

First-Level Academic Diploma Course in
THEATRE COSTUMES

A.Y. 2025/2026



AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to the various professional figures involved in the performing arts through its four departments: Music, Dance, Stagecraft, Management. Its broad curriculum ranges from basic and core training courses to advanced courses, Level 1 and 2 AFAM (advanced training in art, music, and dance) university-level academic diploma programs, Level 1 master courses, workshops, and summer programs. The highest level of instruction is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and prominent experts in the performing arts. The teaching method derives from the philosophy of learning by doing and prepares students for their future career through intensive daily exposure to the performing arts in a real-world context.



Ph: Noemi Ardesi

FOUNDING PARTNERS



THE COURSE

COURSE COORDINATOR: PROFESSOR ANTONIO IAVAZZO

The First-Level Academic Diploma Course in Theatre Costumes provides a solid grounding in the history and culture of the performing arts—and opera in particular—and mastery of the methods and techniques for designing and creating costumes.

More specifically, it provides knowledge and methods of design and expression as well as competencies specific to the discipline/profession of representing a character in theatre, television, cinema, advertising, fashion, and other applicable milieux.

Students will gain competency in the use of the tools, techniques, and materials of the trade, fully cognizant of the long tradition behind it and innovations introduced up to the present. They will also be encouraged to explore and experiment with the possibilities offered by this realm of expression in the visual arts.

Those completing the course will:

- ❖ have acquired solid cultural and technical training in theatre costumes, with an emphasis on the most advanced techniques and technologies;
- ❖ possess the necessary critical and methodological tools for further developing their competencies in the expressive languages of stage representation;
- ❖ be able to communicate effectively in a second EU language both in their main area of competency and on general topics;
- ❖ be familiar with information and communications technology (ICT) tools as they relate to their specific area of competency.



Ph: Serena Sangiorgi



CAREER PROSPECTS

Those completing the course will find employment in various public and private theatre, cinema, or television companies and other areas of the performing arts or events industry where costumes are used.

The curriculum also includes internships with public or private institutions that will give students the opportunity to further develop the specific professional competencies learned in the course in a real-world setting.

COURSE PROGRAM

FIRST YEAR

CURRICULAR AREAS	SUBJECTS	CREDITS
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical and design drawing ◆ Style, history of art and costumes 1 ◆ History of music and musical theatre 1 ◆ History of the performing arts 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4 ◆ 6 ◆ 6 ◆ 6
Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stage design 1 ◆ Costume design 1 ◆ Costume tailoring 1 ◆ Performing arts – practice and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 6 ◆ 4 ◆ 10 ◆ 4
Supplementary or complementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Anatomy for the arts ◆ Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 6 ◆ 4
Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ English for the arts 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4

SECOND YEAR

CURRICULAR AREAS	SUBJECTS	CREDITS
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Style, history of art and costumes 2 ◆ History of music and musical theatre 2 ◆ History of the performing arts 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 6 ◆ 6 ◆ 6
Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stage design 2 ◆ 3D digital modelling techniques ◆ Costume tailoring 2 ◆ Costume elaboration techniques ◆ Costume design 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4 ◆ 4 ◆ 4 ◆ 4 ◆ 4
Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ English for the arts 2 ◆ Additional language, ICT, or interrelational skills, internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4 ◆ 4
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chosen by the student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4

THIRD YEAR

CURRICULAR AREAS	SUBJECTS	CREDITS
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of fashion 	4
Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costume tailoring 3 Costume design 3 	10 4
Supplementary or complementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional development Theatre makeup and masks Performing arts law, legislation, and economics 	6 4 4
Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional language, ICT, or interrelational skills, internship 	10
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chosen by the student 	6
Preparation for language and final exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of fluency in a second language 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis 	8

INSTRUCTORS

- Umberto Bellodi**
Coordinator Stagecraft Department, La Scala Academy
- Rita Cannata**
HR Specialist
- Silvia Rossellina Cerioli**
Mock-up artist
- Gianfranco Daniele**
Business consultant
- Gianluca Dentici**
Visual Effects supervisor
- Maria Chiara Donato**
Costume designer
- Gianluca Falaschi**
Director, set designer and costume designer
- Filippo Guggia**
Cutter and tailor for the performing arts
- Antonio Iavazzo**
Head of Tailoring Department, Teatro alla Scala
- Pasqualina Inserra**
Professor of tailoring techniques
- Darrell Kirkman**
Professor of public speaking and business english
- Angelo Linzalata**
Set and light designer
- Francesca Pipi**
Sartoria Pipi Costumi Teatrali (Pipi Tailoring Theater Costumes)
- Franco Pulcini**
Musicologist and essayist
- Ana Maria Luisa Romano**
Tailor, Teatro alla Scala
- Eleonora Rossi**
Set designer, Teatro alla Scala
- Clara Sarti**
Costume designer
- Fabio Sartorelli**
Musicologist, professor of History of Music at Conservatorio "G. Verdi" in Milan

KEY POINTS

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The program of study is in line with those of the preeminent European academies.

CUTTING EDGE

Course content is constantly adapted to the latest trends and innovations in the field of costumes.

INTERNSHIP

Hands-on, real-world experience in leading performing arts venues in Italy and abroad.

TEATRO ALLA SCALA

Close relation of course content to one of the world's greatest and most technologically advanced opera houses.

INTERSECTORAL APPROACH

The curriculum is constantly keyed to changes in the market and the evolving opportunities offered by cultural and creative industries.



Ph: Michela Sechi

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

→ Applicants must pass a selection process to be admitted to the course. ←



COURSE LENGTH

Three years

First year: November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026

Exam sessions in July, September, and January



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Students must attend at least 80% of overall curricular activities and at least two-thirds of each individual subject, measured in hours. Individual study is excluded from this requirement.



TOTAL HOURS

4.500 hours of classroom work, shop work, and individual study for a total of **180 credits**. The program for each year involves **1,500 total hours and 60 credits**.



LANGUAGE

The course is taught in Italian.



LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 - Milan

APPLICANT PROFILE



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Italian high school diploma or equivalent from another country according to applicable treaties and laws.



SELECTION PROCESS

The course is open to a maximum of 20 participants. Applicants are admitted to the course after passing a selection process consisting of:

- ◆ a **written test**
- ◆ an **interview**
- ◆ (optional) **assessment of a portfolio**, garment, or accessory submitted by the candidate on the day of the written test and discussed during the interview

◆ WHEN

The selection process will take place in two sessions: **May 12–16, 2025 and September 22–25, 2025** (dates may be subject to change).

Those who enroll in and pass the first session will be eligible for a tuition discount. Those who do not pass the first session will have the option of enrolling in the second session but will lose the right to a tuition discount.

◆ WHERE

Both selection sessions will take place in Milan in the Academy facilities at Via Santa Marta 18.

The Academy is centrally located not far from Piazza Duomo and Teatro alla Scala. It is easily accessible from the metro stations Cordusio and Duomo (M1), Sant'Ambrogio (M2), and Missori and Duomo (M3).

Once you have arrived at the Academy you will find directions to the waiting room for the written test and the interview. Plan the trip so that you will have an ample time margin to arrive on time for your appointment.

◆ STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with physical or learning disabilities who submit appropriate certification during the application process are entitled to compensatory measures (see Step 4 of Admission Process, below).

◆ HOW

An email with the date and time of the selection process will be sent after the application deadline. The written test will last approximately 30 minutes and the interview will take approximately 20 minutes.

◆ **Written test**

The written test consists of 30 closed-ended questions as follows:

- ◆ 10 questions on general culture related to art and performing arts;
- ◆ costumes, the study of materials, knowledge and use of the main basic hand and machine stitches, knowledge and use of the main basic tools necessary for tailoring techniques and the role and tasks of tailors in the performing arts. This is the starting point of the course in Theatre Costumes.

We recommend that you download the file "DISPENSA PER PARTECIPARE AL TEST" [File for test participation] from the Academy website (<https://www.accademialascula.it/en/stagecraft/course-in-theatrical-tailoring>), which contains all necessary information for preparing for the test.

◆ Interview

The interview assesses the candidate's motivations, aptitudes, and expectations. It should be seen as an opportunity to demonstrate your qualities and strengths. It will be structured as follows:

- ◆ a review of the written test;
- ◆ your educational background and any professional experiences or internships;
- ◆ what led you to choose this course of study and what your career interests are;
- ◆ your interest in theatre and the performing arts;
- ◆ your interest in musical theatre and costumes for the performing arts;
- ◆ discussion of your personal portfolio (if applicable).

◆ WHAT TO BRING

A valid identity document.

You have the option of submitting a personal portfolio or a garment or accessory you have made at the time of the written test, and discussing it during the interview. The portfolio, garment, or accessory should be a means for demonstrating your experience in the performing arts..

Suggestions: ◆ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to study *Theatre Costumes* at the La Scala Academy ◆ Rehearse how you will illustrate your motivations and soft skills during the interview so you will be more effective and stimulating ◆ Research the history and activities of the La Scala Academy and Teatro alla Scala ◆ Do not be afraid to ask questions.

The Selection Committee will determine who is eligible for admission to the course, admitting the top candidates. If one or more of these candidates chooses not to attend the course, the next-ranked eligible candidate(s) may be admitted. The Examining Committee's decisions are final and incontestable. No explanations or justifications of its decisions will be provided.

COSTS

The application fee (for participation in the selection process) is **€ 100 euros including VAT**, which will be paid online when you apply. Payment may be made with principal credit/debit cards or by credit transfer via the MyBank circuit (the list of participating banks is provided at <https://mybank.eu/participating-banks-and-psps/>).

Tuition for the course is determined by the ISEE (equivalent financial status indicator) of the candidate's family as follows (all amounts include enrollment fee, curricular fee, and tuition):

ISEE € 0 - € 25,000
€ 8,500

ISEE € 25,000 - € 50,000
€ 9,500

ISEE > € 50,000
€ 12,000

EARLY BIRD

Applicants passing the May session of the selection process are entitled to a €250 tuition discount.



TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees are paid via SDD (SEPA Direct Debit)* in three installments** and comprise the following:

- ◆ Enrollment fee: **€2,500**
- ◆ Curricular fee: **€700**
- ◆ Tuition: **on the basis of candidate's ISEE**

The ISEE to determine tuition must:

- ◆ be issued for the year that the course begins
- ◆ be valid for university study
- ◆ bear the student's codice fiscale*

Candidates not submitting an ISEE will be assigned to the highest tuition bracket.

** Candidates who do not have a bank account in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) and/or an Italian codice fiscale, please contact the teaching office (contact info under "MEET THE STAFF" below).*

*** Pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 68 of March 29, 2012 (D.Lgs. 68/2012), a regional tax of €140 on university education is added to the first installment.*

Tuition and fees for the first year are due as follows:

1

1ST INSTALLMENT:

For those who pass the first session of the selection process: **50% of total annual tuition and fees plus the regional tax by June 30, 2025**

For those admitted to the course in the second session of the selection process: **50% of total annual tuition and fees plus the regional tax by October 24, 2025**

2

2ND INSTALLMENT:

25% of overall annual tuition and fees by January 30, 2026

3

3RD INSTALLMENT:

25% of overall annual tuition and fees by April 30, 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships, tuition exemptions, merit loans bring training of the highest artistic quality complemented by direct practical experience in the chosen field within the reach of all.

Scholarships

On the basis of funding provided by Regione Lombardia, annual scholarships are available to students who pass the selection process and request one.

Students whose ISEE (Equivalent Financial Status Indicator) for university study meets requisites and who have obtained all prerequisite academic credits are eligible to apply for an annual scholarship. Scholarships are assigned only after the allocation of funds by Regione Lombardia and the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR).

Instructions for applying for a scholarship will be provided in a specific announcement.

Merit loans

Academy has underwritten agreements with certain banks to ensure that students in good standing can benefit from other forms of financial aid to cover tuition or lodging costs.

For further information, please contact the teaching office:

segreteria2@accademiascala.it



ADMISSION PROCESS

Application to the selection process must be completed **by April 30, 2025** to participate in the first selection session or **by September 12, 2025** to participate in the second selection session.

Please follow the steps below to apply:

①

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM LOGIN OR REGISTRATION

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at <https://iscrizioni.accademiascala.it> (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

②

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

③

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the "Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione" [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

④

ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to attach the following documents:

- ◆ The applicant's identity document (passport or identity card)
- ◆ The applicant's codice fiscale*
- ◆ High school diploma or equivalent academic certification
- ◆ Certificate of physical or learning disability (if applicable)

** Contact the teaching office if you do not have an Italian codice fiscale (contact info under "MEET THE STAFF" below).*

⑤

APPLICATION FEE

Sarà richiesto di versare direttamente online (You will be asked to pay a fee of €100 (including VAT) to apply to the selection process. Payment may be made by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

⑥

COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. This completes the application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica]. Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the

enrollment platform.

Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application.

The Academy reserves the exclusive right to accept applications submitted after the above deadlines but before the beginning of the selection process.

The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application timeframe, the selection process, and the beginning of the course.

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NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the selection process by email after the application deadline.

Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course. Admitted students must enroll via their personal page on [iscrizioni.universitaliascala.it](https://www.universitaliascala.it) by the following deadlines:

FIRST SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
May 23, 2025

Enrollment no later than
May 30, 2025

SECOND SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
October 3, 2025

Enrollment no later than
October 10, 2025

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ITALIANS RESIDING ABROAD

Academic certification earned outside of Italy must be accompanied by a document certifying its legal validity pursuant to Italian law. Specifically:

◆ If the academic certification has been obtained in a European Union member state, you must provide a sworn translation (traduzione asseverata) of the certification into Italian;

◆ If the academic certification has been obtained in a country outside of the European Union, you must provide a certificate of equivalence of qualification (dichiarazione di valore in loco).

International students and Italians residing abroad must also provide their CV in Italian or accompanied by an Italian translation.

Non-EU residents who are admitted to the course must complete the visa application process by registering on the platform www.universitaly.it and uploading all necessary documents.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION

Students who acquire a total of 180 credits (per the study program) will receive a First-Level Academic Diploma recognized by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR).

ALUMNI

Students who complete the course may join the community of La Scala Academy Alumni, a platform providing a series of exclusive services to former Academy students: job offers, networking, post-Academy training initiatives, mentorships, events, project incubators, as well as special rates and discounts.

Find out more at alumni.accademiascala.it



Ph: Elena Mascellani

MEET THE STAFF

Valeria Miglio
Organizational coordination

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

OPEN DAY

Register at
bit.ly/OpendayATS

For information on the application process: Simona Aguzzi - Student Services Office

☎ (+39) 02-85451165

✉ segreteria2@accademiascala.it