Consolato Generale d'Italia
New York

SETTIMANA
DELLA LINGUA
ITALIANA
NEL MONDO

26TH WEEK OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD

GENIUS LANGUAGE
Conceiving, Designing, and Creating with Italian.

Introduction

The 26th Week of the Italian Language in the World (SLIM, October 19–25, 2026) is titled: "Genius Language: Conceiving, Designing, and Creating with Italian."
It is from this theme that our competition takes its inspiration. Italian is, in fact, the driver of Italy's values, ideas, and vision throughout the world: a "genius" language, heir to a long and rich history and tradition, through which Italy exports the very best of its know-how — technology, science, engineering, design, fashion, gastronomy, literature, art, and history.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all students of Italian in schools and universities within the consular jurisdiction (New York State, New Jersey — counties of Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, Warren, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset — and Connecticut), divided into four categories:

- Primary School (Grades K–5): Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced
- Middle School (Grades 6–8): Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced
- High School (Grades 9–12): Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced
- College / University: Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced

Competition Rules and Submission Requirements

Participation:

Students can enter the competition individually or as a group.

Submission Guidelines:

Students will interview an Italian figure from the worlds of science, technology, engineering, design, fashion, gastronomy, literature, art, or history. Following the interview, they must create an original work that summarizes, comments on, or interprets the themes explored during the interview.
Student submissions must be in one of the following formats:

- **Comic Strip**: A story illustrated in Italian (min. 8, max 12 panels).
- **Photo Collage**: A visual narrative of the experience accompanied by captions in Italian.
- **Digital Poster**: A poster focusing on the interview theme, featuring slogans, keywords, and images in Italian.
- **PowerPoint Presentation**: A slide deck featuring images and text in Italian (min. 6, max 10 slides).
- **Narrated Presentation**: A PowerPoint slide deck featuring an audio voiceover in Italian (min. 6, max 10 slides).
- **Short Video or Audio**: A recording of the interview and/or an experiment conducted as a result of the interview, with dialogue and/or commentary in Italian (max 10 minutes).
- **Short Newspaper Article**: A written article in Italian (min. 500, max 1,000 words).
- **Short Song**: An original song in Italian inspired by the interview.

Important Notes:

- **Single Expert Rule:** The entire class must choose and interview a single expert. However, students within the same class are free to produce submissions in different formats.
- **Interview Language:** Interviews/discussions may be conducted in English for lower-grade classes and all beginner-level students.
- **Final Project:** The submitted work must have **an original title and be created in Italian**.

Experts

Interviewees may be selected independently by students or teachers. The name of the selected expert must be submitted to the Education Office at newyork.education@esteri.it by December 15, 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Originality of the work
- Development of the chosen topic
- Linguistic proficiency
- Expressive effectiveness

Prizes

Winning projects will be presented and displayed on the day of the award ceremony and will remain the property of the participating institutions. Winners will receive books as prizes.

Deadline

All completed projects must be submitted to the Italian Consulate by **March 31, 2027**.

Submission of Works

Contestants must send their submission to newyork.education@esteri.it using the subject line **"CONCORSO SLIM 2026"** and naming the file as follows:

- **For SCHOOLS (K–12):**

"Last Name(s)_School_Grade_Language Level (Begin/Interm/Advan/Bilingual)"

- **For UNIVERSITIES:**

"Last Name(s)_University_Year of Study_Language Level (Begin/Interm/Advan/Bilingual)"

Authenticity of Works

The work must be authentic, the sole product of the students' imagination and linguistic proficiency in Italian. We operate on the assumption that all submitted work was conceived and created by the students, working individually or in groups. We trust that no part of the text in Italian was outsourced to others, including artificial intelligence tools. The use of online dictionaries is permitted.