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Finanziato dall'Unione europea
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI CATANIA
Protocollo Generale

16/05/2024

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Finanziato dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN PH.D. COURSES
XL 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. 629 of April 24 2024 concerning the funding for the academic year 2024/2025 of n. 1 scholarship related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 3.4 "Digital and environmental transitions", n. 2 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 4.1 "NRRP Research", n. 11 scholarships related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv.4.1 "Public administration", and 1 scholarship related to NRRP M4C1 – Inv. 4.1 "Cultural Heritage";
- the Ministerial Decree n.630 of April 24 2024 concerning the granting for the academic year 2024/2025 of the amount of € 3.960.000,00 to fund 66 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 Communication of the Ministry of the University and Research n. 8614 of May 2 2024 concerning, the modalities of accreditation of the Ph.D. courses of the 40th cycle (XL cycle);
- 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)" - CUP 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) – CUP E63C22001000006;
- the project "National Quantum Science and Technology Institute" (NQSTI) – CUP E63C22002180006;
- 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 May 9 2024 and of the Board of Trustees of the University of Catania of May 9 2024;
- 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

Art. 1 –Selection procedures

1. For the academic year 2024/2025 the University of Catania officially announces the selection procedures for places in the following Ph.D. courses of cycle XL:

	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, theorical-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

2. For all the Ph.D. courses listed above course activities begin on October 1st 2024. Couse activities begin on December 1st 2024 for candidates admitted to Ph.D. courses because of the renunciation to the doctoral course of first ranked candidates.

3. The actual implementation of each Ph.D. courses listed in point 1 of this article is bound by both the positive assessment of the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institures, 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. 629/2024 and n 630/2024.

4. 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

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

2. The suitability of the foreign degree is assessed by the selection committee related to the Ph.D. course the candidate has applied for, 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 for further education.

3. Candidates holding a degree suitable for access to Ph.D. course in a non-EU country will need to submit – the moment they register as Ph.D. students – either the Declaration of Value issued by the Italian embassy in their home country or the Certificate of Comparability issued by CIMEA – Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Centre (https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-procedure-riconoscimento-titoli).
Failure to submit either the Declaration of Value or the Certificate of Comparability at the moment of the registration will lead to the candidate's exclusion from the Ph.D. course

4. Applications are also open to candidates regularly enrolled in their final year of either *Laurea Vecchio ordinamento, or Laurea specialistica/magistrale* or foreign degree course who obtain their final degree by no later than the registration deadline (**September 30th 2024**).
In case these candidates pass the selection procedure, their admission to the Ph.D. course is bound by the submission by no later than ….
   - 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).

Failure to submit any of the aforementioned documents within the abovementioned deadline will lead to the exclusion from the doctoral program.

5. 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/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f according to the guidelines included in paragraph 10 of the present article. The closing date for the application is **June 28th 2024, 12 pm (noon) (Italian time, GMT+1).**

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 by no later than **June 28th 2024.**

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 (only wet-ink or digital signatures are considered valid);
b) A document attesting any of the entry requirements listed in article 2, paragraph 1, according to one of the following cases:
   - **Candidates with either a *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento* or a *Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale* issued by an Italian university:**
     Self-certification attesting the award of the degree including the study plan, the transcript of records and the final grade;
   - **Candidates with a second level/master level degree issued by a non-EU university:**
     Certificates attesting the award of the degree suitable for access to a Ph.D. course in the country where it is issued. The certificate must include the transcript of records, the final grade and the date of the award of the degree. If candidates belonging to this category already hold their Declaration of Value (issued by the Italian embassy in their home country) or the Certificate of Comparability (issued by the CIMEA), they can submit any of these documents at the moment of the application;
   - **Candidates with a second level/master level degree issued by a EU university:**
     Certificate attesting the award of the second level/master level degree including the study plan, the transcript of records and the final grade;
   - **Candidates enrolled in courses such as *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento* or *Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale* offered by Italian universities who do not hold the degree at the moment of the application:**
     Self-certification of enrolment in the final year of the degree course, including transcripts of records;
   - **Candidates enrolled in second level/master level courses offered by foreign universities who do not hold the degree at the moment of the application:**
     Certification of enrolment in the final year of the degree course, including transcripts of records;
c) research project related to one of the topics reported in the Information sheet;
d) list of publications with indication of DOI, ISBN/ISSN, if any;
e) certificates attesting the knowledge of foreign languages or computer skills, if any;
f) certificates attesting the completion of further degree courses and the relative degree award.
g) Copy of a valid Identity document according to art. 35 of the Presidential Decree n. 445/2000;

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 file exceeds the maximum size permitted by the online system, all files can be merged into one unique file and upload this latter onto the online system.

6. All annexes listed in par. 4 can be either in Italian, or in English or in French. Any annex in a language other than Italian, English or French must be accompanied by a legal translation in Italian, or in English or in French, 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 in both the application form and the annexes. The university's administration reserves the right 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/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f;
    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;
    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 appropriate 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 Sangiuliano 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 28th 2024, 12 pm (noon) (Italian time,GMT+1).**

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.629/2024) 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. 630/2024) 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)" – CUP 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;
   - "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 ESF (European Social Fund) 2021-2027, 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, The places reserved to graduates from foreign universities (either with or without scholarship) indicated in the information sheet, 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 to the ranking 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 foreign languages, 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 maximum score consists of 120 points.

The evaluation of qualifications is worth 60 points according to the following distribution:

a. *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* (max 30 points). With reference to the Curriculum vitae et studiorum the selection committee will assess:
   1) the completion of the degree course within its legal duration;
   2) the final grade or the weighed average mark;
   3) all study and work experience that are deemed worthy of evaluation.
b. Certificates attesting the knowledge of foreign languages, if any (max 5 points)
c. Publications, if any (max 5 points)
d. Research project(max 20 points)

The written examination is worth 30 points. The assessment of the written examination is based on relevance of the outline, adequate development of the topic, structure of the paper, correctness in terms of syntactic-grammatical terminology and clarity of exposition.

The oral examination is worth 30 points according to the following distribution:

1) Dissertation on the research project submitted by the candidate (max 10 points)
2) General knowledge of the themes of the candidate's degree and/or the themes related to the Ph.D. course (max 20 points)

Candidates pass the selection if they obtain a minimum aggregate score of 80 points out of 120 with at least 40 points out of 60 in the evaluation of qualifications, 20 points out of 30 in the written examination and 20 points out of 30 in the oral examination.

4. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is based on **the evaluation of qualifications and oral examinations**, the maximum score consists of 120 points.
The evaluation of qualifications is worth 60 points according to the following distribution:

a. *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* (max 30 points). With reference to the Curriculum vitae et studiorum the selection committee will assess:
   1) the completion of the degree course within its legal duration;
   2) the final grade or the weighed average mark;
   3) all study and work experience that are deemed worthy of evaluation.
b. Certificates attesting the knowledge of foreign languages, if any (max 5 points)
c. Publications, if any (max 5 points)
d. Research project(max 20 points)

The oral examination is worth 60 points according to the following distribution:

1) Dissertation on the research project submitted by the candidate (max 10 points)
2) General knowledge of the themes of the candidate's degree and/or the themes related to the Ph.D. course (max 50 points)

Candidates pass the selection if they obtain a minimum aggregate score of 80 points out of 120 with at least 40 points out of 60 in the evaluation of qualifications and 40 points out of 60 in the oral examination.

5. The research project assessed by the selection committee in the phase of the evaluation of qualifications and discussed in the oral examination is binding to the research subject effectively assigned to candidates admitted to any doctoral program.

6. Written and oral examinations will be held in the dates, hours and places indicated in each Ph.D. course information sheets annexed to this call (see art. 1). No written notice will be sent to candidates.
Any variation of the date, hour or place will be posted 15 days in advance on www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*">"*Studenti e post laurea*">"*Dottorati di ricerca*"). This publication on the website represents effective notification to candidates.

7. Candidates admitted to the written and oral examinations must be identified through a valid identity document.
This administration reserves the right to cancel the written examination for the concerned Ph.D. courses in case it cannot be held in presence due to force majeure. Such variation will promptly be communicated to the concerned candidates. If the written examination is cancelled, the selection procedure will be rescheduled according to paragraph 4 of this article.

8. Candidates whose residence is not in Sicily and 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 pass the identification procedure by showing his/her valid identity document.
If the candidate is unailavable on the established day and hour of the oral examination or is not in possession of his/her valid identiy document, he/she will be excluded from the selection procedure.
The University of Catania is not responsible for any technical problem impeding the oral examination 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 September 6th 2024.

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 within the score limit fixed in article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of this call for applications. In case of candidates who are not yet been awarded a degree suitable for access in a Ph.D. course, selection committees, in order to evaluate the candidate's leaning path appropriately, will need to consider the candidate's arithmetic average mark (Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento) or the weighted average mark (Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale) attested by the candidate himself/herself at the moment of the application.
   b. In case the candidate holds two degrees suitable for access to Ph.D. courses awarded in two different academic years, the degree corresponding to the higher grade will be considered in correspondence to the voices "completion of the degree course within its legal duration" and "finale grade" while the degree corresponding to the lower grade will be considered in correspondence to the voice "study

and work experience that are deemed worthy of evaluation" according to article 5, paragraph 3, letter a) and paragraph 4, letter a), of this call for applications;

c. the criteria of organization and evaluation of the written examination, where applicable, within the score limit fixed in article 5, paragraph 3, of this call for applications;
d. the criteria of organization and evaluation of the oral examination, within the score limit fixed in article 5, paragraphs 3 and 4, of this call for applications.

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.
Selection committees will also take care to post the results of each phase 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 will draw 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). Score and date of birth being equal, the candidate who first submitted the application form will prevail.
The ranking list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee. On the same day, the ranking list will be affixed to the Notice board of the Department where the selection takes place and posted on the website of the concerned Department.
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). Score and date of birth being equal, the candidate who first submitted the application form will prevail.
The ranking list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee. On the same, the ranking list is affixed to the Notice board of the University's Department where the selection takes place and posted on the website of the concerned Department.
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(s) remained vacant after the selection procedure can be made available for candidates in the ranking list concerning ordinary places mentioned in the previous paragraph 4.

Art. 7 – Lists of selected candidates

1. The list of successful candidates eligible for Ph.D. places will be 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*") within **September 16th 2024**.

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 for the assignation of their place in the program 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.
If a candidate is not able to accept any of the available places at the moment of the convocation, he/she 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 ranking list of selected candidates, provided official expression of interest according to the procedure described in art.7, paragraph 2, until all the places available within each course are allocated. If a candidate is eligible for a place in two or more Ph.D. courses, he/she will have to choose the Ph.D. course in which he/she intends to enroll.

2. Candidates are excluded if they, within the deadline indicated in a further notice, do not submit the documents listed in art. 9. In such case, an incoming candidate in the ranking list in descending order of score becomes eligible to fill the vacant place.

3. First ranked candidates on the ranking 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 ranking 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 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*") within **September 16 2024**.

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) and within the deadline reported in the Rector's decree mentioned in the previous paragraph. No personal notice will be sent to selected candidates. the publication of the aforementioned Rector's decree representing the only official form of information

3. In the enrolment form the candidate shall enter:
   a) name and surname, fiscal code, date and place of birth, address (including post code), telephone number and e-mail address;

b) disability with indication of its percentage, where applicable;
c) declaration to commit himself/herself to attend the Ph.D. course full time according to the provisions of the Academic board as stated in the Regulation governing Ph.D. courses currently in force at the University of Catania.

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 then "**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:
      - Place with scholarship, € 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, whether in ordinary or supranumerary places
        1. € 16,00 only, virtual fiscal stamp.

5. Within the deadline posted on www.unict.it (Bandi, gare e concorsi > Studenti e Post laurea > Formazione post laurea > Dottorati di ricerca), candidates admitted to places with scholarship will need to send to dottorati@unict.it the following documents:
   a) Proof of registration with the Italian National Institute for Social Security;
   b) Declaration attesting whether they are registered or not with further institutes for social security;
   c) Copy of the Italian fiscal code;
   d) Copy of a valid identity document;
   e) Form reporting bank details for the payment of the scholarship;
   f) Declaration of acknowledgment that doctoral scholarship are not subject to income tax and, whatever their utilization, do not count for the quantification of service years in legal and economic terms.

6. Within the date of their registration as Ph.D. Students (**September 30th 2024**), graduates from non-EU universities will also have to submit the **Declaration of Value** issued by the Italian embassy in their home country or the **Certificate of Comparability** issued by CIMEA– Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Centre (https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-procedure-riconoscimento-titoli) attesting that their second level/master degrees are suitable for access to Ph.D. courses. If one of aforementioned document has already been submitted at the time of the application procedure, a second submission of such documents will not be required.

7. Candidates admitted to places with scholarship financed by the NRRP Ministerial Decrees n. 629/2024 and n. 630/2024 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. 629/2024, 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. 629/2024, 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. 629/2024, 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. 629/2024, 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. 630/2024, 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":
   - 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.

8. Candidates will be summoned by the university's administration to sign a service session note prepared by the same administration. Failure to sign this service session note within October 31st 2024, without proper justification, will lead to the exclusion from the Ph.D. course.

9. 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.

10. Candidates' failure to comply with the aforementioned provisions is considered equivalent to formal renunciation to the place in the Ph.D. course. Vacant places will be made available for other candidates on the ranking according in descending order of score and until all vacant places are allocated. These candidates will be invited to enroll in the Ph.D. course within a deadline reported in a notice to be sent to the email address indicated in the application form.

11. 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.

12. 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. The consequent reallocation of the vacant place(s) can be completed by no later than October 31st 2024.

13. Any variation of the enrolment procedure shall be duly communicated to the selected candidates with appropriate notice poste on www.unict.it (Bandi, gare e concorsi > Studenti e post laurea > Formazione post laurea > Dottorati di ricerca).

14. By no later than September 30th of each year, unless otherwise specified by the university's administration, Ph.D. students must renew their registration in the following year.
The enrolment is bound to the decision of the Ph.D. academic board according to art. 15, par. 7 of the Regulation of the University of Catania governing Ph.D. courses currently in force.
Failure to renew the enrolment within September 30th leads to the payment of a default charge of:
    a. € 100,00, if the enrolment in the following year is completed with a delay of 30 days from September 30th ;
    b. twice the fee (see art. 9, par.4, lett. e) if the enrolment in the following year is completed with a delay of more than 30 days from September 30th .

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 to the scholarship holder. This amount will adjusted according to increases established by the law, if any.

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.
For the scholarship funded by the National Recovery and Resiliency Program, this research period abroad will have to be registered in the ministerial online system by the Ph.D. Coordinator before the beginning of the mobility period.
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.
The duration of these research periods at foreign institution cannot exceed 12 months out the entire duration of the Ph.D. course. 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 (cotutelle), 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. The increase of the scholarship described in the previous paragraph will be paid for mobility periods of no less than an uninterrupted month. For mobility period of shorter duration, Ph.D. students will be able to request a refund of their mobility expenses from the research budget mentioned in paragraph 6 of this article.

5. 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 the specific agreements with the funding institutions, the scholarship 50% increase can be replaced by the commitment of the funding institution to cover the expenses incurred by the Ph.D. student during his/her research period abroad.

6. In compliance to article 9, paragraph 4, of the Ministerial Decree 226/2021, each doctoral student is granted, within the financial resources of the university's administration, an additional research budget from the first year of Ph.D. course. This additional research budget corresponds 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**.

7. The payment of the scholarship is bound to the effective attendance to course activities and the effective development of the research project assigned by the Academic Board.

8. The provisions concerning tax benefit included in art. 4, Law 476/1984 apply to doctoral scholarships.

9. Notwithstanding the provisos included in the Regulation (EU, Euroatom) n. 1046 of July 18th 2018 (art. 191: "Principle of non-cumulative award and prohibition of double funding"), doctoral scholarships are not compatible with other scholarships, conferred for any reason, including research scholarships.
   The doctoral scholarships can be compatible with additional scholarships, granted for research periods aborad only, provided the financial source funding the foreign mobility is different from the financial source funding the principal scholarship. To benefit from these supplementary scholarships additional conditions might be required which are expressly indicated in the call advertising these specific grants.

10. 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 months following the second. 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 the scholarships.

11. 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.

12. 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 the monthly salaries from the beginning of the doctoral course to the month immediately preceding the payment.

13. Ph.D. 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.

14. In case of Ph.D. scholarship financed by NRRP Ministerial Decrees n. 629/2024 or Ministerial Decree 630/2024 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.

15. Ph.D. students will have to return the scholarship salaries in case they:
    a) are not admitted to any year following the first by the relevant Ph.D. Academic Board;
    b) are not admitted to the final examination by the relevant Ph.D. Academic Board;
    c) renounce to the scholarship and the Ph.D. course on a voluntary basis.

    The salaries to be returned are those related to the academic year which is not completed for one of the abovementioned reasons.

16. Ph.D. 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 6.

17. All the scholarship funded or co-funded by external institutions, with exception of those funded by public institutions, will be paid to their beneficiaries upon the actual collection of the sum by the university's administration. The University of Catania is not responsible for any delay in the payment of these scholarships when they are imputable to the funding institution.

18. 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.

19. 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 scholarships will consequently be administered according to the relevant legislation in force at the University of Viçosa (Brazil).

20. This article does not apply to doctoral students enrolled in places reserved to companies' employees.

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

1. Ph.D. students will exclusively have to attend all course activities on a full-time basis – at the University of Catania or any other institution(s) provided the appropriate authorization – and comply to all is legally established by the P.hD. academic board.

2. Ph.D. students will have to respect all the pertinent administrative deadlines: Failure to respect of the deadlines, as well as job performances that are not previously authorized by the Ph.D. Academic board, can lead to the immediate exclusion from the course.

3. If the university's administration requires the Ph.D. student to integrate the documentation submitted at the moment of the application procedure, these integrations will have to be submitted within thirty (30) days from the day of the request. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead to the exclusion from the Ph.D. course.

4. For any aspects not expressely mentioned in the present call, candidates are required to refer to articles 15, 16, 16-bis, 17 and 18 of the Regulation of the University of Catania governing Ph.D. courses currently in force and the instructions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees of respectively January 24 2024 and January 25 2024 on "Operational indications, integrations and explanations concerning the administrative

procedures related to the Regulations of the University of Catania governing Ph.D. courses – Rector's Decree n. 2788 of March 3 2013 modified by the Rector's Decree n. 721 of March 8 2022).

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 link: 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 the expiry date of this call for applications.

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, ...

THE RECTOR
(Prof. Francesco Priolo)

FRANCESCO
PRIOLO
15.05.2024
13:20:49
GMT+01:00

Finanziato dall'Unione europe
NextGenerationEU

Scheda di dottorato
40° ciclo - A.A. 2024/2025

NOME DEL CORSO	AGRICULTURAL FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
DURATA	3 anni
DATA INIZIO ATTIVITÀ	01/10/2024
LINGUA / E	Italiano, Inglese
COORDINATORE	Prof. Antonio Biondi
POSIZIONI A BANDO	19
MODALITÀ DI AMMISSIONE	Valutazione titoli e progetto di ricerca, Prova orale

Posti e borse di studio disponibili

n. borse di studio	Descrizione finanziamento	Tema vincolato (se presente)
3	Borse finanziate da fondi liberi di Ateneo	-
1	Borsa finanziata da Progetto di Ateneo su fondo PNRR Samothrace – Spoke 1	Perspectives of multi/hypersepctral thermal Infrared remote sensing for crop water stress detection
1	Borsa finanziata da Progetto di Ateneo su fondo PNRR Onfoods – Spoke 1	The sustainability perception of food products in the modern consumer
2	Borse finanziate dall'Università Federale di Viçosa (Brasile) riservate e laureati presso la stessa università	
1	Borsa finanziata PNRR D.M. n. 630/2024 – Inv. 3.3 in collaborazione con Istituto di Incremento Ippico per la Sicilia, Catania (CT)	Tecnologie omiche per lo studio dei tratti funzionali nella specie E. caballus
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con WES Trade Ltd, Ta'Xbiex, Malta	Effetto del cambiamento climatico sulle malattie delle piante: monitoraggio e previsione

1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Consorzio di Bonifica Sicilia Orientale, Catania (CT)	Innovazioni per il trattamento delle acque reflue tramite sistemi naturali
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Opera Consulting Sas, Catania (CT)	Recupero, purificazione e valorizzazione di sostanze bioattive presenti negli effluenti della trasformazione degli agrumi, delle olive e del nascente processo di trasformazione del melograno.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Euroinfrastrutture Srl Costruzioni Generali, Santa Venerina (CT)	Ottimizzazione dell'integrazione tra Building Information Modeling (BIM) e Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) per la sostenibilità delle costruzioni
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Azienda Agricola Tornatore, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)	Interventi sul ciclo vegeto-produttivo della vite per l'adattamento al cambiamento climatico e il controllo a basso input dei patogeni.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Azienda Agricola Bellassai Emanuele, Mazzarone (CT).	Le cover crop per il miglioramento della sostenibilità degli agroecosistemi mediterranei.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Corteva Agriscience Italia S.r.l., Cremona (CR)	Nuove molecole insetticide di origine naturale per il controllo integrato di insetti fitomizi, con particolare riferimento ai vettori di microrganismi fitopatogeni agenti di gravi malattie delle colture agrarie.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con Colleroni Srl, Carlentini (SR).	La sostenibilità nelle filiere agroalimentari.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento 3.3. in collaborazione con BMC Srl, Linguaglossa (CT).	Paste alimentari innovative ai fini della sostenibilità.
1	Borsa finanziata D.M. n. 630/2024 – Investimento	Formulazione di una miscela di probiotici, vitamina D e riso integrale germogliato a valenza salutistica.

	3.3. in collaborazione con Sacco Srl, Cadorago (CO).	

È inoltre previsto **un solo posto senza borsa** di studio.

Prove di ammissione

	MODALITÀ	**PUBBLICAZIONE RISULTATI SUL SITO DI ATENEO**
Valutazione titoli eprogetto di ricerca	Non è richiesta la presenza dei candidati	A partire dal 26 luglio 2024
Prova orale	**Data**: A partire dal **28 agosto 2024– ore 09.30** **Luogo**: In presenza, Dipartimento di Agricoltura, Alimentazione e Ambiente (Di3A). **oppure** A distanza utilizzando la piattaforma Microsoft Teams	A partire dal 5 settembre 2024

* Qualora il numero dei candidati ammessi non consenta lo svolgimento della prova orale in un unico giorno, il calendario della prova sarà pubblicato sul sito insieme ai risultati della valutazione dei titoli e del progetto di ricerca.
** I risultati delle prove di ammissione saranno consultabili sul sito. La pubblicazione sul sito ha valore di notifica. Nessuna comunicazione sarà inviata ai candidati via e-mail.

Documenti da allegare alla domanda

Saranno ritenuti validi e valutati dalla Commissione esclusivamente i **documenti redatti in italiano, inglese o francese**. Per documenti d'identità e titoli di studio rilasciati in una lingua diversa deve essere allegata la traduzione giurata e asseverata in italiano, francese o inglese effettuata, da ente autorizzato o dall'Università che ha rilasciato il titolo.

DOCUMENTAZIONE OBBLIGATORIA PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DELLA DOMANDA DI AMMISSIONE	
Documento d'identità	Scansione di un documento d'identità valido secondo le disposizioni dell'art. 35 c.2 D.P.R. 28 dicembre 2000 n. 445 e s.m.i. : "*Sono equipollenti alla carta di identità il passaporto, la patente di guida, la patente nautica, il libretto di pensione, il patentino di abilitazione alla conduzione di impianti termici, il porto d'armi, le tessere di riconoscimento, purché munite di fotografia e di timbro o di altra segnatura equivalente, rilasciate da un'amministrazione dello Stato*".
Curriculum Vitae	Non è richiesto un formato specifico. Il CV va datato e sottoscritto (La sottoscrizione sarà valida esclusivamente se autografa o digitale). Saranno esclusi dalla selezione candidate e candidati che presentino CV privo di sottoscrizione.

Titoli	Vedi Bando di concorso con particolare riferimento all' art. 3, comma 4
Progetto diricerca	Progetto di ricerca **a) articolato in**: stato dell'arte; descrizione del progetto; risultati attesi; articolazionedel progetto e tempi di realizzazione; criteri proposti per la verifica dei risultati raggiunti; bibliografia sintetica. **b) lunghezza massima di 25.000 caratteri**, inclusi titolo, spazi, eventuali formule, bibliografia
Pubblicazioni	- Lista di eventuali pubblicazioni scientifiche (indicare numero DOI, ISBN/ISSN)
Eventuali documenti attestanti la conoscenza della lingua straniera	- Qualsiasi certificato, attestante la conoscenza di lingua straniera U.E., rilasciato da istituzione legalmente riconosciuta (a titolo esemplificativo ma non esaustivo: TEOFL, IELTS, Cambridge Exol, DELF, DELE, KEG, Goethe Institut, etc.)
Eventuali documenti attestanti le competenze informatiche	- Qualsiasi certificato attestante l'acquisizione di competenze informatiche rilasciato da istituzione legalmente riconosciuta (a titolo esemplificativo ma non esaustivo: ECDL)
Eventuali documenti relativi a ulteriori percorsi formativi	- Master universitario di I o II livello - Corsi di perfezionamento e/o di specializzazione e/o diAlta Formazione in materie attinenti agli indirizzi di ricerca oggetto del Corso di dottorato - Ricerca scientifica, di qualsiasi tipologia (di base, orientata, finalizzata, traslazionale,applicata, ecc.) e svolta a qualsiasi titolo, inclusa la titolarità di assegni di ricerca e lapartecipazione a progetti di ricerca; - Ulteriore laurea magistrale/specialistica

Criteri di valutazione delle prove*

Il giudizio è espresso attraverso l'attribuzione di un punteggio complessivo, come stabilito dall'art. 5 del bando di concorso, a cui si rimanda.

1. **Valutazione titoli e progetto di ricerca** – punteggio minimo per l'ammissione alla prova orale: 40 punti, massimo 60 punti

2. **Prova orale** – punteggio minimo per l'idoneità: 40 punti, massimo 60 punti