

The Internationalization of Medical Education in Italy: challenges and opportunities

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A large comprehensive university founded in 1303

Enrolled students **112.259**

International students **7.920**

Academic Staff **3.498**

Administrative & Technical Staff **2.237 + 1.845**

Degree programmes (bachelor's and master's) **271**

Degree programmes entirely taught in English **29**

PhD programmes (5 of them international) **81**

Professional Doctorates **82**

Professional Masters **239**

One of the best Italian University according to the ARWU (Shanghai) ranking





Prof. Eugenio Gaudio: Rector of Sapienza University 2014-2020



Prof. Eugenio Gaudio is a Medical Doctor (Sapienza University, 1980). After conducting research on Human Anatomy at Sapienza University from 1983 to 1986, Prof. Gaudio began teaching at the University of L'Aquila in 1987 and served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery from 1997 to 2000. In 2000, Prof. Gaudio returned to Sapienza as a Professor of Human Anatomy and began coordinating the PhD programme in Experimental and Clinical Hepatology (now Experimental and Clinical Hepato-Gastroenterology). Since 2011, Prof. Gaudio has coordinated the degree programme of the International Medical School. From 2008 to 2010, Prof. Gaudio was also Director of the Department of Human anatomy. Since 2010, he has been President of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine and President of the Permanent Conference of Italian Faculties and Schools of Medicine and Surgery. Eugenio Gaudio is the author of over 450 scientific publications on issues addressing liver structure and ultrastructure, experimental and clinical hepatology and microcirculation, most of which have been published in leading international journals. Moreover, these 35 years of studies have allowed him to obtain an H impact index of 35. Prof. Gaudio is also included in the list of Top Italian Scientists - My Google Scholar Citations with over 4300 citations and a total impact factor: > 700 (JCR Science Edition 2012). Prof. Gaudio's scientific research has been developed through the organization and direction of inter-university and international research teams and in major PRIN, FIRB, CIPE and NIH projects. More recently, his research has mostly focused on the study of the mechanisms that regulate the proliferation, differentiation and death of biliary tree cholangiocytes, as well as the identification, localization and activation of liver stem/progenitor cells and their use in chronic liver disease therapy. Prof. Gaudio has collaborated with major international research centres, including the Texas A&M University Research Unit (USA) and the UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (USA). In 2012, Prof. Gaudio became President of SIAI (Italian Society of Anatomy and Histology) and President of FISBI (Italian Federation of Biological Societies) in 2014. Prof. Gaudio has authored 12 textbooks and atlases of human anatomy for Medicine and Surgery students. Moreover, Prof. Gaudio is on the editorial boards of many international scientific journals, including *Hepatology*, *Digestive & Liver Disease* and *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. He is a reviewer for *Anatomical Record*, *J Anatomy*, *Gastroenterology*, *American Journal Physiology*, *J Clinical investigation* and *Am J Pathology*. Prof. Gaudio is also a member of the "The Netter Collection of Medical Illustrations" International Advisory Board and Director of the "Netter Atlas of Anatomy, Pathophysiology and Clinical" Series. Prof. Eugenio Gaudio holds an international patent issued in 2011 entitled "Multi-potent Stem Cells from the Extra-hepatic Biliary Tree and Methods of Isolating Same" and a patent issued in 2014 entitled "Method of Treating Pancreatic and Liver Conditions by Endoscopic-Mediated (or Laparoscopic-Mediated) Transplantation of Stem Cells into / onto Bile Duct Walls of Particular Regions of the Biliary Tree."



Sapienza University of Rome

FACULTIES

- **Architecture**
- **Arts and Humanities**
- **Civil and Industrial Engineering**
- **Economics**
- **Information Engineering, Informatics and Statistics**
- **Law**
- **Mathematical, Physical, and Natural Sciences**
- **Medicine and Dentistry**
- **Medicine and Psychology**
- **Pharmacy and Medicine**
- **Political Science, Sociology, and Communication Science**

Three medical faculties

- Sapienza has **three different medical faculties** (Pharmacy and Medicine, Medicine and Psychology and Medicine and Dentistry), **three university hospitals** and **7 different degree programmes in Medicine and Surgery, one of which is completely taught in English.**
- The programmes aim at developing clinical skills throughout the course with teaching often taking place in the university hospitals, **educating students to the highest standards of medical practice**, training them as specialised clinicians in patient-centred medicine and tackling crucial issues in the mechanisms, prevention and treatment of disease, as well as health care and basic science

Increasing internationalisation of the Medical Faculties

Since our modern society is becoming more and more intercultural, it is essential to have in our hospitals Residents and Staff capable of communicating in English and other languages and understanding issues essential to **interact with patients coming from other countries and cultures.**

3 University hospitals

Policlinico Umberto 1° (about 1200 beds)

<http://www.policlinicoumberto1.it/>



Ospedale Sant'Andrea (about 450 beds)

<https://www.ospedalesantandrea.it/>



Latina (70 Km south of Rome)



More than 45,000 biomedical publications (>18,000 in the last 5 years)



Study medicine in Italy

- Since 2009, Italian public universities have been offering English-language MD programs. Pavia and Milan Universities were the first to start, yet **today over 9 public medical schools offer English taught MD degrees** including **Pavia, Milan, Rome, Turin, Bologna, Naples, and Bari**. These English-language medical schools are among the most internationally-diverse, academically-rigorous, and inexpensive in the world, and are excellent preparation for **residency, research, and clinical work** in Europe and beyond.
- With a range between **200 – 3000 Euro per year** for European as well as **non-Europeans**, obtaining a Western-European-level medical education is very accessible.

Medicine and Surgery in English in Italy

<https://www.university.it/>

- Università degli Studi di BARI ALDO MORO
- Università degli Studi di BOLOGNA
- Università degli Studi di MESSINA
- Università degli Studi di MILANO
- Università degli Studi di MILANO-BICOCCA
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- HUMANITAS University
- Libera Università "Vita Salute S.Raffaele" MILANO
- Università degli Studi di NAPOLI "Federico II"
- Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"
- Università degli Studi di PAVIA
- **Sapienza Università' di Roma**
- **Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"**
- Università degli Studi di TORINO

International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT)

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/imat/about-imat/>



Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing

- Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is working in conjunction with the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research to deliver the IMAT), a 100 minute subject-specific admissions test in English for applicants to medicine and surgery and dentistry courses.

IMAT

IMAT is divided into four sections:

- Section 1: Logical Reasoning and General Knowledge.
- Section 2, 3 and 4: Scientific Knowledge covering Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics.

Logical Reasoning
and General
Knowledge

Generic skills in
**problem solving,
understanding
argument, data
analysis and
inference; general
knowledge.**

22 multiple-choice

Scientific Knowledge

The ability to apply scientific knowledge from school science: **Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths.**

38 multiple-choice questions

IMAT can be taken in Italy or abroad

Università di Bari, di Milano, di Milano Bicocca, di Bologna, di Pavia, di Roma “Sapienza”, di Roma “Tor Vergata”, di Napoli “Federico II”, di Siena, di Torino, l’Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, l’Università degli Studi di Messina,

Argentina	Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires Open Centre 1
Brazil	São Paulo	Winner Idiomas
Canada	Toronto	Global Village English Centre
Cyprus	Nicosia	Pascal Education
France	Paris	British School of Paris
Germany	Essen	Stevens English Training
Germany	Munich	Münchner Volkshochschule
Greece	Athens	Hellenic English Council
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	ITS Tutorial School
India	Gurugram	Planet EDU Pvt Limited
Israel	Tel Aviv	British Council, Tel Aviv
Poland	Warsaw	Lang LTC
Portugal	Torres Vedras	International House, Torres Vedras
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	British Council, Jeddah
Spain	Barcelona	Exams Catalunya
Switzerland	Zurich	Swiss Exams
Turkey	Istanbul	British Side English Language School
UAE	Dubai	British Council, Dubai
UK	London	Mobile Testing Solutions
USA	New York	International House New York

Strengths

Weaknesses

SWOT

Opportunities

Threats

Strengths & Opportunities

- Attractions of talents
- Valorization of teachers with International experience
- Improvement of the learning environment
- Intercultural training
- Easier access to updated (and cheaper) books and other bibliographic resources in English

Weaknesses & Threats

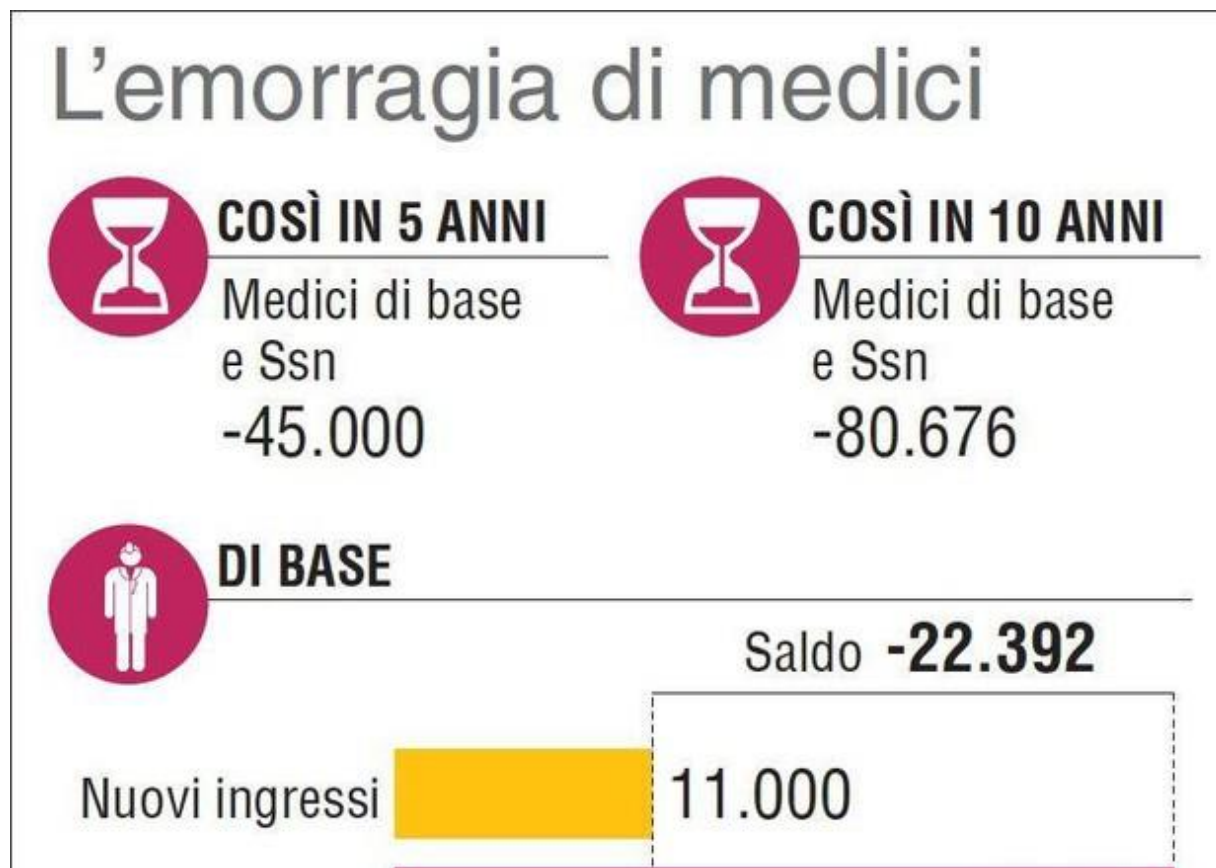
- English is not sufficient to communicate with the patients
- Are we attracting the best international students?
- Do we have enough teachers to open parallel courses in English?
- Is the level of English of the local teachers sufficient?
- Is the ratio National/International Students satisfactory?
- Will these graduates remain in the country of train?

Brain drain or Brain circulation?

Thousands of doctors have left Italy in recent years to seek opportunities abroad, fleeing a lack of opportunities at home

More than 2000 medicine graduates every year request paperwork from the ministry of health to work abroad.

Expected lack of medical doctors in the near future in Italy





WHAT IS A EUROPEAN MEDICAL GRADUATE?

- “Basic medical training: admission to basic medical training shall be contingent upon possession of a diploma or certificate providing access to universities or equivalent institutes which provide higher education, and shall comprise a total of at least six years of study or 5500 hours of theoretical and practical training provided by, or under the supervision of, a university.”

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11065.htm>

Universal cross-recognition of primary medical qualifications within Europe

International Office
 Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005

<http://tuningacademy.org/medine-medicine/?lang=en>



Automatic recognition in the European Union

- In the EU, there is a system of automatic recognition of professional qualifications for seven so-called sectoral professions: nurses, midwives, **doctors**, dentists, pharmacists, architects and veterinary surgeons.
- To work in another EU country, professionals must apply to the authority that oversees the profession in that country, providing proof of their qualifications.
- **The authority must:** acknowledge your application **within 1 month** of receiving it and ask you for missing but necessary documents to process the application and assess your qualifications, and decide whether to grant your application within **3 months** (or 4 months for certain complicated cases in the area of non-automatic recognition)

Thank you for your attention

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