Società Dante Alighieri Melbourne

Società Dante Alighieri
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Scholarships for Secondary Teachers of Italian Guidelines

1. INTRODUCTION

The Dante Alighieri Society of Melbourne, with the support of the Italian Australian Foundation, is offering international travel scholarships, based on need, to secondary school teachers of Italian to travel to Italy to study Italian with one of the Dante Alighieri societies in Italy.

Applications will close at 8pm on Sunday 1 November 2026.

2. ABOUT THIS SCHOLARSHIP

The Italian Teacher's Scholarship provides an opportunity for teachers of Italian to acquire higher-level Italian language skills and forge stronger ties between Australia and Italy.

The Scholarship is intended to provide opportunities for:

- Professional development.
- Building and expanding professional networks.
- Increasing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing between Australia and Italy.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Melbourne:

The Dante Alighieri Society of Melbourne is proudly the oldest chapter of the global Dante Alighieri Society in the English speaking world.

Established in Italy in 1889 in the name of Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) the Dante Alighieri Society promotes Italian culture and language around the world. Today this society comprises 81 branches in Italy and 401 branches in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

The Melbourne chapter was founded in 1896 and for the last 127 years has actively promoted Italian language and culture with the community in Melbourne.

We are a membership society run by a dedicated volunteer committee and supported by a loyal and passionate community. We have partnerships with cultural organisations, community organisations and we actively work with all levels of education institutions (community, primary, secondary, tertiary).

The Italian Australian Institute

The Italian Australian Foundation (IAF) is an association whose principal purposes are to provide educational, cultural and heritage services for persons of Italian descent resident in Australia and the broader Australian community and to make grants to funds, institutions or other entities to provide or facilitate educational cultural and heritage.

What does a scholarship involve?

It is expected the scholarship recipient will undertake an in person Italian language course at one of the five identified Dante Alighieri Societies in Italy.

The course should be between two and four weeks, and applicants who propose to undertake a hybrid (in person and online) courses, or those undertaking longer courses will be also considered.

In addition, the recipient is encouraged to participate in other activities that would enhance and deepen their experience whilst in Italy, such as participating in any events, networking activities or personal research.

The successful applicant will receive a scholarship, based on need.

It is up to the applicant to be self-selecting in the course they choose to enrol in, the timing of the course and in making all necessary arrangements to enrol in the course and securing their own visas, insurances, travel and accommodation to and in Italy.

The Dante Alighieri Society may be able to assist in facilitating contact and referrals and this will be done on a case by case basis and on request.

Where applicable, applicants must arrange for leave to travel and undertake this program with their employer and evidence of this should accompany the support material.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

Who can apply?

Applications are open to qualified teachers of Italian teaching at secondary schools registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Applicants DO NOT have to be of Italian heritage.

Applicants do not have to be currently teaching Italian at a school, priority will be given to applicants who can demonstrate the greatest benefit to a school, students and the community as an outcome of this scholarship.

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How to apply for this Scholarship?

1. Applicants are required to complete the Application Form prior to the closing date.
2. Applicants will need to identify a course at one of the identified Dante Alighieri Societies in Italy they will study should they be successful:

    - SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI, SCUOLA DI ITALIANO - ROMA
    - SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI, SCUOLA DI ITALIANO - BOLOGNA
    - SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI, SCUOLA DI ITALIANO - FIRENZE
    - SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI, SCUOLA DI ITALIANO - MILANO
    - SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI, SCUOLA DI ITALIANO - TORINO

3. Provide dates of the proposed travel and study.
4. Provide a statement of:
    a. the personal background of the applicant;
    b. why this scholarship is important;
    c. the anticipated impact of this development on the applicant, on the school and for the local community; and
    d. an indicative budget for the proposal, including any other sources of funding or support.
5. Provide any supporting documents, such as:
    a. Letter of endorsement from the school where the applicant is currently employed
    b. Resume of the applicant
    c. Any other letters of support
    d. References

Applications must be sent to dante.alighieri.melbourne@gmail.com by Sunday 2 August 2026 at 8pm. Interviews and confirmation will take place soon after.

Selection Process

1. Evaluation and shortlisting: All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Dante Alighieri Society Melbourne committee members.
2. Interviews: Short-listed applicants are then interviewed by a Selection Panel that includes representation from the Dante Alighieri Society Melbourne and the Italian Australian Foundation (anticipated to be mid to late October 2026)
3. Confirmation: The outcome of the application will be announced in November 2026 (the Scholarship will be offered and paid on proof of enrolment into the selected course.

Conditions:

1. Only complete applications received prior to the closing date will be accepted.
2. The duration of the overseas stay varies but generally Scholarship recipients spend between 2 – 6 weeks overseas).
3. Applicants must provide evidence of:
    a. endorsement from the school where the applicant is currently employed
    b. evidence of registration with Victorian Institute of Teaching
4. The Selection Panel's decision is final and binding.
5. Scholarship recipients agree to be ambassadors of the Dante Alighieri Society Melbourne throughout their scholarship activity and assist with activities that help promote the Scholarship program in the future.
6. Scholarship recipients must submit a Italy Study Report within 90 days on the completion of their trip that outlines the details of the course undertaken, key learnings and an impact statement. A balance of $500 from the scholarship will be held by the Dante Alighieri Society until this report has been accepted.
7. Scholarship recipients will provide an Italy Study Report presentation to the Dante Alighieri Society and its members, to be organised by the Society.

4. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Applicants wanting to discuss their application can contact the Dante Alighieri Society of Melbourne. Please note our preferred method of communication is via email; as a volunteer organisation our office is only open part time.

Email: dante.alighieri.melbourne@gmail.com Telephone: (03) 9349 1143