



UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA Protocollo Generale
05 LUG. 2019
Prot. 212295 Tit. VII Cl. I
Rep. Decreti n° 2123

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN PH.D. COURSES
XXXV CYCLE – UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA**

Having regard to:

- The charter of the University of Catania in force;
- The Decree of President of the Council of Ministers 09/04/2001 with particular reference to art. 8, ppt. 1 and 7;
- Ministerial Decree n. 45/2013 containing the rules on the modalities of accreditation of universities and Ph.D. courses and the principles for the implementation of Ph.D. courses in the accredited universities and particularly art. 8, pt.2, concerning the possibility of different selection procedures with references to places reserved to graduates from foreign universities;
- The current Regulation of the University of Catania concerning Ph.D. courses;
- The mandatory conclusion of selection procedures by no later than September 30 of each year as in art. 8, par. 1 of the abovementioned Ministerial Decree 45/2013;
- Ministerial Decree n. 40 of 25/01/2018;
- Ministerial Communication prot. n. 3315 del 01/02/2019 “New guidelines for the accreditation of Ph.D. courses”;
- Ministerial Communication prot. n. 6623 of 27/02/2019 “Guidelines for the procedure of accreditation of Ph.D. courses (academic year 2019/2020)”;
- The decisions of the Board of Trustees of the University of Catania of 01/04/2019 and of 30/05/2019 concerning Ph.D. courses – XXXV cycle;
- The call of the National Institute for Social Security of June 11 2019 concerning the funding of additional scholarships for children and orphans of users registered with the unitary management of social security credits and children of retirees registered with the management of public employees;
- Ministerial Decree n. 602/2019 by which the resignations of Prof. Francesco Basile from the office of Rector of the University of Catania are accepted as from July 2 2019;
- The possibility of modifications and integrations of the call, if appropriate;
- All this considered;

the following Call is issued by the Doyen of the University of Catania

Art. 1 – Selection procedures

1. Pending the publication of the accreditation decrees of Ph.D. courses, cycle XXXV, by the Ministry of Education in compliance with the dispositions of the Ministerial Decree 45/2013, for the academic year 2019/2020 the University of Catania officially announces the selection procedures for places in the following Ph.D. courses of cycle XXXV:
 1. Agricultural, food and environmental science (international);
 2. Basic and applied biomedical sciences (international);
 3. Translational biomedicine (international);
 4. Biotechnologies;

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5. Physics;
 6. Law (international);
 7. Computer Science (international);
 8. Systems, energy, computer and telecommunications engineering;
 9. Neuroscience (international);
 10. Educational processes, theoretical-transformative models and research methods applied to the territory;
 11. Materials science and nanotechnologies;
 12. Chemical Sciences (international);
 13. Science of Interpretation;
 14. Earth and Environmental science;
 15. Sciences of cultural heritage and production;
 16. Political science;
 17. Complex systems for physical, socio-economic and life science;
 18. Evaluation and mitigation of urban and land risks.
2. In case of non-accreditation of a Ph.D. course, selection procedures, when already completed, must be considered void according to the guidelines as in the premises to this call.
 3. For all Ph.D. programs listed above course activities begin on October 31 2019.
 4. Detailed information on each Ph.D. course, together with the number of scholarships and their sources of funding, is included in the annexed information sheets which constitute integral and substantial part of the Call (annexes 1 to 18).

Art. 2 Admission requirements

1. Applications are open without regard to nationality or age to candidates who hold either a *Laurea (Vecchio Ordinamento)* or a *Laurea specialistica /magistrale* or any foreign degree suitable for access to Ph.D. courses by the deadline of the present call.
2. The suitability of the foreign degree is assessed by the selection committee with respect to the rules in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was issued and according to international agreements on degrees recognition.
3. Applications are also open to candidates regularly enrolled in their final year of *Laurea Vecchio ordinamento, Laurea specialistica/magistrale* or foreign degree course who obtain their final degree by no later than October 31 2019.
In case these candidates pass the selection, their admission to the Ph.D. course is subject to the submission of a self-certification of degree completion (for holders of *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento or Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale*) or a degree certificate (for holders of a degree issued by a foreign university) by no later than November 6 2019. Failure to submit the aforementioned documents within November 6 2019 will lead to the exclusion from the doctoral program.
4. Additional scholarships funded by the National Institute for Social Security (Call of June 11 2019) are reserved to children and orphans of users registered with the unitary management of social security credits and children of retirees registered with the management of public employees.

5. Specific entry requirements, additional to those already provided for in the paragraph of this article, are reported in the information sheets (annexes 1-18) which constitute integral and substantial part of the Call.

Art. 3 – Application form

1. The application form is web based and must be completed electronically through the University of Catania online application system available at <https://www.unict.it>servizi>portale> studenti – **NUOVO** according to the guidelines in paragraph 10 of the present article. The closing date for the application is **August 7 2019, h. 12.00 (noon) (Italian time)**.
2. An application fee of € 30,00 as contribution to costs for the organization of the selection is required. It must be paid according to the procedures described at paragraph. 10, let. h) of the present article by no later than **August 7 2019, h. 12.00 (noon) (Italian time)**.
3. The application form can be completed either in Italian or in English and must contain the following information:
 - a) name and surname, fiscal code, date and place of birth, address (including postal code), telephone number and e-mail;
 - b) nationality;
 - c) name of the Ph.D. course for which the candidates intends to apply;
 - d) name of his/her degree;
 - e) request of special assistance due to disability;
 - f) express indication of candidature for a place reserved to graduates from foreign universities (for Ph.D. programmes including this type of places and for graduates meeting this requirement only);
 - g) declaration of acknowledgment of the content of the present call.
4. The following annexes must be attached to application form:
 - a) *Curriculum vitae et studiorum*, duly dated and signed, containing the authorization to the treatment of personal data according to the regulation in force;
 - b) One of the following documents concerning admission requirements:
 - Self-certification of successful completion of the degree course, for candidates with *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento*, *Laurea specialistica* or *Laurea magistrale* issued by an Italian university;
 - Degree certificate (including transcript of records, final grade and date of the award of the degree) and request of equivalence (according to the form included in annex n.19, integral to this call), for graduates from foreign universities;
 - Self-certification of enrolment in the final year of the degree course, including transcripts of records, for candidates enrolled in the last year of *Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento*, *Laurea Specialistica* and *Laurea Magistrale* at any Italian Universities, who will complete the course and obtain the degree by no later than October 31 2019;
 - Certificate stating the status of student in the final year, including transcripts of records, for candidates from foreign university who will complete the course and obtain the degree by no later than October 31 2019;
 - c) Research project;

- d) List of publications with relative abstracts, if any;
 - e) Documents attesting English knowledge or further linguistic skills or computer skills, if any;
 - f) Documents concerning the completion of further university courses;
 - g) Declaration concerning the type of place for which the candidate intends to apply (according to the form included in annex n.20, integral to this call), for candidates who intend to apply for Ph.D. courses offering reserved places only;
 - h) Videoconference request form (according to the form included in annex n.21, integral to this call) for candidates living abroad and unable to reach Catania for the oral exam;
 - i) Copy of a valid Identity document;
5. All annexes listed in par. 4 must be uploaded in PDF format onto the online application system. No other format than PDF is accepted. All annexes can be either in English or in Italian. Any annex in a language other than English or Italian must be accompanied by a legal translation in English or in Italian, under penalty of inadmissibility to evaluation.
 6. Candidates who intend to apply for two or more different Ph.D. courses must complete two or more application forms separately and pay the application fee of € 30,00 for each application.
 7. Application forms will not be considered if either incomplete or submitted with different modalities or after the deadline indicated in this article. Furthermore, application forms will not be considered if the application fee is paid after the deadline indicated in par. 2 of this article.
 8. Candidates are strongly advised to complete the application procedure well in advance of the expiration date of this call in order to avoid the clogging of the online system due to the volume of applications. The University is not responsible whereas the candidate cannot complete the application procedure because of unforeseeable circumstances, force majeure or any event not imputable to the university's administration.
 9. Candidates are the sole responsible for the authenticity of the information included both in the application form and in the annexes. The university's administration is entitled to scrutinize the application forms and related annexes according to the legislation in force and exclude, in any moment and provided a proper motivation, those candidates whose applications do not comply with this call requirements.
 10. In order to complete the application procedure, each candidate must:
 - a) Go to <https://www.unict.it>servizi>portale studenti - NUOVO> ;
 - b) Complete the registration entering his/her personal data in order to receive personal access credentials
(For candidates not already registered with the University's online system. Candidates already holding their personal credentials must skip this step and go to c);
 - c) Enter his/her personal credentials in the login box in order to access to his/her personal account;
 - d) Once in his/her personal account, in the box "Enrolment" click in order "Doctorate" and "Admittance test";

- e) Choose the Ph.D. course in whose selection they intend to participate;
 - f) Enter personal data required and check their correctness;
 - g) Confirm the data clicking the apposite confirmation command;
 - h) Pay the application fee according to the procedure provided for in the online system;
 - i) Upload all the documents required in par. 4 of this article in PDF format onto the online application system;
 - j) Print and save copy of the confirmation of the completion of the application procedure.
11. Candidates with disability higher than 66% who need assistance during the examination must submit formal request to the University's Centre for the Integration and Assistance to people with disability and DSA, Via A. di Sangiuliano 259, 95131 Catania, tel. 095/7307182-189-188, e-mail: cs.cinap@unict.it, website <http://www.cinap.unict.it/>, quoting the name of the Ph.D. course for which they have applied.
This request must be submitted by no later than **August 7 2019, h.12,00 (noon)** (Italian time).

Art. 4 – Type of places

1. Each Ph.D. courses includes places with scholarship and places without scholarship. After selected candidates are admitted to each doctoral program, the Ph.D. Academic board identifies the beneficiaries of the scholarships based on their study plans.
2. Technical specifications concerning scholarships are reported in the information sheet of the relevant Ph.D. course.
3. Scholarships can be funded by:
 - a. University's funds;
 - b. Public/private institutions, highly qualified from a scientific/cultural point of view and with suitable personnel, facilities and equipment;
 - c. National Operational Program for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, where available (to be considered strictly additional to those referred to in point 1 and 2);
 - d. Regional Operational Program 2014-2020, where available (to be considered strictly additional to those referred to in point 1 and 2);
 - e. Funds of Department of Excellence.;
 - f. National Institute for Social Security (Call of June 11 2019) reserved to children and orphans of users registered with the unitary management of social security credits and children of retirees registered with the management of public employees.
4. Whenever remained vacant, places reserved to graduates from foreign universities (either with or without scholarship) can be assigned to successful candidates from the list concerning ordinary places.
5. With reference to scholarships funded by public/private institutions (point 3, let. b), they are paid to the University of Catania in three instalments:
 1. The first instalment within thirty (30) days from the communication by the University of Catania of the name of the beneficiary of the scholarship;

2. Second and third instalments within thirty (30) days from the communication by the University of Catania of the admission of the beneficiary to the academic years following the first.
6. Scholarships funded by external institutions will be paid to the relative beneficiaries subject to the actual collection of the sums by the University.

Art. 5 – Selection procedures

1. According to each Ph.D. information sheet (see art. 1), candidates' selection can be based on one of the following procedures:
 - Evaluation of qualifications;
 - Evaluation of qualifications, written and oral examinations;
 - Evaluation of qualifications and oral examination.

2. As for the evaluation of qualifications, the following documents will be assessed:
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum*;
 - English language certificates, if any;
 - Publications, if any;
 - Research project.

3. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is exclusively based on the evaluation of qualifications, pass mark is 80 points out of 120 according to the following criteria:
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* max 36 points;
 - English language certificates, if any max 12 points;
 - Publications, if any max 12 points;
 - Research project max 60 points.

4. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is based on the evaluation of qualifications, written and oral examinations, pass mark is an aggregate 80 points out of 120 with minimum 40 points in the evaluation of qualifications, 20 points in the written examination and 20 points in the oral examination.
 The evaluation of qualifications is based on the following criteria:
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* max 18 points;
 - English language certificates, if any max 6 points;
 - Publications, if any max 6 points;
 - Research project max 30 points.

5. In case of Ph.D. courses whose selection procedure is based on the evaluation of qualifications and oral examination, pass mark is an aggregate 80 points out of 120 with minimum 40 points in the evaluation of qualifications and 40 points in the oral examination.
 The evaluation of qualifications is based on the following criteria:
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* max 18 points;
 - English language certificates, if any max 6 points;
 - Publications, if any max 6 points;
 - Research project max 30 points

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6. The research project assessed by the selection committee in the phase of evaluation of qualifications and provisionally discussed in the oral examination is not binding to the research subject effectively assigned to candidates admitted to any doctoral program;
7. In case the selection procedure consists in the evaluation of qualifications only, the selection committee must post the results of the selection on the website of the department offering the Ph.D. course.
In case the selection procedure includes a written examination, the selection committee must post the results of the evaluation of qualifications on the website of the Department offering Ph.D. course at least three (3) days prior to the written examination.
In case the selection procedure also includes the oral examination, the selection committee must post the results of the written examination on the website of the Department offering Ph.D. course at least three (3) days prior to the oral examination.
In case the selection procedure consists in the evaluation of qualification and oral examination, the selection committee must post the results of the evaluation of qualifications on the website of the Department offering Ph.D. course at least three (3) days prior to the oral examination.
Each Ph.D. selection committee is the sole responsible for the prompt publication of the results of the selection procedure.
8. Written and oral examinations, where included, will be held in the dates, hours and places indicated each Ph.D. course information sheets annexed to this call. No written notice will be sent to candidates.
Any variation of date, hour or place will be notified well in advance on www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*" > "*Studenti e post laurea*" > "*Dottorati di ricerca*").
Candidates admitted to written and oral examinations must bring with them an identity document.
9. Where expressly stated in the relative Ph.D. information sheet, candidates living abroad who are unable to reach Catania can take the sole oral examination in the form of video conference interview.
The candidate is full and sole responsible for the correct indication of the video conference address to be used by the selection committee for the oral interview. The candidate must be available in the date of the oral interview in the date indicated in the related Ph.D. information sheet. The selection committee is entitled to arrange with the candidate the exact time of the oral interview. Before the oral interview, the candidate is required to exhibit his/her identity document.
Non-indication or incorrect indication of video conference address, unavailability of the candidate on the day and hour established by the selection committee and non-exhibition of the identity document represent causes of exclusion from the selection procedure.
The University of Catania decline all responsibility for any unpredicted technical problem impeding the oral exam in the form of video conference interview.

Art. 6 – Designation and tasks of the Selection Committee

1. Each Selection Committee is composed according to art. 13 of the current Regulation of the University of Catania concerning Ph.D. courses.

2. Prior to the evaluation of qualifications, selection committees must establish the criteria of assignment of points to each document to be assessed (*curriculum vitae et studiorum*, English language certificates, publications and research project) and publish these criteria on the website of the department offering the Ph.D. course. In case of candidates who do not already hold the degree required to access a Ph.D. course, the selection committee must take into account the average grade related to exams passed by the candidate at the moment of the application in order to assess his/her academic career properly. The selection committees can take into account any further qualifications or certifications issued by academic institutions.
3. Prior to written examinations or oral examinations, when included, selection committees must establish the criteria of development and evaluation of these exams and give due information to candidates publishing these criteria on the website of the department offering the Ph.D. course..
4. Upon completion of the selection procedure, each selection committee draws up the list of successful candidates, ranked in descending order of score. Scores being equal, the younger candidate prevails (law 16.6.1998, n. 191). The list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee and is affixed to the Notice board of the University's Department where the selection takes place and posted on the same Department's website.
5. In case of places reserved to graduates from foreign universities, the selection committee draws a separate list of successful candidates ranked in descending order of score. Scores being equal, the younger candidate prevails (law 16.6.1998, n. 191). The list is signed by both the President and the Secretary of the Selection committee and is affixed to the Notice board of the University's Department where the selection takes place and posted on the same Department's website.
Any reserved place remained vacant after the selection procedure can be made available for candidates in the list concerning ordinary places as in the previous paragraph.

Art. 7 – List of successful candidates

1. The list of successful candidates eligible for Ph.D. places are issued through decree of the Rector of the University of Catania. The Rector's Decrees will be posted on www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*">"*Studenti e post laurea*"> "*Formazione post laurea*">"*Dottorati di ricerca*").

Art. 8 – Admission to Ph.D. courses

1. Candidates are admitted to Ph.D. programs according to the descending order on the list of selected candidates until all the places available within each course are allocated. Successful candidates eligible for a place in two or more Ph.D. course are requested to choose the Ph.D. course in which they wish to enroll.
2. Candidates are excluded if they do not comply with enrolment procedures (see art. 9) within the deadline indicated in a further notice. In this case the next candidate in the list in descending order of score becomes eligible to fill the vacant place.

3. Any places remained vacant due to renunciation of candidates preceding on the list can be allocated within three months from the beginning of course activities. This term of three months can be extended in case of availability of scholarships – even after the beginning of course activities - within the framework of EU, ministerial or regional programs expressly concerning Ph.D. courses of Cycle XXXIV (academic year 2018/2019). Incoming candidates, either for places with scholarships or places without scholarships, will be informed by email on enrolment procedures and deadline. Failure to comply with enrolment procedures will lead to the exclusion from the course.
4. An apposite Rector's decree will determine whether candidates are admitted to place with scholarship or without scholarship.
5. Candidates admitted to Ph.D. courses are required to pay enrolment fees as stated in the following article 9.
6. Candidates who have attended a Ph.D. course in a place with scholarship can only be enrolled as Ph.D. student in places without scholarship.
7. Candidates with disability corresponding to 66% are admitted to the programme in supernumerary places without scholarship, even if their position on the list is below the corresponding number of places in the Ph.D. program. Supernumerary places without scholarship reserved to candidates with disability can be up to half of the ordinary places. Candidates with disabilities are exempted from the payment of enrolment fees (Regulation of the University of Catania on Ph.D. Courses, art. 12, paragraph 6).

Art. 9 – Enrolment procedures

1. Candidates admitted to Ph.D. courses are officially appointed in a Rector's decree available at the university's website www.unict.it (section "*Bandi, gare e concorsi*" > "*Studenti e post laurea*" > "*Dottorati di ricerca*") from October 16 2019 to October 24 2019.
2. Admitted candidates must submit the enrolment form and pay the enrolment fee (as in paragraph 4) according to the procedure indicated in the Rector's decree mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article The publication of this Rector's decree represents the only official form of information. No personal notice will be sent to candidates.
3. The enrolment fee amount to:
 - a) € 356,00 in case of enrolment in a place with scholarship;
 - b) € 156,00 in case of enrolment in a place without scholarship;
 - c) € 16,00 for candidates with disabilities corresponding to 66% or more, whatever the type of place.
4. Enrolment forms submitted with modalities other than those indicated in the Rectors's decree mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 will not be considered. Enrolment forms without the enrolment fee paid in the modalities and by the deadline indicated in the present article will not be considered either. The University of Catania decline all responsibility for failure to complete the enrolment procedure due to either facts not imputable to its administration or fortuitous event or force majeure.

5. Candidates' failure to comply with the aforementioned provisions is considered equivalent to formal renunciation to the place in the Ph.D. course. Vacant places can be made available for other candidates on the list according to procedures that guarantee transparency and impartiality. These candidates will be informed on enrolment procedures and deadline through an email sent to the email address indicated in the application form.
6. The renunciation to a place in a Ph.D. program does not give the right to a refund of the enrolment fee even when the candidate has not attended any course activities.
7. Selected candidates who intend to renounce to a Ph.D. place must send immediate written notice to dottorati@unict.it. A copy of the identity card in PDF format must be attached to the notice of renunciation.
8. Selected candidates admitted in places with scholarship must send the following documents in PDF format within the deadline included in the apposite communication included in the Rector's decree:
 - a) Document from the National Institute for Social Security attesting the candidate's contributory role;
 - b) Declaration concerning the candidate's registration or non-registration in other forms of social security;
 - c) Copy of the fiscal code or health insurance card;
 - d) Copy of a validity identity document duly signed;
 - e) Form including bank details necessary for the payment of the scholarship;
 - f) Declaration of acknowledgement that scholarships are exempted from income tax imposed on physical persons and that under no circumstances can they give assessments for the purpose of the career;
 - g) any further documents required by specific calls within EU, ministerial or regional programs (for candidates who are beneficiaries of scholarships funded by these programs).

Art. 10 - Scholarship

1. Candidates entitled to a scholarship are granted are remunerated according to the law in force.
2. Each scholarship amounts to € 15.343,28 per year, before taxes charged on the scholarship holder. This amount is adjusted according to increases established by the law. The amount of the scholarship is increased up to 50% in correspondence and proportionally to study periods at foreign universities or research centres for maximum 18 months of the entire duration of the Ph.D. course.
3. The duration of each scholarship corresponds to the duration of the Ph.D. course. They are assigned according to the dispositions included in the Rector's Decree mentioned in art.8, paragraph 8. The grant of the scholarship is confirmed if the candidate is admitted to the year following the first.
4. At the end of each year doctoral students submit a detailed record of their research activity to the academic board. The academic board assesses each doctoral student research work and admits him/her to the following year or expel him/her from the course.

5. By no later than November 15 of each year Ph.D. students must enroll in the following year. The enrolment is subject to the decision of the academic board according to art. 15, par. 4 of the Regulation of the university of Catania for Ph.D. courses. Failure to renew the enrolment leads to the exclusion from the Ph.D. course.
6. The payment of the scholarship is conditioned to the effective attendance to course activities. Any remains will be deposited to be used in subsequent cycles of Ph.D. course.
7. The payment of the scholarship consists in a two-month instalment for November and December and in monthly instalments for the remaining months. Payments are deferred to the months following the month of reference.
8. The provisions concerning tax benefit included in art. 4, Law 476/1984 apply to doctoral scholarships.
9. Scholarships cannot be combined with other financial contributions unless these latter are granted by national or international institutions and destined to research work abroad.
10. Candidates who have already benefited from a doctoral scholarship or even portion of it cannot be granted a scholarship for a second time.

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

1. With reference to rights and duties of Ph.D. students, candidates are required to refer to chapter V of the Regulation of the University of Catania for Ph.D. courses.

Art. 12 – Personal data

1. According to the EU regulation on data protection (EU/2016/679), personal data provided by the candidates will be treated at the University of Catania in accordance with their institutional purposes and the relative legal provisions. The official in charge of the data treated by the University of Catania is Ms Laura Vagnoni, e-mail rdp@unict.it, red@pce.unict.it.

Art. 13 – Officials in charge of procedure

1. According to art.5, subparagraph 1, of Law 241/90, the official in charge of the procedure is:
 - the chairperson of the selection committee with reference to the selection procedure, from the appointment of the committee members to the publication of the selection results;
 - Mr Paolo Moscato, with reference to the procedures connected to the present call, e-mail: dottorati@unict.it ;
 - Mr Salvatore Libertini, with reference to the procedures connected to foreign candidates, e-mail: dottorati@unict.it.

Art. 14 – Final measures

1. The administration considers the possibility of modifications, updates or integrations to the present call - to be exclusively advertised through www.unict.it (section “*Bandi, gare e concorsi*” > “*Studenti e Post laurea*” > “*Dottorati di ricerca*”) in case the number of places with scholarships or equivalent type of grants, and consequently the number of places without scholarships, increases due to further funds made available after the issuing of this call provided the respect of the terms of assignation of places to candidates on the pass list.
2. Any aspect related to Ph.D. course and not expressly covered in the present call is governed by Ministerial Decree 45/2013, the Ph.D. regulations in force at the University of Catania, International cooperation agreements, other legislation in force governing Ph.D. courses and the legislation in force.

CATANIA, 05.06.2019

THE DOYEN
(Prof. V Di Cataldo)

