

SPECIAL MAKEUP



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 participants learn all the techniques for creating special makeup effects applicable broadly to the performing arts and entertainment—opera, theatre, cinema, television, events, and more—under the technical and artistic guidance of Roberto Mestroni.

The core subjects involve frequent exercises in the workshop to gain practical experience in the proper preparation and use of materials and to learn increasingly complex and highly specialized techniques in sculpture, molding, coloring, and application of prostheses. The course includes additional tutorial sessions, conducted by a professor. These exercises are of fundamental importance in progressively developing the necessary manual skills and dexterity over time.

The curriculum also focuses on the design phase, enriched by a broad and comprehensive background in arts and crafts. Students will develop bibliographical and iconographical research skills, study drawing and facial anatomy, and learn to create mood boards.

The final part of the course focuses attention on career building, self-entrepreneurship, and new media to provide vital skills for navigating the job market with a well-rounded set of professional competencies.

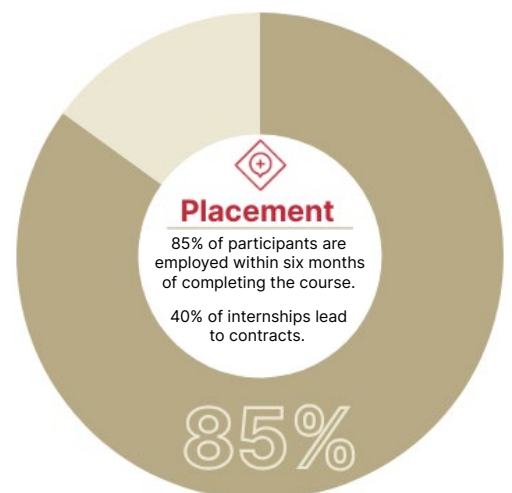


Ph: Josselyn Castro

PROFESSIONAL FIGURE

The course provides training for professional specialists having mastery of the special makeup techniques used to create the appropriate appearance for each character, from superficial effects to the application of complex prostheses. The competencies developed are applicable to all areas of the entertainment industry, from the performing arts to fashion and events.

Participants develop skills in the use of a variety of materials such as modeling clay, collodion, latex, foam latex, vinyl resin, gelatin, and silicone, applying them in highly specialized and complex techniques that demand great manual ability, such as applying a skullcap, taking molds of the face and head, and creating modeling casts, molds, and prostheses.





MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS

Meetings with the most accomplished and authoritative experts in the field provide an important additional opportunity for professional growth.

In recent years, the Academy Special Makeup Course has enjoyed master classes and talks by such notables as Luigi Rocchetti, Gianluca Falaschi, Davide Livermore, Lorenzo Tamburini, Leonardo Cruciano, Gianluca Dentici, and professionals from the Weta Workshops of Wellington, New Zealand. In cooperation with Ferba, a seminar on new technologies (scanning and 3D printing) is also organized every year.

PROJECT WORK

Course participants will have the opportunity to work on real-world special makeup projects in theatre, cinema, photography, and/or television.

Their work will then be the focus of photo shoots by students in the *Media Arts and Technology course*, who will produce a portfolio that the special makeup artists can use to promote their work in various realms of the entertainment and events industry.

CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF

BASIC SUBJECTS

Cosmetology and materials

Elisabetta Casale, *cosmetologist*
Sofia Erba, *materials specialist*

- Skin types and appendages
- Product characteristics and labels
- European cosmetics regulations
- Silicones: types and uses

Anatomy for the arts

Silvia Cerioli, *mock-up artist*

- Facial elements, proportions, and symmetries
- Construction of eyes, nose, mouth



Drawing for sculpture

Silvia Cerioli, *mock-up artist*
Donatella Mondani, *special makeup artist*

- Elements of drawing
- Shading and color
- Sketching
- Iconographic research and mood boards

CORE SUBJECTS

Special effects

Roberto Mestroni, Donatella Mondani, Cristina Davite,
special makeup artists

- Superficial effects: cuts, scars, burns, blisters
- Skull cap types and construction
- Life masks
- Molds and casts
- Latex and foam latex prostheses
- Gelatin
- Artificial teeth
- Silicone GFAs

Sculpture

Roberto Mestroni,
special makeup artist

- Facial proportions
- Modeling tools: pallet knives, loop tools, brushes
- Sculpting materials: clay, plasticine, wax
- Thickness of modeled element
- Sources of skin texture tools
- Wrinkles
- Edge cuts and flash zone
- Drainage channels

Makeup techniques

Valentina Racanati, *makeup artist*
Cristina Davite, *special makeup artist*

- Skin analysis and skin tones
- Facial forms and elements
- Beauty makeup
- Characterization makeup
- Ageing

Guided practical exercises
Cristina Davite, *special makeup artist*

GENERAL BACKGROUND SUBJECTS

History of special effects

Donatella Mondani,
special makeup artist

- The evolution of special effects (techniques and materials) from the first films to the present day
- Major special makeup artists: analysis of a number of key films

Introduction to musical theatre

Andrea Massimo Grassi and Jacopo Guarneri, *La Scala Academy coordinators*

- Introduction to the arts, trades, and modes of expression in the entertainment industry



SELF-ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUBJECTS

Contracts

Gianfranco Daniele,
business consultant

- ↪ Types of companies
- ↪ Characteristics of free-lance work
- ↪ The VAT number: from the estimate to the invoice (fiscal aspects)
- ↪ Basic business management for starting your own company: business plan and budget

Self-entrepreneurship

Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

- ↪ Types of competency
- ↪ Assessment of target market and one's own soft skills
- ↪ Basic problem solving
- ↪ Career orientation interview

Career orientation

Umberto Bellodi and Marco Pasotti,
La Scala Academy coordinators

- ↪ CV formats
- ↪ Active job search and channels
- ↪ Effective handling of a job interview
- ↪ Design thinking in professional activities

Interpersonal skills

Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

- ↪ Assertiveness
- ↪ Negotiation techniques
- ↪ Effective teamworking

Workplace safety

Sergio Tasca, *safety trainer*

- ↪ Legislative framework
- ↪ Rights and duties of company roles
- ↪ Work equipment, movements and postures
- ↪ PPE and workplace emergency procedures

Portfolio photography

Laura Ferrari, *photographer*

- ↪ Basic theory and practice of photography
- ↪ Mobile photography and app-based post-production
- ↪ Editing and the personal portfolio

Business English

Polly James,
mother-tongue English teacher

- ↪ Beauty terminology
- ↪ How to create makeup tutorials for social media
- ↪ Your English CV
- ↪ Simulation of a job interview in English



KEY POINTS

CONSTANT PRACTICE

Participants engage in intensive hands-on exercises to create professional-quality special makeup projects.

EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS

The participants are provided with the highest quality materials and products to create their special makeup effects, studying the theory and science of these materials to ensure enhanced mastery of the tools of the trade.

TUTORING

The course teaching staff is constantly available to students to guide them in the learning process, the development of practical skills, and in their career choices.

VERSATILITY

The acquired competencies are applicable to all performing arts—opera, ballet, theatre, cinema, television—as well as to photography, fashion, and events.

CREATIVITY

Participants will not only reproduce makeup effects demonstrated by instructors, but will have the opportunity to unleash their creativity to imagine their own special makeup effects.



Ph: Costantino Lodolo D'Oría

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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



LENGTH

November 20, 2025 to
October 31, 2026



TOTAL HOURS

800 total hours including frontal teaching, practice and individual study:

- ▶ **150 hours** of classroom work led by experts and professionals
- ▶ **650 hours** of practical exercises under the guidance of tutors



ATTENDANCE

Mandatory, Monday through Friday, five days a week, 9am to 6pm

Practical exercises and assistance at performances may occasionally take place in the evening or on weekends. Some lessons on theory may be conducted via distance learning

Absences must be justified and may not exceed 25% of total hours or the participant will be expelled from the course. The Academy and Teaching Committee reserve the sole right to make exceptions to this rule.



LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta 18
20123 Milan



LANGUAGE

The course is taught in Italian.



FINAL EXAM

The final exam consists of three elements:

- ▶ a written test
- ▶ an applied skills test
- ▶ a personal interview during which the student will present a mood board describing the steps in the creation of a special makeup project.

COURSE MATERIALS

Lessons in technique and practical exercises take place in a fully provisioned workshop: plaster, modeling compound, latex, foam latex, gelatin, silicone, characterization makeup, hair dryers, and other materials and tools necessary for project work.

Course participants will be supplied with a personal kit containing all tools and materials necessary for the lessons (makeup, brushes, modeling tools).



Ph: Cristina Pergolini

PARTICIPANT PROFILE



REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- 18 to 35 years old on the date of the selection process

- High school or vocational school diploma



PREFERENTIAL FACTORS

- Previous artistic, theatre, or cinematographic studies

- Expressed interest in the world of the performing arts and special makeup

- Work experience or training in the performing arts

- Flexibility and willingness to make sacrifices to attend the course

In the practical exercises and exams, students are expected to take turns acting as models. This will involve applying ordinary theatre makeup products (cosmetics, alcohol- and oil-based tints) and special-effects products (latex, silicone, oil-based tints, and others) on the exposed skin of the hands, arms, neck, and face. Students who are unable to act as a model in this regard are required to promptly notify the Teaching Office and are responsible for finding a substitute model to take their place.

The Academy will schedule medical exams at the beginning and end of the course to monitor student health, verify their suitability to act as models, and determine any necessary personalized prevention measures to implement during the course. The cost of these exams is included in the tuition.



SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must pass a two-step selection process to be admitted to the course:

- ◆ a **written test**
- ◆ a **personal interview**

◆ WHEN

Two selection sessions are planned: **May 19-23, 2025 and October 2-3, 2025**. Dates may be subject to change. Those enrolling in and passing the first session will be entitled to a tuition discount. Those who enroll in the first session but do not pass may enroll in the second session but will no longer be eligible for the discount.

◆ WHERE

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

◆ HOW

An email specifying the date and time of the selection process will be sent to candidates after the deadline for the application process. The written test will take approximately 30 minutes and the personal interview 20 minutes.

◆ **Written test**

The written test will assess the candidate's capacity for observation and interpretation in analyzing the special makeup of a character in cinema. To prepare for the test, candidates must watch one of the following films: *An American Werewolf in London* (John Landis, 1991); *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Chris Columbus, 1993); *Darkest Hour* (Joe Wright, 2017); *Pinocchio* (Matteo Garrone, 2019); or *Volevo nascondermi* (Giorgio Diritti, 2020). The candidate must bring a color print in A4 format of a character chosen from one of these films.

◆ **Personal interview**

The interview is a means for assessing the candidate's motivations, aptitudes, and expectations. It is an opportunity for the candidate to communicate his/her competencies and strengths. The interview will focus on the following: ◆ Comments on the written test ◆ Questions regarding the candidate's CV ◆ Questions regarding the candidate's motivations in choosing to attend the Academy's *Special Makeup course* ◆ Questions regarding the candidate's interest in music and musical theatre

NB: Candidates with disabilities can submit a valid certification in order to have access to the necessary tools to take the test.

◆ WHAT TO BRING

Other than what indicated for the written test, you must bring a valid identity document. Suggestions: ◆ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to study Special Makeup at the La Scala Academy ◆ Rehearse the points you will want to make during the interview so you will be more effective and stimulating ◆ Research the history and activities of the La Scala Academy ◆ Do not be afraid to ask questions.

The Selection Committee will decide which candidates are eligible to attend the course. Candidates who are judged eligible but not admitted to the course because the maximum number of students has been reached may be admitted subsequently if a higher-ranked candidate declines to enroll. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be challenged or queried.

COSTS

The fee for participation in the selection process **€100 (including VAT)**, to be paid online during the application process. The selection process fee may be paid by major credit/debit cards or credit transfer. The Academy uses the MyBank service (for a list of participating banks, see: <https://mybank.eu/participating-banks-and-psps/>).

Tuition for the course is **€10,270** (including VAT). Discounted tuition for those passing the first session of the selection process is **€250** (including VAT). Students shall also pay a **security deposit of €500** with the first tuition installment. The security deposit will be refunded at the end of the course, less any charges for missing or damaged materials.

Tuition shall be paid in three installments via SEPA Direct Debit (SDD)* as follows.

If the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Economy raises VAT, the above amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

* Those who do not have a bank account in the SEPA zone, please contact the office by phone or email (contact info at end of document).

1

1ST INSTALLMENT

those admitted in the
1st selection session:
€5,420 by June 30, 2025
(fee + security deposit)

those admitted in the
2nd selection session:
€5,670 by November 14, 2025
(fee + security deposit)

2

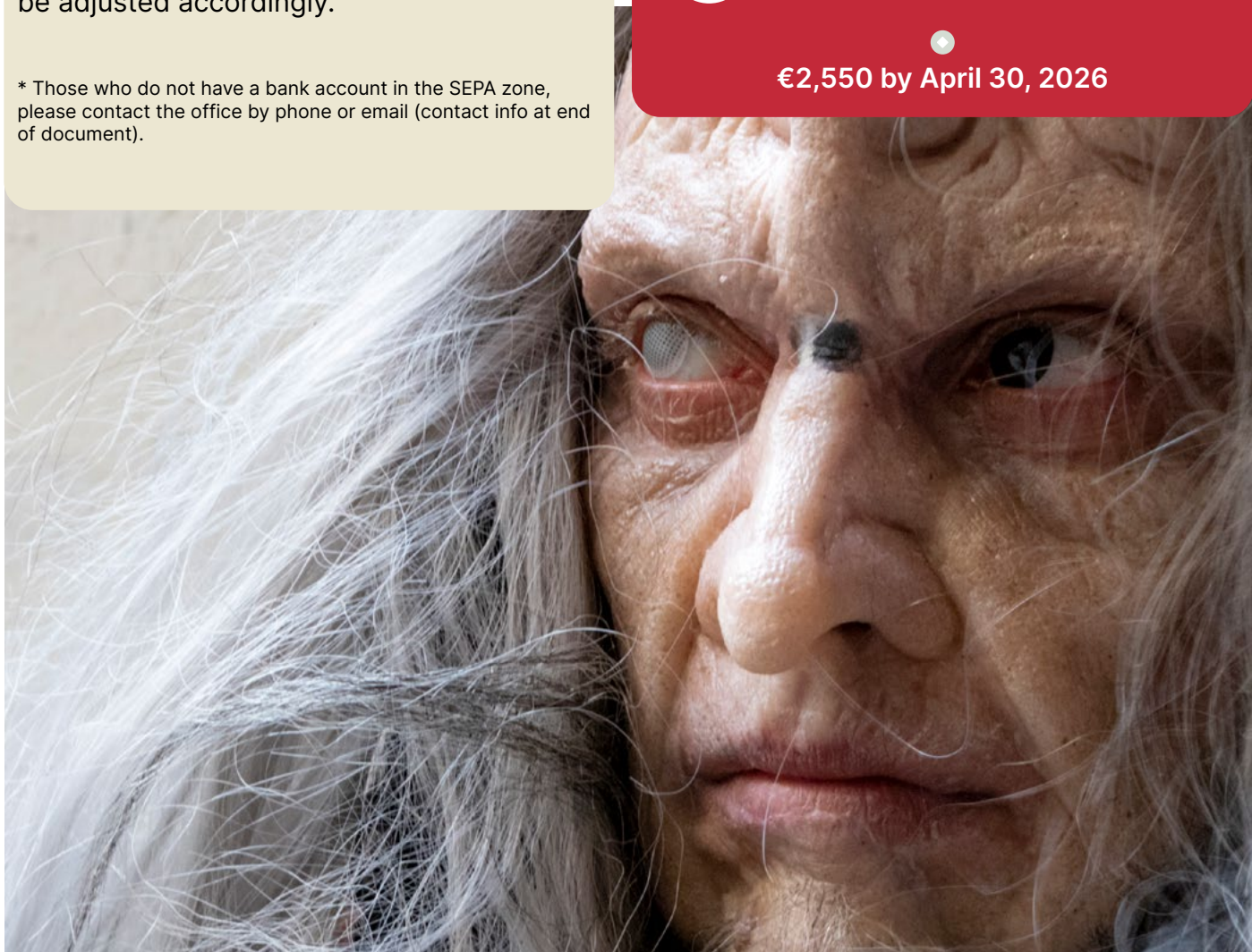
2ND INSTALLMENT

€2,550 by January 30, 2026

3

3RD INSTALLMENT:

€2,550 by April 30, 2026



SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT LOANS

Student loans, scholarships, and tuition waivers and other forms of financial support ensure that students have access to a curriculum characterized by unrivaled artistic quality and close contact with the professional world.

Scholarships

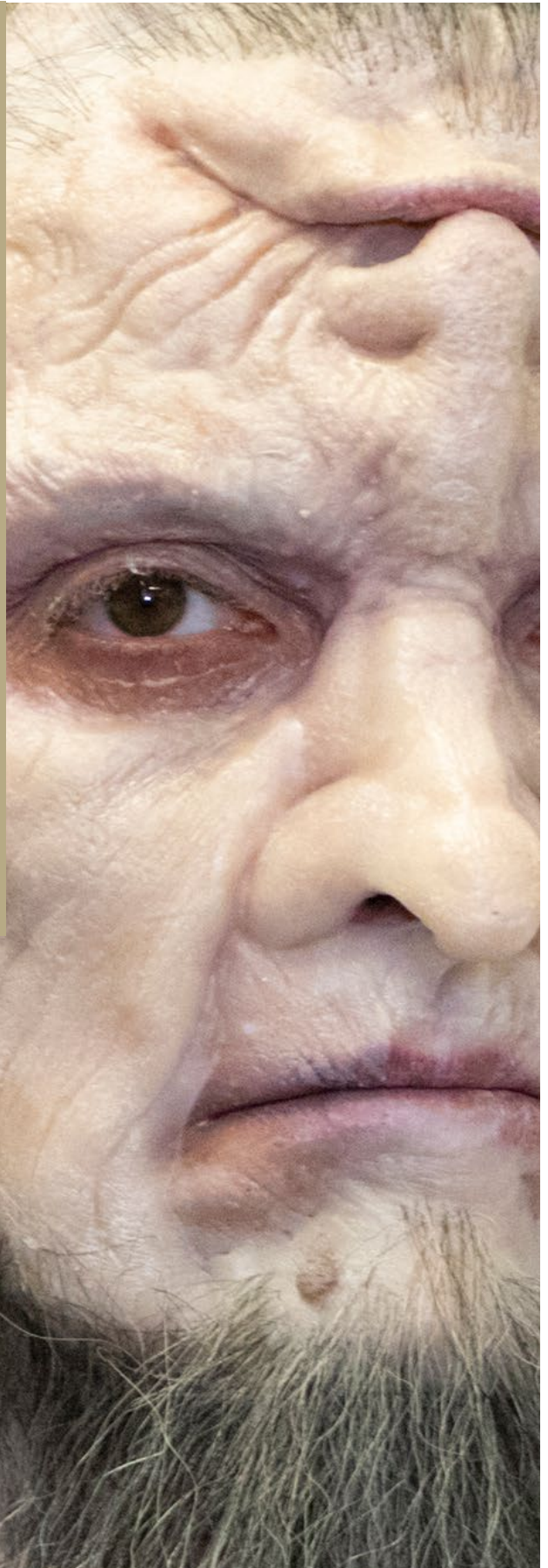
Students who pass the selection process and whose ISEE (Equivalent Financial Status Indicator) does not exceed 20,000 euros may apply for a scholarship to cover all or a part of tuition. The application process will be communicated in a separate announcement delivered to all those passing the selection process.

Merit loans and student loans

The La Scala Academy has established conventions with credit institutes to provide other forms of financial aid covering tuition and/or lodging to all students in good academic standing.

For further information, please contact the Teaching Office:

segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it



ADMISSION PROCESS

You must apply no later than **April 30, 2025** to take part in the first selection session or **September 26, 2025** to take part 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:

◆ A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:

- I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that all information contained in this CV is truthful*
- I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV per Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679)*

◆ A digital photo of the applicant (passport size)

◆ Candidate identification (identity card or passport)

◆ Copy of academic certification (If you do not have your official diploma/certificate at this time, you may attach a self-certification. However, please note that this is only a temporary solution: you must provide the Academy with a copy of the official diploma/certificate on or before the day the course begins or you will be excluded from the course)

⑤

APPLICATION FEE

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.

⑦

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.accademiascala.it by the following deadlines:



FIRST SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
May 30, 2025

Enrollment no later than
June 6, 2025



SECOND SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
October 24, 2025

Enrollment no later than
October 31, 2025

Candidates wishing to apply for the scholarship must complete the application form by 31/10/2025. A valid ISEE certification must be also attached. Applications received after this deadline or sent by email will not be accepted. Notification regarding the possible award of the scholarship will be sent by 06/11/2025.

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. Applicants who pass the selection process and are not residents of an EU member state must submit all documents required by law on or before the day that lessons begin (application for residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the course with attendance of at least 75% and pass the final exam will receive:

- ◆ a **Diploma issued by the Academy**
- ◆ a **Certificate of Competency issued by the Region of Lombardy**. The competence certification system allows each person to enhance its human and professional capital in terms of competences, knowledge and skills.
- ◆ a **Certificate of Workplace Safety**, general and specific

The Academy may also issue a Certificate of Merit to outstanding course participants, who will be selected by uncontested judgement of the Office of the Director and the Teaching Committee.

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: Samuele Buongiorno

MEET THE STAFF

◆
Leda Botton
Teaching Coordinator

◆
Micol Reggianini
Course tutor

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

◆
OPEN DAY

Register at
bit.ly/OpenDayATS

For information on the admissions process:
Giovanna Coletta - Teaching Office.

☎ +39 02 85451160/22

✉ segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it