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SCHOOL PROFILE

History and Accreditation

Founded in 1977 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet the academic needs of Italians living in the New York City metro area, La Scuola d'Italia "Guglielmo Marconi" (La Scuola) has grown into a unique bilingual English/Italian Pre-K through 12th grade educational institution. In addition to being recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, La Scuola was chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York and is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). La Scuola students graduate with a high school diploma that is officially recognized in the United States, Italy, and across the European Union. In May of 2018, following an extensive review of the curriculum, La Scuola was authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the IB Diploma Program (IB DP) for students entering their junior year of high school in 2018-2019.

Curriculum

From the beginning of ninth grade (I Liceo) to the time of graduation (IV Liceo or V Liceo for transfer students) historical time periods and themes are designed to coincide wherever possible with the other subjects of study. In their philosophy and natural science classes, they study the history of ideas, as well as their application—they see Galileo as a scientist, a philosopher, and a historical figure. Such curricular intersections are intended to help student recognize and understand the interconnectedness of the subjects they study. The multilingual curriculum gives students the opportunity to read Virgil and Ovid in Latin; Dante and Pirandello in Italian; Camus and Hugo in French, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Virginia Woolf in Middle, Elizabethan, and Modern English respectively. In addition to its strong humanist foundation, La Scuola is considered a "liceo scientifico", so each student studies math up to and including calculus, as well as biology, chemistry, and three years of physics.

The school's bilingual curriculum conforms to the highest criteria mandated by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Education and is on par with some of the finest independent schools in the U.S. La Scuola's educational program is rooted in the best Italian/European and American traditions for internationally-oriented studies: students receive a comprehensive, multicultural and multidisciplinary education, developing the international understanding and openness needed to become principled and productive participants in a globalized society. La Scuola offers substantive academic content that provides intellectual stimulation, promotes personal growth, and encourages students to be open to innovation and new technologies.

Although the traditional Italian curriculum is typically completed over five years, La Scuola’s students complete the curriculum, plus two additional academic courses—U.S. History and English Literature—in just four years. The Class of 2019 will be the last cohort to follow a single curriculum without tracks or tiers. Subsequent classes will have the option to pursue the IB Diploma or IB Course Certifications Program in addition to the Liceo curriculum. While all students complete the same challenging sequence of courses and all courses are taught at an advanced level, only those students who are accepted into the IB Program and complete the IB subject tests and/or other requirements will receive IB credit. Students attend school 35 periods per week each week and complete homework assignments designed to reinforce central principles and processes introduced in class. An overview of the academic program, including contact hours by subject, is provided below.

Units of Study Required

4 years of Italian Language and Literature	1 year of Geography
4 years of Latin Language and Literature	1 year of United States Civics and Economics
4 years of English Language and Literature	4 years of Math: Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry & Calculus
4 years of French Language and Literature	3 years of Physics
4 years of European and World History	4 years of Science: Biology, Chemistry & Earth Science
1 year of United States History and Government	4 years of Technical Drawing and History of Art
3 years of Philosophy	4 years of Physical Education

Contact Hours by Subject

Subjects	I Liceo	II Liceo	III Liceo	IV Liceo	Total
Lingua e Letteratura Italiana (Italian Language and Literature)	5	5	5	5	720
Lingua e Letteratura Latina (Latin Language and Literature)	3	3	3	3	432
English Language and Literature	4	4	4	4	576
Francese (French)	3	3	2	2	360
Storia (European and World History)	3	2	2	2	324
Filosofia (Philosophy)		3	3	3	324
Geografia (Geography)	2				72
American History (Civics, Government and Economics)			2	2	144
Matematica/Informatica (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Probability, Statistics, Calculus and Computer Science)	6	5	4	4	684
Fisica (Physics)		3	3	3	324
Scienze (Biology, Chemistry & Earth Science)	4	3	3	3	468
Disegno/Storia Arte (Art/Technical Drawing and Art History)	2	2	2	2	288
Educazione Fisica (Physical Education)	3	2	2	2	324
Totale (Total)	35	35	35	35	5040

Esame di Stato

At the end of their last year of high school, students take the Italian Ministry of Education State Exam (Esame di Stato or “Maturità”) a credit-bearing credential internationally recognized. This exam is administered by a State Examination Commission appointed by the Italian Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission that administers this test is comprised of three teachers and a head of school sent from Rome in addition to three members of La Scuola’s Liceo faculty. The exam includes a six-hour math test, a six-hour written exam in Italian, a three-hour multidisciplinary test, and an hour-long oral exam, which includes a presentation of a thesis in Italian. Students who pass the exam are awarded a diploma, which permits them to continue their studies at any college or university in the U.S., Italy, or beyond. Please Note: La Scuola is monitoring anticipated changes from the Ministero Istruzione Università e Ricerca (MIUR) and will adjust this practice as needed to maintain alignment.

Grading and GPA Calculation

The grading system at La Scuola is based on a scale of one to ten. In practice, most grades range from six to eight—nine is seldom given and ten is very rare. In reporting student scores, La Scuola uses the conversion table compiled by the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange (see below).

The Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated on an unweighted 4.5 scale, with a 10 equal to a 4.5 or A++, a 9 equal to a 4.3 or an A+, an 8 equal to an A or 4.0 and so on. For a grade of 7 or lower, the GPA is calculated using the proportional equivalent. For example, a grade of 6.7 would be calculated as a 2.70.

Due to La Scuola’s small class sizes, students are not ranked.

Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange Conversion Table

99-100	A++	Outstanding	Ottimo	10	4.50
97-98	A+	Superior	Distinto/Eccellente	9	4.30
90-96	A	Very Good	Più che Buono	8	4.00
80-89	B	Good	Buono	7	3.00-3.99
70-79	C	Satisfactory/Average	Sufficiente	6	2.00-2.99
60-69	D-F	Unsatisfactory	Quasi Sufficiente	5	1.00-1.99
59 and below	F	Failing Grade	Insufficiente	4 and below	0.00-0.99

Colleges Attended

The following colleges and universities have admitted La Scuola students over the last four years:

United States of America

Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Colgate University
Connecticut College
CUNY City College
CUNY Hunter College
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Drexel University
Franklin & Marshall College
Florida International University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Hofstra University
Loyola University – Chicago
Marymount Manhattan College
New York University
Northeastern University
Parsons School of Design
Skidmore College
St. John’s University
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
Trinity College
Tulane University
University of California, San Diego
University of Southern California
University of San Francisco
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Minnesota
Wesleyan University

Italian and Other EU Countries

Bocconi Università, Italy
Brunel University, UK
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy
City University of London, UK
Durham University, UK
Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESCP), France
Istituto Europeo di Design, Spain
John Cabot University, Italy
King’s College, UK
Loughborough University, UK
La Sapienza Ingegneria, Italy
La Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy
LUISS Guido Carli, Italy
Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Italy
University of Bath, UK
University of Bournemouth, UK
University of Bristol, UK
University of Durham, UK
University of Edinburgh, UK
University of Essex, UK
University of Florence, Italy
University of Leeds, UK
University of Geneva, Switzerland
University of Sussex, UK
University of St. Andrews, UK
University of Warwick, UK
Yeshiva University, Israel