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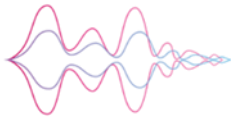
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FUTURE AI RESEARCH



Sicilian Micro
and Nano Technology
Research and Innovation Center



Anthem



agritech
National Center for
Technology in Agriculture



Centro Nazionale di Ricerca in HPC,
Big Data and Quantum Computing



CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTIVE INNOVATION FOR NEXT-GEN SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY
Extended Partnership



Fondazione
INF-ACT



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*CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN PH.D. COURSES
XXXIX CYCLE – UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA*

Having regard to:

- The Ministerial Decree n. 226 of December 14th 2021 containing the rules on the modalities of accreditation of universities and Ph.D. courses and the principles for the implementation of Ph.D. courses in the accredited universities and particularly art. 8, paragraph 2, concerning the possibility of different selection procedures with references to places reserved to graduates from foreign universities;
- the current Regulation of the University of Catania governing Ph.D. courses;
- the Ministerial Decree n. 247 of February 23rd 2022;
- the Ministerial Decree n. 118 of March 2nd 2023 concerning the funding for the academic year 2023/2024 of n. 10 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 3.4 “Digital and environmental transitions”, n. 64 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 4.1 “NRRP Research”, n. 55 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv.4.1 “Public administration”, and 9 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 4.1 “Cultural Heritage”;
- the Ministerial Decree n.117 of March 2nd 2023 concerning the granting for the academic year 2023/2024 of the amount of € 10.320.000 to finance doctoral scholarships related to NRRP M4C2 – Inv. 3.3 “Implementation of doctoral courses aimed at responding to the request for innovation of private companies and promoting the employment of researchers”, provided an equal co-funding by private companies;
- the project “Sicilian MicronanoTech Research And Innovation Center” (SAMOTHRACE) - CUP: E63C22000900006;
- the project "Research and innovation network on food and nutrition Sustainability, Safety and Security – Working ON Foods (ON FOODS)" - E63C22002060006;
- the project “One Health Basic and Translational Research Actions addressing Unmet Needs on Emerging Infectious Diseases” (INF-ACT) - CUP: E63C22002090006;
- the project “National Centre for HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing” (HPC) - E63C22001000006;
- the project “National Quantum Science and Technology Institute” (NQSTI) – CUP E63C22002180006;
- the project “National Research Centre for Agricultural Technologies” (AGRITECH) - E63C22000960006;
- the project “Research and innovation on future telecommunications system and networks, to make Italy more smart” (RESTART) – CUP E63C22002070006;
- the project “Future Artificial Intelligence Research” (FAIR) – CUP E63C22001940006;
- the project “Cultural Heritage Active Innovation for Sustainable Society” (CHANGES) – CUP E63C22001960006;
- the project “Health Extended ALLiance for Innovative Therapies, Advanced Lab-research, and Integrated Approaches of Precision Medicine” (HEAL ITALIA) – CUP E63C22002080006;
- the project “Growing Resilient Inclusive and Sustainable” (GRINS) – CUP E63C22002120006;
- the project "AdvaNced Technologies for Human-centEred Medicine” (ANTHEM) – CUP B53C22006590001;
- The decisions of the Academic Senate of April 20th 2023 and of the Board of Trustees of the University of Catania of April 21st 2023 concerning Ph.D. courses – XXXIX cycle;
- The possibility of modifications and integrations of the call, if appropriate;
- All this considered;

the following Call is issued by the Rector of the University of Catania



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Art. 1 – Selection procedures

- For the academic year 2023/2024 the University of Catania officially announces the selection procedures for places in the following Ph.D. courses of cycle XXXIX:

	Ph.D. Course	Duration
1	Agricultural, food and environmental science	3 years
2	Basic and applied biomedical sciences	3 years
3	Traslational Biomedicine	3 years
4	Biotechnologies	3 years
5	Economics, Management and Decision Making	4 years
6	Physics	3 years
7	Law	3 years
8	Computer Science	3 years
9	Systems, energy, computer and telecommunications engineering	3 years
10	Neuroscience	3 years
11	Educational processes, theoretical-transformative models and research methods applied to the territory	3 years
12	Materials science and nanotechnologies	3 years
13	Chemical sciences	3 years
14	Earth and Environmental Science	3 years
15	Science of interpretation	3 years
16	Science for Cultural Heritage and Production	3 years
17	Political Science	3 years
18	Complex systems for physical, socio-economic and life science	3 years
19	Evaluation and mitigation of urban and territorial risks	3 years

- For all the Ph.D. courses listed above course activities begin on August 1st 2023.
- The actual implementation of each Ph.D. courses listed in point 1 of this article is subject to both the Ministerial accreditation in compliance with the Ministerial Decree n. 226/2021 and the approval of the funding of the places with scholarship related to the Ministerial Decrees n. 118/2023 and n 117/2023.
- Detailed information on the scholarships, including their related research topic, is included in the annexed information sheets which constitute integral and substantial part of the Call (annexes 1 to 19).

Art. 2 Admission requirements

- Applications are open without any limitation of nationality or age to candidates who, by the deadline fixed by the present call, hold either:
 - a *Laurea (Vecchio Ordinamento)* issued by an Italian University or
 - a *Laurea specialistica /magistrale* issued by an Italian University or
 - any foreign second level/master level degree suitable for access to Ph.D. courses in the country where it was issued.



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2. The suitability of the foreign degree is assessed by the selection committee with respect to the rules in force both in Italy and in the country where the degree was issued, and according to international agreements on degrees recognition.
3. Applications are also open to candidates regularly enrolled in their final year of *Laurea Vecchio ordinamento*, *Laurea specialistica/magistrale* or foreign degree course who obtain their final degree by no later than July 31st 2023.
In case these candidates pass the selection procedure, their admission to the Ph.D. course is subject to the submission of a self-certification of degree completion (for holders of *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento* or *Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale*) or a degree certificate (for holders of a degree issued by a foreign university) at the time of the enrolment procedure.
Failure to submit the aforementioned documents within the abovementioned deadline will lead to the exclusion from the doctoral program.
4. Specific entry requirements (additional to those already provided for in this article) are reported in the information sheets (annexes 1-19) which constitute integral and substantial part of this Call.

Art. 3 – Application form

1. The application form is web based and must be completed electronically through the University of Catania online application system available at <https://studenti.smartedu.unict.it/NewAccount> according to the guidelines in paragraph 10 of the present article. The closing date for the application is **June 6th 2023, 2 pm (Italian time)**.
2. An application fee of € 30,00 as contribution to the costs for the organization of the selection procedure is required. The application fee must be paid according to the guidelines in paragraph. 10, let. g) of the present article by no later than **June 6th 2023**.
3. The application form, to be completed either in Italian or in English, must contain the following data:
 - a) candidate's name and surname, fiscal code, date and place of birth, address (including postal code), telephone number and e-mail;
 - b) candidate's nationality;
 - c) name of the Ph.D. course for which the candidate intends to apply;
 - d) name of the candidate's degree;
 - e) disability with relative percentage, if any;
 - f) declaration of commitment to immediately communicate to the e-mail address dottorati@unict.it any change of address, telephone number or e-mail address;
 - g) declaration of acknowledgment of the content of the present call.
4. The following annexes must be attached to application form:
 - a) *Curriculum vitae et studiorum /Resume*, duly dated and signed, containing the authorization to the treatment of personal data according to the regulation in force;
 - b) One of the following documents concerning admission requirements:
 - Self-certification of successful completion of the degree course, for candidates with *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento*, *Laurea specialistica* or *Laurea magistrale* issued by an Italian university, including the study plan, the transcript of records and the final grade;
 - Bachelor and Master degree certificates (including transcript of records, final grade and date of the award of the degree) and request of equivalence (according to the form included in



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- annex n.20, integral to this call), for graduates from foreign universities plus Request of suitability according to annex 20;
- Self-certification of enrolment in the final year of the degree course, including transcripts of records, for candidates enrolled in the last year of *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento*, *Laurea Specialistica* and *Laurea Magistrale* at any Italian Universities, who will complete the course and obtain the degree by no later than July 31st 2023;
 - Bachelor degree certificate plus a certificate attesting the status of student in the final year, including transcripts of records, for candidates from foreign university who will complete their Master course and obtain the degree by no later than July 31st 2023;
- c) Research project related to one of the topic reported in the Information sheet of the Ph.D. course for which the candidate intends to apply;
 - d) List of publications with relative abstracts, if any;
 - e) Documents attesting the knowledge of the foreign language reported in the information sheet of the Ph.D. course chosen by the candidate as well as further linguistic skills or computer skills, if any;
 - f) Request of application for places reserved to graduates from foreign universities, where applicable (annex 21);
 - g) Videoconference request form (annex 22);
 - h) Documents concerning the completion of further university courses, if any;
 - i) Copy of current Identity document (e.g. Passport);
5. All annexes listed in par. 4 must be uploaded in PDF format onto the online application system one by one. When the size of a document exceeds the maximum size permitted by the online system, the document must be divided into two or more parts to be uploaded separately. No other format than PDF is accepted.
 6. All annexes can be either in English or in Italian. Any annex in a language other than English or Italian must be accompanied by a legal translation in English or in Italian, under penalty of inadmissibility to evaluation.
 7. Candidates who intend to apply for two or more different Ph.D. courses must complete two or more application forms separately and pay the application fee of € 30,00 for each application.
 8. Application forms will not be considered if either incomplete or submitted with different modalities or after the deadline indicated in this article. Furthermore, application forms will not be considered if the application fee is paid after the deadline indicated in par. 2 of this article.
 9. Candidates are strongly advised to complete the application procedure well in advance of the expiration date of this call in order to avoid the clogging of the online system due to the number of applications. The University is not responsible whereas the candidate cannot complete the application procedure because of unforeseeable circumstances, force majeure or any event not imputable to the university's administration.
 10. Candidates are the sole responsible for the authenticity of the information included both in the application form and in the annexes. The university's administration is entitled to scrutinize the application forms and related annexes according to the legislation in force and exclude, in any moment and provided a proper motivation, those candidates whose applications do not comply with the requirements of this call.
 11. In order to complete the application procedure, each candidate must:
 - a) Go to <https://studenti.smartedu.unict.it> ;
 - b) Complete the registration entering his/her personal data in order to receive personal access credentials (candidates already registered with the University's online system proceed from c);
 - c) Enter his/her personal credentials in the login box in order to access to his/her personal account;



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- d) Once in his/her personal account, in the box “Enrolment” click in order “Doctorate” and “Admittance test”;
 - e) Choose the Ph.D. course for which they intend to apply;
 - f) Enter the data required by the online system and check their correctness;
 - g) Upload all the documents required in par. 4 of this article in PDF format onto the online application system;
 - h) Confirm the data clicking the apposite confirmation command;
 - i) Pay the application fee according to the procedure provided for in the online system;
 - j) Print and save a copy of the confirmation of the completion of the application procedure.
12. Candidates with disability higher than 66% who need assistance during the examination must submit formal request to the University’s Centre for the Inclusion of people with disability and DSA, Via A. di Sanguiliano 259, 95131 Catania, tel. 095/7307182-189-188, e-mail: cs.cinap@unict.it, website <http://www.cinap.unict.it/>, reporting the name of the Ph.D. course for which they have applied.
This request must be submitted by no later than **June 6th 2023, 2 pm (Italian time)**.

Art. 4 – Type of places

1. Technical specifications concerning scholarships are reported in the information sheet of the relevant Ph.D. course. By way of example but not limited to, technical specifications may concern:
 - a. specific requirements needed by the candidate in order to be eligible for a particular scholarship;
 - b. research topic connected to a specific scholarship;
 - c. specific modalities of development of the educational project connected to a particular scholarship.
2. Scholarships can be financed :
 - a. by the National Recovery and Resiliency Program (NRRP) (Ministerial Decree n.118/2023) according to the following investment lines:
 - i. M4C1, Inv. 3.4 “Digital and Environmental Transition”;
 - ii. M4C1, Inv. 4.1 “NRRP research”;
 - iii. M4C1, Inv. 4.1 “Public Administration”;
 - iv. M4C1, Inv. 4.1 “Cultural Heritage”.
 - b. by the National Recovery and Resiliency Program (NRRP) (Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023) according to the following investment line:
 - i. M4C2 – Inv. 3.3 “Implementation of doctoral courses aimed at responding to the request for innovation of private companies and promoting the employment of researchers”, provided an equal co-funding by private companies”;
 - c. by the National Recovery and Resiliency Program (NRRP) within the framework of the following projects:
 - “Sicilian MicronanoTech Research And Innovation Center” (SAMOTHRACE) - CUP: E63C22000900006;
 - "Research and innovation network on food and nutrition Sustainability, Safety and Security – Working ON Foods (ON FOODS)" - E63C22002060006;
 - “One Health Basic and Translational Research Actions addressing Unmet Needs on Emerging Infectious Diseases” (INF-ACT) - CUP: E63C22002090006;
 - “National Centre for HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing” (HPC) - E63C22001000006;
 - “National Quantum Science and Technology Institute” (NQSTI) – CUP E63C22002180006;
 - “National Research Centre for Agricultural Technologies” (AGRITECH) - E63C22000960006;



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- “Research and innovation on future telecommunications system and networks, to make Italy more smart” (RESTART) – CUP E63C22002070006;
 - “Future Artificial Intelligence Research” (FAIR) – CUP E63C22001940006;
 - “Cultural Heritage Active Innovation for Sustainable Society” (CHANGES) – CUP E63C22001960006;
 - “Health Extended ALLiance for Innovative Therapies, Advanced Lab-research, and Integrated Approaches of Precision Medicine” (HEAL ITALIA) – CUP E63C22002080006;
 - “Growing Resilient Inclusive and Sustainable” (GRINS) – CUP E63C22002120006;
 - “AdvaNced Technologies for Human-centEred Medicine” (ANTHEM) – CUP B53C22006590001;
- d. by funds from public/private institutions, highly qualified from a scientific/cultural point of view and with suitable personnel, facilities and equipment;
- e. by funds from the Regional Operational Program, where available;
- f. by funds from the Italian National Institute for Social Security, where available.;
3. Some scholarships among those listed in the previous paragraph can be assigned to candidates meeting specific requirements such as (but not limited to) age, citizenship, residency, indicator of economic situation, relationship with specific categories of people registered with the National Institute for Social Security.
4. Whenever vacant, places reserved to graduates from foreign universities (either with or without scholarship) can be assigned to successful candidates from the list concerning ordinary places.
5. For each Ph.D. course listed in art.1, paragraph 2, there is only one place without scholarship to be assigned according the raking list.

Art. 5 – Selection procedures

1. According to each Ph.D. information sheet (see art. 1), candidates’ selection can be based on one of the following procedures:
 - Evaluation of qualifications, written and oral examination;
 - Evaluation of qualifications and oral examination.
2. As for the evaluation of qualifications, the following documents will be assessed:
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum*;
 - Certificates attesting the knowledge of the foreign language reported in the information sheet of the Ph.D. course chosen by the candidate, if any;
 - Publications, if any;
 - Research project.
3. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is based on the evaluation of qualifications, written and oral examinations, the pass mark is an aggregate **80 points out of 120** with minimum 40 out of 60 points in the evaluation of qualifications, 20 out of 30 points in the written examination and 20 out of 30 points in the oral examination.

The evaluation of qualifications is worth 60 points. Candidates need to obtain a score of minimum 40 points in the evaluation of qualifications to be admitted to the written examination

The evaluation of qualifications is based on the following criteria:



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- *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* max 30 points;
- Certificates attesting the knowledge of the foreign language reported in the information sheet of the Ph.D. course chosen by the candidate, if any max 5 points;
- Publications, if any max 5 points;
- Research project max 20 points.

Regarding the *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*, the selection committee will evaluate the completion of the degree course within its legal duration, the final grade and/or the grade point average as well as any professional and/or educational experience deemed worthy of evaluation.

The written examination is worth 30 points. Candidates need to obtain a score of minimum 20 points in the written examination to be admitted to the oral examination.

The oral examination is worth 30 points. Candidates need to obtain a score of minimum 20 points to pass the oral examination.

The oral examination is based on:

- Dissertation on the research project max 10 points
- General knowledge of the themes of the candidate's degree and/or the themes related to the Ph.D. course max 20 points

4. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is based on the evaluation of qualifications and oral examination, the pass mark is an aggregate 80 points out of 120 with minimum 40 points out of 60 points in the evaluation of qualifications and 40 out of 60 points in the oral examination.

The evaluation of qualifications is worth 60 points. Candidates need to obtain a score of minimum 40 points in the evaluation of qualification to be admitted to the oral examination.

The evaluation of qualifications is based on the following criteria:

- *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* max 30 points;
- Certificates attesting the knowledge of the foreign language reported in the information sheet of the Ph.D. course chose by the candidate, if any max 5 points;
- Publications, if any max 5 points;
- Research project max 20 points

Regarding the *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*, the selection committee will evaluate the completion of the degree course in due time, the final grade and/or the grade point average as well as any professional and/or educational experience deemed worthy of evaluation.

The oral examination is worth 60 points. Candidates need to obtain a score of minimum 40 points to pass the oral examination.

The oral examination is based on:

- Dissertation on the research project max 10 points
- General knowledge of the themes of the candidate's degree and/or the themes related to the Ph.D. course max 50 points

5. The research project assessed by the selection committee in the phase of the evaluation of qualifications and provisionally discussed in the oral examination is not binding to the research subject effectively assigned to candidates admitted to any doctoral program.



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6. Written and oral examinations will be held in the dates, hours and places indicated each Ph.D. course information sheets annexed to this call. No written notice will be sent to candidates. Any variation of the date, hour or place will be posted well in advance on www.unict.it (section “*Bandi, gare e concorsi*”>”*Studenti e post laurea*”>”*Dottorati di ricerca*”). The aforementioned publication on the website, where appropriate, represents effective notification to candidates. No written notice will be sent to candidates.
7. Candidates admitted to the written and oral examinations must bring with them an identity document. This administration reserves the right to cancel the written examination, where applicable, in case it cannot be held in presence because due to force majeure. This circumstance will immediately and properly be communicated to the concerned candidates. The cancellation of the written examination, where appropriate, means that the selection procedure will be rescheduled according to paragraph 4 of this article. Considering the epidemiologic emergency, the oral examination will be held in the form of videoconference, without prejudice to the possibility to hold this examination in presence in accordance to the rules aimed at the containment of the epidemiologic emergency.
8. Candidates who are not able to reach the University of Catania can take the sole oral examination in videoconference modality provided proper communication to the President of the selection committee within 5 working days prior to the oral examination. The selection committee can decide which videoconference platform is to be used for the oral examination. Before the start of the oral examination, each candidate is required to present his/her identity document. The unavailability of the candidate on the day and hour established by the selection committee and the failure to present his/her identity document represent causes of exclusion from the selection procedure. The University of Catania declines all responsibility for any technical problem impeding the oral exam in the form of video conference interview in case this technical problem is not imputable to its administration.
9. The selection procedure must be completed by no later than July 10th 2023.

Art. 6 – Designation and tasks of the Selection Committee

1. Each Selection Committee is composed according to art. 13 of the current Regulation of the University of Catania concerning Ph.D. courses.
2. Each selection committee will first need to establish:
 - a. the criteria of evaluation and assignation of points to each document to be assessed (*curriculum vitae et studiorum*, certificates attesting the knowledge of the foreign language reported in the information sheet of the Ph.D. course chosen by the candidate, publications, and research project). In case of candidates who are not yet been awarded their second level/master level degree, selection committees will need to consider the arithmetic average or the weighted average of the candidate's scores attested by the candidate himself/herself at the moment of the application.
 - b. the criteria of organization and evaluation of the written examination, where appropriate;
 - c. the criteria of organization and evaluation of the oral examination.
3. Before the start of the evaluation of qualifications, selection committees will take care to post the minutes including the criteria listed in paragraph 2 of this article on the website of the Department offering the Ph.D. course.



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Selection committees will also take care to post the results of each step of the selection procedure on the website of Department offering the Ph.D. course according to the deadlines communicated by the Ph.D. Students Office to the members of the committee.

4. Upon completion of the selection procedure, each selection committee draws up the list of successful candidates, ranked in descending order of score. Scores being equal, the younger candidate prevails (law 16.6.1998, n. 191).
The list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee and is affixed to the Notice board of the Department where the selection takes place and posted on the same Department's website.
The publication of the results of the selection procedure falls within the exclusive competence of selection committees that are responsible for the respect of deadlines.
5. In case of places reserved to graduates from foreign universities, the selection committee draws a separate list of successful candidates ranked in descending order of score. Scores being equal, the younger candidate prevails (law 16.6.1998, n. 191).
The list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee and is affixed to the Notice board of the University's Department where the selection takes place and posted on the same Department's website.
The publication of the results of the selection procedure falls within the exclusive competence of selection committees that are responsible for the respect of deadlines.
Any reserved place remained vacant after the selection procedure can be made available for candidates in the list concerning ordinary places as in the previous paragraph 4.

Art. 7 – Lists of selected candidates

1. The list of successful candidates eligible for Ph.D. places are issued through a decree of the Rector of the University of Catania. The Rector's Decrees will be posted on www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*">"*Studenti e post laurea*">"*Formazione post laurea*">"*Dottorati di ricerca*").
2. Selected candidates for both places with and without scholarship will be summoned by the Ph.D. Academic Board in the dates reported in the Rector's Decree mentioned in the previous paragraph. On this occasion candidates may express their preference for one of the available places and agree with the Ph.D. Academic Board on the possibility to carry out their research program in the chosen place in compliance with the Regulations governing Ph.D. courses at the University of Catania, art. 9, paragraph 6, lett. C.
Candidates can participate in the meeting in videoconference form in case they are not able to participate in presence.
Failure to participate in the aforementioned meeting, whatever the modality, will be considered equivalent to expression of no interest.
Candidates will need to sign a document attesting their acceptance of the place chosen and agreed with the Ph.D. Academic Board.
Candidates who are not able to accept any of the available places at the moment of the convocation can be summoned again in case of new places that are not available at the moment of the convocation.

Art. 8 – Admission to Ph.D. courses

1. Candidates are admitted to Ph.D. programs according to the descending order on the list of selected candidates, provided official expression of interest according to the procedure described in art.7, paragraph



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- 2, until all the places available within each course are allocated. Successful candidates eligible for a place in two or more Ph.D. course are requested to choose the Ph.D. course in which they intend to enroll.
2. Candidates are excluded if they do not comply with enrolment procedures (see art. 9) within the deadline indicated in a further notice. In this case the next candidate in the list in descending order of score becomes eligible to fill the vacant place.
 3. Selected candidates on the list are admitted to a place with scholarship to the extent of the availability of places with scholarship; on completion of the allocation of the places with scholarship, incoming candidates on the list in descending order of score are admitted to a place without scholarship to the extent of the availability of the places without scholarship.
 4. Candidates admitted to Ph.D. courses are required to pay enrolment fees as stated in the following article 9.
 5. Candidates with disability corresponding to 66% are admitted to the programme in supernumerary places without scholarship, even if their position on the list is below the corresponding number of places in the Ph.D. program. Supernumerary places without scholarship reserved to candidates with disability can be up to half of the ordinary places.
 6. Candidates who have already benefited from a doctoral scholarship, even for only one year or part of it, cannot be eligible for a second doctoral scholarship. Selected candidates falling within this category can be admitted to a place without scholarship only.

Art. 9 – Enrolment procedures

1. Candidates admitted to Ph.D. courses are officially appointed in a Rector's decree posted on the university's website www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*" > "*Studenti e post laurea*" > "*Dottorati di ricerca*") by no later than **July 14th 2023**.
2. Candidates in the ranking list must submit the enrolment form and pay the enrolment fee (as in paragraph 4, letter e)) according to the procedure indicated in paragraphs 3) and 4), according to the modalities and within the deadline reported in the Rector's decree issuing the ranking list. The publication of this Rector's decree represents the only official form of information. No personal notice will be sent to selected candidates.
3. In the enrolment form the candidate shall enter:
 - a) name and surname, fiscal code, date and place of birth (including post code), telephone number and e-mail address;
 - b) disability with indication of its percentage, where appropriate;
 - c) declaration to commit himself/herself to attend the Ph.D. course full time according to the provisions of the Academic board.
4. To complete the enrolment procedure candidates must:
 - a) go to <https://studenti.smartedu.unict.it>;
 - b) log in to their account with the same credentials as those used during the application procedure;
 - c) once in their account in the box **Iscrizione** click the heading "**Dottorati**" and subsequently "**Domanda di immatricolazione**";
 - d) enter all the required details in the specific spaces and confirm them;
 - e) proceed with the payment of the enrolment fee consisting of:



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- Place with scholarship or reserved to company's employees, € 356,00 broken down into:
 1. € 200,00 tuition fees;
 2. € 140,00 regional fee for the right to study;
 3. € 16,00 virtual fiscal stamp
 - Place without scholarship, € 156,00 broken down into:
 1. € 140,00 regional fee for the right to study;
 2. € 16,00 virtual fiscal stamp.
 - Candidates with disability corresponding to 66% or more will pay the virtual fiscal stamp of € 16,00 only, whatever the type of place.
5. Within the deadline reported on the Rector's Decree approving the ranking lists, candidates admitted to places with scholarship will need to send to dottorati@unict.it the following documents:
- a) Proof of registration with the National Institute for Social Security
 - b) Copy of the Italian fiscal code;
 - c) Copy of an identity document;
 - d) Form reporting bank details for the payment of the scholarship;
 - e) Declaration of acknowledgment that doctoral scholarship are not subject to income tax and do not count for the quantification of service years in legal and economic terms.
- Graduates from foreign universities will also need to send the Comparability certificate issued by CIMEA or the Declaration of Value issued by an Italian Embassy or Consulate in case of registration either in a place with scholarship or without scholarship.
6. Candidates admitted to places with scholarship financed by the NRRP Ministerial Decrees n. 118/2023 and n. 117/2023 will also need to send a declaration attesting their commitment to carry out the project related to the assigned scholarship whose features are:
- a) NRRP Ministerial Decree n. 118/2023, M4C1, Inv. 3.4 "Digital and Environmental Transition":
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximums 12 months to be carried out at a company or research center;
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at a foreign institution.
 - b) NRRP Ministerial Decree n. 118/2023, M4C1, Inv. 4.1 "NRRP Research":
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at company or research center.
 - c) NRRP Ministerial Decree n. 118/2023, M4C1, Inv. 4.1 "Public Administration":
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at company/research center/public administration;
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at a foreign institution.
 - d) NRRP Ministerial Decree n. 118/2023, M4C1, Inv. 4.1 "Cultural Heritage"
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at research center/cultural institution;
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at foreign institution.
 - e) NRRP Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023, M4C2, Inv. 3.3 "Implementation of doctoral courses aimed at responding to the request for innovation of private companies and promoting the employment of researchers", provided an equal co-funding by private companies":



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- Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 18 months to be carried out at private company;
 - Research period of minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months to be carried out at a foreign institution.
7. Candidates admitted to places with scholarship within NRRP projects (such as but not limited to SAMOTHRACE, INF-ACT, ONFOODS) will also need to submit an acceptance letter according to a format provided by the administration of the University of Catania.
 8. Enrolment forms submitted with different modalities or after the deadlines indicated in the Rector's Decree mentioned in paragraph 1 will not be considered. Likewise, enrolment forms that are not finalised by the payment of the enrolment fee will not be considered. The University of Catania is not responsible for any delays due to a third party, accident or force majeure.
 9. Candidates' failure to comply with the aforementioned provisions is considered equivalent to formal renunciation to the place in the Ph.D. course. Vacant places can be made available for other candidates on the ranking according to the descending order and until all vacant places are allocated. These candidates will be informed on enrolment procedures and deadline by means of an email sent to the email address indicated in the application form.
 10. The renunciation to a place in a Ph.D. program does not give the right to a refund of the enrolment fee even when the candidate has not attended any course activities.
 11. In order to allow a rapid allocation of the places to the candidates in the ranking list, selected candidates who intend to renounce to a Ph.D. place are requested to send immediate written notice to dottorati@unict.it. A copy of the identity card in PDF format must be attached to the notice of renunciation.
 12. Any variation of the enrolment procedure shall be duly communicated to the selected candidates in the same Rector's Decree reported in paragraph 2 of this article.
 13. By no later than August 31st of each year Ph.D. students must enroll in the following year. The enrolment is subject to the decision of the academic board according to art. 15, par. 7 of the Regulation of the University of Catania governing Ph.D. courses. Failure to renew the enrolment leads to the exclusion from the Ph.D. course.

Art. 10 - Scholarship

1. The scholarships, whose maximum duration corresponds to the duration of the Ph.D. course, are assigned to candidates in the ranking list, provided a comparative evaluation in terms of merit and according to the order of the list, and are confirmed with the candidate's admission the following year of the Ph.D. course.
2. Each scholarship amounts to € 16.243,00 per year, before social deductions charged on the scholarship holder. This amount is adjusted according to increases established by the law.
3. The amount of the scholarship is increased up to 50% in correspondence and proportionally to research periods at foreign institutions, both public and private, provided these research periods are authorized by the related Ph.D. Academic Board.
Research periods at foreign institutions for which the 50% increase is provided are established based on the doctoral student's research plan and/or the program funding his/her research.



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The duration of these research periods at foreign institution cannot exceed 12 months. Within the maximum limit of 12 months, the months of a research period at a foreign institution do not have to be consecutive.

In case the doctoral student's research plan is arranged as a joint supervision scheme, the period at a foreign institution corresponding to the 50% increase of the scholarship is extended to 18 months. This 18-month research period is to be carried out at the foreign institution signing the joint supervision agreement. Within the maximum limit of 18 months, the months of a research period under a joint supervision scheme do not have to be consecutive.

4. In case of scholarships financed by public or private institutions, research periods abroad will need to be agreed with the funding institution. Based on the conditions included in specific agreements, the scholarship 50% increase can be replaced by the commitment of the funding institution to cover the expenses incurred by the doctoral student during his/her research period abroad.
5. Each doctoral student is granted a research budget from the first year of Ph.D. course corresponding to 10% of the gross amount of the scholarship.
As a first approximation, this research budget amounts to **€ 2.003,70**. This budget can be used by the doctoral student to cover any costs concerning his/her research in Italy and abroad.
This budget is transferred every year to the Department offering the Ph.D. course indicated in the information sheet. To access and use this budget, each doctoral student will need to refer to the financial division of the Department offering the Ph.D. course.
6. The payment of the scholarship is conditioned to the effective attendance to course activities and to the effective development of the research project assigned by the Academic Board.
7. The provisions concerning tax benefit included in art. 4, Law 476/1984 apply to doctoral scholarships.
8. Scholarships cannot be cumulated with other financial contributions unless these latter are granted by national or international institutions and aimed to research work abroad.
To benefit from the contributions in the above paragraph additional conditions might be required which are expressly indicated in the call advertising these specific grants.
9. As a general rule, the payment of the scholarship consists in a two-month salary for the first two months and in monthly salaries for the remaining months. Either way, payments are deferred to the month following the month of reference. Payment modalities are detailed in the Rector's Decrees approving the allocation of scholarships.
10. All the scholarships financed by external institutions, with the exception of those scholarships financed by institutions supervised by the Italian Ministry for the University and Research, will be paid to the relative beneficiaries provided the actual transfer of the sums to the University of Catania.
The University is not responsible for any delay in the payment of these scholarships in case this delay is due to circumstances imputable to the funding institution.
11. Candidates from extra-EU countries, who need a visa to come to Italy, will begin and carry out their research activity remotely until the issuance of their visa and their arrival at the Department offering the Ph.D. course. The payments of their scholarship will begin after their arrival at the Department offering the Ph.D. course and their submission of the documents listed in art. 9, paragraph 5. The first payment will include of the monthly salaries from the beginning of the doctoral course to the month immediately preceding the payment.



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12. Doctoral students enrolled in a place with scholarship will need to complete their course in the same place. The renunciation to the scholarship before the end of the Ph.D. course will lead to the interruption of the same Ph.D. course.
13. In case of Ph.D. scholarship financed by NRRP Ministerial Decrees n. 117/2023 or Ministerial Decree 118/2023 is declared inadmissible to funding by the ministerial office in charge of the verification of admissibility requirements, the candidate enrolled in this type of place will be excluded from the Ph.D. program. He/she will have the right to be refunded of € 200,00 corresponding to tuition fees; he/she will also have the right to be refunded of € 140,00 corresponding to the regional fee for the right to study, provided proper request to the Regional Institute for the Right to Study.
14. Doctoral students enrolled in places with scholarship financed by NRRP Ministerial Decrees n. 117/2023 and Ministerial Decree n. 118/2023 will have to return the scholarship salaries in case they:
 - a) are not admitted by the relevant Ph.D. Academic Board to any year following the first;
 - b) are not admitted by the relevant Ph.D. Academic Board to the final examination;
 - c) renounce to the scholarship and the Ph.D. course on a voluntary basis.
 The salaries to be returned concern the academic year which is not completed for one of the abovementioned reasons.
15. Doctoral students enrolled in places without scholarship are entitled to the benefit of the scholarship 50% increase according to the provisos include in paragraph 3 and to the 10% research budget according to the provisos included in paragraph 5.
16. This article applies to those candidates who, after the selection procedures, are in the ranking lists and consequently eligible for the admission to a place with or without scholarship reported in the relevant Ph.D. information sheet.
17. This article does not apply to doctoral students of the Ph.D. course in Agricultural, food and environmental science enrolled in the places financed by the University of Viçosa (Brazil) and reserved to graduate from the same institution. These specific scholarship will consequently governed by the relevant legislation in force at the University of Viçosa (Brazil).
18. This article does not apply to doctoral students enrolled in places reserved to companies' employees.

Art. 11 – Rights and duties of Ph.D. Students

1. With reference to further rights and duties of Ph.D. students, candidates are required to refer to articles 15, 16, 16-bis, 17 and 18 of the Regulation of the University of Catania for Ph.D. courses.

Art. 12 –Treatment of personal data

1. With regard to the information about the treatment of the candidates' personal data, according to articles 12, 13 and 14 of the EU regulations on the treatment of personal data 2016/679 (GDPR) and article 13 of the legislative decree n. 196/2003 – candidates shall refer to the following lin:
https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/files/Informativa%20studenti_aprile%202021-DEF.pdf.



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Art. 13 – Officers in charge of procedure


1. According to art.5, subparagraph 1, of Law 241/90, the official in charge of the procedure is:
 - the chairperson of the selection committee with reference to the selection procedure, from the appointment of the committee members to the publication of the selection results;
 - Ms Maria Antonietta Rumore, with reference to the procedures connected to the present call;
 - Mr Salvatore Libertini, with reference to the procedures connected to foreign candidates.

Art. 14 – Final measures

1. This call can be integrated in case the number of places with scholarships increases due to further funds made available by no later than July 15th 2023.
2. Any aspect related to Ph.D. course and not expressly covered in the present call is governed by Ministerial Decree 226/2021, the Ph.D. regulations in force at the University of Catania, International cooperation agreements, other legislation in force governing Ph.D. courses and the legislation in force.
3. For any information and/or explanations it is possible to contact the Ph.D. Students Office at the following contact details: dottorati@unict.it;

CATANIA, 05/05/2023

THE RECTOR
(Prof. Francesco Priolo)

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