



Consulate General of Italy
Houston

MIRABILIS

Miraculous Range of Beauty Illustrations In Science

LE IMMAGINI DELLA SCIENZA

IMAGES CONTEST

Call No. 1

HOUSTON, FEBRUARY 27

Miraculous Range of Beauty Illustrations In Science

Extraordinary images to tell extraordinary stories of scientific and technological research and discoveries. To reveal the charm of science from the infinitely small to the infinitely large through the beauty of the images.

Project

The Consulate General of Italy in Houston organizes an images contest open to Italian researchers or those researchers who have worked in Italy for a long time, present in its jurisdiction (AR, LA, OK, TX). The project will be structured in two phases with two dedicated Calls: one for researchers and one for the High Schools within the jurisdiction of the Consulate.

Objective: to promote the contribution of Italian research in the Consulate area through the beauty and art of images. Strengthen and deepen networks with communication, dissemination and artistic impact methodologies. Disseminate science information on the territory about Italian research activities in synergy with the USA. Increase awareness, even among those who do not work in the research sector, of the quality of the training provided by Italian Universities, of the professional value of Italian research and its highly qualified integration into the Consular fabric and in the USA. Interest US High School students in familiarizing themselves with Italian frontier science and technology and within the framework of the Italy-USA cooperation.

The Project is in collaboration with:

Italian Cultural Institute, Los Angeles.

Italy-America Chamber of Commerce of Texas, Houston.

Italian Trade Agency, Houston.

Italian Cultural & Community Center, Houston.

Associations of Italian Researchers in the Consulate area: WSC-ISSNAF and TSIC.

COMITES.

Prof. Anna Zeppieri, Director of the Education Office, Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco.

Prof. Alda Nicosia, University of Houston.

Dr. Damiano Redemagni, Digital Product Development and Consulting.

Topic: the researcher will have to provide an image related to her/his research, accompanied by a short text that explains its meaning even to a non-specialized audience of the sector, specifying the subject, where the image was taken, how and who took it. The images will be voted on by the High Schools present in the Consulate area, according to the procedures that will be specified in a second dedicated Call. Researchers must agree to disseminate their research at High Schools according to the procedures specified in Call no.1. The award ceremony for the top three will be public, in Houston, at the end of September 2023. The most significant images, selected by the High School Institutions, will be printed and displayed at the award ceremony. On the occasion of the award ceremony, the researcher whose image is classified in first place will present its content/results in a seminar.

CALL no. 1

1) Participant requirements:

Researchers with Italian citizenship (or who have worked at least for five years in Italy) and who carry out their research activities also within the jurisdiction of the Italian Consulate General in Houston (AR, LA, OK, TX).

2) Registration rules, Terms and Conditions:

a) Researchers must register on the web platform at the link:

https://conshouston.esteri.it/Consolato_Houston/it/

The platform is open for registrations. Only one registration is allowed, in which the rules indicated in this Call, and in particular those regarding the Copyright of the image and the Privacy Policy have to be accepted. Registration to the platform (see <https://bubble.io/security>) has password-protected access, and the Consulate will use the personal information collected only for the purpose of the Contest. The Consulate is not responsible and accountable for improper or fraudulent use of data entered on the platform. Images must comply with the code of ethics.

b) With registration, the researcher authorizes the Consulate to use the image free of charge, she/he declares to be the owner of the image and to have the copyright rights. The researcher agrees to provide a high-resolution version, suitable for a print format (typically not exceeding 20 in x 30 in), in case the image is the winner or one of those selected for the final exhibition.

c) With registration, researchers also agree to present an outreach science seminar (in the scientific area of their expertise) in video conference or in person (where possible) to a School Institution, in the event that their images are among the first 20 in the ranking. Times and modalities can be agreed autonomously between researcher and Institution. During registration it will also be possible to voluntarily adhere to perform the seminar, independently of the final voting.

3) Submission rules of images:

- a) The researchers must provide an image related to their research, accompanied by a brief text explaining its meaning, even to a non-specialized audience in the sector, specifying the subject, where the image was taken, how and by whom it was taken.
- b) Each researcher can upload at most one high-resolution image (but not more than 1MB) suitable for web voting. The text of the explanation should not be inserted into the image, but written separately. Separately, a title for the image must also be provided. Posters, charts and graphs, low-resolution images or images containing text or created with AI are not allowed. After the upload, researchers can independently publish their image on social media.

4) Definition of the term "Image":

- a) Photographs of research results or details of experimental apparatus. Photographs also obtained with the equipment used in research, from sensors, telescopes, microscopes, etc.
- b) Hand-drawn illustrations or computer-made (but not charts, graphs, posters) to make theories and concepts, processes, ideas behind the research, etc. more understandable.
- c) Images obtained with AI are not allowed, unless they represent the theme of the image.

5) Selection criteria:

The images will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a) Visual/artistic impact: originality, clarity, immediacy;
- b) Scientific value and originality of the research: conceptual/theoretical/innovative/technological content that attests to an advancement in knowledge.

6) Submission deadline:

The registration will close on April 21st, 10 pm.

7) Evaluation process:

The images will be voted on by the High Schools present in the Consulate area, according to the procedures that will be specified in a second dedicated Call.

8) Award Ceremony

The award ceremony for the top three researchers will be public, in Houston, at the end of September 2023. The most significant images, selected by the High School Institutions, will be printed and displayed at the award ceremony. On the occasion of the award ceremony, the researcher whose image is classified in first place will present its content/results in a seminar. The researchers classified among

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the first twenty, and those who have given voluntary membership to carry out a seminar will be paired with some of the participating schools with modalities specified in the second call.

Times and modalities of the seminars will be agreed autonomously between researcher and Institution.

Please make sure to follow all instructions carefully to avoid a rejection or a disqualification.

For any technical inquiry regarding the MIRABILIS web platform, please contact the webmaster:

mirabiliscontest@gmail.com while for any scientific inquiry on the MIRABILIS Program, please contact: Houston.Scienza@esteri.it

The contest can continue with call no. 2 only if a minimum number of participants is reached, number which will be evaluated by the Consulate at the deadline of call no. 1.