



FOREIGN UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The following procedures apply to all candidates who possess a foreign upper secondary school diploma achieved abroad or at an international school in Italy (regardless of the candidates' citizenship, residence or nationality).

Academic requirements for foreign academic qualifications for higher education institutions are defined annually by the Italian Ministry of Education.

Candidates are advised to check the specific requirements on this website <https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/> and in particular attachment 1 and 2 which are annually published by the Italian Ministry of Education.

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should provide a foreign upper secondary school diploma suitable for access to Italian higher education institutions. **The final diploma must be obtained by the end of July**; original paper copy of the diploma in the original language along with an official translation (in Italian or English) are usually required.

The upper secondary school qualification is valid if

- it is awarded after at least 12 years of schooling overall
- it grants access to Universities in the country which issued the qualification

1.1. Qualifications awarded after 10 or 11 years of schooling

In order to compensate for the years of missing education IULM University may alternatively request:

- the academic transcripts certifying the passing of all the exams foreseen for the first year of university studies equal to 60 ECTS in the case of the 11-year local school system;
- the academic transcripts certifying the passing of all the exams scheduled for the first two academic years equal to at least 120 ECTS in the case of a 10-year local school system;
- certificate from other Italian universities regarding the completion of a Foundation Year programme

In the calculation of the 12 years, the pre-school year may be taken into consideration, where applicable and officially recognised as an integral part of the high school path at a national level, on the condition that the attendance of this year is compulsory and an integral part of the curriculum and that the programme foresees the teaching of reading and writing of the language of the country, and the initial notions of arithmetic.

1.2. National examinations in the country of origin

National examinations which are mandatory or normally required for admission to courses at universities of the respective countries of origin need to be passed and presented to our University. The passing of the national exam is also requested by the Italian Authorities (Embassy/Consulate) in order to issue Declarations of Value or by CIMEA (the Italian NARIC Center) to issue a [Statement of Comparability](#).

Please note: Statement of Comparability issued by CIMEA is considered as a valid alternative to the Declaration of Value.

Some examples of national examinations:

- Selectividad/Pau/Ebau in Spain;
- Veveossi Prosvassis/Panellinies Exataseis in Greece;

- Vestibular/ENEM in Brazil;
- Gao Kao in China;
- YKS (TYT and AYT) in Turkey;
- Mature, Matur, Maturita, Maturität, Maturité, Marypa, Érettségi for various European countries
- Exames nacionais do ensino secundario/Prova de aferição in Portugal
- ICFES in Colombia
- ATAR in Australia
- Passerella exam in Switzerland for the so called “maturità professionale federale svizzera”

2. UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS WITH SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1. International Baccalaureate

The Diploma of the International Baccalaureate allows access to higher education institutions in Italy as long as the final qualification, issued by an educational institution recognised by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), meets the following general requirements:

- at least 24 points in six subjects of choice, 12 of which must be obtained at “Higher Level”;
- pass awarded in the three principal subjects: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) e Extended Essay (EE).

IB courses alone, held at educational institutions accredited for the award of the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate, before an IB Diploma Programme Course Results certification, a Migration Certificate, or other certification issued independently by the educational institution which does not belong to the national reference system, are not final qualifications and therefore are not considered suitable for access to higher education.

The International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma) is considered valid for enrolment without any translation and/or legalization. Candidates are invited to share their final results with IULM University via the portal MyIB.

2.2. U.S. qualifications

Students holding an American High School Diploma must have passed **at least 3 Advanced Placements (AP) with a score from 3 to 5** in three different subjects. “AP” in Italian will be a mandatory requirement only for students with foreign citizenship. An “AP” in Italian will not be acceptable in the case of students with Italian citizenship or in the case of enrolment in courses taught entirely in English. These qualifications allow the continuation of studies in Italian higher education institutions if they have been awarded **on the basis of at least 2 full years of attendance with a positive outcome in the foreign education system.**

If the school does not offer any AP course, self-study candidates are accepted provided that the final AP exams are taken through the College Board. In any case, all AP final scores must be released by the College Board and passed with a minimum grade of 3 out of 5.

On the other hand, students graduated with American High School Diploma without AP exams can

- show proof of having completed at least 1 year of subsequent academic study (60 ECTS credits in a University in the United States or a third country) to be considered suitable for access to Bachelor’s degree courses;

- take a Foundation Year programme of 1 year at an accredited Italian university. Foundation Year programmes at foreign universities are evaluated case by case.

It is highly recommended that Italian students attend the full last year of upper secondary school in Italy, without skipping the Italian Maturità. American high school diplomas awarded after just 1 year abroad are not valid for access to our Bachelor's degree courses.

2.3. Canadian qualifications

All candidates with a Canadian High School Diploma must have completed **at least 2 full years of attendance with a positive outcome in the foreign education system.**

It is highly recommended that Italian students attend the full last year of secondary school in Italy, without skipping the Italian Maturità. Canadian diplomas awarded after just 1 year abroad are not valid for access to our Bachelor's degree courses.

2.4. UK qualifications

The final qualifications called General Certificate of Education (GCE) and International General Certificate of Education (IGCE), issued by official certification bodies of the United Kingdom (such as Cambridge, Edexcel, AQA, OCR, WEJC), grant access to Italian higher education institutions if they certify that **at least 3 subjects have been passed at an advanced level (A Level) with a passing grade.** The presence of an A level in Italian will be required only for students with foreign citizenship, therefore it cannot be counted as part of the 3 A levels required in the case of students with Italian citizenship or in the case of enrolment in courses taught entirely in English.

GCE AS Level are not accepted as well as O Levels or IGCSE/GCSE without A Levels: AS Level and O Levels are not final qualifications of upper secondary school and therefore should not be considered suitable for access to higher education.

2.5. Scottish qualifications

They can be accepted if they certify the passing of **at least 3 Advanced Highers or 2 Advanced Highers and at least 4 Highers.**

2.6. Irish qualifications

They can be accepted if they certify the passing of **at least 3 subjects at Higher level and Leaving Certificate Examination (Scrúdú nah Ardteistiméireachta).**

2.7. San Marino qualifications

The final diplomas of upper secondary education institutions in the Republic of San Marino are equivalent for all legal purposes to the corresponding upper secondary education qualifications of the Italian school system and allow exemption from the Italian language test.

2.8 Sri Lankan qualifications

Sri Lankan General Certificate of Education - A Level is accepted only if it certifies **at least 3 subjects at advanced level (A Level) with a minimum passing grade Ordinary Pass (S).**

Candidates should present the final certificate GCE issued by the Department of Examinations.

Sri Lankan General Certificate of Education - Ordinary level (GCE - O Level) are not accepted to access our Bachelor's degree courses as they are not final upper secondary school qualifications.

2.9. Chinese qualifications

The final upper secondary school qualification (普通高中毕业证书) is valid for accessing our

Bachelor's degree courses only if accompanied by proof of passing national examination **GAO KAO required** for admission to Chinese colleges.

2.10. Turkish qualifications

The final upper secondary school qualification ("Lise diploması") is valid for accessing our Bachelor's degree courses only if accompanied by proof of national examination YKS for admission to Turkish Universities: **YKS should include the eligibility for both TYT and AYT.**

2.11. British, French, Spanish, Swiss and German schools operating in Italy

The final diplomas of [these schools](#) are valid for enrolment in Italian universities pursuant to the agreements concluded by Italy, respectively, with Great Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

- British schools ("St. George's British International School", "The New School" of Rome and "Sir James Henderson School" of Milan)
- French schools ("Chateaubriand" of Rome, "Stendhal" of Milan and "Jean Giono" of Turin)
- Spanish school ("Liceo Cervantes")
- Swiss schools ("Swiss School" of Rome and "Swiss School" of Milan)
- German schools ("Deutsche Schulen" of Milan, Genoa and Rome)

2.12 Swiss qualifications

These diplomas are accepted for access to higher education in Italy:

Under the jurisdiction of Consolato Generale d'Italia in Lugano:

- All upper secondary schools that award the federal secondary school leaving qualification;
- Cantonal secondary schools of Bellinzona, Locarno, Lugano I, Lugano II and Mendrisio that award secondary school leaving qualifications A,B,C,D and E;
- Scuola Cantonale di Maturità Commerciale di Bellinzona (valid for all faculties EXCEPT courses in Medicine and Surgery, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Pharmacology).

Under the jurisdiction of Consolato d'Italia in Coira:

- Liceo Cantonale di Coira;
- Private school "Lyceum alpinum" in Zuoz.

Gymnasiale Maturität / Maturité gymnasiale is accepted to access our Bachelor's degree courses.

Fachmaturität or Berufsmaturität/ Maturité spécialisée or professionnelle are not accepted for Bachelor's degree courses. Students with professional or specialized diploma should take an additional exam called Esame complementare passerella/Ergänzungsprüfung Passerelle/Examen complémentaire passerelle.

Attestato Federale di Capacità(AFC) / Certificat Fédéral de Capacité (CFC) / Fähigkeitszeugnis (EFZ) is not accepted for access to our Bachelor's degree courses.

3. EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE

3.1. European Baccalaureate ("Diploma di Licenza Liceale Europea")

The European Baccalaureate qualifications awarded by [accredited European Schools](#) allow access to higher education institutions in Italy.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

IULM University will carefully revise academic qualifications presented by candidates to assess eligibility and validity of the qualifications for access to our Bachelor's degree courses.

In the evaluation procedures of foreign academic qualifications IULM University applies a methodology in line with criteria established by the [Lisbon Recognition Convention on academic qualifications](#) and with international best practices shared by ENIC-NARIC networks. Moreover, the main principles applied by IULM University in the evaluation methodology follow and respect the [guidelines outlined by CIMEA - Centro di Informazione sulla Mobilità e le Equivalenze Accademiche](#).

Useful links for reference:

[Procedures for entry, residency and enrolment of international students and the respective recognition of qualifications for higher education courses in Italy](#)

[Attachment 1 of the Procedures](#)

[Attachment 2 of the Procedures](#)

[Foreign schools in Italy and Italian schools abroad](#)

[How to apply for CIMEA Statement of Comparability](#)

[ARDI Platform – Automatic Recognition Database Italy](#)

[Evaluation methodology outlined by CIMEA](#)