

Moving to Italy. The Legal Starter Guide.

WHAT MOST PEOPLE DISCOVER TOO LATE

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From the Editor

Moving to Italy is exciting, but it also requires careful planning. The difference between a smooth relocation and months of stress often comes down to preparation.

This guide will help you:

- Start the process correctly
- Know exactly which documents you need
- Understand realistic timelines
- Avoid common mistakes
- Take the right steps immediately after arrival

1. Start With the Right Legal Basis

Before choosing a city, apartment, or flight, you must decide the legal basis for your stay.

Most common ways:

- Study — for university programs or long-term courses
- Employment — with a verified Italian employer
- Self-employment / Business — for freelancers and entrepreneurs
- Digital Nomad Visa — for remote workers and freelancers
- Elective Residence — for financially independent individuals
- Family Reunification — if close relatives already live in Italy

Choosing the wrong pathway is one of the most costly mistakes future residents make.



2. Prepare Your Documents Early



Document preparation usually takes longer than most people expect.

Essential documents often include:

- Passport
- Criminal record certificate
- Proof of income or savings
- Family documents
- Academic diplomas or certificates
- Proof of housing

Some documents **must be** apostilled and officially translated.

Pro tip: start 2–3 months before submission.



3. Understand Realistic Timelines

Immigration takes time - plan accordingly:

- Document preparation: 1–3 months
- Consulate appointments: several weeks to months
- Visa processing: 2–8 weeks
- Residence permit (Permesso di Soggiorno): immediately after arrival

Planning ahead is key to reducing stress.

4. Common Mistakes to Avoid



- ✘ • Applying for the wrong type of visa
- Incomplete or inaccurate documents
- Insufficient proof of finances
- Attempting “shortcuts” or unofficial processes
- Buying a “work visa” — such a visa does not exist. To obtain a legal work visa, you must complete several official steps. It cannot be purchased.

Immigration is a legal process — details matter.



5. First Steps After Arrival

The first weeks are critical. Immediately take care of:

- ✓ Obtain your Codice Fiscale (tax number)
- ✓ Apply for your Permesso di Soggiorno
- ✓ Register your residential address
- ✓ Open a bank account
- ✓ Arrange health insurance

Completing these steps promptly will make your relocation smooth and stress-free.

PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Save this checklist — it ensures nothing is missed.

- Legal basis for stay confirmed
- All consulate requirements checked
- Apostilles and translations prepared
- Finances verified
- Timelines planned

WHY WORKING WITH



EXPERTS MATTERS

Relocating to Italy is both a life-changing opportunity and a legal process.

Immigration isn't something to risk. Our team guides clients through every step, from planning to receiving official documents in Italy.

With professional guidance, you can:

- Choose the right legal way for your situation
- Avoid costly delays and mistakes
- Ensure your documents are correctly prepared
- Move forward with confidence

IMMIGRATION IN ITALY

ABOUT US

Immigration in Italy is a law firm focused on Italian immigration.

We provide clear, legal solutions for individuals and families planning a move to Italy – from strategy to residence permits.

We work with precision, transparency, and full compliance with Italian law.

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