

To,
The Honourable Visa Officer,
Embassy of Italy,
Delhi

Subject: Visa Application Reconsideration – Reference ID: ITA/DEL/220824/0017/01

Respected Sir/Madam,

I write to respectfully request a reconsideration of my visa application, bearing the reference number: ITA/DEL/220824/0017/01, which I submitted for your esteemed consideration on 22 August 2024, at the New Delhi VFS Centre. I recently received an Advance notice from New Delhi VFS on 02 September 2024, notifying me of the pre-refusal of my study visa application. The reasons cited for this refusal are as follows:

- The information you have provided is unreliable; you failed to provide sufficient proof of your intention to return to India.

In light of the above, I would like to provide a detailed explanation to address this concern and earnestly request that my application be reconsidered favourably.

Reasons for Studying in Italy

1. **Academic Excellence and Specific Course of Study:** The Master's program in Food Safety and Food Risk Management at the University of Parma is directly aligned with my academic background and professional goals. During my B.Tech in Food Technology, I studied 6 to 7 subjects related to food safety, including food microbiology, food preservation techniques, and food quality management. This foundational knowledge makes this program a perfect next step for my career. Additionally, I have already completed a HACCP certification, which has equipped me with important skills in food safety management systems.

Studying at the University of Parma will provide me with a global perspective and advanced expertise that are not readily available in India. The combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical experience offered by this program will be crucial for me to further my skills in food safety and risk management. After completing my degree, I plan to return to India to apply this specialized knowledge and start my own business in the food sector, ensuring that I contribute to the rapidly growing demand for food safety expertise in the country.

1. **Erasmus Program:** The program's second year offers unparalleled specialization opportunities through three unique curricula in collaboration with prestigious partner universities: Risk Mitigation with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Piacenza campus) (UNIPC), Agri-Food Safety with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), and Risk Management with the University of Bologna (UNIBO) in collaboration with the University of Ferrara (UNIFE). This program will allow me to engage with diverse cultures and academic environments, further enhancing my education and broadening my horizons in ways that will be beneficial upon my return to India.
2. **Choice of Italy Despite Limited Emphasis on Food safety and food risk management-** The University of Parma offers a strong tradition of academic excellence along with emerging research opportunities in food safety and risk management. One of the aspects that impressed me most is the work of Professor Valentina Bernini, whose research in food microbiology and safety closely aligns with my interests. Studying under her guidance in an environment where the field is gaining increasing importance will give me a unique perspective and enable me to contribute fresh ideas to the discipline, both in Italy and when I return to India. Additionally, being part of Italy's growing focus on food safety makes it an ideal place for my academic and professional growth.

Explanation for Academic Break Before Graduation: Before completing my B.Tech degree, I took an academic break to prepare for engineering entrance examinations. This period was dedicated to intensive study for highly competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and other state-level engineering tests. I have attached references and documentation for the exams I attempted during this time to substantiate my activities.

Visa Interview- During my visa interview, there were occasional voice breaks due to network issues, which affected my ability to give proper answers. I felt panicked and anxious because of these interruptions.

Intention to Return to India

I am passionate about food safety and entrepreneurship. I have nurtured this passion through hands-on experience and academic involvement, and my goal is to leverage the knowledge and skills gained from the Master’s degree in Food Safety and Food Risk Management at the University of Parma, Italy, to bring innovation to India’s food sector.

Entrepreneurial Journey in the Food Sector: I aspire to start my own entrepreneurial journey in India’s food sector, and I already have experience that reflects my commitment to this goal. During my time at the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), I managed the operations of the institute’s bakery pilot plant. There, I was responsible for:

- **Research & Development:** Innovating new bakery products that align with consumer trends and food safety standards.
- **Production and Operations:** Overseeing the entire production process while maintaining stringent hygiene and safety protocols.
- **Packaging and Sales:** Ensuring the packaging met market standards and engaging in direct sales to understand consumer preferences.
- **Business Development:** I essentially ran the bakery as a small-scale business, gaining invaluable insights into the operational and financial aspects of the food industry.

This experience deepened my passion for entrepreneurship, and I intend to return to India after completing my degree to start my own food business, which will focus on providing safer, healthier food products to the Indian market.

Family Responsibilities and Ties: In addition to my professional aspirations, my personal responsibilities strongly tie me to India. My parents are elderly, and I am their primary caregiver. It is essential for me to return to India as soon as possible to take care of them. Being far away from them for an extended period is not an option for me, which further solidifies my commitment to coming back home.

Strong Financial and Property Ties: In addition to my professional and family responsibilities, I have strong financial and property ties to India. My family owns several properties, and I have attached the relevant documents as proof of these assets. These holdings further reinforce my intent to return to India after completing my studies, as they represent significant responsibilities and investments that require my attention.

These financial and property ties not only reflect my long-term commitment to India but also provide the stability and resources needed to start my entrepreneurial journey in the food sector upon my return. The specialized knowledge I gain from my studies in Italy will be instrumental in helping me manage and grow both my personal and family assets, ensuring a strong foundation for my business endeavors

Supporting the Family Business: Beyond starting my own business, I also plan to use the knowledge and expertise I gain from my studies to help grow our family business. I have already attached documents related to our business to demonstrate my involvement. With my enhanced understanding of food safety practices and risk management, I aim to elevate the business and ensure it remains competitive in the growing Indian market.

Conclusion: In conclusion, my return to India is not just a personal choice but a necessity. My entrepreneurial goals, responsibilities toward my aging parents, and my commitment to helping the family business all require me to come back to India. The Master’s program at the University of Parma will equip me with the expertise needed to make a meaningful impact in the food industry here at home, and I look forward to applying that knowledge as soon as I complete my studies.

Proof of Intention to Return to India:

1. Attach proof of my involvement in the bakery project at NIFTEM, such as certificates or letters from my faculty.
2. submit a brief business plan outlining my future venture to emphasize my entrepreneurial intent
3. To further demonstrate my commitment to returning, provide medical records or a doctor’s letter detailing my parents' health conditions
4. Include documents related to our family business, along with an explanation of how my education will help it grow.

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I sincerely hope that my explanations have addressed the concerns outlined in the Advance notice. I humbly request that you reconsider my visa application and grant me the opportunity to fulfil my academic aspirations in Italy.

Thank you for your time, attention, and understanding of my situation. I eagerly anticipate the potential life-changing journey that studying in Italy would offer me, and I am committed to adhering to all the regulations and responsibilities associated with my student visa.

Yours sincerely,
Vinayak Chaudhary
Passport No: Y5038623