

INNOVATIVE ACCESSORIES CHALLENGE

Competition promoted by Istituto Marangoni Firenze

1st edition – January / October 2026

Art. 0 — Introduction

Istituto Marangoni Firenze launches the **Innovative Accessories Challenge** in collaboration with **Sara Sozzani Maino**, Creative Director of Fondazione Sozzani.

The Challenge is an international competition dedicated to young talents in fashion and accessories design, with a focus on experimentation, sustainability, and responsible design.

The initiative aims to promote an innovative and conscious approach to design, encouraging material research, technical experimentation, and continuous attention to the cultural and production impact of each project.

Open to designers under 30 from all over the world, the Challenge invites participants to reinterpret the contemporary accessory as a space for expression, research, and dialogue between craftsmanship, new aesthetic languages, and technologies.

An international jury composed of leading figures from the fashion industry will select the winning project, which may be awarded a **full scholarship for a Master's programme at Istituto Marangoni Firenze** and the **production of the project as a prototype**, as well as **exhibition during the celebrations of the Institute's 10th anniversary**.

Art. 1 — Eligibility requirements

Participation in the competition is free of charge.

The competition is open to emerging designers under the age of 30 who stand out for talent, vision, and a design path consistent with the values of the Challenge.

Eligible candidates are generally required to:

- be between 20 and 30 years of age;
- have completed or expect to complete by the academic year 2025/2026:
 - three-year Bachelor's courses in Fashion Design;
 - three-year Bachelor's courses in Shoes & Accessories Design;
 - post-diploma, specialist courses or Master's programmes in the same fields.

Participation is individual. Multiple submissions are not permitted.

Submitted projects must not have been previously awarded or presented in other national or international competitions and must be created exclusively for this Challenge.

Art. 2 — Project and theme

Each candidate must submit a design proposal consisting of a **mini accessories capsule**, comprising a minimum of **3** and a maximum of **5** proposals, accompanied by project development materials (sketches, technical details, materials, concept).

Theme

The Challenge invites participants to move beyond the traditional concept of accessories, interpreting them as:

- expressive forms,
- wearable sculptures,
- functional devices in dialogue with the body and the environment.

The use of innovative materials and a conscious approach to design is strongly encouraged.

Art. 3 — Jury and awards

The selection process consists of two phases:

- Pre-selection by an internal committee of Istituto Marangoni Firenze;
- Final evaluation by an international technical jury.

Awards:

- **Full scholarship** for the Master in Luxury Accessories Design Management at Istituto Marangoni Firenze;
- **Production and prototyping** of the selected project, which may be exhibited during the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Istituto Marangoni Firenze.

The two awards may also be assigned to different participants, at the jury's discretion.

Art. 4 — Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- innovation and creativity of the concept;
- aesthetic value and design identity;
- material research;
- sustainability (durability, repairability, disassembly);
- production feasibility;
- functionality and usability.

Art. 5 — Application submission and timeline

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the website (**LINK LANDING PAGE**).

Timeline:

- Call launch: 14 January 2026
- Application opening: 14 January 2026

- Application deadline: 31 March 2026 – 11:59 PM CEST
- Finalists announcement: by 15 April 2026
- Jury presentation: 14 May 2026 – Fondazione Sozzani, Milan

Art. 6 — Required materials

The mandatory documentation includes:

- Personal information form
- CV and motivation letter
- Project concept folder including:
 - Sketches, mood boards, colour palette and material specifications of the proposed project;
 - Conceptual description of the project;
 - High-definition (HD) photographs / 3D renderings. In the case of unfinished garments, work-in-progress photographs are required
- Portfolio
- Signed copy of these regulations
- Degree certificate or expected graduation statement
- Transcript of records
- Identity document / Passport

Art. 7 — Grounds for exclusion and limitation of liability

Grounds for exclusion include:

- incomplete or late documentation;
- failure to sign the regulations;
- false declarations;
- violation of originality requirements.

Istituto Marangoni Firenze shall not be held liable for technical issues, malfunctions, or events beyond its control.

Art. 8 — Results communication and acceptance

The winner must confirm acceptance of the award within **3 working days** from the official notification.

In the absence of confirmation, the award may be reassigned.

Art. 9 — Rights to projects and use of materials

Projects remain the property of their authors. Participants grant Istituto Marangoni S.r.l. a **non-exclusive, free, worldwide and time-unlimited licence** for institutional and promotional purposes.

By way of example and not limitation:

- publication on the institutional website and digital channels of Istituto Marangoni;
- dissemination through social media, newsletters, and other online and offline communication tools;
- press office activities, public relations, and media communication;
- presentations, exhibitions, events, talks, showcases, and cultural or educational initiatives organised or promoted by Istituto Marangoni;
- editorial, promotional, and informational materials, both digital and printed, including catalogues, brochures, videos, and audiovisual content.

Art. 10 — Declarations and warranties

The participant declares:

- to be the author of the project;
- that the project is original;
- that it does not infringe third-party rights;
- to indemnify Istituto Marangoni from any claims.

Art. 11 — Personal data processing

The processing of personal data will be carried out in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), as set out in the privacy policy attached to these Regulations.

Art. 12 — Applicable law and jurisdiction

These regulations are governed by Italian law.

Jurisdiction: Milan.

Art. 13 — Exemption from ministerial validation

Pursuant to art. 6 of Presidential Decree 430/2001, this initiative does not constitute a prize competition.

Art. 14 — Final exhibition

The winning project will be exhibited during the celebrations of the **10th anniversary of Istituto Marangoni Firenze – October 2026**.

Release form for the production and publication of audiovisual and photographic material

The undersigned, first name _____ surname _____, born on __/__/____
in _____(____) and resident in _____(____) at the address
_____.

AUTHORISES

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(Place and date)

(Signature)

SCHOLARSHIP PRIVACY POLICY

Updated on 07/01/2026

Information pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation 679/16 (GDPR)

1) Why you are receiving this communication

Istituto Marangoni S.r.l., as Data Controller, wishes to inform you about what data it collects and how, in order to guarantee your fundamental rights and freedoms, with particular reference to the confidentiality and security with which the data is processed.

2) What personal data we collect

Istituto Marangoni S.r.l. collects and stores your data:

- Personal and identification data (such as name, surname, residential address, email address, courses of interest, nationality, gender, place and date of birth, telephone number, copy of identity document);
- Curriculum vitae and Cover letter;
- Diploma / Certificate grades;
- Project portfolio.

We may ask social media channels to send information about our courses based on their users' profiles and in accordance with their data processing policies, but we are not aware of your name.

3) For what purposes do we use your personal data

Istituto Marangoni S.r.l. uses your data for the following purposes:

a) To manage your application for a scholarship.

In relation to the purposes referred to in point 3 a), the processing is necessary for the performance of pre-contractual measures (Art. 6, para. 1, letter b) of the GDPR).

b) Exercising the rights of the Data Controller.

In relation to the purpose referred to in point b), processing is necessary for the pursuit of legitimate interests (Art. 6, para. 1, letter f) of the GDPR).

c) To send you information about campuses, scholarships, courses and events that may be of interest to you.

d) To send you information and updates about Istituto Marangoni and your enrolment via WhatsApp.

e) For profiling purposes.

In relation to the purposes referred to in points c), d) and e), the legal basis for processing is your consent (Art. 6, para. 1, letter a) of the GDPR).

4) How long we keep your personal data

- For the purposes referred to in point 3 (a), we retain your personal data for the entire duration of the contractual relationship and beyond the ten-year limitation period from the termination of the relationship in order to comply with legal obligations and for judicial protection purposes.
- For the purposes referred to in point 3 (b), we retain your data for a period not exceeding 12 months from collection.
- For the purposes referred to in points 3 (c), (d) and (e), we retain your data for up to 3 years, without prejudice to your right to withdraw your consent at any time.

Once the retention period has expired, the data will be destroyed or anonymised.

N.B.

If, in the event of a dispute, it is necessary to ascertain, exercise or defend the rights of the Data Controller, the retention period may be extended until the conclusion of the dispute.

5) The security of your personal data

Your data will be processed using tools that guarantee confidentiality, integrity and availability. Processing may be carried out on paper or using computerised and/or automated systems and will include all operations provided for in Article 4 of the GDPR. The data will not be disclosed; however, it may be communicated to public or private entities operating within the scope of the purposes described above.

6) Who can access your personal data

Access to your data is permitted only to authorised persons within Istituto Marangoni S.r.l., including locations outside the European Union.

Istituto Marangoni S.r.l. is part of Galileo Global Education Italia. Authorised employees may access some data.

Non-economic public bodies (e.g. MIUR, Lombardy Region) may access data where required by institutional functions.

Personal data may also be processed by third parties appointed as Data Processors in accordance with the law.

7) Where your personal data is stored

Your personal data will be stored on servers located within the European Economic Area (EEA).

Data may also be processed outside the EEA by companies of the Istituto Marangoni group or appointed Data Processors, in accordance with Articles 44 et seq. of the GDPR and appropriate safeguards.

8) Is it mandatory to consent to the provision of your data?

- Data for point 3 (a) is mandatory to manage your scholarship application.
- Consent for purposes 3 (c), (d) and (e) is optional. Without consent, you will not receive information about initiatives, events and courses.

9) What are your rights in relation to the GDPR?

You have the right to:

- Withdraw consent (Art. 7);
- Access your data (Art. 15);
- Rectify your data (Art. 16);
- Erasure / right to be forgotten (Art. 17);
- Restriction of processing (Art. 18);
- Data portability (Art. 20);
- Object to processing (Art. 21);
- Not be subject to automated decision-making (Art. 22).

Requests can be sent to:

privacy@istitutomarangoni.com

dpo@istitutomarangoni.com

10) Right to lodge a complaint

You may lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority:

<https://www.garanteprivacy.it/i-miei-diritti>

11) Data Controller

Istituto Marangoni S.r.l.

Via Meravigli, 7 – 20123 Milan (MI)

Email: privacy@istitutomarangoni.com

Data Protection Officer: dpo@istitutomarangoni.com

12) Updates to this policy

This policy may be updated. Substantial changes will be communicated via email or website.