

NOTICE OF COMPETITION FOR THE ADMISSION TO PhD PROGRAMMES, AY 2025/2026 - CYCLE 41

Published on 31st July 2025 - Application deadline: 15th September 2025

The official announcement is only in Italian

THE RECTOR DECREES

Art. 1 - PhD programmes

For the academic year 2025/2026 (Cycle 41) the University of Cagliari (UniCa) announces public selections for its PhD programmes, listed below:

	PhD PROGRAMME	A R E A	POSITIONS (with and without scholarship)	SCHOLARSHIPS funded by UniCa and its Departments	SCHOLARSHIPS funded with funds from Regional Law no. 7 of 7.8.2007, allocated to the University pursuant to Regional Council Resolution no. 45/84 of 27.11.2024) CUP F23C24001130002	SCHOLARSHIPS funded by PRFSE+ 2021-2027 Line A CUP F22B25000190008	SCHOLARSHIPS funded by PRFSE+ 2021-2027 Line B CUP F22B25000200008	OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS
1	<i>Capacities building for global health in collaboration with the Universities of Salerno, Ferrara, and Palermo</i>	06 03 11 09 05	9 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1	-	4	-	1 UniSa 1 UniFe 1 UniPa
2	<i>Philosophy, Epistemology, Human Sciences</i>	11 14	6 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1	-	5	-	-

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3	<i>Physics</i>	02	14 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	-	1	3	3	2 INFN 2 INAF 1 CNR-IOM 1 Vinci Call
4	<i>Civil Engineering and Architecture</i>	08 04 07 09 11 13	10 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 DICAAR	1	3	3	-

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5	<i>Electronic and Computer Engineering</i>	09	14 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree; 2 reserved for scholarship holders under Grant Agreement no. 101168796 - FITNESS project - HORIZON-MSCA-2023- Doctoral Networks (DN) - 01 - CUP F23C24000620006; 1 reserved for a scholarship holder from a foreign country)	1 DIEE	1	3	3	1 ACN

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6	<i>Industrial Engineering</i>	0908	10 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree; 1 reserved for a scholarship holder under Grant Agreement no. 101168796 - FITNESS project - HORIZON-MSCA-2023-Doctoral Networks (DN) - 01 - CUP F23C24000620006)	1 DIEE	1	3	3	-
7	<i>Mathematics and Computer Science</i>	0113	10 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1DMI	1	3	3	-

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8	<i>Molecular and translational medicine</i>	06 05 03	7 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	-
9	<i>Neuroscience</i>	05 06 11	7 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	-
10	<i>Personalized Medicine and Public health</i>	06 02	7 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	-
11	<i>Research and Social Innovation</i>	14 12 11 13	7 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	-

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1 2	<i>Life, Environmental and Drug Sciences</i>	05 03	9 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	3	4	-
1 3	<i>Earth and Environmental Sciences and Technologies</i>	04 05 08 09 03 07	9 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	3	4	-
1 4	<i>Innovation Science and Technology</i>	03 04 05 06 09	9 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	3	4	-
1 5	<i>Economics and Business</i>	13	7 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	-

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16	<i>Legal Sciences</i>	12	4 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	3	-	-
17	<i>History, Cultural Heritage and International Studies</i>	10 11 14	8 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	5	-	1 AUSI
18	<i>Philological and Literary, Historical and Cultural Studies</i>	10	4 (1 reserved for a foreign candidate with foreign degree)	1 University	-	3	-	-

For each PhD programme, specific details are given in annexes available at <https://unica.it/dottoratiricerca>, forming an integral part of the present Notice of Competition and including: scientific and disciplinary areas, Coordinator's name, location, possible affiliated institutions, duration, research topics and educational objectives, university degree required to access the PhD programme, admission tests; positions and scholarships with indication of the funding; contact person(s). Any updated information will be published on the same webpage. The available positions are 151, 111 of which are ordinary and supported by a scholarship, 18 are without a scholarship; 22 positions are reserved, 18 of them, with scholarship, are reserved for foreign applicants holding a degree issued abroad, and 3 for scholarship recipients on Grant

Agreement no. 101168796 - project FITNESS - HORIZON-MSCA-2023-Doctoral Networks (DN), and 1 for scholarship recipients from foreign countries.

Positions reserved for foreign candidates with a degree obtained abroad, if not appointed, may be made available as ordinary positions.

There are 129 scholarships available for attending doctoral programmes: 96 scholarships are financed with funds from Regional Programme – European Social Fund plus 2021-2027 - PR Sardegna FSE+ 2021-2027 – 69 of them on Line A and 27 on Line B; 13 scholarships are financed with funds from the University; 5 scholarships are funded with funds from Regional Law no. 7 of 7.8.2007, allocated to the University pursuant to Regional Council Resolution no. 45/84 of 27.11.2024, specific for doctoral fellowships; 1 scholarship is allocated by the University of Salerno (UniSa); 1 scholarship is allocated by the University of Ferrara (UniFe); 1 scholarship is allocated by the University of Palermo (UniPa); 1 scholarship is financed by the Department of Civil, Environmental Engineering and Architecture (DICAAR); 2 scholarships are financed by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DIEE); 1 scholarship is financed by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMI); 2 scholarships are financed by the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN); 2 scholarships are financed by the National Institute for Astrophysics - Astronomical Observatory of Cagliari (INAF-OAC); 1 scholarship is financed by the National Research Council of Italy - Materials Foundry (CNR-IOM); 1 scholarship is financed by the Agency for National Cybersecurity (ACN); 1 scholarship is financed by the Consortium for the promotion of university activities in Sulcis Iglesiente (AUSI); 1 scholarship is financed by the Italo-French University in the frame of the Vinci Call 2023 - Chapter III - Three-year PhD scholarships.

The scholarships funded by the PR Sardegna FSE+ 2021-2027 resources are aimed at: supporting the promotion and specialisation of university training courses, in particular postgraduate doctoral programmes; increase opportunities for economic development and employability, including by promoting links between academia and socio-economic spheres, with a special focus on the strategic missions and priorities of the regional S3; promote the reduction of the gender gap in the study of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines. The scholarships must be consistent with the Research and Innovation Areas referred to in the 2021-2027 National Research Programme and the regional Areas of Specialisation (AdS), as outlined in the strategic guidelines of the PRS and regional Smart Specialisation, as updated in D.G.R. no. 30/36 of 30th September 2022, as indicated in the descriptions of each PhD programme. The grants funded by the PR Sardegna FSE+ 2021-2027 relate to two lines of action:

- Line A: Doctoral scholarships for projects closely linked to the needs of businesses in sectors that are strategic for the regional economy (S3, internationalisation, innovation, climate and

energy transition, and environmental, social and governance sustainability), aimed at young graduates under the age of 35 at the time of submitting their application to participate in the competition (men and women).

- Line B: PhD scholarships linked to the business system to encourage the participation of female researchers in STEM subjects and, in particular, in the Green and Blue Economy and ICT sectors, aimed at young female graduates under the age of 35 at the time of submitting their application to participate in the competition (women only).

The scholarships are intended exclusively for candidates who are successfully placed in the merit ranking, who meet the requirements set out in the Regional Notice and the requirements for their use, as set out in Article 10 below.

The doctoral programme, training, research and assessment must be carried out in Sardinia, except for periods of study and research abroad, planned in line with the training and research activities scheduled at the applicant's headquarters.

Research projects associated with the PR FSE+ 2021-2027 grants must be developed during the doctoral programme in accordance with the horizontal principles (Art. 9 Reg. 2021/1060 and Art. 6 and 8 Reg. 2021/1057 FSE+) referred to in the introduction to this call for applications.

The University of Cagliari complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The qualified contact point for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as the contact point for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRRD), is Dr Michele Sau - Directorate-General - Department of Labour and Vocational Training - email puntodicontattofseplus@regione.sardegna.it; to submit any complaints or reports of non-compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, please use the forms and procedure available on the website of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia at the link <https://www.sardegnaprogrammazione.it/programmi/fse/articolo/punto-di-contatto>.

All the programmes, lasting three years, include a mandatory training period abroad with a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months, extendable up to 18 months for doctorates in cotutelle with foreign universities.

The number of scholarships may increase in the event of further public and/or private funding, subject to the completion of the administrative steps before the completion of the enrolment procedure. Scholarships funded by external institutions will be awarded depending on the transfer of funds to UniCa.

The awarding of scholarships financed/co-financed by external institutions is conditional on the transfer of the relevant funds to the University of Cagliari.

PhD programmes will start only if at least three applicants will be selected for each programme, and if they complete the enrolment procedure.

PhD programmes last 3 years and are going to start on 1st November 2025.

Art. 2 - Eligibility requirements for selection

Admission to PhD programmes is open to graduates, regardless of nationality, that, by the deadline of the competition, hold (ref. to the [Italian university system](#)):

- a degree awarded according to the Italian Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004 (*laurea magistrale*);
- a degree awarded according to the Italian Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999 (*laurea specialistica*);
- a degree awarded according to the regulations established before the Italian Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999 (*laurea*);
- academic qualification (2nd cycle university degree: Master-level) issued by a foreign university recognized as equivalent. The foreign university degree must be evaluated as suitable and equivalent, in terms of duration, level of degree and fields of study to the degree listed above and providing access to PhD programmes in the awarding country.

The Selection Committee will deliberate on its equivalence, in compliance with the current legislation in Italy and in the Country where it was issued, and with the international treaties or agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for further studies for the sole purpose of the admission to the PhD programme.

The admission is also open to students who are going to graduate by 31st October 2025. These candidates will be admitted with reservation and will submit a certificate (only for degrees obtained abroad) or a self-declaration of their graduation together with a scanned copy of a valid ID/passport. The certificate/self-declaration should be sent to dottoratiemaster@unica.it.

The degree must be obtained in any case before the enrolment. If the applicant is evaluated positively to be admitted to a PhD programme but he/she will not be awarded the necessary degree by the above-mentioned date, he/she will lose that suitable position as well as the scholarship, if already assigned.

An admission requirement is also the submission of a research project consistent with the topic of the scholarship for which the candidate intends to apply, or, for non-thematic scholarships, with the topic of the relevant doctoral programme. The coherence check will be carried out by the Selection Committee prior to the evaluation of the candidates' qualifications and may result

in the exclusion of the candidates from subsequent stages of the evaluation process if the outcome is negative.

Art. 3 - How to apply

The **application** must be submitted, along with the relevant attachments, under penalty of exclusion, electronically using the computerized procedure "PICA - Integrated Platform for University Competitions", at the address <https://pica.cineca.it/login>. **from the date of the publication of the present Notice of Competition to 15th September 2025 at 12:00 pm (local time).**

It is possible to access the computer application via SPID, by choosing the University of Cagliari from the list of available federations; alternatively, the application will necessarily require an email address to register with the system.

The candidate must enter all the required data to complete the application.

The application for participation must be completed in all its parts, as indicated in the electronic procedure.

No other forms of submission of applications or documentation for participation in the procedure are allowed.

The guidelines on how to apply are available at https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page. At the following link, you will find a list of computers available for applicants: [unica.it - Aule informatiche](https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page).

According to the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, art. 46, applicants must provide the following information for the online procedure:

- a. name and surname, Italian tax identification code (*codice fiscale*) – for candidates applying for the first time, place and date of birth, residence address, telephone number, e-mail and current address where any possible correspondence related to the selection can be sent;
- b. citizenship;
- c. exact name of the selected PhD programme;
- d. name of the University degree, date of graduation, final grade, name of the issuing University;
- e. to possess the eligibility requirements reported in the notice of competition and to be aware of the text of the notice;
- f. to be aware of being subject to penalty if any information provided is later found to be untrue according to Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, art. 76;

- g. to have read the [notice](#) no. 2016/679 issued according to the EU Regulations and the Italian Law in force, about the protection of people regarding the treatment of personal data, as well as on the free circulation of data;
- h. to give the consent to communicate and disseminate his/her own personal data for the purposes of the present PhD notice of competition.

According to art. 20 of Italian Law no. 104/92, applicants with disabilities must specify in their application the required assistance for their needs, including possible requests for additional time for the completion of the tests, by sending an e-mail to the [PhD, Professional Master's, Visiting Professor Office](#), which could involve SIA - UniCa Office for Disability.

The sensitive data reported for this purpose will be kept secret and processed in accordance with the provisions currently in force.

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all forms of communication adopted by the University of Cagliari are designed to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. The effectiveness of communication will also be assessed through questionnaires and surveys.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SELECTION, APPLICANTS MUST PAY A FEE OF EUR 26.40, NOT REFUNDABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The fee of EUR 26.40 can be paid through PagoPA system, according to the Instructions. Paying the selection fee is essential for completing registration for the competition.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR THE ORDINARY POSITIONS

At the end of the online compiling procedure, will have to upload the following documents in PDF format:

- Annex C "Research Project" (mandatory form available at https://web.unica.it/unica/page/en/how_to_apply_for_phd_selection_cycle_41_guidelines_and_forms);
- Other evaluable documents (related to post-graduate qualifications; language certifications; other relevant qualifications and/or activities for admission to the PhD program; publications);
- Colour front/back scan of a valid ID/passport, with a clear photo (for foreign candidates, a color front/back scan of a valid passport, not expiring within 6 months from the application deadline, with a clear photo).

Only candidates with degrees obtained abroad:

- Certificate attesting the possession of the foreign second-level degree required for admission to the PhD, with the list of exams taken, grades and credits, average grades, enrollment and graduation dates, accompanied by a translation in Italian or English;
- Certificate attesting the possession of the foreign first-level degree, with the list of exams taken, grades and credits, average grades, enrollment and graduation dates, accompanied by a translation in Italian or English.

According to art. 40 of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, public bodies can no longer receive or request from private citizens certificates issued by other public institutions. Therefore, all qualifications must be provided only through a self-declaration of certifications or a self-declaration affidavit, according to articles 46 and 47 of the Italian Presidential Decree mentioned above.

Publications and other qualifications issued by private bodies, which cannot be self-declared, must be provided in PDF format together with a self-declaration affidavit attesting their conformity to the original version, according to the articles 19 and 19-bis of the same Italian Presidential Decree.

EU citizens can submit their replacement declarations according to articles 46, 47, 19 and 19-bis of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000.

Non-EU citizens, legally resident in Italy, can provide the above-mentioned replacement declarations, only with reference to situations, personal qualities and facts which can be certified or attested by Italian public bodies.

If the foreign degree has already been declared equivalent to the Italian degree reported in art. 2 by another Italian University, the candidate will report the reference of the University and the number of the Rector's decree declaring the equivalence.

Otherwise, if the foreign degree has not been considered equivalent, the Selection Committee will deliberate on its equivalence, in compliance with the current legislation in Italy and in the Country where it was issued, and with the international treaties or agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for further studies, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD programme.

The absence of even one of the attachments required by this article will result in exclusion from the competition procedure.

THE PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS ELECTRONICALLY MUST BE COMPLETED BY NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM (LOCAL TIME) ON 15.9.2025.

The date of electronic submission of the application for participation in the competition is certified by the computer system through a receipt, which will be automatically sent via email. Upon expiration of the deadline for submission, the system will no longer allow access to or submission of the electronic form.

Each application will be assigned an identification number, which along with the competition code indicated in the computer application, must be specified for any subsequent communication.

In the case of access via SPID, no signature will be required during the application submission. If accessing the system through another method, the submission of the application for participation must be completed and finalized through digital or handwritten signature, as indicated below:

a) Through digital signature, using a smart card, USB token, or remote signature, which allow the holder to sign generic documents using signature software on a PC or a web portal for Remote Signature made available by the Certifier. Those with a smart card or USB token for Digital Signature can verify compatibility with the Digital Signature system integrated into the server system. Upon successful verification, the holder can sign the application directly on the server (e.g., ConFirma). Those without compatible digital signature devices and holders of Remote Digital Signatures who have access to a portal for signing generic documents must save the PDF file generated by the system to their PC and, without making any modifications, digitally sign it in CADES format: a .p7m file extension will be generated, which must then be uploaded back into the system. Any modification made to the file before the application of the Digital Signature will prevent the automatic verification of correspondence between the content of the document and the original, resulting in exclusion of the application;

b) By handwritten signature: if it is not possible to use one of the options mentioned above, the candidate must save the PDF file generated by the system on their PC and, without making any changes, print it and sign the full handwritten signature on the last page of the printed document. This completed document must be scanned into PDF format, and the resulting file must be uploaded into the system.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR THE POSITION RESERVED FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS HOLDING A UNIVERSITY DEGREE ISSUED ABROAD

Candidates applying for a PhD programme, holding a university degree issued abroad, must fill in the online application and upload the following documents in PDF format:

- Certificate attesting the possession of the foreign second-level degree required for admission to the PhD, with the list of exams taken, grades and credits, average grades, enrollment and graduation dates, accompanied by a translation in Italian or English;
- Certificate attesting the possession of the foreign first-level degree, with the list of exams taken, grades and credits, average grades, enrollment and graduation dates, accompanied by a translation in Italian or English.
- Annex C "Research Project" (mandatory form available at https://web.unica.it/unica/page/en/how_to_apply_for_phd_selection_cycle_41_guidelines_and_forms);
- Other evaluable documents (related to post-graduate qualifications; language certifications; other relevant qualifications and/or activities for admission to the PhD program; publications);
- Colour front/back scan of a valid ID/passport, with a clear photo (for foreign candidates, a color front/back scan of a valid passport, not expiring within 6 months from the application deadline, with a clear photo).

The application must be supported by university professors or experts in the fields of reference of the doctorate with up to 3 letters of introduction, written in English, using the form available at

https://web.unica.it/unica/page/en/how_to_apply_for_phd_selection_cycle_41_guidelines_and_forms (Annex D) on letterhead of the institution to which the professor/expert belongs, dated and signed. Evaluators will send their letters directly to the email address phdcall_referenceletter@unica.it (object: surname and name of the candidate, name of the PhD programme) by 15th September 2025. Letters uploaded directly by the candidates or sent in different ways will not be evaluated.

If the foreign degree has already been declared equivalent to the Italian degree reported in art. 2 by another Italian University, the candidate will report the reference of the University and the number of the Rector's decree declaring the equivalence. Otherwise, if the foreign degree has not been considered equivalent, the Selection Committee will deliberate on its equivalence, in compliance with the current legislation in Italy and in the Country where it was issued, and with the international treaties or agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for further studies, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD programme.

EU citizens can submit their replacement declarations according to articles 46, 47, 19 and 19-bis of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000. Non-EU citizens, legally resident in Italy, can

provide the above-mentioned replacement declarations, only with reference to situations, personal qualities and facts which can be certified or attested by Italian public bodies.

The absence of even one of the attachments required by this article will result in exclusion from the competition procedure.

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The date of electronic submission of the application for participation in the competition is certified by the computer system through a receipt, which will be automatically sent via email. Upon expiration of the deadline for submission, the system will no longer allow access to or submission of the electronic form.

Each application will be assigned an identification number, which along with the competition code indicated in the computer application, must be specified for any subsequent communication.

In the case of access via SPID, no signature will be required during the application submission. If accessing the system through another method, the submission of the application for participation must be completed and finalized through digital or handwritten signature, as indicated below:

a) Through digital signature, using a smart card, USB token, or remote signature, which allow the holder to sign generic documents using signature software on a PC or a web portal for Remote Signature made available by the Certifier. Those with a smart card or USB token for Digital Signature can verify compatibility with the Digital Signature system integrated into the server system. Upon successful verification, the holder can sign the application directly on the server (e.g., ConFirma). Those without compatible digital signature devices and holders of Remote Digital Signatures who have access to a portal for signing generic documents must save the PDF file generated by the system to their PC and, without making any modifications, digitally sign it in CADES format: a .p7m file extension will be generated, which must then be uploaded back into the system. Any modification made to the file before the application of the Digital Signature will prevent the automatic verification of correspondence between the content of the document and the original, resulting in exclusion of the application;

b) By handwritten signature: if it is not possible to use one of the options mentioned above, the candidate must save the PDF file generated by the system on their PC and, without making any changes, print it and sign the full handwritten signature on the last page of the printed document. This completed document must be scanned into PDF format, and the resulting file must be uploaded into the system.

IN CASE OF APPLICANTS WITH A DUAL CITIZENSHIP, ONE OF WHICH IS ITALIAN, THIS ONE PREVAILS ACCORDING TO ART.19, PAR. 2. OF ITALIAN LAW NO.218 OF 31ST MAY 1995. THEY SHOULD THEN FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE FOR ORDINARY POSITIONS.

Candidates who intend to participate in the selection for admission to more doctorates must submit the application, pay the contribution of EUR 26.40 and upload the documents provided for in this article for each selection.

NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT TO APPLICANTS ADMITTED TO SELECTION.

All applicants are admitted conditionally to the selection, and can be excluded in any moment, also after the admission tests, for lack of the requirements of this notice of competition.

The University will check the truthfulness of candidates' self-declarations/affidavits.

Without prejudice to criminal sanctions under the Penal Code and the related special laws (articles 75 and 76 of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000), if the University administrative offices detect that the information declared by the applicant is mendacious or false, he/she will not be able to enrol.

All necessary communications will be sent by e-mail to the e-mail address registered in the candidate's Esse3 personal webpage. The University administration declines all responsibilities in the case of a failure in communication, caused by inaccurate information regarding the applicant's e-mail address, or in the event that the candidate does not communicate a change in the e-mail address.

Art. 4 - Admission tests

Admission to PhD programmes is subject to a public selection, which verifies the applicant's preparation, his/her research attitude and knowledge.

CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR THE ORDINARY POSITIONS

The selection of candidates applying for the ordinary positions is carried out according to one of the following methods, specified for each PhD programme in the annexes attached to the notice of selection.

The evaluation criteria are established by the Selection Committee, having a total of 100 points, distributed as follows:

- up to 45 points
- academic career: single-cycle degree (*laurea magistrale a ciclo unico*), 2nd and 1st cycle degrees (*laurea magistrale/specialistica + laurea*); Italian degrees awarded according to the previous educational regulations; equivalent degrees)

- ~ weighted average of examination marks
 - ~ final grade of degree
 - ~ duration of the academic career
- up to 15 points
- experiences and further qualifications:
 - ~ study, research or professional experiences abroad before and after the award of a degree
 - ~ further qualifications or additional documents/certificates achieved up to five years prior to the publication of this notice of competition (e.g.: postgraduate qualifications, [language certificates](#), other qualifications and/or activities relevant for the purposes of the admission to the PhD programme);
 - ~ publications and professional experiences
- up to 40 points
- written test/interview or interview

The Selection Committee could define the assessment criteria and assess the qualifications also by video conference.

Applicants who pass the preliminary assessment of the coherence of the research project, as described in Article 2, are eligible for evaluation of their qualifications.

Those candidates who obtain at least 30 points in the evaluation of qualifications and curriculum vitae (university career and experience and other qualifications) are admitted to interview.

The results of the evaluation of qualifications and curriculum vitae will be published anonymously on the University website, at https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page (*News and deadlines*).

The interview will take place via videoconference on the Microsoft Teams platform, using the "meeting" tool, after verifying the identity of the candidate by displaying the identity document submitted with the application for the competition. The process will ensure transparency, publicity of the test, and equal treatment among candidates.

The interview will primarily focus on the presentation and discussion of the research project proposed by the candidate, aiming to assess the suitability of their profile in terms of familiarity with the main study areas relevant to the doctoral program, disciplinary preparation related to the project, aptitude for scientific research, and language skills.

The research project proposed for participation in the selection is not binding for the research theme to be developed during the doctoral programme, which will be defined at the beginning of the programme and formally assigned by the Academic Board.

The admission tests will take place approximately between 22nd September 2025 and the first half of October 2025.

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF SELECTIONS AND ANY VARIATION WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBPAGE https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page

THE WEB PUBLICATION WILL BE THE ONLY OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR THE ADMISSION TESTS.

Therefore, candidates must attend the tests (written test and face-to-face interview) on the day and at the time indicated for each PhD programme, bringing with them a valid form of identification.

Candidates who are unable, for justified reasons, to attend the interview at the competition venue may be granted the opportunity to take it via videoconference, on the Microsoft Teams platform, using the “meeting” tool, on the same date and time established for the in-person interviews, subject to verification of the candidate's identity through the presentation of the identity document attached to the application form, and in a manner that ensures the transparency and publicity of the test.

The reasoned request, accompanied by a scan of the candidate's identity document, must be sent to the email address of the contact person indicated in the form relating to the chosen doctoral programme, up to 3 days before the date set for the interview.

The acceptance of the request is subject to the discretionary and unquestionable assessment of the Committee, which will communicate its decisions by email to the address used by the candidate to send the request.

If the Committee does not respond, the request will be considered rejected and the candidate must attend the interview venue to take the test.

The University of Cagliari declines all responsibility for any technical problems that may prevent the interview from taking place as planned.

Failure to attend the admission tests (written test and face-to-face interview) and, in the case of a remote interview, the absence of the candidate from the virtual classroom on the appointed day and time, will be considered as withdrawal from the competition.

Only those candidates who obtain a minimum score of 60/100 will pass the selection.

FOREIGN CANDIDATES HOLDING A DEGREE AWARDED ABROAD, APPLYING FOR THE POSITION RESERVED FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS HOLDING A UNIVERSITY DEGREE ISSUED ABROAD

Foreign candidates holding a degree obtained abroad, applying for the reserved positions, will be selected on the basis of the evaluation of their degrees, CVs and interview, as detailed in each PhD programme Annex. The evaluation criteria are established by the Selection Committee which has a total of 100 points, distributed as follows:

up to a maximum of 40 points ▪ CV

up to a maximum of 20 points ▪ reference letters

up to a maximum of 40 points ▪ interview

The Selection Committee could define the assessment criteria and assess the qualifications also by video conference.

Applicants who pass the preliminary assessment of the coherence of the research project, as described in Article 2, are eligible for evaluation of their qualifications.

Candidates who obtain at least 30 points in the evaluation of their qualifications and curriculum vitae (university career and experience and other qualifications) are admitted to the interview. The results of the evaluation of qualifications and curriculum vitae will be published anonymously on the University website, at https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page (*News and deadlines*).

The interview will take place via videoconference on the Microsoft Teams platform, using the "meeting" tool, after verifying the identity of the candidate by displaying the identity document submitted with the application for the competition. The process will ensure transparency, publicity of the test, and equal treatment among candidates.

The interview will primarily focus on the presentation and discussion of the research project proposed by the candidate, aiming to assess the suitability of their profile in terms of familiarity with the main study areas relevant to the doctoral program, disciplinary preparation related to the project, aptitude for scientific research, and language skills.

The research project proposed for participation in the selection is not binding for the research theme to be developed during the doctoral programme, which will be defined at the beginning of the programme and formally assigned by the Academic Board.

The admission tests will take place approximately between 22nd September 2025 and the first half of October 2025.

THE DATES AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE REMOTE INTERVIEWS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBPAGE

WEB PUBLICATION WILL BE THE ONLY OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR THE ADMISSION TESTS.

Candidates should be available for their interviews at the scheduled time and date with a valid passport. If candidates will not access the virtual room for their video conference interview at the scheduled time and date, this will be considered as a waiver to the competition.

Only those candidates who obtain a minimum score of 60/100 will pass the selection.

Art. 5 - Selection Committees

The Rector appoints the Selection Committees, upon proposal by the PhD programme Academic Board. Each Committee is composed, in respect, if possible, of gender balance, of three or five effective members and two alternates, identified among professors, university researchers and experts in possession of high and proven scientific or professional qualification in the disciplinary areas of the PhD programme.

The Selection Committees will be able to carry out their functions with the aid of telematic tools. The Rector's decree appointing the Selection Committees will be published on https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page, after the deadline for the submission of applications.

Art. 6 - Rankings

The Selection Committees will draw up the ranking list, on the basis of the applicants' comparative evaluation, carried out in accordance with the criteria set out for the admission to each PhD programme, considering the total scores of each candidate. In case of candidates obtaining the same ranking position, the younger will prevail.

The rankings of admitted and eligible but not admitted candidates, with the indication of their eligibility for the scholarships with a specific research topic, as defined by the Selection Committees pursuant to art 10, will be published on the webpage https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page.

NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

Art. 7 - Admission to PhD programmes

Candidates are admitted to PhD programmes according to the ranking list and the number of positions available for the selected PhD programme.

In the event of failure to enrol within the prescribed date, of renunciation of the eligible candidates before the start of the courses, of forfeiture due to ascertained non-truthfulness of the substitutive declarations submitted, or of forfeiture due to failure to obtain the qualification for access to the doctorate within the deadline referred to in art. 2, the same number of candidates will take over according to the order of the ranking.

Taking over after the start of the courses can be allowed no later than the following two months, subject to obtaining the favourable opinion of the Academic Board.

If a candidate is admitted contemporarily to several PhD programmes, he/she can choose only one of them.

Waiver from the PhD programme submitted after the completion of enrolment will result in the obligation to pay the stamp duty of EUR 16.00.

Public employees admitted to PhD programmes benefit, for the normal duration of the programme, from the leave provided for by collective bargaining or, if employed under public law, from extraordinary leave for study purposes, compatibly with the needs of the administration, pursuant to art. 2 of Law no. 476 of 13th August 1984, with or without grants and unless explicitly waived, only if enrolled for the first time in a doctoral programme, regardless of the subject area.

The students of a postgraduate medical school who are the winners of the competition for admission to a PhD programme organized by the University of Cagliari may be admitted to the joint attendance of the specialization school and of the PhD programme, with possible reduction of the duration of the doctorate to a minimum of two years, with the authorization, respectively, of the Board of the specialization school and the Academic Board of the doctorate, issued after evaluation of the compatibility of the activities and of the commitment required by the specialization school and the doctoral programme, also in consideration of the distance between the respective locations.

The specialist admitted to joint attendance cannot receive the PhD scholarship until the overlapping period ends.

Art. 8 - Enrolment in PhD programmes

In order to enrol, successful candidates must first fill in the enrolment form available at <https://unica.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do>, uploading a recent passport size photo in digital format (bitmap or jpeg), a scanned copy of a valid ID/passport and a self-certification (available at https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page together with the rankings), filled in and signed, **within the deadline indicated with a specific notice on the website.**

To complete the enrolment, candidates must pay a stamp duty of EUR 16.00 through PagoPA system within 4 days from the date of your application (ref. to the following link for further information about how to pay the stamp duty: https://www.unica.it/unica/it/studenti_s02_ss01.page (*Istruzioni pagamento*)).

ENROLMENT OF CANDIDATES HOLDING A FOREIGN ACADEMIC DEGREE

Successful candidates holding a foreign academic degree, at their arrival in Cagliari, must submit to *Settore Dottorati di ricerca, Master, Visiting Professor* the following documents in original:

1. original or certified copy of your 2nd level degree valid to access PhD education;
2. original legalized translation into Italian of the degree;
3. original statement of value (*Dichiarazione di valore in loco*) of the foreign degree issued by the competent Italian diplomatic representative in the Country where the academic qualification has been issued (<http://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/dichiarazione-di-valore> - <http://www.cimea.it/it/servizi/procedure-di-riconoscimento-dei-titoli/glossario.aspx>), or a Diploma Supplement in original;
4. original or certified copy of the 1st level degree.

THE DOCUMENTS ABOVE MUST BE PREVIOUSLY SENT BY E-MAIL TO dottoratiemaster@unica.it WITHIN 4 DAYS AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF YOUR ENROLMENT APPLICATION.

If unable to respect the deadline mentioned above, the candidates holding a degree issued abroad should deliver the requested documents within a new deadline set in accordance with the PhD and Professional Master office. No extension to this second deadline will be allowed. Foreign PhD candidates are required to comply with the [Procedures for entry, residency and enrolment of international students and the respective recognition of qualifications for higher education courses in Italy](#).

ENTRY VISA AND RESIDING PROCEDURES FOR FOREIGN SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES, AS WELL AS SUPPORTING MEASURES DURING THEIR STAY, WILL BE MANAGED BY THE EURAXESS SERVICE OFFICE. APPLICANTS SHOULD REFER TO: Tiziana Cubeddu, Head of the Office, tel. +390706758442, email euraxess@unica.it - tcubeddu@unica.it; webpage https://www.unica.it/unica/it/ateneo_s07_ss05_sss02.page.

The enrolment procedure will be completed when the PhD and Professional Master office of the University of Cagliari will have verified the completeness and accuracy of the application and the required documents, as well as the receipt of the EUR 16.00 payment, within the deadline above. Those successful candidates who do not comply with the requirements for their enrolment, will automatically be considered as withdrawn and the next candidate(s) in the ranking list will take their place; the University office will inform by e-mail the next candidates and invite them to enrol within a deadline specified in the email. The e-mail address registered in the candidates' Esse3 webpage will be the only considered.

Successful candidates must provide a self-certification attached to the application and declare:

- to be/not to be enrolled in another degree programme, professional master or non-medical specialization course;
- to be/not to be enrolled in medical schools of specialization;

- to be/not be enrolled – and commit not to enrol – in another PhD programme for the entire duration of the PhD programme;
- to have/not to have been previously awarded another scholarship for a PhD programme, even if partially;
- to receive/not to receive a research grant;
- to be aware that the admission to a doctorate entails an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the law in force;
- to undertake to carry out the activities of the doctorate assiduously and to fulfil the educational obligations according to the programme and in compliance with the deadlines scheduled by the Academic Board, also with reference to the level of knowledge of English to be acquired at the end of the doctorate, and to carrying out, over the three-year period, research and training activities consistent with the doctoral project, at university institutions or highly qualified foreign research bodies, for a period of a mandatory minimum duration of 6 months;
- to undertake to ask the Academic Board for authorization to carry out tutoring activities for the students of 1st and 2nd level degree courses, even paid; supplementary teaching activities within the limit of forty hours for each academic year; paid work activity, even if already existing at the time of enrolment in the doctorate;
- to be aware that the scholarships are granted to students whose annual gross income does not exceed the amount of EUR 16,243.00;
- not to exceed a gross income of EUR 2.707,16 for the last bimester of the fiscal year 2025 and not to exceed an annual gross income of EUR 16,243.00 for the fiscal year 2026; and to communicate promptly if this limit has been exceeded, so losing the right to the scholarship and paying back the monthly amount of the scholarship received during the year in which the limit has been exceeded;
- to be aware that the scholarship is also revoked in the event of failure to complete the compulsory period abroad envisaged by art. 12, par. 2, of the University Regulations for PhD programmes, negative evaluation by the Academic Board and consequent non-admission to the following year of the doctoral programme, waiver from the scholarship, failure to obtain the degree upon completion of the doctoral programme, and that the revocation determines the obligation, for on the scholarship recipient, to return all or part of the sums received;
- to be aware that the scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships, nor with research grants/contracts;
- to/not to benefit from another scholarship;
- to be interested in being granted a scholarship with a specific research topic, for which has been evaluated eligible, and to accept it;

- to be aware that the granting of a scholarship bounds the beneficiary to carry out a specific research topic;
- to be aware that the granting of scholarships funded by external institutions depends on the transfer of those funds to the University of Cagliari.

The successful candidate must also issue a specific declaration for the purposes of awarding the PR FSE+ 2021-2027 grant, in which he/she accepts the grant and:

- a) formally undertakes to carry out the research project associated with the scholarship, in compliance with the specific principles and obligations of the PR FSE+ 2021-2027 referred to in the introduction to this call for applications and in the related RAS Notice;
- b) formally undertakes to carry out the planned periods of study and research abroad, while certifying that they are aware that failure to comply with the minimum period will result in the revocation of the scholarship and the obligation to repay all or part of the sums already paid;
- c) certifies that he/she is not receiving any other scholarships for any reason whatsoever and undertakes, for the entire duration of the scholarship, not to receive any other scholarships for any reason whatsoever.

Art. 9 - Taxes and fees

The PhD students are exempted from paying an enrolment and attendance fee. For each academic year, of enrolment, they are requested to pay the stamp duty and the Regional Tax for the right to university education, according to the instructions published <https://www.unica.it/it/didattica/iscriversi-e-immatricolarsi/tasse-universitarie/istruzioni-pagamento>

(*Instructions for payment*), within the deadlines below:

Stamp duty	EUR 16.00	By the time of enrolment; at the beginning of each academic year within the deadline published on the official webpage https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page
Regional Tax for the right to university education	EUR 140.00	At the beginning of each academic year, by the deadline which will be published on https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page

Art. 10 - Scholarships

As indicated for each PhD programme in art. 1 and in Annexes published on the webpage https://web.unica.it/unica/en/studenti_s01_ss05.page, scholarships will be awarded with

Rector's Decree on the basis of the rankings drawn up by the Selection Committees, also considering the eligibility evaluations on the candidates' projects as well as the selection results. Research-themed scholarships are awarded exclusively to candidates who are successfully placed in the merit ranking and who have obtained the highest score and a positive evaluation by the Selection Committee regarding the suitability of their curriculum vitae for the specific theme of the scholarship.

The PR FSE+ 2021-2027 scholarships will be awarded to candidates who are successfully placed in the merit ranking and who meet the requirements set out in the regional notice. In particular: Line A scholarships - doctoral grants for projects closely linked to the needs of businesses in sectors that are strategic for the regional economy (S3, internationalisation, innovation, climate and energy transition, and environmental, social and governance sustainability) - to young graduates under the age of 35 at the time of submitting their application to participate in the competition (men and women).

Line B scholarships - PhD scholarships linked to the business system to encourage the participation of female researchers in STEM subjects and, in particular, in the Green and Blue Economy and ICT sectors - are awarded to young female graduates under the age of 35 at the time of submitting their application to participate in the competition (women only).

Scholarship granting procedures, as well as information about fulfilments needed to allocate them, will be published on the webpage mentioned above.

The scholarships have a total duration of three years and are confirmed annually with managerial provision, provided that the PhD student has completed the programme of activities planned for the previous year, verified by the Academic Board.

The annual amount of the scholarship is EUR 16,243.00, gross of tax deduction (INPS "*Gestione Separata*" to the beneficiary: 1/3) and net of the University deduction (2/3).

The amount of the scholarship is increased to 50%, according and proportionally to the duration of the PhD student's stay abroad at universities or research institutions, when he/she is authorized by the Academic Board or, upon its delegation, by the Coordinator, if the stay does not exceed 3 months. The increase on the scholarship is not paid when the PhD student stays in his/her country of origin or residence, except for exceptions authorized by the Rector in relation to special cases.

The scholarships are paid out exclusively to PhD students not receiving an annual gross income higher than EUR 16,243.00. Exceeding that limit will result in the loss of the scholarship and implies the duty to give back the monthly payments already received for a specific year.

The revocation of the scholarship, with the consequent obligation for the beneficiary to refund the total or partial sums received, is made in case of: failure to carry out the scheduled periods

of study and research abroad, pursuant to art. 12 par. 2 of the University Regulations on PhD programme; negative assessment of the Academic Board and the consequent non-admission to the following year of the doctoral PhD programme; waiver from the scholarship; failure to obtain the PhD degree at the completion of the PhD programme.

The PhD scholarships cannot be added to other grants awarded for any purpose, nor to any other research grants/contracts.

Furthermore, PhD scholarships are incompatible with emoluments, however named, received in relation to the activities of medical specialization schools. Therefore, the scholarships assigned to the trainees admitted to the joint attendance of the medical specialization course and the PhD programme will be paid exclusively from the date of termination of the overlapping period, reduced by the accruals relating to the aforementioned period, which cannot be recovered.

The scholarships will be paid in monthly deferred payments. The payment of the first monthly instalment will be done after the conclusion of the administrative and fiscal procedures needed to allocate them, after PhD students will have provided all the relevant documents.

Those PhD students who benefited, although partially, of a PhD scholarship in the past, cannot apply a second time for another PhD scholarship.

Art. 11 - PhD students' attendance and obligations

The PhD programme entails an exclusive and full-time commitment.

The PhD students are required to carry out the PhD activities assiduously and to fulfil the educational obligations according to the programme and in compliance with the deadlines approved by the Academic Board, also with reference to the level of knowledge of English to be acquired at the conclusion of the doctorate, and to carry out, over the three-year period, research and training activities consistent with the doctoral project, at highly qualified foreign university institutions or research institutions, for a period with a mandatory minimum duration of 6 months.

The PhD students can work as tutors, provide integrative teaching activity and be employed according to the Rules and Regulations about PhD programmes in force at UniCa.

At the end of each academic year, the Academic Board evaluates the PhD student's activity, through appropriate forms of assessment, under which he/she can be admitted to the following year or, on a reasoned decision, excluded in the event of a negative evaluation. The exclusion from the programme may be asked also in case of non-participation in the organized activities, unjustified and prolonged absences, or if the PhD student works without the prior authorization of the Academic Board.

Being excluded means losing the PhD student's position and the scholarship.

The excluded PhD student cannot enrol again in the same doctorate.

Attendance of the doctorate and the disbursement of any scholarship received are suspended in cases of maternity, paternity and parental leave and serious and prolonged duly documented disease.

They can also be suspended, for a maximum duration of six months, at the request of the PhD student, with the favourable opinion of the Academic Board, for serious and proven family reasons.

The suspension period, during which the PhD student retains the right to any scholarship received, must be recovered at the end of the three-year legal duration of the doctorate.

At the end of the suspension period, the disbursement of the scholarship starts from the resumption of attendance of the PhD programme, up to the total duration of the scholarship.

Obligations related to PR FSE+ 2021-2027 scholarships:

Recipients of PR FSE+ 2021-2027 scholarships are required to:

- carry out the research project associated with the grant, in compliance with the specific principles and obligations of the PR FSE+ 2021-2027 referred to in the introduction to this call for applications and in the relevant RAS Notice;
- complete the period of study and research abroad, as provided for in the doctoral programme associated with the scholarship;
- report on their activities every six months by completing a report summarising the main training and research activities carried out, indicating the time commitment involved, verified and validated by the Coordinator;
- prepare and submit to the Coordinator an annual report on the activities carried out.

Art. 12 - Award of the PhD degree

The PhD degree is awarded upon completion of the PhD programme, after passing a final examination, consisting in the defence of a PhD thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation, in front of a Selection Committee, selected and appointed according to the Rules and Regulations on PhD programmes.

Art. 13 - Simultaneous enrolment

Enrolment in the PhD programme is incompatible with enrolment in another PhD programme - except in cases of joint supervision of theses - and in a bachelor's or master's degree programme with compulsory attendance, at the University of Cagliari or at other Italian and foreign universities, as well as with research contracts referred to in Article 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, as amended.

Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme and a bachelor's or master's degree programme with non-compulsory attendance is permitted.

Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme and a non-medical specialisation course is also permitted, subject to a positive assessment of the compatibility of the attendance requirement with the conditions for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the educational objectives of each course, as expressed by the respective governing bodies.

Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme and a medical specialisation course is permitted under the conditions referred to in Article 7.

Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme and a master's degree programme is subject to a positive assessment by the respective governing bodies, subject to verification of the conditions for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the educational objectives of each programme.

Art. 14 - Personal data treatment

The University of Cagliari is the controller for the personal data treatment, according to the EU Regulations 2016/679 about the protection of individuals with regard to the treatment of personal data, as well as the free circulation of these data and the and of the Code regarding the protection of personal data - Legislative Decree n. 196/2003, respecting human dignity, fundamental rights and freedoms of the person. The notice on data treatment for the category 'citizens' is available at https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page.

Art. 15 - Responsible person for procedures

According to art. 5 of the Italian Law no. 241, issued on 7th August 1990, the responsible person for the administrative procedures is Ms. Monica Melis, Head of the PhD, Professional Master's, Visiting Professor Office, tel. +390706756494, e-mail dottoratiemaster@unica.it.

Art. 16 - Reference

The laws and regulations for PhD programmes (art. 4 of Law no. 210 of July 3rd 1998, as amended by art. 19 of Law of no. 240 of December 30th 2010; Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14th December 2021, containing "*Regulations about the procedures for the accreditation of locations and PhD programmes and criteria for the establishment of PhD programmes by accredited bodies*"; Rector's Decree no. 296 of 21st March 2022, *Rules and Regulations on PhD programmes in force at the University of Cagliari*) are the reference documents for all matters not listed in this announcement.

Art. 17 - Publicity

The present notice of competition will be published, in Italian and English, on the website of the University of Cagliari, on the website of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR), and on the website of Euraxess. The notice of its publication will be published on the Official Journal of Italian Republic (*Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana – IV Serie speciale, Concorsi*).