

# TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE IN TVET

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING 'MADE IN ITALY'  
EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ITALY

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# Education in Italy

**Education in Italy** is compulsory from 6 to 16 years of age, and is divided into five stages:

- **kindergarten** (*scuola dell'infanzia*)
- **primary school** (*scuola primaria* or *scuola elementare*)
- **lower secondary school** (*scuola secondaria di primo grado* or *scuola media inferiore*)
- **upper secondary school** (*scuola secondaria di secondo grado* or *scuola media superiore*)
- **university** (*università*)

Education is free in Italy and free education is available to children of all nationalities who are residents in Italy.

Italy has both a private and public education system.

# Schools

level	name	duration
<b>Pre-school education</b>	Scuola dell'infanzia (nursery school)	3 years (age: 3 to 6)
<b>Primary education</b>	Scuola primaria (primary school)	5 years (age: 6 to 11)
<b>Lower secondary education</b>	Scuola secondaria di primo grado (first grade secondary school)	3 years (age: 11 to 14)
<b>Upper secondary education</b>	Scuola secondaria di secondo grado (second grade secondary school)	5 years (age: 14 to 19) (compulsory until the age of 16, or until year 2)
	Formazione professionale (vocational education)	3 or 4 or 5 years (age 14 to 17 or 14 to 19) (compulsory until the age of 16, or until year 2)

# University

level	name	duration
Upper Education	ITS Academy	2 or 3 years
	Laurea (Bachelor's degree) Diploma accademico di primo livello Laurea magistrale (Master's degree) Diploma accademico di secondo livello	3 years +2 years
	Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico (Bachelor's + Master's degree)	5 years only
	Dottorato di ricerca (PhD) Diploma accademico di formazione alla ricerca Diploma di Perfezionamento – PhD	3, 4 or 5 years

# Vocational Education and Training in Italy (Formazione Professionale)

At age 14 learners make a choice between **general education**, **secondary VET school** pathways and **regional VET** pathways.

At upper secondary level, the following VET programs are offered:

- **5-year programs** at technical schools (istituti tecnici) leading to technical education diplomas; at vocational schools (istituti professionali) they lead to professional education diplomas. Graduates have access to higher education
- **3-year programs** (istruzione e formazione professionale, leFP) leading to a vocational qualification (attestato di qualifica di operatore professionale)
- **4-year programs** leading to a technician professional diploma (diploma professionale di tecnico)

On completion of a 3-year vocational qualification, it is possible to attend 1 additional year leading to a 4-year vocational diploma; this allows enrolling in the fifth year of the State education system.

All upper secondary education programs are school-based but could be also delivered as **apprenticeships**

# Vocational education and Training in Italy (IFTS e ITS)

At **post-secondary level**, VET is offered as higher technical education for graduates of 5-year upper secondary programs or 4-year leFP programs who passed entrance exams

- higher technical education and training courses (**Istruzione e formazione tecnica superiore, IFTS**): 1-year post-secondary non-academic programs leading to a high technical specialization certificate (certificato di specializzazione tecnica superiore)
- higher technical institute programs (**Istituti Tecnologici Superiori; ITS Academy**): 2-to-3-year post-secondary non-academic programs which lead to a high-level technical diploma (diploma di tecnico superiore)

# ITS Academy

**Higher Post-diploma courses** that offer highly qualified technical training to immediately enter the world of work.

The **ITS courses**, in fact, are created in collaboration with companies, universities, research centers and local authorities to develop new skills in technological areas considered strategic for the economic development and competitiveness of the country.

## Duration

The courses are usually divided into 4 semesters (**1,800/2,000 hours**) and can last up to 6 semesters.

## Teaching Organization

The courses are structured by skills rather than subjects. Competence is the ability to use what you know to achieve something. Learning-by-doing, project work, problem solving, are just some of the teaching approaches most used by ITS.

## Teachers

At least 50% are sector professionals made available by the companies that collaborate with ITS: they bring into the classroom the skills and technologies that they use every day in their work.

# Campus ITS Academy Project

The project involves the creation of an **ITS higher education center** in the Como area.

**Provincial administration of Como, Chamber of commerce and associations** together with the **ITS Foundations** are the promoters of the project.

The **Campus** will be created by renovating a **Historic Villa** and bringing together all the existing ITS courses in our territory.

The ITS Foundations participating in the project are from the sectors:

- **mechanical**
- **textile**
- **chemical**
- **logistics**

Other ITS Foundations may join later.