



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Direzione Generale per gli Italiani all'Estero
e le Politiche Migratorie

LONG-TERM VISA (D)

(over 90 days)

INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

"Rights and duties of foreign nationals for long-term entries and stays in Italy"

For holders of visas issued by Italy for: **Adoption; Medical care; Self-employment; Salaried-Employment; Salaried-Employment/sport activities; Salaried-Employment/entertainment field (artists); Salaried-Employment/maritime; Mission; Family reasons; Religious reasons; Elective Residence; Research; Re-entry; Study; Study/University; Study-Apprenticeship; Study-Vocational Training; Working Holiday; Voluntary work.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

In accordance with the Italian law on the communication to, and entry and stays of, foreign nationals in Italy, pursuant to Art. 26 and 9, Art 4 and 5 of Legislative Decree of 25 July 1998, n. 286 (consolidated act of the regulations concerning immigration and the laws on the condition of foreign nationals), in accordance with art. 5, comma 8-bis of the Decree of the President of the Republic n. 394 of 199 and, with regard to entry and circulation within the Schengen area, in accordance with art. 47, comma 1 letter i) of EC Regulation N. 810/2009 (Visa Code), the following is communicated:

A long-term entry visa (or long stay) is an authorisation issued for an intended stay in the territory of the State for a duration which exceeds 90 days. All non-EU citizens who intend to stay for whatever reason in any state which is a member of the European Union must be in possession of a Long Stay Entry Visa, which can have a duration of 91 to 365 days. Possession of a Long stay visa foresees and entails the following:

- **VN "National Visa" (type D)**, this is a long-term visa (or long stay) which is issued by one of the Member States in accordance with its own internal legislation or that of the European Union. It is valid for a stay of more than 90 days in the territory of the Country which issued it.
- The Police Authorities are entitled to refuse entry to any foreign national into the territory of their State, also if that foreign national is in possession of a valid visa, in the case that the foreign national in question does not meet the entry conditions and requirements for entry into that State, as stated in Art 4 of Regulation (EC) no. 562/2006 (Schengen Borders Code) concerning the border crossings, which is the remit of the relevant police Authorities.
- With the exception of entry for stays referring to fully paid and remunerated activities or of entries that refer to an independent discipline of reference pertaining to the economic means required, the directive of the Ministry of the Interior of 01.03.2000 sets forth the criteria for the definition of the economic means required for entry into Italian territory and subsistence there, and for the issuing of the visa. The table is available for your reference in the Embassy/Consulate, or can be consulted at the following link <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/226/>.
- **Regulation EU 265/2010** extends the principle of the equivalence between a residence permit and a visa for short-term stays issued by the Member States that fully implement the ***Schengen Acquis***¹. The national visa for a long term duration therefore has the same validity as the residence permit with regard to the free circulation of the visa holder within the Schengen area, and so, the holder of a national long stay visa issued by a Member State is allowed to circulate and reside in other Member States for 90 days out of every 180 days during the validity of the visa, under the same conditions as the holder of a residence permit, provided that the conditions of entry (Schengen Borders Code) are met.
- The foreign national, although in possession of a long-term visa (Long stay VN type D) if he or she exercises his or her right of free circulation within other member states for 90 days of every 180 days, during the validity of his or her visa, or

¹ Countries which apply the Schengen Acquis in its entirety : Italy, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Hungary.

residence permit, in application of the principle referred to in EU [regulation 265/2010](#), that foreign national is still required to refer to the authorities of the other Member State in which he or she stays, for information on the procedures to be followed regarding the declaration of his or her own presence and in respect of the rules relating to a short-term stay in the territory of that State.

- On the official website of the [European Union](#), you may furthermore refer to the European legislation, in different languages, on entry into the Schengen territory and freedom of circulation for short stays, including Regulation EC562/2006 ([Schengen Borders Code](#))
- On the websites of the [Ministry of the Interior](#), the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation](#), the [State Police](#), the [Immigration Portal](#) and the [Italian Postal Services](#), you may obtain more detailed information relating to the rules, procedures and disciplines on immigration, concerning entry visas and residence permits.
- Any further information not provided within this notice or at the above-mentioned websites, may be requested, directly, when you have entered the national territory, or by referring directly to the [Ministry of the Interior](#) or to the relevant [Police Headquarters](#) competent for matters of immigration and residency.
- In accordance with Italian legislation, an expulsion order can be issued to any foreign national who has entered the territory of the State by avoiding border controls, or has stayed in the territory of the State in the absence of an official communication, or without requesting permission to stay within the determined period (unless this delay is due to unforeseen circumstances), or if the residence permit was revoked, annulled or refused, or if it was allowed to expire for more than 60 days and a renewal was not requested.
- Within eight working days of entry into Italy, the foreign national must fulfil the obligations of the laws on residence in the territory of the State by submitting a request for a Residence Permit relevant to the purpose of the visa, in the following ways:

TYPE OF VISA

1) **Adoption, Self-employment, Salaried employment/Sports activities, Salaried employment/Entertainment field (artists), Salaried employment/maritime, Mission, Religious reasons, Elective residence, Study (all types), Study- Apprenticeship, Study-Vocational Training.**

For stays made for these purposes, by virtue of the convention stipulated between the Ministry of the Interior and the Italian Postal Services SPA, all requests for residence permits must be submitted by the person concerned by sending the request for the permit to the authorised Post Offices ([Sportello Amico](#)), using the relevant kit available in those post offices. [Authorised institutions and Municipalities](#) (see “Ricerca Strutture”) will provide, **free of charge** and within their institutional remit, information, consultancy and assistance to the foreign national on how to correctly complete the requests to be sent. When the form is sent, the Post Office will issue a receipt bearing two personal identification codes (userid and password) which can be used by the person concerned to follow the state of the application by logging on to the [Immigration Portal](#). The Post Office will also provide the person concerned with an appointment date at which time photo-dactyloscopic records will be obtained. The Police Headquarters will subsequently inform the person concerned when the residence permit will be provided.

2) **Salaried Employment, Research and Family reasons**

For stays for the purposes of **employment** (articles 22, 24, 27 or 27 quater of [Legislative Decree of 25 July 1998, n. 286](#)), **Scientific research** (article 27 ter of Legislative Decree of 25 July 1998, n. 286) or **Family reasons**, the foreign national must first of all attend the “Sportello Unico” for Immigration (S.U.I) of the Prefecture which is territorially competent and which issued the initial authorisation/nulla osta for the issue of the visa, to fill out and sign the required documentation and to collect the residence permit request form. This must then be sent personally to the authorised Post Offices ([Sportello Amico](#)), using the relevant kit available in those post offices. [Authorised institutions and Municipalities](#) (see “Ricerca Strutture”) will provide, free of charge and within their institutional remit, information, consultancy and assistance to the foreign national on how to correctly complete the requests to be sent. When the form is sent, the Post Office will issue a receipt bearing two personal identification codes (userid and password) which can be used by the person concerned to follow the state of the application by logging on to the [Immigration Portal](#). The Post Office will also provide the person concerned with an appointment date at which time photo-dactyloscopic records will be obtained. The Police Headquarters will subsequently inform the person concerned when the residence permit will be provided.

Note: for further information on the European legislation and on the specific rights and benefits deriving from the stay see “Carta blu UE/Blue Card”, link: [European Blue Card](#) and [Polizia di Stato](#).

Note: for entries due to Research, which refers to a particular category of persons who are particularly qualified, the foreign researcher usually receives further assistance directly from the Italian research institution or university where the research

activity will be carried out. Often a dedicated relations and reception service is provided in these institutions to assist in expediting the administrative paperwork required for the stay. Once in Italy, the foreign researcher is invited to make contact with the host institution/university to see if this service is available there.

3) **Family reasons (family members of an EU citizen)**

If you are a family member of an Italian citizen or a citizen of the Union and request a **“Residence permit as a family member of a citizen of the European Union”**, you can choose to submit your request directly to the [Police Headquarter](#) which is territorially competent for the place of residence of the family member who is an Italian citizen or a citizen of the Union. Alternatively, the request for the residence permit may be submitted through an authorised Post Office ([Sportello Amico](#)) by using the relevant kit available in those post offices. [Authorised institutions and Municipalities](#) (see “Ricerca Struttura”) will provide, **free of charge** and within their institutional remit, information, consultancy and assistance to the foreign national on how to correctly complete the requests to be sent. When the form is sent, the Post Office will issue a receipt bearing two personal identification codes (userid and password) which can be used by the person concerned to follow the state of the application by logging on to the [Immigration Portal](#). The Post Office will also provide the person concerned with an appointment date at which time photodactyloscopic records will be obtained. The Police Headquarters will subsequently inform the person concerned when the residence permit will be provided.

Note:

(1) Italy has adopted and applied the [EU Directive 38/2004/CE](#) on the free circulation of European citizens and their family members (as defined in the Directive itself) within the European Union.

(2) With regard to the procedures for the stay of citizens of one of the Member States of the Union and their non-EU family members, Italy applies the procedures foreseen by its national legislation: [Legislative Decree n. 30/2007](#). Non-EU family members (as defined in article 2, comma 1, letter b of the [Legislative Decree n. 30/2007](#)) of a citizen of the European Union, after three months from the entry into Italian territory, must request a “Residence permit as a family member of a citizen of the European Union”. Furthermore, these same non-EU family members are also required to request registration in the Municipality of residence of their family member who is a citizen of a Member State of the European Union.

(3) For entry into Italy and in order to cross a Schengen border, the family member of a citizen of a Member State of the Union, please [see the note concerning tourism visas](#) on the website [\(VisaforItaly\)](#) and the relevant link to the obligations of the foreign national for short-term entries.

4) **Working Holiday**

For stays made for these purposes, the request for a “Residence permit” must be submitted directly to the immigration office of the [Police Headquarter](#) which is territorially competent for the residence/domicile. In the case where the foreign national has arrived in Italy with a visa for a working holiday, and since this category of visa is issued within the framework of a specific international bilateral agreement between Italy and the Country of origin of the foreign national, there may be facilitated prerequisites and conditions, also in terms of the economic means requested for the stay, insurance cover or the specific procedures for the work activity carried out on Italian territory. The foreign national is therefore invited to consult the data bank of the specific [current agreement](#).

5) **Voluntary work (national quotas)**

For entries due to **Voluntary work**, authorised with a nulla osta issued in accordance with art. 27bis of [Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, n. 286](#), for the issue of a residence permit the foreign national must first of all attend the “Sportello Unico” for Immigration (S.U.I.) in the Prefecture which is territorially competent and which issued the initial authorisation/nulla osta for the issue of the visa, in order to fill out and sign the required documentation and to collect the residence permit request form. This must then be sent personally to the authorised Post Offices ([Sportello Amico](#)), using the relevant kit available in those post offices. [Authorised institutions and Municipalities](#) (see “Ricerca Struttura”) will provide, **free of charge** and within their institutional remit, information, consultancy and assistance to the foreign national on how to correctly complete the requests to be sent. When the form is sent, the Post Office will issue a receipt bearing two personal identification codes (userid and password) which can be used by the person concerned to follow the state of the application by logging on to the [Immigration Portal](#). The Post Office will also provide the person concerned with an appointment date at which time photo-dactyloscopic records will be obtained. The Police Headquarters will subsequently inform the person concerned when the residence permit will be provided.

Note: *This type of entry refers to persons who have previously obtained a specific nulla osta for entry due to voluntary work issued by the “Sportello Unico” for Immigration (S.U.I.) and these entries are ascribed to a national quota. Since the coming into force of the specific legislation: art. 27bis of [Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, n. 286](#), up until 2015 it appears that no authorisations for national quotas have been issued to volunteers and therefore at the moment for this type of entry neither authorisations/nulla osta nor entry visas are being issued. The visa for voluntary work is, however, issued also for specific*

European programmes attributable to the [European Voluntary Service](#) and not to national quotas. If you are therefore the holder of a visa for voluntary work issued for entries due to European programmes, you should visit the relevant section on the obligations of foreign national referred to at the section “Voluntary Work (European Voluntary Service)”.

6) Voluntary Work (European Voluntary Service).

For entries due to voluntary work, authorised by the [National Youth Agency](#) in application of the EU programme “[Youth in Action – European Volunteer Service](#)”. By virtue of the convention stipulated between the Ministry of the Interior and the Italian Postal Services, all requests for residence permits for this type of entry must be submitted by the person concerned by sending the request for the permit to the authorised Post Offices ([Sportello Amico](#)), using the relevant kit available in those post offices. [Authorised institutions and Municipalities](#) (see “Ricerca Strutture”) will provide, **free of charge** and within their institutional remit, information, consultancy and assistance to the foreign national on how to correctly complete the requests to be sent. When the form is sent, the Post Office will issue a receipt bearing two personal identification codes (userid and password) which can be used by the person concerned to follow the state of the application by logging on to the [Immigration Portal](#). The Post Office will also provide the person concerned with an appointment date at which time photodactyloscopic records will be obtained. The Police Headquarters will subsequently inform the person concerned when the residence permit will be provided.

Note: the procedures for the request for the type of stay listed above concern entries for voluntary work on the part of non EU citizens who are inserted in the European programmes for voluntary work, authorised by the NYA ([National Youth Agency](#)) and refer to those participating in the EU Programme “[Youth in Action – European Volunteer Service](#)”. If, on the other hand, you are in possession of a visa for voluntary work issued for entries on the national quotas, in accordance with [art. 27bis of Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, n. 286](#), you should therefore visit the relevant sections on the obligations of foreign nationals referred to at the section on this page “Voluntary Work (national quotas)”.

7) Re-entry

The re-entry visa is an atypical visa and is issued under certain conditions to the foreign national who are already in possession of a residence permit but who does not have it temporarily. The foreign national in possession of a re-entry visa, must within 8 days of his entry into Italy, refer directly to the Immigration Office of the [Police Headquarters](#) which is territorially competent for the place where that national resides.

Another form of “re-entry” into Italian territory is furthermore permitted, without the requirement of a re-entry visa in foreseen cases and under certain conditions, to a foreign national who has previously entered Italy with another visa and who has fulfilled the procedures for the request of a residence permit but who is waiting its issue. The foreign national, who is in possession of the receipt from the Italian Postal Services together with the visa for the first entry, is permitted to return to the country of origin and then back again to Italy in foreseen cases and given the existence of certain conditions. For further information on this type of re-entry see the following web site <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/213-In attesa del permesso di soggiorno/>

ADVISORY NOTE

- 8) **Registration of personal details.** All foreign nationals not belonging to the European Union, in possession of a valid residence permit, are obliged to request registration in the Municipality where they intend to establish their residence (Legislative Decree 286/98 art. 6 comma 7 and Decree of the President of the Republic 394/99 art. 15).
- 9) **Integration Agreement.** From 10 March 2012 the Integration Agreement has come into force for foreign nationals who request a residence permit for a period of not less than a year. This new instrument is aimed at establishing a real path to integration through the knowledge of the Italian language and fundamental civic principles. The Agreement aims to stipulate a pact, with a reciprocal commitment, to provide instruments for language, culture and the general principles of the Italian Constitution on the part of the State and, on the part of the foreign national an undertaking to respect the rules of civil society in order to pursue, in the interests of both, an orderly route to integration based on the principle of credits. The Integration Agreement is addressed to foreign nationals over the age of 16 and who enter Italy for the first time for a **long stay** and is stipulated at the “Sportello Unico” for Immigration in the Prefecture or the Police Headquarters at the same time as the request for a residence permit of the duration of not less than a year.
- 10) **Health Insurance.** In accordance with art. 34 of the Consolidated Act n. 286/98, the foreign national is obliged to register with the National Health Service (S.S.N.) if the stay is due to Adoption, Employment, Self-Employment and Family Reasons. For other reasons, the foreign national may instead ensure him or herself against illnesses, accidents or for maternity by taking out a specific Insurance Policy or through a voluntary registration with the National Health Service which is also valid for the dependent family members. Voluntary registration with the National Health Service in favour of dependent family members of a foreign national residing for reasons of study or au pair placement is not valid. In this regard, the relevant legislation on health insurance for foreign nationals in Italy is applied, on the basis of international bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements of reciprocity signed by Italy.

USEFUL LINKS (extended addresses of web links quoted in the texts of the document):

- ✓ Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, n. 286 (Testo Unico Immigrazione) = <http://www.normattiva.it/ricerca/semplice>
- ✓ DPR 394 del 1999 = <http://www.normattiva.it/ricerca/semplice>
- ✓ EC Regulation N. 810/2009 (Visa Code) = <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=URISERV:jl0028>
- ✓ Regulation (EC) no. 562/2006 (Schengen Borders Code)= <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=uriserv:l14514>
- ✓ Regulation EU 265/2010 = <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=celex:32010R0265>
- ✓ Ministry of the Interior of 01.03.2000 (table of economic means)
 - http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/servizi/stranieri/ingressosoggiornoinitalia/mezzi_finanziari/tabella_mezzi_sussistenza.html
 - <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/226/>
- ✓ Ministry of Foreign Affairs= <http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/ministero/servizi/stranieri/ingressosoggiornoinitalia/>
- ✓ Ministry of the Interior = <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/immigrazione-e-asilo/modalita-dingresso>
- ✓ Ministry of the Interior= http://www.interno.gov.it/it/contatti/uffici-centrali-e-periferici?f%5b0%5d=field_organization%3A62
- ✓ Police Headquarters competent for matters of immigration and residency = <http://questure.poliziadistato.it/>
- ✓ The State Police = <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/1076/>
- ✓ Immigration Portal = <http://www.portaleimmigrazione.it/>
- ✓ *International Agreements "Work-Holiday" (database)*
 - http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/20101203_accordiinternazionali.html
- ✓ Italian Postal Services = <http://www.poste.it/altri-servizi/servizi-cittadino/guida-permesso-soggiorno.shtml>
- ✓ Italian Postal Services – authorised Post Offices (Sportello Amico)= <http://www.poste.it/ufficio-postale/sportello-amico.shtml>
- ✓ Authorised institutions and Municipalities = <http://www.portaleimmigrazione.it/> (see "Ricerca strutture")
- ✓ Carta blu UE/European Blue Card
 - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=uriserv:l14573>
 - <http://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/view/36666/>
- ✓ *EU Directive 38/2004/CE* = <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3Al33152>
- ✓ Youth in Action – European Volunteer Service / National Youth Agency <http://www.eurodesk.it/> <http://www.agenziagiovani.it>

USEFUL NUMBERS	
National emergency numbers in Italy	
112 Carabinieri: emergency number	113 Polizia di stato (Police): emergency number
117 Guardia di Finanza (Fiscal and Customs Police): emergency number	115 Fire Brigade: emergency number
118 Health emergency / First aid	1530 Coast Guard
1515 Environmental emergency / Fire prevention services – State Forestry Corps	0637518261-2 Telefono Rosa (Pink helpline), for the prevention of violence against women
114 Child emergency helpline. Service managed by Telefono Azzurro (Sky blue helpline - only from a landline telephone number)	1 96 96 Telefono Azzurro (Sky blue helpline – free child helpline)
800 025 777 Telefono Arcobaleno (Rainbow helpline – for the prevention of any form of child abuse)	1522 Prevention of violence against women
1500 Emergencies for public health	06 36225 Unità di Crisi del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Crisis Management Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)
Useful numbers in Italy	
1518 CIS: For information on Italian roads and motorways (real time information on traffic and road conditions)	803116 Roadside assistance
170 National and international calls through an operator	803160 Poste italiane (Italian Postal Service) – information
892021 Ferrovie dello Stato – Trenitalia (Italian State Railways)	800.137.079 Abandoned pets