

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES TO APPLY FOR ITALIAN NATURALIZATION BY FOREIGN SPOUSES OF
ITALIAN CITIZENS**
(Law February 5th, 1992 n. 91, art. 5-9)

Spouses of Italian citizens living in the jurisdiction of this Embassy of Italy (North-Eastern Japan, from Hokkaido Prefecture to Niigata, Nagano e Shizuoka Prefectures included) being registered in the A.I.R.E. ("Anagrafe degli Italiani Residenti all'Estero", the registry of Italian nationals living abroad, kept by Italian Municipalities), can apply here for naturalization. Applications can be submitted after three years of marriage, or after one and a half years in case of minor children born of the couple.

Documents to provide:

- 1) Applicant's birth certificate, issued by the competent Authorities of the country of birth. For applicants born in countries where "short form" and "long form" birth certificate are issued, we will require the "long form". Applicants born in Japan should provide the following documents: "birth declaration" (shusseitodoke jurishomeisho) and "family register" (koseki tohon-zenbu jikoshomei), which can be requested at the Japanese Municipality of registration. Please note that the latter is sometimes not able to issue the "birth declaration". In this case the "family register" is sufficient.
- 2) Applicant's criminal record certificates, issued by the competent Authorities of the country/countries where the applicant resided from 14 years of age upwards. If the applicant resided in Italy as well, it is requested he/she gives full detail of the place(s) of residence in Italy to this Embassy. In Japan the certificate is issued by the Police to the applicant upon delivering a specific form issued by this Embassy.
- 3) "Atto integrale di matrimonio". No certificate must be delivered. Applicants are requested to give the Embassy information about the registration of their marriage in Italy, in full details (registration data).
- 4) Family certificate. No certificate must be delivered. Applicants are requested to give the Embassy full information about their family members, unless already known by this Embassy.
- 5) Italian spouse's citizenship certificate. No certificate must be delivered. Applicants are requested to give the Embassy full information about their spouse's citizenship, unless already known by this Embassy.
- 6) Receipt of payment of 200 Euro (Law n. 94/2009). The payment must be done through a bank transfer or through "Eurogiro", a system which exists among several foreign mail services. The sum must be transferred to the "Ministero dell'Interno D.L.C.I.-Cittadinanza" 's post office account, IBAN code: IT54 D076 0103 2000 0000 0809 020. Please note that you must specify on the form: "istanza naturalizzazione: APPLICANT'S SURNAME & NAME" as reason of the transfer. Poste Italiane's BIC/SWIFT code is as follows: BPPIITRRXXX (in case of bank transfer from abroad) and: PIBPITRA (in case of an "Eurogiro" transfer).
- 7) Payment of consular fees. The sum depends on the exchange rate which is fixed quarterly by this Embassy.

Important information:

- Criminal record certificates issued by foreign countries expire 6 months after their issue. Please double check they are all valid when presenting them at this Embassy.
- E.U. citizens can provide the information listed at number 2) (just regarding the Italian criminal record certificate), 3), 4) e 5) through a "dichiarazione sostitutiva di atto notorio" to present at this Embassy. The "dichiarazione sostitutiva" can be signed in front of a Consular officer or, if signed in a different moment, it must be delivered together with an identification document in which the holder's signature is verifiable. About document 3) in particular, the "dichiarazione sostitutiva" can be accepted only if it reports all the circumstances which have resulted in any changes of the marriage relationship.
- All certificates issued in countries other than Italy must be completed with the apostille (or legalization, if the country does not issue an apostille) and translated into Italian language, with a legalization by the Embassy/Consulate of Italy competent for the place of issue. For any further details on certificates to be provided by foreign Authorities we suggest you to consult the website of or to get in touch directly with the Embassy or Consulate of Italy that is competent for the place of issue.
- We regret to inform you that copies or incomplete documents (e.g. without apostilles / legalizations / translations) will not be accepted. Please be also informed that incomplete applications cannot be accepted.
- Japanese applicants should know that Japan does not allow its citizens to have dual nationality. Therefore, please be aware that loss of Japanese citizenship could occur after being granted the Italian one.

Procedure:

Please note that you must make an appointment to deliver your application by writing an e-mail to the following address: consular.tokyo@esteri.it. Applications must be signed in front of the Consular staff.

It is suggested that both spouses be present when the application is delivered, as some details or information of the Italian citizen might be needed.

Applications are sent through certified electronic mail to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which forwards it to the Ministry of Interior, in Rome. The latter has 730 days to assess the file and to issue a decree of citizenship in the case that a positive decision is taken.

After the decree is issued and before the applicant swears his/her loyalty to the Republic of Italy, a confirmation of the continuation of the marriage (see point 3) and a “certificato di esistenza in vita” of the Italian spouse will be needed to complete the procedure.

(UPDATED ON 22.08.2012)