

Citizenship by Ancestry **Fast-track procedure**

Faster procedures are available for people who decide to apply for the Italian citizenship directly in Italy instead of at the Italian Consulate in their country of residence.

In addition to assisting with qualification assessment and document procurement, we are also able to help in locating adequate housing in beautiful locations in order to provide fast-track issuance of the citizenship recognition.

If you decide to apply for your citizenship directly in Italy, the following three steps must be completed after your arrival in Italy under tourism status. **PLEASE NOTE** that after you have filed for your residency application you do not need to stay permanently in Italy but you must file in person your citizenship application and you will need to attend the visits at the Police Office to complete the process for your permit of stay. The date of each appointment can be delayed but if you are out of Italy you will need to go back each time.

1	Residency Application	Filed by Applicant	Residency is adjudicated unless the City Hall raises issued within 45 days.	Mazzeschi will assist
2	Citizenship Application	Filed by Applicant	Can takes several months to be completed	Mazzeschi will assist
3	Residence Permit Application	Filed by Assignee	The applicant can legally stay in Italy after the application is filed, pending issuance of the permit	Mazzeschi will assist

1st Step – Residency Application

Italian law provides non-EU nationals who have entered Italy under a tourist status, and who are eligible for Italian Citizenship, with the possibility to obtain legal residency, even if they are not in possession of a permit of stay.

The residency application is carried out by the foreigner, at the local City Hall, by declaring the address where he is residing and providing information about the citizenship application. Processing the residency application takes approximately one to two months.

IMPORTANT: While entering Italy, the foreigner must obtain a valid entry stamp on his passport. If he enters through another Schengen country and does not get the stamp in Italy, a Declaration of Presence must be signed at the local Police Station.

2nd Step – Citizenship Application

Once the residency is confirmed, the foreigner can apply for Italian citizenship at the City Hall of the city where he is a resident. This will involve completing the relevant application forms and submitting all the documents and legalizations necessary to recognize the Italian Citizenship.

The City Hall will start processing the citizenship application and will cooperate with the Italian Consulate in the applicant's country of recent permanent residence to get all of the necessary information.

Processing time for the citizenship application takes approximately five to seven months, but it may take longer, depending on the Italian Consulate that is processing the application. Please note that an application filed at the Consulate almost always takes more than one year to be finalized.

3rd Step – Residence Permit Application

The final step to be completed is the application for the Residence Permit, also called Permesso di Soggiorno. It can be requested from any Post Office by submitting the required application forms and supporting documents. As soon as the application is filed, the Post Office will immediately issue a receipt serving as proof of submission, which is valid as a provisory permit of stay.

The Post Office will also forward the application to the competent Police Station that, usually after one month from the date of filing, summons the foreigner to show up for an identification (fingerprinting) and document collection appointment.

It takes about another month from the identification appointment to be summoned again by the Police, this time to collect the actual Residence Permit, which will be the official permit to stay while awaiting for the Citizenship process to be completed.

IMPORTANT: The Residence Permit application **must** be filed before the expiration of the tourist visa or, if the applicant is from a Visa Waiver country, within 90 days from the date that a person enters a Schengen country. Please see the “Things to Know” section below for more information.

Things to Know

- **Visa Waiver:** Citizens of the following countries do not need to apply for a Tourist Visa prior to entering Italy: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Japan, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Malaysia, Macao, Northern Mariana Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Switzerland, USA, Taiwan (non-recognized territorial entity), Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela.