

Transnational Education in Italy

(i) Italy as a TNE importer

The main typologies of imported TNE in Italy are: branch campuses, filiations, off-shore institutions, multinational corporate universities, distance learning and virtual universities:

1. Branch campuses

A campus established in Italy by a foreign higher education institution.

It offers its own educational programmes/qualifications, irrespective of the students' provenience.

Examples of branch campuses in Italy are:

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY (USA) - The Bologna Center, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna (<http://www.jhubc.it>)

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY (USA), Rome Campus (<http://new.stjohns.edu>)

2. Filiations

A peculiarity of Italy, mainly due to her unique cultural, artistic and architectural heritage, is to attract foreign students, at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level, wishing to deepen their knowledge in Italian art, architecture, design and culture *lato sensu*.

The following list consists mainly of filiations of U.S. institutions which offer various programmes lasting from a few weeks to a full academic year. They generally grant credits to be transferred to the respective home institutions; usually, they do not award diplomas or degrees.

There are three different types of filiations: institutions open to students enrolled at any foreign universities, institutions open exclusively to students enrolled at the home universities, institutions resulting from multilateral agreements amongst US universities:

Institutions open to students enrolled in any foreign universities

Examples of such institutions are:

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FLORENCE PROGRAM (USA)

<http://www.international.fsu.edu>

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.villalebalze.org>

HARDING UNIVERSITY, FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.harding.edu/international/huf.html>

RICHMOND, THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN LONDON - FLORENCE PROGRAM & ROME PROGRAM (USA)

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-programs/richmond-study-centers-in-italy.aspx>

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY JUNIOR YEAR IN ITALY, FLORENCE (USA)

http://studyabroad.rutgers.edu/program_it_florence_yr.html

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE ROME PROGRAM (USA)

<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~modlangs/rome.html>

SMITH COLLEGE, FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.smith.edu/studyabroad/jya/florence.html>

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE SEMESTER IN ITALY, FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.syr.fi.it>

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES (USA)

<http://www.itatti.it>

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA STUDIES ABROAD PROGRAM AT CORTONA (USA)

<http://www.uga.edu/aboutUGA/learn-cortonascience.html>

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS BERNARDI CAMPUS (USA)

<http://www.stthomas.edu/rome>

Institutions open exclusively to students enrolled in the home university

Examples of such institutions are:

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN FLORENCE (USA)

www.calstate.edu

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (USA)

<http://www.cua.edu>

CORNELL UNIVERSITY (USA)

<http://www.aap.cornell.edu/rome>

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, ROME (USA)

<http://www.dartmouth.edu>

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, ROME (USA)

<http://www.design.iastate.edu/ROME>

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY – FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.dept.kent.edu/oia>

MONASH UNIVERSITY IN PRATO (Australia)

<http://www.ita.monash.edu>

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE (USA)

<http://www.nyu.edu/global/florence>

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (USA)

<http://www.risd.edu/risdabroad.cfm>

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, ROME PROGRAM (USA)

<http://www.arkrome.it>

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ROME CENTER (USA)

<http://depts.washington.edu/roma>

Institutions resulting from multilateral agreements amongst US universities

Examples of such institutions are:

THE SACI, Bowling Green State University Studio Arts Centers International, Florence (USA)

<http://www.saci-florence.org>

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, FLORENCE - University of Michigan - University of Wisconsin - Duke University (USA)

<http://www.umich.edu>; <http://www.wisc.edu>; <http://www.duke.edu>

3. Off-shore institutions

They are autonomous institutions established in Italy but belonging, in terms of their organisation and contents, to the educational systems of other countries; some are accredited by regional or national accrediting commissions in the U.S.; some may have articulation agreements with other educational institutions in the country to which they belong.

Examples of such institutions are:

THE AUR, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME

<http://www.aur.edu>
THE JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY
<http://www.johncabot.edu>

4. Multinational corporate universities

These institutions are usually parts of big transnational corporations and organise their own higher education study programmes offering qualifications which do not belong to any national system.

Examples of such institutions are:

THE STUNIVERSITY IN CATANIA, being the corporation the French-Italian company STMicroelectronics

<http://www.st.com/stonline/company/stu/staff.htm>

ENI CORPORATE UNIVERSITY

<http://www.enicorporateuniversity.it>

5. Distance learning and virtual universities

Institutions where the learner, who self-administers the learning process at home, is provided with course materials via post or web-based solutions.

An example of such institutions is:

The OPEN UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, with a virtual branch in Milan

<http://www.open.ac.uk>

(ii) Italy as a TNE exporter

The main typologies of exported Italian TNE are: branch campuses, and online universities.

1. Branch campuses

The UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA has a branch campus operation in Argentina, regulated by a bilateral agreement.

www.unibo.it/Portale/Struttura+organizzativa/Buenos+Aires/default.htm

The UNIVERSITY OF BARI offers postgraduate programmes in Argentina on the basis of a bilateral agreement.

www.uniba.it

2. Online universities

Italy established a new category of higher education institutions, that is online universities (*università telematiche*).

The *università telematiche* are:

UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA GUGLIELMO MARCONI

Web: www.unimarconi.it

Established in: 2004 (Ministerial Decree of 1 March 2004)

UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA INTERNAZIONALE «UNINETTUNO»

Web: www.uninettunouniversity.net

Established in: 2005 (Ministerial Decree of 15 April 2005)

UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA LEONARDO DA VINCI

Web: www.unidav.it
Established in: 2004 (Ministerial Decree of 27 October 2004)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA TEL.M.A
Web: www.unitelma.it
Established in: 2004 (Ministerial Decree of 7 May 2004)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA «ITALIAN UNIVERSITY LINE» (IUL)
Web: www.iuline.it
Established in: 2005 (Decree of 2 December 2005)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA «E-CAMPUS»
Web: www.uniecampus.it
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 30 January 2006)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA «GIUSTINO FORTUNATO»
Web: www.unifortunato.eu
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 13 April 2006)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA PEGASO
Web: www.unipegaso.it
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 20 April 2006)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA INTERNAZIONALE - UNITEL
Web: www.uni-tel.it
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 8 May 2006)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA «UNIVERSITAS MERCATORUM»
Web: www.unimercatorum.it
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 10 May 2006)
UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA DELLE SCIENZE UMANE - UNISU
Web: www.unisu.it
Established in: 2006 (Ministerial Decree of 10 May 2006)

(iii) International institutions operating in Italy

Italy hosts a number of institutions offering "international" programmes/qualifications which do not belong to any specific educational system:

- they may have been established in Italy on the basis of an agreement between Italian competent authorities and the supporting governmental international organisation/s;
- they may have been established in Italy on the basis of a governmental agreement between Italy and other countries;
- they may have branch campuses in several countries.

Examples of such institutions are:

EUI, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE IN FLORENCE

<http://www.iue.it>

VIU, VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

<http://www.univiu.org>

ICGEB, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN TRIESTE

<http://www.icgeb.trieste.it>

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE IN RAVELLO

<http://www.cuebc.amalficoast.it>

CISM, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MECHANICAL SCIENCES IN UDINE

<http://www.cism.it>

ICPT, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

<http://www.ictp.trieste.it>

ICCROM, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

<http://www.iccrom.org>

ROSTE, UNESCO REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SCIENCE IN EUROPE IN VENICE

<http://www.unesco.org/venice>

EAEME, EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION,

<http://web.jrc.cec.eu.int/asso-eaeme>

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC STUDIES or “Centre international de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes” (CHIEAM)

<http://www.iamb.it>

(iv) Italian regulations on TNE

Here below the Italian legislation is recorded that deals with TNE matters in relation to Italy. Legal provisions are listed in chronological order.

Exemption from fiscal duties

LAW 7 April 1989 No. 154, art. 34, paragraph 8-bis

Foreign universities are exempted from the payment of VAT with reference to their educational transactions.

Authorisation of foreign educational and cultural institutions

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 389 of 18 April 1994

The decree simplifies the proceedings for the authorisation of institutions of the above mentioned categories. Two different procedures are defined concerning respectively the authorisation of institutions from EU member states and those from non-EU countries. The decree provides for the regular supervision of the institutions by the competent Italian State authorities (Ministry of Education, University and Research & Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities).

Authorisation of foreign university filiations in Italy

LAW 14 January 1999 No. 4, art. 2, paragraph 3 (ANNEX I)

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE of 23 May 2000

Filiations of foreign universities may be authorised on condition that their programmes are offered only to students enrolled in the respective home institutions. Once authorised by the Minister of Education, University and Research, the filiations are exempted from VAT payment (ANNEX II).

Accreditation of foreign TNE institutions in Italy

LAW 11 July 2002 No. 148 (ratification of the Lisbon Convention)

Under art. 4 of the quoted law it is stated that specific regulations must be issued providing for the accreditation of TNE institutions located in Italy.

DECREE 26 April 2004 No. 214 (ANNEX III)

“Regulations regarding recognition criteria and procedures for qualifications issued by foreign higher education institutions operating in Italy” - implementation of art. 4 of LAW 11 July 2002 No. 148: in conformity with what stated under Art. VI.5 of the Lisbon Convention and with the Code of Good Practice in the Provision of TNE, the Ministerial Decree 214/2004 regulates the accreditation of TNE HEIs based on the Italian territory, and the recognition of their qualifications.

ANNEX I

LAW 14 January 1999, n. 4

(provisions on the university sector, scientific research, and school services)

Art. 2 Branches in Italy of foreign universities and higher education institutions

1. The following provisions apply to the branches located in Italy of those foreign universities or higher education institutions whose main premises are based in their respective countries and that have been attributed the status as non-profit bodies by the legal systems of their own states. The following provisions are applicable on condition that:

a) said branches have as purpose of their activity in Italy the study of subjects belonging to degree programmes or research projects of the respective mother universities or h.ed. institutions;

b) their subjects are taught only to students who are enrolled at the respective mother universities or h. e. institutions.

2. Such branches as described under paragraph 1, before starting to operate in Italy have to transmit to the Italian Ministry for Universities and Scientific and Technological Research (MURST), the Home Office and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs copy of the following papers: official document testifying their mother institutions' decision to establish a branch in Italy, Statute, any other document giving adequate evidence of their meeting the conditions as per paragraph 1 above; all papers must be legalized by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular office in the foreign countries concerned.

3. The operating of branch is authorized by a decree of MURST. The authorization is however considered as awarded after 90 have days passed from the reception of the institution communication as per paragraph 2.

4. The authorization brings about the applications of those exemptions as provided for by Law No. 154 of 27 April 1989.

5. As concerns their teaching activities, the universities and h.e. institutions mentioned under paragraph 1 may subscribe contracts of a private nature according to the same teaching contract provisions as in force at Italian state universities as well as according to Art. 2222 of the Italian civil code.

ANNEX II

Here below are listed all affiliations of foreign higher education institutions are listed which have been authorised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research in conformity to art. 2 of Law 4/1999.

Arcadia University (USA)
Auburn University (USA)
Barbieri Center - Trinity College (USA)
Brown University (USA)
California State University (USA)
Cornell University (USA)
Dartmouth College (USA)
DePaul University (USA)
Duke University (USA)
Duquesne University (USA)
Fairfield University (USA)
Florida State University (USA)
Georgetown University (USA)
Gonzaga University (USA)
Gordon College (USA)
Graduate Research Center on Europe - American University (USA)
Harding University (USA)
Harvard University (USA)
Iowa State University (USA)
James Madison University (USA)
Johns Hopkins University (USA)
Kent State University (USA)
Link Campus (Malta)
Middlebury College (USA)
Monash University (Australia)
New York University (USA)
Ontario College of Art and Design (Canada)
Pennsylvania State University (USA)
Pitzer College (USA)
Rhode Island School of Design (USA)
Richmond University - sede di Roma (USA)
Richmond University - sede di Firenze (USA)
Rutgers University (USA)
Saint Mary's College (USA)
Smith College (USA)
St. John's University (USA)
Stanford University (USA)
Studio Art Centers International - Bowling Green State University (USA)
Syracuse University (USA)
Temple University (USA)
The Catholic University of America (USA)
The OHIO State University (USA)
The Vergilian Society (USA)
Tulane University (USA)
University of Arkansas (USA)

University of Arizona (USA)
University of California (USA)
University of Connecticut (USA)
University of Dallas (USA)
University of Georgia (USA)
Univ.of Michigan Univ.of Wisconsin Duck Univ. (USA)
University of Oregon (USA)
University of St. Thomas (USA)
University of Washington (USA)
USAC (USA)
Ester College Consortium - Vassar, Wellesley, Wesleyan (USA)

ANNEX III

DECREE 26 April 2004 No. 214

Regulations regarding recognition criteria and procedures for qualifications issued by foreign higher education institutions operating in Italy

(Implementation of Article 4 of Law 11 July 2002, No. 148)

Official Gazette No. 192 of 17/08/2004

The Minister for Education, Universities and Research has adopted the following regulations:

Article 1 – Subject

1. The regulation defines the recognition criteria and procedures for qualifications awarded by foreign higher education institutions operating in Italy under Article VI.5 of the Convention.
2. In the regulation it is understood that:
 - a) Minister refers to the Minister for Education, Universities and Research;
 - b) Ministry refers to the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research;
 - c) Department refers to the Department for universities, higher education in art, music and dance and for scientific and technological research;
 - d) Convention refers to the Convention for recognition of qualifications relative to higher education in the European Region, established in Lisbon on 11 April 1997;
 - e) Law refers to Law No. 148 of 11 July 2002;
 - f) foreign higher education institutions refers to foreign higher education institutions that are state owned recognized or accredited in the country of origin, authorized to award qualifications and whose scientific importance has been documented at international level;
 - g) Committee refers to the National Committee for Evaluation of the University System, as stated in Article 2 of the Law No. 370 of 19 October 1999;
 - h) CNAM refers to the National Council of Higher Education in Music and Art;
 - i) Regional Co-ordination Committee refers to the Committee as stated in Article 3 of the Presidential Decree No. 25 of 27 January 1998.

Article 2 - Prerequisites

- 1 . In accordance with Article VI.5 of the Convention, in order to gain recognition for the qualifications they award, foreign higher education institutions must submit an application to the Ministry, according to the procedures established by the Ministry. Additions to applications are permitted only when the recognition procedure has not been concluded.
- 2 . The above-mentioned institutions must fulfil the following prerequisites:
 - a) be recognized institutions in the higher education system of their country of origin, according to Article VIII.2, Point B of the Convention;
 - b) be higher education institutions of particular scientific importance at an international level;
 - c) the location or locations in Italy where the educational activities are carried out must be equipped with the appropriate buildings, educational facilities and services for students;
 - d) the educational activities carried out must be part of the educational programmes at the foreign higher education institution, as referred to in a);
 - e) the criteria for course entry and for student assessment must be equivalent to those used by the institution, as referred to in a);
 - f) educational activities must be carried out by teaching staff with equivalent professional prerequisites required by the staff at the institutions, as referred to in a);

- g) qualifications issued in Italy by the foreign higher education institution must have the same value in the original country, as referred to in a).

Article 3 - Procedure

1. The higher education foreign institutions shall submit their application, complete with the required documentation as stated in Article 2, item 2, to the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research and send a copy of the application to the Ministry for Home Affairs and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
2. Within sixty days of receipt of the application, the officer responsible for the procedure shall send a copy of the application and related documentation for the verification of the prerequisites to the Committee and the relevant Regional Co-ordinating Committee, as stated in Article 2, item 2, letter c). In the same time period, a copy of the application and of the documentation shall be sent to the National University Council or to the National Council for Higher Education in Art and Music for verification of the prerequisites foreseen by Article 2, item 2 letters b), d), e) and f).
3. Within the following 120 days, the Committee and the National University Council or the National Council for Higher Education in Art and Music shall make their technical evaluations as to whether the parties submitting the application have fulfilled the prerequisites, as foreseen by Article 2, item 2.
4. Within the time period referred to in item 3, the Ministers for Home and Foreign Affairs shall communicate their observations to the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research.
5. Subject to agreement from the Committee, the Regional Co-ordinating Committee, the National University Council or the National Council for Higher Education in Art and Music and following a decree from the competent General Director, qualifications issued by the institutions indicated in Article 2, item 1 may be declared admissible to the recognition procedures outlined by Article 2 of the law with the requirement to bring the length of the courses in line with the course length foreseen by existing regulations for Italian universities.
6. Where special inquiries are necessary, the deadlines indicated in the present article can be extended, at the discretion of the officer responsible for the procedure, for a further sixty days and such measures shall be communicated to the institution concerned.
7. Measures to deny admissibility shall also be communicated giving grounds for the decision, according to the same procedures.
8. Measures indicated in items 5 and 7 are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Italy.

Article 4 – Adherence to Prerequisites

- 1 . To ascertain adherence to the prerequisites foreseen in Article 2, item 2, the Ministry shall carry out inspections, at least once every four years, on the premises of the foreign higher education institutions, as referred to in Article 3, item 5.
- 2 . If changes have occurred regarding fulfilment of the prerequisites foreseen by Article 2, item 2, and following consultation with the parties concerned, a decree revoking the decision may be passed, according to the measure adopted under Article 3, item 5, giving grounds for the decision after agreement from the Committee, the Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the National University Council or the National Council for Higher Education in Art and Music. If educational activity ceases or is interrupted the decision will be revoked. The decree revoking the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic.

Article 5 – Access to Procedural Documents

- 1 . In accordance with the regulations foreseen by Article 22 of Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990, in matters concerning administrative procedures, the parties indicated in Articles 7, 9, and 10 of the law in question have the right to access procedural documents in the Ministry's possession.