

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Italy

A guide for aspiring teachers & educators — how teaching in Italy works, the routes and requirements, visas, pay, contracts, and how to find the right program.



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

STRONG DEMAND, FROM YOUNG LEARNERS TO BUSINESS ENGLISH

Italy has **strong, steady demand for English teachers** (especially **business English**), across **private language schools, a government language-assistant program, international schools, universities, and tutoring**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, visas, pay, and contracts**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find and compare specific programs. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Italian rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer and region. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Italian Ministry of Education, Italian immigration/consulate, and each employer**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Understand Why Teachers Choose Italy

WHAT TO KNOW

Italy offers **strong demand for English teachers (including well-paid business English)**, an **unmatched cultural and lifestyle setting**, and a **range of entry routes** — a rewarding, culturally rich base for teaching in Europe.

BY THE NUMBERS

Strong demand

incl. business English

Culture & lifestyle

unmatched

Range

of entry routes

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Italy's **demand and lifestyle** against tougher non-EU visas and modest starting pay — for culture, food, and business-English opportunity, it's a standout.

GOOD TO KNOW

Demand is strong for **young learners, adults, and especially business English** — particularly in Milan's finance and fashion sectors.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **private language schools** (the most common full-time roles), a **government-run language-assistant program** (part-time in public schools), **international schools** (licensed teachers, highest pay), **universities**, **summer camps** (entry-level, no experience needed), and **private/business-English tutoring**. Browse and compare specific options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

most full-time roles

Int'l schools / universities

higher pay

Summer camps

entry-level

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a language school or summer camp for entry, business-English tutoring for higher hourly pay, or an international school if licensed — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

WATCH OUT

Find and compare **specific language schools, international schools, and recruiters** in the K12 Academics directory — this guide stays program-neutral.

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Requirements vary: a **TEFL/TESOL certificate** is highly recommended and often required (a higher-level diploma is preferred by many Italian employers); a **bachelor's degree** is often required but flexible for some academy and camp roles; **native or fluent English** is expected; and **international schools** require a **teaching license** (e.g., a PGCE), a degree, and experience.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL/TESOL

recommended/required

Degree

often (flexible for some)

Int'l schools

license + experience

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — a **TEFL/TESOL certificate** for most roles, a **degree** for formal settings, and a **teaching license** for international schools; summer camps are more flexible.

GOOD TO KNOW

Summer camps often hire **without prior experience** — a common way for new teachers to start in Italy.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA citizens can work freely in Italy (a frictionless route). **Non-EU citizens** face a **challenging work-permit process** (employer-sponsored, subject to quotas), so many combine study with teaching via a **student visa that permits limited part-time work**. International schools may help with sponsorship. Confirm the current rules with Italian immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA

work freely

Non-EU

work permit is difficult

Student visa

limited part-time work

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — **EU citizens work freely**; non-EU teachers face difficult work permits, so a **student visa (with limited work)** or an international-school sponsor is often the path.

WATCH OUT

For non-EU teachers, Italian **work permits are limited and competitive** — plan your route carefully and confirm current rules.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Pay depends on the route (gross monthly): **private language schools ~€1,000–2,000**; a **government assistant program** pays a part-time grant (~€850–1,100); **international schools ~€2,000–4,000**; **private/business-English tutoring ~€15–35/hour** (corporate rates higher). Cost of living varies widely (lower in the south, higher in Rome and Milan).

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

~€1,000–2,000

Int'l schools

~€2,000–4,000

Tutoring

€15–35/hour

HOW TO HELP

Set realistic expectations — language schools are mid-range, **international schools pay most**, and business-English tutoring commands higher hourly rates; watch cost of living in Rome/Milan.

GOOD TO KNOW

Business-English tutoring (especially corporate, in Milan) commands the highest hourly rates — a strong income supplement.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Contracts vary by employer, so check: **hours and pay (gross vs net — Italian taxes reduce take-home), contract length, holidays, whether visa or accommodation help is included, and payment for extra hours.** Favour written contracts. A fair offer is specific about pay, hours, and support; be cautious of vague terms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Check

hours, gross/net pay

Confirm

length, holidays, extras

Favour

written contracts

HOW TO HELP

Read every contract for **gross vs net pay, hours, length, and any visa/accommodation help** — Italian taxes reduce take-home, so clarify net figures, and favour written terms.

GOOD TO KNOW

Clarify **gross vs net pay** — Italian taxes and contributions meaningfully reduce take-home, so confirm the real net figure.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Most teachers earn an **accredited TEFL/TESOL certificate** (120 hours is the international standard; a higher-level diploma is strongly preferred by Italian employers and can raise pay). Prepare your **degree and documents (apostilled/translated)**, a **background check**, and a **strong CV with a photo**. Business-English skills are especially valuable.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL/TESOL

120-hr+ (diploma preferred)

Documents

apostilled/translated

Business English

especially valuable

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL/TESOL certificate** (a higher-level diploma helps in Italy) and prepare apostilled documents, a background check, and a strong CV — business-English skills stand out.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **higher-level TEFL diploma** is preferred by many Italian employers and can raise your pay — worth considering over the 120-hour minimum.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

Timing matters: **private language schools** hire most heavily in **late summer (August–September) and January**; **international schools** hire **January–May for a September start**; and **summer camps** recruit in **spring**. Apply early, and be ready to interview (often by video) before you arrive.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

Aug–Sept & Jan

Int'l schools

Jan–May

Summer camps

spring

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — language schools (Aug–Sept & Jan), international schools (Jan–May), summer camps (spring) — and apply early.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many roles interview **by video before arrival** — apply ahead of the peak August–September season.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need Italian to teach** (classes are English-only), but **basic Italian helps daily life, visas, and building relationships**. Popular bases include **Rome, Milan, Florence, Bologna, and Naples** (costs are lower in the south). Budget for setup costs, and use Italy's teacher and expat networks.

BY THE NUMBERS

Italian

not needed to teach

Basic Italian

helps daily life

Bases

Rome, Milan, Florence

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English, but learn **basic Italian** for daily life and paperwork; popular bases are Rome, Milan, and Florence, with cheaper southern cities.

GOOD TO KNOW

Classes are English-only, so **Italian isn't required to teach** — but basic Italian eases daily life and visa steps.

Find Your Program & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific language schools, international schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Apply to several, verify each employer and contract, and build experience and specialisms (like business English) to reach higher-paid roles. Confirm visa and current rules with Italian immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

schools & recruiters

Apply

to several

Build

specialisms & pay

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare schools and recruiters, apply to several, verify each contract, and build specialisms (business English) toward higher pay.

WATCH OUT

Browse **the K12 Academics directory** to find the specific schools, programs, and recruiters that fit your route and goals.

Teaching in Italy: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with the Italian Ministry of Education, immigration, and each employer, and find specific options in the K12 Academics directory.

The routes

Private language schools (most full-time roles), a government-run language-assistant program (public schools), international schools (licensed teachers, highest pay), universities, summer camps, and tutoring — compare specific ones in the K12 Academics directory.

Requirements

A TEFL/TESOL certificate is highly recommended (a higher-level diploma preferred); a degree is often required but flexible for some roles; international schools require a teaching license, degree, and experience.

Visa

EU/EEA citizens work freely; non-EU teachers face a challenging work-permit process (employer-sponsored, quota-limited), so many use a student visa permitting limited part-time work, or an international-school sponsor.

Pay

Gross monthly: private language schools ~€1,000–2,000; government assistant grant ~€850–1,100 (part-time); international schools ~€2,000–4,000; tutoring €15–35/hour; clarify gross vs net (taxes reduce take-home).

Timeline & move

Language schools hire August–September and January; international schools January–May; summer camps in spring; you can teach in English, but basic Italian helps daily life (Rome, Milan, Florence).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-ITALY JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Teaching in [Country] guides, and find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

