

## VISA FOR RESEARCHER'S FAMILY MEMBERS

Foreign citizens belonging to non-EU countries who are entering Italy for research purposes can be accompanied by:

- Spouse
- Minors of spouse also born out of wedlock, provided that the other parent, if existing, has given consent

For family members' entrance in Italy there are three different procedures.

### Accompanying family members (*Familiari al seguito*)

This procedure is used by the foreign researcher who has already obtained an entry visa to Italy and is still abroad. The researcher will prepare a signed document (*delega*) allowing a person regularly staying in Italy to electronically submit to the Italian Immigration Desk (*Sportello Unico per l'Immigrazione - SUI*) the application for the leave for Accompanying family members (*nulla-osta per familiari al seguito*), prepared according to the indications given from the competent Italian diplomatic authority. The *nulla-osta* is sent by SUI to the competent diplomatic authority which issues the visa for family reasons, following the verification of the family status documentation and the other necessary checks.

For more information:

[https://www2.immigrazione.regione.toscana.it/?q=procedimentiamministrativi&procedimento=1855&pa\\_prov=FI](https://www2.immigrazione.regione.toscana.it/?q=procedimentiamministrativi&procedimento=1855&pa_prov=FI)

#### Before arriving in Italy – Requirements

The researcher must:

- Hold a Research entry visa;
- Have an income no lower than the annual amount of Italian social allowance, plus half of the amount of that social allowance per family member.

Required documentation:

- Copy of family members' passports;
- Translated and legalised income certificate;<sup>1</sup>

#### After the arrival in Italy

Family members must enter Italy together with the researcher and go to the Immigration Desk (SUI), within 8 working days, to start the residence permit application.

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<sup>1</sup> Only in case the income comes from a foreign institution, for instance the researcher's home university; in case the income is earned in Italy through the institution hosting the researcher, the certificate does not have to be translated nor apostilled/legalised.

Once the completeness of the documentation is verified, the SUI will provide the reunited family members with the package to be deposited at a Post Office equipped with a “Sportello Amico”. Family members must carefully follow the given instructions and attend appointments for biometric data collection. They are also required to keep the receipt provided by the Post Office, to be exhibited with the passport in case of a Police control.

### **Family reunion (*Ricongiungimento familiare*)**

This procedure is reserved for foreign citizens who already have a *residence Permit* in Italy.

#### Before arriving in Italy – Requirements

The researcher must:

- Have a residence Permit for Research purposes;
- Have an income no lower than the annual amount of Italian social allowance, plus half of the amount of the social allowance per family member;

The researcher will submit a specific request to SUI, who will issue the *nulla-osta* after checking the documentation provided by the applicant, within 90 days from its submission.

The *nulla-osta*, which has a 180 days validity, is sent by the SUI to the competent Embassy that issues the family reunion visa, following the verification of the family status documentation and the other necessary checks. The researcher’s family members must schedule an appointment at the diplomatic authority within the *nulla-osta* validity period.

#### After the arrival in Italy of the family members

After arriving in Italy and within 8 working days, family members must go to the SUI to start the residence Permit application procedure, presenting the following documents:

- The lease agreement (*cessione del fabbricato*) for the apartment where they live or a letter from the accommodation facility hosting them
- The copy of the visa and the entry stamp into the Schengen area
- A 16 euro revenue stamp (*marca da bollo*) for each *residence Permit* applicant older than 14 years of age (for one or more applicants under 14 years, only one stamp is required).

Once the documentation completeness is verified, the SUI will deliver the package to be deposited at a Post Office equipped with a “Sportello Amico”.

**Family cohesion or reunion accepted in exception to the non community citizen with relatives regularly resident – (*Coesione familiare o ricongiungimento in deroga di cittadino non comunitario con familiare regolarmente soggiornante*)**

**NOT ADVISED AT THE MOMENT**

Family cohesion is a form of a family reunion in exception, that a foreign citizen can undertake directly in Italy, without requiring the *nulla-osta* to the competent Immigration Desk and the related visa.

Foreign citizens who entered Italy as tourists are considered regular residents if they come from third countries (i.e. not belonging to the EU) with which Italy has signed bilateral agreements exempting visas for tourist purposes.

The request can be submitted to the *Questura* (Police Headquarters) up to a year after the expiration of the previous residence Permit (*permesso di soggiorno*) or of the allowed period of stay for tourism.

For this procedure it is necessary to enter Italy with the certificates attesting the family relationship, already translated and apostilled or legalised in the Country of origin, which must be exhibited at the Police Headquarters. Legalisation is done through the Italian Consulate in the Country of origin of the family members and the apostilles are obtained from the relevant offices also in said Country of origin. Both, the request for an apostille and the legalisation, depend on the agreements signed by Italy with each country about this topic.