



Ministero  
dell'Università  
e della Ricerca



Italiadomani  
PIANO NAZIONALE  
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



Cofinanziato  
dall'Unione europea



**NOTICE OF SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION TO PHD PROGRAMME "THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE"  
(CYCLE 40, Academic Year 2024/2025)**

**The Rector**

- With regard to Presidential Decree No. 382 of 11 July 1980, "Reorganisation of university teaching, related academic category, as well as organisational and teaching experimentation";
- With 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";
- With regard to Ministerial Decree No. 224 of 30 April 1999, "Regulations on the matter of PhD programmes";
- With 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";
- With regard to the 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"; 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"; Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 247 of 23 February 2022 "Increase in PhD scholarships";
- With regard to the Decree of the Minister of University, and Research No. 301 of 22 March 2022 laying down New guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programmes; Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 118/2023 concerning the allotment of three-year PhD scholarships for the attendance of PhD programmes, in specifically dedicated and declined programmes (PNRR [National Plan for Recovery and Resilience] funding);
- With reference to ministerial guidelines for the reporting of investments relating to the PNRR PhD courses, financed under Ministerial Decrees Nos. 629/2024 and 630/2024;
- With regard to the Decree of the Director of the Education, Social Innovation and Sport sector No. 63 of 29/04/2024. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 OS 4a DGR No. 445 of 25/03/2024. Public Notice for the assignment of innovative PhD research grants with industrial characterisation, academic year 2024/2025;
- With regard to Provision of the SAS Director "Result of evaluation of Cycle 40 projects" No. 37754 of 30/05/2024 (as amended)
- With regard to Law No. 33 of 12 April 2022 "Provisions on simultaneous enrolment in two higher education programmes";

With 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;

Considering that in the presence of further availability and funding for the 40th cycle of PhD Programmes, additional scholarships may be provided;

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;

Having regard to the Agreements (and possible addenda) signed by UNICAM and further Institutions/Bodies that are partners or co-founders, in the framework of specific research topics or specific PhD Programmes;

## DECREES

### Art. 1 – PhD PROGRAMMES

Public selection procedure for admission to the PhD programme in "THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE", 40th cycle, Academic Year 2024-2025, activated by the School of Advanced Studies - International Doctoral School of the University of Camerino (henceforth referred to as SAS) is hereby launched.

Camerino,

The Rector  
Prof. Graziano Leoni

**UNICAM (university of Camerino) PhD Programme “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”  
Call for applications 2024  
40th cycle – Academic Year 2024-25**

The UNICAM PhD Programme “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” is now accepting applications!

*Applications must be sent by 1.00 pm (Italian time) on 29 July 2024*

**APPROXIMATE TIMELINE**

The selection procedure comprises the following main steps (dates are provisional):

1 – **(End of June –29 July) Call launching** – Selection procedure: candidates must submit the Application form through: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phdtan40/> by **1:00 p.m. (Italian time) on 29 July 2024**. In particular, they must present their identity document, Curriculum vitae, a short hypothetical research project, letters of reference (at least one), a letter of motivation (statement of purpose) and choose the academic curriculum of interest among those proposed. For each curriculum there are detailed descriptions of the Research Topics which can be consulted in **Annex 1** to the Call; it will be the sole responsibility of the candidate to verify any updating of Annex 1 which could be integrated in the event of further funding for the 40th PhD cycle.

2 – **(by the end of August) Verification of eligibility requirements and evaluation of CVs** – UNICAM appoints an Evaluation Committee for the purpose. A shortlist of the candidates who are *admitted / admitted "subject to confirmation"* to the second stage of the selection procedure, divided by curricula, is published. Having evaluated the choice of curriculum of the candidates admitted or admitted “subject to confirmation”, the Commission reserves the right to assign them to another curriculum for the second phase of the selection. The interview calendar, divided by curricula, is established and published. The Commission assigns each candidate a vote. In the meantime, further eligibility checks may be carried out if necessary.

3 – **(first half of September)** The second phase of the evaluation procedure is opened: the candidates admitted or admitted "subject to confirmation" will have to undergo remote oral interviews with the sub-Commissions appointed by the SAS Council of UNICAM according to the published calendar. Linguistic and transversal skills, the skills possessed by the candidates and their relevance to the chosen curriculum are evaluated. The Evaluation sub-commissions, taking into account the doctoral curriculum indicated by the candidate or assigned to him/her, the project presented, the Curriculum Vitae, and the outcome of the interview, will indicate the research topic(s) for which the candidate will be possibly suitable for. Taking the

above into account, the Commission reserves the right to grant eligibility also for research topics not included in the curriculum indicated by the candidate when submitting the application.

The dates and methods of carrying out the oral tests and any corrections will be published on the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and on the page <https://isas.unicam.it> after the closing of the Call. This publication has the value of official notification for all legal purposes; Therefore, the candidates will not receive any personal communication regarding the invitations for the interviews.

4 – **(by the end of September)** For each curriculum, a **final merit-based ranking list is determined**.

5 – **(1 November – 13 December 2024)** **Starting date of PhD programmes: 1 November 2024** (*in any case, not later than 13 December 2024*).

## Art.1 AREE DI RICERCA E RISPETTIVI CURRICULA:

**Duration of PhD programmes:** Three years.

National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”<sup>1</sup> 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

#### 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: Neurophilosophy; History of Neuroscience; Arts and Neuroscience; Neuropolitics; Social Neuroscience; Education

### 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; Neuropharmacology 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 recognised 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) University "G. D'Annunzio", Chieti, Pescara
- 4) University of Padua
- 5) University of Palermo
- 6) University of Parma
- 7) University of Pisa
- 7) St. Anna School of University Studies and Advanced Studies
- 8) "La Sapienza" University of Rome
- 8) IMT School - Other Studies - Lucca
- 9) University of Siena
- 10) University of Teramo
- 11) University of Turin
- 12) University of Ferrara
- 13) University of Brescia
- 14) University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- 15) IRCCS Eugenio Medea

## Art. 2 POSITIONS AND PHD SCHOLARSHIP

At least **32 positions** are made available.

Specifically, some of the scholarships are linked to specific topics, and are financed within the framework of:

- Programme of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan – Mission 4 – Components 1 and 2, within the framework of Ministerial Decrees No. 629/2024 and No. 630/2024.

In particular, the following are currently available:

- at least 1 scholarship under Ministerial Decree 629/2024
- at least 9 scholarships under Ministerial Decree 630/2024

From the Marche Region, as part of the “Innovative PhD Programme with industrial characterisation” project reserved for graduates, residents or domiciled in the Marche region, unemployed/temporarily unemployed/those who have never worked/inactive, in accordance with current legislation on the matter, who have not reached the age of 36 on the date of submission of the application. The start of the PhD programme for this type of scholarship is mandatorily set for 01/11/2024;

- Number of scholarships to be defined based on the allocations of the Marche Region

To see the areas of intervention envisaged for the development of research projects, please refer to the Marche Region website: [https://www.regione.marche.it/Regione-Utile/Istruzione-Formazione-e-Diritto-allo-Studio/Alta-Formazione#22378\\_2024](https://www.regione.marche.it/Regione-Utile/Istruzione-Formazione-e-Diritto-allo-Studio/Alta-Formazione#22378_2024)

Based on the merit rankings, 6 positions may be made available **without a scholarship** .

Drawing from the ranking list of suitable candidates, the University reserves the right to assign other positions. The assignments will be subject to the availability of further funding for the 40th PhD cycle.

Some PhD scholarships/positions are assigned as part of programmes, projects or agreements, including with external bodies. They provide for the carrying out of research activity on specific topics and which bind the assignees to carry out this research activity. Specifically, the finalised scholarships/positions covered by this Call, will be:

- up to a maximum of **2 scholarships reserved** for Chinese citizens graduated from the Liaocheng and Zhengzhou University (China), as part of the agreement signed between the University of Camerino and the University of Liaocheng and Zhengzhou, to preferably carry out research in the neurobiological field.

The positions and scholarships are linked to specific topics. The research activity is mainly carried out at the host university that offers the scholarship. A detailed description of each topic will be available in **Annex 1** to the Call; it will be the sole responsibility of the candidate to verify any updating of Annex 1, which could be integrated in the event of further funding for the 40th PhD cycle .

Each candidate will be able to choose a curriculum of interest from those proposed.

### Art. 3 COMMITMENTS OF PhD STUDENTS

According to National Laws and UNICAM regulations in force, PhD positions require a full-time commitment, in terms of training and research activities. Limited didactic and tutoring activities to support undergraduate teaching programs are possible. Training and research periods abroad are mandatory.

Additional activities/commitments are possible for specific research topics/scholarships, if part of the PhD programme or included in the specific agreements/funding rules governing scholarships and/or positions. More details are given in the second stage of the selection procedure.



Please, read UNICAM Regulation in force for an in-dept view.

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 Board of the SAS, following the approval of the Academic Boards.

Please, read UNICAM Regulation in force for an in-dept view.

#### Art.4 CAREER, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PhD STUDENTS

The rights and responsibilities of PhD students and the requirements for obtaining the degree are outlined in the UNICAM PhD Programme Regulations and the acts issued with Rector's Decree No. 169/2022. You can find these regulations at the following link: <https://isas.unicam.it/school/unicam-regulations>.

The laws and regulations governing simultaneous enrolment in two higher education courses are governed by Law No. 33/2022 and the related decrees.

UNICAM and its partners (in case of PhD Programs carried out in partnership with further Institutions) may support non-EU students in finding an accommodation, limited to rooms/apartments that are available in the University college at the time the PhD students arrive in Italy.

PhD students are required to enrol or be enrolled in the Italian National Health System at the beginning of their programme. During the entire duration of the programme, PhD students are provided with accident and civil liability insurance coverage, which applies specifically to activities related to the PhD programme.

If a PhD student carry out inventions as part of their research, the University/institution Regulations on patents will apply.

#### Art. 5 ACHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH BUDGET

\* **The gross amount of the scholarships** (including taxes paid by the recipient) is approximately €1,353 per month, and approximately **€16,243 per year** (based on a duration of 3 years). Please note that these amounts may slightly vary in the event of any further updates by the National Authorities.

\* The monthly rate of the scholarship is increased by an amount of 50% per month, in case of mobility abroad.

\*Each PhD student, with or without scholarship or other forms of support, **has a budget for research activity** in Italy or abroad of at least **€9,758.40** during the three-year course. This budget can be used in accordance with the rules established by Italian law, regulations and UNICAM guidelines.

The scholarship is paid to the doctoral student in deferred monthly instalments (each instalment is paid the following month) and after the enrolment procedure is definitively completed (for foreign doctoral students, it occurs only after their arrival in Italy). As regards PhD students enrolled starting from

November 1st, the disbursement of the first month's scholarship will take place within the month of December. As regards PhD students enrolled after the above date and within the terms set out in the notice, payment for the November/December months will take place by the end of January; the payment of the scholarship requires that the PhD student has an Italian Tax Code and is the holder of an adequate Italian/online bank account.

The counting of scholarships starts from the start date of the PhD programmes, which is 1 November 2024 (in any case, no later than 13 December 2024).

In the event that the PhD student arrives later (**no later than 30 April 2025**), no instalment will be paid before his/her arrival in Italy, nor before the enrolment procedure is completed and an adequate bank account is available.

PhD students can be recipients of a scholarship if the maximum amount of annual emoluments does not exceed the annual amount of the scholarship calculated net of charges (for the 2024/2025 academic year, this amount is calculated at approximately €14,346).

For the purposes of determining the limit referred to above, the taxable income resulting from certification or tax return deriving from work is taken into consideration.

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 ([postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it)) no later than 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Call) exceed the annual amount of the scholarship net of charges, the PhD student shall forfeit the receipt of the scholarship, with the obligation to repay the amount already received in the reference calendar year.

For the purposes of determining the limit of emoluments referred to in the previous paragraphs, the taxable income resulting from certification or tax return deriving from work services is taken into consideration.

Anyone who, for at least one year, has benefited from a scholarship for a PhD programme, 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.

## Art. 6 FEES FOR ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE TO PhD PROGRAMMES

The annual fees for accessing PhD programs and attending them will be specified in the Manifesto of Studies, available under "University Fees." The Manifesto of Studies will be approved by the Academic Bodies and published on the university's official website.

Candidates who are admitted to the PhD programs are required to pay the regional tax for the right to university study, amounting to €140, as well as a stamp duty of €16, which is paid electronically. However, PhD students without a scholarship who are listed in the ERDIS (Regional Body for the Right to University Education) ranking and eligible for the right to study are exempt from paying the regional tax. Once the compliance with the requirements is verified, the regional tax will be reimbursed to these students.

## Art. 7 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://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phdtan40/> by **29 July 2024, at 1:00 p.m. (Italian time)**. Only applications that are submitted within the specified deadline will be considered.

Candidates are advised to submit their application for the selection procedure well in advance of the stated deadline. It is the candidates' responsibility to ensure that the online submission process is completed correctly. Please note that no complaints will be accepted for any computer system malfunctions that may occur due to high traffic or overload near the deadline.

The University administration cannot be held responsible for any failure to receive documentation due to third-party liability or technical issues.

The guidelines are made available in the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and at <https://isas.unicam.it>

Applicants are required to register using the following link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phdtan40/>. Once registered, applicants will receive their login details for the portal. The application can then be submitted through the portal.

The mandatory language for filling out the application is English.

*What information and documents are needed during the first step of the selection procedure:*

- Personal data;
- Valid identity document;

- Curriculum vitae;
- Choice of PhD programme;
- Choice of an academic curriculum of potential interest;
- At least 1 name of contact person (and a maximum of 3), i.e. professor/researcher, to whom a request will be sent via email to provide a cover letter. The failure to provide this letter shall be a cause of exclusion from the selection procedure / admission;
- Short hypothetical research project in English which will be used exclusively for evaluation purposes, and will not be binding for any research activities that may be carried out during the PhD course;
- Statement of purpose: in English or Italian, specifying: the reasons for enrolling in a PhD programme at Unicam; consistency with the candidate's academic career; research interests; research ideas for future projects; any experience gained during the completion of the degree thesis;
- Final statements.

## Art.8 RESEARCH TOPICS

In relation to the thematic areas linked to the PhD course and the curricula, specific research topics will be defined for the three-year research projects to be carried out by the PhD students.

For each curriculum there are detailed descriptions of the Research Topics which can be consulted in **Annex 1** to the Notice; it will be the sole responsibility of the candidate to verify any updating of Annex 1, which could be integrated in the event of further funding for the 40th cycle of the Doctorate.

For the candidates who have passed the first selection phase and who will be admitted to the interview, the Evaluation Sub-Committee, taking into account the PhD curriculum indicated by the candidate, the project presented, the Curriculum Vitae, and the outcome of the interview, will indicate the research topic(s) for which the candidate will possibly be suitable. Taking the above into account, the Committee reserves the right to grant eligibility also for research topics not included in the curriculum indicated by the candidate when submitting the application.

## Art. 9 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE COMPETITION

In general, Italian and foreign citizens in possession of a specialisation/master's degree or similar university qualification recognised as suitable by the academic authorities, on the basis of laws and regulations in force, may submit an application to participate in the competition for admission to PhD courses, without discrimination as regards gender, age, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political opinions, socioeconomic conditions, and disabilities.

Those who will obtain the qualification referred to in the previous paragraph by the date of enrolment in the PhD course can also apply for admission, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the course.

In this case, admission is made "subject to confirmation", and the admission will be made definitive upon communication of the candidate's achievement of the qualification.

Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad must present, for the purposes of enrolment, the Certificate of Comparability and Verification of the foreign university qualification issued by the [ENIC-NARIC centre in Italy \(CIMEA\)](#)<sup>1</sup> or, alternatively, the Declaration of Value issued by the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was issued. The documents must contain all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification.

In the Declaration of Value, it must be specified that the qualification that allows access to PhD courses on site has been obtained after 17 years of education, and that it satisfies the academic requirements for access to third cycle courses in the issuing country. The Declaration of Value or the CIMEA Comparability and Verification Certificate must be issued, together with the entry visa for Italy, by **31/03/2025** and sent to Unicam, via email, to [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it), by **15/04/2025**, under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.

It is also required for candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad, to send a copy of the master's degree diploma, the exam booklet showing the exams taken and the grades obtained and, if not already produced in English, their official translation into Italian, and certified as compliant with the original either by the University that issued them or by the competent Italian representations or by subjects recognised by the competent Italian representations according to the provisions in force. This documentation must be sent **by 15 October 2024**, via email to [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it), and presented in an original copy to formalise enrolment, once the candidate has arrived in Italy; UNICAM cannot guarantee that the enrolment of PhD students will be carried out if the required documents are missing or provided late.

If the qualification has not already been recognised, the Teaching Board of the relevant Course and the SAS Council will decide and declare its equivalence, solely for the purpose of admission to the PhD Programme, after having carried out the appropriate checks, and on the basis of the laws and regulations in force.

Additional requirements may apply for grants funded under specific programs; in this case of the scholarships financed by the Marche Region as part of the "Innovative PhD Programmes with Industrial Characterisation" project, it is specified that the aforementioned scholarships are intended for graduates, residents, or domiciled in the Marche region, unemployed/those who have never worked/inactive, pursuant to current legislation on the matter, who have not turned 36 years old on the date of submission of the application.

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<sup>1</sup> If the qualification has been issued in a country that is a signatory to the Lisbon Convention, the certificate of comparability of qualifications can be downloaded independently and free of charge via ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database Italy. (\*(\*check the type of certificate needed on the Cimea website). For further details on the documentation to be presented, depending on the country that issued the qualification, see the document produced by CIMEA (under the heading "Final qualifications of higher education").

## Art. 10 CANDIDATES EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Selection Committee is appointed in accordance with current laws, as well as the Unicam Regulation in force; UNICAM Regulations are available at [https://www.unicam.it/sites/default/files/regolamenti/REGOLAMENTO%20DOTTORATO%20UNICAM\\_2022](https://www.unicam.it/sites/default/files/regolamenti/REGOLAMENTO%20DOTTORATO%20UNICAM_2022). The names of the experts and their CVs will be made public at <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and at <http://isas.unicam.it>.

The first phase of the evaluation will consist of subjecting the hypothetical research project, referred to in article 7 of this Notice, to analysis for the detection of any infringements attributable to plagiarism; if the analysis reveals this type of infringement, the responsible candidate will be excluded from the procedure.

On the basis of the documentation produced by the candidates, in particular the research project hypothesis, the Selection Committee will carry out its 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*), that is:

- 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.

When preparing the short list of suitable candidates, the Selection Committee will also take into account the candidate's CV, with particular reference to the degree mark, other qualifications, scientific publications and conference presentations, prizes and recognitions. The presentation letters from the presenters and the letter of motivation will also be evaluated.

At the end of the evaluation process, the Selection Committee prepares the short list of suitable candidates admitted or admitted "subject to confirmation" to the second phase of the evaluation procedure which consists of interviews. If candidates are identified with profiles suited to a curriculum not chosen by them, the Committee will have the right to assign an academic curriculum different from that indicated by the candidate.

The suitable candidates, listed in the short list, will be authorised to participate in the second phase of the evaluation procedure, and will be invited to an interview or interviews to produce the final ranking for each Research Topic.

The dates and methods of conducting the interviews and any corrections will be published on the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and at <https://isas.unicam.it>. This publication has the value of official notification for all legal purposes; Therefore, candidates will not receive any personal communication regarding the invitations for the interviews. The interview dates cannot be postponed on the basis of the needs of the candidates.

The interviews will preferably be conducted in English, remotely, by Sub-Committees designated by the PhD Course Teaching Committee.

Also in this case, for the evaluation, reference will be made to the provisions of the European Framework for Research Careers for the R1 profile (First-stage researchers).

The shortlist of suitable candidates and the interview calendar will be published on the Unicom institutional website: <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>, and at <https://isas.unicam.it>.

In the meantime, further eligibility checks may be carried out if necessary.

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

<b>Admission criteria and related weight:</b> Scientific qualification
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<b>Scientific qualification:</b> max 20 points
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<b>Project proposal:</b> max 20 points
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<b>Access to interview:</b> min 20/40 points
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<b>Interview:</b> 60 points
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<b>Total score:</b> 100 points
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<b>Admission:</b> min 60 points
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## Art. 11 ACCEPTANCE OF POSITIONS, HOW TO ENROLL IN THE COURSES, AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The final ranking lists will be drawn up on the basis of the total scores obtained in the second phase of evaluation by each candidate for each Research Topic. As many ranking lists as there are Research Topics will be drawn up.

Candidates may be recognised as eligible for multiple Research Topics. If nominated in more than one ranking, they will be asked to accept only one of the positions won, allowing the consequent scrolling of the ranking to the next candidate.

Final ranking lists:

- will be in decreasing order of score and, in case of equal scores, the youngest age will be considered. In case of further equal scores, gender will be considered;
- as many ranking lists as there are Research Topics will be drawn up, based on the evaluation of the Selection Committees.

The final ranking lists will be published on the University institutional website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>, and at <https://isas.unicam.it>. No personal communications will be sent to the candidates: the publication of the results on the indicated website constitutes official communication to the interested parties, who are required to constantly consult the website without the need for further notices.

In case of express or tacit renunciation of the position, the Research Topic ranking will be scrolled until the expected positions are filled, scrolling to be closed within the deadline set annually by the Ministry of University and Research for the monitoring of accredited PhD courses and the registration of the data of students enrolled in the academic year of reference.

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

Participants in the selection will have 30 days to submit any complaints to the email address: [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it). These will be sent to the University Manager for the prevention of corruption and transparency who, in collaboration with the Student Ombudsman, will examine and respond to the issues submitted to him/her, within 30 days following the submission of the complaint.

The scholarships and positions will be assigned according to the selection procedure indicated in this Notice, until the positions and scholarships made available in the Notice are allocated. UNICAM reserves the right not to assign or to assign further scholarships/positions made available, even in the event of a candidate's withdrawal, by scrolling through the ranking lists in the established order. The scholarships will then be confirmed annually by the SAS Council, following verification of the activities carried out by the PhD student in the previous year by the Teaching Committee of the relevant PhD Course.

Based on the ranking lists, up to 6 places could be made available without the use of a scholarship; the candidates in this position must indicate whether they can obtain financial support from public and/or private bodies other than the University of Camerino. Activities of PhD students who do not receive scholarships will in any case be subject to verification by the Teaching Committee of the relevant PhD Course.

#### **Art. 12 AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE RANKING LIST**

The admitted candidates must accept the scholarship/position by submitting the appropriate form by 20 September 2024. The form will be made available via email to the selected candidates, via the email address [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it).

Once the competition tests have been completed, and after acceptance by the doctoral student, the Rector will approve the ranking formulated by the Selection Committee, assigning the positions and scholarships put up for competition.

Candidates who require a visa to enter Italy, once officially admitted to the PhD programme, must submit a pre-enrolment application via the *Universitaly* portal, at the email address <https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri>, by **29 November 2024**.



For foreign/non-EU students: it is necessary to arrive in Italy by the start date of the PhD programme; Otherwise, it is necessary to arrive in Italy by **30 April 2025** under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.

Registration must be completed as soon as the student arrives in Italy, within one week of arrival, promptly providing the original documents of: Declaration of Value/Declaration of Equivalence/Certificates issued by CIMEA by **31 March 2025**; the degree certificate and an official translation into Italian of the diploma and the exam booklet showing the exams taken and the grades obtained, if not already produced in English; Italian tax code<sup>2</sup>; residence permit application receipts.

All candidates must also:

- Submit the application for registration, addressed to the Rector of the University of Camerino, by 31 October 2024 exclusively online through the appropriate section on the University website, where all the necessary information is published. Enrolment is considered regularly closed and therefore accepted when the entire online procedure has been completed, all required fees have been paid, and the required attachments have been uploaded;
- Start their PhD programme on 1 November 2024 (or, in any case, no later than 13 December 2024);\*\* N.B. Recipients of the scholarships financed by the Marche Region as part of the "Innovative PhD Programme with "Industrial Characterisation" project must necessarily begin the PhD academic path on 1/11/2024. The recipients of scholarships financed under the PNRR projects (Ministerial Decrees Nos. 629/2924 and 630/2024) must begin the PhD programme by 13 December 2024; recipients of foreign scholarships who have not obtained an entry visa for Italy by the start date of the programme must begin remote activities by 13 December 2024, committing to arrive in Italy by 30/04/2025, under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.
- Provide an Italian/online bank account for payments relating to the position/scholarship (must be in the name of the PhD student);
- Participate in a safety training course before starting the research activity and undergo a mandatory medical check-up;
- (must register with the Italian National Health Service and renew the registration every year, at their own expense, immediately communicating this to [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it). This registration is a prerequisite for attending the PhD programme;
- Register at the portal of the Ministry of University and Research: <https://loginmiur.cineca.it/front.php/login.html>;
- Register autonomously with separate Italian national insurance and pension scheme (only the scholarship recipients).

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<sup>2</sup> Candidates residing abroad must request the attribution of the Italian tax code to the Italian Embassy or Consulate in their country before arriving in Italy. It can be requested abroad through the consular office. For specific request methods, we recommend visiting the website of the competent consular office.

## Art. 13 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, as amended), 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. The University of Camerino, in the context of managing the PhD Programme and carrying out the relevant reporting activities, collects and processes the personal data of candidates, as well as data related to the courses and scholarships/fellowships; Furthermore, University of Camerino collects and processes data concerning: the research and training activity carried out in Italy and abroad, payments (research budget; scholarship) and relevant supporting documents, training outcomes and outputs, graduation, mobilities. Certain data of the scholarship holders, non-scholarship holders and reserve list candidates are shared with possible partners of Projects/Agreements the scholarships/positions are funded and managed in the framework of, as well as with Agencies and Institutions responsible for the Funding Programmes (where relevant). 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: <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and the SAS website: <https://isas.unicam.it>;
- data will be treated for management and reporting activities mentioned above.

## Art. 14 RULES FOR REFERENCE

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

- Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021
- Regulations on PhD Programmes of the University of Camerino issued with Rector’s Decree No. 169/2022
- Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino, issued with Rector’s Decree No. 168/2022.
- Ministerial Decrees relating to the PNRR PhD courses No. 629/2024 and 630/2024;
- Marche Region Decree No. 63/IISP of 29/04/2024

## Art.15 FINAL INFORMATION

**Manager of the administrative procedure:** Ms. Annalisa Albanesi

**Contacts:** For administrative information relating to this Notice, please contact the Higher Education Office - SAS, Libraries and Higher Education Division, Ms. Isabella Calzolari at the following e-mail address: [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it) (Telephone: 0039 -0737/402058)

This Call shall be published on the European Euraxess website, on the website of the Ministry of Education, University, and Research, on the institutional website of the coordinating department of the University, and on the SAS website.