



CALL FOR PAPERS

ISIA Strategic Horizons: Italy–Asia Research Award

Best Thesis and Research Prize on Strategic Relations between Italy and Asia

ISIA – Istituto Italiano per l'Asia promotes a Call for Papers aimed at recognizing and awarding the best master's thesis, doctoral dissertation, or research paper dedicated to the study of international relations between Italy and Asian countries.

This Call for Papers is part of ISIA's broader mission to contribute to public and institutional debate on Italy–Asia relations, at a time marked by technological competition, energy transitions, the reconfiguration of global value chains, and the growing relevance of cultural and social dimensions of international cooperation.

ISIA seeks to promote research that is able to:

- connect theoretical analysis with concrete policy implications
- provide insights relevant to public decision-makers and economic stakeholders
- deepen understanding of Italy's role in bilateral and multilateral relations with Asia

Thematic Areas

Submissions should focus, from an international relations perspective, on one or more of the following areas:

- Energy and energy transition
- Critical materials and global value chains
- Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies
- Quantum technologies
- Culture, soft power, and cultural diplomacy
- Civil society, cooperation, and people-to-people dialogue

ISIA – ISTITUTO ITALIANO PER L'ASIA

Piazza Cola di Rienzo, 92 – 00192 – ROMA

Tel.: +39.06.56548652

www.istitutoisia.it

e-mail info@istitutoisia.it

Pec: istitutoisia@pec.it

C.F. 96469510588



Particular consideration will be given to works adopting an interdisciplinary approach and analyzing strategic, political, and policy implications for Italy and its Asian partners.

Eligibility

The Call is open to:

- master's degree graduates
- PhD candidates and PhD holders
- early-career researchers and independent scholars

who have completed or defended their thesis or research work within the **last 2 years** at Italian or international universities or research institutions.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are required to submit:

- the full text of the thesis or research paper
- an abstract (maximum 1000 words)
- a brief curriculum vitae
- an optional letter of endorsement from the thesis supervisor (optional)

Submissions may be written in Italian or English.

Evaluation Process

Submissions will be assessed by a Scientific Committee appointed by ISIA, based on the following criteria:

- originality and relevance of the topic;
- methodological rigor;
- quality of analysis and theoretical/practical contribution;
- relevance to Italy–Asia relations;



Award

The selected winning work will receive:

- ISIA Award for the Best Thesis or Research on Strategic Relations between Italy and Asia
- a monetary prize of 1.500,00 EUR
- the opportunity to present the research at a public ISIA event
- possible publication or dissemination through ISIA's communication channels

Timeline

- Call opening: **20/02/2026**
- Submission deadline: **15/04/2026**
- Announcement of results: **16/06/2026**

Submissions and Contacts

Applications should be sent to: info@istitutoisia.it

For further information: ISIA website www.istitutoisia.it

Il Presidente

Mario Morgoni

Il Segretario Generale

Domenico Palmieri

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