

FOUNDATION YEAR



AY 2026-2027

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

✓ **University of Parma**
THE WORLD
WAITING FOR YOU

**PREPARATORY PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
WISHING TO ENROLL ON AN ITALIAN UNIVERSITY OR AN ITALIAN
MUSIC ACADEMY**

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Department offices: Via D'Azeglio 85, Parma

Head of the Course: Prof. Marco Mezzadri

For further information, please email

foundationyear@unipr.it or visit www.foundationyear.unipr.it



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA**

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION YEAR?

The Foundation Year is an eleven-month, full immersion preparatory programme for international students wishing to enroll at the University of Parma or any Italian University or a Music Conservatory.

WHO IS IT DESIGNED FOR?

It addresses prospective students holding a high school diploma but who have linguistic or cultural gaps and/or less than 12 years of schooling, as required by Law to access university in Italy. To enroll students must possess a B1 language competence either in English or Italian.

WHY SHOULD A STUDENT APPLY?

Thanks to this programme, international students will have the opportunity to:

- improve their language competence in Italian, up to B2 level, (needed to enroll at an Italian University) and expand their intercultural communicative skills;
- fill in any cultural and intercultural gaps to better integrate in an academic context in Italy;
- obtain a one-year certificate of attendance (for students who do not have 12 years of schooling).

Furthermore, by the end of the course, students will be able to sit for an international language certificate at a B2 level, which will allow them to enroll at any Italian university or take **Italstudio Università** test to enroll at the University of Parma. Alternatively, students will be able to obtain a certificate in English for the level required by the degree course taught through English they intend to enroll on.

STUDENT LIFE IN PARMA

Parma is famous all around the world for its art, where music has a leading role, and food. It is a medium size, efficient, vibrant, university city, with high quality of life. It offers a wide range of entertainment and cultural opportunities. With more than a thousand years of history, the University of Parma has always been at the forefront of new developments in teaching and research. Responding to students' needs and helping students develop their own special skills in different areas, from study life to leisure are among its core values. In order to achieve their aims, students have access to a large number of laboratories, study and research areas, as well as libraries, museums, sports centres, green areas and many other services and facilities. Discover more at <https://en.unipr.it/>.

HOW IS THE FOUNDATION YEAR ORGANIZED?

The course is organized in core subjects and two different options: an Italian option for students wishing to enroll on a degree course delivered in Italian, and English for degree courses delivered in English.

The core subjects are:

- Italian language and culture;
- Intercultural communication;
- Critical thinking skills;
- Preparatory course for the Italian language certificate at a B2 level;
- Contemporary history;
- Geography;
- Two University courses to help students choose the most appropriate degree course in one of the following fields:

Humanities; Law and Economics; Science (Chemistry, Biology, Pharmacy, etc.); Medicine (including Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, etc.); Technology (Engineering, Architecture, etc.).

LANGUAGE OF STUDY

The courses are taught in Italian. Some of the **blended** courses are also taught in English.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- At least 11 years of schooling from primary education to high school graduation.
- Secondary school leaving qualification with a full transcript of records of the last school year, accompanied by a translation in Italian language officially legalized by the competent Italian Consulate in the country of residence.
- Evidence of a B1 level competence in English or Italian.

ORDER OF ADMISSION

- Admission in chronological order upon payment.
- 10 students minimum for the General programme or 13 students for the Music programme maximum 120 students.

HOW MUCH DOES THE FOUNDATION YEAR COST?

It costs € 4,000 for the General programme and € 3,200 for the Music programme. Music courses are not included, an additional € 1,000 fee is required in order to enroll on (up to) 3 courses.

The fee includes an insurance policy covering injuries and accidents occurred while studying and civil liability, teaching materials, tutoring, access to facilities and services of the University of Parma.

The fee does not include travel expenses, VISA, housing, meals, books, health insurance policy, personal expenses, the **Plida** certificate fees.

We offer total or partial waivers based on merit and chronological order for students from countries in critical situations or those included in special cooperation programmes.

HOW TO APPLY AND DEADLINES

1. Fill out the online application form by **15 July 2025** "Early Birds" students, by **15 August 2026** for "Regular" students and by **30 September 2026** for students not admitted to the degree course in **Medicine and Surgery** after taking the 2026-27 admission test. Attach:

- a) transcript of records of the last secondary school year;
- b) copy of Passport;
- c) an original version of the secondary school leaving qualification (or a copy of the version, original version), officially translated into Italian, and Declaration of Value (DV) issued by the Italian authorities in the country of residence.
- d) evidence of competence in English or Italian at a B1 level.

2. After paying 15% of tuition fees and sending a copy of the money transfer receipt to foundationyear@unipr.it, accepted prospective students will receive an Admission Letter and will enroll on the FY Programme through the website universitaly.it submitting a pre-enrolment request form.

3. Prospective students are requested to pay 65% of tuition fees by:

- "Early Birds": **10 September 2026**;
- "Regular": **1 October 2026**.

6. Students are requested to pay the remaining 20% of total tuition fees by:

- "Early Birds": **1 October 2026**;
- "Regular": **22 October 2026**.