

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is, by vocation, open to all projects of internationalization that entities such as Eduitalia propose through their very existence. It is for this reason that Italian foreign policy is particularly sensitive to the issue of international student exchange programs promoted by schools and universities that offer courses for foreign students. It is with pleasure that I, as Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, welcome each student that comes in contact with our national language and culture. Stating that thousands of young people choose Italy as their study abroad destination allows our country to have precious messengers of our "Made in Italy" concept, which, for many aspects, is what makes us famous in the world.

In the formation of each young person, it is fundamental to have experiences in environments far from their own in order to relate themselves to other cultures, compare different ways of life, and to meet other young people from different nations.

The fact that thousands of young foreigners understand our language and culture, admire our art and music as well as have the chance to study that which makes us famous (fashion, painting, sculpture, design, filmmaking, sports etc.) renders Italy a key player in the eyes of the world.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs works in synergy with Eduitalia since many years. Among the many projects which are under way are those promoting the Study Abroad initiative, which was put into action by Eduitalia through their visibility on many of Italy's official informative portals around the world.

Eduitalia proposes itself as a referral point by offering information on the quality and reliability of the various associations in the study abroad field. They act as a valuable aide to the Italian consular network which, by issuing student visas in accordance with the law, can count on Eduitalia's monitoring the various schools and universities where prospective students intend to carry out their course of study.

I would like to offer my best wishes to all the readers of the Eduitalia Guide - *Study in Italy*. I am certain that each cultural exchange will not only be an important factor in the personal growth of each student, but also a crucial element in the exposure of our country's progress, which is particularly important in light of the upcoming EXPO to be held in Milan in 2015.



*On. Stefania Craxi, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*