

CIMEA
ITALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

An international guide

Rome, 2003

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1. HIGHER EDUCATION IN ITALY

1.1 Higher Education: constitutional principles and aims

The main principles that lay the foundations for the Italian education system, and in particular higher education, are set down in the Italian Constitution that was adopted in 1947. Article 33 of the constitution states that "... art and science are free and the teaching thereof shall be free". In defence of academic freedom, the article also states that all higher education institutions "have the right to establish their own regulations autonomously, within the limits set by national legislation".

Furthermore, Article 34 of the constitution establishes the principle of the right of individual citizens to higher education: "All those who can prove the necessary competency and

commitment have a right to pursue the highest levels of education, regardless of their financial means."

As defined by law, the main purpose of higher education, is twofold - to promote scientific progress of the nation and to provide all citizens with education and training that will lead to employment.

2. THE UNIVERSITY SECTOR

2.1 Brief history and recent reforms

In Italy, as in other Western European countries, the tradition of university studies dates back to the Middle Ages (11th and 12th century), when groups of students and scholars founded "universitates studiorum" in cities such as Bologna and Paris. These "universitates" were corporations which were initially conceived to defend the rights and privileges of the two abovementioned categories. They soon developed into centres of cultural debate, study and research and were open to scholars and students of any nationality. Subsequently, more "universitates studiorum" were created by popes, emperors or kings. The Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II, for example, was founded in 1224 by Frederick II of Sweden and King of Naples.

During the following centuries, the universities of the many different states which made up the Italian peninsula were gradually turned into state institutions under the control of the respective public authorities and by the time Italy had been unified in 1861, this process was complete. A consequence of this process was the strongly centralised character of the Italian university system, a feature that despite reform in 1923 remained substantially unchanged until the late eighties.

Partly out of cultural tradition, partly due to political interests, university education became to be seen more and more as a means to achieve higher social status. Consequently, in the sixties and the seventies social demand for university education grew considerably and this massive increase in student numbers meant that reform was necessary.

A significant reform process started in 1989, marking the first step towards the decentralisation of the university sector. The Ministry for Universities and Research (Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica - Murst) was set up as a separate body from the Ministry of National Education (Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione - MPI), which until then had been responsible for all educational levels from primary to tertiary. It asserted the principle of university autonomy in management, financial and budgetary issues, teaching (organisation of degree courses along with all related teaching/ learning services) and research.

The new Ministry's role consisted primarily in defining and coordinating general policy for university education, promoting and planning research and overseeing Italian participation in European Union and international programmes for university education and research. A complex decentralisation process took place in the period 1990-1998 which resulted not only in the implementation of full institutional autonomy for universities, but also in a significant number of transformations and innovations leading to the creation of new types

of faculties and degree courses, reorganisation of student welfare services and the introduction of a quality assurance system. It redefined the rules and procedures for the recruitment of academics and reorganised doctoral studies, abolishing the national selection procedures for admission. It also sought to decongest overcrowded universities with the establishment of 9 new higher education institutions.

2.2 The new reform

In addition to the changes and innovations that were implemented in the university sector in this period, an even more substantial reform was recently approved in 1999 and introduced with the academic year 2001/2. The main purpose of the reform was to grant full autonomy to universities for management and finance as well as for teaching and course planning.

The reform has taken into account the principles of the Sorbonne Declaration (signed on 25 May 1998 by the Ministers of Education of 4 EU countries, namely France, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom) and the Bologna Declaration (a joint statement of 31 European Ministers of Education signed on 19 June 1999) which promote the creation of a European Higher Education Area through the harmonisation of the different European educational systems.

The ministerial decree No. 509 of 3rd November 1999 laid down the general criteria to be adopted by universities in the reorganisation of their degree courses and established the types of degrees and qualifications that universities are allowed to award.

The reforms introduced since the end of the eighties have often been complex procedures and have often met with resistance or concern from the different parties involved. However, these reforms have been essential in order to transform the old elite university system into one of wider access. (In the last 50 years, enrolments in Italian universities have increased by 700% reaching a total of 1.650.000 students.)

In order to guarantee both quantity and quality, it has therefore been necessary to review the entire university system in the light of needs expressed by very different users with different abilities and motivations. Orientation, innovative teaching methods, tutoring, student welfare, professional qualifications and internationalisation are some of the new tasks that Italian universities must take on today and which are transforming their traditional relationship with the student body.

The process of change does not concern only teaching and student relationships. There is a far reaching transformation taking place within the very structure of the university itself and in its relationship with society and the local community. Today's society places many pressing, and at times contradictory, demands on education and training providers. They are expected to provide solutions to the problems of competitiveness, unemployment and marginalisation, and to play a part in overcoming the challenges of dramatic transformation in our society.

Europe sees education as an active tool in the labour market able to curb unemployment especially among young people, to increase competitiveness and disseminate technology. Italy has set a number of higher education objectives which seek to bring it in line with the

other industrialised countries of the European Union: an increase in student enrolments in higher education, a reduction in drop out rates, an improved geographical distribution and social spread, as well as better student support and welfare services. A number of measures have been introduced to offer a wider variety of higher education pathways, including the new higher technical education and training sector, (Istruzione e Formazione tecnica superiore - IFTS) to solve the problems of overcrowding in the very large universities and to set up a national evaluation system linked to an incentive policy for the distribution of resources.

The key that brought about a change in attitude before organisational change took place was university autonomy: self government, accountability, a new approach to student support and welfare services as well as to the demand for education and innovation from both the workforce and the local community.

Teaching autonomy has created the opportunity for redesigning course offerings, reducing the length of studies, bringing down the drop out rate and increasing employability levels through a complete overhaul of university cycles.

2.3 Objectives of the reform

The ministerial decree no. 509 of 3rd November 1999 established the new framework and identified the general criteria for universities to autonomously design their new degree courses.

The first objective of the reform is the implementation of teaching autonomy. This means that universities lay down the regulations for their degree courses, establishing the names and learning outcomes, the general framework for different teaching/learning activities that must be included in the curriculum, the credits allocated to each subject course and the type of final exam to obtain the qualification.

The second objective of the reform is to bring the Italian Higher Education System in line with the European two-tier university model as established in the Sorbonne and Bologna Declarations. This model is seen as a tool for harmonising European degree structures as well as promoting international student mobility, free circulation of labour and international academic recognition, the goals for the European Higher Education Area in 2010.

To meet these aims, Italy has reformed its higher education in two distinct sectors – the university and the non-university sector, the latter comprising mainly arts, music and language mediation as well as post secondary technical education and training (Istruzione e Formazione tecnica superiore).

The third objective of the reform is to make the Italian university system more student centred. It has introduced a system of credits (Crediti Formativi Universitari) based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One of the objectives of this new credit system is to reduce the gap between legal and real duration of university courses and curb the dropout rate.

The fourth objective of the reform is to increase flexibility and quality within the system.

This means simplified procedures that enable universities to adapt their courses according to demands for education and to changes in the labour market along with effective quality assessment systems.

Once all the different stages of the reform have been introduced, the following outcomes are expected:

- Fall in drop out rate
- Reduction in time to degree
- Lowering of average age of graduates
- Increase in number of people with university qualification
- Improvement in conditions of employability
- Equal opportunities in Europe

It is expected that further reforms will take place in the coming years in order to reach these objectives.

3.The new university system

3.1 The previous system

The Ministerial Decree no. 509 of 3rd November 1999 set up the new university system in the academic year 2001/02 and also provided for the transitory phase from the old to the new system. This means that universities must complete degree courses that are currently running and give students the opportunity to opt for the new system. For some years to come, the two different systems will continue to co-exist until the old system is phased out. In the previous system university studies were organised as follows:

1. First level courses (three years) leading to a first degree called Diploma Universitario with an entrance requirement of school leaving qualification (Diploma di superamento dell'Esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di istruzione secondaria superiore, shortened to Diploma dell'Esame di Stato and also known as Maturità).
2. Second level courses (four to five years with medicine lasting 6 years) leading to the Laurea degree conferring the title of dottore and with an entrance requirement of a first degree (Diploma universitario) in a related area of study or a school leaving qualification (Diploma dell'Esame di Stato/Maturità).
3. Third level programmes leading to a research doctorate (Dottorato di Ricerca) or to a specialisation degree (Diploma di Specializzazione/Specialista) with an entrance requirement of the Laurea.

These qualifications are still being awarded during this transitory phase.

3.2 New Academic Degrees and Qualifications

The reform has abolished the old three year degree (diploma universitario) and the old four year degree (laurea) and has introduced the following new academic qualifications organised in three cycles.

<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Years</i>
First cycle – Undergraduate studies		
First degree - laurea	180	3
Second cycle – Graduate studies		
Second degree – Laurea specialistica	120	2
1st Level Master degree – Master universitario di 1° livello	60+	1+
Third cycle – Postgraduate studies		
Research doctorate degree – dottorato di ricerca	-	3+
Specialisation degree – diploma di specializzazione *	60-300	1-5
2nd level Master degree – master universitario di 2° livello	60+	1+

* offered according to national legislation or EU directives for specific areas of study

3.3 Course objectives

The Ministerial decree establishes a defined set of learning outcomes for each level of degree course.

First degree course Corso di Laurea	Provide undergraduate students with adequate knowledge of general scientific principles and mastery of methods as well as specific professional skills
First level Master Corso Master 1° livello	Provide specialisation and continuing education in specific fields.
Second degree course Corso di Laurea Specialistica	Provide graduate students with advanced education and training for highly qualified professions in specific sectors
Second level Master Corso Master 2° livello	Provide a higher level of specialisation and continuing education in specific fields.
Specialisation course Corso di Specializzazione	Provide knowledge and skills for specific professions. Set up exclusively on the basis of specific national laws or EU directives (medical specialisations, secondary school teacher education, legal professions)
Doctoral course Corso di Dottorato di Ricerca	Provide postgraduates with training (including study periods abroad and training periods at public or private research bodies) for highly specialised research at universities as well as in the public and private sector

3.4 Credit System

The university reform has introduced a system of university credits (Crediti Formativi Universitari) in Italy for the first time. The principal objective has been to make studies more student-centred, reducing the gap between official and real length of courses as well as lowering the drop out rate. The main characteristics of the system are as follows:

1. the credits represent the total student workload (class time, individual study, exam preparation, practical work etc) and one credit is equivalent to 25 hours
2. the average full time workload for one academic year is 60 credits which is equivalent to 1500 hours. Universities may opt to increase or decrease this total workload by maximum 20% (1200-1800 hours) but they must justify this change.
3. the amount of time to be reserved for individual learning or other individual educational and training activities may not be lower than 50%, except for the courses including practical or laboratory work
4. credits are earned once the student has passed the assessment for each course or activity
5. the total or partial recognition of credits obtained by students wishing to continue their studies in a different degree programme or different institution is at the discretion of the educational authority concerned, in accordance with the criteria and procedures of the university teaching regulations
6. teaching regulations of each university can provide for regular reassessment of credit allocation and indicate the minimum number of credits to be achieved within a fixed period of time (in the case of full or part time studies)
7. universities can recognise credits for professional skills and experience according to the regulations as well as other skills and knowledge acquired in post-secondary level courses that have been designed and taught in collaboration with the university. The ministerial decree also establishes the number of credits for each degree.

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Length of Degree Course</i>
First degree Laurea	180 credits	3 years
Second degree Laurea Specialistica	300 credits including those already earned valid for the laurea specialistica	2 years following in the previous degree recognised as the first degree in a relevant field of study
Specialisation degree Diploma di Specializzazione	120-300 credits in addition to those already earned in the previous degree recognised for access to the specialisation degree	2-5 years

Master (first level) Master Univeritario di primo livello	60 credits in addition to those acquired for the Laurea	Minimum 1 year
Master (second level) Master Universitario di secondo livello	60 credits in addition to those acquired for the Laurea Specialistica	Minimum 1 year

The ministerial decree does not set credits for the research doctorate since it is essentially based on individual research activities. The legal length is a minimum of three years in accordance with the regulations in the most recent reform.

3.5 Entry Requirements

The basic entry requirements to the new degree courses are defined as follows.

<i>Degree course</i>	<i>Entry Requirements</i>
First degree course Corso di Laurea	Italian upper secondary school leaving qualification diploma dell'esame di stato/maturità, or a comparable foreign qualification Admission to certain degree courses may be subject to further requirements as defined by university regulations
Second degree course Corso di Laurea Specialistica	Italian Laurea or a comparable foreign degree
Second level degree course Corso di Laurea Specialistica regulated by EU directives	Italian upper secondary leaving qualification, or a comparable foreign qualification (Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Studies, Orthodontics, Pharmacy and Architecture last 5-6 years and require an entrance examination)
Specialisation course Corso di Specializzazione	Italian Laurea specialistica or a comparable foreign qualification An entrance exam is also required
Doctoral course Corso di Dottorato di ricerca	Italian Laurea Specialistica, or a comparable foreign qualification. An entrance exam is also required
Master course first level Corso Master (1° livello)	Italian Laurea, or a comparable foreign qualification Admission may be subject to further conditions
Master course second level Corso Master (2° livello)	Italian Laurea Specialistica or a comparable foreign qualification Admission may be subject to further conditions

The ministerial decree no. 509 of 3rd November 1999 acknowledges the right of universities

to require an adequate previous education level in the basic subjects of the chosen degree course for all applicants. Consequently, they may set additional admission requirements for the different degree courses. The teaching regulations of the universities must therefore determine:

- the basic notions required for each degree course
- the type of testing to verify applicants' previous education
- the types of foundation courses, if any, to be set up should applicants' previous education be found inadequate or
- the specific additional educational requirements that students with conditional entry have to satisfy during the first year of study.

When the admission to a degree course at any level is requested on the basis of a foreign qualification, it is the responsibility of the universities to evaluate the qualification concerned and decide its suitability. Institutions apply the recognition criteria and procedures as established in their statutes and teaching regulations as well as any relevant bilateral and international agreements in force.

3.6 Classification of Courses

The Ministry has drawn up a classification of degree courses of the same level. There are 47 different classes for the first degree Laurea and 109 different classes for the second degree (Laurea Specialistica). Degree courses may be given different names by the different universities but they have the same learning outcomes and teaching/learning activities. Degree courses of the same class have the same legal value. All classes belong to one of the five subject areas – engineering and architecture, health, humanities, science and technology, law and economics. Each degree programme must cover 6 different types of subject courses as follows:

- a. basic education courses in one or more fields of study
- b. specific courses related to the degree programme
- c. courses in one or more similar or supplementary subject fields
- d. elective courses
- e. preparatory courses for the final examination (including the assessment of foreign language skills for the Laurea)
- f. further courses aimed at improving language skills, as well skills relating to computer studies, telematics, interpersonal skills and any other skills considered relevant to the labour market, in particular work experience and training.

Since it is the universities that name the degree programmes and define the teaching regulations, the learning outcomes and activities are indicated not for the individual degree programmes but for the degree classes, i.e. the groups of degree programmes. Therefore, all the programmes that universities set up in a specific class will have the same learning outcomes and compulsory activities but they will differentiate in name, specific learning outcomes, and especially in the detailed choice of teaching/learning activities that the students will need to carry out as well as in the number of credits allocated. (There are minimum credit requirements fixed by ministerial decree that the teaching regulations of individual institutions must allocate for the different educational activities in relation to each class of degree and subject field.)

Universities are therefore able to offer different degree courses in the same degree class which either have a strong vocational focus or follow a more academic pathway, or alternatively combine both these elements. In all cases, the courses must provide the students with adequate knowledge of general scientific principles and mastery of methods as well as specific professional skills.

3.7 Course offerings at Italian Universities

The Italian Ministry for Education, Universities and Research (MIUR) has set up a database available on its website at <http://offertaformativa.miur.it/corsi/> where all first and second degree programmes currently offered at Italian universities are listed. The list below indicates the different classes for both first and second degrees. First degrees are characterised by both theoretical and applied studies and this is often indicated in the Italian title by "scienze" or "scienze e tecnologie". Second degrees have a strong theoretical part and specialise in a specific subject field.

First degrees - Undergraduate studies

Classes of Laurea degrees

Classi delle Lauree

1 Biotechnologies	Biotecnologie
2 Legal services	Scienze dei servizi giuridici
3 Applied languages	Scienze della mediazione linguistica
4 Architecture and construction engineering	Scienze dell'architettura e dell'ingegneria edile
5 Humanities	Lettere
6 Social work	Scienze del servizio sociale
7 Town, regional and environmental planning	Urbanistica e scienze della pianificazione territoriale e ambientale
8 Civil and environmental engineering	Ingegneria civile e ambientale
9 Information technology	Ingegneria dell'informazione
10 Industrial engineering	Ingegneria industriale
11 Modern languages and civilisations	Lingue e culture moderne
12 Biology	Scienze biologiche
13 Cultural heritage studies	Scienze dei beni culturali
14 Communication studies	Scienze della comunicazione
15 Political science and international relations	Scienze politiche e delle relazioni internazionali
16 Earth sciences	16 Scienze della terra
17 Economics and management	Scienze dell'economia e della gestione aziendale
18 Education sciences and teacher education	Scienze dell'educazione e della formazione
19 Public Administration	Scienze dell'amministrazione
20 Agriculture, food industry and forestry	Scienze e tecnologie agrarie, agroalimentari e forestali
21 Chemistry	Scienze e tecnologie chimiche
22 Aviation and maritime navigation	Scienze e tecnologie della navigazione marittima e aerea
23 Visual arts, music, performing arts and fashion studies	Scienze e tecnologie delle arti figurative, della musica, dello spettacolo e della moda

24 Pharmacy	Scienze e tecnologie farmaceutiche
25 Physics	Scienze e tecnologie fisiche
26 Computer Science	Scienze e tecnologie informatiche
27 Environmental sciences	Scienze e tecnologie per l'ambiente e la natura
28 Economics	Scienze economiche
29 Philosophy	Filosofia
30 Geography	Scienze geografiche
31 Law	Scienze giuridiche
32 Mathematics	Scienze matematiche
33 Physical education and Sport	Scienze delle attività motorie e sportive
34 Psychology	Scienze e tecniche psicologiche
35 Social sciences for co-operation, development and peace	Scienze sociali per la cooperazione, lo sviluppo e la pace
36 Sociology	Scienze sociologiche
37 Statistics	Scienze statistiche
38 History	Scienze storiche
39 Tourism	Scienze del turismo
40 Animal husbandry	Scienze e tecnologie zootecniche e delle produzioni animali
41 Technologies for conservation and restoration of cultural assets	Tecnologie per la conservazione e il restauro dei beni culturali
42 Industrial design	Disegno industriale

Classes of first degrees for Health Professions

Classi delle Lauree delle Professioni Sanitarie

1 Nursing and midwifery	Professioni sanitarie infermieristiche e professione sanitaria ostetrica
2 Health professions for rehabilitation	Professioni sanitarie della riabilitazione
3 Health professions for technical assistance	Professioni sanitarie tecniche
4 Health professions for preventive care	Professioni sanitarie della prevenzione

Classes of first degrees in the Defence and Security

Classi delle Lauree nelle Scienze della Difesa e della Sicurezza

1 Defence and security	Scienze della difesa e della sicurezza
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Second degrees - Graduate studies

Classes of second degrees

Classi delle Lauree Specialistiche

1/S Cultural anthropology and ethnology	Antropologia culturale ed etnologia
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2/S	Archaeology	Archeologia
3/S	Landscape architecture	Architettura del paesaggio
4/S	Architecture and construction engineering	Architettura e ingegneria edile
5/S	Library studies	Archivistica e biblioteconomia
6/S	Biology	Biologia
7/S	Agricultural biotechnologies	Biotechnologie agrarie
8/S	Industrial biotechnologies	Biotechnologie industriali
9/S	Pharmaceutical, veterinary and medical biotechnologies	Biotechnologie mediche, veterinarie e farmaceutiche
10/S	Conservation of architectural heritage and environment	Conservazione dei beni architettonici e ambientali Conservazione dei beni architettonici e ambientali
11/S	Conservation of scientific and industrial heritage	Conservazione dei beni scientifici e della civiltà industriale
12/S	Conservation and restoration of cultural heritage	Conservazione e restauro del patrimonio storico-artistico
13/S	Publishing, multimedia communication and journalism	Editoria, comunicazione multimediale e giornalismo
14/S	Pharmacy and industrial pharmacy	Farmacia e farmacia industriale
15/S	Philology and classical literature	Filologia e letterature dell'antichità
16/S	Modern philology	Filologia moderna
17/S	Philosophy and history of science	Filosofia e storia della scienza
18/S	Theoretical, moral political and aesthetic philosophy	Filosofia teoretica, morale, politica ed estetica
19/S	Finance	Finanza
20/S	Physics	Fisica
21/S	Geography	Geografia
22/S	Law	Giurisprudenza
23/S	Computer Science	Informatica
24/S	Computer Science for humanities	Informatica per le discipline umanistiche
25/S	Aerospace and aeronautical engineering	Ingegneria aerospaziale e astronautica
26/S	Biomedical engineering	Ingegneria biomedica
27/S	Chemical engineering	Ingegneria chimica
28/S	Civil engineering	Ingegneria civile
29/S	Automotion engineering	Ingegneria dell'automazione
30/S	Telecommunications engineering	Ingegneria delle telecomunicazioni
31/S	Electrical engineering	Ingegneria elettrica
32/S	Electronic engineering	Ingegneria elettronica
33/S	Energy and nuclear engineering	Ingegneria energetica e nucleare
34/S	Engineering and industrial management	Ingegneria gestionale
35/S	Computer engineering	Ingegneria informatica
36/S	Mechanical engineering	Ingegneria meccanica
37/S	Naval engineering	Ingegneria navale

38/S Environmental engineering	Ingegneria per l'ambiente e il territorio
39/S Conference interpreting	Interpretariato di conferenza
40/S Italian language and civilisation	Lingua e cultura italiana
41/S African and Asian languages and literatures	Lingue e letterature afroasiatiche
42/S Modern European and American languages and literatures	Lingue e letterature moderne euroamericane
43/S Foreign languages for international communication	Lingue straniere per la comunicazione internazionale
44/S Linguistics	Linguistica
45/S Mathematics	Matematica
46/S Medicine and surgery	Medicina e chirurgia
47/S Veterinary medicine	Medicina veterinaria
48/S Methods for the analysis of complex systems	Metodi per l'analisi valutativa dei sistemi complessi
49/S Empirical research methods for social sciences	Metodi per la ricerca empirica nelle scienze sociali
50/S Mathematics and physics: modelling for engineering	Modellistica matematico-fisica per l'ingegneria
51/S Musicology and musical heritage	Musicologia e beni musicali
52/S Dentistry and orthodontics	Odontoiatria e protesi dentaria
53/S Sport management	Organizzazione e gestione dei servizi per lo sport e le attività motorie
54/S Regional, urban and environmental planning	Pianificazione territoriale urbanistica e ambientale
55/S Tourism development and management	Progettazione e gestione dei sistemi turistici
56/S Planning and management of education and training services	Programmazione e gestione dei servizi educativi e formativi
57/S Planning and management of social services	Programmazione e gestione delle politiche e dei servizi sociali
58/S Psychology	Psicologia
59/S Advertising and business communication	Pubblicità e comunicazione d'impresa
60/S International relations	Relazioni internazionali
61/ S Materials science and engineering	Scienza e ingegneria dei materiali
62/S Chemistry	Scienze chimiche
63/S Cognitive sciences	Scienze cognitive
64/S Economic sciences	Scienze dell'economia
65/S Adult and continuing education	Scienze dell'educazione degli adulti e della formazione continua
66/S Universe sciences	Scienze dell'universo
67/S Social and institutional communication studies	Scienze della comunicazione sociale e istituzionale
68/S Nature sciences	Scienze della natura

69/S Nutrition and health sciences	Scienze della nutrizione umana
70/S Political science	Scienze della politica
71/S Public sector administration	Scienze delle pubbliche amministrazioni
72/ Religion studies S	Scienze delle religioni
73/S Performing arts and multimedia production	Scienze dello spettacolo e della produzione multimediale
74/S Management of rural resources	Scienze e gestione delle risorse rurali e forestali
75/S Sport science and technology	Scienze e tecnica dello sport
76/S Sport science for prevention and rehabilitation	Scienze e tecniche delle attività motorie preventive e adattative
77/S Agriculture	Scienze e tecnologie agrarie
78/S Food industry	Scienze e tecnologie agroalimentari
79/S Livestock management	Scienze e tecnologie agrozootecniche
80/S Navigation science and technology	Scienze e tecnologie dei sistemi di navigazione
81/S Industrial chemistry and related technologies	Scienze e tecnologie della chimica industriale
82/S Environmental and land sciences and technology	Scienze e tecnologie per l'ambiente e il territorio
83/S Economics for environment and culture	Scienze economiche per l'ambiente e la cultura
84/S Management studies	Scienze economico-aziendali
85/S Geophysics	Scienze geofisiche
86/S Geology	Scienze geologiche
87/S Education sciences	Scienze pedagogiche
88/S Cooperation and development studies	Scienze per la cooperazione allo sviluppo
89/S Sociology	Sociologia
90/S Social statistics and demography	Statistica demografica e sociale
91/S Actuarial, financial and economic statistics	Statistica economica, finanziaria ed attuariale
92/S Statistics for experimental research	Statistica per la ricerca sperimentale
93/S Ancient history	Storia antica
94/S Contemporary history	Storia contemporanea
95/S History of art	Storia dell'arte
96/S History of philosophy	Storia della filosofia
97/S Medieval history	Storia medievale
98/S Modern history	Storia moderna
99/S European studies	Studi europei
100/ Techniques and methods for the S Information Society	Tecniche e metodi per la società dell'informazione
101/ Communication theory S	Teoria della comunicazione

102/ S	Theory and techniques of legal texts	Teoria e tecniche della normazione e dell'informazione giuridica
103/ S	Industrial design theory and methods	Teorie e metodi del disegno industriale
104/ S	Translation of literary and technical texts	Traduzione letteraria e traduzione tecnico-scientifica
	<i>Classes of second degrees leading to Health Professions</i>	<i>Classi delle Lauree Specialistiche delle professioni sanitarie</i>
1/S	Nursing and midwifery	Scienze infermieristiche e ostetriche
2/S	Health professions for rehabilitation	Scienze delle professioni sanitarie della riabilitazione
3/S	Health professions for technical assistance	Scienze delle professioni sanitarie tecniche
4/S	Health professions for preventive care	Scienze delle professioni sanitarie della prevenzione
	<i>Classes of second degrees in Defence and Security</i>	<i>Classi delle Lauree specialistiche nelle scienze della difesa e della sicurezza</i>
1/S	Defence and security	Scienze della difesa e della sicurezza

4. Universities in Italy

4.1 University institutions

There are currently 77 universities in Italy.

- 55 state universities
Ancona, Bari, Benevento - Università del Sannio, Bergamo, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Camerino, Campobasso - Università del Molise, Cassino, Catania, Catanzaro Magna Graecia, Chieti e Pescara G.D'Annunzio, Cosenza - Università della Calabria, Ferrara, Firenze, Foggia, Genova, L'Aquila, Lecce, Macerata, Messina, Milano, Milano Bicocca, Modena e Reggio Emilia, Napoli Federico II, Napoli Seconda, Napoli Parthenope, Napoli L'Orientale, Padova, Palermo, Parma, Pavia, Perugia, Pisa, Potenza - Università della Basilicata, Reggio Calabria Mediterranea, Roma La Sapienza, Roma Tor Vergata, Roma Tre, Roma Iusm, Salerno, Sassari, Siena, Teramo, Torino, Trento, Trieste, Udine, Varese - Università dell'Insubria, Venezia Ca' Foscari, Venezia Iuav, Vercelli - Università del Piemonte Orientale, Verona, Viterbo - Università della Toscana
- 3 technical universities
Politecnico di Bari, Milano, Torino

- 14 non state universities (legally recognised)
Aosta - Università della Valle d'Aosta, Bolzano, Casamassima (Bari) - Lum-Libera Università mediterranea, Castellanza (Varese) - Università Carlo Cattaneo-Liuc, Milano - Università cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano - Università commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milano - Libera Università di lingue e comunicazione-Iulm, Milano - Università Vita-Salute S. Raffaele, Napoli Suor Orsola Benincasa, Roma - Libera Università internazionale degli studi sociali Guido Carli – Luiss, Roma - Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta - Lumsa, Roma - Libera università Campus Bio-Medico, Roma - Libera Università degli studi S. Pio V, Urbino
- 2 universities for foreigners
Università per stranieri di Perugia, Università per stranieri di Siena
- 3 university institutions specialised in postgraduate studies
Pisa - Scuola Normale Superiore (Higher School, Pisa), Pisa - Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna (Higher School for University Advanced Studies, Pisa), Trieste - Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (Higher International School for Advanced Studies, Trieste).

All the institutions listed above are entitled to award qualifications with legal validity ("valore legale") all over Italy. Non-state institutions are often called "libera/libero" and are legally recognised by the competent national authority. Their degrees, established in compliance with the general criteria laid down by national legislation, have the same validity as the corresponding degrees awarded by state institutions.

4.2 University Governance

According to the principle of university autonomy, each university may draw up its own statute and regulations by rectoral decree. Each statute states the regulations governing management, teaching and research within the institution.

- Rettore
In state institutions, the Rector is elected among full professors and is the legal representative. The Rector chairs the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors, executes their decisions, supervises the general running of all university structures and services, is in charge of disciplinary matters, draws up agreements for external collaboration, and plans all university teaching and research activities. In non state institutions different rules may apply.
- Senato Accademico
The Academic Senate is made up the Rector, the Faculty Deans and other representatives of the academic community elected according to the statute. It establishes the general guidelines for activities and plans university development. It approves the university regulations, coordinates teaching activities and has the authority to plan, coordinate and control university autonomy.
- Consiglio di Amministrazione
The Board of Directors supervises all administrative, personnel and financial matters, and approves the budget. It is made up of the Rector, the Head of

Administration and other representatives of the academic and external business community as laid down in the statute.

- Other bodies
Each university autonomously decides the other bodies that are present in the university e.g.
University council - Consulta di ateneo
Research council - Consiglio della ricerca
Standing Conference of Department Directors - Conferenza permanente dei direttori di dipartimento
Student council or senate - Consiglio / Senato degli studenti
Council for technical and administrative staff - Consiglio del personale tecnico amministrativo
Board of Auditors - Collegio dei revisori dei conti
Observatory for university activities - Osservatorio sulle attività dell'ateneo
Commissions for teaching and student welfare - Commissioni per la didattica e il diritto allo studio
Guarantor and ombudsman - Garante di ateneo e difensore civico
Committee for equal opportunities - Comitato per le pari opportunità
University Evaluation Unit - Nucleo di valutazione di Ateneo
Sponsors' committee - Comitato dei sostenitori

4.3 Teaching and Research Structures

Universities reach their institutional goals in teaching and research through the faculties, departments, institutes and service centres.

- Faculties
The Faculties coordinate teaching for the different degree courses. They appoint academic staff and decide roles and workload. The Faculty is run by the Faculty Board and the Dean (Preside).
- Departments
The departments organise research according to the relevant teachings. They promote and manage research, organise doctoral courses and carry out research and consultancy work outside the university. The department is run by the department board and its Director.
- Institutes
They deal with a specific scientific sector where they carry out teaching and develop research. They are run by a Board and Director.
- Service centres
Service centres may be set up by the Faculties or the University for the provision of services of general interest. Interuniversity centres and consortia for teaching or research purposes may be set up with other universities and with public and private organisations. In some cases interdepartmental research centres may also be set up, for example for the use of particularly complex services and equipment.
- Academic staff
There are four different categories of academic staff.

- Ordinary professors – first level (professori ordinari)
- Associate professors – second level (professori associati)
- Contract professors (professori a contratto)
- University researchers (ricercatori) who can be given teaching responsibilities

4.4 Teaching Regulations

Each university decides the teaching organisation and structure of its degree courses in the teaching regulations which are issued by rectoral decree and approved by the Ministry. The teaching regulations of each university define the following:

- names and learning outcomes of individual degree courses, along with the corresponding degree classes
- general framework of educational activities to be included in the different curricula
- credits allocated to each course or activity
- type of final examination to be passed in order to obtain each degree. In particular, in the case of the second degree Laurea specialistica, the final degree examination must include the discussion of a dissertation (tesi) written by the student under the supervision of an academic member of staff (relatore).

University teaching regulations may envisage the setting up of more than one degree course belonging to the same degree class. They must include provisions for the following issues:

- planning, coordination and outcomes of teaching/learning activities
- procedures for the distribution of annual teaching tasks to teachers and researchers, including supplementary courses, counselling and tutoring
- assessment of the initial educational level of students applying for first and second degrees
- examination procedures, including the final degree examinations
- assessment methods for student performance
- setting up of a university service to coordinate guidance and counselling activities and carried out in cooperation with upper secondary institutes
- introduction of a tutorial service for each degree course
- organisation of specific teaching/learning activities for part-time students.

5. Main institutional bodies

5.1 Ministry for Education, University and Research (Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca - MIUR)

In 2001 the former Ministry for Universities and Scientific and Technological Research (MURST) was merged with the Ministry for Education (MPI) to establish the new Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR). All financial resources, staff and functions of the former MPI and MURST have been transferred to MIUR.

MIUR promotes scientific and technological research as well as the development of both universities and other higher institutions endowed with university status. It plans and coordinates developments and changes in the university system. It allocates funds to individual universities and co-ordinates Italian participation in EU and international programmes relating to higher education and scientific and technological research.

5.2 National University Council (Consiglio Universitario Nazionale - CUN)

The National University Council (CUN) is an elected body, made up of representatives from Italian universities. It carries out advisory functions on matters such as university development planning, funding issues, approval of university teaching regulations, definition of main subject areas, recruitment of teaching and research staff.

5.3 Italian University Rectors' Conference (Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane - CRUI)

The Rectors' Conference is made up of Rectors from both state and non-state universities with the following aims:

- to investigate and analyse issues regarding the university system
- to represent university needs to government and parliament
- to express opinions on development plans for universities and on the state of university education
- to promote and sustain university initiatives at national and international level through links with similar EU and international associations.

5.4 National Council of University Students (Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari - CNSU)

The National Council of University Students (CNSU) has been set up as an advisory body of student representatives from all Italian universities. The student council puts forward proposals to the Minister on the following:

- university reform
- ministerial decrees giving general guidelines for the organisation of the different degree courses, and for the promotion of orientation and mobility programmes
- funding issues

It elects student representatives among its members for the National University Council. It formulates proposals on other university matters and presents a report on student conditions to the Minister.

5.5 National Committee for the Assessment of the University System (Comitato Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario)

Its 9 members, appointed by the Ministry, are chosen among qualified experts in university quality assessment. They need not be academics and can be of any nationality. Their main tasks are to:

- fix the general criteria for the assessment of university activity
- promote experimentation, application and dissemination of assessment methods and practices
- revise the information universities are required to submit annually at the end of a three-year period
- prepare and carry out an annual programme of external assessment in universities
- prepare an annual report on its activities
- carry out on request of the Ministry any other activity related to quality assurance such as further advisory roles, definition of standards, parameters and regulations etc.

6. Non-traditional delivery of University studies

6.1 Distance Learning

There are three main consortia for distance learning in higher education in Italy. These consortia are made up of some official Italian Universities, therefore their degree courses come under the Italian university legislation. On course completion the degree is awarded by the university where the individual student is enrolled.

The Consorzio Nettuno is a non profit association for distance higher education promoted by the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research. It is made up of both universities and companies and offers programmes in continuing education as well as degree courses. It is currently developing degree courses together with other European universities.

The Consorzio FOR.COM, a recognised non-profit organisation which offers the opportunity to students who work full time or live far from the university to study on line.

ICON (Italian Culture on the Net) is a consortium made up of Italian universities to promote the Italian language and culture worldwide via the Internet. It has elaborated a Laurea programme in Italian Language and Culture for Foreigners.

A recent ministerial decree makes provisions for the accreditation of new universities wishing to set up distance degree courses.

7. Non-University sector

7.1 Introduction

Traditionally, the state non-university sector mainly covered the arts but it has since expanded into other areas such as the interpreting and translating professions - now referred to as language mediation (mediazione linguistica) - as well as psychotherapy at

postgraduate institutes/schools (Istituti/Scuole di Psicoterapia), courses at the military academies (Accademie Militari), higher technical education and training (Istruzione e formazione tecnica superiore - IFTS) as well as vocational post-secondary professional education and training by the Regions (Formazione professionale regionale FPR).

7.2 Education in the arts and music

This sector provides for the education and training of highly qualified professionals in artistic fields that have long played a significant role in Italian cultural traditions: music, figurative and applied arts, conservation and restoration of cultural assets such as ancient books, buildings, medals, mosaics, paintings, etc. as well as archiving, palaeography and diplomatics. Some of these fields are highly specialised and applicants must show a marked aptitude along with sufficient basic training to be admitted to the courses. Non-university higher education institutions in the arts and music are:

- Academies of Fine Arts, and Higher Institutes for Applied Arts (Accademie di Belle Arti, Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche)
- Music Conservatories (Conservatori di Musica) and other recognised Music Institutes (Istituti Musicali Pareggiati)
- National Academies/Schools for Cinema, Dance, Drama and advanced musical studies (Accademie Nazionali and Scuole Nazionali)
- Higher Institutes/Schools for Conservation and Restoration of cultural assets (Istituti Centrali per la Conservazione e il Restauro dei Beni Culturali)
- Schools for Archiving, Palaeography and Diplomatics (Scuole di Archivistica, Paleografia e Diplomatica)

7.2.1 Reform in progress

The Academies of Fine Arts, the National Academy of Drama, the Higher Institutes for Applied Arts, the National Dance Academy, Music Conservatories, and the recognised Music Institutes make up the system for education and specialisation in arts and music and have the right to autonomous regulations as recognised in art 33 of the Italian Constitution. This area is currently undergoing a process of significant reform that began in 1999 with law no. 508 to create a system of higher advanced education and specialisation in the arts and music "Sistema dell'alta formazione e specializzazione artistica e musicale" or AFAM system. The new system is characterized by the following features:

- Minimum educational requirement for access to all AFAM institutions is the Diploma di Esame di Stato/Maturità, the Italian school leaving diploma granting access to university studies, or a comparable foreign qualification.
- Music Conservatories, the National Dance Academy, and the recognised Music Institutes have become Higher institutes for musical and choreographic studies (istituti superiori di studi musicali e coreutici).
- All AFAM institutions are legally authorised to draw up their autonomous statutes as well as teaching, administrative and financial regulations, while the State has retained responsibility for overall co-ordination
- AFAM institutions may set up higher education programmes and award qualifications in the first and second cycle (see Bologna declaration), as well as specialisation and research programmes.
- Diplomas conferred before the reform remain valid both for professional purposes (teaching) and to pursue further studies; they have already been declared equivalent to

first university degrees (3-year Laurea) for access to competitions for public sector posts, and for admission to second university degree programmes (Lauree Specialistiche) as well as to the new second cycle programmes in the arts and music that are being established (Law 268/2002).

- The current university legislation for student welfare services is extended to AFAM institutions.

The reform also foresees the setting up of a National Council for art and music education (Consiglio Nazionale per l'Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale) with advisory functions in matters relating to:

- teaching regulations of individual institutions
- recruitment of teaching staff
- planning of educational offerings in the art, music and dance sectors.

Full implementation of the reform will take a number of years since articulation of studies in cycles, reorganisation of curricula, and definition of new qualifications is still being debated.

7.2.2 Academies of Fine Arts (Accademie di Belle Arti)

The Academies of Fine arts provide education and training for traditional professions in painting, sculpture, decorative arts and stage design, and, as a result of the ongoing reform, also in a few applied fields such as conservation of cultural assets. Courses currently last four years (but this is changing with the gradual implementation of the reform). After passing the diploma examination, students are awarded the Licenza (Licence) in the specialist sector of their choice (eg. Licenza di Accademia di Belle Arti in Pittura, or in Scultura, etc.)

Access to fine art academies is now open to holders of the Italian school leaving certificate (Diploma di Esame di Stato/Maturità) or a comparable foreign qualification .

Additionally, most candidates must take an entrance examination consisting of a written essay, oral interview on a few general knowledge subjects such as art history, history, Italian literature, geography), and an aptitude test in their choice of specialisation. Foreign candidates must also prove their knowledge of Italian.

7.2.3 Higher Institutes for Applied Arts (Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche)

The Higher Institutes for Applied Arts provide education and training in fields that are closely connected with industrial production, such as graphics, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, design and technologies of pottery etc. Institutes generally specialise in one or more of these fields. Courses currently last four years but this is now changing. In line with the Bologna Declaration pattern, three-year first cycle programmes followed by two-year second cycle programmes as well as by specialisation or research programmes will be the rule once the 1999 reform is in place.

The final qualification is called Diploma and mentions the specialisation obtained. The old diplomas had the same legal validity as the Licenza conferred by fine art academies, the ones awarded in conformity to the reform have the same legal validity as the corresponding university degrees.

Access is regulated by numerous restrictions. Applicants must hold an Italian 5-year upper secondary leaving qualification (Diploma di Esame di Stato/Maturità) or a comparable foreign qualification; they must also pass a highly competitive entrance exam. The entrance selection is based on a written essay on general knowledge, aptitude tests related to the

specialisation, an interview on general knowledge and on the candidate's own work.

7.2.4 Music Conservatories (Conservatori di Musica) and recognised Music Institutes (Istituti Musicali Pareggiati)

Music conservatories are state institutions which, along with non-state legally recognised music institutes, offer education and training for professions in the musical sector – musicians, composers, orchestra directors, singers as well as music teachers. Course length varies from 5 to 10 years depending on the different specialisations.

The final qualification is a Diploma [di Conservatorio] di... and indicates the specific musical field /instrument.

Traditionally, conservatories have organised only music programmes and students have had to make their own arrangements for their general education. The minimum educational requirement has been the Italian diploma conferred on completion of compulsory education (Licenza di Scuola Media). Minimum and maximum ages for admission used to vary between 9-16 and 15-26 respectively, depending on the specific musical instrument or branch of the student's choice. Applicants took an entrance exam which included an aptitude test.

According to the abovementioned AFAM reform, applicants will be required to hold a "Diploma di esame di Stato/Maturità" in music, which at present is offered only by some experimental sections at a few upper secondary schools (licei con sezione musicale sperimentale).

7.2.5 National Academies & National Schools (Accademie e Scuole Nazionali)

These academies and schools share the essential feature of offering highly specialised education and training but they differ considerably from one another in their specialisations, course level, length and organisation.

National Academy of Drama (Accademia Nazionale di Arte Drammatica "Silvio D'Amico" – Roma)

The National Academy of Drama offers courses for the training of stage actors and directors. Admission is based on competitive entry for candidates between the age of 18 and 25. Courses last three years and successful students are awarded a Diploma di Recitazione, for stage actors or Diploma di Regia for stage directors.

Applicants must hold a Diploma di Esame di Stato/ Maturità, or a comparable foreign qualification, as well as pass a national competitive entry selection open to both Italians and foreigners who are at least 18 years old. The maximum age is 23 for actors and 25 for directors. The selection procedure is as follows:

1. The first part, common to both specialisations, involves extemporaneous reading of an Italian text (poetry or prose), acting a part and reciting a poem by heart in Italian, an interview on topics of general knowledge and on history of the theatre.
2. The second part consists in a written essay on a topic concerning theatre or stage direction.
3. The third part takes place after a fixed period of course attendance and requires a stage performance or production.

National Dance Academy (Accademia Nazionale di Danza - Roma)

The National Dance Academy runs courses for the basic training and further specialisation of dancers, choreographers, and dance teachers. Course length varies according to the different specialisations. Students who successfully complete their course of study are awarded the following qualifications:

- Diploma di danzatrice/danzatore solista (solo dancers);
- Diploma di coreografo (choreographers);
- Diploma di insegnante di danza accademica o moderna (teachers of classical or modern dance).

Admission requirements, including age limits and previous study qualifications, vary according to the type and level of course. In some cases an entrance aptitude test must be passed.

National Music Academy (Accademia Nazionale di Musica di Santa Cecilia – Roma)

The National Music Academy in Rome runs post-graduate advanced courses in musical studies, open to both Italian and foreign applicants. Courses have a maximum length of three years.

An advanced qualification (“Diploma di Perfezionamento in..”), comparable to postgraduate university degree, is awarded in a specific musical field or instrument.

Admission to the Corsi di Perfezionamento (advanced courses) of the Academy is subject to a selective competition. Candidates must hold an Italian Diploma di Conservatorio (or a foreign comparable qualification) in the musical field or instrument of their choice for their advanced studies, be under 30 years of age, and pass the mentioned competitive entrance exam.

National School for Cinema Studies (Scuola Nazionale di Cinema - Roma)

The National School for Cinema Studies offers education and training to future professionals of the film and TV sectors.

Admission is by a highly selective national competition which is also open to foreign candidates. Age limits are 19-26 years, (maximum 24 age for actors). Candidates must hold the Italian school leaving diploma (Diploma di Esame di Stato/ Maturità), or an equivalent foreign qualification, demonstrate previous education and training in the chosen specialisation and adequate knowledge of the Italian language.

The School offers two- and three-year programmes in acting, direction, production, management, screening, etc. for both cinema and television. The final qualification is a "Diploma" and the name of the specialisation follows.

7.2.6 Central Institutes for Cultural Heritage (Istituti Centrali per i Beni Culturali)

The central institutes/schools for the cultural heritage promote the preservation and restoration of national artistic assets and come under the responsibility of the Ministry for the national cultural heritage (Ministero dei Beni Culturali).

Central Institute for Restoration - School for Restoration (Istituto Centrale per il Restauro – Scuola di Restauro)

The School at the Central Institute for restoration offers three-year training courses in two specialisations: conservation of metals and other materials of archaeological finds; conservation of paintings and their supports, of architectonic surfaces and related materials. Students who successfully complete their programmes are awarded a qualification, the "Diploma di idoneità all'esercizio della professione di restauratore", entitling them to practise as restorers. Graduates may also attend a fourth year of advanced training (Corso

di Perfezionamento) and receive an "attestato di frequenza" (statement of attendance). Access to the School is open to holders of an Italian/foreign secondary qualification. Course admission, restricted by numerus clausus, is granted to Italians and non-Italians aged between 18 and 40 who win an annual national competition. The selection is based on the evaluation of previous educational and professional qualifications (e.g. diplomas in the arts, university degrees, periods of working experience or professional training), and on an entrance examination (a drawing test, an experiment on metals or paintings, an interview on art history.) Non-Italian applicants must also pass an Italian language exam.

School for Restoration of Mosaics (Scuola di Restauro del Mosaico)

The school offers specialised three-year training courses in restoration of mosaics. Successful students are awarded the qualification "Diploma di restauratore di mosaici", entitling them to practise as mosaic restorers.

Courses are open to Italians and non-Italians aged between 18 and 40 with an Italian or comparable foreign secondary school qualification. Access is restricted and admission is based on an annual competition that takes into account previous qualifications (school leaving diplomas from an Italian artistic high school or art institute, higher education diplomas and degrees, work experience or professional training; proven practice in the profession as a restorer) and entrance examination results (drawing test, a mosaic exercise, and an interview on art history). Non-Italian applicants must pass an Italian language exam.

School for conservation and restoration of precious stone materials – Workshop for restoration (Scuola dell'opificio delle pietre dure e Laboratori di restauro - Firenze)

The Workshop has set up its own school which offers three-year training courses in different specialisations: stone materials, mosaics and works in hard stones, terracotta, metalwork (goldsmithing, bronzes and antique weapons), furniture and engraving, gilding and polychrome wooden sculptures, murals, paper, textiles (tapestries and cloths).

The programmes - all of them with restricted access - are open to holders of an Italian/foreign secondary qualification. Admission is subject to passing an annual competition, open to Italians and non-Italians aged between 18 and 40. The competitive selection is based on the evaluation of previous qualifications from the Workshop and from the Central Institute for Restoration in Rome) as well as on an examination that consists of a drawing test, a practical exercise and an interview on art history and art techniques. Non-Italian applicants must also demonstrate their knowledge of the Italian language.

Courses last four years and successful students are awarded a final qualification in restoration of cultural assets (Diploma di restauratore di beni culturali).

Central Institute for the Restoration of Damaged Books (Istituto Centrale per la Patologia del Libro "Alfonso Gallo" – Roma)

At its own premises, the Central Institute for the restoration of damaged books runs short advanced courses open only to professionals who have already acquired a considerable level of competence in the sector. On the basis of a special agreement with the Regione Umbria, the Institute has also set up a basic course for the specialised training of prospective young professionals.

Foundation for the Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Books and Documents (Fondazione per la Conservazione e il Restauro dei beni Librari)

The two-year programme selects 15 candidates per year from the European Union. Candidates must be under 25 years old, hold an Italian school leaving qualification (Diploma di Esame di Stato/Maturità), or a comparable foreign qualification, possess adequate knowledge of written and spoken English and Italian, basic knowledge of Latin, knowledge of chemistry and physics, and pass a selective examination (written tests,

interview, practical and aptitude tests).

After the two-year course of basic training, students may take a one-year advanced course (Corso di Perfezionamento) and receive a statement of advanced specialised training (Attestato di Perfezionamento) as restorers of ancient books and documents.

International Institutes for Cultural Assets (Istituti Internazionali per i Beni Culturali)

While they do not belong to the Italian higher education system, it is nevertheless important to mention some renowned international institutions, located in Italy, which offer post-secondary specialised education and training in the conservation and restoration of the cultural heritage with the official consent of and in cooperation with the Italian authorities.

1. International Study and Research Centre for the conservation and restoration of cultural assets – Rome (Centro internazionale di Studio e Ricerca per la conservazione e il restauro dei beni culturali – Roma)

2. European University Centre of cultural assets – Salerno (Centro Universitario Europeo per i beni culturali – Salerno)

3. European Foundation Pro Venezia Viva – European Centre for the training of artisans in the restoration of architectural heritage – Venice (Fondazione europea Pro Venezia Viva – Centro Europeo per la Formazione degli Artigiani per la Conservazione del patrimonio architettonico – Venezia)

4. UNESCO – Course in technology of stone conservation - Venice

7.2.7 Schools for Archiving, Palaeography and Diplomatics (Scuole di Archivistica, Paleografia e Diplomatica)

Schools for archiving, palaeography and diplomatics are state institutions of university rank which come under the supervision of the Ministry for cultural heritage. They are established at the state archives of the following cities: Bari, Bologna, Bolzano, Cagliari, Florence, Genoa, Mantova, Milan, Modena, Naples, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Rome, Turin, Trieste and Venice.

The main purpose of these Schools is to provide the necessary theory and practical experience to perform certain specific archiving functions or to carry out research in related fields.

Courses last two years and successful students are awarded a qualification in archiving, palaeography and diplomatics, i.e; the “Diploma di archivistica, paleografia e diplomatica”. Candidates must hold an Italian school leaving qualification (Esame di Stato/Maturità), or a comparable foreign qualification. Admission depends on a selection based on the evaluation of applicants’ previous qualifications, grades obtained in Latin, other study qualifications or professional experience, if any. The competition is announced every two years (generally, in odd years).

7.2.8 Non-state artistic education

Quite a number of art sectors are not - or only partially - included in state artistic education, especially applied arts or more recent developments in such areas as advertising, communication, design (cars, jewellery, industrial, visual, etc.), fashion, photography, graphics (advertising, computer), multimedia, etc.

This has led to initiatives by local authorities (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities) as well as private bodies or individuals to set up institutions and/or programmes in these areas.

Courses generally have a strong professional orientation and last between one and three years, although there may also be intensive refresher courses that last only a few months.

Some schools may seek official recognition for their programmes but many others do not see recognition as essential. They prefer the freedom of being completely independent and in any case most professions in the art sector are not regulated by law. This means that employers are not so much interested in "legal" qualifications as in the actual competence of individual applicants.

7.3 Non-university higher education in other sectors

Further opportunities for non-university higher education in other sectors are the following:

- Programmes in Language Mediation
- Programmes in Psychotherapy (for professional psychologists)
- Technical and socio-economic courses at Military Academies
- Higher Technical Education and Training (IFTTS)
- A great variety of fields for professional post-secondary education and training under the responsibility of the Regions.

7.3.1 Higher Schools for Language Mediators (Scuole Superiori per Mediatori Linguistici)

Since 2002, the Higher Schools for Interpreters and Translators have been given the opportunity to reform their structure and programmes according to ministerial decree no. 38/02. The whole process is taking place under the supervision of the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research - MIUR. Once reformed, Higher Schools for Interpreters and Translators are renamed Higher Schools for Language Mediators (Scuole Superiori per Mediatori Linguistici).

The courses provide students with a solid mastery in at least two foreign languages and develop specific technical language skills both written and oral for professions in language mediation (interpreting and translating). The new programmes last three years and the degrees awarded are now equivalent to first university degrees in class 3 "sciences of language mediation" (scienze della mediazione linguistica) and give access to the second degree classes 39/S and 104/S for interpreting and translating.

Access requires an Italian school leaving qualification or a comparable foreign one.

Admission may be subject to an entrance test devised to check that knowledge in both foreign languages and mother tongue is of a sufficient standard. The current university legislation for student welfare services is extended to all Higher Schools for Language Mediators.

7.3.2 Institutes/Schools for Psychotherapists

Quite a number of non-state institutes/schools offer postgraduate programmes in applied psychology and in psychotherapy which have been recognised by the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research - MIUR. Minimum admission requirement is a five-year Laurea in Psychology or, after the 1999 university reform, a Laurea Specialistica class 58/S (psicologia), or a comparable foreign degree.

These postgraduate programmes, whose main purpose to provide advanced education and training to professional psychologists wishing to specialise as psychotherapists, last 4 years for a total of 1,600 hours. They alternate theory (1,200 hours) with practical training and

individual analysis (400 hours).

The successful passing of the final examination, which includes the defence of a dissertation, results in the awarding of a professional qualification (e.g. Diploma in Psicoterapia Cognitiva) with the same legal validity of the postgraduate specialisation degrees in psychological fields conferred by Italian universities.

7.3.3 Military Academies (Accademie Militari)

Activities for the education and training of military officers are offered by a number of military academies and/or higher institutes such as the Aeronautic Academy (Accademia aeronautica) in Pozzuoli, the Naval Academy (Accademia militare navale) in Livorno, the Army Academy (Accademia militare dell'esercito) in Modena, the Higher Institute for the Police (Istituto superiore di polizia) in Rome, the Higher Institute for penitentiary studies (Istituto superiore di studi penitenziari). All these higher education institutions run university-level courses in such fields as economics and management, engineering, political science which may be validated by Italian universities towards academic degrees in similar subject sectors.

7.3.4 Higher technical education and training (Istruzione e Formazione tecnica superiore - IFTS)

A system of higher integrated education and training (Formazione integrata superiore - FIS) was started as a pilot project in 1998. It had the main objective of re-qualifying the whole system of professional education and training by better exploiting existing resources and facilities, and by facilitating the transition from one educational pathway to another.

In 1999 a significant number of new programmes for higher technical education and training (Istruzione e Formazione tecnica superiore - IFTS) were established with the chief purpose of creating an efficient "second channel" of educational opportunities. They were aimed at those holders of a school leaving qualification who wanted to access a type of higher education other than the traditional, academic one provided by universities, but of a comparable quality standard.

The IFTS pilot project was turned into official course offerings by Article 69 of Law 144/1999. The following institutional bodies are allowed to offer IFTS courses, either independently or with one another:

- state secondary schools (Licei classici, Licei scientifici, Licei artistici, Licei linguistici, Istituti tecnici; Istituti professionali, etc.)
- regional centres for vocational education and training
- state or non-state but legally recognised universities
- public or private firms, small or large companies, often grouped in consortia.

Courses last a maximum of 4 semesters (1,200 - 2,400 hours). Curricula must include basic technical and scientific subjects, practical applications, training periods at private companies or public bodies, other professionally-oriented activities "on the spot", and, at intervals, real work experience. Practical training periods must cover no less than 30% of each programme and they may take place either in Italy or abroad, in EU or non-EU countries.

IFTS programmes generally award an "Attestato/Certificato di Competenza"; the corresponding workload is expressed in credits so as to make the qualification valuable for further studies both in Italy - either in the university system or in the second and 3rd level of regional professional programmes - and abroad, in particular within the European Union.

7.3.5 Regional post-secondary professional education and training (Formazione Professionale Regionale - FPR)

Since the late seventies, alongside the state university system, other educational opportunities have been set up at local level. Professional courses in a great variety of fields and at various levels have been developed in close cooperation with businesses and industry and are managed by the Regions. The main purpose of these courses is to provide training in skills which meet the requirements and changes of the job market, thus increasing employability for the participants. These more practically oriented courses used to offer the only alternative route to university education until the IFTS programmes were introduced.

Courses are open to holders of a school leaving qualification (Esame di Stato/Maturità) or to university graduates (Laurea). Length may vary from 1 to 2 years according to programme type and main subject field.

Another category of post-secondary professional courses are those set up jointly by the Regions and the Labour Ministry with financial support from the European Social Fund (Fondo Sociale Europeo - FSE). These courses are also open to holders of either a school leaving diploma or of a university degree (laurea).

8. Italian language and civilization

People of different ages and nationalities wishing to learn Italian and study its civilization may take advantage of a number of opportunities either abroad or in Italy.

8.1 Courses abroad

The two main organizations acting as official organs for the diffusion of the Italian language and civilization abroad are the Italian Cultural Institutes and the Committees of the Società Dante Alighieri.

8.1.1 Italian Cultural Institutes (Istituti Italiani di Cultura – IIC)

Italian cultural institutes come under the authority of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and cooperate with Italian Embassies and Consulates abroad in preparing certified documents, legalized translations and "Dichiarazioni di Valore" for holders of local secondary or higher education qualifications who wish to enrol in Italian universities or apply for academic recognition of their qualifications in Italy.

They also run Italian language courses at different levels, courses in Italian literature and civilization, seminars and/or lectures on Italians who have become famous for their achievements in artistic, literary, or scientific fields.

Most Italian cultural institutes provide the opportunity to take the Italian language examination devised by the two Universities for Italian as a foreign language in Perugia and Siena and by the University "Roma Tre" for international students seeking admission to an Italian university. Students who pass the exam obtain a certificate demonstrating their knowledge of Italian.

8.1.2 Dante Alighieri Society (Società Dante Alighieri)

The Dante Alighieri Society is an organization located in Rome which has a number of committees (comitati) all over the world. Its chief purpose is to promote the knowledge of Italian culture among all foreigners or Italian immigrants and their descendants wishing to keep up their former links with Italy. Through its committees the Società Dante Alighieri establishes schools and libraries, runs language courses, promotes the diffusion of Italian books and publications, organizes lectures, cultural meetings and events and awards fellowships.

8.2 Courses in Italy

A number of Italian language courses on offer in Italy are listed in a guide published yearly by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The following list gives an outline of courses offered by Italian Universities and the Dante Alighieri.

8.2.1 Italian universities

At each academic institution, courses in Italian - including both language and literature - are offered to international students mainly at the university language centres (Centri linguistici di Ateneo). Some of these courses may be reserved for scholarship holders participating in EU mobility programmes.

Two state universities in Perugia and Siena specialise in courses in Italian language and civilisation for foreigners.

University for foreigners at Perugia (Università per Stranieri)

The University for foreigners at Perugia carries on teaching and research activities aiming at promoting the knowledge and diffusion of the Italian language, civilisation and way of life. Its Faculty of the Italian language and civilisation organises:

- in-depth courses of Italian for international students
- advanced courses for teachers of Italian abroad
- courses for interpreters and translators
- language courses for admission to Italian universities.

Perugia awards certificates, diplomas, and specialisation diplomas in Italian language and civilisation as well as national university degrees.

University for foreigners at Siena (Università per Stranieri di Siena)

The University for Foreigners at Siena primarily defines itself as a research centre specialized in teaching Italian as a second language as well as in spreading Italian civilisation and cultural traditions around the world.

The University runs courses in Italian language and civilisation for foreigners, language and cultural courses for foreign students seeking enrolment at Italian universities. It also organises refresher or specialisation courses and training activities for teachers of Italian as a second language.

Siena awards certificates, diplomas, and specialisation diplomas in Italian language and civilisation as well as national university degrees

8.2.2 Dante Alighieri Society (Società Dante Alighieri)

The Society is active not only abroad but also in Italy, where it acts through a number of local committees in towns such as Bologna, Florence, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Pietrasanta (Lucca), Roma, Siena, Trieste, Urbania (Pesaro-Urbino) and Venice.

Annex A / List and addresses of Italian Universities

Università politecnica delle Marche - ANCONA

Piazza Roma, 22 - 60121 Ancona

Tel. ++39-071-2201

Web site: <http://www.univpm.it>

International relations: releste@niasun@unian.it

Università della VALLE D'AOSTA

ad AOSTA

Via dei Cappuccini, 2 - 11100 Aosta

Tel. ++39-0165-306711

Web site: <http://www.univda.it>

International relations: s.truchet@univda.it

Università degli studi di BARI

Piazza Umberto I, 1 - 70121 Bari

Tel. ++39-080-5711111

Web site: <http://www.uniba.it>

International relations: francesco.tritto@relint.uniba.it

Politecnico di BARI

Via Amendola 126/b - 70126 Bari

Tel. ++39-080-5962111

Web site: <http://www.poliba.it>

International relations: m.fanelli@poliba.it

Università degli studi del Sannio - BENEVENTO

Palazzo S. Domenico, piazza Guerrazzi 1 - 82100 Benevento

Tel. ++39-0824-305001

Web site: <http://www.unisannio.it>

Internat. relations: relazioni.esterne@unisannio.it

Università degli studi di BERGAMO

Via Salvecchio 19 - 24129 Bergamo

Tel. ++39-035-2052111

Web site: <http://www.unibg.it>

International relations: relint@unibg.it

Università degli studi di BOLOGNA
Via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 Bologna
Tel. ++39-051-2099111
Web site: <http://www.unibo.it>
International relations: aric4@ammc.unibo.it

Libera Università di BOLZANO
Via Sernesi 1 - 39100 Bolzano
Tel. ++39-0471-315316
Web site: <http://www.unibz.it>
International relations: international.relations@unibz.it

Università degli studi di BRESCIA
Piazza del Mercato, 15 - 25121 Brescia
Tel. ++39-030-29881
Web site: <http://www.unibs.it>
International relations: consoli@amm.unibs.it

Università degli studi di CAGLIARI
Via Università, 40 - 09124 Cagliari
Tel. ++39-070-6751 - 070-6752001
Web site: <http://www.unica.it>
International relations: erasmus@unica.it

Università degli studi di CAMERINO
Via del Bastione, 2 - 62032 Camerino
Tel. ++39-0737-4011
Web site: <http://www.unicam.it>
International relations: relazioni.internazionali@unicam.it

**Università degli studi del Molise -
CAMPOBASSO**
Via Francesco De Sanctis - 86100 Campobasso
Tel. ++39-0874-4041
Web site: <http://www.unimol.it>
International relations: relazint@unimol.it

**Università non statale legalmente riconosciuta mediterranea "Jean Monnet" -
LUM di CASAMASSIMA (BA)**
S.S. 100, km.15 - 70010 Casamassima (Ba)
Tel. ++39-080-6978213
Web site: <http://www.lum.it>
International relations: relazioni.esterne@lum.it

Università degli studi di CASSINO
Via G. Marconi 10 - 03043 Cassino
Tel. ++39-0776-2991

Web site: <http://www.unicas.it>
International relations: presidentecri@unicas.it

LIUC - Università Carlo Cattaneo - CASTELLANZA
Corso Matteotti 22 - 21053 Castellanza (Va)
Tel. ++39-0331-5721
Web site: <http://www.liuc.it>
International relations: fhunter@liuc.it

Università degli studi di CATANIA
Piazza dell'Università, 2 - 95124 Catania
Tel. ++39-095-7307111
Web site: <http://www.unict.it>
International relations: uri@unict.it

Università degli studi di CATANZARO "Magna Græcia"
Palazzo Alemanni, via Sensales 20 - 88100 Catanzaro
Tel. ++39-0961-515372
Web site: <http://www.unicz.it>
International relations: consoli@unicz.it

Università degli studi "Gabriele D'Annunzio" di CHIETI e PESCARA
Via dei Vestini, 31 - 66013 Chieti Scalo
Tel. ++39-0871-3551
Web site: <http://www.unich.it>
International relations: uri1@unich.it

Università degli studi della Calabria - COSENZA
Via Pietro Bucci - 87036 Arcavacata di Rende (Cs)
Tel. ++39-0984-4911
Web site: <http://www.unical.it>
International relations: relet@amministrazione.unical.it

Università degli studi di FERRARA
Via Savonarola, 9 - 44100 Ferrara
Tel. ++39-0532-293111
Web site: <http://www.unife.it>
International relations: ntg@unife.it

Università degli studi di FIRENZE
Piazza San Marco, 4 - 50121 Firenze
Tel. ++39-055-27571
Web site: <http://www.unifi.it>
International relations: urst@adm.unifi.it

Università degli studi di FOGGIA

Piazza IV Novembre 1 - 71100 Foggia
Tel. ++39-0881-582209
Web site: <http://www.unifg.it>
International relations: relint@unifg.it

Università degli studi di GENOVA
Via Balbi, 5 - 16126 Genova
Tel. ++39-010-20991
Web site: <http://www.unige.it>
International relations: coopint@unige.it

Università degli studi di L'AQUILA
Piazza Vincenzo Rivera 1 - 67100 L'Aquila
Tel. ++39-0862-431111
Web site: <http://www.univaq.it>
International relations: diramm@cc.univaq.it

Università degli studi di LECCE
Viale Gallipoli, 49 - 73100 Lecce
Tel. ++39-0832-336111
Web site: <http://www.unile.it>
International relations: cd.poso@sesia.unile.it

Università degli studi di MACERATA
Piaggia dell'Università, 2 - 62100 Macerata
Tel. ++39-0733-2581
Web site: <http://www.unimc.it>
International relations: cri@unimc.it

Università degli studi di MESSINA
Piazza Pugliatti 1 - 98122 Messina
Tel. ++39-090-6761
Web site: <http://www.unime.it>
International relations: relint@unime.it

Università degli studi di MILANO
Via Festa del Perdono, 7 - 20122 Milano
Tel. ++39-02-58351
Web site: <http://www.unimi.it>
International relations: ufficio.stranieri@unimi.it

Università degli studi di MILANO - BICOCCA
Piazza dell'Ateneo nuovo 1 - 20126 Milano Bicocca
Tel. ++39-02-64481
Web site: <http://www.unimib.it>
International relations: ricerca@unimib.it

Politecnico di MILANO

Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, 32 - 20133 Milano

Tel. ++39-02-23991

Web site: <http://www.polimi.it>

International relations: cri.relint@polimi.it

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Largo Agostino Gemelli 1 - 20123 Milano

Tel. ++39-02-72341

Web site: <http://www.unicatt.it>

International relations: rel.internazionali@unicatt.it

Università commerciale Luigi Bocconi - MILANO

Via Sarfatti, 25 - 20136 Milano

Tel. ++39-02-58361

Web site: <http://www.uni-bocconi.it>

International relations: relazioni.internazionali@uni-bocconi.it

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele (UHSR)- MILANO

Via Olgettina 58 - 20132 Milano

Tel. ++39-02-26433807

Web site: <http://www.unihsr.it>

International relations: zannini.piero@hsr.it

Libera Università di lingue e comunicazione - IULM di MILANO

Via Filippo da Liscate, 1 - 20143 Milano

Tel. ++39-02-891411

Web site: <http://www.iulm.it>

International relations: relazioni.internazionali@iulm.it

Università degli studi di MODENA e REGGIO EMILIA

Via Università 4 - 41100 Modena

Tel. ++39-059-2056511

Via Fogliani 1 - 42100 Reggio Emilia

Tel. ++39-0522-276601

Web site: <http://www.unimore.it>

International relations: brancolini.gabriella@unimore.it

Università degli studi di NAPOLI "Federico II"

Corso Umberto I - 80138 Napoli

Tel. ++39-081-2531111

Web site: <http://www.unina.it>

Mobil.docstud@ceda.unina.it

Seconda Università degli studi di NAPOLI

Viale Beneduce 10 - 81100 Caserta

Tel. ++39-0823-329988
Via S. Maria di Costantinopoli, 104 - 80138 Napoli
Tel. ++39-081-5661111
Web site: <http://www.unina2.it>
Internat. relations: affari.general@unina2.it

**Università degli studi "Parthenope"
di NAPOLI**
Via Ammiraglio Acton 38 - 80133 Napoli
Tel. ++39-081-5475111
Web site: <http://www.uninav.it>
International relations: affari.general@uninav.it

Università degli studi "L'Orientale" - NAPOLI
Via Partenope 10a - 80133 Napoli
Tel. ++39-081-6909111
Web site: <http://www.iuo.it>
International relations: relint@iuo.it

Istituto universitario Suor Orsola Benincasa - NAPOLI
Via Suor Orsola 10 - 80135 Napoli
Tel. ++39-081-2522111
Web site: <http://www.unisob.na.it>
International relations: socrates.erasmus@unisob.na.it

Università degli studi di PADOVA
Via VIII Febbraio 2 - 35122 Padova
Tel. ++39-049-8275111
Web site: <http://www.unipd.it>
International relations: estric@unipd.it

Università degli studi di PALERMO
Piazza della Marina 61 - 90133 Palermo
Tel. ++39-091-6075111
Web site: <http://www.unipa.it>
International relations: relinter@unipa.it

Università degli studi di PARMA
Via Università 12 - 43100 Parma
Tel. ++39-0521-032111
Web site: <http://www.unipr.it>
International relations: socrates@unipr.it

Università degli studi di PAVIA
Strada Nuova 65 - 27100 Pavia
Tel. ++39-0382-5041
Web site: <http://www.unipv.it>

International relations: emrip15@unipv.it

Università degli studi di PERUGIA

Piazza Università 1 - 06100 Perugia

Tel. ++39-075-5851

Web site: <http://www.unipg.it>

International relations: uri@unipg.it

Università per stranieri di PERUGIA

Palazzo Gallenga - Piazza Fortebraccio, 4 - 06122 Perugia

Tel. ++39-075-57461

Web site: <http://www.unistrapg.it>

International relations: relint@unistrapg.it

Università degli studi di PISA

Lungarno Pacinotti 43/44 - 56125 Pisa

Tel. ++39-050-2212111

Web site: <http://www.unipi.it>

International relations: socrates@adm.unipi.it

Scuola normale superiore - PISA

Piazza dei Cavalieri 7 - 56126 Pisa

Tel. ++39-050-509111

Web site: <http://www.sns.it>

Internat. relations: segreteria.studenti@sns.it

Scuola superiore "S.Anna" di studi universitari e di perfezionamento - PISA

Piazza Martiri della libertà, 33 - 56127 Pisa

Tel. ++39-050-883111

Web site: <http://www.sssup.it>

International relations: c.bosio@sssup.it

Università degli studi della Basilicata - POTENZA

Via Nazario Sauro 85 - 85100 Potenza

Tel. ++39-0971-201111

Web site: <http://www.unibas.it>

International relations: relazioninternazionali@unibas.it

Università degli studi "Mediterranea" di REGGIO CALABRIA

Via Zecca 4 - 89125 Reggio Calabria

Tel. ++39-0965-332202

Web site: <http://www.unirc.it>

International relations: erasmus@unicr.it

Università degli studi di ROMA "La Sapienza"

Piazzale Aldo Moro 5 - 00185 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-49911

Web site: <http://www.uniroma1.it>

International relations: settorestudentistranieri@uniroma1.it

Università degli studi di ROMA "Tor Vergata"

Via Orazio Raimondo 8 - 00173 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-72591

Web site: <http://www.uniroma2.it>

Internat. relations: tesauro@uniroma2.it

Università degli studi Roma Tre

Via Ostiense 161 - 00154 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-573701

Web site: <http://www.uniroma3.it>

International relations: relint@uniroma3.it

LUISS-Libera Università internazionale degli studi sociali Guido Carli - ROMA

Viale Pola 12 - 00198 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-852251

Web site: <http://www.luiss.it>

International relations: relint@luiss.it

LUMSA-Libera Università "Maria SS. Assunta" - ROMA

via della Traspontina 21 - 00193 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-684221

Web site: <http://www.lumsa.it>

Internat. relations: international@lumsa.it

Università "Campus Bio-Medico" - ROMA

Via Emilio Longoni 83 - 00155 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-225411

Web site: <http://www.unicampus.it>

International relations: relazioniinternazionali@unicampus.it

Libera università degli studi "San Pio V" - ROMA

Via delle Sette Chiese 139 - 00145 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-5107771

Web site: <http://www.luspio.it>

International relations: erasmus@luspio.it

Istituto universitario di Scienze motorie - IUSM di ROMA

Piazzale Lauro de Bosis 15 - 00194 Roma

Tel. ++39-06-36733501

Web site: <http://www.iusm.it>

International relations: intloffice@iusm.it

Università degli studi di SALERNO

via Ponte Don Melillo - 84084 Fisciano (SA)

Tel. ++39-089-961111

Web site: <http://www.unisa.it>

International relations: ueri@seda.unisa.it

Università degli studi di SASSARI

Piazza Università 21 - 07100 Sassari

Tel. ++39-079-228211

Web site: <http://www.uniss.it>

International relations: upc@ammin.uniss.it

Università degli studi di SIENA

Via Banchi di Sotto 55 - 53100 Siena

Tel. ++39-0577-232000

Web site: <http://www.unisi.it>

International relations: kmedaglini@unisi.it

Università per stranieri di SIENA

via Pantaneto 45 - 53100 Siena

Tel. ++39-0577-240115

Web site: <http://www.unistrasi.it>

International relations: prorelint@unistrasi.it

Università degli studi di TERAMO

Viale Crucioli 122 - 64100 Teramo

Tel. ++39-0861-2661

Web site: <http://www.unite.it>

International relations: cacciatore@unite.it

Università degli studi di TORINO

Via Giuseppe Verdi 8 - 10124 Torino

Tel. ++39-011-6706111

Web site: <http://www.unito.it>

International relations: relint@rettorato.unito.it

Politecnico di TORINO

Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24 - 10129 Torino

Tel. ++39-011-5646111

Web site: <http://www.polito.it>

International relations: international.relations@polito.it

Università degli studi di TRENTO

Via Belenzani 12 - 38100 Trento

Tel. ++39-0461-881111

Web site: <http://www.unitn.it>

International relations: socrates@amm.unitn.it

Università degli studi di TRIESTE
Piazzale Europa 1 - 34127 Trieste
Tel. ++39-040-5587111
Web site: <http://www.units.it>
International relations: viezzoli@amm.univ.trieste.it

SISSA-Scuola internazionale superiore di studi avanzati - TRIESTE
Via Beirut 2-4 - 34014 Trieste
Tel. ++39-040-37871
Web site: <http://www.sissa.it>
International relations: radikkio@sissa.it

Università degli studi di UDINE
Palazzo Florio, via Palladio 8 - 33100 Udine
Tel. ++39-0432-556111
Web site: <http://www.uniud.it>
International relations: elisabetta.vecchio@amm.uniud.it

Università degli studi di URBINO "Carlo Bo"
Via Saffi 2 - 61029 Urbino
Tel. ++39-0722-3051
Web site: <http://www.uniurb.it>
International relations: uborse@uniurb.it

Università degli studi dell'Insubria in VARESE
Via Ravasi 2 - 21100 Varese
Tel. ++39-0332-219001
Web site: <http://www.uninsubria.it>
International relations: relint@uninsubria.it

Università degli studi "Ca' Foscari" di VENEZIA
Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 Venezia
Tel. ++39-041-2348111
Web site: <http://www.unive.it>
International relations: ori@unive.it

**Università degli studi IUAV
di VENEZIA**
Santa Croce - Tolentini 191 - 30135 Venezia
Tel. ++39-041-2571111
Web site: <http://www.iuav.it>
International relations: uri@iuav.it

Università degli studi del Piemonte orientale "Amedeo Avogadro" in VERCELLI
Via Duomo 6 - 13100 Vercelli
Tel. ++39-0161-261500

Web site: <http://www.unipmn.it>

International relations: relazioni.internazionali@rettorato.unipmn.it

Università degli studi di VERONA

Via dell'Artigliere 8 - 37129 Verona

Tel. ++39-045-8028111

Web site: <http://www.univr.it>

International relations: relazioni.internazionali@univr.it

Università degli studi della Tuscia - VITERBO

Via San Giovanni Decollato 1 - 01100 Viterbo

Tel. ++39-0761-3571

Web site: <http://www.unitus.it>

International relations: relint@unitus.it

Annex B / University System: 1999 reform law

Ministry for Universities and scientific and technological research

Decree no. 509 of 3 November 1999

Regulations setting out the norms concerning the teaching autonomy of universities

Published in the Official Journal No. 2 of 4 January 2000

Translation: Richard Boyce

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 168 of 9 May 1989;

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 400 of 23 August 1988, and in particular paragraph 3 of article 17;

HAVING REGARD TO paragraph 95 of article 17 of Law no. 127 of 15 May 1997, as amended;

HAVING REGARD TO Presidential Decree no. 25 of 27 January 1998;

HAVING REGARD TO Decree no. 142 of the Ministry of Labour of 25 March 1998;

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998;

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 264 of 2 August 1999;

HAVING REGARD TO the opinions of the National University Council (Consiglio Universitario Nazionale or CUN) and the Conference of Italian University Rectors (Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane or CRUI), given respectively on 6 May 1999 and on 15 April 1999;

HAVING HEARD the opinion of the Council of State given by the Section responsible for consultations with regard to legislative acts at its meeting on 7 June 1999;

HAVING REGARD TO the opinion of the VII Commission of the Chamber of Deputies given on 13 October 1999;

CONSIDERING that the VII Commission of the Senate has not given an opinion;

HAVING REGARD TO the communication to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 17 of the aforementioned Law no. 400 of 1988 (note no. 2020/III/6.99 of 29 October 1999) as evidenced by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, through note of 3 November 1999, protocol no. DAGL 1.1.1.4/31830.4.23.36);

Art. 1- Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulations:

a) Ministry (Ministero) or Minister (Ministro) shall mean the Ministry or the Minister for Universities and Scientific and Technological Research;

b) Decree (decreto) or ministerial decree (decreto ministeriale) shall mean any one or more decrees issued pursuant to and in accordance with paragraph 95 of article 17 of Law no. 127 of 15 May 1997, as amended;

c) General Academic Regulations of the University (regolamenti didattici di ateneo) shall mean the regulations referred to in paragraph 1 of article 11 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990;

d) Degree Programme Regulations (regolamenti didattici dei corsi di studio) shall mean the regulations referred to in paragraph 2 of article 11 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990;

e) Degree courses/programmes (corsi di studio), first degree courses/programmes (corsi di laurea), second degree courses/programmes (corsi di laurea specialistica) and specialisation courses (corsi di specializzazione) shall have the meanings ascribed to them by article 3 hereof;

f) Academic degrees (titoli di studio), first degree (laurea), second degree (laurea specialistica) and specialisation diploma (diploma di specializzazione / specialista) issued at the end of the corresponding degree programmes shall have the meanings ascribed to them by article 3 hereof;

g) Class of degree courses/programmes (classe di appartenenza di corsi di studio) shall mean the degree programmes, irrespective of how they are called, classified together pursuant to article 4 hereof;

h) Discipline groups (settori scientifico-disciplinari) shall mean the groupings of disciplines set out in Ministerial Decree of 23 June 1997, published in Official Journal no. 175 of 29 July 1997, as amended;

i) Discipline area (ambito disciplinare) shall mean a set of discipline groups that are culturally and professionally similar, defined by ministerial decrees;

l) University educational credit (credito formativo universitario) shall mean the learning workload, including individual study, required of a student (equipped with adequate initial preparation) to acquire the knowledge and abilities in the educational activities envisaged by the

degree course;

m) Educational goals (obiettivi formativi) shall mean the body of knowledge and abilities that characterise the cultural and professional profile which the degree course is aimed at conferring;

n) Degree course programme (ordinamento didattico di un corso di studio) shall mean the body of norms that regulate the curricula of the degree course, as specified in article 11;

o) Educational activity (attività formativa) shall mean any activity organised or envisaged by the university for the purposes of ensuring the cultural and professional education of the students, including among other things taught courses, seminars, practical or laboratory exercises, didactic activity in small student groups, tutorials, orientation, internships, projects, theses, individual study and self-taught activities;

p) Curriculum (curriculum) shall mean all the university and extra-university educational activities specified in the Degree Course/ Programme Regulations as being necessary for the purposes of awarding the relative qualification.

Art. 2 - Aims

1. Further to paragraph 95 of article 17 of Law no. 127 of 15 May 1997, as amended, this Regulation sets out the provisions concerning the general criteria for the organisation of university studies and establishes the types of academic qualifications conferred by the universities.
2. For the purposes of realising the curricular autonomy referred to in article 11 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990, the universities may, in accordance with the procedures laid down by law and their own statutes, regulate their degree course programmes in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Regulation and successive ministerial decrees.

Art. 3 - Qualifications and Degree Programmes

1. Universities confer the following first and second cycle qualifications:
 - a) first degree (L)
 - b) second degree (LS).
2. Universities may also confer a specialisation degree (DS) and a research doctorate (DR).
3. The first degree, the second degree, the specialisation degree and the research doctorate are awarded at the end, respectively of first degree, second degree specialisation and research doctorate programmes instituted by the universities.
4. The first degree programme is aimed at guaranteeing the student an adequate command of general scientific methods and contents as well as specific professional skills.
5. The second degree programme is aimed at providing the student with an advanced

- level of education for the exercise of a highly qualified activity in specific areas.
6. The specialisation programme is aimed at providing the student with knowledge and abilities for functions requested in the exercise of particular professional activities and may be instituted exclusively in application of specific laws or European Union directives.
 7. Research doctorate programmes and the award of the relative degree are governed by article 4 of Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998 save as provided for by paragraphs 5 and 6 of article 6 hereof.
 8. The provisions of article 6 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990 in relation to final training and supplementary educational services shall remain unaltered. In particular, by way of implementation of paragraph 15 of article 1 of Law no. 4 of 14 January 1999, the universities may - in accordance with the General Academic Regulations of each institution - after first and second degree programmes organise advanced scientific courses as well as higher continuing education courses, upon the completion of which first and second level masters degrees may be awarded.
 9. Further to agreements in this regard, Italian universities may confer the qualifications referred to in this article also in conjunction with other Italian or foreign universities.

Art. 4 - Classes of Degree Programmes

1. Degree courses of the same level, irrespective of the name given to them by the universities, having the same defining educational goals and consequent indispensable educational activities referred to in paragraph 1 of article 10 hereof are classified together in what are hereinafter referred to as classes.
2. Classes are identified on the basis of one or more ministerial decrees. Once a three year period has passed since the issue of said decrees, modifications to or the establishment of new single classes can be proposed by the universities and, after having heard the opinion of the CUN, decided by decree of the Minister together with associated provisions in the matter of defining educational goals and consequent educational activities.
3. The qualifications awarded at the end of degree courses of the same level belonging to the same class have identical legal value.

Art. 5 - University Educational Credits

1. The university educational credit, hereinafter referred to as a credit, corresponds to 25 hours of work per student. By means of ministerial decree the quoted number of hours for single classes may be increased or decreased within a 20% limit for stated reasons.
2. The average annual learning workload of a full time university student is conventionally fixed at 60 credits.
3. Ministerial decrees may also for each class of degree courses fix the fraction of the overall amount of time to be set aside for personal study or other individual type educational activities. This fraction can not in any case be less than half of the overall time save for cases in which educational activities with a high experimental or practical content are envisaged.
4. The credits corresponding to each educational activity are acquired by means of the student passing an examination or other form of valid test provided that testing is carried out in accordance with the procedures set forth in letter d) of paragraph 7 of article 11 hereof.
5. The partial or full recognition of the credits acquired by individual students for the purposes of continuing their studies in another programme of the same university or

in the same or other programme of another university is up to the educational institution which accepts each student concerned, in accordance with predetermined procedures and criteria laid down in the General Academic Regulations of the University.

6. General Academic Regulations of the University may provide for a form of periodic checks of the credits acquired, in order to evaluate whether the knowledge contents are obsolete or not, and to assess the minimum number of credits to be acquired by the student in predetermined periods, diversified for students engaged full time in university studies or contemporaneously engaged in working activities.
7. In accordance with predetermined criteria, universities may recognise as university educational credits the professional knowledge and abilities certified pursuant to the applicable law in that regard as well as other skills and abilities obtained as a result of post-secondary school level educational activities whose planning and implementation the university contributed to.

Art. 6 - Admission Requirements for Degree Programmes

1. In order to be admitted to a first degree programme it is necessary to hold an upper secondary school diploma (diploma di scuola secondaria superiore), or other academic qualification awarded abroad, recognised as being suitable. Without prejudice to the orientation activity co-ordinated and carried out further to letter g) of paragraph 7 of article 11 hereof, the General Academic Regulations of the University shall require also the possession or acquisition of an adequate initial preparation. In this regard, the said General Regulations shall define the knowledge required for access and shall establish where necessary the means of testing, also upon the conclusion of any preparatory educational activity, carried out possibly in collaboration with upper secondary education institutions. If the outcome of the testing is not positive, additional specific educational tasks to be satisfied during the first year of the course shall be specified. These additional educational tasks shall be assigned also to students of first degree programmes with restricted access where such students have been admitted to such programmes with a grade lower than a predetermined minimum grade.
2. In order to be admitted to a second degree course it is necessary to hold a first degree, or other academic qualification awarded abroad, recognised as being suitable. For second degree programmes in which no provision is made for a restricted number pursuant to the applicable current law on access to university programmes, it is however necessary to be in possession of the curricular prerequisites and to have the adequacy of personal preparation verified by the universities.
3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, ministerial decrees may make provisions for holders of upper secondary school diplomas to be admitted to second degree courses but solely as regards those programmes that are regulated by European Union rules which do not require first level university qualifications for admission; this condition is applied without prejudice to testing the adequate initial preparation referred to in paragraph 1.
4. In order to be admitted to a specialisation programmes it is necessary to hold at least a first degree, or other academic qualification awarded abroad, recognised as being suitable. In compliance with the norms and directives referred to in paragraph 6 of article 3, ministerial decrees shall establish the specific admission requirements for a specialisation programmes, including any additional university educational credits with respect to the academic qualification already held, provided that the limits prescribed by paragraph 3 of article 7 are respected.
5. In order to be admitted to a research doctorate programme it is necessary to hold a

second degree, or other academic qualification awarded abroad, and recognised as being suitable.

6. Recognition of the suitability of academic qualifications awarded abroad solely in the context of admission to degree courses and research doctorate programmes is decided upon by the individual university concerned, in observance of the international agreements in force.

Art. 7 - Awarding of Academic Qualifications

1. To obtain a first degree a student must have acquired 180 credits including those concerning the compulsory knowledge of a language of the European Union other than Italian, without prejudice to some special rules to safeguard linguistic minorities. The knowledge must be tested in accordance with procedures laid down by the General Academic Regulations of the University with reference to the level required for each language.
2. To obtain a second degree a student must have acquired 300 credits including those already acquired by the student and recognised as being valid for the relevant second degree programme.
3. Ministerial decrees shall fix the number of credits that a student must have acquired to obtain a specialisation degree. That number must be between 300 and 360 credits, including those already acquired by the student and recognised as being valid for the relative specialisation programme. The foregoing is without prejudice to the various provisions envisaged by specific laws or European Union directives.
4. To obtain a university master's degree a student must have acquired at least 60 credits over and above those already acquired by the student for the award of the first degree or the second degree.

Art. 8 - Normal Duration of Degree Programmes

1. Each degree programme has a normal duration expressed in years, in proportion to the total number of credits set out in article 7 and taking into consideration that a year corresponds to sixty (60) credits pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 5.
2. The normal duration of first degree courses is three years; the normal duration of second degree programmes is a further two years after the first degree.

Art. 9 - Institution and Introduction of Degree Programmes

1. The procedure for instituting degree programmes is governed by Presidential Decree no. 25 of 27 January 1998.
2. By autonomous resolution universities introduce or cease the degree programmes instituted further to paragraph 1, giving notice thereof to the Ministry. In the case of cessation of degree courses, universities shall in any case guarantee that the students already enrolled in the programmes concerned may conclude their studies and be awarded the corresponding degree; universities shall establish rules governing the right of the students to opt for enrolment in other degree programmes which have been introduced.
3. A university may institute a second degree programme on condition that it has introduced a first degree course comprising a curriculum whose university educational credits are fully recognised towards the second degree programme in question, with the exception of the courses referred to in paragraph 3 of article 6. The first degree programme may be introduced at another university on the basis of an agreement between the universities involved.

4. At the time of instituting a first degree programme, the Degree Programme Regulations shall establish which of the credits acquired will be valid for a future continuation of university studies in other degree programmes set up at the same university or, on the basis of specific agreements, at other universities.

Art. 10 - Educational Goals and Activities qualifying the Classes of Degrees

1. Ministerial decrees shall preliminarily establish the educational goals and the required educational activities qualifying every class of degree programmes, classifying them on the basis of six typologies:
 - a) educational activity in one or more discipline areas relative to basic education;
 - b) educational activity in one or more discipline areas characteristic of the class;
 - c) educational activity in one or more discipline areas which are similar to or supplementary to the characteristic ones, with particular regard to the cultural context and interdisciplinary education;
 - d) educational activity autonomously chosen by the student;
 - e) educational activity related to the preparation of the final examination for the award of the academic degree and, with reference to the first degree, the checking of the knowledge of the foreign language;
 - f) other educational activity, not covered by the foregoing letters a) - e), aimed at acquiring further linguistic knowledge as well as computer, telematic and relational skills or, in any case, skills useful in entering the labour market; educational activities aimed at facilitating professional choices through direct knowledge of the business sector that the academic degree can grant access to, in particular, the internships referred to in Ministry of Labour Decree no. 142 of 25 March 1998;
2. Ministerial decrees also establish for each class the minimum number of credits that the Degree Programme Regulations of individual institutions assign to each educational activity and each discipline area referred to in paragraph 1, complying with the following limits expressed as a percentage of the total credits indispensable to the awarding of the academic degree concerned:
 - a) the total sum of credits reserved may not exceed 66 per cent;
 - b) the sum of the credits reserved for the activities referred to in letters a), b), c) and letters d), e), f) of paragraph 1 may not exceed 50 per cent and 20 per cent respectively;
 - c) the credits reserved, relative to the activities of each of the typologies referred to in letters a), b), c) and d), e), f) of paragraph 1 may not be less than 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

Art. 11 - General Academic Regulations of the University

1. Universities shall regulate their own Degree Programme Regulations in their General Academic Regulations of the University that are drawn up in compliance, for every degree programme, with the provisions of the present Decree and successive ministerial decrees, and that are approved by the Minister pursuant to paragraph 1

of article 11 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990.

2. The General Academic Regulations of the University and any amendments thereto are issued by rectorial decree and are published also in accordance with the procedures laid down by letter b) of paragraph 95 of article 17 of Law no. 127 of 15 May 1997. The entry into force of the programmes is fixed in the relevant rectorial decree.
3. Individual Degree Programme Regulations shall establish:
 - a) the names and the educational goals of the degree programmes, indicating the classes to which the programmes belong;
 - b) the overall framework of the educational activities to be inserted in the curricula;
 - c) the credits assigned to each educational activity, relating them - as regards those envisaged in letters a), b), c) of paragraph 1 of article 10 - to one or more of the discipline groups as a whole;
 - d) the characteristics of the final examination leading to the award of each academic degree.
4. The decisions referred to in letters a) and b) of paragraph 3 are made by universities subject to consultation with representative organisations at local level of the business and professional world.
5. The award of a second degree (Laurea Specialistica) must envisage the presentation of a thesis done in an original manner by the student under the supervision of a supervisor.
6. The General Academic Regulations of the University may envisage more degree programmes belonging to the same class.
7. The General Academic Regulations of individual universities, in compliance with the university Statutes, shall also regulate the organisational aspects of the teaching activities common to more degree programmes, with particular reference to:
 - a) the objectives, the time and the manner in which the competent university structures collegially arrange the planning, co-ordination and testing of the results of the educational activity;
 - b) the procedures for attributing annual teaching tasks to professors and university researchers including supplemental didactic activities, orientation and tutoring;
 - c) the procedures governing the holding of exams and other valid forms of testing as well as the final examination leading to the award of the academic degrees;
 - d) the way in which individual students are assessed; the judgement related to subject exams must be in the form of a grade expressed as a fraction of 30, that concerning the final degree examination must be a grade expressed as a fraction of 110, with the possibility of a mention of distinction (con lode);
 - e) the evaluation of the initial preparation of the students to be admitted to first degree and second degree programmes (Corsi di Laurea, Corsi di Laurea Specialistica);
 - f) the organisation of preparatory educational activities in connection with the evaluation of the initial preparation of the students to be admitted to the 1st degree programmes as well as the arrangements for the additional educational tasks referred to in paragraph 1 of article 6;
 - g) the introduction of a university service to co-ordinate orientation

activities to be carried out in association with upper secondary schools as well as the introduction of a tutoring service for students;

- h) the possible introduction of suitable arrangements organising educational activities for students not engaged in full time study;
- i) procedures for identifying a structure or the person responsible for each activity ;
- l) the evaluation of the quality of the activities carried out;
- m) the way in which the proceedings and decisions made therein shall be publicised;
- n) the procedures for the award of the joint qualifications referred to in paragraph 9 of article 3.

8. The General Academic Regulations of the University shall govern the way in which the universities issue - as a supplement to the academic qualification - a certificate which outlines the specific educational activities done by the student to obtain a certain degree; said certificate has to be in line with the pattern adopted by most European countries.
9. By means of appropriate regulations the universities shall reorganise and regulate the administrative procedures of their students' careers in accordance with the provisions of the present ministerial decree, successive ministerial decrees and the General Academic Regulations of each university. In order to allow for the drawing up of homogeneous statistical evaluations on the careers of university students, through appropriate decrees the Ministry shall establish the essential data which must be contained in computer systems on the careers of students of all the universities.

Art. 12 - Degree Programme Regulations

1. On the basis of paragraph 2 of article 11 of Law no. 341 of 19 November 1990, the Degree Programme Regulations, adopted by the competent university structure in compliance with the General Academic Regulations of the University, in due respect of the teaching freedom as well as of the rights and duties of both teachers and students, shall regulate the organisational aspects of each degree programme. The regulations shall be approved in accordance with the procedures laid down by the General Academic Regulations of the University.
2. The Degree Programme Regulations shall in particular set out:
 - a) the list of all subject courses, indicating the pertinent discipline groups and how individual subjects may be divided into modules, and also specifying any other educational activities involved;
 - b) the specific educational goals, the credits and the prerequisites for every subject course and of any other educational activity;
 - c) the curricula offered to students and the rules for submitting, where necessary, individual study plans;
 - d) the types of teaching modalities, distance learning included, of exams and other forms of testing;
 - e) the provisions concerning compulsory attendance requirements.
3. The provisions of the Degree Programme Regulations that concern consistency between the credits assigned to educational activities and the planned specific educational goals are approved by a resolution adopted by the competent university structures, subject to the favourable opinion of bilateral university commissions or

other analogous student representative body. The opinion must be given within thirty (30) days from request; failure to give the opinion within the prescribed period causes that the resolution is adopted regardless of the opinion itself. Should the opinion given not be favourable, the resolution shall be passed by the university Senate.

4. The universities shall periodically review the Degree Programme Regulations, in particular as regards the number of credits assigned to every tsubject course or other educational activity.

Art. 13 - Transitional and Final Provisions

1. Universities shall adapt the structure of their degree programmes and related curricula to the provisions of the present Decree and the ministerial decree that sets out the classes of the aforesaid degree programmes within eighteen (18) months from the publication of said decree in the Official Journal.
2. With respect to students already enrolled at the date of the entry into force of the new Degree Programme Regulations, universities shall guarantee the completion of the degree programmes and the award of the corresponding academic degrees in conformity to the regulations currently in force; they shall also regulate the right of students to opt for enrollment in degree programmes established in compliance with the new regulations. For the purposes of allowing such an option, universities shall reformulate in terms of credits the existing degree programme regulations as well as the careers of the students already enrolled.
3. Studies undertaken for the purposes of obtaining the 1st university degrees (DU) on the basis of the pre-existing regulations shall be restructured in credits and evaluated by the universities towards the award of the Laurea, i.e. the 1st degree referred to in the paragraph 1 of article 3 hereof. The same rule applies to studies undertaken to obtain degrees from the special schools set up by universities (SDAFS diplomas), regardless of the duration of the corresponding degree programmes.
4. The establishment by a university of the first and the second degree programmes referred to in the paragraph 1 of article 3 hereof (Corsi di Laurea, Corsi di Laurea Specialistica) having the same name as the DU or the Laurea programmes already introduced in the 1996-97 academic year, or instituted pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 2 of Presidential Decree no. 25 of 27 January 1998, constitutes the fulfilment of the objective of the university system plan for the 3-year period 1998-2000 as per letter d) of paragraph 1 of article 1 of the Ministerial Decree of 6 March 1998 published in issue No. 83 of the Official Journal of 9 April 1998, and does not involve any recourse to the procedure referred to in paragraph 1 of article 9 hereof.
5. Further to and in accordance with paragraph 105 of article 17 of Law no. 127 of 15 May 1997 as amended by letter b) of paragraph 15 of article 1 of Law no. 4 of 14 January 1999, the provisions of the previous paragraph 4 hereof also apply to DU or Laurea programmes introduced on an experimental basis in the academic years 1997-98 and 1998-99, provided the favourable opinion of the regional co-ordinating committee has been obtained.
6. Without prejudice to the university schools in which the specialisation programmes referred to in paragraph 6 of article 3 hereof have been introduced, the schools of specialisation currently existing shall be ended by the third academic year following the one in which the present Decree enters into force. The corresponding specialised education will be guaranteed by 2nd degree courses (Corsi di Laurea Specialistica) or research doctorate programmes as well as by programmes of finalized and supplementary education & training referred to in paragraph 8 of article 3 hereof.

The present Decree, bearing the State Seal, shall be inserted among the official collection of

legislative acts of the Italian Republic. It is the duty of all to observe it and ensure that it is observed.

Rome, 3 November 1999

THE MINISTER

Annex C / Useful websites

- **MIUR (Ministry for Education, University and Research)**
www.miur.it
- **CUN (National University Council)**
www.miur.it/cun
- **CNSU (National Council of University Students)**
www.miur.it/cnsu
- **CRUI (Italian University Rectors' Conference)**
www.cruir.it
- **CNVSU (National Committee for the Assessment of the University System)**
www.cnsvu.it
- **MAE (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)**
www.esteri.it
- **CIMEA (National Academic Recognition Information Centre)**
www.cimea.it
- **Eurydice (Information network on education in Europe)**
www.eurydice.org
- **Description of the Italian education system available at the page**
www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset_asp?country=IT&language=EN
- **Italian Presidency of the European Union**
<http://buongiornoeuropa.istruzione.it>
- **Database on offerings at Italian Universities**
<http://offertaformativa.miur.it/corsi>
- **Database on Afam institutions (higher, specialized education in the Arts and Music)**
www.miur.it/0004Alta_F/0027Istitu/index_cf4.htm
- **Italian language for foreigners**

www.miur.it/0002Univer/0023Studen/0059Studen/0370Impara/index_cf2.htm