

**DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP**  
**“IURE SANGUINIS”**

**(Law February 5th, 1992 n. 91, art. 1)**

Descendants of Italian citizens resident in the jurisdiction of this Embassy of Italy (North-Eastern Japan, from Hokkaido Prefecture to Niigata, Nagano e Shizuoka Prefectures included) can apply here for the recognition of the Italian citizenship.

**Documents to provide:**

- 1) Birth certificate of the last ancestor who be born in Italy. The certificate must be an original copy with “annotazioni marginali” (side notes), issued by the Municipality where the ancestor was born. In case it is not possible to obtain such a certificate by the Municipality, you can instead provide an original copy of the baptismal certificate from the Parish where the ancestor was baptized, with the stamp of the Bishop’s office competent for the place where the certificate is issued. Jewish applicants can provide an original copy of the certificate from the Synagogue of registration at birth, signed and stamped by the Rabbi of the local Jewish Community. Religious certificates will only be accepted if they are accompanied by a declaration from the relevant Municipality in which it is clearly stated why a copy of the birth certificate cannot be provided, e.g.: destruction of Town Hall’s archives during wars, because of fires, floods, etc..
- 2) Marriage certificate of the last ancestor who be born in Italy. If the ancestor was married in Italy, the certificate must be issued by the Municipality where the marriage was celebrated. On the other hand, the if the ancestor married abroad, the certificate must be provided by the relevant Authorities of the State in which the marriage took place.
- 3) Death certificate of the last ancestor who be born in Italy (if relevant). The certificate must be provided by the relevant Authorities of the State in which the ancestor died.
- 4) Certificate of non naturalization of the last ancestor who be born in Italy. This certificate must be provided by the competent Authorities of the State of Immigration. It must state that the ancestor was never granted the local nationality or, if he/she was, it must report the date that naturalization was granted. This certificate must specify the name, or names, or different combinations (including any changes in spelling or linguistic adaptations) of the name by which the relevant ancestor is referred to in his/her certificates and those of his/her descendants.
- 5) Birth, marriage (and possible death) certificates of the descendants, according to the parental lineage, from the last ancestor who be born in Italy up to the applicant.
- 6) Applicant’s and his/her family’s certificates. Applicant must provide his/her own birth certificate and marriage certificate, if relevant. If the applicant married more than once, all marriage certificates must be provided, including documents concerning divorce or previous spouse’s death certificate. If the applicant has any children under the age of 18, birth certificates must also be provided.
- 7) Date of arrival of the ancestor in the country of immigration and a list of the places where the family lived, from the ancestor up to the applicant. A record of the date of arrival of the ancestor in the country of immigration is required. This information could be provided by the competent Immigration Authorities of the country of arrival, or by its Harbour Authorities. A list of the places where the family lived with relevant years is also required.
- 8) Applicant’s personal passport and Japanese Alien’s registration card copies. If the applicant is married and has any children a copy of all family members’ personal documents must be provided;
- 9) Contact details. Home address, phone and mobile numbers, and e-mail address of the applicant and his/her family must be provided. Please remember to keep this Embassy updated in case of any changes to these details.

**Important notes:**

- Descendants of Italian nationals can apply for the recognition of citizenship. There is no limit to the number of generations traced in case of paternal lineage, while cases of maternal lineage will not be considered prior to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948 (date of the issue of the Constitution of the Republic of Italy). We anyway suggest to verify your specific case with the consular staff.

- 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 further legalization by the Embassy/Consulate of Italy competent for the place of issue. For any further details on documents and 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.
- It is very important to provide all documents relating to the ancestor, the applicant and his/her family holds, especially: national passport, registry certificates, army enrolment, documents concerning boarding the ship to the immigration Country, etc.. They could be very useful to assess the file.
- If a successful applicant's surname differs from that of the ancestor's, through modifications or misspellings, then he/she can choose whether to retain his/her birth surname, or to adopt the ancestor's original Italian family name. In this case the applicant's certificates must be amended accordingly. Certificates must be completed with apostille/legalization/translation as specified above. If the applicant's surname is composed of both, his/her father's and mother's, then the applicant can decide if he/she wishes to keep it as it is or to follow the Italian law, which imposes the father's surname only. If this is the case, we kindly ask applicants to inform consular staff well before the Embassy sends their certificates to Italy for registration.
- If the applicant's children are over the age of 18, they cannot be included in their application of recognition of Italian citizenship. Children over 18 years must apply individually, providing a full set of documents as listed above. They can otherwise present their application after their parent's Italian citizenship has been recognized, thus providing their personal certificates only.
- The Embassy of Italy in Tokyo reserves the right to request further documentation or information when necessary for the assessment of the application.

**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](mailto:consular.tokyo@esteri.it).

We regret to inform you that copies of documents or incomplete documents (e.g. without apostilles / legalizations / translations) will not be accepted.

The application, once complete, is assessed by this Embassy of Italy, together with the Embassies/Consulates of Italy competent for the places of issue of the relevant certificates provided.

At the end of the citizenship recognition process, in the case that a positive decision is taken, the applicant will be given a declaration of his/her Italian nationality and he/she will then have to register at the A.I.R.E.. All the applicant's certificates will then be sent to Italy for registration and will therefore not be given back.

Please note that the citizenship recognition assessment is usually a rather long procedure, which could take several months to complete.

(UPDATED 11.08.2011)