
UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH VERSION OF THE DECREE N. 6538 OF 03/07/2024

This document has no legal value and it released to help foreign candidates.

**For the official documents please refer to the Italian version of the decree n. 6538 of
03/07/2024**

CALL FOR SELECTION FOR ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS UNIVERSITY OF
PALERMO
Academic Year 2024/2025 (XL Cycle)

THE RECTOR

<List of referred Italian laws inside the decree n. 6538 of 03/07/2024>

DECREES

**Art. 1
PhD Courses activated**

The following Research Doctoral Courses are activated - A.Y. 2024/2025 – Cycle XL with administrative headquarters at the University of Palermo. The respective competitions based on research project, qualifications and interviews are hereby announced with the procedures to be determined by the admission committees.

Form n.	List of PhD courses	
1	ARCHITETTURA PER LA TRANSIZIONE ECOLOGICA TRA SPAZI INTERNI E PAESAGGIO ARCHITECTURE FOR THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION BETWEEN INTERIOR SPACES AND LANDSCAPE	
	Coordinator	Prof. Giuseppe DI BENEDETTO
	Department	Architettura
	Positions	5 1 of them without scholarship
2	ARCHITETTURA, ARTI E PIANIFICAZIONE ARCHITECTURE, ARTS AND PLANNING	

	Coordinator	Prof. Rosario Marco NOBILE	
	Department	Architettura	
	Positions	9	2 of them without scholarship
3	BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY		
	Coordinator	Prof. Riccardo LO BIANCO	
	Department	Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali	
	Positions	11	2 of them without scholarship
4	BIOMEDICINA, NEUROSCIENZE E DIAGNOSTICA AVANZATA BIOMEDICINE, NEUROSCIENCE AND ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS		
	Coordinator	Prof. Fabio BUCCHIERI	
	Department	Biomedicina, Neuroscienze e Diagnostica Avanzata	
	Positions	13	
5	CHEMICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, BIOMEDICAL, HYDRAULIC AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING		
	Coordinator	Prof. Giorgio Domenico Maria MICALE	
	Department	Ingegneria	
	Positions	13	
6	CULTURA VISUALE VISUAL CULTURE		
	Coordinator	Prof. Roberta COGLITORE	
	Department	Cultura e Società	
	Positions	5	
7	DINAMICA DEI SISTEMI SYSTEM DYNAMICS		
	Coordinator	Prof. Salvatore MANCUSO	
	Department	Scienze Politiche e delle Relazioni Internazionali	
	Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship

8	DIRITTI UMANI: EVOLUZIONE, TUTELA E LIMITI		
	HUMAN RIGHTS: EVOLUTION, PROTECTION AND LIMITS		
	Coordinator	Prof. Aldo SCHIAVELLO	
	Department	Giurisprudenza	
Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship	
9	DISEGUAGLIANZE, DIFFERENZE, PARTECIPAZIONE		
	INEQUALITIES, DIFFERENCES, PARTICIPATION		
	Coordinator	Prof. Salvatore VACCARO	
	Department	Polo di Trapani	
Positions	4	1 of them without scholarship	
10	ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND STATISTICS		
	Coordinator	Prof. Vito Michele Rosario MUGGEO	
	Department	Scienze Economiche Aziendali Statistiche	
	Positions	7	
11	ENERGY		
	Coordinator	Prof. Eleonora RIVA SANSEVERINO	
	Department	Ingegneria	
	Positions	11	
12	ENGINEERING OF STRUCTURES AND INFRASTRUCTURES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Giuseppe CAMPIONE	
	Department	Ingegneria	
	Positions	6	
13	HEALTH PROMOTION AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Antonio PALMA	
	Department	Scienze Psicologiche, Pedagogiche e della Formazione	
	Positions	7	

14	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Marco LA CASCIA	
	Department	Ingegneria	
	Positions	14	
15	MECHANICAL, MANUFACTURING, MANAGEMENT AND AEROSPACE INNOVATION		
	Coordinator	Prof. Giovanna LO NIGRO	
	Department	Ingegneria	
	Positions	12	
16	MEDICINA MOLECOLARE E CLINICA MOLECULAR AND CLINICAL MEDICINE		
	Coordinator	Prof. Antonino TUTTOLOMONDO	
	Department	Promozione della Salute, Materno-Infantile, di Medicina Interna e Specialistica di Eccellenza	
	Positions	11	2 of them without scholarship
17	MIGRAZIONI, DIFFERENZE, GIUSTIZIA SOCIALE MIGRATIONS, DIFFERENCES, SOCIAL JUSTICE		
	Coordinator	Prof. Maria D'AGOSTINO	
	Department	CIR Migrare/ Dip. Scienze Umanistiche	
	Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship
18	ONCOLOGIA E CHIRURGIA SPERIMENTALI EXPERIMENTAL ONCOLOGY AND SURGERY		
	Coordinator	Prof. Adriana CORDOVA	
	Department	Discipline Chirurgiche, Oncologiche e Stomatologiche	
	Positions	4	
19	PATRIMONIO CULTURALE CULTURAL HERITAGE		

	Coordinator	Prof. Elisa Chiara PORTALE	
	Department	Culture e Società	
	Positions	4	di cui 1 senza borsa
20	PLURALISMI GIURIDICI. PROSPETTIVE ANTICHE E ATTUALI LEGAL PLURALISMS. HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Vincenzo MILITELLO	
	Department	Giurisprudenza	
	Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship
21	SCIENZE DELLA TERRA E DEL MARE EARTH AND MARINE SCIENCES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Christian CONOSCENTI	
	Department	Scienze della Terra e del Mare	
	Positions	10	2 of them without scholarship
22	SCIENZE FISICHE E CHIMICHE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Marco CANNAS	
	Department	Fisica e Chimica "Emilio Segrè"	
	Positions	9	
23	SCIENZE MOLECOLARI E BIOMOLECOLARI MOLECULAR AND BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Giovanna PITARRESI	
	Department	Scienze e Tecnologie Biologiche, Chimiche e Farmaceutiche	
	Positions	8	
24	SEMIOTICA: STUDI SU TESTI, DISCORSO, MEDIA E CULTURA SEMIOTICS: STUDIES ON TEXT, SPEECH, MEDIA, CULTURE		
	Coordinator	Prof. Giovanni MARRONE	

	Department	Culture e Società	
	Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship
25	SISTEMI AGROALIMENTARI E FORESTALI MEDITERRANEI MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND FOREST SYSTEMS		
	Coordinator	Prof. Massimo IOVINO	
	Department	Scienze Agrarie, Alimentari e Forestali	
	Positions	11	2 of them without scholarship
26	STUDI CLASSICI PER LA CONTEMPORANEITA' CLASSICS FOR CONTEMPORANEITY		
	Coordinator	Prof. Nicola CUSUMANO	
	Department	Culture e Società	
	Positions	5	1 of them without scholarship
27	STUDI DI GENERE STUDIES OF GENDER		
	Coordinator	Prof. Elisa CAVASINO	
	Department	Centro di studi avanzati dell'Università di Palermo	
	Positions	7	1 of them without scholarship
28	STUDI UMANISTICI HUMANITIES STUDIES		
	Coordinator	Prof. Marina Calogera CASTIGLIONE	
	Department	Scienze Umanistiche	
	Positions	9	di cui 2 senza borsa di studio
29	TECNOLOGIE E METODI PER LA FORMAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA TECHNOLOGIES AND METHODS FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION		
	Coordinator	Prof. Claudio FAZIO	
	Department	University	

	Positions	6	1 of them without scholarship
30	TECNOLOGIE E SCIENZE PER LA SALUTE DELL'UOMO TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE FOR HUMAN HEALTH		
	Coordinator	Prof. Valeria VETRI	
	Department	Scienze e Tecnologie Biologiche, Chimiche e Farmaceutiche	
	Positions	10	
31	TRANSIZIONE ECOLOGICA ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION		
	Coordinator	Prof. Maurizio CELLURA	
	Department	Centro di Sostenibilità e Transizione	
	Positions	8	1 of them without scholarship
32	BIODIVERSITY (NATIONAL INTEREST PHD COURSE)		
	Coordinator		Prof. Gianluca SARA'
	Department		Scienze della Terra e del Mare
	Positions	56	
33	MEDICINA DI PRECISIONE PRECISION MEDICINE (NATIONAL INTEREST PHD COURSE)		
	Coordinator		Prof. Antonio RUSSO
	Department		Medicina di Precisione in Area Medica, Chirurgica e Critica
	Positions	49	4 of them without scholarship

The forms attached to this notice, one for each course, report the research topics, the restricted topics required by the funder and the curricula (if any) into which the course is divided, the required admission qualifications and the required degree classes.

All scholarships financed by external institutions will be paid to the assignee only after the actual collection by the University of the relative sums.

A DDR course will not be activated if one of the following conditions occurs:

- the course will not be authorized by the MUR;
- less than four applications are received;

- at any stage of the competition procedure, there will be fewer than four candidates present. In this case, the selection board will take note of the preclusion of the further course and will notify the candidates present;
- at the end of the selection procedure, there will be fewer than four candidates in the ranking (Ministerial Decree 226/2021, Art. 4, paragraph 1, letter b, number 1).

The date and time of the oral exams will be published on the website www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati and this publication will have the value of notification for all purposes; those candidates admitted to the oral exam will receive the access link to the interview via e-mail.

The positions with scholarship referred to in this announcement may be increased and/or financed as a result of additional available funds, also obtained from external public or private bodies, through agreements or conventions to be stipulated after the publication of this announcement and in any case within six months from the start of the PhD courses.

Any other scholarship that may become available in the context of research projects funded by calls for National Operational Programmes, Regional Operational Programs, other Community, National and Regional Programs and/or International Projects, may be used in addition to the scholarships funded by the University. Furthermore, suitable candidates awarded a grant from the European Commission, for a gross amount equivalent to or greater than the doctoral scholarship, at the end of the competition procedure, may be admitted, upon their request, to the course on a supernumerary position.

Art. 2

Scholarships D.M. n. 629/2024 – TDA-PA-PC-PNRR

The scholarships identified in the PhD sheets with position code containing the number “.629.” are financed through the D.M. no. 629 of 2024/04/24 in force on the PNRR, on investment measures M4C1-Inv. 3.4 "Didactics and advanced university skills" and Inv. 4.1 "Extension of the number of research doctorates and innovative doctorates for public administration and cultural heritage", to develop research topics linked to the following macro-areas:

- "Digital and Environmental Transition", identified in this notice by the position code [<course-acronym>.629.TDA.<university>];
- "Public Administration", identified in this notice by the position code [<course-acronym>.629.PA.<university>];
- "Patrimonio Culturale"(Cultural Heritage), identified in this notice by the position code [<course-acronym>.629.PC.<university>];
- topics of the PNRR plan, identified in this notice by the position code [<course-acronym>.629.PNRR.<university>] and must fall within the following missions:
 1. Digitization, innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism;
 2. Green revolution and ecological transition;
 3. Infrastructures and sustainable mobility;
 4. Education and research;
 5. Social, gender and territorial equity;
 6. Health.

The string "<university>" identifies the funding university, the location where the study and research activity of the doctoral student receiving this grant will take place.

Doctoral students receiving scholarships as per D.M. 629/2024 for the topic "Digital and Environmental Transition" must:

- a. develop a project concerning disciplinary and thematic areas consistent with the digital transition and the ecological transition referred to in the PNRR;
- b. implement the entire doctoral, training, research and evaluation process at the administrative and operational offices of the University of Palermo and/or associated universities, with the exception of study and research periods at companies and research centres and abroad, scheduled in line with the training and research activities envisaged at the University offices;
- c. spend periods of study and research in companies or research centres from a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of twelve (12) months, even non-continuous, over the three-years period;
- d. spend periods of study and research abroad, even non-continuous, from a minimum of six (6) months up to the maximum limit established by art. 9, paragraph 3, of the decree of the Minister of University and Research 14 December 2021, n. 226.

The scholarships in question will be awarded subject to the approval of the funding by the Ministry of University and Research.

These scholarships are activated in the context of the restricted topics indicated in the aforementioned decree and in compliance with the eligibility criteria set out in articles 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the same decree.

Art. 3

Scholarships D.M. n. 630/2024 – PNRR and Companies

The scholarships identified in the PhD sheets with position code containing the number “.630.” are financed through the D.M. no. 630 of 2024/04/24 under the PNRR, Mission 4, component 2 "From Research to Business" - Investment 3.3 "Introduction of innovative doctorates that meet the innovation needs of companies and promote the recruitment of researchers from companies", resources for financing innovative doctoral scholarships cycle XL, Academic Year 2024/2025, to develop research topics linked to the following macro-areas and of the PNRR:

1. Digitization, innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism;
2. Green revolution and ecological transition;
3. Infrastructures and sustainable mobility;
4. Education and research;
5. Social, gender and territorial equity;
6. Health.

Doctoral students receiving D.M. 630/2024 scholarships will be selected on the basis of the provisions contained in the Directorial Decree of 29 July 2016, n. 1540, with reference to the implementation of a competition for innovative doctorates with an industrial connotation that:

- a. concerns disciplinary and thematic areas consistent with the needs of the country, as well as the regional territories involved in the programme, in terms of highly qualified figures and oriented towards satisfying the innovation needs of the companies referred to in the PNRR;
- b. it compulsorily requires for the implementation of the entire doctoral, training, research and evaluation program at the administrative and operational offices of the University of Palermo

- and/or associated universities, with the exception of periods of study and research at the company and abroad;
- c. it compulsorily requires for periods of study and research in the company from a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of eighteen (18) months, even non-continuous, over the three-years period;
 - d. it compulsorily requires a minimum of six (6) months of study and research abroad, even non-continuous, over the three-years period;

The scholarships in this article are on a restricted topic and financed for € 60,000 by the MUR and for the remaining part by companies/enterprises. Within the PhD Sheet, these grants are identified by the "Position code" [<course-acronym>.630.<company>], where <company> identifies the co-financing company/enterprise.

The candidate who wants to compete for D.M. no. 630/2024 scholarships on a restricted topic, must indicate this in the appropriate section of the project file (Annex B).

Candidates who compete for one of these positions will also participate for the assignment of positions without restricted topics.

The positions of this article will be activated only if approved by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and in the context of the restricted topics indicated in the aforementioned decree, in compliance with the eligibility criteria set out in articles 6 of the same decree.

Art. 4

Scholarships financed by Sicilia Region Notice n. 15/2024

The Sicilian Region, with D.D.G. n. 579 of 21/06/2024, approved the Notice n. 15/2024 for the funding of PhD scholarships in Sicily, which aims to support the promotion of higher education and of the postgraduate specialization of doctoral level degree for highly qualified subject areas and better suited to the needs of innovation and intelligent specialization of the Sicilian labour market, in order to support the development of an economy based on knowledge and innovation, social and environmental sustainability, as defined in the Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (S3 Sicily) 2021-2027 of the Sicilian Region, and in line with the objectives of the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027. The National Research Programme (PNR) 2021-2027 contributes to the achievement of the latter, where research's contributions to the Country System are summarized to prevent and address emergency situations, promote environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability, as a precondition for growth and for improving the life-quality of citizens.

The Notice is addressed to non-telematic Sicilian Universities, that can participate in the award of additional doctoral grants under the European Social Fund Plus Programme (ESF+) 2021-2027, Priority 2: Education and Training, Specific Objective: ESO 4.7, Action: Upgrading of higher education courses, Sector Code Intervention: 150. Support for tertiary education (excluding infrastructure).

The University of Palermo, based on the number of students enrolled in the degree courses, will be able to participate in the Notice 15/2024, competing for the award of 44 scholarships for standard doctorates (22 of which 22 in co-tutorship with Research Entities, IRCCS or other Research Organizations) and 15 scholarships for each Doctorate of National Interest (DIN).

Candidates eligible for the grants mentioned in the previous paragraph shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be a graduate, born or resident in Sicily on the date of publication of Notice 15/2024 (21/06/2024), selected in the context of UNIPA's selective procedures and usefully classified

- for the purposes of admission to research doctoral courses and the award of regional grants, for the academic year of reference (A.A. 2024/25 for the first tranche, XL cycle);
- 2) Be not older than 35 years old at the time of application for the doctoral competition;
 - 3) Carry out a compulsory period of study and research abroad of not less than 8 months and not more than 12 months (with at least two continuous periods of at least 4 months);
 - 4) For grants in co-tutorship, the beneficiaries will have to carry out the research topic of the PhD course in collaboration with the Research Institute, IRCCS or Research Body identified by the University.

The Regional scholarships will be assigned under the condition of the actual activation of them and after the publication of the Sicilian Region Decree of approval of the final ranking for the allocation of resources to the University of Palermo.

In addition to the regional scholarships, the call provides positions with scholarships financed by parties outside the University of Palermo. These types of grants may include specific research topics proposed by the funding bodies. The recipients of these scholarships, by decision of the Doctoral Board, will have to develop their study and research activities at the locations indicated by the funder, at Companies/ Universities/ Research Centres, even abroad.

Art. 5 **Admission requirements**

1. Degrees required

Except for the scholarships financed by the Sicilian Region under Notice 15/2024, for which reference is made to Art.4, may apply candidates in possession of an academic qualification listed in the PhD sheet and of the level:

- Diploma of specialist degree (Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999);
- Master's degree (Ministerial Decree 270/2004);
- Graduation diploma of the old system, equivalent to a second level degree in accordance with the Interministerial Decree n. 233 of 9 July 2009 and subsequent amendments.

Candidates without a qualification belonging to one of the degree classes listed in the doctoral sheet will be excluded from the competition.

May participate candidates in possession of an academic qualification awarded abroad, lasting at least four years, equivalent in terms of level of study (master's degree) to the access qualifications specified above.

May also participate candidates who already hold a research doctorate. In this case the candidate, if she/he has already benefited from a doctoral scholarship, even partially, may be admitted without scholarship, but only after passing the examination tests and if in useful placement in the merit ranking of the winners.

All candidates are admitted to the selections with reserve.

If, following verification of the documentation produced, the academic qualification held does not comply with the above requirements or the declarations made are not true, at any time the University may order the exclusion from the selection procedure or from the course and a Rector decree will be issued. In case of false declarations, the University will be able to take legal action.

2. Admission to the selection for candidates in the process of obtaining their degree.

Can participate to the selection candidates that will be awarded of the master's degree before the date of the enrollment in the PhD. Candidates have 15 days from the graduation day to send to the

Research Doctorate Office, under penalty of exclusion, a self-certification declaration (or a certification in the case of a title obtained in non-EU countries) of the successful achievement of the title, in compliance with art. 46 of D.P.R. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments.

3. Academic qualification obtained abroad

Citizens in possession of an academic qualification obtained abroad lasting at least four years, equivalent in terms of level of study to the Italian academic qualifications required for access to the doctorate course, must attach the degree certificate issued by the university of origin to the application form. If the academic qualification has not already been declared equivalent to an Italian qualification, the board of examinee will ascertain the suitability of the qualification, in compliance with art. 2 of Law 148/2002, of the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued, as well as of the treaties of international agreements on the matter of recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies. The suitability ascertained by the commission will be valid only for the purpose of accessing the competition.

Candidates holding qualifications obtained in a non-European country, in case of admission to the course, must produce an Italian legal translation of the qualifications or a "declaration of local value", issued by the Italian diplomatic-consular, according to the regulations in force on the subject for the admission of foreign students to the degree courses of Italian universities.

Foreign qualifications can be replaced by the Diploma Supplement, issued by the competent institutions according to the standards established by the European Commission and concern the overall training path for obtaining the degree. The University reserves the right to request the "declaration of local value" in cases where there are doubts about the validity of the qualification.

Candidates with a foreign academic qualification will be admitted to the selection with reserve. A candidate will be excluded from the selection or from the PhD course if it turns out that his qualification does not comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

4. Fee for participation in the competition procedure

To participate in the competition, candidates are required to pay a contribution of € 50.00, under penalty of exclusion, before the deadline for submitting the application.

The payment, in no case refundable, must be made through the PagoPA service, accessible from the online procedure of the student portal or at any PSP (Payment Service Providers - in the Italian territory). For more information, see the page <https://unipa.it/ateneo/pagamenti.html>.

Those who pay the competition fee in ways that are different from those described above or outside the deadline will not be allowed to participate in the competition procedure.

5. Disabled people with confirmed infirmity higher than 66% are exempt from paying the participation fee. Foreign candidates with Italian citizenship are required to pay the participation fee.

Candidates who apply for grants funded by the Sicilian Region are also exempted from the payment of the aforementioned contribution, in compliance with paragraph 7 of art. 5 of the Notice 15/2024 of the Sicilian Region.

Art. 6

Applications of admission

Candidates must observe the following steps of the online procedure:

- a) Register on the Student Portal of the University of Palermo, available at <http://studenti.unipa.it> - To register, select the link "Click here to register on the Student Portal" and follow the instructions. Already registered candidates can skip directly to point b);

- b) access the Student Portal <http://studenti.unipa.it> using your credentials (username and password), click on "Click here to access your Reserved Area";
- c) click on "New Practice" item inside the "PRACTICES" menu. Select the item "Dottorati di ricerca/PhD" from the proposed list and then select "Application for participation in the competition for access to a PhD course / PhD Courses - Call for applicants";
- d) complete the online application;
- e) At the end of the procedure, for candidates not subject to exemption, a payment PagoPA receipt of € 50 (fifty/00) is generated. The fee is in no case refundable and must be paid according to the methods indicated in the previous article point 4, by the deadline date of the announcement, published at the link:

www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/

The application for participation in the competition for admission to the PhD courses, completed online, is valid as a self-certification made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000 and art. 3 of Law no. 127/97.

The candidate must also attach to the application, via upload, the following documents in pdf format:

- 1) (Annex A) - Europass Curriculum Vitae
- 2) (Annex B) - Research project. Brief description of the research project proposed by the candidate and of the objectives and obtainable results.
- 3) (Annex C) - Self-certification signed and rendered pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000, of the qualification obtained and the exams taken. For qualifications obtained abroad, attach the Diploma Supplement or degree certificate issued by the university of origin or similar certification (in Italian or English) of the overall educational path for the achievement of the degree, which constitutes an access requirement.
- 4) (Annex D) - Signed self-certification, made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000, of the additional qualifications held and any scientific publications.
- 5) Copy of a valid identification/passport document.
- 6) In case of disability, the medical certificate certifying the disability higher than 66%.

Graduating students must attach a copy of the exams taken or an equivalent self-certification, made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000.

Graduating students from foreign universities must attach certification of the exams taken (in Italian or English), issued by the University of origin.

The following will cause exclusion from the competition procedure:

- the lack of possession of a qualification belonging to one of the degree classes indicated in the doctoral sheet;
- qualifications obtained abroad, not equivalent in terms of level of study (master's degree) to the qualifications specified in the course description, which consequently do not give access to PhD programmes;
- self-certifications of the access title without signature pursuant to D.P.R. 445/2000;

- failure to submit one of the following documents: Research Project (Annex B), Self-certification of admission qualification (Annex C), copy of identification document.

The qualifications and publications held, listed in Annex D, must in no case be submitted together with the application form. The candidate can indicate an institutional link, where the examining commission can view them.

The documents presented must be drafted/translated into Italian or English, by and under the responsibility of the candidate.

It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the correct conclusion of the procedure through the Student Portal (section "PRACTICES" - "MY PRACTICES"). The application will be duly submitted if at the end of the procedure the program returns the information that it is in the status "BOLLETTINO PAGATO" (if payment of the € 50.00 fee is due), or "CONSEGNATA" (only in the case of exemption from payment of the fee).

Complaints will not be accepted for any malfunctioning of the computer system due to overloads encountered by candidates near the deadline. Therefore, it is advisable to send the application for participation in the competition well in advance of the deadline date of the announcement.

All candidates are conditionally admitted to the competition procedure. Failure to participate to the interview, regardless of the reason, is equivalent to renunciation.

The Administration may order at any time, with a motivated provision, the exclusion due to lack of the required requisites. This provision will be communicated to the interested party at the e-mail address registered in the student portal.

The University Administration assumes no responsibility in the event of loss of communications, due to inaccurate indications by the candidate of residence, address, e-mail address, or failure or late communication of the change of the same.

Art. 7

Board of examiners

The boards of examiners for the admission to the PhD Courses are composed respecting the art. 11 of the Regulations for PhD courses. They are proposed by the PhD Boards and appointed by the Rector. The composition of the individual board of examiners will be published after the deadline at link www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/

Art. 8

Admission tests

1. Method of selection

The methods of selection are indicated, for each PhD course, in the individual PhD course sheet which are an integral part of this announcement.

The competition will take place through project evaluation, qualifications and interview.

The interviews are public and will take place online, through the Microsoft Teams platform.

Each candidate will be able to participate for more than one Research Doctorates, by submitting separate applications; this circumstance, however, will not constitute a constraint for the schedule of the tests.

In the case of Research Doctorates divided into curricula, each candidate is required to indicate one or more curricula in the online application, according to the order of priority in which he is interested. The curricula are indicated in the attached files each relating to a single doctorate.

The list of candidates and the relative annexes to the applications are made available to the coordinators of the doctoral courses who will forward them to the Presidents of the Commissions.

2. Evaluation criteria: project, qualifications and telematic interview

The Board of examiners have a total of 100 points distributed as follows:

Project Evaluation - maximum 30 points.

The test is passed with the minimum vote of 20/30.

- For the evaluation of the projects, the Commissions will have a maximum of 30 points available and the candidate will be admitted to the oral test, if the project receives an evaluation of at least 20 points. The project will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. *Originality of the project: maximum 15 points;*
2. *Consistency with the research topics of the doctorate and with any restricted topic on which the candidate has expressed a preference: maximum 10 points;*
3. *Methodological rigor and knowledge of the reference scientific literature: maximum 5 points.*

The research project presented by the candidate is evaluated for the purposes of accessing the courses and the proposed research topic is not binding for the purposes of the training activity. The PhD Board may assign the candidate a different research topic than the one presented in the selection phase, bearing in mind the consistency with the candidate's career and curriculum.

Evaluation of qualifications - maximum 10 points.

- For the evaluation of qualifications, each Commission will comply with the following criteria:

1. *Entry title to the competition: 0 points;*
2. *Other second level degree: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
3. *PhD title: 1 point (max 2 points);*
4. *Certificate of post-graduate specialization university courses: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
5. *Attendance of specialization schools recognized by the MUR: 0.2 points/year (max 1 point);*
6. *2nd level University Master recognized by the MUR: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
7. *Post-graduate periods spent in Italian or foreign scientific institutions: 0.1 points/month (max 2 points);*
8. *Scientific publications: 1 point (max 2 points), only publications published on the deadline date of the call will be evaluated, which will be relevant to the objectives of the course and provided with ISBN, ISSN, ISMN or DOI.*

The maximum overall score attributed to scientific qualifications and publications cannot exceed 10 points. Higher scores will be considered equal to 10.

The evaluation of qualifications will be carried out after the evaluation of the research project and only for candidates who have passed the latter with a minimum score of 20.

The evaluation of qualifications will be published before the oral exam.

Interview - maximum 60 points.

The test is passed with the minimum score of 20/60.

The test will be aimed at ascertaining the preparation, skills and aptitude of the candidate for scientific research. The exam consists of an interview in which the candidate will present the research project attached to the application.

For all candidates, the interview will take place online through the Microsoft Teams platform, according to the provisions of the Commission. Before starting test candidates, under penalty of

exclusion from participation, must show a valid identification document deposited in copy with the application form.

Candidates must have a Personal Computer (laptop or desktop), possibly also a tablet, an Internet connection with a download speed of at least 1024 Kbs and 512 Kbs for upload, Webcam and microphone.

The candidate must also demonstrate good knowledge of the English language.

The Commissions can decide that the oral exam will be held in English.

The list of candidates admitted to the interview, with the indication of the score assigned to the research project and the qualifications, will be published online at link www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati, no later than the day before the scheduled date of the interview.

Any changes of the date of the interviews will be published at the same link and will be valid as notification and official convocation of the candidates, who therefore will not have to wait for further communication.

Failure to communicate the personal email, failure to connect, absence or unavailability of the candidate on the established day/time, failure to show a valid identification document, will cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

Art. 9

Admission tests for subjects graduated abroad on reserved positions

Graduates abroad who intend to participate for reserved positions will have to make a choice during the application phase. These candidates will not be able to compete also for ordinary positions. The choice of one of the two methods of participation excludes the other.

The aforementioned doctorates follow the same rules and procedures indicated in this notice.

Art. 10

Rankings and admission to the courses

At the end of the selective procedures, for each doctoral course and for each type of scholarship identified by the specific code, a merit ranking will be compiled, showing all the eligible candidates. The merit rankings will be approved by Rector's Decree, having ascertained the regularity of the documents.

Positions will be assigned in the following order:

1. positions with scholarship with a restricted topic - D.M. n. 629/2024 e D.M. n. 630/2024;
2. positions with scholarship financed by the Sicilian Region, Notice 15/2024;
3. other positions with scholarship and restricted topic;
4. positions with scholarship reserved to foreign students (if any);
5. positions with university scholarship, with no restricted topic;

Positions without scholarship will be assigned on the basis of a general merit ranking, one for each doctoral course, within which each candidate is inserted with his or her maximum score in the evaluation and according to the following order of priority:

- A. positions without scholarship reserved for foreign students (if any);
- B. positions without scholarship, in compliance with the general merit ranking for each doctoral course.

In the case of candidates located in a useful position in several rankings, the assignment will be carried out in compliance with the merit ranking and ensuring the maximum coverage of the scholarships according to priority 1 of this article.

Winning candidates of a restricted position with scholarship, can't opt for another type of scholarship. In case of renunciation of the scholarship, the candidate will be admitted on a supernumerary position without scholarship.

Winners will be admitted to the courses according to the order defined by the relative ranking list, up to the number of positions available for each PhD course.

For the scholarships financed by the Sicilian Region under Notice 15/2024, in cases of equal merit will precede the youngest candidate.

For all the other positions with scholarship, in case of equal merit, the younger female candidate will precede.

In case of equal merit with all male candidates, the younger candidate will precede.

Reserved positions (if any) are those intended for candidates with additional requirements to those of a scientific nature (e.g. scholarships reserved for graduates abroad, scholarships from specific foreign universities).

Positions with scholarships financed by external bodies will be assigned if the agreements are signed before the conclusion of the competition procedures.

All scholarships, financed by an external body, will be paid after the University received the fund from the external body.

The general rankings lists will be published on the University website:

www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/

This publication is valid as official notification to the candidates and will take place after the conclusion of the competition tests. No home communications will be sent.

Appeals against the ranking will not be admitted after the sixtieth (60th) day from the approval of the competition documents by rectoral decree.

In the event of a useful placement for the assignment of positions for several doctoral courses, the candidate will have to exercise the option for only one course.

Limited to medical specialization schools, the PhD Board and the Council of the Specialization School can authorize the joint attendance of the specialization course and the doctorate pursuant to art. 7 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021. Joint attendance will result in the suspension of the payment of the assigned PhD scholarship.

In case of available positions due to renunciation, who is already enrolled in a position with a scholarship in a restricted subject will not be consulted.

In case of available positions due to renunciation, a communication will be sent to the suitable incoming candidate setting a deadline to complete the enrolment procedure.

Failure to register within the indicated deadline will be considered as renunciation.

Art. 11

Supernumerary admissions

Candidates graduated abroad, who have successfully passed the exams, if they are not among the winners, they can be admitted to the PhD course, without a scholarship on a supernumerary position, to the extent of 50% of the positions available, only if:

- they benefit of scholarships financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) of the Italian Republic or by the Government of their country of origin;
- they were born in a country in which exists a PhD agreement between the University and its country. In any case the University will not provide any benefits.

Candidates holding research grants, can be enrolled in the PhD course either with scholarship renouncing to the grant or without scholarship, keeping the research grant. The same candidates in the ranking list and non-winners can be enrolled without a scholarship, but no more than one for PhD course and respecting the rank list order. The option is irrevocable.

Those who, at the deadline for registration, are successful in a selection for the award of a research grant, the contract of which will begin at the beginning of the courses, must declare this in the application.

Art. 12 Italian public employees

Italian public employees in a winner position, will be admitted to the doctoral course, upon payment of the fees for access and attendance.

An Italian public employee, who is a winner position, can alternatively:

- Benefit from the doctoral grant: in this case the public administration, with which the employment relationship is established, "compatibly with its needs", places the employee on extraordinary leave for study reasons, without pay, for the duration of the doctoral course (Law 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended by art. 52, paragraph 57 of Law no. 448 of 28.12.2001 and by Law no. 240 of 30.12. 2010 art. 19, point 3, paragraph a);
- Renouncing the scholarship: in this case the public administration, with which the employment relationship is established, "compatibly with its needs", places the employee on extraordinary leave for study reasons, for the duration of the doctoral course; the same is admitted to the doctoral course on a supernumerary position and retains the economic treatment relating to his employment relationship.

The period of extraordinary leave is useful for the purposes of career progression, retirement and social security treatment, within the administration to which the employee belongs.

Special leave, with or without allowances, shall not be granted to public employees who have already obtained a PhD degree or to the ones who have been enrolled in doctoral courses for at least one academic year and who have already received such leave. (Law n. 240 of 30.12.2010 art. 19 point 3) paragraph b).

Art. 13 Enrollment

The winning candidates must enroll online, within the preemptory deadline of 7 days, starting from the day following the publication of the ranking list on the website:

www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/

The procedure can be completed by accessing the Students Portal (<http://studenti.unipa.it>) using the same credentials received during registration. The enrollment procedure can be started through the link "Enrollment application for a PhD course" that can be reached via the hypertext path *PRATICHE STUDENTE - - NUOVA PRATICA - Dottorati di Ricerca*. At the end of the procedure, after uploading, the self-certifications, the Research project and others required documents in pdf format, a PagoPA payment receipt is printed. Using the PagoPA service the candidate can pay the enrollment fee.

Applicants who fail to pay the enrollment fee by the deadline will be excluded from the course and this decision will be irrevocable.

After this period, the remaining positions will be assigned to the eligible candidates in the ranking list, to whom the procedure for registration on the Student Portal (<http://studenti.unipa.it>) will be opened. The registration must be formalized with the same modalities and the same times referred to in the previous paragraphs.

Art. 14

Contributions for access and attendance to courses

The annual fee for PhD courses is determined by resolution no. 8.15 of the Board of Directors of 2022/07/05 and with Decree no. 3045 of 2022/17/11, as specified below:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a) Students with scholarship | |
| Secretarial fees | € 200.00 |
| Regional tax | €140.00 |
| Stamp duty | €16.00 |
| b) Supernumerary students admitted without scholarship | |
| Regional tax | €140.00 |
| Stamp duty | €16.00 |

The following are exempt from paying the secretarial fees:

- people with a disability higher than 66%;
- holders of scholarships financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) in relation to the year of funding of the scholarship;
- foreign citizens who benefit from a scholarship financed by the country of origin.

All PhD students, in any case, will have to pay the regional tax for the right to study and stamp duty.

Art. 15

Scholarships

The scholarships will be assigned according to the ranking order, until the scholarships are exhausted.

Once the course has started, in no case the residual scholarships, due to renunciations or exclusions, will be assigned to another doctoral student.

The registration fees or the regional tax may vary from year to year, following a resolution by the Academic Bodies or Ministerial or Regional provisions.

Those who have previously benefited from a scholarship for a PhD course, even for just one year or a fraction of it, cannot apply for a position with scholarship and are placed among the supernumerary winners without scholarship.

The annual scholarship is € 16,243 gross amount (Ministerial Decree No. 247 of 23 February 2022) including social security charges to be paid by the PhD student and it's subject to the INPS social security contribution.

In any case, the granting of the scholarship can only take place after the doctoral student, at the time of enrollment, has provided his/her bank details (IBAN). For payment purposes can be used only personal bank account number.

The PhD student must be in possession of a valid tax code (Codice Fiscale) and has to be registered to the "Gestione Separata" service of INPS.

The scholarships have an annual duration and are renewed only if the PhD student is admitted to the next year by the PhD Board.

Scholarship payments are one month postponed.

The scholarship is increased by 50% in proportion and in relation to periods of training abroad. The period abroad must be authorized by Board of the PhD Course and can't be more than eighteen months.

Supernumerary PhD students without a scholarship who go abroad will be able to take advantage of a contribution pursuant to Art. 16, paragraph 6, of the Regulations for PhD courses.

In the case of a scholarship financed by an external body, the training periods abroad will be governed by the relative agreement.

In the case of a grant financed by an external body, the periods of training abroad will be governed by the modalities of its provision and the relevant agreement.

Failure to finalize agreements with external bodies for the financing of scholarships by 31/12/2024 will result in the non-assignment of grants, even if indicated in the PhD course sheets attached to this call.

Scholarships for attending courses are subject to the provisions on tax relief pursuant to art. 4 of Law 13.8.1984 n. 476 and art. 6 point 6 of Law 398/89.

For the entire duration of the course, doctoral students are not allowed to combine their scholarships with others conferred for any reason, except with those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for integrating the training or research activity of the scholarship holders with stays-abroad (Article 6 of Law No. 398 of 30th November 1989).

Art. 16

Attendance and obligations of doctoral students

Admission to the PhD involves an exclusive full-time commitment, according to the Regulations of the PhD courses of the University of Palermo.

Doctoral students are required to carry out their research activity according to the guide and rules established by the PhD Board, in compliance with the training plan defined in the activation proposal, except as provided by art. 12 of D.M. n. 226 of 14/12/2021.

At the end of each course year, doctoral students must submit a report on their research. The PhD Board may ask doctoral students to prepare reports and/or intermediate reports in order to evaluate their training path.

The PhD Board decides on admission to the following year or, in case of a negative assessment, on exclusion from the course.

Exclusion from the course is not allowed in cases of maternity or serious and documented illness.

In the event of unjustified suspension, lasting more than thirty days, the scholarship will be suspended and recovered later.

In compliance with art. 14, point 3), of the Regulations of the Research Doctorate courses of the University of Palermo, "PhD students can carry out up to 40 hours, as part of the training project and authorized by the PhD Board, of tutoring activities to students of degree and master's degree courses".

Doctoral students in the medical area can participate in the clinical assistance activity.

In the case of Doctorates associated with international universities, the procedures for carrying out the course and the composition of the final exam commission are defined in the agreement signed by the two institutions.

It is compulsory for PhD students who have been awarded a PhD scholarship to enroll in Gestione Separata INPS.

The PhD Board may require PhD students to carry out a mandatory period abroad, not exceeding 12 months, which can be extended up to 18 months in the case of a PhD program associated with foreign universities or research centers.

Art. 17 Incompatibility

Enrollment in the doctoral course is incompatible with enrollment in Italy and abroad in other doctoral courses. Thesis co-supervision and international doctorates which require double enrollment are an exception. For joint attendance of a doctoral course and a Master course, it's necessary to get a positive evaluation from the respective Boards who will verify whether the conditions for the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the training objectives of each path are met.

Art. 18 Achievement of the PhD title

The title of research doctor, abbreviated with the words: "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.", is released following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by a summary in Italian or English, is written in Italian or English or in another language with the prior authorization of the PhD Board. The thesis is defended in front a Commission that formulates an articulated judgment, which takes into account the judgments expressed by the PhD Board for the research developed in the three years course. The title of PhD is awarded upon passing a final exam.

The qualification of Ph.D. is obtained upon passing the final examination, to be done in front of a special Commission established in accordance with art. 17 of the "Regulations of the PhD courses" of the University of Palermo, after being admitted to the final exams by the Teachers' Committee at the end of the third year of the course, with the payment of a final exam fee and a stamp duties required by law.

The University takes care of the deposit of the thesis at the national libraries of Rome and Florence, through the IRIS application and guarantees its public consultation on the web.

The title of Doctor of Research is conferred by the Rector who certifies the achievement with the release of a parchment.

Art. 19 Managing of personal data

The University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by the candidate. All data received will be processed only for the purposes connected to the competition and to the management of the PhD student's career, up to the achievement of the PhD title, in compliance with current laws. PhD students enrolled in PhD courses will be officially registered on the private mailing lists of the University of Palermo, used by the university to send communications to all PhD students.

Art. 20 Responsible for the procedure

The official responsible for the procedure referred to in this announcement is Mr. Carmelo Priolo - email: doctorati@unipa.it. For further information, candidates can contact the Area Ricerca e

Trasferimento Tecnologico - U.O. Research Doctorates, Piazza Marina n. 61 - 90133 Palermo, telephone +39 091 238 93135 / 99521 / 93345 / 93127 / 93796.

Art. 21 Final rules

Although not explicitly reported in this announcement, reference is made to the rules contained in Law no. 210/98, in the D.M. no. 224 of 30.4.1999, in the law 240/2010, in the D.M. no. 226 of 2021/14/12, published in the GURI n. 308 of 2021/12/29, in the Regulations of the PhD courses of the University of Palermo, issued with DR n. 3900 of 2022/09/09, as well as with the other provisions in force on the matter.

This call for applications and related attachments are available on the University of Palermo website at: www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/

Attached to this notice:

- 33 PhD sheets, one for each PhD course numbered from 1 to 33;
- Europass Curriculum Vitae template (Annex A);
- Project template (Annex B);
- Substitutive Declaration template relating to the certification of the admission qualification and study plan with the exams taken and the grades obtained (Annex C)
- Self-certification Declaration template, relating to the list of qualifications and publications held (Annex D);

THE RECTOR
Prof. Massimo MIDIRI