

# PROCESS OF IMMIGRATION TO ITALY



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# INTRODUCTION



The Republic of Italy, which has the seventh-largest economy in the world, is situated in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea. Its area is 301,340 km<sup>2</sup> and there are 60.20 million people living there. One of the biggest European empires to have ever existed, the Roman Empire, gave rise to it.

As a result, the nation is now home to several castles, palaces, and structures in the Romanesque, Gothic, Mannerist, Baroque, and Neoclassical architectural styles. Additionally, it features 7,600 kilometres of coastline, charming lakes, breath-taking cliffs and numerous lush national parks.



# IMMIGRATION SYSTEM



Italy's immigration system is governed by a number of laws and rules. Following are some essential details about the Italian immigration system:

In 1972, the nation experienced a net increase in immigration. Since then, immigration has greatly increased as a result of the increased need for labour in industries including domestic and personal care, agriculture, manufacturing, and construction.

The Italian embassy in the worker's country of origin is informed by the One-Stop-Shop for Immigration when the proposal is approved, and a visa is then granted. Within eight days of landing in Italy, the worker must submit an application for a residence permit.

Immigrating to Italy can be done by obtaining a temporary or permanent residence permit.

The Schengen visa is the most required visa for Italy, which enables foreign citizens to travel to other member states freely.

Highly-skilled workers fall outside the quota system and may convert their status to a long-term residence.

Family reunification is allowed provided the person residing in the Italian territory holds a residence permit of at least one year and meets the legal requirements.

The yearly quota for non-EU nationals allowed to enter the country to work is established by the Italian Government through the Flow decree.

Italy is part of the Schengen area, which allows free movement to anyone that is legally present in the European Union. The country's approach to integration is classified by ("MIPEX") as focused on temporary integration, similar to France, the Netherlands, and Germany. The Italian immigration law requires European Union ("EU") and non-EU citizens to obtain a residency registration for a permanent stay in Italy.

Foreign citizens moving to Italy will be imposed with specific conditions and requirements based on their nationality and reason for immigration.

# PURPOSE OF IMMIGRATION

People might immigrate to Italy for various reasons, as it offers a mix of cultural, economic and lifestyle opportunities. Some common purposes for immigrating to Italy include:

**Employment and Career Opportunities:** Italy has a diverse economy with sectors like fashion, design, tourism, and automotive industries. Skilled workers might immigrate to Italy to pursue job opportunities in these fields or others.

**Education:** Italy is renowned for its high-quality education, especially in arts, architecture, fashion and culinary arts. Many students choose to study in Italy to benefit from its academic excellence.

**Family Reunification:** Immigrants with family members who are already residing in Italy might move to reunite with their loved ones.

**Retirement:** Italy's picturesque landscapes, rich history, and pleasant climate make it an attractive destination for retirees seeking a relaxed and culturally rich lifestyle.

**Entrepreneurship and Business:** Some immigrants move to Italy to start their own businesses, taking advantage of its strategic location, market potential, and supportive business environment.

**Cultural and Lifestyle Reasons:** Italy's vibrant culture, art, music, and cuisine can be strong draws for those seeking a rich cultural experience and a slower pace of life.

**Asylum and Protection:**

Individuals fleeing conflict, persecution, or human rights abuses might seek asylum in Italy to find safety and protection.

**Love and Relationships:** People might immigrate to Italy to be with a partner or spouse who is an Italian citizen or resident



**Healthcare:** Italy has a well-regarded healthcare system, and some immigrants might choose to move there for better medical treatment or services.

**Temporary Stay:** Some individuals might immigrate to Italy for a temporary period, such as for a work assignment, internship, or extended travel experience.

# NON-DIRECT AND OTHER ROUTES

There are several non-direct ways to immigrate to Italy, each with its own set of requirements and eligibility criteria.

**Study Visa:** a student can apply for a study visa to pursue higher education in Italy. This route allows you to live in Italy while studying. After completing their studies, they might have the opportunity to transition to a work visa or other residence permits.

**Work Visa:** Some work visas are tied to specific job offers or job categories that are in demand in Italy. A person might need a job offer from an Italian employer to apply for this type of visa. The employer typically needs to prove that the job cannot be filled by an Italian or another EU citizen.

**Intra-Company Transfer:** If a person is already working for a multinational company that has offices in Italy, he might be eligible for an intra-company transfer visa. This allows them to work in the Italian branch of the company for a certain period.

**Investor Visa:** Italy offers an investor visa for those who are willing to make a substantial investment in the country. The investment could be in the form of a business, real estate, or government bonds. The specific investment threshold and requirements vary.

**Research Visa:** If a person is a researcher, scientist, or academic, they might be eligible for a research visa to conduct research at a recognized institution in Italy.



**Family Reunification:** If a person has close family members who are Italian citizens or legal residents, they might be able to apply for a family reunification visa. This could apply to spouses, children, parents, and other dependent relatives.

**Elective Residence Visa:** If a person has sufficient financial means and want to retire or live in Italy for non-work-related reasons, they can apply for an elective residence visa. This visa is often suitable for retirees or individuals with independent income.

**Student Exchange Programs:** Some student exchange programs and scholarships might offer opportunities to study in Italy, which could eventually lead to longer-term residence options.

**Humanitarian Protection:** In cases of asylum seekers or individuals facing dire circumstances, Italy might grant humanitarian protection or asylum based on compelling humanitarian reasons.



# TYPES OF VISAS

**Airport Transit Visa (Type A):** This visa is for transit through the international zones of airports located in the Member States' territories, which does not allow the holder to enter the Schengen Area

**Uniform Schengen Visa (USV):** This visa is valid for the territory of the Schengen Area, and issued for short stays (type C). The maximum duration is 90 days in any 180-day period, calculated from the date of first entry. There may be one, two, or multiple entries. If the conditions are met, Uniform Schengen Visas may be issued with a validity of one year (C1), two years (C2), three years (C3), or five years (C5).

**National Visas (Long-Stay Visa):** These visas are designed for longer stays in Italy. They include various categories based on the purpose of your stay. Some common categories include:

**Work Visa:** For employment purposes. This could be a work contract or job offer from an Italian employer.

**Study Visa:** For pursuing studies or research at Italian educational institutions.

**Family Reunification Visa:** For joining family members who are already legal residents or citizens of Italy.



**Investor Visa:** For those making significant investments in Italy, this might include starting a business or investing in certain sectors.

**Self-Employment Visa:** For individuals planning to be self-employed or freelance in Italy.

**Elective Residence Visa:** For retirees or individuals with sufficient financial means who wish to reside in Italy without engaging in work or business activities.

**EU Blue Card:** Similar to work visas, this card is designed for highly skilled non-EU citizens who wish to work in Italy. It's linked to specific employment offers and allows for long-term residence and work.

**Italian Citizenship:** While not a visa, obtaining Italian citizenship through ancestry, marriage to an Italian citizen or long-term residency allows you to live and work in Italy without the need for a visa.

**Humanitarian Protection Visa:** This type of visa is granted to individuals in need of international protection, such as refugees or those who are at risk in their home countries.

**Student Visa:** If you intend to study in Italy, you will typically need a student visa. This allows you to stay in Italy for the duration of your studies.

# LICENSES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

When immigrating to Italy, the specific documents required may vary depending on the type of visa or residence permit you are applying for and your individual circumstances. However, here is a general list of documents that may be required:

**Visa application form:** Fill out the application form specific to the type of visa or residence permit you are applying for.

**Valid passport:** Ensure that your passport has at least 3 months of validity remaining at the time of application.

**Passport-sized photographs:** Provide two recent passport-sized photographs that are not older than 3 months.

**Proof of accommodation:** Provide evidence of where you will be staying in Italy, such as a rental agreement or hotel reservation.

**Proof of sufficient financial means:** Demonstrate that you have enough funds to support yourself during your stay in Italy. This can include bank statements, tax returns, paychecks, or proof of retirement income.

**Proof of reason for coming to Italy:** Depending on the purpose of your immigration, you may need to provide specific documents. For example, if you are moving for work, you may need an employment contract or business license. If you are a student, you may need enrollment papers.



# RECENT AMENDMENTS

## **Facilitation Measures:**

New rules have been introduced to make the immigration process easier for foreign workers and to provide more flexibility in planning. The new three-year period of stay allows employers and globally-mobile workers to have more stability.

The entry of foreign workers for subordinate work will now be defined for a three-year period (2023-2025) instead of yearly, providing more certainty for employers and workers

## **Restriction Measures:**

A bill has been approved to reduce the number of migrants who can claim asylum and to curb integration efforts. This bill aims to limit access to asylum rights and eliminate state-funded Italian language courses and legal advice services for migrants hosted in official reception centers.

Special protection status, which allowed certain migrants to live in Italy for two years and convert their residence permit into a working permit, has been severely restricted. The government claims that special protection incentivizes dangerous trips to the country and it will be eliminated.

Legislative amendments have been made to control migration flows, including provisions on non-refoulement and exemptions for refugees or asylum seekers in certain circumstances.

The new decree on immigration extends the maximum duration of residence permits for permanent work, self-employment, or family reunification to three years.

# HOW WE CAN HELP ?

Our team of professionals can conduct comprehensive market research to help businesses understand their target audience, industry trends, and potential competitors.

Our experts can help set clear objectives, outline actionable steps, and identify opportunities for growth and expansion.

Our team can conduct risk assessments to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities within a business. They can then recommend risk mitigation strategies to safeguard against adverse events.

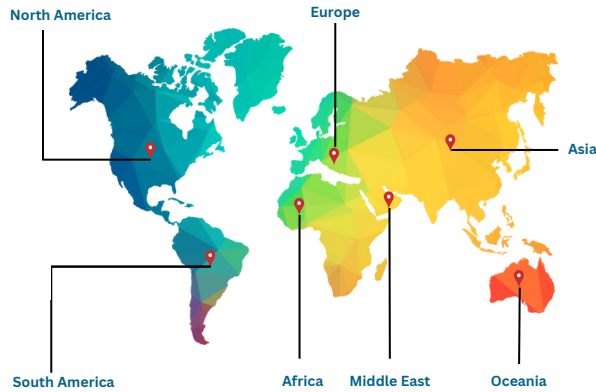
Our team offers advice on the optimal legal form for an enterprise, such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company ("LLC"), or sole proprietorship.

Our team describes the legal and tax implications of each option and assists in picking the best option based on objectives and circumstances.

Our team can investigate and identify any licenses, permissions, or registrations required for the client's specific area or industry. The business assists with the application process and ensures that the organization complies with all legal criteria.



## SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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