FAQ – Call for Applications: PhD Programme, XLII Cycle (Academic Year 2026/2027)

1. **Q: Where can I find the list of PhD courses offered and detailed information on each?**
   A: The list of the 30 available PhD courses is set forth in Art. 1 of the Call for Applications. Detailed information for each course—including the Department serving as the administrative seat, the number of positions (with/without scholarship), potential higher education apprenticeship contracts, positions reserved for candidates with foreign qualifications or employees of affiliated enterprises, any specific curricula, admission examination methods and schedules, and further requirements—is specified in the attached Fact Sheets 1 to 30, which form an integral part of this Call.

2. **Q: Are there any age or citizenship limitations to participate in the selection process?**
   A: There are no age or citizenship limitations for submitting an application, without prejudice to the age limit of 29 years for candidates applying for positions under a higher education apprenticeship contract.

3. **Q: Which academic qualifications are required for admission?**
   A: Applications are open to candidates holding a Degree diploma (under the old Italian university system), a Specialist/Master's degree (Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale), a second-level academic qualification issued by AFAM (Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance) institutions, or an equivalent academic qualification obtained from a foreign University.

4. **Q: I am a candidate with a qualification obtained abroad. How is the eligibility of my degree determined?**
   A: If your academic qualification awarded by a foreign University has not already been declared equivalent to an Italian degree, you must request an eligibility assessment solely for the purpose of admission to the specific PhD course you intend to apply for. The Selection Committee will evaluate the eligibility of the foreign qualification based on the documentation attached to the application.

5. **Q: What documents must I attach if I hold a degree obtained abroad?**
   A: You must attach a self-certification (for Italian and EU citizens) or a certificate (for non-EU citizens) of the academic degree, including a transcript of records, grades obtained, and the official legal duration of the course. For non-EU citizens, an Italian or English translation must be provided. Note: In the event of admission, within 60 days of enrollment, you must submit the translated and legalized curricular qualifications, the transcript of records, and

either the Declaration of Value issued by the local Italian diplomatic authority or the Statement of Comparability of the foreign university degree issued by CIMEA.

6. **Q: Can I apply if I have not yet obtained my Master's degree?**
   A: Yes, you may submit an application provided that you obtain the qualifying degree no later than **September 30, 2026**, under penalty of forfeiture of admission. You must transmit the self-certification (or certification for foreign degrees) confirming the attainment of the qualification by the aforementioned date via PEC (Certified Email) and standard email, specifying the name of the University, the graduation date, the type of degree, and the final grade.

7. **Q: What is the deadline for submitting the application and how must it be sent?**
   A: The application must be submitted exclusively via the online procedure available at https://pica.cineca.it/uniba/dottorati41 no later than **July 9, 2026, at 12:00 PM** (Italian time, CET), under penalty of exclusion from the selection process.

8. **Q: What is the application fee for the selection process?**
   A: The application fee is €40.00 for candidates residing in Italy and EU countries, and €20.00 for candidates residing in non-EU countries. This fee is non-refundable.

9. **Q: Can I apply for multiple PhD courses?**
   A: Yes. If you wish to participate in multiple selection procedures, you must submit a separate application and execute the respective payment for each chosen course.

10. **Q: What documents must I attach to the admission application?**
    In addition to the documents required by the chosen course sheet, you must attach in PDF format the documents required by Art. 3 of the call for applications..

11. **Q: Is a research project always required? What are its technical requirements?**
    A: A research project is required only where specified in the Fact Sheet of the chosen course. The maximum length allowed is 3,500 words (unless otherwise indicated in the specific course sheet) and must include the scientific background, bibliography, objective, methodology, and expected results of the research. For targeted/restricted topic positions, the title of the project must strictly correspond to the chosen research theme.

12. **Q: I am a candidate with a disability. Are there any accommodations provided for taking the examinations?**

A: Yes. Candidates with sensory or motor disabilities (Law 104/1992), with a civil disability rating equal to or greater than 66% (Law 68/1999), or with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD/DSA) (Law 170/2010) may request necessary auxiliary aids and/or additional time. The request, accompanied by appropriate medical certification, must be received no later than **July 9, 2026, at 12:00 PM CET**.

13. Q: How is the final graduation grade evaluated in the selection procedure?

A: A maximum score of 10 points is allocated to the graduation grade based on a specific scale (e.g., a grade of 101/104 corresponds to 4 points; 110 cum laude corresponds to 10 points). For graduating students, the grade will be calculated based on the weighted average of the marks of all examinations taken by the deadline of the Call.

14. Q: What are the evaluation criteria for qualifications?

A: Qualifications relevant to the disciplines of the PhD course will be evaluated, up to a maximum cumulative score of 30 points. The categories of qualifications and their maximum allocable scores are detailed as follows:

- **Graduation Grade**: Up to 10 points (110 cum laude= 10 points). For graduating students, this is calculated on the weighted average.
- **Curriculum Vitae et studiorum up to a maximum of 20 points of which:**
    I. for the university career (I and II level) up to a **maximum of 10 points;**
    II. for diplomas/certificates of knowledge of foreign languages and participation in post-graduate university courses related to the topics covered by the doctoral course for which the candidate is competing: first or second level university master's degree, post-graduate specialization courses, specialization diplomas up to a **maximum of 4 points;**
    III. for documented research activities at qualified Italian and foreign institutes related to the topics covered by the doctoral course for which the candidate is competing up to a **maximum of 2 points;**
    IV. other awards related to the topics covered by the doctoral course for which the candidate is competing, (e.g.: academic mention, awards in competitions, second degree) and/or scientific publications, conference proceedings, contributions in volumes, awards, presentations at conferences, internships, internships, disciplinary tutoring, scholarships, grants, safety certificates, etc. up to a **maximum of 4 points.**

The evaluation of qualifications takes place after the written examination (Mode A) or prior to the evaluation of research projects (Mode B).

15. Q: What are the different examination methods and their respective score allocations?

A: The admission examination may consist of one of the following modalities:
Written examination and oral examination (Mode A): Qualifications (max 30), Written exam (max 30), Oral exam (max 40).
Evaluation of the research project and oral examination (Mode B): Qualifications (max 30), Research project (max 30), Oral exam (max 40).
Oral examination only (Mode C): Qualifications (max 30), Oral exam (max 70).
The assessment of English language proficiency (or another foreign language) is integrated into the oral examination. The specific examination modality is designated within each course Fact Sheet.

16. Q: What is the minimum score required to pass the examinations?

A: For Modes A and B, the minimum score required in the written examination or the project evaluation is 20/30 to be admitted to the oral examination. For the oral examination, the minimum passing score is 27/40 (for Modes A and B) or 47/70 (for Mode C). For positions reserved for graduates from foreign Universities, candidates who obtain an overall cumulative score below 60/100 will be deemed non-eligible.

17. Q: Can foreign candidates take the examination in English?

A: Yes, foreign candidates may elect to conduct the admission examinations (both written and oral) in English or in one of the other foreign languages specified in the respective PhD course Fact Sheet.

18. Q: Is it possible to take the admission examinations remotely?

A: Only if this option is explicitly indicated in the specific PhD course Fact Sheet. Candidates may request this option within their application on the PICA platform, providing a justified rationale. The examinations will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or another digital platform utilizing shared audio-video modes and identity verification via webcam.

19. Q: Can I apply for the same PhD course under two different scholarships or for multiple curricula?

A: Each candidate may select only one position within their application and submit the corresponding research project (if required). This implies that if a PhD course includes scholarships linked to specific restricted topics or distinct curricula, the candidate must choose to compete for only one of them within a single application. For certain courses, however, selecting a specific curriculum is not required, as positions are allocated based on a general merit ranking and the alignment of the candidate's profile with the restricted topics.

20. Q: How is the final merit ranking compiled?

A: The merit ranking is compiled based on the cumulative sum of the scores obtained by the candidate in the individual examinations and the evaluation of qualifications. In the event of an ex-aequo (equal score) for positions with a scholarship, the candidate's economic situation (specifically the ISEE Dottorato certification) shall prevail. For positions without a scholarship, the youngest candidate by birth date shall prevail. The rankings will be officially published on the online statutory notice board (Albo online) and on the University's website.

21. Q: What is the annual amount of the PhD scholarship?

A: The annual gross amount of the scholarship is €16,243.00, subject to the statutory INPS separate social security contribution.

22. Q: Are there personal income limits for scholarship beneficiaries?

A: Yes, the total gross annual personal income limit is set at €16,000.00. Exceeding this limit involves the loss of the right to the scholarship for the year in which it occurs and the obligation to return the monthly payments already received as well as the payment of contributions.

23. Q: Can the PhD scholarship be combined with other funding or grants?

A: The scholarship cannot be combined with any other scholarship or form of financial subsidy, except for those explicitly granted to supplement training and research activities through periods spent abroad.

24. Q: Does the scholarship amount increase for periods spent abroad?

A: Yes, the scholarship amount is increased by 50% for any periods of research conducted abroad, up to a maximum duration of 6 months.

25. Q: Who is exempt from paying the annual tuition contribution and the regional student tax?

A: PhD students enrolled in positions both with and without a scholarship are exempted from paying the annual tuition contribution. PhD students who are beneficiaries of ADISU grants, as well as students designated as eligible but non-beneficiaries due to a lack of resources, are also exempted from the contribution. Students with a certified disability rating equal to or greater than 66% are completely exempted from all taxes and contributions, including the regional tax. All other enrolled students are required to pay the regional tax for the right to university education.

26. Q: What are high-level training apprenticeship contracts?

A: High-level training apprenticeship contracts enable a candidate to pursue a PhD programme while simultaneously being employed by a company under an apprenticeship

contract. These positions are reserved for candidates aged between 18 and 29 years at the time of recruitment by the company, and who hold Italian citizenship, citizenship of another EU country, or non-EU citizenship paired with a valid residence permit in Italy. Interested candidates must declare their interest in a "position with an apprenticeship contract" by ticking the appropriate box on the PICA platform.

27. **Q: Are there positions reserved for employees of affiliated companies or entities?**
    A: Yes. Specifically for Industrial PhD programmes, a quota of the available positions is reserved for employees of affiliated companies or entities engaged in highly qualified activities, subject to passing the selection procedure. These positions do not carry a scholarship. Interested candidates must declare this preference in their application by ticking the designated box on the PICA platform.

28. **Q: I am a public sector employee. What provisions apply to me if I am admitted to the PhD programme?**
    A: A public employee admitted to a PhD programme may be placed on extraordinary leave for study purposes without pay and may receive the PhD scholarship if the relevant conditions are met. If admitted without a scholarship or in the event of a waiver thereof, the employee retains their standard salary, social security, and pension treatment from their employer.

29. **Q: What are the exact regulations governing public employees accessing a PhD?**
    A: A public employee admitted to PhD courses is placed on extraordinary leave for study purposes without pay for the duration of the course upon request, subject to the operational requirements of their employing Administration, and shall receive the scholarship where the prescribed conditions are met. In case of admission without a scholarship or waiver thereof, the employee on leave retains their current economic, social security, and retirement benefits. Exclusions: Public employees who have already obtained a PhD title, or who have already been enrolled in a PhD course for at least one academic year while benefiting from extraordinary leave, are not entitled to further extraordinary leave.

30. **Q: Is it possible to be admitted as a supernumerary student? If so, does it grant a right to a scholarship?**
    A: Yes. If a candidate is deemed eligible but non-winner in the relevant selection process, they may be admitted as a supernumerary student. This is subject to approval by the Academic Board of the course and the Department Board of the administrative seat, for the allocation of the required research budget in Italy and abroad (set at 10% and 50% respectively, or 20% and 50% for PhD programmes of National Interest). Supernumerary students will not receive a scholarship. Eligible categories include research fellows in the same scientific-disciplinary field, non-EU citizens, and public employees.

31. **Q: If a public employee is admitted as a supernumerary student, what financial resources are available to them?**
    A: In addition to maintaining their regular salary from their employing entity, the candidate will be entitled to a research budget equivalent to 10% (or 20% in the case of PhD programmes of National Interest) of the standard scholarship amount for research activities in Italy, and 50% for research activities conducted abroad.

32. **Q: Can I concurrently attend a PhD course and a Medical Specialization School?**
    A: Yes, joint attendance is permitted under specific conditions: the compatibility of the activities and commitment must be certified by the respective Boards, and the PhD scholarship is strictly incompatible with the salary/emoluments derived from the Medical Specialization School. In the case of joint attendance, the minimum duration of the PhD programme shall not be less than two years. Furthermore, the candidate must have achieved the status of "winner" in the selection process for the chosen PhD course.

33. **Q: The course sheets mention a mandatory 6-month period abroad. Is it strictly compulsory and can I choose the host institution myself?**
    A: A period of research abroad is ordinarily envisaged in accordance with current regulations. The scholarship provides that the winning candidate may spend a maximum of 6 months abroad, during which they will receive a 50% increase in their scholarship for the months spent in the host country. Unless explicitly specified within the course Fact Sheet, the choice of host institution is not predetermined and will be agreed upon subsequently between the student, their tutor, and the PhD Coordinator.

34. **Q: The course sheets for certain scholarships indicate a mandatory period to be spent at a company/entity. Is it compulsory and can I choose where to perform it?**
    A: Where the name of the company/entity co-funding the scholarship is explicitly indicated, the winning candidate is strictly required to carry out a period of study and research at that specific venue for the designated duration (up to a maximum of 18 months). Consequently, the candidate cannot choose alternative companies, enterprises, or entities for this mandatory research period.

35. **Q: How do winning candidates complete their enrollment?**
    A: Winning candidates must enroll within the specific deadlines that will be announced concurrently with the publication of the merit rankings. Failure to enroll within the prescribed deadlines will be deemed an official waiver of the position. The application form and all required attachments must be uploaded onto the Esse3 online platform.

36. **Q: What are the main obligations of PhD students?**

A: Enrolled students are required to attend courses and continuously carry out study and research activities on an exclusive and full-time basis, amounting to 1,500 hours per year.

37. Q: Are PhD students permitted to carry out external paid activities?

A: The Academic Board may authorize, upon a reasoned request, the execution of external paid activities, provided they verify their compatibility with the successful completion of the educational and research training. For scholarship holders, such paid activities must be inherently consistent with their PhD educational pathway.

38. Q: How is the annual progress of a PhD student evaluated? What happens in the event of a negative evaluation?

A: PhD students must submit an annual written report on the activities carried out and the results achieved to the Academic Board. A positive evaluation results in promotion to the subsequent year or admission to the final thesis defense. In the event of a negative evaluation, unexcused absences, or misconduct incompatible with the programme, the student may be temporarily suspended or officially excluded from the course, resulting in the partial or total forfeiture of the scholarship.

39. Q: Can attendance in the PhD course be suspended?

A: Yes. Upon formal resolution by the Academic Board, attendance may be suspended for up to a maximum of one year for maternity leave, compulsory military or civil service, or grave and documented illness. The right to the scholarship is maintained, although its disbursement will be suspended and subsequently recovered upon the resumption of official attendance.

40. Q: How are intellectual property rights and confidentiality obligations managed?

A: Intellectual property rights are governed in accordance with current statutory legislation and University regulations, subject to any specific agreements to the contrary (e.g., apprenticeship contracts). The PhD student is required to sign a confidentiality agreement. The right to publish research results is guaranteed, provided it complies with the aforementioned confidentiality commitments.