

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPER AND DATA ANALYST English Edition – 2026-2028 ITS Digital Academy Mario Volpato

ARTICLE 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Higher Technological Institute – ITS Digital Academy “Mario Volpato” organises professionally oriented tertiary education programmes for the two-year period 2026-2028, which will be included in the regional educational planning schedule to be published shortly by the Veneto Region and the Italian Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM).

These are two-year post-secondary Higher Technological Education programmes leading to the award of the Higher Technician Diploma (also referred to as the Diploma of Specialisation for Applied Technologies), corresponding to EQF Level 5 (Prime Ministerial Decree of 25 January 2008, Chapter II). These programmes will be authorised and publicly funded following the adoption of the relevant directive by the Veneto Region. This Call for Applications sets out the requirements for participation in the selection process and the criteria that will be used for the allocation of places available for the study programme, **delivered entirely in English**, entitled ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPER AND DATA ANALYST, which will be assigned to and recognised for ITS Digital Academy “Mario Volpato” by the Veneto Region and the Ministry of Education and Merit through public funding.

The programme and the related professional profile, included in the list of national professional profiles, are fully described on the official ITS Digital Academy website at the following link: <https://itsdigitalacademy.com/corsi/artificial-intelligence-developer-and-data-analyst-english-edition/>

ITS Digital Academy “Mario Volpato” reserves the right not to activate the programme promoted under this Call for Applications if it is not authorised, not funded, or if, by the deadline for the start of activities as established by the applicable regulations, the minimum number of enrolled students has not been reached.

ARTICLE 2 – PROGRAMME DURATION AND ATTENDANCE

The programme lasts two years (academic years 2026–2028) and is divided into 4 teaching periods.

The programme consists of 1,800 hours of activities, of which 40% are dedicated to internship/work placement/apprenticeship activities, divided as follows, unless otherwise required by specific project needs:

- **1,080 hours of laboratory-based activities carried out in classrooms or at external venues such as trade fairs, events, conferences, competitive challenges, field trips to visit companies, and similar settings**
- **720 hours of internship/work placement/apprenticeship activities in companies**

The internship/work placement/apprenticeship periods in companies will be integrated into the programme and carried out during the course of study.

Within the classroom and laboratory hours, students will also complete Project Work. Project Work may be either curricular or extracurricular. Scholarships may also be awarded at the end of the two-year programme.

Attendance is mandatory. During the programme, students will periodically take assessments to verify their level of preparation, as well as final evaluations at the end of each module or teaching unit. The programme concludes with a final examination leading to the award of the Higher Technician Diploma, with examination procedures established by ministerial regulation under Ministerial Decree No. 88 of 17/05/2023.

Admission to the final examination, subject to approval by the Scientific and Technical Committee (CTS), requires compliance with the following criteria:

- Attendance of at least 80% of the total programme hours;
- A positive evaluation based on the average result of the intermediate and final assessments, awarded by the Commission composed of lecturers and the programme coordinator;
- A positive evaluation by the company tutor at the end of the internship/work placement/apprenticeship period;
- A final admission score (weighted average of module grades, internship evaluations, participation in extracurricular activities).

The Higher Technician Diploma, in relation to the professional profile described for the relevant technological areas, constitutes a valid qualification for access to public recruitment procedures in Italy pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 2, of Law No. 99 of 15/07/2022, as well as to recruitment procedures for technical-practical teaching positions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 10, of the same Law No. 99 of 15/07/2022.

ARTICLE 3 – SELECTION PERIOD AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The **selection phase** will be carried out exclusively **online** and on a rolling basis, **opening on 01/04/2026 and ending on 19/06/2026.**

ITS Digital Academy nevertheless reserves the right **to extend the selection period** if, at the above deadline, places in the programme are still available.

The selection is open to applicants who already hold one of the following qualifications:

- **An High School Diploma (Diploma di Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado / Diploma di Maturità) issued by the Italian Ministry of Education and Merit;**
- **An equivalent foreign qualification officially recognised by the Italian State (through a Declaration of Value / Dichiarazione di Valore¹);**
- **A vocational education and training diploma (IeFP, diploma di 4° anno) paired with a Higher Technical Specialisation Certificate (5° anno IFTS);**
- **Applicants who are currently attending the fifth year of high school or an IFTS course, and are therefore expected to obtain their qualification by July 2026, or in any case by the end of the 2025/26 school or training year.**

It is understood that, if the applicant does not obtain the high school qualification or the IFTS qualification, they will not be allowed to attend the ITS programme, even if they have been declared eligible for enrolment, and their enrolment cannot therefore be completed.

As stated in the introduction, the programme covered by this Call for Applications will be delivered entirely in English and is therefore open to applications from both Italian students and students coming from abroad.

In order to ensure an adequate level of internationalisation within the programme, a minimum number of places will be reserved for international applicants. In particular, at least 5 places will be reserved for students coming from abroad. If the number of eligible international applicants is lower than the number of reserved places, the unallocated places may be assigned to other eligible applicants. Conversely, if the number of eligible international applicants exceeds 5, the number of places assigned to them may be increased, within the overall capacity of the programme and in accordance with the order in which applicants complete the selection process.

Applications to participate in the selection process must be submitted online through the website at the following link:

<https://itsdigitalacademy.com/selections-english/>

ARTICLE 4 - ADMISSIONS

The planned number of students admitted to the programme is 25. ITS reserves the right to increase the number of available places depending on the number of applicants found eligible for admission following the selection process.

If the number of admitted students is insufficient, ITS reserves the right to reopen the Call for Applications and resume the selection process until all available places have been filled.

ITS also reserves the right not to activate the programme if, by the scheduled start date, a sufficient number of enrolled students has not been reached. In such a case, applicants may request reimbursement of the enrolment fee paid for attendance of the programme.

Applicants may in any case request admission to one of the programmes delivered in Italian, subject to the availability of places.

¹ The Declaration of Value (Dichiarazione di Valore del Titolo di Studio) is an official document issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular authorities in the country where the qualification was awarded. It certifies the academic and legal value of a foreign degree or diploma in its country of origin. This document is essential for academic recognition, professional purposes, or immigration-related procedures in Italy. **Note for applicants holding a foreign qualification:** In order to obtain the Declaration of Value, applicants are generally required to have their diploma officially translated into Italian by a certified translator and to have the translation legally certified. Subsequently, applicants must submit a request for the issuance of the Declaration of Value to the Italian Embassy or Consulate competent for their country of residence. For further information, applicants are advised to consult the official website of the Italian Ministry of Education and Merit: <https://www.mim.gov.it/dichiarazione-di-valore>

ARTICLE 5 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection process is structured in the following stages, which must be completed in the order indicated below:

01. REGISTRATION TO THE SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will be asked to create a new account on the online platform using a valid personal email address. They will then be required **to complete a registration form** consisting of the following sections:

- Declarations and Consent Forms
- Applicant Details
- Applicant Type
- Upload of High School Diploma (except for students currently completing their studies) as required under Article 3 above
- Declaration of Value (necessary for foreign degrees), as required under Article 3 above
- Employment Status (optional field)
- Upload of language and/or IT certifications
- Any Specific Learning Disorders (DSA) (Law No. 170 of 8 October 2010) or Disability Status (Italian Law n. 104 of 5 February 1992), together with the relevant certificate (in case of foreign certificates, Italian or English translation is required) should be uploaded
- Most frequently used social media profile
- Privacy Notice
- Login Credentials
- Selection of the payment method and subsequent payment of €10.00. For details on this item, please refer to Article 7 below
- Submission of the application for the selection process for the programme

From the moment the data entered is confirmed, the applicant has **5 days** to complete the following steps:

- **Completion of the motivational test**
- **Completion of the technical-aptitude test**
- **Booking of the online interview.**

02. MOTIVATION TEST

The test consists of 85 questions. Each question is presented together with a **scale of agreement or disagreement** with the content of the statement. **Only one answer may be selected.**

Questions are presented one at a time, with no possibility of leaving a question unanswered and no possibility of returning to previously answered questions. Applicants may proceed to the next question only after answering the current one.

The total time allowed to complete the test is 36 minutes.

Once the time available to the applicant has expired, the test will end automatically, saving the answers entered and allowing access to the subsequent stages of the selection process. Once the time has expired, only the answers actually provided will receive a score. Unanswered questions will therefore receive a score of 0 (ZERO).

Access to the next step will be enabled only after completion of the motivation test.

Please note: The specific compensatory measures for students who have submitted Specific Learning Disorders DSA certification (Italian Law N. 170 of 8 October 2010) or Disability Status Certification (Law N. 104 of 5 February 1992) are explained in the section “Compensatory measures for students with DSA or disability certification”.

03. TECHNICAL-APTITUDE TEST

The test consists of 26 multiple-choice questions, structured as follows:

- 10 questions in logic, mathematics, and deductive reasoning
- 16 technical-scientific questions.

Questions are presented one at a time, with no possibility of leaving a question unanswered and no possibility of returning to previously answered questions. Applicants may proceed to the next question only after answering the current one. Each question is in multiple-choice format with four possible answers, of which only one is correct.

The total time allowed to complete the test is 15 minutes.

Once the time available to the applicant has expired, the test will end automatically, saving the answers entered and allowing access to the subsequent stages of the selection process. Unanswered questions and incorrect answers will receive a score of 0 (ZERO).

Please note: The specific compensatory measures for students who have submitted Specific Learning Disorders DSA certification (Italian Law N. 170 of 8 October 2010) or Disability Status Certification (Law N. 104 of 5 February 1992) are explained in the section “Compensatory measures for students with DSA or disability certification”.

04. BOOKING OF THE ONLINE INTERVIEW

Applicants may **book the online interview through a dedicated Google Calendar organised into time slots**. At the end of the booking process, the applicant will immediately receive an automatic email containing the **date and time of the selected appointment** and the **Google Meet** link.

Interview Panels will operate from 17/04/2026 to 26/06/2026.

According to the schedule, interview slots, with a maximum of 6 applicants per slot, will take place **on Friday afternoons, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m** (GMT+02:00 Central European Time - Rome). Additional slots may be made available depending on the number of applications received.

The Panel will be composed as follows:

- A psychologist/orientation expert, acting as Chair;
- An expert in ITS educational programmes;
- An IT field expert/professor.

The Panel may validly operate with at least two of the three members listed above. **Each interview will last a maximum of 30 minutes per applicant.**

Once the interview time has been selected according to the proposed date, the applicant will receive confirmation including the link to the Google Meet platform. Applicants must attend the interview punctually, with **a functioning camera and microphone**, and must have an **identity document** available for identification purposes. Applicants are strongly advised to use the same identity document submitted during the application phase.

The interview must take place in compliance with the following conditions:

- **No third parties may be present in the location where the applicant is situated, and the applicant must ensure appropriate conditions of confidentiality;**
- **No audio or video recording applications, nor any AI transcription applications, may be active.**

05. ASSESSMENT OF OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

The **possession of academic qualifications, language certifications, and/or IT certifications** will also be taken into account. In particular, the following qualifications will be considered:

- **Master's Degree or PHD;**
- **Bachelor's Degree;**
- **IFTS Higher Technical Specialisation qualification** obtained after the High School Diploma;
- **Certifications in the IT field** (such as Cisco, Microsoft, CompTIA, Red Hat, Fortigate, Ubiquiti, Mikrotik, HP, Dell, etc.). ICDL (formerly ECDL) and similar certifications will not be taken into consideration;
- **English language certifications at a minimum level of B2** for all applicants who do not declare themselves to be native speakers: Anglia Examinations (United Kingdom); Cambridge English (University of Cambridge); ESB (English Speaking Board); IELTS (International English Language Testing System); LCCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry) – Pearson; Linguaskill (Cambridge, formerly BULATS); Michigan English Test (MET) – University of Michigan; Oxford Test of English (University of Oxford); PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English); SET (Scholastic English Test) – Gatehouse Awards; TIE (Test of Interactive English); TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language); TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication); Trinity College London – GESE & ISE;
- Any **Italian language certifications**, at a minimum level of A2, which will be considered only for applicants who do not hold Italian citizenship.

The assessment of certifications shall be entirely at the discretion of the Selection Panels, whose judgment shall be final.

06. ONLINE MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEW

Applicants are required to be extremely punctual when attending the interview. They must present the **identity document** uploaded during the application phase and state their identification code number.

The interview will consist of questions designed to explore the following areas:

- **Motivation for choosing the programme;**
- **Expectations regarding future employment prospects;**
- **Soft skills;**
- **Selected technical aspects related to the professional profile;**
- **Consistency between the profile resulting from the motivational and technical-aptitude tests and what is observed during the interview;**
- **Communication and expressive ability.**

In the event of an unjustified absence from the scheduled interview, the applicant may be allowed to rebook the interview only upon submission of a formal request, explaining the reason for the absence. In such a case, the applicant will lose priority access to the slot of the session in which they had originally registered after the completion of the tests, and will have to wait for the availability of new dates, which will be communicated by the ITS administrative office.

07. ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Applicants will be assessed by the Chair and the members of the Panel during the interview, on the basis of the following integrated elements:

- The results obtained in the structured selection tests, namely the motivational test and the technical-aptitude test;
- The assessment of previous and additional qualifications uploaded at the time of application;
- The assessment of the interview according to the points set out in Article 6.

The structured tests (motivational test, technical-aptitude test, qualifications, and certifications) and their results, whether numerical or descriptive, will not have a value directly corresponding to the final outcome of the evaluation process.

During the interview, the Chair and the Panel will assess the results obtained as a whole, together with the related considerations concerning each individual applicant, and will summarise the outcome according to the following three merit categories:

- NOT ELIGIBLE
- RESERVE LIST (*)
- ELIGIBLE

These categories constitute ordinal thresholds of judgment, intended to qualify the degree to which the applicant is suited to the educational objectives, the programme profile, and the required competencies.

The interview serves the function of integrating and confirming the applicant's overall assessment profile, making it possible to explore motivational and aptitude-related aspects, as well as the applicant's consistency with the educational objectives of the programme.

Applicants declared eligible may proceed directly to the enrollment phase.

The assessment expressed by the Panel during the interview constitutes a technical and discretionary evaluation, carried out on the basis of the criteria established in this Call for Applications and, as such, is not subject to review on the merits.

(*) In the event of admission from the reserve list, applicants will be selected according to criteria determined at the sole and final discretion of the Panel.

The results of the interviews will be published on the day following the interview on the ITS Digital Academy website: <https://itsdigitalacademy.com/selections-english/>

08. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Enrollment must be completed within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of the results. Applicants who do not complete enrollment within the above deadline will retain the result obtained, but will be placed after the last applicant who has duly completed enrolment in the programme.

09. APPLICANTS WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS (DSA – LAW NO. 170 OF 8 OCTOBER 2010) OR DISABILITY CERTIFICATION (LAW NO. 104 OF 5 FEBRUARY 1992)

Valid diagnostic certifications must be uploaded to the dedicated “ITS Digital Academy Selections” platform during the programme registration to selection phase. With regard to the selection tests, applicants who submit the relevant certifications will be entitled to:

- 15% additional time for completion of the motivational test;
- 15% additional time for completion of the technical-aptitude test;
- The possibility of using text-to-speech support for all test questions.

The use of a calculator is allowed for all applicants, regardless of whether any certification has been submitted.

Please also note that, for applicants holding a certification, the following conditions are allowed:

- The use of individualised tools and measures in the case of sensory or physical disabilities;
- A selection interview with personalised questions, depending on the specific disability or disorder.

ARTICLE 6 – ENROLLMENT

With reference to the enrollment deadlines indicated above, applicants may proceed with **enrolment in the programme** through the following procedure:

- Enrolment application completed on the appropriate form
- Declaration of Value (foreign degree applicants)
- Self-certification attesting the qualification held and the corresponding final grade
- Copy of identity document and Italian tax code (codice fiscale) /national tax code
- Privacy declarations
- Europass-format CV
- Proof of payment of the pre-enrolment fee of €100.00 (one hundred euros/00), paid by **bank transfer** to the following IBAN:
IT52 F030 6909 6061 0000 0184 938,
payable to:
I.T.S. Digital Academy “M. Volpato”
Via Risorgimento, 29 – 35127 Noventa Padovana (PD)

or by **Credit Card or Debit Card (Stripe)**.

ARTICLE 7 - TUITION FEE

The tuition fee for the programme is set at €900.00 (nine hundred euros/00) per year, net of any bank charges and commissions.

The annual tuition fee, as the balance of the pre-enrollment fee, must be paid before the beginning of the academic year.

Voluntary withdrawal from studies after enrollment, even if justified, excludes any refund of the tuition fee for the programme.

Registration for the selection test is subject to payment of a fee of €10.00. Payment may be made by Credit Card or Debit Card (Stripe).

ARTICLE 8 - START OF TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Classes are expected to begin between the end of October and the beginning of November 2026. The official start date and all relevant information necessary for attending the programme will be communicated in advance by the programme coordinator and published on the ITS website **within 15 days from the start of activities**. As regards the timetable of lessons, regular updates will be provided throughout the duration of the programme.

ARTICLE 9 - PRIVACY

The personal data provided by applicants during the selection process, and subsequently by participants admitted to the programme, will be processed in compliance with the provisions of Italian Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30/06/2003, in accordance with the procedures described in the privacy notice on the processing of personal data available on the Foundation's website at the following link: <https://itsdigitalacademy.com/privacy-notice-on-the-processing-of-personal-data/>

Noventa Padovana,
1st April 2026

General Director
Stefano Ziroldo

