

From School to University: the “Strategic Student” initiative of the Italian National Action of Scientific degree for Geoscience

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The Italian National Action of Scientific degree is an ambitious project designed and promoted by the Italian Ministry of University and Research. Its main purpose consists on stimulating and attracting students towards scientific curricula at a university level. This can be obtained through educational orienteering of students combined with teacher’s training.

For most students, the choice of Earth Sciences rises from passion for Nature and for its spectacular as well as fascinating evidences such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, minerals, fossils and landscape.

Some years ago, an investigation carried out on students attending the University course in Earth Sciences pointed out that passion for Geosciences was triggered by out-of-school- divulgation activities.

Therefore, a wise choice for university study should start from the need to combine both interest and curiosity for Nature.

Within this frame, the “Geology National Project” comprises actions aimed to orientate students coming from secondary school to Geosciences. These interventions consists of activities also focusing on the role of the geologist in the now-a-day society.

So, the assignments of the Geology courses at the university level must rely on concentrating interests and activities in order to emphasize the student’s passion on geology. At the same time, the student must benefit of geological know-how and learn expertise on solution of problems concerning the territory and its resources, by applying the scientific method.