



UNIVERSITÀ
di CAMERINO



**Subject: NOTICE OF SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION TO PHD PROGRAMME
“THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE”
(CYCLE 42, Academic Year 2026/2027)**

The Rector

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 Decree of the Minister of Education, Universities and Research No. 45 of 08 February 2013, 'Regulations governing the accreditation methods for PhD locations and courses and criteria for the establishment of PhD courses by accredited bodies';

With 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”;

With regard to Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 247 of 23 February 2022 “Increase in PhD scholarships”;

With 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;

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;

With 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;

With 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;

With regard to the meeting of the Governing Bodies on May 29, 2026, during which the general frameworks/negotiating acts for the PhD programmes of the University of Camerino (UNICAM) for the XLII cycle were approved;

With regard to the accreditation procedure for the PhD programmes of the XLII cycle, communicated by the Ministry of University and Research on 14.05.2026;

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Considering that pursuant to art. 5, paragraph 6, of Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14/12/2021 issued by the Minister of University and Research, the actual activation of the courses is subject to the formal adoption of the accreditation decree by the Ministry of University and Research, or to the positive verification of the maintenance of the accreditation requirements; therefore, the admission examinations are carried out conditional upon the favorable outcome of such verification;

With regard to the meeting of the SAS Board of June 3, 2026, during which the preparatory aspects for the issuance of this call for applications were approved, insofar as it falls within its competence;

Considering that subject to the conditions to proceed, and to the availability of further funding for the XLII PhD cycle, additional scholarships and/or PhD positions without scholarship may be provided;

With regard to the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022; With regard to the Regulations on PhD Programmes, issued with Rector's Decree No. 215/2025;

With regard to the Internal Regulations of the PhD Programme of National Interest in 'Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience', administratively based at the University of Camerino;

With regard to the Agreements signed by UNICAM and further Institutions/Bodies that are partners or co-founders, in the framework of specific research topics of the above-mentioned PhD Programme;

DECREES

Art. 1 – SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 'THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE' PhD PROGRAMME

Public selection procedure for admission to the XLII cycle (a.y. 2026/27) of PhD programme of National Interest in "THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE", activated by the *School of Advanced Studies* - International Doctoral School of the University of Camerino (henceforth referred to as SAS), unique for EU and non-EU citizens, is hereby launched.

In the event of further funding, the University reserves the right to issue, by 2026, additional sessions of the Selection Call for PhD candidates for the XLII cycle of the 'Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience' Programme;

Camerino, *date of registration*

The Rector
Prof. Graziano Leoni



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UNICAM (university of Camerino) PhD Programme “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”
Call for applications 2026 - 1st Session
Cycle XLII – Academic Year 2026-27

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

*Applications must be sent **by 1.00 pm CEST (Italian time zone) on 24 August 2026.***

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE

The selection procedure comprises the following main steps (timing is purely provisional):

1 – **(From the date of publication to 24 august 2026) Call launching** – Selection procedure: candidates must submit the Application form through website: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phdtan42/domande/> **by 1:00 p.m. (Italian time) on 24 August 2026.** In particular, they must present their identity document, Curriculum vitae, a short hypothetical research project, letters of reference (up to three), a letter of motivation (statement of purpose), and choose the academic curriculum of interest among those proposed. A 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 XLII PhD cycle.

2 – **(by 31 August 2026, in any case with proper timing for convening) 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 is published. The interview calendar is established and published. In the meantime, further eligibility checks may be carried out if necessary.

3 – **(From 1 September 2026 onwards) The second phase of the evaluation procedure is carried out:** the candidates admitted or admitted "subject to confirmation" will have to undergo remote oral interviews according to the published calendar.

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 2026) The final merit-based ranking lists are published.**

5 – **(1 November 2026) Expected start date for PhD programs: November 1, 2026.**

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Art. 1 RESEARCH AREAS AND RESPECTIVE CURRICULA

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

National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”¹ 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 neurorobotic 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

¹ The accreditation procedure is still ongoing – The courses are activated only in the event of a positive outcome of the accreditation procedure, carried out by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems (ANVUR).



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, AFAM Institutions and affiliated research institutions

- 1) Università degli Studi di Messina
- 2) Università degli Studi di Padova
- 3) Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
- 4) Università degli Studi di Cagliari
- 5) Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” – Dipartimento di Psicologia
- 6) Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” – Dipartimento di Scienze e Biotechnologie Medico-Chirurgiche
- 7) Università degli Studi di Ferrara

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- 8) Università degli studi di Genova
- 9) Università degli studi di Bologna
- 10) Conservatorio Statale di Musica "E.F. Dall'Abaco" (Verona)
- 11) IRCCS Ospedale Sacro Cuore Don Calabria
- 12) IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele
- 13) Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - IBD and IN
- 14) *(in cooperation with)* Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia - IIT

1.3 Partner companies for reserved positions (N.B. Under these agreements, subject to the necessary conditions, provision is made for the potential allocation of reserved positions to employees of partner companies):

- 1) AM microsystem s.r.l.
- 2) Biotecnica s.n.c"

Art. 2 POSITIONS AND PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

The funding of 33 PhD positions is foreseen with a scholarship or equivalent forms of financial support, of which:

- n.5 PhD positions reserved for employees of affiliated institutions/companies;
- n.2 PhD positions reserved for scholarship holders funded by foreign countries (the China Scholarship Council) in cooperation with the IIT in Genoa;
- n.2 positions at the University of Camerino reserved for graduates of Changchun University of Technology (China).

Up to 5 positions without the use of a scholarship are also foreseen. Positions without scholarship may be made available based on the merit rankings and subject to the administrative and financial conditions necessary for their activation, and in any case, always within the maximum ratio of 1 for every 3 scholarship-funded positions.

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 XLII PhD cycle.

Positions and scholarships are linked to specific research topics. A detailed description of each topic will be available in **Annex 1** to the Call; it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to check for any updates to **Annex 1**, which may be integrated in the event of further funding for the XLI PhD cycle.

Each applicant may choose a curriculum of interest from among those proposed.

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Art. 3 COMMITMENTS OF PhD STUDENTS

According to the national law and the current regulation in UNICAM, PhD positions require a full-time commitment, both in terms of training and research activities, and possibly teaching, tutoring and student services. As per the current regulations, periods of research and training abroad are foreseen. Additional activities/conditions are also foreseen for specific research topics/scholarships, if included in the specific agreements or in the funding rules of the scholarships and/or positions. Please, read UNICAM Regulations in force for a more in-depth overview.

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 a more in-depth overview.

Art.4 CAREER, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PhD STUDENTS

The rights and responsibilities of PhD students and the requirements for obtaining the degree (“Dottore di ricerca” or “PhD”) are outlined in the UNICAM Regulations for PhD Programmes and the acts issued with Rector's Decree No. 215/2025, available at: <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/regolamenti> (SECTION “Regulations of general interest”).

Concurrent enrollment in two higher education courses is regulated by Law No. 33/2022 and implementing 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.

Before commencing their activities within their respective PhD programme, PhD candidates must hold valid health insurance coverage, either through registration with the Italian National Health Service (Sistema Sanitario Nazionale - SSN) or via a private insurance policy.

For non-EU PhD candidates: applicants may, independently and at their own expense, register with the National Health Service or, alternatively, take out private insurance policies that meet at least the minimum criteria required by the competent Authorities for the issuance of a post-graduate student visa.

Proof of health/insurance coverage can be provided to the relevant Office, upon request, by submitting a copy of their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with a validity period compatible with the PhD programme, or by providing annual receipts of registration/renewal with the National Health Service, or by



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providing annual receipts of purchase/renewal of a private health insurance policy along with its general terms and conditions.

All PhD candidates benefit from accident and civil liability insurance coverage provided by the University for the entire duration of the programme, solely for activities related to the PhD course, in accordance with the terms offered by the relevant insurance companies.

In the event of an invention made by the PhD candidate within the scope of the university research activity, the University Regulations on intellectual property and patents shall generally apply.

Art. 5 SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH BUDGET

* **The gross amount of the scholarships** (including taxes paid by the recipient), with the exception provided for by current regulations (Ministerial Decree n.226/2021), 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.

* For all PhD students who are entitled to it under current national legislation, for periods of stay and residence abroad (so-called "mobility abroad"), additional funding is guaranteed corresponding to an increase of no less than 50% of the amount of the scholarship.

* Each PhD student, with or without scholarship or other forms of support, with the exception provided for by current regulations (Ministerial Decree n.226/2021), **has a budget for research activity** in Italy or abroad of at least **€ 9.758,40** during the three-year course and in accordance with the rules established by Italian law, regulations and UNICAM guidelines.

When provided by the administrative headquarters, the scholarship is paid to the PhD student in monthly installments in arrears (each installment is paid the following month) and only after the enrollment procedure is finalized (for international PhD students, this occurs only after their arrival in Italy).

With regard to PhD candidates enrolled after November 1, 2026, and within the deadlines established by this call, applicable laws, and regulations in force, the payment of the first monthly installment will be deferred accordingly. The payment of the scholarship requires the PhD candidate to hold an Italian Tax Code (Codice Fiscale) and a suitable Italian or online bank account.

The accrual of the scholarships begins on the official start date of the PhD programmes, which is November 1, 2026, unless extensions or deferrals are duly authorized.

In the event that the PhD student arrives later (no later than **30 April 2027**), no installment will be paid before his/her arrival in Italy, nor before the enrollment 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 (gross cost of recipient, currently set by the Ministry at €16.243,00 per year).

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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 (dottorato@unicam.it) 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 Call) exceed the annual above-mentioned amount of €16,243.00 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, even partially, 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.; in the case of scholarships or positions funded under specific programmes or agreements, also in terms of compatibility, the specific rules of the programme or agreement must be taken into account.

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.

PhD students without a grant who are included in the ERDIS (Regional Body for the Right to University Education) right to study rankings are also exempt from paying the regional tax for the right to university study, which will be subsequently reimbursed, once the existence of the requirements has been verified.

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/phdtan42/domande/> by **24 August 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (Italian time)**. Only applications that are submitted within the specified deadline will be considered, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the Programme.

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For the application, the candidate must pay a non-refundable fee of € 20,00 in accordance with the instructions of the online procedure, under penalty of exclusion. The payment must be made, under penalty of exclusion, by the aforementioned deadline of this call. Under no circumstances will the fee be refunded.

Candidates are advised to submit their application for the selection procedure well in advance of the deadline stated in this Call.

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 for using the online portal will be made available at the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> as well as at the webpage <https://isas.unicam.it>.

Applicants are required to register using the following link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phdtan42/domande/>

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 curriculum of potential interest;;
- 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.

The application may also include the name of up to 3 contact persons (presenters), i.e. professors/researchers, who are considered capable of supporting the application by completing the reference form; if there are names, the presenters will be sent a request via email to provide a letter of introduction. The letter of introduction must be received **by 26 August 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** (Italian time). It is also strongly recommended for the purposes of evaluating the application.

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Art.8 RESEARCH TOPICS

In relation to the thematic areas linked to the PhD program and the curricula, specific research topics will be defined for the research projects, which are usually three years in duration, to be carried out by the PhD students.

A detailed description of each topic, with any reference to the relevant Research field, will be available in **Annex 1** to the Call; it will be the exclusive responsibility of the candidate to verify any updates to Annex 1, which could be integrated in the event of further funding for the XLII cycle of the PhD programme.

Art. 9 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE COMPETITION

In general, Italian and foreign citizens in possession of a specialization/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 Programmes, 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 Programme.

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 [centro ENIC-NARIC in Italia \(CIMEA\)](#)² 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 Programmes 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 March 2027** and sent to Unicom, via email, to dottorato@unicam.it, by **31 March 2027**, under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.

Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad are also required to submit:

1. First-cycle diploma or degree certificate - level 6 E.Q.F. (e.g., Bachelor's Degree), if this qualification was obtained abroad, and second-cycle diploma or degree certificate - level 7 E.Q.F. (e.g. Master's Degree) that

² 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). In any case, the verification certificate must be requested from the ENIC NARIC (CIMEA) centre.



gives access to the PhD programme in the country of origin. These qualifications must have been issued by an officially recognised academic institution, indicating the date of achievement of the qualification and, where available, the final grade;

2. Certificate of the exams (Transcripts) taken during the first- and second-cycle university course, with the relevant grade.

These documents, 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 2026**, via email to dottorato@unicam.it, and presented in an original copy to formalize 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 Scientific Board of the relevant PhD Programme and the SAS Board 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/Agreements.

Art. 10 CANDIDATES EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Selection Committee is appointed in accordance with current laws, as well as the Unicam Regulation in force.

The names of Committee members 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* 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 any specific criteria indicated in relation to certain Topics (for example, positions reserved for employees of partner Entities and Companies), the candidate's CV, with particular reference to the degree grade, other qualifications, scientific publications and conference presentations, prizes and awards. Any letters of presentation from the presenters and the statement of purpose will also be evaluated.

At the end of the evaluation process, the Selection Committee prepares the shortlist of the eligible candidates admitted or admitted "subject to confirmation" to the second phase of the evaluation procedure, which consists of the 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 allowed 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 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.

In this case, as well, 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 Unicam 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.

The following table shows the criteria for the two evaluation phases:

Admission criteria and related weight: Scientific qualification
Scientific qualification: max 20 points Project proposal: max 20 points Access to interview: min 20/40 points Interview: 60 points Total score: 100 points Admission: min 60 points



Art. 11 ACCEPTANCE OF POSITIONS, HOW TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The final ranking lists will be drawn up on the basis of the total scores obtained in the second evaluation phase by each candidate for each Research Topic. As many ranking lists as there are Research Topics will be drawn up. The results of the selections will be approved with a specific Rector's Decree.

Candidates may be deemed eligible for multiple Research Topics. In the event that a candidate appears in more than one ranking list, he/she will be asked to accept only one of the positions won, allowing the subsequent sliding of the ranking list 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, the less represented gender will be considered;
- will report as many ranking lists as there are Research Topic, based on the evaluation of the Selection Committee.

The final ranking lists will be published on the University institutional website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> and at <https://isas.unicam.it>. The publication of the results on the indicated website has the value of official communication to the interested parties, who are required to constantly consult the website without the need for further notices; however, communications may occur from the reference office (dottorato@unicam.it) to facilitate or further clarify any specifics of this phase.

The positions or scholarships must be accepted by the assignees within 5 working days of receiving the instructions to proceed with the acceptance of the same.

In case of express or tacit renunciation of the position, the ranking list of the Research Topic may be scrolled down until all available positions are filled. This scrolling process must be concluded within the annual deadline set by the Ministry of University and Research for the monitoring of accredited PhD programmes and the registration of data for students enrolled in the relevant academic year.

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: dottorato@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. Generic and unsubstantiated complaints will not be examined.

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 Board, 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, and in the presence of the conditions necessary for their activation, positions without scholarship may be made available in the order of 1 for every 3 positions with scholarship. Candidates in this position must indicate whether they can obtain financial support from public and/or private bodies other than the University of Camerino. The activities of PhD students who do not receive scholarships will in any case be subject to verification by the Scientific Board of the relevant PhD Programme.

Art. 12 AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE RANKING LIST

Admitted candidates must accept the scholarship/position as indicated in Art. 11 by submitting the appropriate form. The form will be made available via email to selected candidates, via the email address dottorato@unicam.it.

Once the selection procedure tests have been completed, and after acceptance by the PhD student, the Rector's decrees of appointment will be issued.

Candidates who require a visa to enter Italy, once officially admitted to the PhD programme, must submit a pre-enrolment application via the *University* portal, at <https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri>, within the deadlines indicated on the portal.

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 2027** under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.

Registration must be completed as soon as the student arrives in Italy, within two weeks of arrival, promptly providing the original documents of: Declaration of Value/Declaration of Equivalence/Certificates issued by CIMEA by **31 March 2027**; 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 code³; residence permit application receipts.

All candidates must also:

- Submit the application for enrolment, 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 the required fees have been paid, and the required attachments have been uploaded;
- Start their PhD programme on 1 November 2026;
- 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;

³ 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.



- (foreign PhD students) must register with the Italian National Health Service and renew the registration every year, at their own expense (or, alternatively, take out the insurance policy referred to in Art. 4 of this call for applications and renew it annually, entirely at their own expense), promptly notifying dottorato@unicam.it. Such registration (or policy stipulation) is a prerequisite for participating in 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 a separate Italian national insurance and pension scheme (only the scholarship recipients) meaning “Gestione separata INPS”.

Art. 13 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The University of Camerino (UNICAM), as Data Controller, informs candidates that the processing of personal data provided during participation in the selection or otherwise acquired for this purpose is carried out in compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and current national legislation. The data is collected and processed exclusively for the completion of selective procedures, for the management of subsequent university careers and for institutional reporting activities linked to scholarships/phd positions' funding. The processing is necessary for the fulfillment of a legal obligation to which the Data Controller is subject (Art. 6, par. 1, letter c of the GDPR) and for the execution of a task of public interest (Art. 6, par. 1, letter e of the GDPR). The provision of data is mandatory for the evaluation of participation requirements. Failure to provide data will make it impossible to participate in the selection procedure and the exclusion from the competition. Personal data may be communicated to authorized University personnel, to the Selection Committees, to the partner or co-financing bodies mentioned in this announcement and to the competent public bodies in the cases provided for by law.

At any time, candidates will be able to exercise the rights provided for by articles 15 et seq. of the GDPR (including access to data, rectification, integration or limitation of processing) by writing to the e-mail address: dottorato@unicam.it. Interested parties also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Supervising Authority (“Garante per la protezione dei dati personali”).

Art. 14 RULES FOR REFERENCE

For matters not covered by this Call, reference is made to the laws and regulations in force about 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. 215/2025;
- Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022.
- Internal Regulations of the PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”;



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DI CAMERINO



Art.15 FINAL INFORMATION

Director of the SAS: Prof. Michele Loreti

Coordinator of the PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”: Prof. Roberto Ciccocioppo

Manager of the administrative procedure: Ms. Natascia Alessandrini

Contacts: For administrative information relating to this Notice, please contact the Post Graduate and Excellence Programmes Office (“Ufficio Formazione Avanzata”) - Division “Libraries, International Education, Post Graduate and Excellence Programmes”:

- e-mail address: dottorato@unicam.it;
- contacts:
Daniele Quadrani: 0039 -0737/402124.

This Call 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.

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