
**ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BY MARRIAGE**

Italian citizenship by marriage to an Italian citizen can only be granted by Italy’s **Ministry of Home Affairs** (*Ministero dell’Interno*).

Foreign spouses of Italian citizens residing abroad can apply for Italian citizenship after 3 years from the date of marriage (or 18 months if the couple have biological or adopted children together). Marriage registration by the local Council in Italy (*Comune*) is a pre-requisite to submit an application.

Applications can only be lodged [**online.**](https://cittadinanza.dlci.interno.it/) The website is managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and is currently available **only in Italian**. For any technical assistance, please refer to the helpdesk function available on the website itself.

Applicants are first required to register by entering their personal details (name, surname, place of birth, date of birth) **exactly as they appear on their birth certificate.** **Women must register with their maiden surname(s) only .**

Once registration has been finalized and access to the website obtained, applicants need to fill the **AE form for foreign citizens residing abroad** and upload a scan of the following documents **after** they have been apostilled, where required, and the translations have been **certified as explained below**:

1) **Proof of knowledge of the Italian language,** with a B1 or higher certificate of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). To find an accredited institution in Australia, just click on the CEFR link [**HERE**.](https://www.linguaitaliana.esteri.it/lingua/corsi/certificazioni/ricerca.do#form_scuola)

2) A recent (no older than 6 months) original version of **birth certificate** (*Estratto di nascita del Paese di origine*), duly [apostilled (by](http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/australian-offices/pages/western-australia-state-office.aspx) DFAT for Australian Certificates) and [translated into Italian;](http://www.naati.com.au/)

3) A recent (not older than 6 months) original version of a **National Police Clearance** (name check only, in both maiden and married surnames, where applicable) issued by an authorized Police Department and stating the existence or inexistence of any outstanding criminal proceedings, duly [apostilled (by](http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/australian-offices/pages/western-australia-state-office.aspx) DFAT for Australian Certificates) and [translated into Italian; t](http://www.naati.com.au/)his certificate is needed for the **country of birth** and for **each country** where the applicant has lived since the age of 14;

4) A Marriage Certificate issued by the Comune in Italy where it was registered;

5) A valid **passport**;

6) **Receipt of a € 250 bank transfer** to be made with the following details:

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| BENEFICIARY | Ministero dell’Interno D.L.C.I. – Cittadinanza - Via Cavour 6 - 00184 Roma ITALY |
| REFERENCE | "istanza di cittadinanza italiana per matrimonio ", with surname of the applicant |
| IBAN | IT54D0760103200000000809020 |
| BIC / SWIFT code | BPPIITRRXXX |
| BANK NAME | Poste Italiane |
| ADDRESS | Viale Europa 175 – Roma (Italia) |

For overseas certificates, applicants are advised to obtain all details necessary for perfecting them (either by means of an *apostille* or through legalization, depending on whether or not the issuing country ratified The Hague Convention of 1961) by consulting the website of **Italy**'s relevant Embassy or Consulate in that country.

**If the translations are not from an original English document they will need to be certified by the Italian Embassy/Consulate in the country in which the certificates were issued, or apostilled in that country. Alternatively, if the translations are from an original English document then this Consulate can certify the them.**

When a certificate is accompanied by a **sworn translation** (as is often the case with documents issued, e.g., in Brazil), the translation will have to (1) be apostilled locally, and (2) bear the translator’s wording “translation true to the original attached” (or equivalent). Failure to do so would render the certificate and the translation ineligible and have them returned to applicants to have them perfected.

Following the upload and a preliminary assessment, applicants will need to visit this Consulate to submit the same original documents already uploaded. Once the application has been perfected, no other action is required. The status of each application may be checked from [HERE.](http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/cittadinanza-e-altri-diritti-civili/cittadinanza/cittadinanza-consulta-pratica)

The overall timespan required for the entire process is approximately **4 years**.

Applicants are formally notified once citizenship is granted and again requested to visit the Consulate in order to: (1) formally receive their citizenship decree; (2) produce a recently issued marriage certificate and a recently issued National Police Clearance for Australia and each of the countries the applicant may have been a resident of since application lodgment (No *apostille* and no translation are required), (3) pay the consular fee and (4) swear a formal oath of allegiance to the Italian Republic.

Applicants will formally be Italian citizens from the day following the oath.