



Three-Year Plan on the Centre's Activities 2022-2025

To the attention of the Scientific Council of the
Centre for Advanced Studies 'A.S.Cent

Dear Colleagues,

1. - Background on the establishment and activation of the Centre for Advanced Studies

The establishment of the Centre for Advanced Studies 'A.S.Cent.' has been proposed to the attention of the Magnificent Rector and then to the collegiate bodies since 2021. The procedure for the establishment of the Centre has been initiated at the competent offices, pursuant to the Statute of the University of Palermo.

The appointments by the Rector of the Centre's Director and Scientific Council were made on 19/7/2022 and 5/8/2022 respectively.

The Rules of the Centre were issued in final form on 22 September 2022.

The board was thus able to meet for the first time in the presence of the Magnificent Rector on 23 September 2022.

It follows that this planning report obviously covers the three-year period from September 2022 to July 2025.



2.- Aims and Purposes of the Centre for Advanced Studies

The purpose of the Centre for Advanced Studies is to strengthen and integrate the capacity for action of the University's research structures, promoting maximum synergies between them and consolidating the development and dissemination of science and technology, fostering the exchange and interaction of knowledge through the international circulation of ideas and scholars.

Internationalisation, interdisciplinarity and the sharing of scientific knowledge and expertise are the main thrusts of the Centre's activities for the exchange and discussion of ideas, the realisation of projects and the search for innovative results.

The mission is therefore to create a 'forum' to encourage and support cooperation and knowledge sharing between renowned academics from different parts of the world and the lecturers, young researchers, research fellows, Post-Doc and PhDs working and studying at the University of Palermo.



3.- Operational Objectives of the Centre for Advanced Studies

The Centre aims to achieve the following objectives:

To enhance research and the scientific, economic and knowledge potential present in the University of Palermo by developing and consolidating international contacts through the opportunity to host, for medium-long, both Italian and foreign scholars from all over the world who have distinguished themselves for scientific excellence and international renown (Visiting Fellow and Senior Visiting Fellow);
b) Strengthening the role and national and international visibility of the University's structures researchers and scholars through the rationalisation and coordination of the internationalisation service system.



- c) Design and implement studies and research agreed with incoming foreign researchers.
- d) develop and consolidate international partnerships and collaboration initiatives agreed with universities, research institutions and the production system.
- e) Promote interdisciplinary and systemic studies and research, technology transfer, advancement and dissemination of innovation, and set up and organise Seasonal Schools and other forms of advanced learning.

4. - Ways and means foreseen to achieve the objectives



a) awarding, through public tenders and within the framework of its own resources, special "Visiting Fellowship" and "Senior Visiting Fellowship" research grants of medium and long duration (e.g. from one month to one year) to scholars, researchers and professors from international universities and research organisations, on research topics of particular interest, identified by the Scientific and Technical Committee, to develop collaboration with internal professors in the various scientific fields;

b) reception of external scholars by organising the identification and provision, at a subsidised cost, of accommodation or guest quarters, the reimbursement of travel expenses, access to university canteens, free access to the University's study and research facilities, the availability of a well-equipped space and computer workstation the free use of the internet, the availability of free e-mail, the identification of a Senior Common Room or/and a meeting area, provision of a special badge for the recognition of the external scholar, access to the use of MyUniPA and the University's social networks, the distribution of a welcome kit;

c) international promotion of the Centre and external dissemination of study and research activities and in general of the activities planned and implemented.

d) promotion of third sector conferences and activities organised by the University of Palermo through specific co-financing.

d) design of a 'Think-tank of University PhDs, Post-Doc Researchers and Teaching Assistants';

e) Designing, organising and coordinating Seasonal Schools (with the involvement of Visiting Fellows) on interdisciplinary topics open to selected students from the University's higher education programmes;

f) devising, planning and coordinating (with the involvement of the Visiting Fellows) cycles of lectures, focus groups, workshops, advanced training courses and other forms of teaching, expressly dedicated to the education of excellence, first and foremost, junior researchers, PhDs, research fellows and post-docs (and secondly, also of PhD students, in cooperation with the university's doctoral school, as well as of students on master's degree courses and especially students admitted to the pathways of excellence).



5.- Administrative and management organisation of the Centre



The administration and operational management of the Centre is entrusted to two different figures to whom assigns, respectively, the responsibility for administrative-accounting management jointly with the Director of the Centre, and the responsibility for communication, organisation, promotion, marketing and fundraising activities as well as the coordination of external and internal relations (Technical Secretariat). It is also intended to make use of trainees who wish to carry out curricular training periods at the Centre.

6) General Outlook

In the first few months of activity, the main task will be to identify the staff to be assigned to the Centre, and particularly an administrative manager, a manager of communication, organisation, promotion, marketing and fundraising activities, as well as coordinating external and internal relations (Technical Secretariat). It will be necessary to identify a figure capable of interacting with foreign Fellows. It will also be necessary to identify a person capable of managing the Centre's web pages, which must be made available to the public as soon as possible.

In order for the Centre to function properly, a location of its own will have to be found in the first months of operation and, above all, the possibility of using the spaces of the former Hotel de France, in particular the six rooms on the top floor, which have long been identified as suitable for hosting visiting professors and to be transformed into self-catering studio-flats.

In this regard, it should be pointed out that the Centre, despite the initially planned budget of 100,000 euros, of which 60,000 to be used for the purchase of furniture for the guest professors' rooms (rooms, moreover, to be transformed into self-catering studio flats as envisaged in the Centre's development plan) is not usable, not only because the Centre was activated at the end of September 2022, but also because of the absence of an administrative manager and the proximity of the closure of the accounts, and above all because of the intervening appointment of the new Director General with the consequent difficulties in organising and reorganising the accounts and administration.

The Centre will therefore have to rely on the allocation for the years 2023, 2024, 2025.

In anticipation of these developments, it is proposed to the members of the Council that they communicate the activation of the Centre to the relevant scientific community and through the departmental directors, and that they publicise the initiatives they intend to take.

It is also intended to initiate appropriate discussions with municipal, provincial and regional Authorities, as well as with research institutes, professional associations, trade associations, the diplomatic corps, and in general with interested stakeholders to establish possible collaborations with the Centre and for the realisation of seasonal schools by enhancing the exchange with visiting fellows



It is also intended to set up a privileged channel with the President of the MedOr Foundation for collaboration with the Centre with a view to the creation of a seasonal school and/or a master in Euro planning for researchers and PhDs from the North African and Middle Eastern area (as well as Europeans and others) with the provision of funding by MedOr itself.

The Centre, in agreement with Pro-Rector Beatrice Pasciuta, contributes to the establishment of the Gender Studies PhD and the activities of the gender equality observatory.

The Centre also intends to participate in international calls and calls for research.

At this early stage, the Centre also intends to enter into agreements and establish relations with international scientific associations, participating in their proposed activities and organising similar research and dissemination activities.

In summary, here is the 'timeline' of activities:

September 2022- February 2023: Dissemination within the Athenaeum of the activation of the Centre and dissemination of information on the Centre's activities for the Athenaeum (including through personal meetings with the Heads of Departments and the willingness to present the activities at departmental councils). Identification of personnel. Identification of spaces to be used as self-catering flats for Visiting Fellows. Activation of appropriate mailboxes for the Centre.

February 2023- April 2023: Preparation of a Centre website. Preparation of guidelines for issuing calls and for the selection and hosting of Visiting Fellows. Preparation of separate calls for Senior Visiting Fellows and Visiting Fellows.

April 2023- September 2023: Issuing of guidelines for the co-funding of international research activities organised by University of Palermo. Issuing of a dedicated call. Initiation of interlocutions with municipal, provincial and regional authorities, as well as with research institutes, professional associations, associations of productive categories, the diplomatic corps, and in general with interested stakeholders with a view to possible collaboration with the Centre.

September 2023 - December 2024: Issuing and international dissemination of calls for Visiting Fellows. Selection of Visiting Fellows. Organisation of seminars, lectures, conferences with the

participation of Visiting Fellows. Feedback on the degree of satisfaction of the Visiting Fellows and the scientific relations established with professors at the University of Palermo. Participation of the Centre in the activities of international scientific associations, organisation of similar research and dissemination activities. Participation in competitive research calls.

December 2024 - July 2025: Selection of Visiting Fellows. Organisation of seminars, lectures, conferences with the participation of Visiting Fellows. Organisation of Seasonal schools and Master Classes with the participation of Visiting Fellows. Participation of the Centre in the activities of international scientific associations, organisation of similar research and dissemination activities. Participation in competitive research calls.

In Faith



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<https://www.unipa.it/strutture/centre-of-advanced-studies/home.html>

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