



CREATIVE WRITING LITERARY CONTEST

Since its establishment in 1952, the Italian Cultural Institute in Lebanon has been working to promote and spread the Italian language and culture and foster the exchange of ideas, arts, and sciences, primarily through the organization of language courses and cultural events. More recently, it has also focused on the publishing sector, with the Arabic translation of important Italian works and their publication, either independently or in collaboration with Lebanese publishing houses.

In this context, and with the aim of fostering cultural exchanges between Italy and Lebanon, the IIC in Beirut, under the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon, announces a literary contest for students in the final two years of secondary school and university students across Lebanon.

The contest aims to promote, through creative writing, a greater understanding of contemporary Italian literary and scientific works and is closely tied to the publication of the bilingual Italian-Arabic book "*Libro del piacere di chi anela varcare gli orizzonti - Il mondo fra le righe della scienza*" (The Book of Pleasure for Those Who Yearn to Cross Horizons - The World Between the Lines of Science), published by the Institute itself.

Participants will be invited to write a text reflecting on the article "Abitare illegale" (Illegal Living) by Andrea Staid, included in the aforementioned volume, concluding with a personal reflection on a possible process of urban regeneration in their own city.

The essays may be written in Italian, French, English, or Arabic, and must not exceed six pages.

Six prizes will be awarded to the winners of the contest.

Evaluation of the Stories

The stories and written works will be evaluated by a pre-selection jury organized by the Italian Cultural Institute and will then be submitted to the final and binding verdict of a judging committee. In assigning scores and designating the winners, the committee will consider four evaluation parameters: adherence to the proposed theme and the richness of information and accurate historical references; creativity and originality of the work; respect for the proposed limits and structure; fluency and mastery of the language used.

The judging committee will be published on the Institute's website by January 15.

The stories, written by individual students, must be submitted by no later than January 30, 2025, to the following email address: iicbeirut@esteri.it.

Prizes of the Contest

The winners of the contest will be awarded the following prizes:

1. High Schools:

- a. **First Prize for "Best Text":** Round-trip flight ticket to Rome or Milan, to be used by the end of 2025, or alternatively, a \$500 book voucher.
- b. **Prize for "Text Coherence":** \$300 book voucher.
- c. **Prize for "Creativity":** \$200 book voucher.

2. University:

- a. **First Prize for "Best Text":** Round-trip flight ticket to Rome or Milan, to be used by the end of 2025, and a free 4-week Italian language course in a historic city, or alternatively, a \$1000 book voucher.
- b. **Prize for "Text Coherence":** Round-trip flight ticket to Rome or Milan and a free 2-week Italian language course, or alternatively, a \$700 book voucher.
- c. **Prize for "Creativity":** Round-trip flight ticket to Rome or Milan, or alternatively, a \$500 book voucher.

The names of the winners will be published on the Institute's website by February 28, 2025, and will also be notified personally by email. Winners must confirm their travel dates no later than March 30, 2025, and at least three months before the trip (dates between July 1st and December 31).

It should be noted that for winners of a flight ticket, the Institute will cover only the costs related to the flight ticket and the language course. The costs of meals and accommodation will be the responsibility of the winners.

Furthermore, the Institute does not guarantee the issuance of a visa for the winners, as this is subject to the judgment of the Visa Office at the Italian Embassy, based on the documentation submitted for the visa application. In case of visa denial, the prize will be awarded to the second-place winner in the same category.