

Italy

Immigration country brief



The purpose of this Immigration Country Brief is to serve as a resource and provide a general overview of the immigration requirements related to business visitors and employment authorization in Italy. The information contained in this document is provided as a resource only and should not be construed as legal advice. Processing times are estimated only and are subject to change regularly. If you have any further inquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact the Crown World Mobility Regional Immigration Manager, EMEA.

Overview: Business visas

Entry visa requirements for visits to Italy are dependent upon the applicant's citizenship. Citizens of many countries do not need a visa to visit Italy for purposes of business for stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Visa types

Schengen Visa (Type 'C' Visa)

Summary: Italy is a member of the Schengen Area and allows short-stay visitors to apply for a Schengen Visa, which includes entry for purposes of a business visit.

Maximum stay: A Schengen Visa allows for a duration of stay of up to 90 days within a six-month period.

Processing time: Varies by applicant citizenship and Consulate.

Activities permitted as a business visitor include:

- Attending business meetings (including representing their overseas employer in meetings with clients).
- Attending contract negotiations.
- Hosting or attending business presentations.
- Attending seminars or fact-finding meetings

Limitation or special requirements

Some nationalities do not require a visa to enter Italy for purposes of business for a duration of stay up to 90 days within any 180-day period.

Overview: Employment authorization

Foreign nationals who wish to work or undertake gainful employment in Italy are required to obtain work authorization. Several categories are available for application depending on purpose and length of stay. Non-EU/EFTA nationals wishing to work in Italy must apply for a work (and residence) permit in order to start working in Italy. EU/EFTA nationals do not need an immigration process that needs to be started outside of Italy. For EU/EFTA nationals it is possible to register in person in Italy due to the Free Movement of Persons Act.

If an EU/EFTA national is assigned to Italy and is not in possession of an Italian work contract, the EU/EFTA national needs to follow an immigration process before he/she can start working in Italy. Assignments of EU/EFTA nationals to Italy are not covered by the Free Movement of Persons Act.

Work permit types

Non-quota work permit for intra-company transferee

Summary: This category applies to employees assigned to Italy for a minimum of 90 days and a maximum of five years, either as intra-company transfers or transfers between companies that have a joint venture agreement. Work permits obtained via this process are exempt from the quota system.

Maximum stay: five years.

Processing time: Four to six weeks.

Dependents: Spouse and children of 17 years and under can accompany the principal.

Intra-Company Transfer Permit

Summary: This process is the newly implemented temporary residence authorization for ICT. It is only applicable for assignees falling into management/specialists or trainee categories sent to Italy for over 90 days from outside the EEA.

Maximum stay: Three years for managers/specialists and one year for trainees.

Processing time: Processing timeframe is typically two to six months until entry to Italy, and an additional one to two months post-arrival.

Dependents: Spouse and children of 17 years and under can accompany the principal.

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Blue Card

Summary: The blue card is an EU-wide (with some exceptions) immigration process for highly skilled employees with a concrete job offer in the destination country and a salary 1.5x the average gross annual salary for the specific job to be done.

Maximum stay: Two years, extension possible.

Processing time: Processing timeframe is typically two to 10 months until entry to Italy, and an additional one to two months post-arrival.

Dependents: Spouse and children of 17 years and under can accompany the principal.

EEA/ EFTA Nationals

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals on assignment to or being employed in Italy do not need work permits. They have the right to stay in Italy for a period of up to three months without any conditions or formalities other than having a valid travel document (i.e. identity card or passport). However, registrations with the local authorities must be carried out if the stay is for more than 90 days.

The above are the most common employment-related work permits. This list is not all-inclusive; other visa classifications may exist.

Additional information and resources

- Italian Consulates and Embassies: www.embassy.goabroad.com
- Blue Card Permit: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0050&from=EN
- ICT: (Decreto legislativo n. 253 del 29 dicembre 2016) as published in the Italian government gazette (Gazzetta Ufficiale n. 7 del 10 gennaio 2017). See the text of the (Draft) legislative decree on Senate website.
- Non-quota work permit for Intra Company Transferee (in Italian): www.libertaciviliimmigrazione.dlci.interno.gov.it/it/ingresso-lavoro-casi-particolari-art-27-tu-immigrazione

