How to Obtain Italian Residency

Any non-EU national who wants to stay in Italy for longer than three months needs to apply for an Italian long-stay visa as well as Italian Residence Permit (Permesso di Soggiorno). You have to apply for a residence permit for Italy regardless of the reason you want to live there, like work study or simply retirment.

Permesso di Soggiornotranslates to “permission to stay”, because it is the document that you need to obtain in order to be allowed to stay in Italy long-term.

The Italian residence permit card is electronic, and it contains a microchip and magnetic stripe (similar to a credit card) which can access your digitally-stored personal information.

Who is Eligible for Italian Residency?

Technically, anyone who fulfills the entry requirements into Italy can apply for Italian residency.

If you are a non-EU national, you need to apply for an **Italy long-stay visa** in your home country which allows you entry to Italy. You need the long-stay visa because the Italian residence permit can only be applied for when you are already in Italy. If you are in Italy for tourism purposes (with an Italy short stay visa or without a visa if you are exempt), you cannot apply for Italian residency. You can only apply for a permesso di soggiornoif you have received an Italy long-stay visa beforehand.

## How to Apply for an Italian Residence Permit?

You must apply for an Italian residence permit **within 8 days** of entering Italy. The application process for the permesso di soggiorno is separated in two parts: the post office and the Questura (Police department).

## Requirements for Italian Residence Permit

When you submit an application for a residence permit, both at the post office and at the Questura,you need to have several supporting documents.

The requirements for an Italian residence permit include:

* Four passport-size pictures
* Your valid passport
* Documents related to the reason you are in Italy, such as a work permit or enrollment in school.
* All the documents that you submitted when you applied for your Italian long-term visa in your home country. See:
  + Italian Work Visa requirements
  + Italian Self-Employment Visa requirements (if applicable)
  + Italian Study Visa requirements (if applicable)
  + Italian Family Reunion Visa requirements (if applicable)
  + Italian Working Holiday Visa requirements (if applicable)
* Proof of health insurance. In some cases, you may be eligible for free health service, while in others, you may have to pay an annual fee. You can get started in obtaining Italian health insurance by registering at your Local Health Agency (Azienda Sanitaria Locale).

**Keep in mind**that all the required documents must be in original and photocopy. You will submit the originals at the Questuraand the photocopies at the post office.

## Types of Italian Residence Permits

The type of residence permit you receive depends on the reason you want to live in Italy, meaning, on the type of long-stay visa you have.

As such, you can apply for an Italy residence permit for working, studying, family reunification or retirement (in this case you will have to prove your financial means).

### Get an Italian residence permit application kit at the Local Post Office

Within eight days of arriving in Italy, you have to pick up the application kit for Italian residency at a local post office. More specifically, at the Sportello Amicoof a post office (ufficio postaleor Poste Italiane) of where you want to live.

However, not all post offices offer application kits for Italian residence permits. You have to find a post office with a Sportello Amicocounter.

The application kit is an envelope with the required forms that you must fill out. The forms will be in Italian, so come prepared.

Next, you have to buy a Marca da Bollo (Revenue stamp), which you have to attach to your application before submitting.  This is a “duty stamp” which you can find at a tabaccheria.

You have to buy the kind of Marca da Bollostamp which is stated on your application kit. This costs around € 16.

Once you have your completed application kit as well as all other required documents you have to submit them at the Sportello Amicowhere you first received them. You won’t have to submit the originals of any documents but bring them just in case they need to see them, along with photocopies for each.

Make sure not to sign the application or close the envelope, since the officers handling your application have to review them first. If they find that everything is in order, they will give you your appointment date for when you have to appear at the Questura(local police headquarters) for the second part of your Italian residence permit application.

They will also give you a receipt, which will serve as a temporary residence permit because the Questuraappointment is usually 1-2 months away. You must keep this receipt with you in case someone asks to see your residence permit, to let them know you are in the process of getting one.

### Go to the Questura(police headquarters)

On the date of your appointment at the Questura, you must bring the originalsof all the documents that you need (see below), along with the receipt and the letter containing your appointment date that you received at the post office.

There, they will take your fingerprints, and may ask you some questions.

They will also let you know when you can come back in order to pick up your Italian residence permit card. If you have a regular entry visa, you can obtain a residency permit from the Questura within 60 days.

What are the benefits of having Italian residency?

Obtaining residency in Italy can bring you **various tax benefits**, such as a reduced payment of a 4% tax on the purchase of your ‘main home’ and reduced payment of other municipal taxes. For instance, you won’t pay the annual tax on the ownership of your property. In addition, as an Italian resident living in Italy you have the **possibility of enrolling in the National Health Service and benefiting from the health care assistance provided to Italian citizens**. When you register with the National Health Service, you receive a document called the “*Tesserino sanitario personale*” (Italian Health Insurance Card), that entitles you to a lot of free or part paid services (*ticket sanitario*) which can vary from region to region. These include general medical examinations in clinics and specialist medical appointments; medical visits at home; hospitalisation; vaccinations; blood tests; X-rays; ultrasound; medicines; re-education and prosthetic care.