

UNIVERSITIES – GRANTS FOR ITALIAN LANGUAGE CHAIRS (A.Y. 2026–27) CRITERIA

Grants are awarded for the establishment and operation of Italian language chairs at foreign universities and are intended to partially cover the remuneration of teachers/professors hired directly by the universities under local law contracts.

For the purpose of identifying eligible institutions, the term “Italian language chairs” refers to chairs and/or university-level courses in which Italian is included among the languages taught according to the academic regulations of the relevant institution, even if the chair or course bears a different official title.

In allocating the available financial resources, the following criteria and parameters will be applied:

- a) proper use of any grant received in previous years, or reimbursement of unused or improperly used funds;
- b) discontinuation of tenured lector positions and/or absence of native-speaker instructors;
- c) number of students and courses;
- d) cost of living and cost of instruction in the host country;
- e) faculty/department where the course is offered, with priority given to courses within strategic sectors (e.g., science, architecture, design, economics, food and wine studies);
- f) support for innovative projects aimed at the use of new technologies (e-books, distance learning courses, etc.);
- g) level of bilateral relations;
- h) priority ranking assigned to the application by the competent Embassy.

The overall consistency and reasonableness of the application will also be taken into account.

As a general rule, **applications from universities where tenured MAECI lectors sent from Italy are already in service will not be considered.**

Applications from universities intending to use the grants for purposes other than the remuneration of teachers/professors hired under local law contracts will not be considered. By way of example, and not exhaustively, this includes the purchase of books, teaching or promotional materials, the organization of conferences, seminars or other events, remuneration of guest speakers, or travel expenses for faculty participating in conferences or external meetings.

It is further specified that **the courses must consist of Italian language, must be taught in Italian, and must take place at the applicant university and not in Italy.**

Applicants are requested to pay particular attention to the appropriateness of the amount requested: the maximum grant is €25,000.

Universities are encouraged to submit **innovative projects** aimed at achieving large-scale impact in terms of increasing the number of Italian language students, for example through the development of online Italian language courses.

It is reiterated that **any funds granted by this Office constitute a contribution** and not full funding. Therefore, there is no obligation to approve the application, nor to award the full amount requested. **Amounts granted may be equal to or lower than those proposed by the**

universities. Furthermore, the teaching projects submitted for the purpose of obtaining the grant must be feasible regardless of the amount ultimately awarded.

TIMELINE

Funds awarded in support of Italian language chairs must be used by the conclusion of the activities of Academic Year 2026–27 (according to each university's academic calendar).
