

Moon Global Times

World University, Job and Visa Updates

March - 2026



Special in this issue

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Editorial....

Dear Readers,

The global landscape of education, employment, and migration continues to evolve at a dynamic pace. Countries across the world are actively reshaping their immigration policies to align with economic priorities, labour market demands, and long-term growth strategies. For students and professionals, staying updated with these changes is now more important than ever.

In this edition of Moon Global Times, we present key updates from major destinations including Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, France, Germany, Spain, Malaysia, Japan, Dubai, and Italy. Each of these countries is adapting its approach – whether through stricter visa regulations, new immigration pathways, or enhanced opportunities for international students and skilled professionals.

Canada continues to focus on structured immigration and skilled workforce selection, while the UK and Australia are emphasizing compliance and quality-driven migration. The USA remains a global leader in education and career opportunities despite its competitive visa system. Meanwhile, European countries like Germany, France, Spain, and Italy are gaining popularity due to affordable education and growing post-study work options.

At the same time, emerging destinations such as Malaysia and Japan are offering cost-effective education and expanding opportunities, while Dubai stands out with its flexible visa system and strong career prospects in a tax-efficient environment.

In such a rapidly changing environment, success depends on having the right information, clear direction, and proper planning. Choosing the right destination today is not just about education – it is about building a secure and successful future.

At Moon Overseas, guided by our philosophy “Learn – Plan – Go”, we are committed to providing you with accurate insights and dependable guidance to help you make informed decisions. We sincerely thank you for your continued trust and support.

For the journey ahead and the horizons beyond,
Moon Overseas – Always With You.

Editor

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Australia - Quality Education & PR Pathways



Key Facts

- Capital: Canberra
- Major Cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide
- Region: Oceania
- Official Language: English
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)

Education Overview

- Globally ranked universities (Group of Eight institutions)
- Strong focus on research, innovation, and practical learning
- Popular courses: Business, IT, Engineering, Healthcare, Hospitality
- Academic intakes: February & July (main), November (limited)

Work Opportunities

- Students can work up to 48 hours per fortnight during studies
- Full-time work allowed during official breaks
- Strong part-time job market in retail, hospitality, and services

Post-Study Work Options

- Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485)
- Duration depends on qualification level
- Opportunity to gain Australian work experience after graduation

Average Cost

- Tuition Fees: AUD 20,000 – AUD 45,000 per year
- Living Cost: AUD 21,000 – AUD 27,000 per year

Popular Visa Types

- Student Visa (Subclass 500)
- Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485)
- Skilled Independent Visa (Subclass 189)
- Skilled Nominated Visa (Subclass 190)

PR & Immigration Pathways

- Points-based immigration system
- High demand for skilled professionals
- Pathways available through skilled migration and state nomination



France – Gateway to European Careers

Key Facts

- Capital: Paris
- Major Cities: Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Nice
- Region: Europe
- Official Language: French (many programs available in English)
- Currency: Euro (€)

Education Overview

- Home to globally recognized universities and Grandes Écoles
- Affordable tuition fees in public universities
- Strong focus on research, business, fashion, and hospitality
- Popular courses: Business, Fashion, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Arts
- Academic intakes: September (main), January (limited)

Work Opportunities

- Students can work up to 964 hours per year
- Part-time jobs available in retail, hospitality, and services
- Opportunities to gain international work exposure during studies

Post-Study Work Options

- Temporary residence permit (APS) after graduation
- Allows students to stay and search for jobs or start a business
- Pathway to convert into long-term work permit

Popular Visa Types

- Student Visa (VLS-TS)
- Temporary Residence Permit (APS)
- Talent Passport (for skilled professionals)
- Work Permit

PR & Immigration Pathways

- Opportunities for long-term residence after employment
- Talent-based immigration options available
- Pathways available for skilled professionals and graduates

Average Cost

- Tuition Fees: €2,500 – €10,000 per year (public universities lower)
- Living Cost: €800 – €1,200 per month

Key Advantages

- Affordable education compared to other European countries
- Strong post-study work opportunities
- Globally recognized degrees
- Rich cultural and international environment



Germany

Skills, Innovation & Career Growth



Key Facts

- Capital: Berlin
- Major Cities: Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Stuttgart
- Region: Europe
- Official Language: German (many programs available in English)
- Currency: Euro (€)

Education Overview

- Public universities offer low or no tuition fees
- Strong global reputation in engineering, technology, and research
- Industry-oriented and practical education system
- Popular courses: Engineering, IT, Business, Data Science, Automotive
- Academic intakes: Winter (main – September/October), Summer (limited)

Work Opportunities

- Students can work 120 full days or 240 half days per year
- Part-time jobs available in research, retail, logistics, and services
- Opportunities for internships and industry exposure

Post-Study Work Options

- Graduates can stay up to 18 months to search for a job
- Transition to Work Permit or EU Blue Card after employment
- Strong pathway toward long-term residence

Popular Visa Types

- Student Visa
- Job Seeker Visa
- Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte)
- EU Blue Card
- Work Permit

PR & Immigration Pathways

- High demand for skilled professionals
- Clear pathway from study → job → PR
- PR possible after a few years of employment

Average Cost

- Tuition Fees: €0 – €5,000 per year (public universities mostly free)
- Living Cost: €850 – €1,200 per month

Key Advantages

- Low or no tuition fees
- Strong job market for skilled professionals
- Excellent post-study work opportunities
- Globally recognized technical education



Canada – Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Immigration & Study Visa Updates

Canada continues to remain one of the most preferred destinations for international students and skilled immigrants. Over the past month, several important developments have taken place in Canada's immigration system, including new Express Entry draws, policy adjustments, and updated visa processing guidelines. These changes reflect Canada's continued focus on attracting skilled talent while aligning immigration with labour market needs.



Express Entry Draws Continue in March 2026

Canada conducted multiple Express Entry draws in early March, inviting thousands of candidates to apply for permanent residence.

Recent draws included invitations under the Canadian Experience Class, Provincial Nominee Program, and category-based selections such as French-language proficiency and senior management occupations. These draws demonstrate that Canada is continuing to prioritize candidates who already have Canadian work experience or provincial nominations.

The Canadian Experience Class draw issued thousands of invitations with CRS scores around the 500 range, while the Provincial Nominee Program draw required higher CRS scores due to the additional 600-point nomination advantage.

This trend indicates that candidates already working in Canada or those nominated by provinces continue to have strong opportunities for permanent residence.



New Express Entry Priority Categories

In February 2026, Canada expanded its category-based immigration selection system under Express Entry. The new categories are designed to address labour shortages in critical sectors.

Key priority sectors now include:

- Healthcare professionals
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) occupations
- Skilled trades
- Education professionals
- French-language skilled workers

Additional priority areas such as researchers, transport sector specialists, and senior management professionals are also being targeted.

This policy shift shows Canada's strategy of aligning immigration selection with economic and workforce requirements.



Work Experience Requirement Increased

Canada has introduced an important change in the eligibility requirements for certain category-based Express Entry draws.

Applicants must now demonstrate a minimum of 12 months of work experience, whereas previously some categories allowed eligibility with six months of experience. The required experience must have been gained within the past three years, though it does not need to be continuous.

This change aims to ensure that candidates invited through targeted categories possess stronger professional experience relevant to Canada's labour market.



UK - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

The United Kingdom continues to remain one of the leading destinations for international students and skilled professionals. Over the past month, several developments have taken place in the UK immigration system, particularly regarding visa policies, labour shortages, and international student regulations. The UK government continues to balance immigration control with the need to attract skilled workers and global talent.



International Student Demand Remains Strong

Despite stricter immigration policies introduced in recent years, the United Kingdom continues to attract a large number of international students. Universities across the UK have reported strong interest for the upcoming September 2026 intake, particularly from countries such as India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Students continue to prefer the UK because of its shorter degree duration, globally recognized universities, and the opportunity to gain work experience through the Graduate Route (Post-Study Work Visa).

For most international graduates, the Graduate Route still allows two years of post-study work, while doctoral graduates can remain in the UK for three years after completing their studies.



Skilled Worker Visa Remains Key Immigration Route

The Skilled Worker Visa continues to be the primary route for foreign professionals seeking employment in the UK.

Following policy changes implemented in 2024 and 2025, stricter salary requirements remain in place. Most applicants must now meet a minimum salary threshold of approximately £38,700 per year, although certain shortage occupations and healthcare roles may qualify for lower thresholds.

Sectors currently experiencing labour shortages include healthcare, engineering, construction, information technology, and social care services.

The UK government continues to encourage employers to recruit skilled professionals in areas facing workforce shortages.



Healthcare Recruitment from Overseas Continues

The UK healthcare sector continues to rely heavily on international recruitment to address workforce shortages. Hospitals and healthcare providers across the country are actively hiring nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals from overseas.

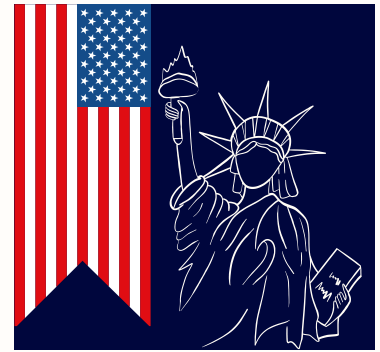
Although immigration rules have tightened in some areas, healthcare workers remain a priority category for immigration, and visa processing for this sector is generally faster compared to other routes.

Healthcare professionals continue to benefit from reduced visa fees and exemption from the Immigration Health Surcharge under the Health and Care Worker Visa scheme.



USA - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

The United States continues to be a top destination for international students and skilled professionals. During this period, several important updates have emerged regarding student visas, work opportunities, and immigration policies. While the U.S. remains highly attractive due to its world-class universities and career opportunities, policy changes and regulatory developments continue to shape the immigration landscape.



H-1B Visa Registration Season Opens for 2026

The H-1B visa registration process for FY 2027 officially opened in early March 2026.

Key highlights:

- Registration is conducted through an online lottery system
- Employers must submit registrations on behalf of applicants
- The annual cap remains 85,000 visas (65,000 regular + 20,000 for advanced degree holders)

The H-1B visa remains one of the most important pathways for international students in the U.S. to transition from education to employment.

Due to high demand, selection through the lottery system continues to be highly competitive.

Strong Demand for F-1 Student Visas

The United States continues to witness strong global demand for F-1 student visas, particularly for the upcoming Fall 2026 intake.

Popular study areas include: Computer Science and IT, Business and Management Engineering, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Students are increasingly choosing the U.S. for its research opportunities, global exposure, and high employability prospects.

Universities are also expanding support services for international students to enhance campus integration and career outcomes.

OPT and STEM OPT Remain Key Advantages

The Optional Practical Training (OPT) program continues to be a major advantage for international students in the U.S.

Current structure:

- 12 months OPT for most degree programs
- Additional 24 months STEM OPT extension for eligible STEM graduates

This allows students to gain up to 3 years of work experience in the U.S., making it one of the strongest post-study work opportunities globally.

Many students use this period to gain experience and later apply for H-1B visas.



The United States continues to offer excellent opportunities for international students and skilled professionals, particularly in high-demand sectors such as technology and engineering. While visa processes remain competitive and require careful documentation, pathways such as OPT, STEM OPT, and H-1B continue to provide strong career opportunities.

Australia - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Strong Focus on International Student Quality

Australia has continued its focus on improving the quality of international student intake. Authorities are emphasizing genuine students with clear academic goals and financial capacity.

Key developments include:

- Increased scrutiny on Genuine Student (GS) requirement
- Stronger verification of financial documents
- Greater monitoring of student attendance and course progression

Educational institutions are also being held accountable to ensure compliance with immigration standards. These steps are aimed at maintaining the integrity of Australia's education system.

Student Visa Processing Becoming More Selective

Student visa approvals are becoming more selective as Australia aims to control migration levels.

Important observations:

- Higher rejection rates in some applicant categories
- Priority processing for students applying to high-ranking universities
- Increased documentation checks during visa processing

Students are advised to submit strong applications with proper academic background, financial proof, and clear career plans.

Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485) Updates Continue

Australia continues to implement earlier announced changes to the Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485).

Key points:

- Post-study work rights remain available for eligible graduates
- Duration varies based on qualification level
- Focus on linking post-study work rights with skills shortage occupations

This visa remains a crucial pathway for international students to gain work experience after completing their studies in Australia.

Skilled Migration Remains a Priority

Australia continues to prioritize skilled migration through various visa pathways, including:

- Skilled Independent Visa (Subclass 189)
- Skilled Nominated Visa (Subclass 190)
- Skilled Work Regional Visa (Subclass 491)

Occupations in high demand include:

- Healthcare professionals, Engineers, IT specialists, Construction workers, Teachers

State nomination programs also continue to play a significant role in selecting candidates based on regional workforce needs.



France - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

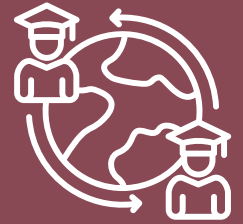
Growing Popularity Among International Students

France is witnessing a steady rise in international student interest, particularly for the September 2026 intake.

Key reasons include:

- Affordable tuition fees compared to other major destinations
- Availability of English-taught programs
- Strong focus on research and innovation
- Opportunities to study in globally recognized institutions

France aims to welcome more international students as part of its long-term strategy to become a global education hub.



Post-Study Work Opportunities Remain Attractive

France continues to offer favorable post-study work options for international students.

Key provisions include:

- Graduates can apply for a temporary residence permit (APS) after completing their studies
- This allows students to stay in France and search for employment or start a business
- Once employed, students can transition to a long-term work permit

These pathways make France an attractive destination for students seeking both education and career opportunities in Europe.

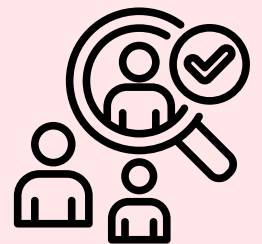
Focus on Skilled Workforce and Talent Attraction

France is actively promoting immigration policies that support skilled professionals in sectors facing labour shortages.

Key sectors include:

- Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Hospitality and tourism

The government continues to encourage international talent to contribute to France's economy through structured work visa pathways.



Simplified Procedures for International Students

France has continued efforts to simplify visa and admission procedures for international students.

Recent improvements include:

- Streamlined application processes through centralized platforms
- Better coordination between universities and immigration authorities
- Faster processing timelines for student visas in many cases

These steps aim to improve the overall student experience and make France more accessible to global applicants.



Germany - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Rising Demand for German Student Visas

Germany is witnessing a significant increase in applications for student visas, particularly for the upcoming Winter Intake 2026.

Key reasons include:

- Low or no tuition fees at public universities
- High-quality education system
- Strong job opportunities after graduation
- Increasing availability of English-taught programs

Germany continues to attract students from India and other countries due to its cost-effective education model and long-term career prospects



Visa Processing Delays Remain a Major Concern

One of the most important challenges during this period is delay in student visa processing.

Key observations:

- Many students are facing delays of several weeks to months
- Appointment availability remains limited in some regions
- Late visa approvals may result in students missing their intended intake

Students are strongly advised to begin their application process early, especially booking visa appointments well in advance.

Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) Gains Attention

Germany's Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) continues to gain popularity among skilled professionals.

Key features:

- Points-based system for job seekers
- Allows individuals to enter Germany and search for employment
- Focus on qualifications, experience, language skills, and age

This pathway provides an alternative route for skilled individuals who do not yet have a job offer but wish to explore opportunities in Germany.



Strong Demand for Skilled Workers

Germany continues to face a shortage of skilled workers across multiple sectors.

- **High-demand fields include:** Engineering, Information Technology, Healthcare, Skilled trades, Logistics and manufacturing

The government is actively encouraging skilled immigration to address workforce gaps and support economic growth.



Part-Time Work Opportunities for Students

International students in Germany continue to benefit from flexible work opportunities during their studies.

Spain - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Growing Interest in Spain for Higher Education

Spain has seen a noticeable rise in international student applications, particularly for the September 2026 intake.

Key reasons for this growth include:

- Affordable tuition fees compared to other European countries
- Increasing availability of English-taught programs
- High quality of life and student-friendly environment
- Opportunities to explore the broader European job market

Spain is becoming a preferred alternative for students looking for cost-effective European education options.



Student Visa Process Becoming More Streamlined

Spain has continued efforts to simplify its student visa procedures.

Key improvements include:

- More structured documentation requirements
- Better coordination between universities and immigration authorities
- Gradual improvement in visa processing timelines

Students are encouraged to apply early and ensure complete documentation to avoid delays.

Post-Study Work Opportunities Improving

Spain continues to strengthen its post-study work pathways for international students.

Key provisions:

- Students can extend their stay after graduation to search for employment
- Once a job is secured, they can transition to a work permit
- Opportunities available across various sectors including tourism, business, and technology

These improvements are making Spain more attractive for students seeking long-term career opportunities in Europe.



Digital Nomad Visa Gaining Popularity

Spain's Digital Nomad Visa continues to attract global professionals.

Key features:

- Allows remote workers to live and work in Spain
- Suitable for freelancers and employees of foreign companies
- Offers flexible residency options

This visa has positioned Spain as a preferred destination for remote professionals seeking a European lifestyle.



Malaysia - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Increasing Popularity Among International Students

Malaysia is witnessing a steady increase in international student interest, especially from Asian and African countries.

Key reasons include:

- Affordable tuition fees and living costs
- Wide availability of English-taught programs
- Globally recognized degrees through partnerships with international universities
- Safe and student-friendly environment

Malaysia is positioning itself as a cost-effective alternative to traditional study destinations like the UK, USA, and Australia.



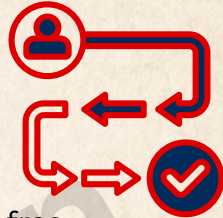
Smooth and Student-Friendly Visa Process

Malaysia continues to offer one of the most streamlined student visa processes.

Key highlights:

- Centralized processing through the Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) system
- Faster approval timelines compared to many Western countries
- Transparent tracking of application status

This efficient system makes Malaysia attractive for students looking for a quick and hassle-free visa process.



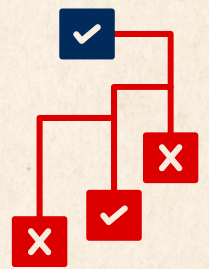
Growth of International Branch Campuses

Malaysia is home to several international university branch campuses, which continue to attract global students.

Examples include campuses of universities from:

- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Other international institutions

Students can earn internationally recognized degrees at a lower cost while studying in Malaysia, making it a strong value proposition.



Post-Study Opportunities Improving Gradually

Malaysia is gradually enhancing opportunities for international students after graduation.

Key developments:

- Increased focus on employability and industry connections
- Growing opportunities in sectors such as IT, business services, and hospitality
- Internship and training opportunities during studies

While post-study work options are more limited compared to countries like Canada or Australia, Malaysia is making efforts to expand career opportunities for graduates.

Malaysia is emerging as a strong and affordable study destination, particularly for students seeking quality education with lower costs.

Japan - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Rising Interest in Studying in Japan

Japan is experiencing growing interest from international students, especially for the April and October 2026 intakes.

Key reasons include:

- Affordable tuition fees compared to Western countries
- Availability of scholarships for international students
- Increasing number of English-taught programs
- Strong reputation in technology, engineering, and research

Japan is positioning itself as a competitive alternative for students seeking quality education in Asia.



Expansion of English-Taught Programs

Japanese universities are expanding their offerings of English-medium programs to attract global students.

- **Key focus areas include:** Engineering and technology, Business and management, International relations, Data science and innovation

This initiative helps reduce the language barrier and makes Japan more accessible to international applicants.

Work Opportunities for International Students

Japan continues to provide part-time work opportunities for international students.

Current guidelines:

- Students can work up to 28 hours per week during academic sessions
- Full-time work allowed during long vacations

These opportunities allow students to gain work experience and support their living expenses while studying.



Strong Demand for Skilled Workers

Japan continues to face labour shortages due to its aging population, creating opportunities for foreign workers.

High-demand sectors include:

- Information Technology
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Healthcare and caregiving
- Hospitality and tourism

The government is actively promoting immigration policies to attract skilled talent in these sectors.

Key Takeaways

Japan is becoming an increasingly attractive destination for international students and skilled professionals, offering affordable education, strong career opportunities, and a technologically advanced environment.

With expanding English-taught programs, improved work opportunities, and growing demand for skilled workers, Japan presents a promising option for those looking to study and build a career in Asia.

For students seeking a unique combination of education, culture, and career growth, Japan stands out as a strong emerging destination.

Dubai - Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Expansion of Golden Visa Opportunities

The UAE continues to expand its Golden Visa program, offering long-term residency to talented individuals.

- **Key eligible categories include:** Skilled professionals, Investors and entrepreneurs, Outstanding students and graduates, Scientists and researchers

The Golden Visa provides 5 to 10 years of residency, offering stability and long-term career opportunities in the UAE.

Job Market Growth in Key Sectors

Dubai's job market continues to grow, particularly in high-demand sectors.

- **Key industries include:** Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Finance and banking, Construction and real estate, Tourism and hospitality, Healthcare

The city remains a major employment hub for professionals seeking international exposure and tax-free income.

Flexible Work and Freelance Visa Options

Dubai offers multiple flexible visa options for professionals and freelancers.

Key options include:

- Freelance visas for independent professionals
- Remote work visas for employees working with foreign companies
- Business setup options for entrepreneurs

These flexible pathways make Dubai highly attractive for global talent and digital professionals.



Focus on Becoming a Global Education Hub

Dubai is actively investing in becoming a leading international education hub.

Key initiatives include:

- Expansion of international university campuses
- Promotion of innovation and research programs
- Strong collaboration between education and industry

These efforts aim to position Dubai as a preferred destination for higher education in the Middle East.



Italy – Immigration, Student & Work Updates

Scholarship Opportunities Continue to Attract Students

Italy continues to offer a wide range of scholarships for international students.

Key options include:

- Government-funded scholarships
- Regional scholarships (DSU)
- University-specific financial aid programs

These scholarships significantly reduce the financial burden, making Italy one of the most cost-effective study destinations in Europe.



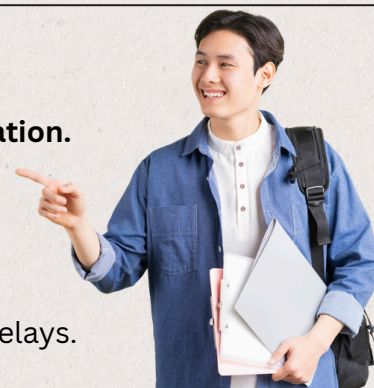
Student Visa Process Requires Early Planning

The Italian student visa process requires careful planning and timely application.

Important observations:

- Appointment slots at consulates can be limited
- Documentation requirements must be strictly followed
- Processing timelines may vary depending on application volume

Students are advised to prepare their applications well in advance to avoid delays.



STUDENT VISA PROCESS – 2026 UPDATE

Standard Steps:

1. Admission / Pre-enrolment via University Portal
2. Financial document preparation
3. Visa appointment (VFS / Embassy)
4. Arrival in Italy
5. Apply for Permesso di Soggiorno (Residence Permit)



Work Opportunities During Studies

International students in Italy are allowed to work part-time while studying.

Current guidelines:

- Students can work up to 20 hours per week
- Work must not interfere with academic commitments

These opportunities help students gain experience and manage living expenses.



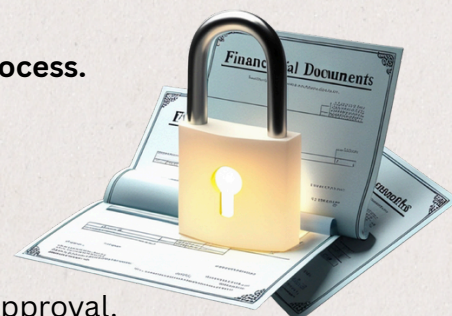
Focus on Documentation and Financial Proof

Italian authorities emphasize proper documentation during the visa process.

Key requirements include:

- Proof of sufficient financial resources
- Admission letter from a recognized institution
- Health insurance coverage
- Accommodation details

Accurate and complete documentation is essential for successful visa approval.



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