



**Università
di Brescia**

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Call for Applications for the Foundation Year Preparatory Programme for University Education Academic Year 2026/2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

For the academic year 2026/2027, the University of Brescia intends to offer a preparatory programme for university education called the **Foundation Year**, aimed at candidates holding a foreign upper secondary school diploma and designed to:

- fill any gaps in the requirements needed for admission to Bachelor's and Integrated Master's Degree programmes;
- strengthen knowledge of the Italian language;
- address educational gaps in subjects related to economic-legal or scientific fields.

The programme is particularly intended for:

- candidates who have not completed the 12 years of schooling required for university enrolment;
- candidates holding a U.S. High School Diploma (HSD) who have not passed the three required Advanced Placements (APs);
- candidates holding a UK General Certificate of Education (GCE) or International Certificate of Education (IGCE) without the required three A-levels;
- candidates wishing to improve their academic preparation;
- students already enrolled in first-cycle or integrated degree programmes at the University of Brescia in 2026/2027 who wish to attend individual Foundation Year courses.



1. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Foundation Year will run from **October 2026 to May 2027** and includes a total of **508 teaching hours (61 CFC – Foundation Course Credits; 1 CFC = 8 teaching hours)**:

- 200 hours of Italian language and culture (25 CFC);
- 288 hours of subject-specific courses (36 CFC);
- 20 hours of additional Italian language support.

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. The following are offered:

- a basic-level course;
- an intermediate-level course.

Each course has a total duration of 200 hours.

During the second semester (February-May), classes concerning a specific **area of study** are held.

Each student must choose **one of three study tracks** from:

a. Engineering and Sustainable Agricultural Systems (36 CFC)

- Mathematics (12 CFC)
- Physics (12 CFC)
- Chemistry I (6 CFC)
- Chemistry II (6 CFC)
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b. 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)
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c. 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 apply for enrolment limited to one of the following options:

- **Italian Language and Culture Course**, with a total duration of 200 hours (equivalent to 25 CFC);
- **Subject-Specific Study Track**, with a duration of 288 hours (equivalent to 36 CFC), to be selected from one of the three subject areas offered within the programme;
- **Single courses** within the subject-specific study tracks.

Enrolment in each of the above options is subject to different procedures, fees, and deadlines, as specified below.

2. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

All teaching activities included in the Foundation Year are delivered in **Italian**.

3. LECTURE ATTENDANCE AND FINAL EXAMS

Attendance at lectures is compulsory. Only students who have achieved an attendance rate of at least 70% in each course will be permitted to sit the final exams.

Professors are required to record attendance at lectures, to submit attendance **registers** to the administrative offices and to assess eligibility for final examinations on the basis of recorded absences.

For the purposes of calculating the overall attendance rate, **absences justified** on health grounds or due to force majeure (such as, for example, appointments at the Police Headquarters for matters relating to residence permits, unavoidable administrative or academic commitments, or serious personal reasons) are not taken into account, provided they are communicated in writing to the relevant administrative offices within 24 hours of the event or, where possible, in advance.

In exceptional cases, students who have not reached the 70% attendance threshold may submit a reasoned request for admission to the final examinations. Such a request is subject to the approval of the Foundation Year Coordinator and the successful completion of a preliminary assessment test, organized by the professor responsible for the course. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

4. EXAM SESSIONS

The final exams for the Foundation Year courses will take place according to the following schedule:

- **First semester:** January 2027; June–July 2027; September 2027;



- **Second semester:** June–July 2027; September 2027.

Completion of the Foundation Year is subject to passing all required exams by the final examination session, scheduled for September 2027.

5. AWARD OF THE FINAL QUALIFICATION

The Foundation Year is considered **successfully completed** only if the student:

- has been **admitted to the examinations for all the courses on the programme;**
- has passed **all the final assessments.**

The award of a certificate confirming completion of the full course or of individual courses is subject to the fulfilment of all the above requirements

6. BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA

Upon completion of the Foundation Year, students will have met the **minimum academic requirements** necessary for admission to first-cycle and integrated degree programmes at Italian universities.

Students who have completed the Foundation Year and decide to enrol on bachelor's or integrated master's degree programmes at the University of Brescia:

- **will not be required to sit the entry orientation tests** if they enrol on open-access courses related to the study track they followed during the Foundation Year;
- **will be exempt from paying the second and third instalments** of university fees for the first year of the course;
- if they have arrived in Italy on a student visa, **will be exempt from the preliminary Italian language proficiency test** required for admission to university courses taught in Italian.

Those wishing to enrol on courses with national or local restricted access must sit the relevant admission test, in accordance with the procedures set out in the specific call for applications.

7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FOUNDATION YEAR

Candidates holding a final foreign upper secondary school certificate that grants access to university education within the education system in which it was obtained **may apply for enrolment on the full Foundation Year programme**, even if the qualification was obtained after eleven years of schooling. Applications are also accepted from candidates who will obtain their final qualification by **31 July 2026**.

Furthermore, **non-EU citizens residing abroad** must possess a level of proficiency in Italian equivalent to at least B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), as required by



the Ministry of Education's regulations on access to university education. To assess this language requirement, candidates holding a suitable qualification **will sit the CISIA Italian as a Second Language (L2) test online between 20 July 2026 and 30 July 2026. The minimum score required for admission to the Foundation Year is 35 out of 72.**

The following may **apply for enrolment in single courses**:

- candidates who meet the requirements for admission to the full programme;
- students enrolled in the 2026/2027 academic year on the University's first-cycle and integrated degree programmes.

Applications for enrolment submitted by candidates who do not meet the above requirements will be rejected.

8. MODALITÀ E SCADENZE PER LA DOMANDA DI AMMISSIONE

Applications for admission to the Foundation Year for the 2026/2027 academic year may be submitted during the following period: **29 May 2026 (12:00 p.m. Italian time) – 30 June 2026 (4:00 p.m. Italian time).**

8.1 PICA Procedure

Applicants must **submit their application via the online procedure on the PICA platform, available at <https://pica.cineca.it/unibs/fyear2026/>, attaching scanned copies of the documents listed below.**

Applicants with qualifications obtained abroad:

- passport;
- final secondary school diploma or certificate in the original language and translated into Italian or English;
- final year secondary school transcript in the original language and translated into Italian or English.

Applicants who have not yet obtained their final qualification:

- final transcript for the penultimate year of upper secondary school in the original language, and translated into Italian or English;
- certificate of enrolment in the final year of upper secondary school, or transcript of the final year of upper secondary school, in the original language and translated into Italian or English.

Applicants with a qualification obtained in Italy:



- identity document.

If the applicant is a minor, a **legal guardian** must be named in the online application form, who must:

- Sign the application form;
- Attach a copy of their identity document.

9. ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEST FOR NON-EU CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD

Non-EU candidates residing abroad who hold a qualification eligible for admission must sit the CISIA L2 Italian language test, which will take place online between 20 July 2026 and 30 July 2026. Registration for the test is free of charge.

These candidates must achieve a score of **at least 35 out of 72** to be admitted to the Foundation Year.

10. CONFIRMATION OF ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT PROCEDURE

All candidates admitted to the full programme will receive confirmation of their admission by email **by the end of July.**

Admitted students must, by 6 August 2026:

- **enrol in the Foundation Year course** (online procedure via the UniBs portal; the link will be provided);
- **pay the first instalment of €1,000.**

Holders of international protection in Italy, including temporary protection, must enrol in the Foundation Year by the same deadline, but are not required to pay the first instalment of €1,000; instead, they must pay a contribution of €500.

11. ISSUANCE OF STUDY VISAS

Non-EU candidates residing abroad who have been admitted to the Foundation Year programme **must submit a pre-enrolment application via the University portal by 25 August 2026.**

The enrolment application will only be approved if candidates have paid the first and second instalments in full and have uploaded all the required documentation to the University platform.

Pending the issue of their visa, enrolled students may attend online the Italian language course, scheduled from October 2026.



12. FEES

The fees listed below do not include:

- Accommodation;
- Transport;
- Meals and drinks;
- Visa costs;
- Medical and travel insurance.

Full course enrolment: €4,800.00

First instalment: €1,000.00, to be paid following confirmation of admission, **by 6 August 2026;**

Second instalment: €920.00:

- **Non-EU candidates residing abroad** must pay the second instalment **by 25 August** and must submit a pre-registration application on the University portal by the same date;
- **EU candidates and those with equivalent status** must pay the second instalment **by 3 September 2026;**

Third instalment: €2,880.00, to be paid **by 15 October 2026.**

Language training module registration: €1,920.00

First instalment: €1,000.00, to be paid following confirmation of admission, **by 6 August 2026;**

Second instalment: €920.00, to be paid **by 25 August 2026 or by 3 September 2026**, depending on the student's administrative category (non-EU resident abroad or EU/equivalent).

Enrolment in the core curriculum module: €2,880.00

First instalment: €1,000.00, to be paid following confirmation of admission **by 6 August 2026;**

Second instalment: €1,880.00, to be paid **by 15 October 2026.**

Enrolment for individual courses within the specialisation pathway: €80 per CFC

To enrol in individual courses, please contact the International Student Admissions Office at internationalstudents@unibs.it.



13. SCHOLARSHIPS RESERVED FOR APPLICANTS WITH INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS

Holders of international protection status in Italy, including those with temporary protection, may apply for **university-funded scholarships** to enrol on the Foundation Year in the 2026/27 academic year, in accordance with the relevant call for applications.

To complete their application for admission to the Foundation Year, they must pay a fee of **€500.00 by 6 August 2026**.

14. FAILURE TO RUN THE COURSE

If the minimum number of 14 enrolled students, as stipulated by the Board of Directors' resolution of 19 May 2026, is not reached, the Foundation Year will not go ahead and any fees paid will be refunded.

15. SUBMISSION OF FOREIGN ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS

Please note that holders of upper secondary school qualifications obtained abroad must submit the following documents to the University's International Student Admissions Office **by 17 December 2026**:

- the final upper secondary school qualification and the transcript of the final year of upper secondary school in the original language and translated into Italian or English, legalised or bearing an 'apostille', and accompanied by a Declaration of Value issued by the Italian diplomatic representation for the country to whose education system the qualification belongs.

As an alternative to legalisation and/or the Declaration of Value, the University of Brescia accepts, respectively, the Statement of Verification and the Statement of Comparability issued by [CIMEA](#).

Simplified procedures are available for **holders of international protection**, including temporary protection, for the submission of academic documents relating to the entry qualification obtained abroad.

17. INFORMATION

For information on the Foundation Year programme, admission requirements and enrolment procedures, please contact the International Student Admissions Office by emailing internationalstudents@unibs.it or by submitting a support [ticket](#).