizen can enjoy public health benefits in Italy. The system is designed to provide assistance for all Italian citizens and residents, including foreign citizens who are legal residents of Italy. Foreigners registered with the National Health Service (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale — SSN) are guaranteed full assistance under the same conditions as Italian citizens, that is:

1. Free registration

2. Generally speaking, the following categories are entitled to free registration:

- Foreign citizens in possession of a permit who regularly work as employees/self-employees (lavoro subordinato, lavoro autonomo) in Italy or are enrolled with government employment agency;
- Foreign citizens in possession of or waiting for the renewal of a permit for employment, self-employment, family reasons, asylum, adoption/custody, citizenship acquisition, religious reasons;
- Dependent family members of all the above categories.

3. Voluntarily registration

4. If you are not eligible for “free” registration, an alternative to the private health coverage is “voluntary” registration with SSN. Once registered you will be guaranteed full assistance under the same conditions as Italian citizens. The registration requires the payment of a yearly lump sum calculated as follows:

- 7,50% rate up to an income equal to € 20.658,28;
- 4% rate on any amounts exceeding € 20.658,28 and up to a limit of € 51.645,69.

## WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN YOU RECEIVE?

Those registered are entitled to:

To choose a general practitioner whom you can consult/visit the during medical office opening. The GP shall also be contacted for:

1. Medical certificates;
2. Prescription for specialist and diagnostic examinations;
3. Request for non-emergency hospital admission;
4. Prescription of medicines;

To be hospitalized free of charge if needed.

To undergo free outpatient and in-home medical examinations and to obtain prescriptions for medications and specialist services.

## WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

All patients (including legal foreign residents) are asked to pay a co-pay fee (called "ticket") before undergoing specialist examinations and for medicines. Exemptions exist for:

- those who have an income lower than €8,500/year
- for reasons such as chronic diseases, low-income patients, etc..

Co-payment is required for visits and medical examinations as well as for medicines, calculated on the basis of the individual's income.



## MEDICAL CARE IN ITALY FOR TOURISTS

As required by the Schengen rules, any foreign visitor traveling to Italy must ensure he/she is covered by medical insurance valid for the Schengen area covering medical fees, hospitalization and repatriation costs up to €30,000.

You have certain health care rights during a temporary stay. You can access both emergency and standard healthcare services. In the first case, payment must correspond upon hospital discharge.

In the case of "non-emergency" treatment, advanced payment is required.

In case of need for medical assistance, foreign visitors in Italy can seek medical treatment either from public or private hospitals. Public hospitals provide both emergency and non-emergency services while private hospitals do normally provide non-emergency services only and do not have first aid services.

At public hospitals, emergency services are provided at no cost or upon payment of a limited fee, while non-emergency services are subject to a fee set locally by the Regional Health Authority. Private hospitals normally charge much higher fees than public hospitals. Of course, it is also possible to visit a private doctor by arranging an appointment directly with him/her. The emergency number (for immediate medical attention or to call an ambulance) is 118. Otherwise, you can access the first aid station (Pronto Soccorso) directly.



## VISA/PERMIT FOR MEDICAL CARE (VISTO/PERMESSO PER CURE MEDICHE)

Foreign nationals residing abroad may organize planned medical treatment in Italy, for instance, if they need to undergo special therapy available in the country. Italy offers a special visa for "medical care", this type of visa can also be issued to an accompanying person.

After the applicant has organized the medical treatment and has made contact with the hospital or clinic of choice (it may be a public or private facility, provided it is acknowledged by Italian health authorities), the next step is to collect the relevant documents and prepare the visa application that can be applied for by the applicant or by a family member or another representative on behalf of him/her.



Once the visa is issued the foreigner can travel to Italy and must apply for the relevant residence permit within 8 days from arrival. The residence permit for medical care can be extended for the whole duration of the medical treatment.

### The European Health Insurance Card

If you are an EU citizen or you are registered in the EU, you can apply for the European Health Insurance Card, a free card that gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 26 EU

countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country.



## EU AND ITALY'S "GOLDEN VISAS"

### ITALY INVESTOR VISA

#### Golden Visas in the EU

According to a 2019 report prepared by the EU Commission these schemes exist to date in 20 MEMBER STATES.

Five types of investment options can be observed:

(i) capital investment; (ii) investment in immovable property; (iii) investment in Government bonds; (iv) donation or endowment of an activity contributing to the public good; and (v) one-time contributions to the State budget.

#### Italy's Investor Visa

Italy's INVESTOR VISA offers residency and NOT CITIZENSHIP.

To qualify for the Investor Visa the applicant can:

- purchase at least € 2 million in government bonds; or
- invest at least € 500,000 in equity instruments of a company based and operating in Italy or € 250,000 in case of a start-up company; or
- donate at least € 1 million philanthropic funding supporting projects of public interest in the field of culture, education, immigration, scientific research, recovery of cultural assets and landscapes.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR AN INVESTOR VISA

The individual must register and apply on line through the Gov.t's portal

[www.investorvisa.mise.gov.it](http://www.investorvisa.mise.gov.it)

The application is in Italian or English. Any supporting documents which need to be submitted, if not available in Italian or English, must be translated with a certified translation.



## What information applicants must submit?

1. A detailed Curriculum vitae,
2. Selection of the type of investment
3. Proof of ownership of the financial resources, in particular:  
(i) a recent and detailed bank statement; (ii) a letter of the bank that must include a specific declaration that the bank has carried out all activities necessary under the FATF international standards on anti-money laundering and anti-

terrorism; (iii) a report of an independent third party expert in law or accounting, certifying the truthfulness of the information provided.

4. certificates of non-existence of criminal convictions and pending charges



## Filing of the application



To finalize the application a specific final declaration of commitment ("Declaration") is automatically generated by the platform. The document must be signed with an electronic signature. The electronic signature ("firma digitale") can be obtained through one of the Gov.t's accredited providers

Prestatori di servizi fiduciari attivi in Italia | Agenzia per l'Italia digitale (agid.gov.it)

Application is approved by the Ministry

If the evaluation of the Committee is positive, a certificate of no impediment ("nulla osta") is sent to the visa applicant through the platform. It is then sent to the Italian Consulate which has been indicated by the investor in the application. The certificate may be used by the applicant to obtain the visa within six months of its issue date.

## Applying for the Visa

The visa applicant will contact the Italian Consulate and will be given priority for filing the visa application. In case the applicant should find any difficulties to contact or have an answer from the Consulate, it is advisable to send email and cc also the Ministry's Committee at [investorvisa@mise.gov.it](mailto:investorvisa@mise.gov.it) .

The Visa shall be stamped on the passport and applicant can travel to Italy.



# Arrivals



## Arrival in Italy and application for a residence permit

The visa holder must apply for a residence permit within eight working days of entering Italy. Investor Visa holders can take an appointment directly at the Questura (Police Office) of the place where they intend to stay.

After submitting the residence permit application, they will inform the Ministry through the dedicated platform about the date of entry into Italy and the date of the residence permit request.

**IMPORTANT:** the investment chosen in the application must be executed within three months from the entry date.

### Executing the investment

The foreign national demonstrates that s/he has executed the investment approved by the Committee by uploading in the platform (in case of purchase of Gov.t bonds):

- (i) Bank documentation certifying the purchase (copy of securities dossier), with indication of the type, issue date and maturity date of the securities;
- (ii) Certificate of deposit of the securities in a financial institution domiciled in Italy.

## Maintaining and renewing the residence permit

The investor visa holder must maintain the investment for the entire duration of the residence permit, otherwise the permit will be revoked and it will not be possible to renew it. The beneficiary must retain his/her original investment. Even when the permit has already been issued, the holder may not alter the destination of the investment under any circumstances, otherwise the permit will be revoked and cannot be renewed. The investor residence permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for further three year periods.

renew



## Last but not least .....

- 1) The application for the Italy Investor Visa Clearance ("Nulla Osta") can be filed also using a company controlled by the applicant
- 2) Investor permit holders are exempted from the Integration Agreement obligations, i.e. language test

3) Investor permit holders are no longer required to spend a minimum amount of time in Italy

4) Italy offers a TAX RELIEF SCHEME for new residents who can benefit from a substitute tax on income generated abroad by paying a flat-rate tax of EUR 100,000 for each tax year.

Investor visa does not grant citizenship !!!!

Beware of any source or websites which publicize that you can obtain citizenship: this is not true!.

In Italy, citizenship by naturalization can be obtained only after 10 years of residence (i.e starting from the date a person is registered with the City Hall) and it is also requested to submit tax returns filed in Italy for the last 3 years.



## SPORT VISA – HOW TO APPLY?

### Visa for sport events – up to 90 days

Foreign athletes who need to participate to a sport event in Italy shall apply for short-term Sport Competition Visa at the Italian Consulate in the country of residence. This type of visa authorizes the holder to stay in Italy for up to 90 days to take part to a sport competition/event without performing continuously sport activities.

Among the documents to be submitted for the visa application, it is necessary to submit an invitation letter from CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee), or from the relevant Italian Sports Federation or the entity organizing the event confirming that the applicant is attending the competition.

Nationals of the following countries do not require a visa for visits up to a maximum of 90 days for participating in sports events:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, El Salvador, Emirati Arabi Uniti, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Grenada, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Macao, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Northern Marianas, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Santa Lucia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, St, Vincent e Grenadine, Taiwan, Timor Est, Trinidad e Tobago, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela.



### Long term Sport visa

Foreign athletes who need to move to Italy for sport purposes must apply for a long-term Sport Visa, which allows for a long term stay in Italy and to perform professional activities for an Italian Sports Association. Sport Visas are issued subject to the availability of Government quotas, which are allocated to CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) and subsequently shared among the various Italian Sport Federations.

For example, for the season 2019/20, the Italian Government released 1,090 quotas which are valid for (a) sportsmen entry for work reasons, and (b) the enrolments into sports clubs of foreigners, already in Italy, with a valid Residence Permit (Permesso di Soggiorno).

Italian Sports Associations willing to hire a foreign national must obtain a special authorization from the Italian National Olympic Committee by filing a sort of Work Permit application. If the CONI grants the quota and issues the Work Permit, then the foreigner can apply for the sport visa at the Italian Consulate in the country of residence.

Within 8 days of arrival in Italy with the sport visa, the foreigner must apply for the Residence Permit which is issued by the local Police Headquarters. The permit shall be valid for 1 year, renewable and – if eligibility requirements are met – can also be converted into a permit allowing to work in Italy in any sector.

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