



CILS

The CILS Certification, issued by the Università per Stranieri di Siena, is recognized by the Italian State on the basis of an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The subdivision of the exam in the different levels of difficulty refers to the Common European Framework of Reference for the knowledge of the languages of the Council of Europe. The CILS exam is an official tool for verifying and assessing language and communication skills.

LEVELS

There are six CILS levels: Level A1, Level A2, Level B1, Level B2, Level C1 and Level C2. Each of them identifies a progressively higher linguistic and communicative competence. Level B1 corresponds to the basic level of competence of the Italian language as a foreign language; the C2 level corresponds to the level of knowledge of the Italian required in the professional field.

All tests are produced and evaluated on the basis of the European parameters as set by the Council of Europe.

To achieve certification in one of the six levels you need to pass a five-part exam with different tests on basic skills: listening, reading, meta-linguistic competence, written production and oral production.

CANDIDATES

All foreign citizens and Italian citizens residing abroad can register for the CILS exams. It is not necessary to have special educational qualifications or to have passed a lower level CILS exam. The tests are not based on didactic texts or particular language courses.

The CILS is for those who study Italian, those who work and study in contact with the Italian reality, for those who want to measure their competence in Italian. Each level of the CILS certifies a communicative ability that can be spent in different situations and contexts.

The certification of a level not lower than B1 is required by the new Italian Law of Citizenship.

With the CILS certification (starting from level B2) it is possible to enroll at an Italian university without having to take the Italian test normally required. The minimum recommended level is B2 level. Foreign students in possession of the certification for the C1 or C2 levels can obtain additional credits for their curriculum. Many Italian companies that operate abroad or wish to hire foreign staff, or foreign companies that have commercial relations with Italy, require their employees to receive a CILS certification according to the work environment in which they will be employed. Level C2 corresponds to the level of knowledge that a foreigner must have reached in order to teach Italian.

TESTS AND EVALUATION

All tests are produced and evaluated at the Centro Certificazione of the University for Foreigners of Siena. Each of the five skills is worth 20 points. For each skill you need to get at least 11 points. To obtain the CILS certification, the candidate must achieve the sufficiency in each test. If the candidate reaches the minimum score only in some parts, he/she can take the tests related to the skills not passed in a subsequent examination. The partial results are valid for one year from the first sustained exam.

Exam dates for the year 2019 at the Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles

30 May 2019 * (registration deadline: 17 April 2019)

3 December 2019 (registration deadline: 17 October 2019)

* Please take into account the fact that, in the case of a high number of members, the exam or parts of the same might slip to the next day.

IMPORTANT: The exam will take place only when the minimum required number of participants is reached. In case of canceled exam, the registration fee will be returned within 10 working days.

ENROLLMENT

The following enrollment documents must be sent to: iicla@esteri.it by the end of the registration dates. Registrations are binding.

1. Enrollment Form
2. Scanned copy of a valid ID
3. Exam fee. (For information on exam fees and way of payment please contact: leonilde.callocchia@esteri.it.)

Registrations without the aforementioned documents will not be accepted

Candidates who in previous sessions have only partially passed the CILS exam, presenting the documentation issued by the University for Foreigners of Siena, will have to re-take only the part of the test that they did not pass and pay the exam fee for that part only. The fee for each part of the exam is equivalent to one fifth of the total fee.

The exam fee cannot be refunded under any circumstances. It may be used for subsequent examination deadlines, but only in exceptional cases, motivated in writing (illness, serious family problems, impediments due to work or study).

However, the exam fee will be refunded if the exam is canceled due to failure to reach the minimum enrollment number.

For further information please contact: leonilde.callocchia@esteri.it