Consulate General of Italy
Boston

Sotto l'Alto Patronato del Presidente della Repubblica

SETTIMANA DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA NEL MONDO

XXVI WEEK OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD

LINGUA GENIALE

ideare, progettare, creare con l'italiano

Introduction

The XXVI Week of the Italian Language in the World (SLIM), scheduled from October 19 to 25, 2026, will be themed: "Lingua geniale: ideare, progettare, creare con l'italiano".

This theme is the inspiration for our contest. Italian is the driving force behind Italy's values, ideas, and vision in the world: a language of genius, heir to a long and rich history and tradition, through which Italy shares the very best of its know-how — technology, science, engineering, design, fashion, gastronomy, literature, art and history.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all students of Italian in schools and universities within the consular jurisdiction (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), divided into five categories:

- Primary School — grade K-5 (beginner – intermediate – advanced)
- Middle School — grade 6-8 (beginner – intermediate – advanced)
- High School — grade 9-12 (beginner – intermediate – advanced)
- College/University (beginner – intermediate – advanced)
- Bilingual Students

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Contest

Students may participate individually or in groups.

The Challenge

Students will interview an Italian expert from the fields of science, technology, engineering, design, fashion, gastronomy, literature, art, or history. Following the interview, they will create an original work that summarizes, comments on, or interprets the themes explored in the interview.

Students' work must take one of the following formats:

- an **artifact** — an object, a model, an experiment, or any concrete creation — representing what students learned through the interview, accompanied by a selection of at least three keywords in Italian (grades K-5) or a comment in Italian (grades 6-12), (min. 150 – max. 250 words). The artifact may be submitted to the panel via photographs and/or video;
- a **comic strip** telling a story in Italian (min. 8, max. 12 panels);
- a **photo-collage** narrating through images the experience of the interview, with captions in Italian;
- a **digital poster** on the topic explored in the interview, with slogans, keywords, and images in Italian;
- a **PowerPoint presentation** with images and text in Italian (min. 6 / max. 10 slides);
- a **narrated presentation** (slide show of a PowerPoint presentation with narration in Italian — min. 6 / max. 10 slides);
- a short **video or audio recording** of the interview and/or the experiment conducted following the interview, with dialogue and/or description in Italian (max. 10 minutes);
- a short **newspaper article** in Italian (min. 500 / max. 1,000 words);
- a short **song** in Italian, inspired by the interview.

Each class must choose a single expert. Students in the same class may produce works in different formats. Interviews may be conducted in English for early grades and for all beginning language learners.

The work must have an **original title and be in Italian**.

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The Experts

- Interviewees may be identified independently by students/teachers. Their name must be communicated by **September 30, 2026** to the Education Office at ufficioscuole.boston@esteri.it, which will contact them to provide instructions on how the contest will be conducted.
- Alternatively, in September 2026 the Consulate will publish a list of experts, scientists, and artists available to be interviewed. Classes will communicate their area of interest to the Consular Education Office and will subsequently be matched with the relevant expert.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- originality of the work
- development of the chosen theme
- language proficiency
- expressive effectiveness

Prizes

Winning works will be presented and displayed on the day of the awards ceremony and will remain the property of the participating institutions. Winners will receive a voucher for the purchase of books at I AM BOOKS bookstore in Boston.

Deadline

Submissions must be sent to the Italian Consulate **by February 28, 2027.**

Students will therefore have ample time to work with care and creativity: to build an authentic interview, explore their chosen theme in depth, and produce a work they can truly be proud of.

Submission of Entries

Participants will send their work to ufficioscuole.boston@esteri.it, with the subject line "CONCORSO SLIM 2026" and naming the file as follows:

- **K-12 SCHOOLS**: "LastName(s)_School_Grade_LanguageLevel (Begin/Interm/Advan/Bilingual)"
- **UNIVERSITIES**: "LastName(s)_University_YearOfStudy_LanguageLevel (Begin/Interm/Advan/Bilingual)"

Example: *Marroncelli_MedfordHigh_Gr10_Advan*

The email must also include the competition entry form and, in the case of minor students, the SLIM XXVI release/consent form.

Authenticity of Submissions

The work must be authentic, the exclusive product of students' imagination and Italian language competence. We assume that all submitted work by students has been conceived and produced by the students, working individually or in groups. We trust that no part of the Italian text has been delegated by the students to others, including artificial intelligence tools. The use of online dictionaries is permitted.

Consent and release form

By participating in the initiative with their submitted work, participants transfer to the Education Office all exclusive rights and grant a complete, exclusive, and irrevocable license to use the work. Submissions may be published and used for exhibitions and other initiatives.