



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS

June 2026



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS DIRECTOR (NORTHERN ITALY) - CANDIDATES

Fiona Buck ALM '24 (Rome)

Cari alumni,

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the role of Community Engagement and Events Director for Northern Italy. I hold an ALM in Museum Studies '24 and am currently completing an LL.M. in Art Law in Rome, after which I will return to Milan to work at the intersection of emerging technology and cultural heritage strategy. I'm passionate about cultivating a vibrant Harvard alumni community that feels both intellectually enriching and genuinely welcoming across generations and disciplines. I believe strongly in the power of cultural dialogue as a form of connection, and would strive to bring that spirit into event programming that encourages lasting personal relationships and institutional collaboration.

Professionally, I have developed and led cultural programming for institutions including the Musée du Louvre, Amazon's Global Headquarters, and international art fairs and galleries, creating spaces for interdisciplinary dialogue, strengthening community engagement, and fostering meaningful connections through thoughtfully curated and accessible programming. If elected, I will dedicate myself to strengthening the Club's presence in Northern Italy through an inclusive vision of community that reflects both Harvard's spirit of inquiry and the richness of Italy's artistic and intellectual traditions.

Con spirito di servizio e comunità,

Fiona DeGiacomo Buck

--

Francesca Gesualdi LLM '06 (Milan)

I am honored to submit my candidacy for a seat on the Board of the Harvard Club of Italy, as "Community Engagement and Event Director for Northern Italy".

As I reflect on the impact that Harvard has had on my professional and personal journey, I would welcome the opportunity to give back to the community and contribute to its continued growth and success in Italy.

I am a partner at an international law firm, where relationship-building, networking, and community engagement are an integral part of my role. Through my work, I regularly organize and host professional, business development, and thought leadership events involving senior executives, entrepreneurs, academics, and institutional stakeholders. This has given me extensive experience in all aspects of event planning and execution, from identifying relevant topics and speakers to coordinating logistics, managing stakeholder engagement, and ensuring successful participation and follow-up.

I believe that my professional experience, combined with a broad network developed over many years across the business, legal, academic, and international communities, would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Club's activities in Northern Italy. I would be particularly enthusiastic



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

about helping create events that strengthen alumni connections, promote intellectual exchange, and further enhance the visibility and impact of the Harvard community throughout the region.

It would be a privilege to serve on the Board and contribute to advancing the Club's mission while helping foster an active, inclusive, and vibrant alumni network for current and future generations of Harvard graduates.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS DIRECTOR (CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ITALY) - CANDIDATES

Marco Maximilian Elser AB '81 (Rome)

I think I can contribute to the Phoenician rebirth of HCI by helping organise events in Central and Southern Italy. Having lived in Rome for over forty years, I have the privilege of having a very significant rolodex of contacts.

--

Gaia van der Esch MPA '20 (Rome)

I am honored to nominate myself for the role of Community Engagement and Events Director (Central/Southern Italy) for Harvard Club of Italy, motivated by my deep commitment to service, community-building, and impact.

As an HKS alumna (class of 2020) and global executive leader working across public policy, international development, and social impact, I've seen firsthand the power of strong networks in shaping ideas, careers, and change. Harvard shaped not only my academic path, but also my sense of responsibility to contribute to society and to support others in connecting and working together to do the same.

I would love to serve the Harvard Italian community by strengthening engagement, fostering exchange, and creating spaces where alumni connect across sectors and life stages. In particular, I would be passionate about building opportunities for alumni to discuss, learn and collaborate in order to tackle today's most pressing global challenges.

As Community and Events Director, I will bring strategic thinking, an established international network (including through my role as Board member of Harvard Global WE), organizational leadership, and a collaborative spirit to expand the Club's programming, partnerships, and visibility, ensuring it becomes a vibrant hub for connection and learning in Rome and beyond.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

MEMBERSHIPS AND YOUNG ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Marco Amorese LLM '05 (Bergamo)

In this role, I will focus on strengthening member engagement, fostering a strong sense of belonging, and developing impactful mentorship programs.

--

Emanuela Cernoia MPA '02 (Milan)

I hold a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government. A mum of three children, married with another Harvard alumnus, I have built most of my career in London working in finance across the private and public sectors, always aiming to create a positive impact for the customers and communities I served.

Education and mentorship are causes close to my heart. I have served as school Governor in Italy and the UK, mentored a number of students, and been a member of the Harvard UK and HBS Club of Italy for years. In 2024 I helped organise the HBS European Summit in Milan, and since 2023 I have been an interviewer for prospective Harvard undergraduate candidates.

I am very grateful to the alumni who are working to relaunch the Harvard Club of Italy and would be proud to support its growth. As Membership and Young Alumni Relations Director, I would bring energy and structure to grow the community and strengthen ties with our younger alumni community.

--

Filippo Turci LLM '23 (Milan)

One of the things I appreciated most after my LL.M. was experiencing how much the alumni community could continue to play a significant role in my life, even away from Cambridge. Over the past two years in London, the Harvard network provided a fun, stimulating, and welcoming environment, making life in one of the world's most daunting cities a great adventure. Having recently moved back to Milan, I would welcome the opportunity to help more alumni experience that same sense of connection.

As Memberships and Young Alumni Relations Director, I would work to ensure that as many Harvard alumni as possible know about, participate in, and feel welcome within our community. During my time at Harvard Law School, I served as Vice President of the Harvard European Law Students Association. I hope to bring that experience, together with the network I developed at Harvard and in London, to help welcome new members and recent graduates into the Club, strengthen connections across our alumni community, and create opportunities for more Harvard alumni in Italy to take part in and benefit from our network.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

Andrea Vignini LLM '22 (Rome)

Dear fellow Alumni, I am delighted to submit my candidacy for the role of Memberships and Young Alumni Relations Director of the Harvard Club of Italy.

After completing my LL.M. at Harvard Law School ('22) and working as an Associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York, I returned to Rome, where I currently serve at the Bank of Italy's DG for Financial Supervision and Regulation — a role that has deepened my appreciation for the value of structured networks across institutions.

At Harvard, I served as President of the Harvard European Law Association and VP of the Harvard Italian Law Association; in New York, I was an active member of the Harvard Club of NYC and engaged with the HLS Association's Recent Graduates Network — experiences that showed me how genuine alumni engagement generates lasting personal, professional and intellectual value.

Harvard shaped not only my education but my belief that the strongest communities are built through generous commitment. I believe this role is fundamentally about growth and connection: growing HCI's membership and participation, deepening the involvement of recent graduates, and strengthening ties with the HAA's young alumni network. It also means building bridges and partnerships — with universities, foundations, think-tanks, clubs, and associations that share HCI's mission.

A thriving HCI is one where alumni at every stage feel genuinely connected — to each other, to Harvard, and to Italy's rich civic, intellectual and professional life. I would be honored to support the renewed HCI's effort to build and strengthen this community.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE DIRECTOR - CANDIDATE

Elena Camarilla Carrara ALB '22 (Milan)

With over 10 years of experience across the Art, Design, and Fashion industries, I would be excited to bring my creative expertise, aesthetic sensibility, and strategic perspective to the role of Marketing, Communications and Website Director for the Harvard Club of Italy.

In today's landscape, a strong, curated, and dynamic digital presence is essential to building community, visibility, and engagement. I believe the Club has a unique opportunity to strengthen the way it presents its initiatives, members, and values through thoughtful storytelling, cohesive branding, and impactful communication across its website and social media platforms.

Having cultivated a strong and carefully curated internet presence throughout my career, I understand the importance of visual identity, audience engagement, and maintaining a consistent yet evolving voice online. I would love to contribute fresh perspectives and creative direction to help elevate the Club's communications and further connect alumni, partners, and future members through compelling digital experiences.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

STAKEHOLDERS RELATIONS & MENTORSHIPS DIRECTOR - CANDIDATE

Marco Imperiale LLM '16 (Bologna)

Harvard shaped how I think, work, and build relationships. Since my LL.M. in 2016, I have stayed close to the school and its Alumni community, and in 2022 I had the privilege of returning as a Visiting Researcher. Being Crimson is far more than a line on a CV. It means being challenged, inspired, and surrounded by people who raise your standards.

Each year, I become more convinced that we can build a club in Italy that reflects that same spirit: intellectually ambitious, generous in its relationships, and worthy of what we shared in Cambridge.

That is why I am running for Stakeholder Relations and Mentorship Director.

On stakeholder relations, I would like HCI to become a real interlocutor for Italian companies, firms, and institutions, while also serving as a meaningful platform for our members. Joint events, collaborative projects, and speaker series would be natural places to begin.

Mentorship matters just as much. Every Italian admit and recent graduate deserves to make the most of the Harvard experience. Together with the wider community, I would like to build a lasting peer network across schools and cohorts. It is one of the most valuable gifts Alumni can offer, and one we have yet to fully realize.

It would be an honor to serve.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

BUSINESS LIAISON DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Paolo Lugiato MBA '01 (Milan)

I graduated from Harvard Business School in 2001 and have remained an active member of the HBS community ever since, serving as Board Member, Vice President, and Treasurer of HBS Alumni of Italy over successive terms. This sustained engagement gives me a privileged understanding of both the Harvard Club of Italy and the Harvard Business School Club of Italy: their distinct identities, their shared values, and the untapped potential in their relationship.

My career spans consulting at McKinsey & Company, senior executive roles in renewable energy, including CEO of RTR Rete Rinnovabile, Italy's leading photovoltaic operator, and leadership positions across industrial and media sectors, culminating in my current role as General Manager of Auditel, Italy's television audience measurement authority. These experiences have allowed me to build lasting relationships at the highest levels of Italian business, finance, and media.

As Business Liaison Director, I would be uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge between the Harvard Club of Italy and the HBS Club of Italy, as well as the broader Executive Network. My goal is to foster structured collaboration between the two communities, creating joint initiatives, shared opportunities, and a stronger, more unified Harvard presence in Italy.

I would be honored to serve.

--

Giancarlo Pavia PLDA '23 (Milan)

I believe the HBS Club of Italy has a huge growth opportunity, deriving from the strong sense of belonging every alumnus feels to the Alma Mater, from the level of seniority and leadership typically shown by HBS Alumni in their careers and by their willingness to give back to their communities.

A stronger and improved organization will help improving the level of engagement with and among its members; it will raise the "voice" of the Club on relevant Italian and international business issues, and overall will increase the strength of the Club in the Country.

I would be honored to support in this endeavor and leverage my experience as investment banker, investor and consultant with a 25+ year experience in the Italian business community to serve for this purpose.

Giancarlo Pavia

--

Vittorio Savoia ALM '10; OPM '26 (Brindisi)

As Managing Director and CIO of a multi-generational single family office investing across private equity, venture capital, real estate, private credit, and capital markets, I have spent my career building



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

bridges between Italian capital and global opportunity from offices in New York, London, Barcelona, Milan, Bogotá, and Dubai.

I am nominating myself as Business Liaison Director because the Harvard Club of Italy can become the natural meeting point between HBS alumni, the Executive Network, and Italy's most dynamic founders, executives, and investors. I would focus on three priorities: convening high-signal gatherings between Harvard's business community and Italian business leaders; launching a structured mentorship pathway connecting senior alumni with rising professionals; and building bridges to Harvard's Executive Education programs for Italian companies pursuing international scale.

As a YPO member, Chatham House member, and Atlantic Council Millennium Leadership Fellow, I am committed to convening conversations that matter across institutions and borders. Italy's next generation of global businesses will be built on relationships, capital, and ideas that cross those borders. I would be honored to help the Club serve as a meaningful node in that exchange — for our alumni today and for the Harvard-Italy community of tomorrow.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

LEGAL AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS LIAISON DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Mattia Adani MPA '04 (Milan)

In my career I have held several institutional positions in Italy and abroad, working at the intersection of public policy, industry, and international relations. While I currently run a company in the chemical sector, I remain deeply engaged in both Italian and European industrial policy. At the European level, as President of the European Lubricants Industry Association — part of the broader European chemical ecosystem — I work directly with EU institutions and stakeholders to monitor, interpret, and influence industrial and regulatory developments.

I am also active domestically. As Vice President for SMEs Finance, Fiscal and European Affairs at Assolombarda, and as a member of Confindustria's Technical Group on Fiscal Affairs, I contribute to Italian policy formation and represent the interests of SMEs in national discussions.

Earlier in my career, I served in several governmental roles: at the Italian Treasury in Rome, where I worked on the privatization of state-owned companies and the regulation of public infrastructure; and at the Ministry of Industry as Cabinet Advisor for International Trade.

If elected, I would leverage this experience and my institutional network to strengthen the Club's public presence, including by organizing meetings and dialogues with relevant Italian and European governmental counterparts.

--

Khalisha Banks MPA '03; JD '05 (Rome)

I would be honored to serve as Legal and Government Affairs Liaison Director on the Harvard Club of Italy Board.

As someone who attended both HKS and HLS, I have long been interested in the intersection of law, policy, institutions and international business — and in the people who operate across those worlds. Originally from California, I have spent the majority of my career working in multinational legal and business environments across Europe, particularly in Italy, France and Switzerland. I have come to appreciate how valuable Harvard alumni communities can be when they foster genuine intellectual, personal, and professional connections.

I have lived in Italy since 2010 and am a dual citizen. I would be excited to contribute to the important work of the Harvard Club of Italy by strengthening relationships with the HKS and HLS communities in Italy. I am also keen to help create more opportunities for alumni engagement focused on law, policy and governance.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

Flavio Monfrini LLM '11 (Milan)

The Harvard community in Italy has extraordinary potential that remains largely untapped. As a current board member of the Harvard Law School Association of Europe, where I serve in a Community Building capacity, I have gained first-hand experience in engaging alumni across borders and building meaningful networks among legal professionals. I intend to bring this experience to the Harvard Club of Italy by creating dedicated programming and initiatives that connect alumni throughout the country — reaching beyond Rome and Milan to engage professionals from different regions, sectors and career stages. I would also seek to facilitate dialogue on issues of legal and public policy relevance, ensuring that our community serves as a bridge between Harvard and the Italian legal and governmental landscape. I would be honored to contribute to building a more active, visible and impactful Harvard community in Italy through this role.

--

Federico Raffaele LLM '12 (Rome)

I am honored to be considered for the role of Legal and Government Affairs Liaison Director and would welcome the opportunity to help strengthen the relationship between the Harvard Club of Italy and the communities of Harvard Law School and Harvard Kennedy School.

Since completing my LL.M. at Harvard Law School in 2012, I have built my career at the intersection of law, business, and public policy. My professional experience, spanning leading international law firms and senior management roles in highly regulated industries, has given me firsthand exposure to the importance of constructive dialogue among legal professionals, policymakers, institutions, and business leaders.

I believe the Harvard Club of Italy is uniquely positioned to foster those connections. As Liaison Director, I would seek to deepen engagement with HLS and HKS alumni, promote thoughtful discussions on legal and policy issues shaping Italy and beyond, and create opportunities for collaboration across generations, sectors, and disciplines.

Harvard has had a profound impact on my professional and personal development. Serving on the Board would be a meaningful opportunity to give back to the community, strengthen ties with the broader Harvard network, and help ensure that the Club remains a vibrant and relevant forum for current and future members.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN LIAISON DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Vito Caradonio ALM '26 (Rome)

I would be excited to serve as the Science, Technology and Design Liaison Director.

As leveraging technologies and science for business and social development has been my passion since early studies, I would love to facilitate the dissemination of the most advanced knowledge across our Harvard community.

I have come late to Harvard's family as I graduated last November in Sustainability at Harvard Extension School. This adds to degrees in electronic engineering, business administration and IT and to a professional journey designing engineering systems for European Space Agency and Barilla and then advising leading companies as a member of the technology and operations leadership of Accenture, McKinsey, and Bain & Company.

I have still in my eyes and ears the joy and pride of my fellows at the Harvard Commencement 2026 I attended, to be part of a special community of talents with a distinctive sense of responsibility to help the world improve.

Technology and scientific applications have become woven into daily life and professional practices but require interdisciplinary debates on how to use them to reap benefits while mitigating risks.

I would be honored to foster the exchange of knowledge between our community and thought leaders including Harvard faculty.

--

Carla Ferrer MDS '17 (Milan)

I am an architect and founding partner of ITER, an architecture and urban design studio based in Milan, working across Italy, Switzerland, and Spain on housing, urban regeneration, and public facilities.

Since graduating from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 2017, my work has focused on the intersection of architecture, sustainable construction, and innovative housing systems. My projects have been presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale and at the Center for Architecture in Zurich, and they have been recognised with first prizes in international design competitions.

At Harvard, I served as the GSD representative on the student council, an experience that underscored the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. As Liaison for Science, Technology, and Design, I hope to help strengthen connections between the Harvard Club of Italy and the GSAS, SEAS, and GSD communities.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

Paola Sturla MLA '11 (Desio)

Dear fellow Alumni,

I am happy to submit my application as Science, Technology and Design Liaison Director.

Over the years, my practical experience taught me that networks are the basis for creativity and life. I always loved to follow my curiosity and grow by connecting with people of different backgrounds, not only to generate knowledge and culture, but also to forge friendships that last a lifetime. This has been especially true during my years at Harvard, before as a Landscape Architecture student (MLA '11, with distinction) and later as Daniel Urban Kiley teaching fellow and lecturer at the Graduate School of Design. There I learned that innovation emerges from interdisciplinary relationships, supported by facilitators who create the occasions to connect people outside their professional and academic fields. The result is a boost of an iridescent, collective creativity.

I believe that my double experience as Harvard GSD student and faculty puts me in an exceptional position to support the creation of such networking opportunities. Being a Board member for the Harvard Club of Italy would allow me to enthusiastically take an active role in connecting the Design, Science and Technology graduates with the broader Alumni community.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES LIAISON DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Claudia Bardoni HMSEE '21 - Global Clinical Scholars Research Train (Pavia)

As a thoracic surgeon and oncology researcher based in Milan, my work focuses on lung cancer, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and international academic collaboration. I have trained and collaborated internationally outside Italy, experiences that strengthened my interest in building global academic and professional networks. I currently collaborate with the United Nations on initiatives related to innovation and healthcare, further reinforcing the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue and international engagement.

Through my clinical and research activities, I have experienced the value of communities that connect science, education, mentorship, and global perspectives.

I would be excited to contribute to the Harvard Italian community by fostering meaningful engagement among alumni and young professionals in the health and life sciences ecosystem. In particular, I would like to support initiatives focused on mentorship, emerging technologies in medicine, educational events with leading experts, and collaborations between academia, healthcare institutions, and industry.

I believe the Harvard Club of Italy represents a unique opportunity to create a vibrant and forward-looking network inspired by intellectual curiosity, innovation, and shared purpose.

--

Roberto Giordano HMSEE '24 - Global Healthcare Leaders (Milan)

I am pleased to submit my nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the Harvard Club of Italy. As an active member of the Harvard community in Italy and already engaged with the Harvard Business School Club of Italy, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary potential of our alumni network when it is thoughtfully activated and connected.

I believe this is a meaningful opportunity for renewed energy and collaboration. My involvement with the Harvard Business School Club of Italy has allowed me to build strong relationships across sectors and regions, and I see many natural synergies between our organizations—particularly in educational programming, professional development initiatives, and flagship networking events. By fostering closer coordination, we can amplify our impact, avoid duplication, and create a more cohesive Harvard presence in Italy.

I am motivated to serve in order to strengthen alumni engagement, broaden participation across schools and generations, and help design initiatives that reflect both Harvard's intellectual leadership and Italy's cultural richness. I would be honored to contribute my time, energy, and network to advancing the Club's mission and reinforcing the shared crimson spirit that connects us all.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

Karin Michels MPH '94; SD '95 - Epidemiology; RF '17 - Biology (Rome)

My 25 years at Harvard University - first as doctoral student, then as postdoc, and eventually as faculty - have fundamentally shaped me as a person and as a scientist. I will always be grateful for these formative years at Harvard and the opportunities that were provided to me. I wish to give back to Harvard as much as I can and remain part of the Harvard Community. My Radcliffe Fellowship has been a wonderful opportunity to continue my Harvard engagement. Now living in Rome, Italy, I would be honored to be able to serve as Health and Life Sciences Liaison Director to facilitate communication and exchange between the Harvard Communities in Italy and the U.S.. My goal would be to help engage the Italian Harvard Community, foster and support scientific exchange, and provide opportunities for Harvard students in Italy.

--

Stefano Olgiati HMSEE '17- Safety Quality Informatics and Lead (Carimate, Como)

As a researcher, professor, and entrepreneur, I am applying for the position of Health and Life Sciences Liaison Director to bridge innovation, academia, and industry for the Harvard Club of Italy. Having served on the boards of billion-dollar+ pharma and healthcare corporations across the US, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, I offer a global perspective on how cutting-edge technologies, including AI, HPC, and Quantum Computing, are transforming research and patient care. My ties to Harvard Medical School, HMS PGME, MIT Sloan, and the MIT Club of Italy position me uniquely to foster strong, cross-institutional collaborations. As a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, a New Voice in Global Health at the World Health Summit, a University professor and an active researcher in private and public institutions, my goal is to leverage this international ecosystem to support the local Harvard community. I intend to create a dynamic platform that accelerates scientific dialogue, mentorship, and venture opportunities between Italy and Boston. By uniting our alumni around impactful healthcare advancements, we can elevate Italy's presence within the global Harvard network.

--

Francesco Prata HMSEE '23 - Global Clinical Scholars Research Train (Rome)

I would be honored to serve as Health & Life Sciences Liaison Director for the Harvard Club of Italy. As a urologist, clinician-scientist, and PhD candidate in Artificial Intelligence applied to Health and Life Sciences, I have built my academic path at the intersection of clinical research, surgical innovation, robotics, and digital health.

My experience at Harvard Medical School through the Global Clinical Scholars Research Training program strongly shaped my approach to evidence-based medicine, international collaboration, and mentorship. In this role, I would aim to strengthen connections among Harvard alumni in medicine, public health, dentistry, biotechnology, and healthcare innovation across Italy.

I would be particularly interested in promoting educational events, mentorship opportunities for younger alumni and trainees, and interdisciplinary discussions on the future of healthcare, including AI, precision medicine, clinical research, and medical technology.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

I believe the Harvard Club of Italy is a dynamic platform where health and life sciences professionals exchange ideas, create collaborations, and contribute meaningfully to the broader Harvard community.

--

Samin Sedghi Zadeh HMSEE '25 - Safety Quality Informatics and Lead (Milan)

I wish to serve as Health and Life Sciences Liaison Director to help strengthen the Harvard Club of Italy as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and impact across medicine, public health, biotechnology, life sciences, and healthcare management.

As a physician and healthcare executive with experience across public health, hospital management, prevention, occupational medicine, and healthcare innovation, I believe the Harvard Italian community has a unique opportunity to connect alumni who are working at the intersection of science, policy, leadership, and society. Harvard's global network can be especially valuable in addressing today's most urgent health challenges, from prevention and chronic disease to climate and health, digital transformation, and equitable access to care.

In this role, I would aim to foster meaningful connections among alumni, promote interdisciplinary events, encourage mentorship for younger professionals and students, and create bridges between the Harvard community, Italian institutions, and international health and life sciences leaders.



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

EDUCATION, ART AND HUMANITIES LIAISON DIRECTOR - CANDIDATES

Dalia Abbas EDM '19 (Milan)

As an American who has called Italy home for the past six years, I would be honored to help build a vibrant and engaged Harvard alumni community as Education, Arts, and Humanities Liaison Director.

I currently work in AI education for a California-based company that designs learning experiences to help adults develop the skills needed for the future of work. In this role, I have a front-row seat to many of the opportunities and challenges created by rapid technological change. One theme emerges repeatedly: people are seeking meaningful human connection, creativity, and community.

As Education, Arts, and Humanities Liaison Director, I would work to create events and experiences that bring alumni together around learning, culture, and thoughtful conversation. From museum visits and talks with local experts to discussions on the intersection of technology, education, and society, I hope to foster opportunities that inspire curiosity, strengthen connections, and showcase the unique perspectives of Harvard alumni across Italy.

--

Martina Colombo CSS '04 (Milan)

Hi, my name is Martina.

I am Head of European Affairs at Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), the Italian Public Development Bank. Before joining CDP, I worked at Citigroup as Chief of Staff of the Italian branch.

Engineer by training, I completed my postgraduate studies at the Harvard Extension School (HES), earning a Certificate of Special Studies in Management and Administration. My years at Harvard were transformative. Immersed in a new learning environment and a multicultural community, I experienced one of the most meaningful periods of my life. Those two years shaped my worldview, strengthened my leadership, and helped build strong and lasting relationships. They were also important for my family: during that time, my husband and I built some of our most enduring friendships.

I remain engaged with Harvard as a volunteer member of the Advisory Board to the Dean of the Division of Continuing Education. Honored to be the Alumni Speaker at HES Commencement of the class 2026.

If elected for this position at the Harvard Club of Italy, I would work to further strengthen awareness of Harvard's power to transform lives - beyond academic excellence - across Milan, Italy, and Europe.

My goal is to help more young people access similar opportunities and experience the extraordinary journey that shaped my path.

--



HARVARD CLUB OF ITALY

Kristen Coughlin EDM '07 (Gaeta)

As a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, curriculum editor and instructional designer, and co-founder of a consulting firm supporting nonprofit and community organizations, I value lifelong learning, thoughtful dialogue, and cross-cultural connection. Having recently relocated to Italy after obtaining Italian citizenship through family heritage, I am excited to become more deeply engaged in Italian civic and cultural life.

I would welcome the opportunity to support the Harvard Club of Italy through educational and humanities programming that brings people together across disciplines, backgrounds, and regions of Italy. Now based in Gaeta, I would be honored to contribute my organizational experience, collaborative approach, and enthusiasm for community-building in service of the Harvard Italian community and, in some small way, my new country.

--

Adele Iorio AB '88 (Rome)

Dear fellow alumni,

I am delighted to submit my application for the role of Education & Humanities Liaison Director.

It was a pleasure meeting many of you at the recent HCI event in Rome — a wonderful sign of the energy this new chapter holds.

I am a graduate of Harvard College (B.A. '88, Government). I subsequently studied law at La Sapienza in Rome and practiced for six years before dedicating myself fully to my family.

My two sons are recent Harvard College graduates (B.A. '22 and B.A. '25), which brought me back to Cambridge repeatedly over the past seven years — a chance to rediscover the College, its evolving spirit, and the remarkable community it continues to nurture. For the past five years, I have also served as an alumna interviewer for prospective students applying from Italy, accompanying outstanding young people through their application journey and beyond. Seeing Harvard through their fresh eyes has kept my connection to the institution vivid and current.

I believe this blend of experience — as an alumna, a parent of recent graduates, and an active interviewer — makes me well placed to foster meaningful relationships between HCI and Harvard's academic community. I would bring genuine enthusiasm to this role and to HCI's exciting new phase.

These are unedited statements