



**Rondine Cittadella della Pace
World House Program
2023 - Call for participants
New deadline: February 27, 2023**

The mission of Rondine

The Rondine Cittadella della Pace Association, based in Italy, has been working for peace and dialogue for over 20 years. The program aims at promoting conflict transformation through the experience of young people coming from conflict and post-conflict areas and belonging to different cultures by applying an original training approach.

The mission of the Association is to promote the creative transformation of conflict through the experiences of young people who discover the human being in their enemy.

During a two-year experience, participants deconstruct the idea of the "enemy" and work actively to design projects with a social, political, and economic impact to contribute to peaceful development in their own countries and the world.

To achieve these results, fellows receive in-depth, high-quality training on topics related to conflict management. They also improve their soft skills and learn about necessary methodologies to create concrete opportunities for development and reconciliation.

In addition to this specific training program, fellows develop their professional and academic curriculum by obtaining a Master's degree.

What is the World House?

The *World House* is an international experience of civic engagement for conflict transformation. It takes place through the experience of cohabitation by engaging with fellows through daily activities. This is a core part of the project where the educational process and training take place - learning by living.

By being at the core of the Citadel, the World House involves many innovative courses and projects. The young participants are prepared to become future leaders in a context of fast transformation and deep change, where the conflicts have high stakes and the relationships are increasingly complex.

It is the place where the promotion and the diffusion of the mission of Rondine begin.

The program

It is now possible to apply to the current program running from July 2023 to June 2025, which includes four main areas:



- 1. Daily life:** through cohabitation with others, participants practice respect for the other as a person. They are asked for responsible participation in the educational processes focused on the encouragement of personal growth. The whole experience is based on *relations* and the commitment to take care of them, to be able to handle them constructively, and to understand social, cultural, and religious diversity. Participants are expected to actively contribute to the daily life of Rondine, participate in community service activities, and to adopt a proactive attitude. Rondine staff periodically interviews fellows to assess their proactivity and involvement in the group, punctuality, presence, level of Italian language, and motivation.
- 2. Training:** it is composed of a series of activities aimed at deepening personal competences and soft skills such as leadership, communication (storytelling, public speaking), active learning, emotional intelligence, etc. The core of the training is conflict transformation: the aim is to understand the causes and consequences of armed conflicts in participants' countries through the confrontation of different conflict experiences. Besides international conflicts, fellows learn to recognize and transform conflicts at any level, starting from personal and inter-personal ones. In the second year, the training program includes a special project design module, aimed at understanding professional vocation, providing adequate tools to fulfil it and have a positive impact in their communities at the same time. International and local lecturers, trainers, and scholars conduct the training. These professionals act as facilitators to enable fellows to share their views on personal identity issues, starting from their own culture, history, customs, traditions, and stereotypes, to finally deal with their own approach to conflict. The topics are addressed through activities and lectures that foster interpersonal communication and gradual expression of their inner self and experiences, by considering different points of view.¹
- 3. Civic engagement:** participants of the *World House* are involved in several activities to bring the experience lived in Rondine from the private to the public dimension. These activities include institutional events, promotion and communication interventions, training, and meetings addressed to schools and associations, among other voluntary activities. Participation and attendance in these initiatives are crucial to raise awareness, promote active citizenship, and realize the mission of the Association. It is also an opportunity to show and exercise communication and leadership skills developed during the training courses.
- 4. Formal education:** through an academic master, participants will continue their study curriculum, strengthening their professional skills and gaining additional knowledge to foster social change and make an impact. Rondine fellows attend a one-year First Level Executive Master (Master di Primo Livello, 60 ECTS)². Applicants are invited to choose a master among those in the attached list³.

¹ For further information, please read the "World House Guide" at <https://callforparticipants.rondine.org/>

² Please find further information on the Italian academic system at: <http://www.cimea.it/en/index.aspx>

³ To be eligible and compatible with the World House Program, masters must meet the following conditions:
- offered by Universities in Tuscany and Umbria



Applicants express 2 options in the application form. The final choice will be confirmed at the end of the selection process, before arriving in Italy, and prior agreement with the educational staff.

To enrol, participants will provide "*Dichiarazione di Valore*"⁴, a legal document they shall obtain before they arrive in Italy.

Rondine welcomes participants from all academic backgrounds since we strongly believe in the possible impact on conflict transformation through civil society and all professional sectors.⁵

Who can participate?

Participants will be selected among candidates showing the following characteristics:

- Aged between 21- 28
- Holder of a Bachelor's Degree (or earned by July 2023)
- Sensibility and readiness to work on the topics of conflict of the country of origin and conflicts in general
- Predisposition to leadership
- Predisposition to recognize and express emotions
- Predisposition to public speaking and communication
- Predisposition to team and group work and active listening
- Predisposition to take on roles of responsibility
- Predisposition to team building and active involvement
- Predisposition to civic engagement and volunteering
- Predisposition to entrepreneurship and social innovation
- Project-oriented attitude, aiming at implementing social projects upon return to their home country
- Knowledge about civil society and the non- profit sector
- Sensibility about global sustainability or at least about some of the following topics: climate change, cooperation, welfare, civil and social economy

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- part-time basis
 - maximum fee: € 4500 (covered by the Program)

For further information, you can visit <https://www.universitaly.it/index.php/public/cercaOffPL> (Post Laurea/ Offerta formative/ Tipo di Laurea: Master di Primo Livello). Sort by **Tipo di Laurea**: "Master di Primo Livello"; **Region**: "Toscana", "Umbria". Masters in the list may refer to the year 2022/2023: consider general conditions as applicable to the academic year 2023/2024.

⁴ The '*Dichiarazione di Valore*' is the document that proves the value of the title of the degree obtained in a different system than the Italian one. It is drafted in Italian and released by the Italian Diplomatic Missions abroad (Embassies or Consulates), the closest to the city where the institution that issued the degree is. More information at the following link: http://www.istruzione.it/urp/dichiarazione_valore.shtml

⁵ Students who would like to attend **medical** studies are not advised to apply due to the differences between regulations by the Italian Ministry of Education and other respective Ministries in their home countries.



Please, note that Italian is the official language for communication and activities in Rondine. As part of the selection process, candidates shall demonstrate they have a basic knowledge of Italian (A1 level). However, Italian is not a precondition to apply (please read the "Selection process" section). Knowledge of English is desirable for profitable participation in the Rondine training.

The end of the program and returning home

After the end of the experience in Rondine, participants return to their home countries with vast expertise in engaging in creative conflict transformation gained during the 2-year program. The initial predispositions are strengthened throughout the Rondine training and ensure that participants are ready to face the difficulties of managing the socio-cultural changes of their realities and capable of implementing the projects designed in Rondine. The organization aims to promote cohabitation, dialogue, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding through projects influencing societies, divided communities, groups, and single persons.

Indeed, during the second year of the World House, participants follow a specific training whose main objective is to understand which project they can pursue after their experience in Rondine, following their personal and professional vocation.

World House fellows learn to turn their conflict management skills towards the development of an idea that creates an impact on their society.

After completing the training course, Rondine offers the former fellows the possibility to join a network of in-depth training, mentoring, and project accompanying, constantly monitoring the implementation of the activities and the project impact to support them in becoming more autonomous and making their projects sustainable.

At the end of the World House program, participants can be part of an association of Rondine alumni, named "Rondine International Peace Lab" (R-IPL). Founded in 2017, R-IPL is a network of over 200 professionals, managed by a Board and a President elected by consultation among the alumni.

Selection process

The selection of participants includes the following phases, all of which are required for successful completion:

- **Application form:** the applicants must complete the request for admission, submit the project proposal form, attach the required documents, and send them before the deadline.
- **Pre-selection:** from the pool of applications received by the deadline, those that meet the requirements will proceed to the next step. In this phase, candidates will receive materials to self-study Italian basics (level A1). This phase may also include online aptitude tests.
- **Individual interview:** the candidate will be interviewed individually to verify their personal aptitude, their motivation to carry out the experience of the World House, and discuss the project they presented in the application phase. Interviews will be in person or online.
- **Assessment of Italian language knowledge:** the shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by an Italian language teacher. Through this interview, Rondine will assess oral, grammar, and written skills. Positive results, together with the criteria previously mentioned, are required to have access to the program.



- **Candidate selection:** Rondine Admission Team will inform selected candidates at the end of the interview phase (May-June). To accept participation in the program, candidates must sign a Learning and Participation Agreement. After signing and submitting the Learning and Participation Agreement, the participant will undertake the necessary organizational and administrative procedures, supported by the Rondine International Relations Office.
- **Preparation for the arrival:** the Rondine program starts on July, 3 with an online phase aiming to facilitate the arrival of selected candidates. It mainly focuses on two aspects: the study of the Italian language through an online course and the introduction to Rondine activities. This period is also devoted to obtaining all the required documents to attend the World House program.
- **The trial period in Rondine:** participants start the World House Program on September, 25 with the trial period aimed at verifying their motivation and personal attitudes. The trial period lasts from September to December, at the end of which participants deemed eligible will be officially accepted in the World House. During this period, participants will continue studying Italian through an intensive course. The course aims at expanding the knowledge and the use of the language, as it is the official one for communication in the World House. Participants are evaluated during the entire trial period: the evaluation considers the knowledge of the Italian language but also criteria such as involvement in the program, proactivity, and management of relationships within the World House.

Organizational and economic aspects

During the residential period of the participant's attendance to the program, the Association takes responsibility for covering the following costs:

- Cost of the training activities both at Rondine and during the online phase of the program
- Cost of food and accommodation
- Cost of the academic training (enrolment fees, learning material, transportation)

Expenses under the responsibility of the student include the travel expenses to/from Italy and visa procedures, holiday travels, personal and medical expenses, and every other cost not specifically mentioned among those covered by the Association.

A more detailed description of the economic aspects will be part of the Learning and Participation Agreement that the candidate will sign to confirm their participation in the program.



The deadline and the documents for completing the application

The required documents are:

- Application form (here attached);
- Copy of passport, valid at least until December 2024;
- Motivation letter;
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume;
- Copy of the last qualification or certificate, diploma or degree earned;
- Rondine Project Proposal Form (here attached);
- At least one recommendation letter, signed by a professor from the applicant's university, or a supervisor of a non-profit organization in which the applicant is active;
- Copy of the driving license⁶;
- Notice on personal data protection (*hand-signed*; here attached)

Those interested in participating in the World House program must send the mentioned documents by **February 27, 2023** to the following email address: apply@rondine.org, or international.rondine@gmail.com

For further information

We recommend visiting <https://callforparticipants.rondine.org/> (and the FAQ section) to get additional information related to the present call for applications and the program. You can contact the Rondine International Relations Office via telephone: +39 0575 299666, or e-mail: apply@rondine.org.

⁶ The driving license is not mandatory to apply.

To drive in Italy, an International Driving Permit (IDP) is required. It is a valid identity document, required by law, allowing the holder to drive a private motor vehicle in any country or jurisdiction that recognizes IDPs. To be valid, the IDP must be accompanied by a valid driving license issued in the holder's country of citizenship.

Selected candidates already having a driving license, shall obtain the IDP before they arrive in Rondine. Please, look for further information regarding regulations and authorized bodies that release IDPs in your country.