

Italian Foreign Policy: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges

IAI-University of Turin Essay Prize 2021

Concept

The Italian Foreign Policy programme at the *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)* and the **University of Turin's Department of Historical Studies** are pleased to announce a new essay call for students of 32 years or younger enrolled at the University of Turin on historical, social, cultural, technological and economy-related aspects connected to current and past trends in Italian foreign policy.

Against the backdrop of profound mutations in the international system, ongoing turmoil and instability in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), tensions with Russia and China and the approval of COVID-19 recovery plans, Italy faces a number of uncertainties and challenges when it comes to foreign policy. Yet, foreign policy tends to receive scant attention in contemporary national debates and media analyses, resulting in a general lack of attention and appreciation for Italy's role, capabilities and interests abroad.

Building on IAI's mandate to promote and disseminate knowledge and ideas for Italy, Europe and the world, the Italian Foreign Policy programme, in cooperation with partners, seeks to promote greater interest and understanding on the ways in which Italian foreign policy is responding to current international challenges; how Italian interests are mutating in the context of these broader international developments; and the extent to which capabilities match objectives and rhetoric matches action in the promotion of Italian interests abroad.

The initiative is promoted by IAI, in the framework of its strategic partnership with *Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation*, together with the University of Turin's *Department of Historical Studies*, in cooperation with the *Scuola di Studi Superiori "Ferdinando Rossi"* and the *Fondazione Luigi Einaudi*, both of which are Turin-based.

Essay Call & Thematic Priorities

Interested applicants should draft an unpublished essay addressing salient themes of contemporary relevance to Italian foreign policy. Essays should be of a **maximum of 2500 words** (including footnotes), written in UK English and submitted to the organizers with appropriate formatting in a word document, together with an updated CV and proof of age and enrolment at the University of Turin.

Five outstanding applicants will be selected by the **IAI-Turin Advisory Board** on the basis of their novel analysis, writing skills and creative choice of themes addressed in their essays. Particular relevance will be given to essays that **critically analyse a specific theme** related to **Italian foreign policy**,

demonstrate in depth knowledge of the topic and are able to provide **actionable policy recommendations** directed at Italian policymakers, civil society or private sector stakeholders, depending on the chosen topic.

The five selected applicants will receive a **cash prize (gross sum)** for their winning essay, which will be **published in the IAI Commentaries series** and disseminated widely on social media and via an ad hoc **e-book publication** by IAI and partners.

Applicants are **free to select any contemporary theme of relevance to Italian foreign policy**. Beginning from the three traditional pillars of Italian foreign policy – the Transatlantic relationship with the US; the European dimension; and the Mediterranean – more focussed topics can include relations with Russia and/or China; the migration challenge; Italian humanitarian and development aid; Italy's participation in military missions abroad (UN, NATO, EU, etc.); Italian cultural diplomacy; and Italian policy vis-à-vis ongoing or 'frozen' conflicts in the neighbourhood (e.g. Libya, Israel-Palestine, Syria, Ukraine, Western Sahara). Further topics of relevance include new technological advances and their applications (cyber security, information warfare, disrupting technologies, influence operations etc.) and themes related to the current climate emergency and Italian climate change policies, the European Green Deal and Italian support for post-COVID recovery within Europe and abroad.

The above themes are indicative and applicants are encouraged to address other topics of relevance to contemporary issues tied to Italian foreign policy and the promotion of Italian interests and values abroad.

Guidelines for Applicants

The call for essays will be launched on **7 June 2021**.

Applicants should be **32 years of age or younger** and **currently enrolled in a programme at the University of Turin**.

The deadline for submission of essays is **20 September 2021**.

Winning applicants will be announced **18 October 2021**.

A prize ceremony will be organised by IAI and the University of Turin during the **first week of December 2021**.

All essay submissions should be sent in a **word document** with appropriate formatting to **Elisabetta Farroni** (e.farroni@iai.it) and include an **updated CV**, **proof of age** and of **enrolment at the University of Turin**.

Essays should be of a maximum of **2500 words (including footnotes)** and written in **UK English**.

Essay Prize(s)

Five outstanding essays will be selected by the IAI-Turin Advisory Board through an anonymous peer review process.

Winning essays will be published as IAI Commentaries and presented by the selected students at the prize ceremony in December 2021. All winning essays will also be published in an ad hoc e-book volume and disseminated widely on social media and IAI's and the University of Turin's newsletters.

Winning candidates will be provided with a monetary remuneration in recognition of their outstanding analytic work.

Amounts are to be understood in **gross terms** and individual candidates will be **responsible for any fees and taxes incurred**.

The breakdown of prizes for the top five winning candidates are posted below:

1° Place Prize: 1000 euro (gross sum)

2° Place Prize: 800 euro (gross sum)

3° Place Prize: 500 euro (gross sum)

4° Place Prize: 300 euro (gross sum)

5° Place Prize: 150 euro (gross sum)