



Foundation Year 2025/2026

The **Foundation Year** is a preparatory program designed to help international students meet university admission requirements in Italy or to integrate educational gaps.

Objectives

- Bridge gaps in school education for access to Bachelor's or integrated Master's degrees;
- Strengthen Italian language skills;
- Integrate gaps in education in subjects in the economic, legal or scientific areas.

The program is designed for:

- Students (Italian or international) seeking stronger academic foundations;
- Students with foreign high school diplomas lacking the 12 years of schooling required in Italy;
- Holders of a High School Diploma (USA) without 3 Advanced Placements (APs);
- Holders of GCE/IGCE (UK) without the required 3 A-Levels;
- Final-year high school students or university students interested in single courses of the Foundation Year.

Program Structure

The Foundation Year involves classes **from October 2025 to May 2026** for a total educational commitment of **600 hours = 66 CFC** (Foundation Course credits):

- **240 hours** reserved for lectures and exercises inherent to learning of Italian language and culture (30 CFC);
- **288 hours** reserved for lectures and exercises inherent to Subject-Specific Courses (36 CFC);
- **72 hours** devoted to Italian language skills enhancement activities.

The Italian language and culture course is taught in the first semester (October-December) and is divided into two distinct courses, to which students are assigned based on their initial level of language proficiency, determined through an online test to be taken before classes begin. The planned courses are:

- a basic level course (A1/A2)
- an intermediate level course (B1/B2)

Both courses have a total duration of 240 hours each.

During the second semester (February-May), classes concerning a specific area of study are held. Each student must choose one of three tracks from:

1. Sustainable Agricultural Engineering and Systems (36 CFC)

- Mathematics (12 CFC)
- Physics (12 CFC)
- Chemistry I (6 CFC)
- Chemistry II (6 CFC)

2. Medicine (36 CFC)

- Chemistry I (6 CFC)
- Chemistry II (6 CFC)
- Biology I (6 CFC)
- Biology II (6 CFC)



Genetics I (6 CFC)
Genetics II (6 CFC)

3. Economics and Law (36 CFC)

Mathematics (12 CFC)
Economics (6 CFC)
Law (6 CFC)
Statistics (6 CFC)
Legal Informatics (6 CFC)

It is also possible to enrol only in:

- **Language Course** (240 hours / 30 CFC);
- **Specific study track** (288 hours / 36 CFC);
- **Single courses** from the three study tracks.

2. Language of Instruction

All teaching activities in the Foundation Year are conducted **entirely in Italian**.

3. Class Attendance and Final Exams

Attendance is mandatory. Students must attend at least **70%** of each course to be eligible for final exams. Professors will record attendance and send weekly reports to the International students' admission office.

Justified absences (e.g., illness, visa appointments, personal emergencies) are not counted **if reported in writing within 24 hours or in advance**.

In **exceptional cases**, students below the 70% threshold may request exam access, subject to approval by the Program Coordinator and a preliminary test by the professor.

4. Exam Sessions

Final exams will be held:

- First semester: January 2026
- Second semester: June/July 2026; September 2026

5. Completion Requirements

To complete the Foundation Year successfully, students must:

- Be admitted to all final exams;
- Pass all required exams **by the end of September**.

6. Benefits for Students Enrolling at University Università degli Studi di Brescia

Once the Foundation Year has been completed, students will have acquired the academic requirements necessary to be admitted to degree programs related to the study track they have attended during the Foundation Year, delivered in Italian and which do not require a selective admission test.

For programs with national/local limited access, students must still take the relevant admission test, in accordance with the procedures set out in the specific Call for Admission.

Moreover, students who enrol at Università degli Studi di Brescia are **exempt from the second and third instalments** for the first year.

Additional benefits:

- **Exemption from Italian language proficiency test** for visa holders who completed the full course or the language course.
- **Exemption from orientation tests** for candidates who have completed the entire course or only the study track of the second semester, provided that there is disciplinary consistency between the study track completed and the chosen degree course.

7. Admission Requirements

Complete program: applicants with a final upper secondary school qualification that allows access to university education in the relevant education system, even if obtained after eleven years of schooling, are eligible to apply for the full Foundation Year.

Applications are also accepted from candidates who obtain their final qualification by 21 July 2025.

Single-module: applicants may include:

- Final-year high school students (in Italy or abroad);
- Current bachelor's students at the university.

8. Application Process and Deadlines

Applications require **two online steps**, open from **5 June at Noon (Italian time) to 21 July at Noon (Italian time)**.

8.1 PICA Portal

Applicants must apply for admission via the PICA online procedure, available at <https://pica.cineca.it/unibs/fyear2025/>, attaching the scanned documents listed below.

Applicants with a final qualification obtained abroad:

- passport;
- diploma or final certificate of upper secondary school with transcript of the last year of high school (in original language);
- translation into Italian or English of the diploma and transcript.

Candidates who have not yet obtained their final qualification:

- passport;
- transcript of the penultimate year of upper secondary school (in original language and in translation);
- certificate of enrolment in the last year of upper secondary school or transcript of the last year of upper secondary school (in original language and in translation).

Candidates with a qualification obtained in Italy:

- identity document.

If underage: parent/guardian must sign and upload their ID or passport.

8.2 University Portal

The second stage involves **registration** on the www.unibs.it portal and subsequent online registration for the Foundation Year a.y. 2025/2026 competition.

Instructions for registering on the www.unibs.it portal are available at www.unibs.it/it/accesso-ai-servizi-online. SPID is not required for candidates born outside Italy.

Once registration is complete, a personal page will be activated, which candidates must access to register for the Foundation Year a.y. 2025/2026 competition, by selecting *Secretariat > Admission Test > Foundation Course > Foundation Year a.y. 2025/2026*.

Then, candidates must pay the first instalment via PagoPA by 21 July:

- euro 500.00 if you are a holder of international protection in Italy, including temporary protection;
- euro 1,000.00 if NOT in possession of international protection.

Applications from those who have not paid the first instalment will not be accepted.

The first instalment is non-refundable, unless the program is not activated due to the minimum number of participants (16) not being reached.

9. Admission Confirmation and Enrolment

Admitted students will be notified by email.

By **August 21, 2025**, they and must:

- Enrol in the program;
- Pay the **second instalment**.

Students with international protection are exempt from this second payment.

10. Student Visa

Non-EU candidates living abroad who are admitted to Foundation Year must complete **pre-enrolment via University by August 21**.

The application on University will only be approved if:

- students are up to date with the payment of the first and second instalments;
- all the necessary documents have been submitted to University.

While awaiting their visa, admitted students will be able to attend the Italian language course online.



11. Tuition Fees

Fees exclude housing, meals, transport, visa costs, and insurance.

Full program – total cost **€ 4,800.00** to be paid in three instalments:

1st: euro 1,000.00 to be paid at the end of the application process, by 21 July 2025.

2nd: euro 920.00 to be paid by 21 August 2025.

3rd: euro 2,880.00 to be paid by 22 September 2025.

Language Course Only - total cost **€ 1,920.00** to be paid in two instalments:

1st: euro 1,000.00 to be paid at the end of the application process, by 21 July 2025.

2nd: euro 920.00 to be paid by 21 August 2025.

Study Track Only - total cost **euro 2,880.00** to be paid in two instalments:

1st: euro 1,000.00 to be paid at the end of the application process, by 21 July 2025.

2nd: euro 1,880.00 to be paid by 22 September 2025.

Enrolment for **single courses**: euro 80 for each CFC.

For enrolment in single courses contact the International Students Admission Office at internationalstudents@unibs.it.

12. Scholarships for Students with International Protection

Students with **refugee or temporary protection status** due to war, natural disaster, or social crisis can apply for **dedicated scholarships**.

To complete the application for admission to the Foundation Year, these candidates must pay the first instalment of € 500.00 by 21 July 2025.

13. Program Cancellation

If the minimum number of enrolments (16) is not reached, the Foundation Year will not be activated. In that case, any fees already paid will be refunded.

14. Submission of Foreign Educational Documents

Admitted students holding a foreign upper secondary school diploma must submit the following documents to the International students' admission office by **December 18, 2025**.

- Diploma/Certificate of upper secondary school and transcript of the last year of high school in the original language and in Italian or English translation;
- The Diploma and the transcript must be legalized (or carry an apostille) and accompanied by a Declaration of Value issued by the Italian diplomatic authority in the country where the qualification was obtained.

Alternatives accepted:

The **Verification Statement** and/or the **Comparability Statement** issued by **CIMEA** (Italian ENIC-NARIC centre), in place of the legalization and Declaration of Value.

Simplified procedures are available for applicants with **international or temporary protection**, specifically for the recognition of their foreign qualifications.

15. Information

For information on the Foundation Year, admission requirements and application procedures, please contact the International Students' Admissions Office at internationalstudents@unibs.it.