

**NOTICE OF SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE ADMISSION TO PhD PROGRAMME IN  
"THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE" – further allocations  
(CYCLE 38, Academic Year 2022/2023)**

**The Rector**

- Having regard to** Presidential Decree No. 382 of 11 July 1980, "Reorganisation of university teaching, related academic category, as well as organisational and teaching experimentation";
- Having regard to** Law No. 210 of 03 July 1998, "Rules for the recruitment of researchers and tenured university professors", in particular Art. 4 "PhD Programmes";
- Having regard to** Ministerial Decree No. 224 of 30 April 1999, "Regulations on the matter of PhD programmes";
- Having regard to** Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010 "Rules on the organisation of universities, academic staff, and their recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to incentivise the quality and efficiency of the university system", in particular the Art. 19 "Provisions on PhD Programmes";
- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of Education, University, and Research No. 45 of 08 February 2013 "Regulations laying down procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations, and criteria for the implementation of PhD programmes by accredited bodies";
- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 226 of 14 December 2021 "Regulations laying down procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations, and criteria for the implementation of PhD programmes by accredited bodies";
- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 247 of 23 February 2022 "Increase in PhD scholarships";
- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 301 of 22 March 2022 laying down New guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programmes;
- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 351 of 09 April 2022 concerning the allotment of 2,500 three-year PhD scholarships for the attendance of PhD programmes, in specifically dedicated and declined programs (PNRR [National Plan for Recovery and Resilience] funding);

- Having regard to** Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 352 of 09 April 2022 concerning the allotment of 5,000 innovative PhD scholarships that respond to the innovation needs of companies and promote the hiring of researchers by companies (PNRR funding);
- Having regard to** the University Statute, issued with Rector's Decree No. 194 of 30 July 2012, and published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic - General Series - Part One, No. 200 of 28 August 2012, which entered into force on 27 September 2012; amended by Rector's Decree No. 179 of 18 September 2015, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No. 236 of 10 October 2015, and entered into force on 09 November 2015;
- Having regard to** the adoption of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their recruitment and the adoption of the human resources strategy;
- Having regard to** the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022;
- Having regard to** the Regulations on PhD Programmes, issued with Rector's Decree No. 169/2022;
- Having regard to** the University Guidelines and the UNICAM OTM-R (Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers) Policy, approved by the Academic Senate in their meeting No. 28 of 31 May 2016;

## DECREES

### Art. 1 – PhD PROGRAMMES

The selection procedure, unique for EU and non-EU citizens, based on qualifications and examinations, for admission to the PhD programme in "THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE", 38<sup>th</sup> cycle . Academic Year 2022-2023, with headquarters at the *School of Advanced Studies* - International Doctoral School of the University of Camerino (henceforth referred to as SAS) is hereby launched, for further resources allocations.

The Coordinator of the national PhD programme is Prof. Roberto Ciccocioppo  
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National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” usually lasts three years, and aims to contribute to the training of future generations in the neuroscience sector. By putting the best scientific and cultural resources of various universities and research centres into a system, we intend to promote an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach to the study of neuroscience. National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” aims to provide PhD students with the scientific knowledge and methodologies necessary for the integrated study of neuroscience in areas ranging from the investigation of the mind-body-brain relationship to molecular neurobiology and cellular, computational, cognitive, preclinical, clinical, diagnostic, rehabilitative neuroscience up to the study of neurobotic systems. PhD students will find themselves inserted in scientifically stimulating environments where, in addition to curricular teaching and research, they will deepen aspects relating to transversal training and the acquisition of “soft skills”.

**1.1** The Programme is divided into the following **4 curricula**:

#### **COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE:**

Its purpose is theoretical and methodological training in predominantly cognitive research areas, such as perception, language, memory, attention, action, decision making, and intelligence. The curriculum extends to the study of cognitive function deficits and can have translational implications. Furthermore, for completeness, the study of cognitive functions is also addressed in the interaction with non-cognitive constructs such as, for example, emotions, personality, and motivation. This curriculum is characterised by a strongly interdisciplinary approach which, as such, makes use of models and methods derived mainly from experimental psychology, medicine, linguistics but also from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In addition to a theoretical component, the training provided by this curriculum offers a relevant one in the practical field. Research in cognitive neuroscience is mainly carried out in laboratories where human participants are tested using various non-invasive investigation and/or stimulation techniques. The equipment most commonly used in cognitive neuroscience research are EEG, TMS, combined TMS-EEG, tDCS and tACS, eye tracker, and structural and functional magnetic resonance. This allows students who choose this curriculum to be exposed to a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies, many of which can also be used in research in other fields. The didactic offer includes three types of courses: 1) theoretical, relating to the various fields of cognitive neuroscience (perception, language, etc., and the deficits thereof), 2) methodological (statistics, coding, theory); and 3) practical, relating to the use of equipment.

Other skills such as scientific writing, elements of research ethics, and open data science, will be shared across all curricula.

**KEY WORDS:** Memory; Learning; Emotions; Language; Neuropsychology; Neurophysiology; Neuroeconomics; Decision Making

### **NEUROSCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

Over the past three decades, massive technological and conceptual developments have led to the neuroscience of complex systems, an already multidisciplinary field of study in its relations with mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, addressing issues classically pertinent to disciplines traditionally belonging to the field of human sciences.

What originally may have seemed a pure cultural trend has given rise to real fields of research and teaching. Examples of this important process of cultural development is the field of neuro-aesthetics, understood as the analysis of the brain processes involved in the production and use of the artistic and scientific creative experience. Understanding of the fundamental processes of plasticity and memory has led to neuro-pedagogy interested in the development of didactic programmes inspired by the brain processes that lead to the learning behaviours. The study of individual and social decision-making in the field of morality resulted in the development of fields such as neuro-economics and neuro-law, inspiring innovative application experiences that have changed the initial disciplines (think, for example, of neuro-leadership and neuro-politics understood as the study of the neural processes that determine the characteristics of whoever is in charge of a company, or a political party, or a religious group). The aspiration to investigate even wider knowledge from a cerebral point of view is inspiring fields such as neuro-philosophy and neuro-ethics, as well as neuro-literature and neuro-poetry. Despite the criticised oversimplification of the prefix "neuro" with which they are indicated, these research domains promise to greatly extend the understanding of human nature, not so much and not only in relation to single individuals, but to the inherently social characteristics of each of them.

**KEY WORDS:** Neuro-Philosophy; History of Neuroscience; Arts and Neuroscience; Neuro-Politics; Social Neuroscience

### **PRECLINICAL CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE**

The programme of this curriculum is centred on the need to facilitate the transfer to clinical practice of neuroscientific knowledge acquired in the laboratory, with a translational

approach. PhD students will acquire specific skills to bridge the gap between the design, execution, and interpretation of experiments on cellular, animal, or human models, and the challenges of experimental medicine, particularly in the field of neurorehabilitation and drug development. All activities will be based on the use of innovative data analysis methodologies, from electrophysiology to neuroimaging, from neuropsychology to experimental techniques for the study of cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying various functions and disorders of the central nervous system. Strategic topics are the following: Preclinical neuroscience (genetic and molecular mechanisms of neuro-psychiatric pathologies); clinical neuroscience (neurology, psychiatry, neurorehabilitation, both of the adult organism and for neurodevelopmental disorders); tools and methods for the analysis of normal and pathological brain connectivity, design and development of hardware and software for the recording and non-invasive modulation of brain activity; identification of biomarkers for neuro-psychiatric diseases; study of the gut-brain-axis identification of new pharmacological targets for neuro-psychiatric diseases; computational modelling; machine learning; optogenetics, chemogenetics; clinical trial design; digital neuroscience, with a focus on telemedicine, telerehabilitation and development of serious games applications for diagnosis and cognitive training; ethical aspects. Core disciplines such as physiology, pharmacology, neurology, epidemiology, statistics, genetics, and neuroinformatics will be part of the teaching in the curriculum. Practical activities are foreseen, participation in seminars, journal clubs, presentation of reports, and research results.

**KEY WORDS:** Psychiatry; Neurology; Neurorehabilitation and Treatment; Clinical Trials; Neuro-Pharmacology Neurophysiology; Neuromodulation; Brain Function; Affective Disorders; Neurological Disorders; Drug Development; Neurochemistry; Neurobiology; Genetics; Neurorehabilitation; Brain Stimulation; Wearable Robotics

## COMPUTATIONAL AND SYSTEM NEUROSCIENCE

Computational neuroscience aims to design and use quantitative methods in neurophysiology and neurobiology. The development of these methods has significantly increased our understanding of the functioning of the nervous system, and is clearly becoming vital to the neuroscience community. Expanding training in the application of computational methods to neuroscience problems is a widely recognized need. Furthermore, in order to develop such methods for the study of system neurosciences, it is important to train students in the field of innovative imaging techniques, related devices, and methods of analysis. Students recruited in this curriculum will learn to develop mathematical models and computer simulations, but also to develop methods for anatomical / functional non-invasive

imaging and for the related data analysis with different neuroscientific objectives. Models, imaging techniques and analysis methods will be used (1) for basic science: To better understand the development and functions of the nervous system in various animal models and in humans, and (2) for translational science: to develop wearable and implantable medical devices ("neurotechnology") for restoring and repairing compromised nervous systems due to neurological disorders or traumatic injuries. This curriculum will provide horizontal skills that can also be used in other PhD school curricula. In particular, models will be based on biophysics, machine learning, advanced signal processing, and will address the neuroscientific problem at different levels. The innovative imaging techniques and data analysis methods will involve areas of applied physics at the basis of measurement devices and techniques, including artificial intelligence for the interpretation and prediction of results, also requiring multidisciplinary interactions with other curricula. Students will also be exposed to empirical techniques in neuroscience and neurophysiology to strengthen their skills and enable them to experimentally validate their models.

**KEY WORDS:** Mathematical Models; Connectomics; Brain Dynamics; Brain Imaging; Brain architecture; Neuronal Networks; Machine Learning; Large-Scale; Data Analysis; Neurologically Inspired AI Systems; Artificial Neural Network

## **1.2 Universities and affiliated research institutions**

- 1) University of Bologna
- 2) University of Cagliari
- 3) "G. D'Annunzio" University, Chieti Pescara
- 4) University of Messina
- 5) University of Milano
- 6) University of Napoli Federico II
- 7) University of Padova
- 8) University of Palermo
- 9) University of Parma
- 10) University of Pisa
- 11) University of Roma Tre
- 12) St. Anna School of University Studies and Advanced Studies
- 13) "La Sapienza" University of Rome
- 14) International School of Advanced Studies of Trieste

- 15) IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca
- 16) Pegaso Online University
- 17) University of Siena
- 18) University of Torino
- 19) University of Ferrara
- 20) University of Modena e Reggio Emilia
- 21) National Research Council -CNR
- 22) Italian Institute of Technology – IIT
- 23) IRCCS (Scientific Hospitalisation and Healthcare Institutes) Medea

Pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, PhD Programmes can be activated upon accreditation by the Ministry of University and Research.

PhD Programmes of the 38<sup>th</sup> cycle will start with the new academic year, and in any case no later than 31 December 2022. The programmes will end with the writing of an original thesis, preferably in English language. In addition to the activities directly aimed at the preparation of the thesis, PhD students are required to participate in transversal and curricular training activities offered in English language. Mobility experiences outside the host university in Italy and abroad are also envisaged.

#### **Art. 2 – SCHOLARSHIPS**

PhD scholarships have an annual duration, and are renewed for each year of the programme, provided that the PhD student has completed all the activities planned for the previous year, and that they have been admitted to the following year by the Academic Board.

Candidates successfully placed on the ranking list will be awarded a scholarship, which can be maintained for the three-year period, subject to annual verification of the results obtained.

The funding of at least 10 PhD scholarships is guaranteed.

Some PhD scholarships are funded under programmes, projects, or agreements, including those with external bodies. They provide for the conduct of research activities on specific topics, which bind the scholarship holders to carry out such research activity.

Detailed information on the research topics covered by the PhD studies is published on the SAS website, at <https://isas.unicam.it/dni/phd-tan/how-apply>

Scholarships will be awarded according to the selection procedures set out in this Notice.



Scholarships shall be confirmed annually by the Board of the SAS, after verification of the activities carried out by the PhD student in the previous year by the Academic Board.

### **Art. 3 – REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Italian and foreign citizens in possession of a Specialisation/Master's degree, or a similar university qualification recognised as suitable by the academic authorities, can apply for participation in the selection procedure for admission to the PhD Research Programmes, without discrimination based on gender, age, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political opinions, socio-economic conditions, or disabilities. If the qualification has not already been recognised, the Board of the SAS will decide on and declare its equivalence, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD Programme, after having carried out the appropriate controls.

Candidates who will achieve the qualification referred to in the previous paragraph by the date of enrolment in the PhD programme may also apply for admission. In such a case, admission shall be allowed "under reserve", and the candidate shall be required to submit, under penalty of forfeiture, a declaration in lieu of certification, pursuant to Art. 47 of Presidential Decree No. 445/00, by 30 November 2022.

The payment of any fee for admission to the selection procedure is not foreseen.

### **Art. 4 – APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The application for participation in the selection procedure must be filled out **exclusively** (under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure / admission) on the format accessible from the website <https://vele.unicam.it/CallforApplication/?st=4> by Friday **9 December 2022**.

Candidates are invited to submit their application for participation in the selection procedure online, well in advance of the deadline indicated in this Notice.

It is the candidates' responsibility to verify that the IT procedure has been completed correctly.

No complaints will be accepted for any computer system malfunctions due to overloads encountered by candidates near the deadline.

The university administration declines all responsibility for failure to receive documentation resulting from third party liability or technical causes.

As indicated in the application form, the candidate must provide at least 3 names of professors / researchers (*presenters*), who will receive a request by e-mail to provide a cover letter,



drawn up according to a predetermined template indicated in that same e-mail. The letter of presentation must be received within 2 days following the deadline of this Notice.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that at least 1 teacher / researcher has carried out the procedure for uploading the cover letter. The failure to provide this letter shall be a cause of exclusion from the selection procedure / admission.

Applications received after the deadline and with methods other than those indicated above will not be considered valid.

Candidates must pay particular attention to the compilation of the research programme hypothesis written in English, since it will be one of the main elements for the evaluation of the aptitude for research.

Candidates' attention is also drawn to the need to indicate, as a reference for their scientific interests, one research topic, from a minimum of 1 up to a maximum of 3 among those listed on the SAS website, at <https://isas.unicam.it/dni/phd-tan/how-apply>. If of interest, in addition, it is possible to indicate a finalised "theme scholarship" (Note: the expression of interest and the order of preference expressed are binding for the award of scholarships as clarified in the following art. 5).

#### **Art. 5 – CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES**

Evaluation of suitability of candidates for the admission to the PhD Programme shall be carried out by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector of the coordinating headquarters (University of Camerino), by means of a specific Decree; and its composition shall be published on the website. The Committee is divided In Sub-Committees, made up of curriculum teachers. Each Sub-Committee is responsible for evaluating candidates for their respective curriculum. Such Sub-Committees, where applicable, may be integrated by experienced researchers also external to the Consortium, and are responsible for the preparation of a short list of suitable candidates.

When preparing the short list of suitable candidates, the Selection Committee shall also take into account the CV of the candidate, with particular reference to the graduation grade, other qualifications, scientific publications and presentations at congresses, prizes, and awards. The presentation letters from the *presenters* will also be evaluated.

The project proposal, referred to in the previous article, will also be an integral part of the application, and therefore subject to evaluation. The project proposal will be subjected to analysis for the detection of any infringements attributable to plagiarism; if the analysis reveals this type of infringement, the responsible candidate shall be excluded from the selection procedure. The

project proposal is to be submitted for the sole purpose of facilitating evaluation by the Committee, and is not binding for the purposes of the PhD student's research path.

On the basis of the documentation produced by the candidates, in particular the hypothesis of a research programme, the Selection Committee shall carry out its own evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of the *European Framework for Research Careers* (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>) for the R1 profile (*First stage researchers*), i.e.:

- :
- ability to conduct original research under the guidance of supervisors;
  - ambition to develop knowledge of research-related methodologies and disciplines;
  - good knowledge of the research area in which they intend to develop their thesis;
  - ability to produce data under the guidance of supervisors;
  - critical ability, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
  - ability to illustrate research results and their meaning.

Candidates deemed suitable in this first phase will be invited to take an oral exam, which will be held remotely.

At the end of this first phase of the evaluation process, the Selection Committee shall draft the ranking list of candidates for the PhD Programme who, if suitable, on the basis of the score obtained, shall be invited to take an oral exam to be held remotely.

The list of candidates admitted to the second phase will be published on the Unicom institutional website and on the page <https://isas.unicam.it/dni/phd-tan/how-apply> . No personal communications will be sent: The publication of the short list has the value of official communication to the interested parties.

Candidates listed in the short list will be invited to interviews, after which the final ranking list for each Curriculum shall be drafted. The interviews will be conducted remotely, in English language, by the previously appointed Sub-Committees, supplemented where appropriate by experienced researchers also external to the Consortium.

The interviews will take place on 15 and 16 December.

In this case, as well, the evaluation will refer to the provisions of the European Framework for Research Careers for the R1 (*First stage researchers*) profile.

The final ranking list will be on the SAS institutional website at the page <https://isas.unicam.it/dni/phd-tan/how-apply>. Within 3 days of the end of the selection procedure, suitable candidates will be notified of their admission.

The final ranking list:

- is drafted in order of the score obtained by the candidate; in the event of a tie between two or more candidates, the younger candidate shall have the priority;
- indicates the suitability of the research topics assigned by the Committee according to the order of preference expressed by the candidate at the time of application.

The assignment of scholarships is made following the procedure below:

1. Each candidate, following the order of the ranking list, is offered the first available scholarship, for which he/she was eligible, according to the order of preference expressed at the time of application, by notifying them to the e-mail address entered in the application form;
2. The candidate is required to accept the proposed scholarship by replying via e-mail within the deadline indicated in the communication referred to in the previous point;
3. If the candidate accepts the scholarship within the indicated deadline, the scholarship awarded to him / her shall be removed from the count of available scholarships;
4. If the candidate renounces or does not respond within the indicated term, he or she shall lose the right to the proposed scholarship, or any other scholarship. The proposed scholarship is therefore not awarded, and remains available for subsequent candidates in the ranking list order.

The procedure shall continue until all scholarships have been awarded, and shall be completed by 31 December 2022.

Only upon request, the excluded candidates will be sent a summary judgment on their performance drawn up by the Selection Committee.

Drawing from the ranking list of suitable candidates, the Academic Board reserves the right to assign other positions. The grants will be tied to the availability of additional funding for the 38<sup>th</sup> cycle of the PhD Programme.

Participants in the selection will have 30 days to submit any complaints to [phd.neuroscience@unicam.it](mailto:phd.neuroscience@unicam.it). These will be sent to the Head of Corruption Prevention and Transparency of the University, who, in collaboration with the students' Ombudsman, will examine and respond to the issues submitted to him/her within 30 days following the submission of the complaint.

**Admission criteria and pertaining weight:** Scientific qualifications + oral exam

<p><b>Scientific qualifications:</b> max 20 points <b>Project proposal:</b> max 20 points <b>Admission to oral exam:</b> Minimal score 30/40 <b>Oral exam:</b> 60 points <b>Total score:</b> 100 points <b>Admission:</b> Minimum of 70 points</p>
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**Art. 6 – ACCEPTANCE OF POSITIONS AND METHODS OF ENROLMENT IN THE PROGRAMMES**

Candidates admitted to PhD Programmes (including those “under reserve”) must send, within the peremptory deadline of 3 days from the communication of admission to the programmes, a declaration of acceptance of enrolment to [phd.neuroscience@unicam.it](mailto:phd.neuroscience@unicam.it).

Once the selection procedure exams have been completed, and after acceptance by the PhD student, the Rector of the University of Camerino shall approve the ranking list formulated by the Selection Committee, assigning the places and scholarships available for the selection procedure.

Applications for enrolment, addressed to the Rector of the University of Camerino, must be submitted, within the deadline, exclusively online through the appropriate section on the website of the coordinating University (University of Camerino), where all the necessary information is published. In the applications, which must be completed online within the indicated deadlines, the students must self-certify, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 445/2000, their personal details, residence, domicile, tax code, the truthfulness of the data contained in the copy of the identity document, the achievement of a secondary school diploma, the fact that they are not

simultaneously enrolled in more than one university programme. In the enrolment applications, the students must also sign the privacy statement, the statement for the release of the password enabling the use of IT services, and the request for any benefits. During the enrolment process, the student must attach a copy of a valid identity document.

Enrolment is considered regularly closed, and therefore accepted, when the entire online procedure has been completed, and all the required fees have been paid, and the required attachments have been uploaded.

No delivery or shipment of paper material must be made.

Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad, must submit, for enrolment purposes, the Declaration of Value (or a copy of the request made to the competent authorities), issued by the Italian Embassy of the country in which the qualification was issued, or the Statement of Comparability and Verification of the qualification issued by CIMEA (Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Centre).

In the Declaration of Value, it must be specified that the qualification that allows access to doctoral courses was obtained after 17 years of schooling, and that it meets the academic requirements for access to third-cycle courses in the Country of issue.

An official translation in Italian of the diploma and of Transcript of Records is also required, showing the exams taken and the grades obtained, if not already produced in English.

This documentation must be sent in advance by email to [phd.neuroscience@unicam.it](mailto:phd.neuroscience@unicam.it), and presented in original copy to formalise the registration, once the candidate has arrived at Italy.

Enrolment remains subject to the assessment of the suitability of the qualification by the academic bodies for the sole purpose of enrolment.

Candidates who require a visa to enter Italy, once they have received the official letter of admission to the PhD programme, must submit an application for pre-enrolment through the, University Portal, at <https://www.universitaly.it/index.php/dashboard>.

### **Art. 7 – ALLOCATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

For the attribution of scholarships, it is required that the candidate has obtained the degree required for the admission to the PhD programme less than six years prior to the deadline indicated in the Notice, which can be increased to eight years if the candidate has also attended a Specialisation School, and a further year for any pregnancy.

The monthly gross amount of scholarships is € 1,353.58 (one thousand three hundred and fifty three euros / 58 cents). The amount of the scholarship increases by 50% for periods of stay abroad.

The stay abroad, with a minimum duration of 6 months, must be authorized by the PhD student supervisor, and cannot exceed a total of 12 months. PhD students can also carry out mobility periods in Italy, preferably within the research institutions of the Consortium.

Each PhD student, with or without scholarship or other forms of support, is guaranteed a *budget* for research activities in Italy or abroad of not less than 20% of the amount of the scholarship.

For the entire duration of the PhD Programme it is forbidden to hold a permanent employment contract.

For the benefit of the scholarship, PhD students avail themselves of the faculty of self-certification to be referred to the tax period coinciding with the calendar year in which the scholarship is actually paid. This communication must be sent to the SAS offices no later than 31 July of each year. The university administration may carry out checks on the veracity of the aforementioned self-certifications.

In the event that the annual emoluments of the PhD student with scholarship, during the course of the PhD programme (with the exception of the year of issue of the Notice) exceed the annual amount of the scholarship net of charges (for the academic year 2022/23, such a net yearly amount is scheduled in € 14.346,36), the PhD student shall forfeit the receipt of the scholarship, with the obligation to repay the amount already received in the reference calendar year.

The scholarships are disbursed in 36 deferred monthly instalments, have an annual duration, and are renewed on the condition that each student has completed the programme of activities planned for the previous year, according to the evaluation made by the Academic Board.

Anyone who, for at least one year, has benefited from a scholarship for a PhD programme in Italy, cannot ask to benefit from it a second time.

Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships conferred for any reason, except with those granted by national or foreign institutions aimed at supporting stays abroad for the purposes of training or research activity of PhD students.

Foreign, non-EU PhD students are guaranteed same healthcare as Italians and EU citizens, but registration with the National Health Service is mandatory. Furthermore, foreign non-EU PhD students must comply with the rules relating to entry visas, and make a request for the issue and annual renewal of a residence permit; the cost of approximately € 120.00 (one hundred and twenty euros / 00) is to be paid by the applicant.

## **Art. 8 – FEES FOR ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE TO PhD PROGRAMMES**

The annual amount of fees for access to PhD Programmes and for the relative attendance will be available in the Manifesto of Studies under "University Fees", which will be approved by the Academic Bodies and published on the institutional website of the coordinating website (University of Camerino).

Upon enrolment, candidates admitted to the PhD programme are required to pay the regional tax (Marche Region) for the right to university study in the amount of € 140, and the stamp duty paid electronically, in the amount of € 16. PhD students without a scholarship who are included in the ERDIS (Regional Body for the Right to University Education) right to study ranking lists are also exempted from paying the regional tax for the right to university study, which will subsequently be reimbursed, once the compliance with the requirements has been verified.

#### **Art. 9 – DUTIES OF PhD STUDENTS**

PhD students have the status of a university student.

Admission to the PhD Programme involves an exclusive and full-time commitment, and a commitment to the performance of all study and research activities within the relevant department, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on PhD Programmes, and the procedures established by the Academic Board.

PhD students are required to submit to the Academic Board, at the end of each year, a report on the activity carried out, also for the purpose of renewing the scholarship, if they are scholarship holders. In the event of non-fulfilment of the obligations, after at least 6 months from the start of the activities, the Academic Board may decide to exclude the PhD student from the Programme, and from the benefit of the scholarship. Any exclusion shall take effect from the date of the decision of the Academic Board.

As part of the educational activities provided by the Academic Board, PhD students may be engaged in internships with public or private entities outside the University.

PhD students may carry out tutoring and/or supplementary teaching activities, without this entailing any increase in the scholarship, also through the assignment of specific teaching modules. The Department in which the PhD student carries out his/her activity has the duty to ensure that the accumulation of teaching activities possibly entrusted to the PhD student in any capacity is such as not to jeopardize the successful performance of the research activities, and in any case does not exceed the limit of 40 hours/year. It is the task of the Academic Board of reference to monitor that the PhD students fulfil their obligations.

Without prejudice to the full-time commitment, work activities, including paid ones, concerning practical professional training or limited external work activity that allows the



acquisition of skills relating to the formative field of the PhD Programme, are also compatible with the PhD Programme, subject to the authorisation of the Academic Board. For PhD students with scholarships, the provisions and limits set out in Article 8 of this Notice of Selection Procedure shall apply.

Pursuant to Law No. 33 of 12 April 2022, simultaneous enrolment in a bachelor's or master's degree course, and in a university master, PhD programme, or specialisation programme is allowed, with the exception of medical specialisation courses, as well as simultaneous enrolment in a PhD programme or a university master, and in a medical specialisation programme. Simultaneous enrolment is allowed in Italian, or Italian and foreign institutions. The obligation to possess the qualifications required by the regulations for enrolment in single study programmes remains unaffected.

#### **Art. 10 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE**

The PhD degree, abbreviated in Italian as "*Dott. Ric.*", or "*PhD*", is awarded jointly, by academic authorities of Universities belonging to the Consortium, and is obtained upon passing the final exam.

To take the final exam, PhD students must submit a copy of the PhD thesis in electronic format to the SAS, accompanied by the judgment of the external evaluators.

The thesis consists of a written dissertation, to which a report on the activities carried out in the entire PhD Programme, and on any publications, must be attached.

The Academic Board, upon proposal of the curriculum Board, shall designate at least two evaluators, of which at least one is a university professor, highly qualified and external to the Consortium, who are called to express a written opinion on the doctoral thesis. The Evaluators shall propose admission to the final exam, or postponement for a period not exceeding 6 months, if they deem that significant additions or corrections are necessary.

The Final Exam Committees are appointed by the PhD Programme Coordinator, on the proposal of the Academic Board for the relevant curriculum, and are made up of tenured university professors and researchers, Heads of courses pertaining to the academic disciplines to which the course refers, and external to the Academic Board.

PhD students admitted to take the final exam must upload their doctoral thesis on a special platform for evaluation by the members of the Selection Committee.

Suspension from the PhD Programme is allowed for the periods relating to the following cases:

- for pregnancy, maternity, and paternity leave, according to the provisions of the Legislative Decree No. 151 of 26 March 2001, and subsequent amendments, and the Decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of 12 July 2007;
- for severe and prolonged illness;
- for military service.

PhD students who make use of a suspension period are obliged to recover the entire period after the end of the three years, with consequent disbursement of the suspended scholarship to the scholarship holders, provided that, if the scholarship is provided by an external body, there are no restrictions on the extension of the scholarship beyond three years.

PhD students may also renounce the scholarship. In this case, while maintaining their student status, they all right to receive the scholarship.

In the event of unjustified absence or non-fulfilment of the obligations, including the non-completion of the activities planned at the end of each year, the Academic Board may propose the exclusion of the PhD student from the programme, with the consequent loss of the right to receive the scholarship, where perceived.

PhD students benefit from accident and civil liability insurance coverage for the entire duration of the Programme, and only for the activities relating to the PhD programme.

#### **Art. 11– PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

The University, implementing the “Code regarding the protection of personal data” (Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, and subsequent amendments), “Consolidated Law on privacy and the use of information systems” (Legislative Decree No. 271/2009, and subsequent amendments), and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679), as data controller, undertakes to process the personal data and contacts provided by the candidate for the completion of the selection procedures, and for the pursuit of its institutional purposes.

Participation in the selection procedure implies the expression of tacit consent, so that the names of the candidates and the results of the selection procedure tests are published on the UNICAM website, and the SAS website.

#### **Art. 12 – RULES FOR REFERENCE**

For matters not covered by this Notice, reference is made to the regulations in force on the subject of PhD programmes, in particular to:

- Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021
- Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022.
- Regulations of the National PhD Programme in "Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience".

This Notice of Selection Procedure shall be published on the European Euraxess website, on the website of the Ministry of University and Research, on the institutional website of the University, and on the SAS website.

For information, interested parties can contact the SAS offices by timely sending an email to [phd.neuroscience@unicam.it](mailto:phd.neuroscience@unicam.it).

THE RECTOR

Prof. Claudio Pettinari