



YOUNG LEADERS

UK-ITALY YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

In 2023 the UK and Italy announced a major new bilateral initiative, the UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme.

As European democracies with shared values, this programme aims to strengthen the ties that unite our countries.

The links between the UK and Italy are not just commercial, economic and political, but also social. The deep-rooted historical links between our countries are based on a close friendship, shared culture and mutual respect.

From Manchester to Milan, Bologna to Belfast, we hope that this programme will bring together Britons and Italians who unite in a common cause to generate new ideas, new perspectives and new ties to create a new generation of 21st century leaders who will shape UK-Italy relations in years to come.



Ed Llewellyn
British Ambassador to Italy and San Marino



Inigo Lambertini
Italian Ambassador to the United Kingdom



British Ambassador to Italy and San Marino – The Rt Hon Edward Llewellyn OBE



Italian Ambassador to the United Kingdom – Inigo Lambertini

1

UK-ITALY Young Leaders Programme

What is the Young Leaders Programme?

Modelled on the UK-France Young Leaders Programme, which now boasts over 156 Young Leaders, our UK-Italy programme brings together a group of outstanding professionals whose common link is their demonstrated leadership and passion for forging closer UK and Italy ties.

Every year, the UK and Italian Government will hold an open competition to invite applications from young Italian and British professionals onto the programme. Young Leaders can come from all sectors, including positions in the civil service, the military, leading companies, politics, charitable organisations, start-ups or the arts. They are dedicated to encouraging closer relations between the UK and Italy by promoting an innovative vision of the future bilateral relationship.

Successful applicants are asked to sign the Young Leaders Charter (see page 12) and invited to undertake a visit to both the UK and Italy, to encourage closer relations through understanding culture and values, promoting constructive dialogue, exchanging thoughts and ideas and promoting the bilateral relationship.


Once the Young Leaders have completed their visits, they will be invited to join the “Young Leaders Alumni” network, which includes personalities from distinguished careers ranging from journalists, scientists, the military and academics to business entrepreneurs, writers, art directors and composers.

The UK-Italy Young Leaders programme is an initiative supported by both governments and is delivered by the British Embassy in Rome and the Italian Embassy in London.


What can the Young Leaders Programme offer me?

The Young Leaders Programme offers you two fully paid visits to the UK and Italy during your first year on the programme and a lifetime membership of the Young Leaders Alumni.


This programme is for anyone who meets the eligibility criteria and wishes to connect with a network of like-minded peers to create a new generation of leaders to advance the UK and Italy bilateral relationship. The programme offers you to:



LEARN FROM THE BEST: In the Young Leaders Programme, we will connect you with established leaders and experts from the UK, Italy and all over the world, with the opportunity to ask questions, gain advice or simply learn something new that will benefit your professional career.



GROW YOUR NETWORKS: As a Young Leader you will have exclusive networking options with access to events across the UK and Italy, including VIP events and conferences.



CONNECT WITH YOUR PEERS: As part of the Young Leaders Alumni, you will have the opportunity to get together with your fellow Young Leaders – and other like-minded professionals – to discuss your own projects and work, broadening your horizons and channelling different approaches and perspectives on topics that are essential to your career and the UK and Italy.



“The Programme has allowed me to meet highly talented young professionals from a range of diverse sectors and backgrounds”

“The YLP offers a forum to share views and collaborate on urgent global issues facing the UK and Italy”

2 Application process

How can I apply for the Young Leaders Programme?

To apply for the Programme, you must be a young professional under 40 years old (on the closing date for applications) who is a UK and/or Italian citizen. You must speak fluent English and demonstrate a commitment to build and shape UK-Italy bilateral relations.

If you are interested in the Programme, please check the website for regular updates regarding applications for the programme. If you wish to request specific information, please contact the UK-Italy Young Leaders (YL) Working Group on: youngleadersprogramme@fcdo.gov.uk.

Overview of selection process

Application window announced

Application open

Application closes

YL Working Group sift applications and submit shortlist of the recommended candidates to the YL Management Board

YL Management Board selects successful candidates and informs YL Working Group

YL Working Group informs successful candidates on their applications

3

Programme Advisory Board

Can companies or stakeholders join or support the programme?

We encourage organisations and companies from all industries and sectors that have an interest in the UK-Italy bilateral relationship to be involved in the Young Leaders programme, through joining the UK-Italy Young Leaders Advisory Board.

What is the UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme Advisory Board?

The Advisory Board is intended to generate new ideas to help shape the Young Leaders Programme (YLP). Contributions can come in many forms, but activities include:

1. Providing patronage to the YLP;
2. Providing sponsorship (either financial or in-kind) to the YLP;
3. Amplifying the YLP through your social media/marketing channels;
4. Funding and organising visits for the Young Leaders in the UK and/or Italy;
5. Hosting events and introducing Young Leaders to your professional networks.

Can companies or stakeholders nominate Young Leaders to the programme?

Any of the above activities would qualify the Advisory Board member to fast-track their recommended candidates for the YLP candidate shortlist (but by no means a guarantee they would be selected for the programme). We recommend you contact the Young Leaders Working Group: youngleadersprogramme@fcdo.gov.uk for further information.

What are you looking for from Advisory Board members?

We are particularly interested in those that have a wealth of experience in nurturing young talent (e.g. through an existing emerging leaders

programme) and a strong perspective on how to enhance the UK-Italy bilateral relationship. We want to involve organisations that will make it their priority to shape the vision of the programme and contribute to its success.

What would being an Advisory Board member entail?

There are no prescriptive commitments for an Advisory Board member (time or financial). The Advisory Board will not meet in-person, but the Young Leaders Working Group will be in touch with members for regular updates on the latest events, activities and visit programmes. We ask all Advisory Board members to commit to at least one year to the Programme.

How do I join the Advisory Board?

To join, please contact the Young Leaders Working Group at youngleadersprogramme@fcdo.gov.uk

4 Young Leaders Alumni

What is the Young Leaders Alumni?

The YL Alumni is a professional network for UK and Italian Young Leaders who were successful in their application to join the UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme.

When or where does the Alumni meet?

Alumni will be invited to events in the UK and Italy by the British and Italian Embassies. We encourage Alumni members to keep in touch and meet outside of Young Leaders hosted events, as well as virtually.

What are the responsibilities of being part of the Young Leaders Alumni?

There are no specific responsibilities for the Alumni members, but we encourage all to attend events and contribute to ideas for the future success of the programme, for example, helping arrange itineraries for the visits to the UK and Italy or introducing Young Leaders to their networks and contacts. There is also the chance for Alumni members to be involved in assessing the applications of future Young Leaders who wish to join the programme.

How can I join the Young Leaders Alumni?

Only those who are successful in their applications to the Young Leaders Programme and complete the visits to the UK and Italy are able to join the Alumni. Once you have joined the Alumni, we ask candidates to commit to a minimum of two years.

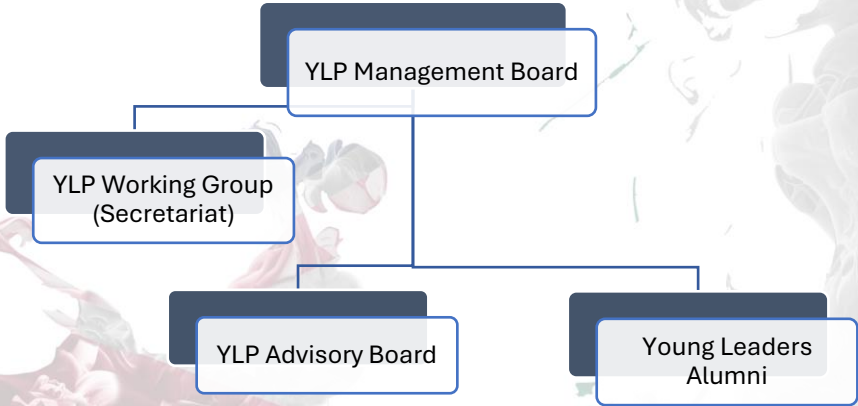
Who are members of the Young Leaders Alumni?

The Alumni includes personalities from distinguished careers ranging from journalists, scientists, the military and academics to business entrepreneurs, writers, art directors and composers.

5

Governance and Decision Making

Corporate Governance of the Young Leaders Programme



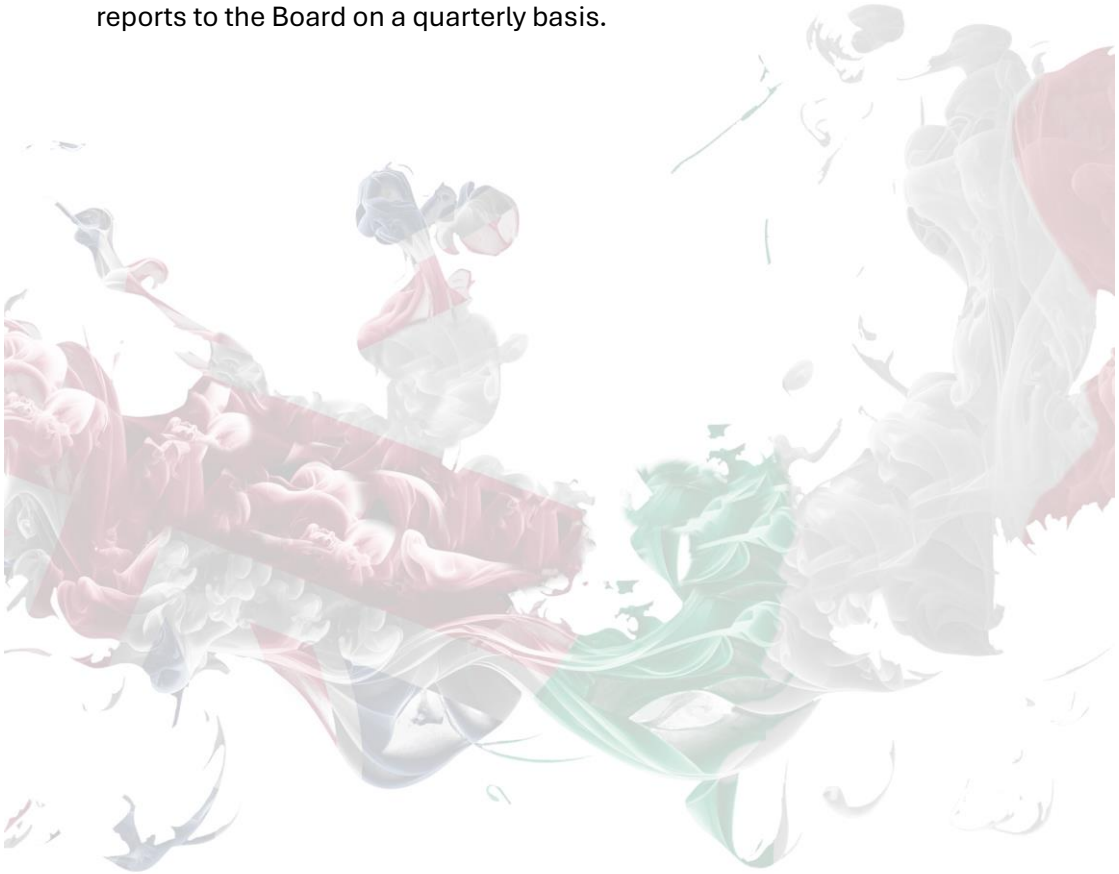
Young Leaders Management Board

The Young Leaders Programme is managed by a Young Leaders Management Board, co-chaired by the British Ambassador to Italy and the Italian Ambassador to the UK. The Board is intended to (i) set the strategic direction of the Programme through agreeing an annual theme and sectors for targeting candidates, including sponsorship outreach (ii) select candidates for the Young Leaders' Programme, following recommendations from the Young Leaders Working Group (iii) agree and sign-off the annual budget for the programme, including sponsorship, as recommended by the Young Leaders' Working Group.

The board has no determinate timeframe and meets at the discretion of the Young Leaders Working Group. Any extraordinary meetings will be at the call of the co-Chairs, following a recommendation from the Young Leaders' Working Group.

Young Leaders Working Group

The Young Leaders Working Group acts as the Secretariat to the Young Leaders Programme. It is staffed by the British Embassy in Rome and the Italian Embassy in London. It is responsible for managing the open competition process, the visit programmes to the UK and Italy, as well as the Young Leaders Alumni network. The Young Leaders Working Group reports to the Board on a quarterly basis.



6 Young Leaders Charter

All Young Leaders are asked to accept the UK-Italy Young Leaders' Charter as part of membership on the Programme.

- I. **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME:** The UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme, founded in 2023, aims to create lasting dialogue at the highest level to shape the future of UK-Italy relations. Every year, a jury selects Young Leaders for their leadership skills and desire to make a positive contribution to society. Young Leaders hold senior positions in the civil service, the military, leading companies, politics, charitable organisations, the start-up ecosystem or the arts. They are dedicated to encouraging closer relations between the UK and Italy by promoting an innovative vision of the future bilateral relationship. The UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme is an initiative supported by both governments.
- II. **VALUES:** The programme is a non-partisan initiative committed to pluralism and diversity, and its activities are conducted in the public interest. Our mission is to perpetuate the long history of shared ideals and friendship between the UK and Italy through the promotion of constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and initiatives on topical issues. The seminars enable ideas and projects to emerge, with the shared ambition of increasing cross-border knowledge-sharing and cooperation.
- III. **ENGAGEMENT WITH SPEAKERS:** When the seminars organised for the UK-Italy Young Leaders are held under the Chatham House Rule, Young Leaders are asked to abide by it. The rule states that participants are free to use the information received but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers or any other participants may be revealed. In cases where the Chatham House Rule is not considered sufficiently strict, an event may be held 'off the record'. The strict implementation of the rule is crucial to its effectiveness. It ensures that the Young Leaders Programme is able to invite senior public figures who are confident they

can engage in an open and free discussion with the Young Leaders. We ask Young Leaders to be respectful of guests and speakers, and mindful that our speakers dedicate time in their busy schedules to participating and engaging with them.

- IV. **ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER YOUNG LEADERS:** Young Leaders will ensure a culture of respect, collaboration and professionalism. The framework of the Programme, with its regular gatherings, will help Young Leaders establish mutual relations of trust through a spirit of friendship. Young Leaders may include their affiliation with the Programme on their CVs and online platforms.
- V. **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Presence and active participation are expected during the year. They will be asked to engage actively with speakers and other participants. Arranging events and seminars requires time and cost. The organising team understands that unexpected events can prevent Young Leaders from attending. However, Young Leaders are asked to inform the organisers in good time of any cancellations in order to avoid unnecessary costs and to allow someone else to attend. The organising team would be grateful to Young Leaders if they could facilitate their work by replying quickly to emails regarding seminars and by regularly updating their biographies and contact details.
- VI. **ALUMNI PROGRAMME:** Once Young Leaders have completed their visits to the UK/Italy, they will join the Young Leaders Alumni programme. We hope that they will continue to participate in events in order to promote the UK-Italy relationship and that they will remain active within the Young Leaders network. Alumni accept, however, that some events may be limited in numbers and that priority will be given to the current cohort of Young Leaders.
- VII. **ONLINE PRESENCE:** Young Leaders are encouraged to promote their affiliation with the programme on online platforms and social media. Occasionally, Young Leaders may be asked to refrain from taking photographs or sharing information, but such cases will always be made clear ahead of the event.



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UK-Italy Young Leaders Programme

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