

# WIG SPECIALISTS

A.Y. 2025/2026  
16<sup>th</sup> Edition

ACCADEMIA  
TEATRO ALLA SCALA



# 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 will learn all the various methods and techniques for making, fitting, and storing wigs and hairpieces. Technical and artistic coordination is entrusted to Tiziana Libardo, head of the Teatro alla Scala Makeup and Hairdressing Department.

The curriculum alternates lessons in theory with practical exercises complemented by an internship at a performing arts institution. Constant practice allows students to learn techniques requiring a high degree of manual skill. The core subjects provide participants with in-depth knowledge of materials used to create wigs and hairpieces, including the various types of sources of hair and how to make, prepare, fit, clean, and preserve wigs, toupees, beards, mustaches, sideburns, eyebrows, and hairpieces in general.

The course also includes subjects providing a general cultural background relating to the performing arts, such as the history of wig-making in different periods and an introduction to musical theatre. These are complemented by a selection of topics to help students plan their future careers and navigate the job market (career orientation, contract law, self-entrepreneurship, workplace safety).

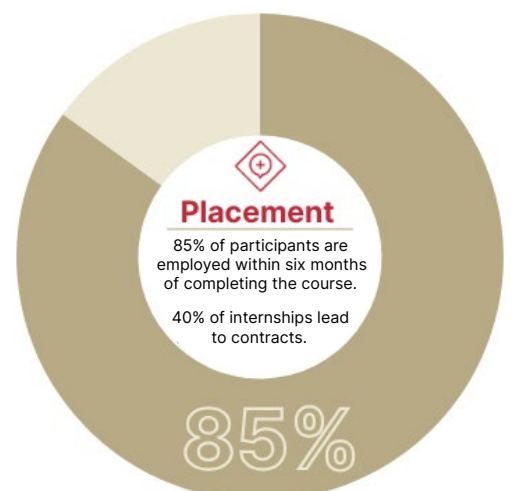
Lastly, the course offers an immediate employment opportunity to the most promising student: a paid 3-month internship at the Paglialunga workshops in Rome, one of the world's preeminent theatre and cinema wigmakers.



Ph: Alessandra Giotto

# PROFESSIONAL FIGURE

The course trains wig specialists with high-level competencies in designing, constructing, preparing, fitting, and maintaining wigs and hairpieces. This professional figure is very much in demand in theatre, the performing arts in general, and in other sectors of the economy both in Italy and abroad.





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## MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS

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

In recent years, students in the Academy Wig Specialist course have had the opportunity to interact with professionals of the caliber of Mario Audello, Gianluca Falaschi, Davide Livermore, Maria Chiara Donato, Luigi Rocchetti, and Roberto Maria Paglialonga, just to name a few.

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## INTERNSHIP

The 130-hour internship at a theatre or other performing arts venue either in Italy or abroad is a fundamental part of the course and a unique experience that allows students an intensive immersion to hone their technical and interpersonal skills. Among the prestigious host institutions, we mention Teatro alla Scala, the RP and Rocchetti workshops in Rome, Audello Teatro in Turin and Filistrucchi in Florence.



# CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF

## CORE SUBJECTS - PRACTICE

### Wig construction techniques

Federica Domestici and Peggy Anstett, *wig specialists*

- Analysis of wig and hairpiece tools
- Wigs and hair length, construction of half-wigs, beards, moustaches, sideburns, eyebrows, and hairpieces for theatre and television
- Wig storage and maintenance

### Materials

Peggy Anstett, *wig specialist*

- Analysis of hair types, choice of materials depending on application and budget

Practical exercises



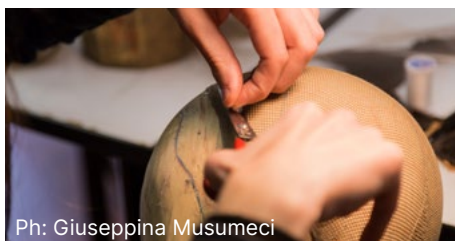
Ph: Giuseppina Musumeci

## GENERAL BACKGROUND SUBJECTS - THEORY

### Introduction to musical theatre

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

- Introduction to the arts, trades, and languages of the performing arts



Ph: Giuseppina Musumeci

### History of hairstyling

Donatella Mondani, *special effects makeup artist*

- The development of hairstyling over the centuries: historical, social, and technical aspects

## CAREER ORIENTATION

### Contract law and Self-Entrepreneurship

Gianfranco Daniele, *enterprise consultant*  
Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

- Active job search and channels
- Types of enterprises
- Characteristics of self-employment
- The partita IVA [VAT number]: from the quote to the invoice (tax aspects)
- Basic management for starting a business: business plan and budget

### Interpersonal skills

Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

- Effective communication
- Negotiation techniques
- Effective teamworking
- Analysis of personal soft skills and target market
- Individual guidance interview

### Career Orientation

Umberto Bellodi and Marco Pasotti, *La Scala Academy coordinators*

- CV formats
- Active job search and channels
- Effectiveness in job interviews
- Professional planning

### Business English

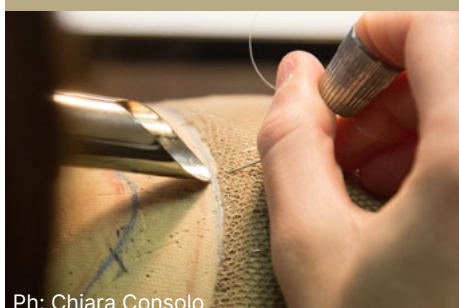
Polly James, *mother-tongue English instructor*

- The vocabulary of beauty
- How to create tutorials for social media
- Your English CV
- Simulated job interview in English

### Workplace Safety

Sergio Tasca, *safety trainer*

- Legislative framework
- Rights and responsibilities of company figures
- Work equipment, movements, and postures
- PPE and workplace emergency procedures



Ph: Chiara Consolo

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# KEY POINTS

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## UNIQUENESS

There is no other course in Italy that provides such comprehensive training in the process of making, fitting, and maintaining wigs.

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## EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS

Students are provided tools and materials of the highest professional quality.

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## ONE TO ONE

Participants are guided on a one-to-one basis by consummate experts in the field.

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## EXCELLENT JOB PROSPECTS

Qualified wig makers are in high demand in Italy and abroad, not only in theatre but also in cinema.



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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



## LENGTH

◆  
Nine months

◆  
November 10, 2025  
to July 31, 2026



## TOTAL HOURS

◆  
**450 total hours** as follows:

- ◆ **320 hours** of classroom work, shop work, and practical exercises with wig experts and professionals
- ◆ **130 hours** of internship



## LANGUAGE

◆  
The course is taught in Italian.



## ATTENDANCE

◆  
One week per month,  
Monday to Friday, from 9am  
to 6pm.

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

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



## COURSE LOCATION

◆  
Accademia Teatro alla Scala  
Via S. Marta, 18  
20123 Milan

◆  
Teatro alla Scala  
Via Filodrammatici, 2  
20121 Milan



## FINAL EXAMS

◆  
The final exams comprise:

- ◆ a written test
- ◆ a practical hairpiece construction test
- ◆ an oral presentation of a topic addressed during the course

# COURSE MATERIALS

The classroom is fully equipped with all necessary materials for performing practical exercises. Participants will be supplied with a complete kit of tools and materials, including wig-maker's dummies, hair, hand carders, looms, and various types of tulle.



Ph: Rocco Ferrari



# PARTICIPANT PROFILE



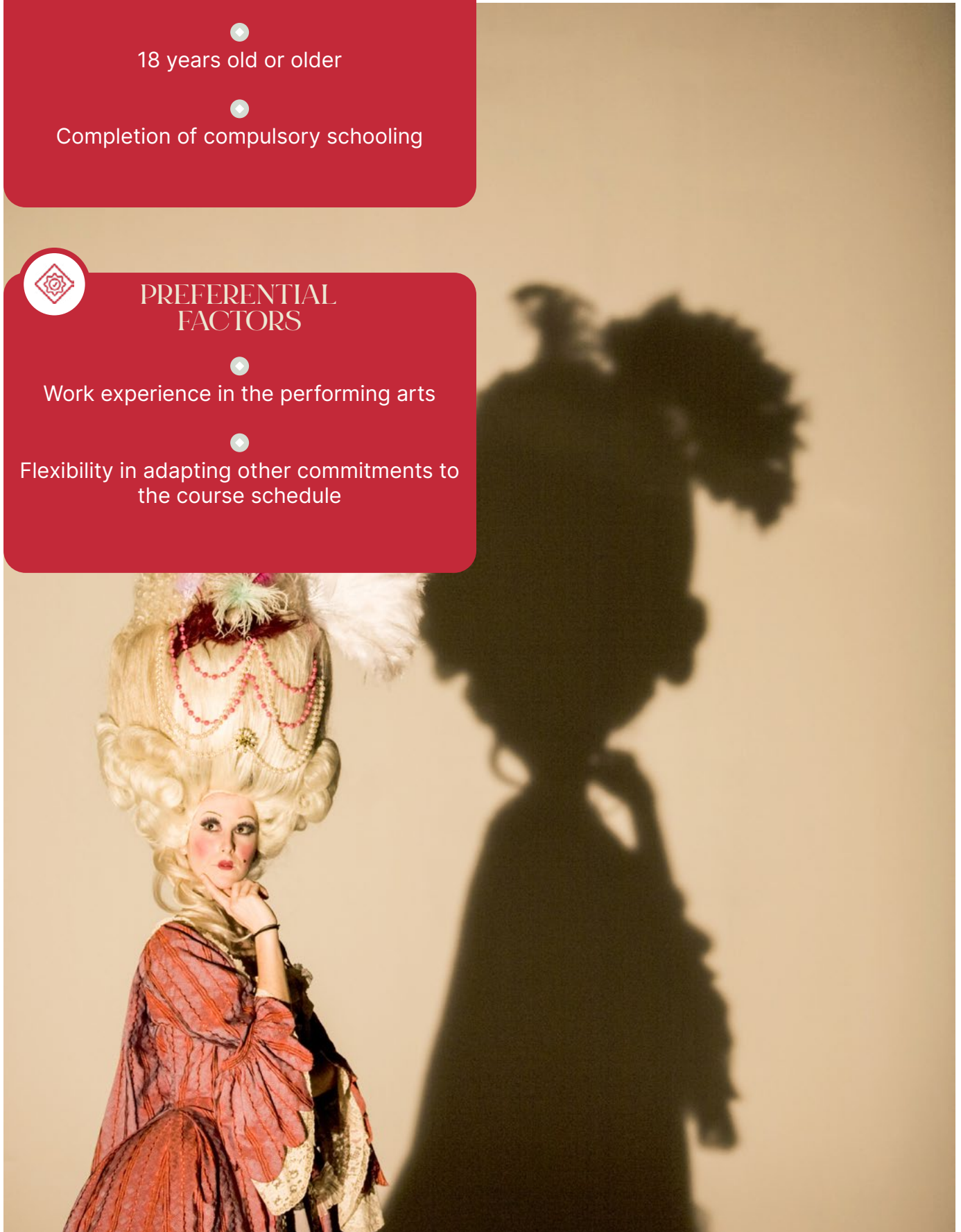
## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- 18 years old or older
- Completion of compulsory schooling



## PREFERENTIAL FACTORS

- Work experience in the performing arts
- Flexibility in adapting other commitments to the course schedule





# SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consists of a motivational interview to assess the candidate's motivations, aptitudes, and expectations.

## ◇ WHEN

The selection process will take place in two sessions: the week of **May 19–24, 2025** and **October 2 and 3, 2025** (dates may be subject to change).

Those who enroll in and pass the first session will be eligible for a tuition discount. Those who do not pass the first session will have the option of enrolling in the second session but will lose the right to a tuition discount.

## ◇ WHERE

Both sessions will be held at the Academy facilities at Via Santa Marta 18, Milan.

## ◇ HOW

After the application deadline, applicants will receive an email with the date and time of the selection process, which will consist of an individual interview lasting about 30 minutes.

The interview will be an opportunity to highlight your strengths and talents. The questions will regard:

- ◆ the candidate's **CV**
- ◆ the **motivations** that led the candidate to choose the La Scala Academy Wig Specialist course
- ◆ the candidate's **interest in musical theatre and the performing arts**. To prepare for this topic, candidates are asked to choose a character in a wig from one of the following operas at Teatro alla Scala: ◆ G. Verdi, *La traviata* (1853) ◆ G. Verdi, *Aida* (1872) ◆ G. Puccini, *Madama Butterfly* (1904) ◆ W. A. Mozart, *Die Zauberflöte* (1791).

Photos are found at <https://www.teatroallascala.org/it/archivio/archivio-storico.html>.

## ◇ WHAT TO BRING

The applicant must bring an identity document and earphones for the listening part.

Suggestions: ◆ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to attend the Wig Specialists course 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 determine 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 is **€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 **€5,370** (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 €250**, with the first installment. The deposit will be refunded, less any costs for missing or damaged materials, at the end of the course.

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).

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> INSTALLMENT

For those admitted in the May selection session: **€2,720 by June 30, 2025**  
(fee + security deposit)

For those admitted in October selection session: **€2,970 by November 14, 2025**  
(fee + security deposit)

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> INSTALLMENT

**€1,325 by January 30, 2026**

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> INSTALLMENT

**€1,325 by April 30, 2026**

# FINANCIAL AID

## Merit 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@accademialascala.it](mailto:segreteria.didattica@accademialascala.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).

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).

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## 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.

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## 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](https://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 October 31, 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 November 6, 2025.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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]).



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# 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 competency 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 judgment of the Office of the Director and the Teaching Committee.

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# 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](http://alumni.accademiascala.it)



Ph: Luca Condorelli

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# MEET THE STAFF

◆  
Leda Botton  
*Teaching Coordinator*

◆  
Micol Reggianini  
*Course Tutor*

[infocorsi@accademiascala.it](mailto:infocorsi@accademiascala.it)

◆  
OPEN DAY

*Register at*  
[bit.ly/OpendayATS](http://bit.ly/OpendayATS)

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

☎ (+39) 02-85451160 / 22

✉ [segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it](mailto:segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it)