

Vocational education and training system in Italy

Kylene De Angelis

FONDAZIONE



Frontone (PU)

The italian school system

The italian school system articulates in three cycles:

- Primary (or basic) cycle: 5 compulsory years of schooling beginning at age 6.
- Secondary cycle: 8 years (five years are compulsory). This cycle provides for four areas of specialization: classical, scientific, technical and artistic studies
- High education (University) / OR VET qualifications

Primary cycle



- The first is known as “scuola elementare” or primary school. It lasts for 5 years and begins at the age of 6.
- Until middle school, the educational curriculum is the same for all pupils: although one can attend a private or state-funded school, the subjects studied are the same (with the exception of special schools for the blind or the hearing-impaired). The students are given a basic education in Italian, English, mathematics, natural sciences, history, geography, social studies, physical education and visual and musical arts.

Secondary cycle

Lower secondary education



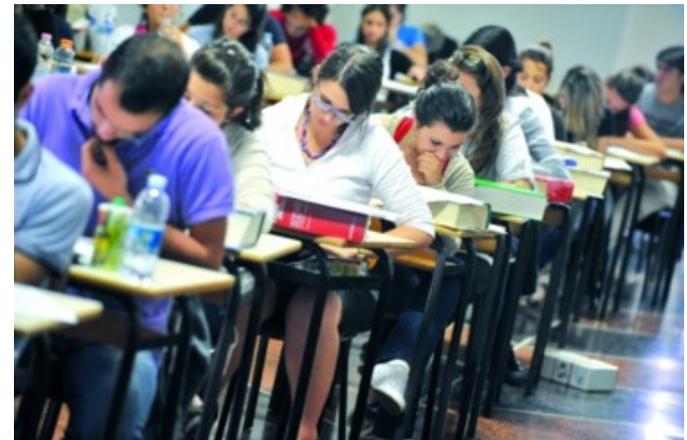
The *Scuola secondaria di primo grado* o “*scuola media*” or lower secondary school, is a three year stint (roughly from age 11 to 13), at the end of which students, assuming all goes well, receive a “Diploma di Licenza di Scuola Media” and therefore the right to continue their education.

- It provides further education on the subjects studied at the *scuola primaria*, with the addition of Technology and a language other than English (typically French, Spanish or German). The curriculum is the same for all schools.

Secondary cycle

Upper secondary education

- The students may choose from a range of High Schools, known as "licei", with either classical, linguistic, artistic or scientific specialisations, or move to study at an "istituto" which prepares students for elementary school teaching as well as technical, commercial and industrial careers.
- On completion of their chosen course students undertake a State assessed exam which gives them a "diploma di maturità" and hence the right to attend university.
- With the implementation of the new system the age of compulsory education has shifted upward to 16 years. The traditional "liceo" and "istituto" have been replaced by an obligatory two-year period of general studies, followed by three more years of optional specialised education. New disciplines and a 34-hour week of classes are designed to better prepare students for their future careers.



High Education

Higher Education	Bachelor's degree	Ususally 3 years
	Master's degree	2 years
	Bachelor's + Master's degree	5 years
	PhD	3, 4, 5, years

Vocational Education System

- Vocational upper secondary education
- Initial vocational training - Formazione professionale regionale
- IFTS – Post-secondary education
- ITS
- Apprenticeship

Vocational upper secondary education

Vocational upper secondary education includes **technical education**, i.e. *Istituto tecnico* (technical school), attended by pupils aged 14-19 and **vocational education**, i.e. *istituto professionale* (State vocational schools), attended by pupils aged 14-19.

It is addressed to those who have completed the first cycle of education.

Almost every upper secondary institute is divided into a **first three-year course (2 years course + 1 year for the vocational qualification in specific sectors)**, and a **two years final course**. The three-year course is attended by students aged from 14 to 17 years the two-year course by students aged from 16 to 19.

At the end of the three years course the pupils can obtain a **diploma of vocational qualification** and they can go into the labor market. The students can also decide to complete the additional two years course and obtain an upper **secondary school leaving diploma**, which allows them to continue their studies at higher level.

Initial vocational training- **Formazione professionale iniziale**

The Initial vocational training (*formazione professionale iniziale – FPI*), is managed by the Regions and is offered by recognised training agencies operating nationwide (Vocational training centres). The FPI provides for:

- First-level (or basic) training, addressed to those who have completed the first cycle of education. These paths have a three-year length and lead to the obtainment of a regional qualification certificate or to a qualification diploma;
- Second-level training pathways addressed to those who have completed the upper secondary level of education or who have obtained a first-level vocational qualification;
- Apprenticeship

IFTS - Post secondary education

Post-secondary education and training is organised both in the higher technical education and training system and in the second-level vocational training courses managed by the Regional Authorities.

1. Higher Technical Education and Training System

2. Second level of initial vocational training – the regional VET courses

They aim at providing students with specialized training. Curricula are based on vocational skills having a high theoretical, technical, technological and managerial content, also through practical exercises and on-the-job training periods.

Post-secondary training can be accessed by those having an upper secondary school-leaving certificate or having an upper secondary education level, generally unemployed, and wishing to obtain a certificate or a vocational qualification immediately valid on the labour market.

ITS

The “Istituti Tecnici Superiori (ITS)” are new «special technology schools». They are a new way of training people at post-secondary level and are parallel to University education. In these courses special technical people are trained in strategic areas for economic development and national competitiveness.

They are usually founded by a consortium of partners composed of schools, VET centres, enterprises, universities, research centres and public administration offices.

Apprenticeship

In Italy apprenticeships are labour contracts with a specific training aim. They combine periods of work with training and apprentices are considered as employees.

THANK YOU

Kylene De Angelis