

Italia Startup Visa

Summary of the application process

Case A – DIRECT APPLICATION

STAGE 1: A non-EU citizen interested in obtaining an Italia Startup Visa to set up an innovative startup in Italy submits his/her application as follows:

- a. downloads the **application form** for a “Certificate of No Impediment” from the Italia Startup Visa website (italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it). The applicant then completes the form, indicating, among others:
 - his or her educational and employment history;
 - detailed information regarding his or her business idea and model;
 - the type of product or service he or she plans to develop, elaborating on its character of innovativeness;
 - his or her target markets;
 - his or her previous contacts with the Italian innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem

The applicant then sends the completed form via email to the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee at the following address: italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it, together with:

- b. documentary evidence, from personal funds or from a third-party funding body, showing that he or she possesses proven financial resources of at least 50,000 euros to develop the innovative startup.
- c. a “presentation deck”, the short presentation (preferably in a .ppt format) typically used by startups to describe the main features of their proposed business model, their innovativeness, and to convince investors of their growth potential.
- d. a “business plan” including detailed estimates of costs and revenues foreseen for the entrepreneurial project, with a focus on research and development activities.

The applicant must store the original version of the documentation stated above, as he/she will be asked to show it in its original version at a later stage (see Stage 3 and Stage 4).

STAGE 2: The Italia Startup Visa Committee:

- a. carries out a detailed assessment of the application, and checks the documentation demonstrating that the applicant has sufficient financial resources (see ISV Guidelines, section “Step 2: evaluation”);
- b. obtains, on the applicant’s behalf, a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry to Italy, issued by the local police headquarters (Questura) responsible for the area where the applicant intends to settle;
- c. as soon as point b. has been completed, issues a Certificate of No Impediment (which also states that the Questura has issued a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry purposes) to the applicant, the “**Nulla Osta ISV**”. The Committee notifies the applicant via email and also informs the Italia Startup Visa contact points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the Ministry of Interior.

STAGE 3: After obtaining the Nulla Osta ISV, the applicant visits the Italian Embassy or Consulate responsible for his or her area of residence, and applies for a visa. The documentation to show always includes:

- a. the Certificate of No Impediment (Nulla Osta) granted by the ISV Committee, together with the complete original documentation submitted for evaluation;
- b. proof of suitable accommodation in Italy, e.g. through hotel reservations or a declaration of hospitality, in accordance with Article 26 of Legislative Decree 286/1998;
- c. demonstration of an income, obtained in the previous financial year in the country of residence, amounting to a higher sum than the legal minimum for exemption from contributions to the National Health Service (about 8,500 euros). The applicant may also provide an equivalent guarantee by governmental agencies (Italian or non-Italian), from Italian citizens or from foreigners legally residing in Italy;
- d. hard copy of submitted Application form for ISV, in its original version;
- e. hard copy of submitted Cover letter for proof of financial resources and attached files, in their original version;
- f. four passport-size photographs;
- g. a valid passport;
- h. proof of residence in the local consular district.

Please refer to vistoperitalia.esteri.it for detailed info (fill in the form at the bottom of the page)

STAGE 4: The Italian Embassy or Consulate:

- a. receives the visa application from the candidate, complete with the required documents, and carries out the checks for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Consular offices abroad are responsible;
- b. if all requirements are met, issues a 1-year “startup self-employment visa”, the Italia Startup Visa.

STAGE 5: No more than 8 days after his or her entry in Italy, the applicant visits the Questura of his or her chosen area of residence and applies for a 1-year self-employment permit. The applicant follows the steps stated below:

- a. Informs, well in advance, the Secretariat of the Italia Startup Visa committee on the date and the place on which he or she intends to apply for a residence permit, by writing an email to italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it. The Secretariat informs the responsible Questura,
- b. Visits the local post office, and pays two postal bulletins, of €30.46 and €50.00 each, as a contribution to print and issue the residence permit,
- c. Buys a €16.00 revenue stamp (“marca da bollo”),
- d. Visits the local Questura on the agreed date, bringing:
 - Receipts for the postal bulletins
 - The €16.00 revenue stamp
 - Photocopy of his/her passport (all internal pages included)
 - 2 passport-size photographs
 - Certificate of suitable accommodation in Italy
- e. The Questura will collect the fingerprints of the applicant and carry out the checks required by law. If passed successfully, it will trigger as a matter of urgency the procedure to print the residence permit, and will contact the applicant in the next weeks to collect the document when ready.

It is also possible to apply according to the standard procedure provided for self-employment residence permits: that is, by filing a special set of forms available at most local post offices (a “postal kit”). However, unlike those made at Questura, applications submitted by postal kit will be given lower priority.

STAGE 6: After one year, no later than 60 days before the expiry date of the residence permit, the applicant submits a formal application for the renewal of the residence permit to the Questura. The application must include:

- a. a certificate of incorporation and articles of association of the innovative startup;
- b. evidence that the applicant has an adequate annual income from lawful sources.

CASE B: APPLICATION THROUGH CERTIFIED INCUBATOR

STAGE 1: The applicant interested in obtaining an Italia Startup Visa to set up an innovative startup in Italy:

- a. obtains an agreement from a certified incubator ([list](#)), in which it declares to host the applicant in its premises or structures so that he or she can start up an innovative enterprise. The applicant then downloads the “Undertaking to host” form from the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee’s website (italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it) and sends it to the incubator for completion. After obtaining the incubator’s “undertaking to host” completed form, the applicant sends it via email to the Italia Startup Visa Technical Committee at the following address: italiastartupvisa@mise.gov.it, together with:
- b. documentary evidence from his or her funding body (business angel, venture capital, bank, certified incubator etc.) showing that he or she possesses proven financial resources of at least 50,000 euros to develop the innovative startup. In the case of funding from certified incubators, the value of any services in kind that the certified incubator intends to provide for the innovative startup may be included in the total amount.
- c. a “presentation deck”, the short presentation (preferably in a .ppt format) typically used by startups to describe the main features of their proposed business model, their innovativeness, and to convince investors of their growth potential.
- d. a CV, for statistical profiling purposes.

The applicant must store the original version of the documentation stated above, as he/she will be asked to show it in its original version at a later stage (see Stage 3 and Stage 4).

STAGE 2: The Italia Startup Visa Committee:

- a. receives, electronically, the undertaking from the certified incubator, and checks the rest of supporting documentation, in particular that demonstrating sufficient financial resources (see ISV Guidelines, section “Step 2: evaluation”);
- b. obtains, on the applicant’s behalf, a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry to Italy, issued by the local police headquarters (Questura) responsible for the area where the applicant intends to settle;
- c. as soon as point b. has been completed, issues a Certificate of No Impediment (which also states that the Questura has issued a provisional Certificate of No Impediment for entry purposes) to the applicant, the “**Nulla Osta ISV**”. The Committee notifies the applicant via email and also informs the Italia Startup Visa contact points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the Ministry of Interior.

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