Italian Foreign Policy:
Trends, Opportunities and Challenges

IAI-UNIVERSITY OF TURIN ESSAY PRIZE 2022

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 2nd 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 climateemergency 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Interested applicants should draft an *unpublished essay* addressing salient themes of contemporary relevance to Italian foreign policy.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* and *proof of age* and *current enrolment at 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 Commentariesseries and disseminated widely on social media.

Students 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 new **international law**, **economic, trade and history-related relations** 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 deadline for submission of essays will be on **9 September**.

Winning applicants will be announced on **30 September**.

A prize ceremony will be organised on **early November**.

Applicants should be **32 years of age or younger** and **currently enrolled in a programme at the University of Turin**.

All **submissions** should be sent in a **word document** to 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)