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Competitions for qualifications and exams for the admission to the

Research Doctorate – 39° Cycle – Academic Year 2023/2024

**DEADLINE SET ON 27 JULY 2023
AT 12:00 NOON (Italian time)**

Art. 1 Purpose and general rules

The University of Ferrara announces an open competition based on academic qualifications and examinations for the admission to the following Research Doctorate courses – XXXIX Cycle, academic year 2023/24:

- 1. European Union Law and National Legal Systems**
- 2. Physics**
(In cooperation with National Institute for Nuclear Physics – INFN;
There is an International Joint Programme in Physics, pursuant the agreement with the Polish Academy of Sciences - IFJ PAN – Krakow – PL)
- 3. Mathematics**
- 4.** (Associate PhD Course with Università degli studi di Parma and Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia)
- 5. Translational Neuroscience and Neurotechnologies**
(Associate PhD Course with Istituto Italiano di Tecnologie – IIT)
- 6. Chemistry**
(There is an International Joint Programme in Chemistry in cooperation with the Faculty of Chemistry – University of Wrocław – PL)
- 7. Engineering Science**
- 8. Earth and Marine Sciences**
(There is an International Joint Programme in Earth and Marine Sciences in cooperation with the Universidad de Cadiz – Spain)
- 9. Life Sciences and Biotechnology**
- 10. Medical, Omics and Oncological Sciences**
- 11. Environmental Health Sciences**
- 12. Humanities**
(There is an International Joint Programme in Philosophy with Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná PUCPR – Brasil)
- 13. Environmental Sustainability and Wellbeing**
- 14. Advanced Therapies and Experimental Pharmacology**

Effective admission to the above indicated courses is subject to verification of the requisites envisaged by the D.M 226/2021 by ANVUR (Agenzia nazionale di valutazione del sistema universitario e della ricerca – National University and Research System Evaluation Agency) in order to activating already accredited courses; or by the Ministry of Education, University and Research for newly established courses.

In the event of non-accreditation and/or non-activation of one or more doctoral courses, any competition procedures already completed will be considered void.

The PhD Courses last three years with effect from 1st November 2023.

For each of the aforementioned courses, research topics, available positions, admission requirements and specific information concerning the selection and evaluation criteria pertaining to the creation of the ranking tables, are listed in the attached description sheets, and are an integral part of this announcement.

The available positions will be assigned pursuing the merit ranking, referred to in art. 10 of this announcement.

Candidates with a qualifications obtained abroad compete on a par with other candidates for the available positions, including those with a scholarship, or other form of equivalent financial support, even in the event of a specifically defined reserve (art. 2).

The calendar for the admission tests can be consulted on the page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>,

It will be defined by the Academic Board of the each PhD Course by the deadline of the present announcement, and promptly published.

Scholarships, training contracts, High Apprentice contracts, other equivalent forms of financial support and the relevant positions referred to in the present announcement may be increased based on the funding availability deriving from public Research Institutions or qualified private entities. These additional positions will be published before the expiration date of this announcement.

Failure to conclude agreements with external organizations for the financing of scholarships and / or other equivalent forms of research support, even if mentioned in the announcement, reduces the total number of ordinary places.

This announcement has to be considered an official notification.

Any changes and integrations will be published **exclusively** on the website:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>.

Failure to comply with the rules of the present announcement will result in the exclusion from the competition.

All communications with applicants concerning this announcement will occur via e-mail. For this purpose, the University of Ferrara will use the e-mail address given by the applicant during the registration process, as illustrated in the following art. 5.

The University Administration takes no responsibility in the event of loss of communications due to errors in the address or e-mail provided by the applicant, by failure or late notification of address changings, or for any postal or telecommunication errors.

This announcement is available in Italian and English in accordance with Italian laws and regulations on Ph.D. qualifications, and the University of Ferrara's regulations in matter of Ph.D. Courses.

***Art. 2
Positions***

Admission to the PhD program referred to in art. 1 takes place though selection for positions indicated in the course sheet, attached and integral part of this announcement.

The types of open positions are as follows:

- Ordinary positions with or without scholarship, with restricted research topic and with non-restricted research topic;
- Positions with scholarship on restricted research topics financed from the resources referred to in Ministerial Decrees of 2 March 2023 n. 117 and n. 118;
- Positions with scholarship with restricted research topic financed on the PNNR, Mission 4 Education and Research – Component 2 From Research to Business- Investments 1.3 “Extended partnerships” and 1.4 “National Centers”;
- Positions reserved for specific categories of candidates holding specific admission requirements: candidates holding a university degree obtained in a foreign Institution, candidates with scholarship by foreign Countries or belonging to specific international mobility programmes, candidates with scholarships in cooperation for development, candidates who are employed in companies with an agreement for Industrial PhD programmes with high qualifications and maintaining their salary.

The available positions with or without scholarship that have no restricted research topic, will be assigned according to the ranking order.

For available positions with a scholarship on a restricted topic, the Examining committee will judge the suitability of candidates for the specific topic and research path. For each position with a restricted subject, the assignment will take place according to the ranking order of the single position with a restricted subject.

Regardless of the type of funding, the available positions with scholarship on restricted topics, that are indicated in the form attached, bind the winner of such scholarships to carry out her/his research activity on the basis of the specific project.

In case candidates are interested in scholarships with a restricted topic, regardless of the type of the scholarship funding, it is necessary for them to present a research project that has to be consistent with the restricted topic, under penalty of non-admission to the evaluation of the candidacy for the scholarship itself. For each course it is possible to apply for a maximum of two (2) scholarships on a specific topic by attaching two distinct research projects consistent with the chosen topic.

The choice option to compete for positions with restricted topics is configured as binding priority choice. In the event of a scholarship being awarded for a restricted topic, the renunciation of the scholarship is equivalent to the renunciation of the PhD program.

In the event of non-eligibility and/or assignment of a scholarship for a restricted topic, the application remains valid for ordinary positions with an unrestricted scholarship.

In caso di mancata idoneità e/o assegnazione di borsa a tematica vincolata, la candidatura rimane valida per le posizioni ordinarie con borsa di studio non vincolata e senza borsa di studio.

Positions deriving from DD.MM 2 March 2023 n. 117 e n. 118

a) The Italian Ministry for University and Research, issued the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 351/2022 and assigned to universities resources based on the PNRR (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza – National Recovery and Resilience Plan), Mission 4, component 1 “Strengthening of the educational services: from nursery schools to universities” – Investment 3.4 “Advanced teaching and university skills” and Investment 4.1 “Extension of the number of research doctorates and innovative doctorates for public administration and cultural heritage”.

The University of Ferrara selected the research projects to activate as part of the University doctoral courses accredited for the XXXIX cycle.

These projects, pursuant to the above-mentioned Ministerial Decree 118/2023 are:

- a. consistent with the objectives and purposes of the (EU) Regulation 2021/241; with the general strategy and with the detailed Sheet of the PNRR component;
- b. aimed at achieving results measured in reference to milestones and targets that may be assigned to the Investment, within the terms that are established by the Plan;
- c. compliant with the “do not cause significant damage” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to art. 17 of the (EU) 2020/852 Regulation; and coherent with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (European Commission communication 2021/C58/01);
- d. suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- e. in support of the participation of women and young people, also in accordance with the provisions of the Decreto-Legge (Ministerial Decree) 31 May 2021, n. 77 (so-called “Decreto Semplificazioni” – “Simplifications Decree”), that was modified by the law 29 July 2021, n. 108, related to the management of the PNRR – National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The summary of the research projects selected for the Doctoral Programs with administrative headquarters at the University of Ferrara is shown in the following diagram:

	No. of scholarships	Mission 4, component 1, investments:	
A	4	M4C1 Inv. 3.4 – Awarding of new three-year PhD courses in programs dedicated to digital and environmental transitions	
B	16	M4C1 Inv. 4.1 – Extension of the number of research doctorates and innovative doctorates for Public Administration and cultural heritage.	PNRR PhD Programmes
C	11		Public Administration PhD Programmes
D	4		Cultural Heritage PhD Programmes

The interventions that are the target of such initiatives must also:

- a. cover disciplinary and thematic areas consistent with the needs of the Country, as well as the regional territories affected by the program, in terms of highly qualified figures oriented to meet the innovation needs of the companies referred to in the PNRR;
- b. provide for the implementation of the entire doctoral, training, research and evaluation path at the administrative and operational headquarters of the beneficiary University, without prejudice to the periods of study and research at the company and abroad. These periods at the company and abroad must be

planned consistently with the training and research activities that are provided for at the site of the proposing body;

- c. ensure that the PhD student can use qualified and specific operational and scientific facilities, that must be in accordance with the law, in order to develop the study and research activities, including (if relevant with the type of course) scientific labs, libraries, data-bases and so on;
- d. provide for the implementation of didactic activities for linguistic and computer science improvement; for research management; for the knowledge of European and international research systems, for the enhancement of research results and intellectual property;
- e. promote the enhancement of research results and guarantee the protection of intellectual property by ensuring open access to the research results and to the relevant data in the shortest time and with the least limitations, according to the "Open Science" and "FAIR Data" principles.
- f. ensure compliance with the PNRR horizontal principles (environmental sustainability; sustainable development; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; accessibility for disable persons).

The PhD programs include periods of study and research in companies for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of twelve (12) months and periods of study and research abroad for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of eighteen (12) months as specified below:

	Mobility abroad	Periods in companies
programs dedicated to digital and environmental transitions	Mandatory	Mandatory in companies or research centers
PNRR PhD Programmes	Mandatory	Optional
Public Administration PhD Programmes	Mandatory	Mandatory in companies, research centers or Public Administrations
Cultural Heritage PhD Programmes	Mandatory	Mandatory in companies, research centers or Public Administrations, including museums, Institutes of the Ministry of Culture, archives, libraries

b) Furthermore, the Italian Ministry for University and Research, with the D.M. (Ministerial Decree) 2 March 2023 n. 117, assigned resources, based on the PNRR, Mission 4, component 2 "From Research to Business" – Investment 3.3 "Introduction of innovative PhD Programs that respond to the innovation needs of businesses and promote the recruitment of researchers by enterprises", for the activation of dedicated doctoral programs, with the contribution and involvement of companies.

The University of Ferrara selected the companies to participate in the co-financing of the scholarships and selected the research projects to activate as part of the University doctoral courses accredited for the XXXIX cycle. These projects, pursuant to the above-mentioned Ministerial Decree 117/2023, are:

- a. consistent with the objectives and purposes of the (EU) Regulation 2021/241; with the general strategy and with the detailed Sheet of the PNRR component;
- b. aimed at achieving results measured in reference to milestones and targets that may be assigned to the Investment, within the terms that are established by the Plan;
- c. compliant with the "do not cause significant damage" (DNSH) principle, pursuant to art. 17 of the (EU) 2020/852 Regulation; and coherent with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (European Commission communication 2021/C58/01);
- d. suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- e. in support of the participation of women and young people, also in accordance with the provisions of the (Ministerial Decree 31 May 2021, n. 77 (so-called "Decreto Semplificazioni" – "Simplifications Decree"), that was modified by the law 29 July 2021, n. 108, related to the management of the PNRR – National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The interventions that are the target of such initiatives must also:

- a. cover disciplinary and thematic areas consistent with the needs of the Country, as well as the regional territories affected by the program, in terms of highly qualified figures oriented to meet the innovation needs of the companies referred to in the PNRR;
- b. provide for the implementation of the entire doctoral, training, research and evaluation path at the administrative and operational headquarters of the beneficiary University, without prejudice to the periods of study and research at the company and abroad. These periods at the company and abroad must be planned consistently with the training and research activities that are provided for at the site of the proposing body;
- c. ensure that the PhD student can use qualified and specific operational and scientific facilities, that must be in accordance with the law, in order to develop the study and research activities, including (if relevant with the type of course) scientific labs, libraries, data-bases and so on;

- d. provide for the implementation of didactic activities for linguistic and computer science improvement; for research management; for the knowledge of European and international research systems, for the enhancement of research results and intellectual property;
- e. promote the enhancement of research results and guarantee the protection of intellectual property by ensuring open access to the research results and to the relevant data in the shortest time and with the least limitations, according to the "Open Science" and "FAIR Data" principles.
- f. ensure compliance with the PNRR horizontal principles (environmental sustainability; sustainable development; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; accessibility for disable persons).

All PhD programs include periods of study and research in companies for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of eighteen (18) months and periods of study and research abroad for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of twelve (12) months.

Candidates who are employed either in private or public institutions/companies, cannot require fellowships financed pursuant to the DD.MM. 117/2023 and 118/2023, unless they are on leave of absence without paycheck.

Regarding the positions financed under the aforementioned initiatives, the titles of the selected research projects are shown in the attached competition records of each Course, which are an integral part of this announcement: <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>

Furthermore at the web-page <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/progetti-dm-117-2023-dm-118-2023-e-pnrr> applicants can consult the descriptive sheets of all individual topics, that provide suitable information and allow candidates to prepare and adequate research project.

Obligations relating to doctoral programs funded under the DD.MM. 117/2023 e 118/2023

In addition to the obligations for doctoral students, that are in the Regulations about Research Doctorates, issued with Rectoral Decree (D.R.) Rep. No. 448/2022 of 25/03/2022, the winners of a scholarship associated with research projects relating to DD.MM. 117/2023 e 118/2023 undertake to:

- present a report every six months indicating the time commitment (articulated in months at the company, in site at UNIFE and abroad) and a summary of the main activities the PhD Student carried out; the report must be written through the appropriate online platform and using the forms therein;
- ensure compliance with the communication and information obligations, provided for by art. 34 of the EU Regulation 2021/241. All documents must have the European Union logo and must indicate that the Programme is funded under the PNRR Italian Plan, with explicit reference to the EU funding and to the NextGenerationEU programme, using the EU Emblem in all documents. It is mandatory to provide adequate dissemination and promotion to the Programme, online, via web and through social media, as requested by the PNRR Communication Strategy;
- comply with the "do not cause significant damage" (DNSH) principle, to the environment goals, pursuant to art. 17 of the (EU) 2020/852 Regulation.

Furthermore, they are obliged, under **penalty of revocation of the scholarship**, to:

- carry out the PhD program consistently with the project admitted for funding, unless the candidate requested an was subsequently granted the necessary authorization by the Ministry for the University and Research;
- The spend a mandatory period of study and research abroad (minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months) before the end of the PhD Course;
- The spend a mandatory period of study and research in a company (minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months) before the end of the PhD Course, as provided by the rules for scholarships funded within what is provided in the Ministerial Decree **D.M. 118/2023** referred to programs **dedicated to digital and environmental transitions, to the Public Administration and to the cultural heritage**;
- The spend a mandatory period of study and research in a company (minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months) before the end of the PhD Course, as provided by the rules for scholarships funded within what is provided in the Ministerial Decree **D.M. 117/2023**.

At the end of the competition process, candidates that will be recipients of the scholarships as per the paragraphs a) and b) of this article must proceed with the enrolment in the PhD Course, in accordance with the procedures and timing indicated in art. 11.

Subsequently, the Ministry of the University and Research (MUR) will verify the eligibility for support within the PNRR projects and ANVUR (National Agency for the University and Research System Evaluation) will verify that the project are consistent with the Ministerial Decree **DD.MM. 117/2023 or 118/2023** requisites.

Once both evaluations are complete, MUR will communicate the allocation of the final funding that will be due to each University.

Therefore, the actual activation of the indicated positions is subject to the positive evaluation of consistency and eligibility, in order to receive the ministerial funding.

**Positions funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan
(Mission 4 Component 2 Investments 1.4 and 1.5)**

The Italian Ministry for University and Research, within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Mission 4 Education and research – Component 2 From research to business – **Investments 1.4 and 1.5**, financed by the European Union – NextGenerationEU approved “approved the funding of project of Extended partnership Estesio “MNESYS, A multiscale integrated approach to the study of the nervous system in health and disease” - CUP F78H22000660002, and the project of the "National Centre for HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing" - CUP F77G22000120006. The University of Ferrara takes part in these projects as an associate to Spoke and/or Spoke leader.

The University of Ferrara selected the research projects to activate as part of the University doctoral courses accredited for the XXXIX cycle.

These projects, pursuant to the above-mentioned NRRP are:

- a. consistent with the objectives and purposes of the (EU) Regulation 2021/241; with the general strategy and with the detailed Sheet of the PNRR component;
- b. aimed at achieving results measured in reference to milestones and targets that may be assigned to the Investment, within the terms that are established by the Plan;
- c. compliant with the “do not cause significant damage” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to art. 17 of the (EU) 2020/852 Regulation, and coherent with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (European Commission communication 2021/C58/01);
- d. suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- e. in support of the participation of women and young people, also in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Decree 31 May 2021, n. 77 (so-called “Decreto Semplificazioni” – “Simplifications Decree”), that was modified by the law 29 July 2021, n. 108, related to the management of the PNRR – National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Furthermore, the Interventions to which the initiative is destined must:

- a. be related to disciplinary and thematic areas, that must be consistent with the needs of the Country, as well as the regional territories affected by the program, in terms of highly qualified figures oriented to meet the innovation needs of the companies referred to in the NRRP;
- b. provide for the implementation of the entire doctoral, training, research and evaluation program at the administrative and operational offices of the beneficiary University, without prejudice to the study and research periods at company and abroad. Such periods must be planned consistently with the training and research planned activities that are provided for at the sites of the student premises;
- c. ensure that the PhD student can use qualified and specific operational and scientific facilities, that must be in accordance with the law, in order to develop the study and research activities, including (if relevant with the type of course) scientific labs, libraries, data-bases and so on;
- d. provide for the implementation of didactic activities for linguistic and computer science improvement; for research management; for the knowledge of European and international research systems, for the enhancement of research results and intellectual property;
- e. promote the enhancement of research results and guarantee the protection of intellectual property by ensuring open access to the research results and to the relevant data in the shortest time and with the least limitations, according to the “Open Science” and “FAID Data” principles.
- f. Ensure compliance with the PNRR horizontal principles (environmental sustainability; sustainable development; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; accessibility for disabled persons).

In addition to the obligations envisaged for PhD students contained in the PhD Regulations, issued with Rectoral Decree n. 448/2022 prot. n. 144017 dated 25/03/2022, the winners of a scholarship at the **“National Centre for HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing”** and to the **Extended Partnership “MNESYS, A multiscale integrated approach to the study of the nervous system in health and disease”** will undertake to:

- ensure compliance with the obligations regarding communication and information pursuant to art. N. 34 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, indicating in all the documentation that the Program is financed under the NRRP, with explicit reference to the funding by the European Union and to the NextGenerationEU initiative, reporting in the documentation the emblem of the European Union and provide adequate

dissemination and promotion of the Program, also online, via web and social media, according to the Communication Strategy of the NRRP;

- comply with the principle of not causing significant damage to environmental objectives, pursuant to art. 17 of the Regulation (EU) 2020/852;
- carry out the doctoral program consistently with the project admitted to funding.

For the positions financed within the aforementioned initiatives, the titles of the selected research projects are shown in the attached forms of the PhD courses, which form an integral part of the present announcement.

Positions reserved for candidates who graduated in foreign universities, holders of scholarships from foreign States, or from specific programs of international mobility, scholarship holders in agreements for cooperation to development, company employees for Industrial PhD who are employed in high qualification activities and who keep their salary

Doctoral courses that have expressly provided for it, candidates holding qualifications obtained in a foreign Country, holders of scholarships from foreign States, or from specific programs of international mobility may apply on reserved positions.

Any provision of reserved places is made explicit in the sheets of PhD Courses that are an integral part of this announcement, and are published on the web page

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>

Positions reserved for candidates graduated from foreign Universities, they can be with scholarship or other form of equivalent financial support, or without scholarship or other equivalent financial support.

Candidates who intend to compete for the reserved positions, when completing the application for admission through the online procedure available at <https://pica.cineca.it/unife/> must comply with the following instructions:

- **Candidates with foreign University title:** in addition to the provisions of the PhD course sheet, they will have to comply with the indications provided for in art. 4 of this announcement.
- **Candidates with scholarship from foreign States:** in addition to the documents indicated on the PhD course sheet, they must enclose a certification attesting the ownership of the scholarship provided by the foreign State, or a copy of the application sent to the competent authorities for its assignment.
- **Candidates with scholarship form specific programs of international mobility:** in addition to the documents indicated on the PhD course sheet, they must enclose a certification attesting the ownership of the scholarship funded within the program of international mobility.
- **Candidates with scholarship within agreements for "Cooperation to development":** in addition to the documents indicated on the PhD course sheet, they must enclose an acceptance letter issued by the partner institution.
- **Company employees for Industrial PhD who are employed in high qualification activities and who keep their salary:** in addition to the documents indicated on the PhD course sheet, they must enclose a self-certificate or a declaration by the employer, certifying the subordinate and continuous employment relationship with the Company that is partner in the agreement, as well as the role held in the Company.

Candidates who intend to compete for the reserved places for scholarship holders from foreign States or from specific international mobility programs, must prove that they are definitively holders of such scholarships by the peremptory deadline of **30 April 2024**. The certificate of the scholarship possession must be sent to the IUSS Office (email dottorato@unife.it) within the same date, under penalty of exclusion from the PhD Course.

For reserved positions, the examining Committee will draw up a separate ranking according to the type of reserved positions.

Should there not be suitable candidates, the positions reserved for candidates who graduated in foreign Universities can be assigned to other candidates.

Should there not be suitable candidates, the positions reserved for candidates holders of scholarships from foreign States or from specific programs for international mobility, **cannot be assigned to other candidates.**

Art. 3 Admission Requirements

Applicants, without any limitation of age nor citizenship, can apply if within the deadline of the present announcement hold at least one of the following titles:

- a) Italian degree known as "Laurea specialistica or magistrale" or a degree awarded prior to approval of Ministerial Decree D.M. n. 509 of 3 November 1999, updated with D.M. n. 270 of 22 October 2004, n. 270, and equivalent other second level academic titles;

- b) Academic title declared equivalent to the titles referred to in letter a);
- c) Similar academic title, obtained abroad, provided that it is comparable in terms of duration, level and possibly disciplinary field to the qualifications referred to in letter a) and deemed suitable (Master level degree).

Candidates who will obtain the academic qualification necessary for access to the PhD Programme by and no later than **1st November 2023**, will be admitted with reserve, to the selection. Graduating candidates are required to communicate the date and grade of graduation to the IUSS Office by email at dottorato@unife.it, sending a self-certification **within 1st November 2023**. The 1st of November is the date all PhD Programmes start and it also is the effective enrollment date.

Additional requirements or specific qualifications will be listed in the attached description sheets, one for each PhD course, which are an integral part of this announcement.

All candidates are admitted to the selection subject to verification of the self-certified declarations, pursuant DPR n. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and integrations. The University may, at any time during the proceedings—even after the start of doctoral courses—, carry out checks on the truthfulness of the declarations and require the presentation of original documents.

The Administration may order at any time, by order of the Rector, the exclusion from the selection process for lack of requirements.

Those who are already enrolled in the PhD Course cannot submit a new application.

Art. 4 **Degrees awarded by foreign Universities**

The eligibility of a degree awarded by a foreign university, for the sole purpose of the admission to the doctorate, will be decided by the Selection Committee in accordance with the Italian Law and with the Law of the country in which the degree was awarded, and in accordance with international treaties and agreements regarding the proof of qualifications recognition.

The submission of online applications automatically implies the recognition of the eligibility of the degree awarded abroad. Applicants should therefore attach to their application the following documents:

- a) Certificate relevant to the academic title containing a full academic record of the candidate's career, including exams and relevant marks. EU citizens may submit a self-declaration certifying the possession of an academic qualification, according to DPR n. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- b) If the aforementioned document is not in Italian or English, the applicant must provide a translation of the certificate in English, that the candidate must undersign under her/his own responsibility;
- c) Any other document that could be useful to the Selection Committee for the evaluation of the candidate's degree. Supplement Diploma for candidates holding a degree awarded in an EU country; "Dichiarazione di Valore in loco" (declaration of value), issued by the Italian Authorities in the Country in which the degree was awarded).

Art. 5 **Selection Application Form**

The application form, including all mandatory documents, must be filled-in and submitted, under penalty of exclusion, **within 27 July 2023 - at 12:00 noon (Italian time)** using only the relevant **online procedure**, available at the web page: <https://pica.cineca.it/unife/>

Instructions for completing the online application form are available on the following web pages: <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>
Filing instructions "Help_39.pdf"

Candidates can access the procedure for submitting the admission application also using SPID (Public Digital Identity System). This procedure is available only for candidates already living in Italy. You can do so by choosing the University of Ferrara from the page of the available federations.

The application is completed by entering the requested information and enclosing the documents indicated in the form regarding the course each candidate is interested in.

Files must be **exclusively in pdf/A (pdf Adobe) format: maximum size 30 Mb for each attachment**. Files must be named with the candidate's **number, family name, name and file name**, for instance:

- 1_familyname_name_curriculum.pdf);
- Should there be more files with the same object, please add a number at the end (1_familyname_name_curriculum_2.pdf)

The application must contain the candidate's personal data, the residence, phone number, e-mail address, and the citizenship.

For all legal purposes, all the data contained in the application and in all the enclosed documents are considered as a self-certification, pursuant to articles no. 46 and 47 of the Italian Presidential Decree 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and integrations.

Candidates who intend to apply for the specific positions listed below **must select the corresponding item and the type of position and/or scholarships with a restricted topic of interest**, when completing the application for admission:

- Reserved positions for employees of companies engaged in highly qualified activities with salary retention (industrial doctorate);
- Positions with contracts under high-level apprenticeship;
- Scholarships tied to a specific thematic, clearly detailed in the attached documents, which are an integral part of this announcement.

If you are interested in scholarships tied to a specific thematic, regardless of the type of scholarship funding, it is necessary to submit a research project consistent with the specified theme. Failure to do so will result in the application not being considered for the scholarship evaluation.

For each course, it is possible to apply for a maximum of two (2) scholarships tied to a specific thematic, attaching two distinct research projects that align with the chosen theme.

The choice to compete for positions tied to a specific thematic is considered a binding priority choice. If a scholarship tied to a specific thematic is awarded, renouncing the scholarship is equivalent to renouncing the Doctoral Program.

The request to compete for scholarships tied to a specific thematic does NOT prevent inclusion in the ranking, nor does it preclude the possibility of competing for other regular scholarships.

Upon completing the application submission process, the candidate will receive an email confirming the successful submission along with a code essential for identification and for potential communication with CINECA and the IUSS Office.

It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the correct completion of the procedure. No claims will be accepted for any malfunctions of the computer system due to overloads near the deadline.

Applications that are incomplete in terms of information and/or mandatory attachments as of 12:01 AM (Italian time) on July 27, 2023, will be excluded.

Under no circumstances will documentation additions be allowed after the call deadline.

Candidates intending to apply for multiple doctoral programs must submit separate applications, including the required documentation for each.

Candidates are advised to complete the participation application well in advance of the deadline.

Art. 6

Support for candidates with disabilities or with specific learning difficulties (SLD)

Candidates with disabilities and/or with Specific Learning Disorder (SLD) can report their needs, which will be taken into account in the organization of the test. These Candidates are required to fill-in the appropriate "Aids/Additional time" section, indicating the aids required for carrying out the tests, and they have to attach one or more admitted certifications, referred to in the following paragraph, in a .pdf format.

Admitted certifications

According to Law no. 104/1992 (and its eventual changes and additions) and Law no. 170/2010 (and its eventual changes and additions) applications will be admitted with at least one of the following certifications:

- Valid certificate of disability, issued by the competent medical commission pursuant to Law no. 295/1990;
- Valid certification of handicap, issued by the competent medical commission for the local Health Service, pursuant to Law no. 104/1992;

- SLD diagnoses issued by the National Health Service or by specialists accredited by the Region. Certifications must be issued no longer than 3 (three) years from the expiration date of the present call, or must be issued after the Candidate turned 18;
- Other certifications that the Italian law make equal to the above mentioned certifications.

Candidates must upload the certifications that **must be readable and complete in each and all pages**.

Once the Candidates complete the registration procedure for the enrollment in the selection, they have to open a ticket on SOS (sos.unife.it) - Settore Servizio Disabilità e DSA – and write the registration number they received for their procedure. The ticket must be open within the present announcement deadline.

Candidates with disabilities or with SLD, who are resident in foreign countries

Candidates with disabilities and/or with SLD who are resident in foreign countries, who intend to use the aids or the compensatory measures, must submit – according to the above procedure – a certification to certify the disability or SLD issued in the country where they are resident. They must attach a sworn translation of the certificate in Italian or English.

Evaluation of requests and granting of aids or compensatory measures for Candidates with disabilities or with LSD

The requests by Candidates with disabilities and/or SLD will be accepted with reserve and will be evaluated by the Coordination of Inclusion Policies – Disability and SLD Service – after hearing the possible opinion of experts in the field of disabilities and SLD.

It will be the responsibility of the Disability and SLD Service to communicate to the Candidates which aids or compensatory measures will actually be granted.

The University reserves the right not to provide aids or compensatory measures if the provided medical documentation is out of date, unsuitable or sent after the enrollment deadline.

Art. 7 Admission procedures

Selection procedures are shown in each PhD Course description sheet, which an integral part of this announcement and are published on the following web page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>

The qualifications evaluation and the interviews will be held within **19 September 2023**.

Before the notice deadline, a timetable regarding the selection will be published at the following web page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>

The timetable regarding the selection has to be considered as an official notification.

Candidates will not receive any personal notice about the selection procedures.

Applicants do not have to attend the meetings regarding the evaluation of qualifications.

The evaluation committee disposes of a total of **80 points**.

Evaluation criteria, including the minimum requirements for admittance to the interview, are outlined in each PhD Course description sheet.

The evaluation of qualifications results and the admission to the interview will be published on the web page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>

In order to participate to the interviews, applicants must provide and show a valid passport or other ID at the indicated venue and date. More information in this regard will be available at the following page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>,

Oral tests can be carried out in a language other than Italian, only and exclusively if established in the information-form related to the chosen doctoral course.

In order to be admitted to the research doctorate course, the applicant must obtain a final score of at least 60 points. The final score is the sum of the points given during the assessment of qualifications and the interview.

In the case of scholarships bound to a specific research topic, the examiners will evaluate the suitability of the candidate to enter the doctoral course, together with the suitability of the candidate for the specific research topic, in order to assign the scholarship.

Art. 8 **Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee is appointed by the Rector and is composed according to Art. 16 of the Regulation of Research Doctorates of the University of Ferrara issued in accordance with the Ministerial Decree 14 December 2021, n. 226. D.M. 226/2021.

The composition of all selection committees will be published before the announcement deadline on the web page: <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>. The Selection Committees will not send any personal communication to the candidates regarding the evaluation results: it is upon Candidates' responsibility to verify the results as described in art. 7 and 10 of this announcement.

Art. 9 **Ranking list**

After the approval of the competition proceedings, the ranking lists will be available online at the following web page: <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/esiti-prove-concorso-di-dottorato-per-il-ciclo-39deg>.

Publication of the ranking list will be the only official means of communication of the results, therefore **no personal communication will be sent to admitted candidates**.

For positions with a scholarship on a restricted topic, the ranking will include a parallel and independent part with the evaluation by the Examining committee that decides which candidates are or are not suitable for carrying out the specific research topic.

In the event a candidate is successful in more than one ranking, she/he will have to opt for only one PhD course. Such choice is made at the enrollment and **it is definitive**, and it will not be possible to change in any way.

Art. 10 **Admission to the courses**

Candidates are admitted to the Doctoral Course after the approval of the selection proceedings, according to the order of the respective ranking list, until the number of positions included in the competition announcement run out.

Admission to positions for specific research topics either with scholarship or with other equivalent form of funding will follow the ranking order, with respect to the ascertained suitability for carrying out the research object of the funding.

Recipients of scholarships with restricted topics do not compete of the assignment of ordinary positions; in the event of renunciation of the scholarship, it corresponds to renunciation of enrolment in the course.

Failure to complete the enrolment procedure, will result in forfeiture of the right to be admitted to the course. Vacancies will be assigned to other candidates, according to the ranking.

In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be applied:

- for positions covered by a scholarship, the assessment of the economic situation prevails, determined on the basis of the ISEE certification "Subsidized social benefits for the Right to University Education" without omissions or discrepancies, expiring on **15 January 2024**;
- for positions that are not covered by a scholarship, the younger candidate prevails.

For the reserved positions, the examination Committee will make a separate ranking list, depending on the types of reserved positions.

In the event a candidate is successful in more than one ranking, she/he will have to opt for only one PhD course.

In the case of withdrawal within a month of the beginning of the first year, this position becomes vacant and it will be assigned to those applicants who have a place in the ranking list considering, if necessary, the specific field of research associated with the scholarship.

Admission to all positions with a scholarship or equivalent funding deriving from departmental funds and / or funds made available by external entities is conditional on, and subject to, the audits following the formalization of the financing.

Art.11
Enrolment

Winning candidates must enrol via online procedure, following the enrolment instructions for winning candidates that will be available on the web page:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi>.

The deadline for enrolments is set without fail on September 28th, 2022 – h. 12.00 a.m. (Italian time).

No other enrolment method other than the one indicated will be accepted.

The enrolment application will be considered completed only after submission of all the documents listed in the enrolment guide.

Those who have not regularized their position within the deadline will be considered RENOUNCERS to all intents and purposes and the vacant positions will be assigned to other candidates, according to the order of ranking.

Art.12
Replacements

Eligible candidates that cannot enrol to the Course may state their interest in covering any places that may not be taken by winner candidates by duly filling-in the **replacement form** and send it via email to dottorato@unife.it **within 22nd September 2023, at 12:00 noon (Italian time)**

The replacement form is available at the link: <https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi>

Those who do not comply with the replacement procedure will not be admitted to any replacement.

Anyone entitled to take over will receive by the IUSS Office an appropriate communication regarding the possibility and terms of enrollment.

Art. 13
Dottorato e scuole di specializzazione mediche
PhD courses and Medical Graduate Schools

Students enrolled in University Medical Graduate Schools who are successful in the selection procedure for a research doctorate, will be able to enroll in the PhD course, in compliance with the following conditions:

- a. compatibility of the activities and commitment envisaged by the Medical Graduate School and the PhD course, considering also the distance between the places where the activities will be carried out. Such compatibility must be certified by the Council of the Medical Graduate School and by the PhD Course Board;
- b. incompatibility between the PhD scholarship and the amounts, however denominated, that are related to the Medical Graduate School activities.

In case of joint attendance, the request to attend the doctoral activities is accepted by the PhD Board of Professors, subject to a positive assessment of the coherence of the research activities, both already carried out and future ones, carried out in the Medical Graduate School with those of the doctoral project. In order to accept the applications referred to in the present article, it is also required a judgment of compatibility by both the PhD Board of Professors and the one of the Graduate Medical School.

Art. 14
Scholarships

Without prejudice to the provisions of specific conventions or agreements for the internationalization of PhD Students, the annual gross amount of the University of Ferrara scholarship is € 16.243,00 and is subject to National Social Security contributions. Fiscal matters regarding scholarships are regulated by art. 4 Law 13th August 1984, n. 476.

The amount of the scholarship is increased by 50% for any period spent abroad, for a maximum period of 12 months.

Such period can be extended up to 18 months for students within cotutelle Ph.D agreements with foreign institutions, or students enrolled in PhD Courses activated pursuant the laws that rule the accreditation of PhD Courses by the Universities.

The payment of scholarships is monthly and deferred.

Scholarships have a one-year duration and are renewed depending on PhD student passing the annual verifications regarding his/her annual activity. Such evaluation is performed by the Academic Board (art. 19) according to what is specified in Courses internal rulings.

In case of withdrawal or decadence within a month of the courses start, the PhD student has no right to the first instalment of his/her scholarship, nor to any other form of funding.

No other scholarships, research funds or similar forms of financial support may be added to the PhD scholarship, except for integration funds dedicated to abroad mobility for the PhD student training activities and research. Anyone who already benefited from a scholarship for a PhD course, even only partially, cannot ask to benefit from it a second time.

In the event of scholarships that were not awarded to the selection winners, those scholarships will be assigned to the eligible candidates according to the order of the relevant ranking.

Please refer to chapter V (Rights and duties of PhD Students) of the University Regulations relevant to PhD Programmes for further provisions on the matter.

Art. 15
Property of results and confidentiality

Intellectual and industrial property rights on any results achieved by the PhD student, including, by way of example, but not limited to: software, patentable or non-patentable industrial inventions, know-how, models, data and data collections, are regulated pursuant the current legislation and the University regulations and, possibly, on what is established in individual agreements with other involved Universities, companies or Organizations.

It is mandatory for PhD Students who realize to have obtained an invention, to notify immediately the supervisor or, should she/he not have one, to the director of the relevant Department she/he is affiliated to. From that moment on, the tutor or director are bound by obligations of confidentiality and must inform the University of Ferrara Technology Transfer Office without delay, in order to proceed with the evaluation of the inventive results and the appropriate protective actions.

Candidates who compete for positions with scholarship on a restricted topic undertake to accept the provisions relating to intellectual property agreed upon in the Agreement between the University and the funding body.

In any case, the PhD student is guaranteed the possibility of carrying out the ordinary publication activities envisaged by the training course which must be programmed in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 16
Tuition and administrative fees

Candidates holding a Scholarship:

Candidates enrolled in Research Doctorate Courses holding a Scholarship or any other kind of financial support – such as those enrolled in the Ph.D. Course with Industrial Doctorate, Salary Keep or High Apprenticeship programmes - must pay the tuition fees outlined in the table below:

Regional tax	140,00 €
Stamp duty	16,00 €
Insurance	12,00 €
University contribution	270,00 €
Total annual amount	438,00 €

First year fees are payable in the instalments outlined below:

I Instalment: At the time of enrolment	28,00 €	Stamp Duty - 16,00 € Insurance - 12,00 €
II Instalment: within 31/01/2024	240,00 €	Regional contribution-140,00 € University Contribution - 100,00 €
III Instalment (*): within 15/05/2024	170,00 €	University Contribution - 170,00 €

Reductions can be applied to Candidates holding a Scholarship, in case of particular income conditions (exemption from payment of the third installment). For further information, PhD Students will contact the **Ufficio Diritto allo Studio Studentesse e Studenti** through the SOS Online System.

Web site: <https://www.unife.it/it/iscriviti/tasse/post-laurea/dottorato>

PhD students without scholarship:

According to the Law no. 232/2016, candidates enrolled to a Research Doctorate course who do not benefit from a Scholarship are exempted from fees and contributions to the University.

Therefore, candidates must pay only the fixed tuition fees:

Regional tax	140,00 €
Stamp duty	16,00 €
Insurance	12,00 €
Annual total amount	168,00 €

Candidates must pay first year tuition fees following the deadlines as shown below:

I Instalment: At the time of enrolment	28,00 €	Stamp Duty - 16,00 € Insurance - 12,00 €
II Instalment: within 31/01/2024	140,00 €	Regional tax - 140,00 €

The above-mentioned amounts may be subject to variations in subsequent years. In the event of renunciation of studies, forfeiture or exclusion, the PhD student who enrolled **is not entitled, under any circumstances, to the refund** of the paid contributions.

Art. 17
Personal data treatment

Personal and sensitive data provided by candidates will be used only for administrative purposes and for possible proceedings for the management of the academic career of the winners.

Data treatment will be in compliance with the provisions of the European Regulation 2016/679 concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data, as well as the free movement of such data (GDPR).

The communication regarding the request for personal data is mandatory in order to evaluate the prerequisites for participation, or exclusion of the candidate from the selection process.

The personal data provided by the candidates may be communicated to the University of Ferrara administrative offices and to all external subjects to whom the communication is necessary for the correct fulfilment of the indicated purposes.

Pursuant to DGPR, the Data Controller is the Università degli Studi di Ferrara, located in Via Ariosto, 35, Ferrara – e-mail: rettore@unife.it, PEC: ateneo@pec.unife.it;

The appointed Data Protection Officer is Lepida S.c.p.A., located in Via della Liberazione 15 – Bologna; e-mail: dpo_team@lepida.it, PEC: segreteria@pec.lepida.it.

In order to pursue the aims mentioned in this announcement, Personal data can be transferred to the appointed Responsible of Data Treatment, within the limits of the indicated processing purposes: Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario, located in via Magnanelli 6/3 - 40033 Casalecchio di Reno (BO).

Art. 18
Reference rules

For any matters that are not covered by this announcement, the currently in force laws and regulations on the subject do apply, insofar as they are compatible.

For everything regarding the competition referred to in this announcement, the person in charge is the Responsible of the IUSS Office.

This announcement is available at the Web site of the University of Ferrara at:

<https://www.unife.it/studenti/dottorato/it/concorsi/concorso-per-titoli-e-colloquio-per-laccesso-al-39deg-ciclo>.