

ANNEX 1)

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR  
no. 35 POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIP  
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF NATIONAL INTEREST**



**Headquartered at the University of Florence  
XL CYCLE**

**D.R. rep. no. 790 record no. 143182 of June 19<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**DEADLINE: July 19<sup>th</sup> 2024  
12:00 noon (Italian time)\***

\* the enrollment service automatically stops at the time stated above,  
therefore, it is recommended that the process be started well in advance so that it will be concluded by the deadline

**2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Disclaimer**

The official and legally binding announcement is the Italian one available [here](#). The present document cannot be used for legal purposes and it is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications



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**Art. 1**  
**SUBJECT**

1. The University of Florence announces a public selection for admission to the "**LIFE COURSE RESEARCH**" PhD programme of national interest, 40<sup>th</sup> cycle, AY 2024-2025 with 35 scholarships.
2. The programme consists of three curricula: 'Socio-demographics', 'Biomedicine' and 'Psychology', for further information about the course please refer to the dedicated website <https://www.phd-lcr.com/>
3. Affiliated Universities for the "LIFE COURSE RESEARCH" PhD programme:
  - Free University of Bolzano
  - Sapienza University of Rome
  - *Scuola Normale Superiore* in Pisa
  - Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies
  - Ca' Foscari University of Venezia
  - University of Calabria
  - University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
  - University of Ferrara
  - University of Messina
  - University of Milano-Bicocca
  - University of Molise
  - University of Napoli "Federico II"
  - University of Padua
  - University of Palermo
  - University of Siena
  - University of Turin
4. The duration of the doctoral programme is three years, with a planned start date of 1 November 2024.
5. Specific information on scholarships, including the set research topic for each, is contained in the factsheets in Annex 2, which is an integral and essential part of this call.
6. By submitting the application in accordance with the procedures set out in article 5, applicants implicitly accept the regulations contained herein.
7. All communications to applicants regarding this call will be sent by e-mail. The e-mail address given by the candidate in the application will be used for this purpose.
8. The use, in this notice, of the masculine gender has no discriminatory character but, understood as gender-neutral, responds only to needs of more immediate communication.

**Art. 2**  
**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

1. There are only positions with a scholarship on specific research topics and those who forfeit the scholarship automatically terminate their PhD studies. There are no admissions over and above the prescribed number.
2. The 35 scholarships referred to in this notice are funded as follows:
  - a) University Funds;
  - b) Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) – Ministerial Decree no. [629/2024](#)
    - Mission 4 Component 1 – Investment 4.1 "NRRP Research"
    - Mission 4 Component 1 – Investment 4.1 "Public Administration"

- c) NRRP – Ministerial Decree no. [630/2024](#)  
– Mission 4 Component 2 – Investment 3.3. “Introduction to innovative doctoral programmes that respond to the innovation needs of businesses and promote the recruitment of researchers by companies”  
d) other NRRP funds
3. All scholarships entail a period of study and research abroad; further requirements, including study and research periods in companies/research centres or public administrations, and the details of each individual scholarship are set out in Annex 2 "Scholarship factsheets".
  4. The scholarships funded pursuant to Ministerial Decrees 629 and 630 shall be activated within the scope of the set subjects and in compliance with the eligibility criteria set out in the aforementioned decrees. The final allocation of the scholarships is subject to the outcome of the eligibility check carried out by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Research - ANVUR and by the MUR.
  5. The number of scholarships referred to in Ministerial Decrees 629 and 630 may be increased by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) with a specific provision following the reallocation of further PNRR resources to the University. This increase will be communicated on the University website at the following address <https://www.unifi.it/p12671.html>; However, the deadlines for submitting the application for admission will not be reopened

### **Art. 3**

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Those who hold one of the following academic qualifications by the deadline of the call may apply for the selection, without age or citizenship limitations:
  - master's degree awarded in accordance with Ministerial Decree 270/2004;
  - master's degree awarded in accordance with Ministerial Decree 509/1999;
  - degree awarded under the educational systems prior to Ministerial Decree 509/1999, the legal course of which has a duration of at least four years;
  - second-level academic degree awarded by institutions that are part of the AFAM (Higher Education Institutes in the Arts and Music) sector;
  - academic qualification from foreign universities equivalent to the Italian degree required for admission.
2. Those who will be awarded one of the above degrees by 31 October 2024 may also apply. These candidates are admitted to the selection with reserve, and it is their duty to send a self-certificate of the awarding of the academic qualification to the Doctoral Office ([dottorato@unifi.it](mailto:dottorato@unifi.it)). Failure to submit the above self-certificate by the specified deadline will result in exclusion from the selection.
3. Those who have already been in receipt of a scholarship, even in part, for attending a doctoral programme cannot receive one a second time.
4. Failure to hold an academic qualification as specified in the preceding paragraphs will result in exclusion from the selection.

### **Art. 4**

#### **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED ABROAD**

1. Applicants with foreign academic degrees (equivalent to a master's degree) may apply for admission by attaching the qualifications obtained, accompanied by their translation into Italian or English, even a translation completed personally and under their own responsibility. Such candidates are conditionally admitted to the selection and they will be excluded, if it turns out, upon verification, that the degree does not comply with the requirements of this notice.
2. The academic degree awarded abroad must be comparable in duration, level and subject area to an Italian second-level academic degree. The suitability of foreign degrees not already recognized under

current regulations is ascertained by the Doctoral Admissions Board for the sole purpose of taking part in the admissions procedure, in compliance with the relevant regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was awarded, as well as with international Treaties or Agreements on the recognition of degrees for the pursuit of studies. Candidates whose qualification obtained abroad is not suitable for access to the doctoral programme shall be excluded from the selection.

3. By the beginning of the programme, however, the translated degrees, legalized in Italian and accompanied by a "Dichiarazione di valore in loco" (declaration of value) issued by the competent Italian Representations of the country in which the degree was obtained, or else the [Statements of comparability and verification of the foreign university degree](#) issued by the ENIC-NARIC center in Italy (CIMEA) containing all the information required to evaluate the degree, must be delivered to the PhD Office together with the application form. For academic qualifications obtained in a country of the European Union, a diploma supplement will suffice.
4. For the purpose of entry into Italy, citizens of non-EU states residing abroad must register on the [University](#) portal and apply for an entry visa (type D postgraduate visa) at the appropriate Italian Embassy or Consulate.

## Art. 5

### APPLICATION

1. The application for admission must be submitted through the online application procedure only available at: [https://sol.unifi.it/domdottdin/login\\_en.jsp](https://sol.unifi.it/domdottdin/login_en.jsp) starting **19 June 2024** and no later than **12 noon on 19 July 2024**.
2. How to apply:
  - log into the site [https://sol.unifi.it/domdottdin/login\\_en.jsp](https://sol.unifi.it/domdottdin/login_en.jsp);
  - register by entering the requested data;
  - select the selected scholarship you wish to apply for;
  - express possible interest in accepting any unassigned scholarships (article 7, paragraph 5);
  - complete the online application as indicated in the various screens;
  - upload:
    - a) copy of an identity document;
    - b) **for degrees awarded in Italy:** a [self-certificate](#), dated and signed, (bachelor's and master's degree or combined-cycle degrees) containing a list of exams taken and the corresponding grade, the title of the thesis and final mark;  
**for degrees awarded abroad:** copy of the degrees (bachelor's and master's degree) containing a list of exams taken and the corresponding grade, the title of the thesis and final mark;
    - c) **curriculum vitae**;
    - d) **research project** proposal (in .pdf file) drafted in English following the [template](#) provided by the university and indicating the scholarship you wish to apply for;
    - e) list of publications and other qualifications, if any.
  - make payment of the non-refundable contribution of 30 Euros. Payment must be made, under penalty of exclusion, by the deadline of the notice, following the instructions provided by for the online procedure.
3. Under no circumstances can the fee be refunded. The candidate will be considered duly enrolled and thus admitted to the selection only after completing payment.
4. The application for admission can be submitted for one or more scholarships by attaching one or more research projects and taking care to indicate both in the application and in the project(s) the chosen topic(s). Therefore the same research project can be used to compete for multiple scholarships.
5. Applicants with disabilities or learning difficulties must attach to the application specialist documentation attesting to the disability and specify any aid needed.

6. Once "closed" the online application cannot be modified, nor can it be supplemented with additional documentation. If they wish, respecting the deadline of the call for applications, applicants may submit a new application after requesting cancellation of the previous one.
7. It is in the interest of applicants to complete the application, including payment of the admission fee, well in advance of the deadline. For applications closing at 12 noon on 19 July 2024, payments made by 11.59 p.m. of the same day will be considered valid. These are strict deadlines, and it is incumbent on the candidate to verify that the procedure has been completed correctly.

#### Art. 6

#### RESEARCH PROJECT GUIDELINES

1. The research project proposal, drafted in English following the [template](#) available here, must not **exceed 10,000 characters** (including: spaces, abstract, references and notes) and may contain up to three tables or figures. The project must focus on the selected topic, as set out in Annex 2 and must include:
  - an abstract (maximum 1500 characters, including spaces),
  - state of the art and contextualization of the topic,
  - methodologies,
  - expected results,
  - references.
2. Applicants who wish to compete for more than one scholarship may attach one or more research projects, clearly indicating for each, the scholarship to which it refers. **The research projects must be saved as .pdf files and combined in a single .zip file.**

#### Art. 7

#### ADMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

1. Candidates are selected through evaluation of both qualifications and a research project and through a subsequent interview held online using the most widely used videoconferencing applications.
2. The admissions board first checks that the submitted project is consistent with the topic of the relevant scholarship and excludes from interview candidates who have submitted a project that is totally inconsistent.
3. The interview may be conducted in Italian or English and may include verification of proficiency in English.
4. Evaluation method:

<b>EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS</b>	max 30/100	- academic career (max 20 points) - any further education and professional and research experience (max 5 points) - scientific publications (max 5 points)
<b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	max 30/100	aspects relating to the exhaustive discussion of the topic of the scholarship, clarity of presentation, feasibility, methodological rigour and bibliographic reference to the state of the art will be assessed
<b>INTERVIEW</b>	max 40/100	- discussion of the project (max 35 points- max 40 if no language testing is involved) - language test, if applicable (max 5 points) The interview will focus on the topics covered by the research project presented and will also be aimed at the verification of scientific knowledge, research aptitude and the candidate's willingness to spend periods abroad
<b>TO BE ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES MUST SCORE AT LEAST 65/100 points, of which 20/100 AWARDED FOR THE INTERVIEW</b>		

5. The Doctoral Admission Board reserves the right to propose the award of scholarships that may not be assigned to suitable candidates in other rankings of the same curriculum who have expressed such

interest in the application and who have been deemed capable of carrying out the research project covered by the scholarship.

#### Art. 8

#### INTERVIEW

1. Candidates must ensure the availability of a webcam to enable the Admissions Board to identify and view them during the interview. The Board will send the link for conducting the interview.
2. On the day and at the time set for the interview, candidates must be available at the contact provided. Before starting the interview, candidates are required to identify themselves by showing a valid ID.
3. Failure to connect online, or to present on the appointed day or time, or failure to show a valid ID, are grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure.
4. Should technical connection problems occur during the online interview, if the problem affects one or more board members, the exam shall be postponed ex officio to another date; if the problem affects the candidate, the Admissions Board may justifiably postpone the exam to another date, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment of candidates.

#### Art. 9

#### ADMISSION BOARD

1. The admission board for doctoral programmes is appointed by the Rector, on the basis of the proposal by the relevant Academic Board, pursuant to the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programmes](#).
2. The list of Admissions Board members is available on the University website <https://www.unifi.it/p12671.html>.
3. At the end of the interview, the Board draws up the ranking list and delivers the minutes of the meeting to the Rector, who shall approve the acts by decree.

#### Art. 10

#### EXAMS SCHEDULE AND OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION

1. **The interview** is scheduled remotely (by videocall) **on 29 and 30 July 2024 at 8.30 a.m.** (Italian time).
2. The ranking, formulated on the basis of the total score awarded to each candidate, will be published at <https://www.unifi.it/p12671.html>. Final rankings will indicate name, surname and the obtained score.

#### Art. 11

#### ADMISSION TO PROGRAMMES AND ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS

1. Candidates are admitted to the programme following the order of each ranking list. Those suitably placed in more than one ranking must opt for only one programme.
2. Winners will receive instructions on how and by what strict deadline they may accept or decline the position. The instructions will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the application for admission. Those who fail to reply by the deadline will forfeit their position, which will be offered to the next candidate in the ranking list.

#### Art. 12

#### ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAMME

1. Those who have accepted the position will receive communication containing the necessary information and forms for enrolment purposes. The enrolment procedure is finalized upon payment of

the regional tax and stamp duty, following the instructions published on the university website (<https://www.unifi.it/p11798.html>).

2. Citizens of non-EU states residing abroad, to accept the position are requested to register on the [University](#) portal and apply for an entry visa (type D postgraduate visa) at the appropriate Italian Embassy or Consulate.

### **Art. 13**

#### **REGIONAL FEE FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRAMME ATTENDANCE**

1. Doctoral students are required to pay the stamp DUTY (16 euros) and the regional tax for the right to study, the amount of which, unless otherwise determined by the Region of Tuscany, is set at 140.00 euros.
2. The following individuals are not required to pay the regional fee for the right to university study:
  - the winners and eligible candidates in the ranking list to obtain the scholarship of the Regional Board for the Right to University Study
  - students with recognized disabilities (Art. 3, Paragraph 1 of Law No. 104 of 5 February 1992) or a disability of 66 percent or more;
  - students who are children of incapacity pension holders (Art. 30 of Law No. 118 of 30 March 1971).
3. Admission to the years following the first and to the final exam is subject to verification of payment of the regional fee.

### **Art. 14**

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. Scholarships are awarded as specified in article 11.
2. In the case of equal merit, preference is given to the candidate with the most disadvantaged economic situation pursuant to D.P.C.M. no. 159 of 5 December 2013, based on the Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator Statement (ISEE) valid for "prestazioni agevolate per il diritto allo studio Universitario".
3. The scholarship is disbursed in monthly instalments in arrears; doctoral students who withdraw from the program lose the right to receive the scholarship from the date of withdrawal.
4. The annual amount of the scholarship is €16,243.00 (before social security charges payable by the recipient).
5. The amount of the scholarship is increased by 50% for conducting research activities abroad for a total period not exceeding twelve months. This period may be extended to a total of eighteen months.
6. The doctoral student is given a budget for research in Italy and abroad, amounting to no less than 20 percent of the amount of the scholarship itself.
7. Scholarships funded by other universities or entities are awarded to doctoral students, subject to the successful allocation of the respective financial resources to the University.
8. Pursuant to Decrees 629 and 630, scholarships must be used from the beginning of the programme and for the entire three-year period. The scholarship may be revoked in the following cases:
  - implementation of the doctoral programme in a manner that differs from the project accepted for funding, when the necessary authorisation has not been requested in advance and subsequently granted by the MUR;
  - failure to carry out the planned minimum period of study and research in a company or abroad;Should the scholarship be revoked, or should the student fail to complete the six-month period covered by the obligation to report to the MUR, the University can request that the doctoral student return the amounts received.
9. Those who have already been in receipt of a scholarship, even in part, for attending a PhD programme cannot receive one a second time.
10. The University may not be able to disburse the scholarship to students from restricted ("embargoed")



countries until they obtain a residence permit.

#### **Art. 15**

##### **ATTENDANCE AND OBLIGATIONS OF PhD STUDENTS**

1. Those enrolled in doctoral programmes must attend courses full time and perform study and research activities on a continuous basis. In particular, each PhD student is required to undertake a stay abroad, the duration of which is indicated in the individual programme factsheets, and to acquire, over the course of the three-year period, at least 6 credits by attending customized in-depth courses related to so-called "complementary skills".
2. Doctoral students shall carry out doctoral programme activities mainly at the University that funds the scholarship, in addition to some periods at the administrative headquarters, as well as moments of shared teaching in presence but, as they are involved in a single, joint and shared training-research project, they may carry out their research and training activities at the universities involved in the national doctoral programme. Doctoral students are guaranteed effective shared access to the facilities required for the doctoral project's teaching and research activities.
3. For any further aspects relating to the conduct of the PhD programme, please refer to the relevant university regulations.

#### **Art. 16**

##### **SPECIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PURSUANT TO DECREES 629 AND 630 AND THE NRRP**

1. In addition to the obligations of doctoral students under Article 15 and in the University of Florence Regulations governing Doctoral Research Programmes, doctoral students awarded scholarships pursuant to Decrees 629 and 630 are required to:
  - produce a semi-annual report indicating the time commitment (months in the company, at headquarters, abroad, if applicable) and a summary of the main activities carried out
  - undertake a period of study and research abroad as defined for individual scholarships in Annex 2;
  - complete a period of study and research in a company, research centre, public administration or body as defined, if applicable, for the individual grants in Annex 2. The periods of study and research abroad or in a company, research centre, public administration or other body are distinct and must be carried out in separate entities;
  - ensure compliance with the communication and information obligations provided for in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, by indicating in all the documentation that the Programme is financed under the NRRP, with explicit reference to funding by the European Union and to the NextGenerationEU initiative, by displaying the European Union emblem in the documentation and by providing adequate dissemination and promotion of the Programme, including online, on both the Web and in social media, in line with the provisions of the NRRP Communication Strategy;
  - comply with the principle of not causing significant harm to environmental objectives, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.
2. Holders of NRRP scholarships differing from those under Decrees 629 and 630, given the particular nature of the funding, are subject to accurate scheduled reporting requirements and also to comply with the provisions of the relevant funding.
3. The doctoral students referred to in this Article may be subject to partially different rules as regards any activities they undertake outside the doctoral programme.

#### **Art. 17**

##### **AWARDING OF THE DEGREE**

1. The doctoral degree (PhD) is awarded after passing the final exam referred to in Art. 27 of the

[University Regulations on Doctoral Programmes](#).

2. PhD students are required to enter their doctoral thesis, in an electronic version, in the University's dedicated online repository ([FLORE](#)).

#### **Art. 18**

### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

1. Intellectual and industrial property rights to any findings of the PhD student are governed in accordance with current legislation (Copyright Law - Legislative Decree 633/1941 - and Industrial Property Code - Legislative Decree 30/2005 and its subsequent modifications), to the [Regulations for the management of industrial and intellectual property rights with reference to research activities carried out by university personnel](#) and, if necessary, according to what is established in individual agreements with universities, companies or entities involved.
2. Applicants who are awarded scholarships funded by entities outside the University acknowledge and accept the provisions regarding intellectual and industrial property contained in the agreement between the University and the funding body. The doctoral students' inalienable moral right to be recognized as authors or inventors remains intact.
3. Doctoral students are required to sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings in relation to information, data and documents of a confidential nature of which they may become aware in the course of their work at and/or on behalf of the University.
4. The Ph.D. student is, in any case, guaranteed the opportunity to carry out the normal publication activities envisaged by the programme, which must be scheduled in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

#### **Art. 19**

### **PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

1. Personal data pertaining to this procedure are collected and processed for the University's institutional purposes in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of EU Regulation 2016/679 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
2. Candidates enjoy the rights provided for by the same Regulations. For more details follow the link [www.unifi.it/cmpro-v-p-11360.html](http://www.unifi.it/cmpro-v-p-11360.html).

#### **Art. 20**

### **PUBLICITY**

1. The notice is published in the Official State Bulletin - Selections and Exams Special Series - and, in its entirety, on the University's online noticeboard and on the website at <https://www.unifi.it/p12671.html>.
2. It is also published on the Ministry's website and the European Euraxess website.

#### **Art. 21**

### **THE PROCEDURE MANAGER**

1. For all purposes pertaining to this call, the Unit in charge is the Educational Services Area - Process Unit "Educational Offer and Quality of Study Programmes" - PhD Programme, Piazza San Marco 4, 50121 Florence.
2. Information and clarifications on application submission can be addressed by e-mail [dottorato@unifi.it](mailto:dottorato@unifi.it) or by phone at the following numbers 055 2757 668 - 671 - 678 - 681 - 309 Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3. The Procedure Manager is the Head of the Area, dott.ssa Maria Orfeo.

**Art. 22**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. Selection documents are public, to which access is permitted in the manner established by Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990.
2. For anything not expressly provided for in this announcement, please refer to the [University Regulations on Doctoral Programmes](#) and to the statutory provisions cited in the decree announcing the call for applications.
3. The University reserves the right to exclude at any time candidates who participate in the exams provided for in this call for failure to comply with the provisions and deadlines specified herein, or for failure to meet the requirements.