

# Italian Foreign Policy: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges

## IAI-UNIVERSITY OF TURIN ESSAY PRIZE 2022



IAI · UNIVERSITY OF TURIN  
ESSAY PRIZE

### Concept

The *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)* – in the framework of IAI's Strategic Partnership with the *Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation* – together with the *University of Turin's Department of Historical Studies* are pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *IAI-University of Turin Essay Prize on Italian Foreign Policy*.

The **essay prize** is directed at **students of 32 years or younger** currently **enrolled at the University of Turin**. The initiative is promoted in cooperation with the Turin-based *Scuola di Studi Superiori "Ferdinando Rossi"* and the *Fondazione Luigi Einaudi*.

Against the backdrop of **renewed conflict in Europe** and ongoing **turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**, the **rise of China** and the challenges related to **pandemics**, the **climate emergency** and **energy transitions**, Italy faces a number of uncertainties with regards to its foreign policy. Moreover, foreign policy tends to receive scant attention in contemporary national debates and media analyses, resulting in a general lack of attention and appreciation for **Italy's role, capabilities and interests abroad**.

Building on **IAI's mandate** to promote and disseminate knowledge and **ideas for Italy, Europe and the world**, the Institute's research programme on Italian Foreign Policy, in cooperation with partners, seeks to promote greater interest and understanding on the ways in which **Italian foreign policy is responding to current international challenges**; how **Italian interests are mutating** in the context of these broader international developments; and the extent to which **capabilities match objectives** and **rhetoric matches action** in the **promotion of Italian interests abroad**.

## Essay Call & Thematic Priorities

Interested applicants should draft an **unpublished essay** addressing salient themes of contemporary relevance to Italian foreign policy. Essays should be of a **maximum of 1.800 words (including footnotes)**, written in **UK English** and submitted to the organisers **in a word document**, together with an **updated CV**, **proof of age** and **proof of current enrolment or of recent graduation from the University of Turin**.

**Five outstanding applicants** will be selected by the **IAI-Turin Advisory Board** on the basis of their novel analysis, writing skills and creative choice of themes addressed in their essays.

Particular relevance will be given to essays that **critically analyse a specific theme** related to **Italian foreign policy**, **demonstrate in depth knowledge of the topic** and are able to provide **actionable policy recommendations** directed at Italian policymakers, civil society or private sector stakeholders, depending on the chosen topic. The five selected applicants will receive a **cash prize** (gross sum) for their winning essay, which **will be published in the IAI Commentaries series** and disseminated widely on social media.

Applicants are **free to address any contemporary theme of relevance to Italian foreign policy**. Topics can range from the three traditional pillars of Italian foreign policy – the **transatlantic relationship** with the US; the **European dimension**; and the **enlarged Mediterranean** – or other issues tied to the relationship with **Russia** and/or **China**; the **historical dimension** of Italy's relations with its Mediterranean neighbourhood; the **migration challenge**; **Italian humanitarian and development aid**; Italy's participation in **military missions abroad** (UN, NATO, EU, etc.); **Italian cultural diplomacy**; and Italian policy vis-à-vis **ongoing or 'frozen' conflicts** in the neighbourhood (e.g. Libya, Israel-Palestine, Syria, Ukraine, Western Sahara, Yemen).

Further topics include **international law, economic, trade, and history-related dynamics** as well as **technological advances** and their applications (cyber security, information warfare, disrupting technologies, influence operations etc.) and themes related to the current **climate emergency** and Italian policies to tackle **climate change**, the **European Green Deal** and Italian support for **post-COVID recovery** within Europe and abroad.

The **above themes are indicative** and applicants are **encouraged to address other topics** of relevance to **contemporary issues** tied to **Italian foreign policy**.

## Guidelines for Applicants

The call for essays will be launched on **1 April**.

The competition is open to:

- **Students and PhD candidates** who are **32 years of age or younger** and **currently enrolled** in a programme at the **University of Turin**;
- **Recent graduates from the University of Turin (1 year max.)** who are **32 years of age or younger**.

The deadline for submission of essays **has been extended to 30 September 2022**.

Winning applicants will be announced by **15 October**.

A prize ceremony will be organised in **November/December**.

All **submissions** should be sent in a **word document** to [iai-unito-prize@iai.it](mailto:iai-unito-prize@iai.it)

**Applications** should include: an **updated CV**, **proof of age** and **enrolment at the University of Turin**.

Essays should be of a **maximum of 1800 words** (including footnotes) and written in **UK English**.

**Essay Prize(s)**

**Five essays** will be selected by the **IAI-Turin Advisory Board** through an **anonymous peer review process**.

Winning essays will be **published as IAI Commentaries** and presented by the authors at a **prize ceremony in November 2022**.

Winning essays will be disseminated widely on social media and IAI's and the University of Turin's newsletters. The top five candidates will be provided with a **monetary remuneration** in recognition of their outstanding analytic work.

Amounts are to be understood in **gross terms** and individual candidates will be responsible for any fees and taxes incurred.

The breakdown of prizes for the five winning candidates are posted below:

1° Place Prize: 1000 euro (gross sum)

2° Place Prize: 800 euro (gross sum)

3° Place Prize: 600 euro (gross sum)

4° Place Prize: 400 euro (gross sum)

5° Place Prize: 200 euro (gross sum)