

GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad

Italy



Curriculum Guidelines



greenheart
travel



OVERVIEW OF THE ITALIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

There are different kinds of high schools in Italy; each specializes in a particular field of study. First there are the “licei”: *Liceo scientifico* (scientific high school), *Liceo classico* (classic high school), *Liceo Linguistico* (language high school), *Liceo artistico* (artistic high school), and there are also the “istituti”: they prepare students for elementary school teaching as well as technical, commercial, and industrial careers.

The classical, scientific, linguistic and technical schools have five-year programs. The two first years are called “biennio”; they are obligatory and consist of general studies. The three last years “triennio”, are optional and consist of specialized, focused education. The artistic schools last for four years and the vocational schools last for three to five years. At the end of the programs, they have the state exam “l’esame di Stato” that is necessary to apply for any university.

Exchange students will be placed either in a public high school or in a private high school. Students who go on an exchange program to Italy come back with a thorough understanding of Italian culture and a level of fluency in the language that is impossible to obtain in the classroom at their home high school.



The school year runs from mid-September to mid-June and it is divided into two semesters: September to February and February to June. There are several vacation periods: Christmas break starts in the end of December and lasts around two weeks, there is a 5 day break in February for the *Carnevale*, and finally there is the Easter break of about a week in March or April.

Subjects in Italy

Classes are taught in a different way in Italy. The students work in groups or on their own to learn; the teachers act more like supervisors, so the students are expected to show motivation and initiative.

Exchange students will generally be placed in 3rd or 4th year.

The subjects the students can choose actually depend on the school chosen. Religious Education is optional and Physical Education has usually few class periods during the week. Subjects in Scientific and Technical Schools are Mathematics, Algebra and Geometry, Science, Biology, Chemistry. Few hours are dedicated to linguistic and classical subjects such as Italian and Foreign Languages, History, Grammar, Art, and Geography. Subjects in Linguistic and Classical Schools: Latin, Greek, Italian Literature, History, Geography, Modern Languages. Artistic Schools are more focused on Art, Drawing and Art History.

Schedule

The school week in Italy is long; it goes from Monday to Saturday. The average school day depends on the school. Usually students go to school from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm with a 15 minutes break in the morning and they have lunch after school. In some schools, classes run from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with a break around 1:00 pm.

Exams and Results

U.S. / Italy High School Grading Scale:

USA	BRAZIL	RESULT
A	10-9	Excellent, Very Good
B	8-7	Good, Amply Sufficient
C	6-5	Sufficient, Almost Sufficient
D	4-3	Insufficient, Low
F	2-1	Bad, Failing

Transcripts

You will be able to get a transcript for this program, but the student is in charge of talking to the local school about the transcript before leaving the program. Exchange students will receive a certificate that proves they participated in the exchange program. If they want a formal transcript, they need to ask for it themselves. The approval of the transcript will be at the discretion of the school and will be based on the student's grades, efforts, and participation in the exchange program.

Extracurricular Activities

Italian high schools provide some extracurricular activities like sports, excursions, and school trips. Students will be able to join after-school clubs and other programs in their respective communities upon arrival. They can research these once they get to know their host family, make friends, and become familiar with their community.

What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.