



Disclaimer: Please note that only the Italian version of the present call for applications, issued with Rector's Decree No. 922/2023 is legally binding, the English version is provided for informational purposes only. The original Italian version is available at <https://www.unive.it/bandodin>

Call for applications for admission to the National Doctoral Degree Programme in Polar Sciences 39th cycle (a.y. 2023/2024)

Issued with Rector's Decree no. 922 of 02/08/2023

Application deadline: **04 September 2023 1:00 p.m. (Italian time)**

Art. 1 - Purpose of the call and general regulations

1. This call for applications, published on the Ca' Foscari website at <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd> and in the online section of the Official University Register – Albo online, regulates access to the National Doctoral Degree Programme in Polar Sciences 39th cycle of Ca' Foscari University of Venice (a. y. 2023/2024). Amendments or additions to the call for applications will be published on the same website.
2. Annexes "A" represents an integral part of this call for applications.
3. Online submission of the application form as set forth in Art. 6 implies the acceptance by the candidate of regulations contained in this call for applications.
4. Ca' Foscari University of Venice will deliver all communications concerning this competitive selection process to candidates by email. The email used will be the one specified by the candidate during registration on the website (Art. 6, paragraph 2). Communications from which the terms of any nature run are considered to have occurred on the date and time certified by the e-mail sent and held by the University.
5. Candidates are strongly recommended to submit early applications and not to wait until the last minute. The University shall not be held responsible for any dysfunction due to technical problems and/or overloading communication lines and/or of the OS, for the loss of communications due to incorrect email address details or candidates' failures to communicate changes of email address, nor for any other problems or delays caused by third parties, unexpected occurrences or unforeseeable circumstances.
6. Failure to comply with the rules contained in this call for applications will result in exclusion from the call.
7. Specifications and fulfilments related to places with PNRR-funded scholarships (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, National Recovery and Resilience Plan), as per MD 118/2023 are described in Annexes "A" of this Call.
8. Places related to scholarships funded by the PNRR MD 118/2023 are announced on the condition of positive verification of eligibility for PNRR support by the Ministry of University and Research and are awarded *sub condicione* to confirmation of funding also by the Ministry.

Art. 2 - Call for application and admission criteria

1. Ca' Foscari University of Venice announces the 39th cycle of the National Doctoral Degree Programme in Polar Sciences for a. y. 2023/2024 in partnership with Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR, Istituto di Scienze Polari - ISP CNR, Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - INAF, Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale - OGS, Università degli Studi di BARI ALDO MORO, Università degli Studi di GENOVA, Università degli Studi di MESSINA, Università degli Studi di MILANO, Università degli Studi di MODENA e REGGIO EMILIA, Università degli Studi di NAPOLI "Parthenope", Università degli Studi di NAPOLI Federico II, Università degli Studi di PADOVA, Università degli Studi di PERUGIA, Università degli Studi di SIENA, Università degli Studi di TORINO, Università degli Studi di TRENTO, Università degli Studi di TRIESTE, Università di PISA e Università Politecnica delle MARCHE.
2. The National Doctoral Degree Programme in Polar Sciences will be activated *sub condicione* to the accreditation provided by the Ministry of University and Research pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021.
3. Candidates will be admitted to PhD programmes after passing a selection process that includes **evaluation of academic qualifications, and oral examination**. The form included in Annex "A" defines research topics, number of available places, admission requirements and candidate selection criteria used to produce the classification list.
4. The **Schedule of examinations** (to be held approximately from mid-September 2023), the composition of the Admission Committee and the date for the announcement of the final shortlist results will be available on the University website at <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd> and in the online section of the Official University Register – Albo online) - on **7 September**

2023. The online announcement of the aforementioned schedule will be considered as the only notice of convocation to the examination.

5. After the assessment of qualifications, all candidates admitted to the oral examination will take the interview according to the operational indications that will be published in the notice referred to in the previous paragraph. For the oral examination, it is possible to carry out the interview via videoconference. Those intending to use this operating method must request it when completing the application pursuant to Art. 6 and must be on call on the day and at the time determined by the Committee. Before the beginning of the interview, for the purposes of identification and under penalty of exclusion, candidates must show their ID document attached with their application. Failure to connect, unavailability on the appointed day or time, or failure to show a valid identification document, are grounds leading to exclusion from the selection process. These reasons for exclusion do not operate if the candidate, in possession of a valid identification document, arrives on the day set for the interview in order to take the oral exam in person.
6. The National Doctoral Degree Programme in Polar Sciences will last 3 years. The PhD Programme will start approximately by December 2023 and will normally conclude before December 2026. Enrolment in a PhD Programme requires a total and full-time commitment, and any incompatibility with other PhD students' activities will be evaluated by the Teaching Board of the PhD Programme. PhD students are required to carry out research, specialisation and training activities abroad, subject to authorisation from the Teaching Board, for a minimum period of 3 months, unless otherwise specified in the Research project.
7. Since the PhD programme is in partnership with universities and research centres, the teaching and research activities involved in the PhD Programme will be organised in coordination with the partners.

Art. 3 - Admission requirements

1. All candidates possessing any of the following requirements can submit their application:
 - "*Laurea Specialistica*" or "*laurea magistrale*" (the second cycle degree available in Italy since 1999 after completing five years (or more) of university studies);
 - an Italian degree obtained before the system introduced by Ministerial Decree No. 509 dated 3 November 1999, No. 509 as amended by Ministerial Decree dated 22 October 2004, No. 270 (*Laurea vecchio ordinamento – Old degree system*)
 - a **Master's degree qualification obtained abroad** – comparable in terms of level and discipline to the Italian qualification granting admission to the PhD Programme – and recognised as suitable for admission to the selection process in accordance with Art. 4 below.
2. Annex A to this Call specifies any further requirements.
3. **Graduating students** may also apply within the deadline laid down in Art. 6 below, provided they obtain their degree **by 15 November 2023**. Candidates who do not obtain the qualification within the deadline will be excluded.
4. Candidates are required to have certified **English proficiency at least B2 level** - under the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) - at the time of enrolment, except for the possibility of acquiring it subsequently, but **no later than 31 March 2024**, otherwise they will be excluded from the PhD programme. To learn more about the certifications accepted by the University and the exemption cases, see the page on the University website: <https://www.unive.it/englishb2-phd>.
5. No applications will be accepted from candidates already enrolled in other PhD programmes held by Ca' Foscari University or by partner Institutions.

Art. 4 - International qualifications

1. In order to assess the suitability of the qualification obtained abroad, candidates must provide:
 - a) certificate of an academic qualification comparable to *Laurea magistrale* (Master's degree) or a second level academic degree, preferably translated into English or Italian;
 - b) Transcript of Records from the university that awarded the degree, preferably translated into English or Italian;
 - c) *Diploma Supplement* (only for students who obtained their university degree in EU countries), or Declaration of Value ("*Dichiarazione di valore in loco*") issued by the relevant Italian diplomatic authority in the Country where the degree was obtained or the [academic recognition CIMEA](#) (*Centro di Informazione sulla Mobilità e le Equivalenze Accademiche*, Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Center) of foreign second-level final qualifications for accessing the PhD programme.

Candidates must have a qualification that allows enrolment in a PhD programme in the country where the qualification was obtained.

2. The suitability of the foreign qualification is verified by the Admissions Committee according to regulations in force in Italy and in the Country where the qualification itself has been awarded, and while respecting the international agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for further education.

3. Candidates who do not have the documents referred to the previous paragraph 1, letter c) shall be admitted to the selection procedure conditionally and, if successful, must provide them during the online registration procedure or in any case by 31/03/2024, the *Diploma supplement* or, if the qualification had been obtained outside the European Union, a copy of the diploma, translated and legalised in Italian or English language, together with the Declaration of Value ("*Dichiarazione di valore in loco*") issued by the relevant Italian diplomatic authority in the Country where the degree was obtained or the [academic recognition CIMEA](#) of foreign second-level final qualifications for accessing the PhD programme.
4. In the event that the aforementioned documents provided by the candidate show the academic qualification to be invalid for the purposes of enrolment in an academic course equivalent to a PhD, the person concerned shall no longer be able to continue on the PhD course and must return any funding already received.
5. At any time, the candidate may be required to supplement the documentation submitted in order to check its admissibility.

Art. 5 - Assessed qualifications

1. Candidates must present the following mandatory qualifications for admission to the PhD Programme of the current call:
 - **curriculum vitae et studiorum** (preferably in the European (Europass) format);
 - **PhD proposal research:** information on how to draft proposals is available on the University website at <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd>. Candidates can submit only one research proposal. The research proposal presented for the selection will not necessarily be the one developed by the PhD student during the PhD course; It should be noted that the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, should be taken into account when drafting the proposal.
 - **certificate of Master's degree exams passed with grades** (related to *Laurea specialistica* or *Laurea magistrale / Laurea vecchio ordinamento* / academic qualification obtained abroad); Italian and European Community citizens holding a qualification obtained in Italy are merely required to submit a Personal Declaration of Certification under the Presidential Decree No. 445 dated 28 December 2000, No. 445 as amended by Art. 15 paragraph 1 of Italian Law No. 183 dated 12 November 2011¹.
2. A maximum of two letters of reference from university professors, researchers or other experts in the field are optional qualifications, to be submitted exclusively in accordance with the terms of Article 6 paragraph 4 below. The Annex "A" form also specifies further optional qualifications.
3. Qualifications must be attached to the online application in accordance with Article 6 below.

Art. 6 - Application form

1. The application form must be submitted to the PhD Office **by 1 PM (Italian time) on Monday 4 September 2023**, under penalty of exclusion, exclusively according to the online procedure referred to in paragraph 2 below, available on the University website at the page <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd>.
2. The procedure involves two stages, each of which is obligatory in order to participate in the selection process:
 - a) **completing and saving the admissions application online via the specific link.** The application can only be considered saved when the candidate receives a submission confirmation email with a unique application code. This code will be used to identify the candidate during the various stages of the selection process (evaluation of qualifications and tests);
 - b) **registration on the University website** by accessing the page <https://www.unive.it/registrazione> or <https://www.unive.it/registration>, which is compulsory in order to be able to confirm admission to the PhD course upon selection, as per Art. 10.
If you have already registered (e.g., to take part in previous years' calls for applications or as a former student of Ca' Foscari) this step must be skipped.
Access to the reserved area for confirmation purposes can take place in three ways, depending on the status of the applicant:
 - those who have a student number and a password (as former students of the University) can log in with their credentials;
 - once registered, applicants of Italian nationality or currently residing in Italy who do not have a student number and a password must log in through SPID.
WARNING: access to the website will be possible from the day after registration at www.unive.it
To obtain the SPID visit <https://www.spid.gov.it/>;

¹ It should be noted, by way of example, that only the submission of a Declaration of Certification (Article 46 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000) is required, duly signed by the interested party, concerning the following statuses and personal facts, certified by Public Administrations: a) inclusion on registers or lists kept by Public Administrations; b) membership of professional associations; c) qualification, examinations passed; d) professional qualification, specialisation, license, training, refresher course or technical qualification; e) student status. Non-EU citizens may use the Declaration of Certification limited to the states and to the facts that can be attested by Italian public subjects or in cases where the production of a Declaration of Certification takes place in application of international agreements between Italy and the country of origin of the declarant.

- once registered, applicants of a nationality other than Italian who are not currently in Italy and have no student number and password may request credentials via the link www.unive.it/hospidaccess.
3. Qualifications and publications, as described in Art. 5 and in the Annex "A" form, must be submitted in PDF format (maximum file size is 10 MB) and uploaded only during the compilation of the online application form. Candidates may add, cancel or modify the documents after the completion of the online application form described in section 2 above, provided they do so before the deadline of the application process. It is compulsory to attach a copy of a valid identity document.
 4. As far as reference letters are concerned, candidates must ask lecturers/specialists to submit the letter by means of an online procedure. To enable this procedure, when compiling their application, candidates must enter the email addresses of the lecturers/specialists concerned who will receive an email with instructions explaining how to upload their letters. The notification will be sent automatically to these university lecturers, researchers or other specialists only after the candidate has saved the application as described in subsection 2 above. Candidates will receive an email informing them that the letter has been uploaded although these letters will be viewed only by the PhD Office and the Admissions Committee. **Lecturers/specialists must upload their letters by the application deadline.** Letters that are directly uploaded by candidates or delivered via other means will not be evaluated.
 5. All documents in the previous paragraph 3 must be written preferably in Italian or English, or translated into Italian or English by and under the responsibility of the candidates.
 6. With the exception of access qualifications described in Art. 3, paragraph 3 above, all qualifications must be obtained by the application deadline.
 7. Applications lacking the compulsory qualifications described in Art. 5 above will not be considered.
 8. The University will check the validity of all applications after the submission deadline. Candidates who submitted invalid applications will be excluded from the selection process and informed by email.
 9. Candidates with disabilities or specific learning disorders (DSA) intending to use the support provided for under Italian Law No. 104 dated 5 February 1992, must indicate it during the online application, indicating the type of support, aids or compensatory measures required.
 10. Candidates will be admitted to the selection process subject to assessment that admission requirements are met; the verification procedure will be carried out in compliance with Art. 43 of Presidential Decree No. 445 dated 28 December 2000, n. 445. The University reserves the right to exclude candidates from the selection process at any time: the communication will be given using the e-mail address indicated by the candidate, pursuant to art. 6, paragraph 2. The University will also verify the truthfulness of Personal Declarations of Certification submitted by candidates: anyone submitting false declarations will be punishable under the Italian Penal Code and all applicable laws.

Art. 7 - Admission Committee

1. The Admission Committee is composed, taking into account gender balance where possible, of a minimum of three members to a maximum of nine members, including the Chair.
2. The Admission Committee can be supplemented with up to two experts, chosen from public or private research Institutions, provided that the overall composition is an odd number. The Committee may also avail itself of the support of non-voting consultants for the assessment of specific disciplines.
3. The Admission Committee may use telematic tools for collegial work.
4. The Committee establishes the assessment criteria and weighting of qualifications and examinations prior to the examination process, with regard to any aspects not covered by the Annex "A" form.
5. During the assessment of qualifications, the Committee can supplement what the candidates declared with the information contained in the *curriculum vitae et studiorum* attached to the application form.
6. The Admission Committee, as part of the selection procedures, will assess the compliance of the research proposal with the requirements on "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH), and ensure that the selection takes place in compliance with equal gender opportunities.

Art. 8 - Final shortlist

1. Eligible candidates will be admitted to the PhD Programme according to the shortlist until all available places are filled.
2. The final shortlist is unique and the activation of the individual *curriculum* depends on the position in the ranking of the candidates who are eligible for that *curriculum*.
3. Admission to the PhD Programme will be exclusively established by the online shortlist published on the University website <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd> and in the online section of the Official University Register – Albo online, according to the terms laid down in the online announcement described in Art. 2, paragraph 4. Publication of this shortlist fulfils the document publication requirement: names will be indicated for successful and eligible candidates only. Candidates admitted will not receive personal communications.

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4. PhD scholarships – described in Art. 9 – will be allocated according to the shortlist, regardless of candidates' citizenship. In case of equally ranked candidates, scholarship allocation will take into account the candidate's household income (calculated according to the criteria set out in the current legislation governing access to higher education).
5. PhD scholarships awarded for specific topics will be assigned by the Admission Committee (also taking into account any additional requirements described in the annexes to this call for applications) on the affinity with the research topics of candidates' qualifications, their academic profile and the results of the oral examination.
6. In case of assignment of a scholarship bound to a specific topic, winners cannot opt for a free-topic scholarship, regardless of the ranking position, even in the event of waiver and replacement referred to in art.11 below. The candidate(s) admitted with PhD scholarship bound to a specific topic are required to develop the theme of the research indicated by the scholarship during the course of their studies.

Art. 9 - PhD scholarships

1. The PhD scholarship, which will be paid in monthly instalments, is € 16,243.00 per year, including social insurance contributions payable by the scholarship holder. The PhD scholarship is exempt from local tax and income tax (IRPEF).
2. The PhD scholarship is renewable on an annual basis for the entire duration of the programme on the condition that the holder has completed the programme of activities provided from year to year, verified by the Teaching Board.
3. The PhD scholarship may be increased by up to 50% for a period of up to 18 in the case of a study period abroad authorised by the Teaching Board.
4. All PhD students with PhD scholarship are entitled to a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad, for an amount that is equal to at least 10% of the PhD scholarship.
5. PhD scholarship cannot be combined with either research grants or other scholarships assigned for any reason whatsoever, with the exception of those granted by national or foreign institutions to integrate research or study periods abroad.
6. Candidates who received a PhD scholarship in the past cannot receive it again.

Art. 10 - Accepting the place and enrolment

1. Successful candidates **within three working days** of the date of publication of the shortlist on the University website (see online announcement described in Art. 2, paragraph 4 must, in order to avoid exclusion:
 - a) complete the online enrolment procedure;
 - b) pay the tax stamp and the regional tax for financial aid.
2. To fill in the online application form, it is necessary to access the Reserved Area of the website in the manner set out in art. 6, paragraph 2, and proceed as follows: Home > Student services > Enrolment (former students should instead proceed as follows: Admission and enrolment > Enrolment).

As to the documentation to be attached in this phase, please refer to the provisions on the University website at <https://www.unive.it/enrolment-phd>

During the application process, the applicant must pay the relevant fees exclusively via PagoPA by clicking on the "Pagamenti" button at the end of the procedure.

The page <https://www.unive.it/tuitionfees-phd> contains instructions on how to make the payment.

3. Submission of the enrolment form and payment of the fees due within the prescribed three working days are necessary requirement for acceptance of the place, under penalty of exclusion.
4. The enrolment procedure will be finalised in the back office by the Master and Post Lauream Office. Each student will receive an e-mail confirmation of successful enrolment containing access credentials (student identification number and password) to the University's telematic and IT services. In the case of students residing in non-EU countries, the enrolment procedure completion will take place only after they have obtained their entry visa by 31 March 2024.
5. In case the successful candidate is a graduating student, he/she is required to promptly notify, upon graduation, the Master and Post Lauream Office by e-mail to postlauream@unive.it, sending only the declaration of certification if he/she is an Italian or EU citizen holding a degree obtained in Italy. The enrolment procedure will be completed only after the candidate has actually gained the access qualification, which must be obtained by 15 November 2023, under penalty of exclusion. For academic qualifications gained abroad, candidates must send appropriate certification attesting that they have obtained the qualification in accordance with Article 4. Should the first-ranked candidate not accept the place, any succeeding candidate will be required, if it's not already done, to submit the aforementioned documentation showing that the qualification required for the access was obtained within the time limit referred to in Article 3, paragraph 3, under penalty of exclusion.
6. The Settore Orientamento e Accoglienza / Counselling and Welcome Sector will provide support to non-Italian winners for administrative formalities, such as the issue of visas, residence permits and tax codes, registration in the separate INPS scheme.

7. Enrollment in the PhD programme is compatible with Bachelor's degree, *Laurea magistrale*, *Lauree a ciclo unico*, Postgraduate Schools, and Master of Research with no compulsory attendance. However, simultaneous enrolment between a PhD and a second PhD, or between a PhD and a master's degree with compulsory attendance is not allowed. The PhD student intending to take the chance of simultaneous enrolment should promptly notify the Teaching Board and the offices concerned.

Art. 11 - Waiver and replacement

1. In case of waiver (voluntarily giving up the place), and strictly within the prescribed three working days from the date of publication of the final shortlist on the University website, the candidate is required to give notice via email to postlauream@unive.it. After the aforementioned three working days without any explicit communication of waiver, the candidate will still be considered to have given up the place.
2. In case of waiver of one of the candidates, the place will be assigned to the first successful candidate according to the final shortlist order and according to the criteria expressed in art. 8, paragraphs 4 and 6. Candidates will be notified only by email. Acceptance must take place within three working days from the date of communication, with the same procedure indicated in Art. 10, paragraphs 1 and 2.
3. In the event that the candidate who renounces the place was awarded with a PhD scholarship for specific topics, the scholarship may be reassigned, according to the ranking order, only to eligible candidate for the same scholarship, except as otherwise provided for in Annex "A".
4. If the candidate renounces after he accepted the place, the amounts paid will not be returned.
5. In case of waiver after the beginning of the didactic activities, and in any case within the first four-month period, the Teaching Board will evaluate the opportunity to fill the available place with another successful candidate according to the final shortlist order.

Art. 12 - Tuition fees

1. The amount for university fees in the a. y. 2023/2024 includes:
 - a) tax stamp of € 16.00;
 - b) regional tax for financial aid of € 184.00;
2. All PhD students are only required to pay tax stamp and the regional tax for financial aid.
3. The amount of the regional tax for financial aid may be further reduced on the basis of the student's financial condition. Student fees will be calculated on the basis of the ISEE declaration including all reductions available to each student. Information regarding how to access fee reductions and relative deadlines and for presenting the ISEE form can be found at the Ca' Foscari University website: <https://www.unive.it/tuitionfees-phd>.

Art. 13 - Processing of personal data

1. The University undertakes to use the personal data provided by the candidate for the fulfilment of the call procedures and for institutional purposes in compliance with the provisions laid down in Regulation EU 2016/679 ("*General Data Protection Regulation*" - GDPR) and applicable national legislation (Legislative Decree 30 June 2003, no. 196 "Code regarding the protection of personal data") as amended from time to time. The information on personal data processing are published online at: <https://www.unive.it/informationcall-phd>.
2. In compliance with the principles set out in the aforementioned law, participation in the competition implies consent to the publication of the personal data of successful and eligible candidates on the University website.

Art. 14 - Patents, privacy, intellectual property and personal data protection

1. By participating in this call, the candidate accepts the provisions of the University regarding patents, privacy and intellectual property, the protection of personal data and the treatment of the University for statistical or scientific research purposes.
2. In case of enrolment, the candidate undertakes to sign suitable declaration on the matter.

Art. 15 - Reference regulations and offices responsible

1. For all matters not provided for by this Call for Applications, reference should be made to Italian legislation governing PhD Programmes and to the current regulations of the University, the following in particular: "Regolamento generale di Ateneo" (General Regulations of the University), "Regolamento didattico di Ateneo" (Teaching Regulations of the University), "Regolamento dei Dottorati di ricerca di Ateneo" (Regulations of the University PhD Programme), "Regolamento Carriere degli Studenti" (Regulations of student careers), "Regolamento di Ateneo per la valorizzazione della conoscenza" (University Regulations for the Enhancement of Knowledge), as well as its annex "Linee guida IP e riservatezza nei contratti di ricerca (IP Guidelines and Confidentiality in Research Contracts)", Ministerial Decree 118/2023 on PNRR-funded scholarships, and relevant European regulations.

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2. Further information on this Call for Applications can be found at <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd> or requested from the PhD Office by email phd.application@unive.it.
3. For more information on accepting place offers and enrolment, described in Art. 10 and Art. 11 above, contact the Master and Post Lauream Office by email to postlauream@unive.it (Director of Ufficio Post Lauream e Banche Dati, Educational Programmes and Student Services Area, Dr Gianluca Doro)
4. Pursuant to Article 5 of Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990 "New rules on administrative procedure and right of access to administrative documents" and subsequent amendments and additions, the Person in charge of the Procedure is Dr Sabrina Daneluzzi - Director of the PhD Office.

Annexes: 1

Annex "A" - PhD programme form



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Annex "A"

NATIONAL DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMME IN POLAR SCIENCES

PHD PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE - CNR, ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE POLARI - ISP CNR, ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA - INAF, ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI OCEANOGRAFIA E DI GEOFISICA SPERIMENTALE - OGS, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI "PARTHENOPE", UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE, UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA E UNIVERSITÀ POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE.

THREE YEARS PROGRAMME, TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

Research topics

The proposed national PhD program intends to create an "ecosystem" of knowledge based on different thematic components that will provide specializations on the following strategic sectors and application domains, which represent the 6 curricula in which the PhD of National Interest is organized:

1. Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity,
2. Human impacts,
3. Solid Earth,
4. Ocean and Cryosphere,
5. Astronomy, Space and Earth Observations,
6. Climate System.

Admission requirements

- *Laurea specialistica/magistrale* (second cycle/Master's degree);
- or degree obtained under the Italian university system in force prior to the Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999;
- or Master's degree qualification obtained abroad.

The admissions qualification must be obtained no more than 10 years before the date of the issue of the call.

Places available

MUR/University scholarships	3
<p>PNRR- funded scholarships</p> <p>2 PNRR scholarships Ministerial Decree 118/2023 – 3.4 Digital and Environmental Transitions (CUP H73C23000500006)</p> <p>1 bound to the topic "Environmental forcings on the eruptability of magma from subvolcanic systems", based at the University of Pisa, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months and a period of study and research at companies or research centres (curriculum Solid Earth)</p> <p>1 bound to the topic "Assessment of otolith variability and micro-litter pollution in Antarctic teleosts in relation to Ross Sea water circulation", based at the University of Messina with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months and a period of study and research at companies or research centres (curriculum Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity)</p> <p>15 PNRR scholarships Ministerial Decree 118/2023 – 4.1 PNRR Research (CUP H73C23000510006)</p> <p>1 bound to the topic "Development of methodologies for the structural characterisation of micro-crystalline phases in Antarctic meteorites", based at the University of Pisa, with the obligation for the successful</p>	20

candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Solid Earth)

1 bound to the topic "Possible impacts of climate change in the Southern Ocean", based at the University of Naples Parthenope, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Ocean & Cryosphere)

1 bound to the topic "A study on the origin of marine sediments in polar areas: role of glaciation in sediment production and relief evolution", based at the University of Padua, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Solid Earth)

1 bound to the topic "Modulation of biological mechanisms of polar organisms in response to multiple environmental stressors", based at Università Politecnica delle Marche, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity)

1 bound to the topic "Impact of Climate Change on the Third Pole Cryosphere" based at the University of Milan, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

1 bound to the topic "Glaciers and climate change in the Western Alps: projections, effects, impacts, and consequences of global warming", based at the University of Turin, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

1 bound to the topic "Genomic basis for inferring origin and evolution of Antarctic Collembola, and their processes of adaptation", based at the University of Siena, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity)

1 bound to the topic "Past and present ice-ocean interactions in the Ross Sea margin areas (Antarctica)", based at the University of Trieste, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Solid Earth)

1 bound to the topic "Black carbon, organic carbon and mineral dust content in the Arctic snowpack and ice and impact on the surface albedo and post depositional processes", based at the University of Perugia, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Human Impacts)

1 bound to the topic "Evolutionary and phylogeographic history of Antarctic tardigrades communities colonizing habitats with various sensitivity to climate change", based at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity)

1 bound to the topic "Climate and cryosphere interaction in the Karakoram and Himalayas", based at Ca' Foscari University, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

1 bound to the topic "Technological innovation for the development of a new method for measuring the isotopic composition of water on ice cores", based at Ca' Foscari University, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

1 bound to the topic "Chemical-physical characterisation of atmospheric aerosols in Alpine areas: on the trail of anthropogenic impact", based at Ca' Foscari University, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Human Impacts)

1 bound to the topic "Aerosol-cloud interaction in the Arctic climate system", based at Ca' Foscari University, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

1 bound to the topic "Climate regime change on Svalbard: a case study to understand the effects of future climate change at mid-latitudes", based at Ca' Foscari University, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)

3 PNRR scholarships Ministerial Decree 118/2023 – 4.1 Public Administration (CUP H73C23000520006)

1 bound to the topic "Multidisciplinary approach for the protection and conservation of Polar Regions: origins and impacts of air pollution", based at Università Politecnica delle Marche, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months and a period of study and research at companies, research centres or Public Administrations (curriculum Human Impacts)

1 bound to the topic "Characterisation of mass and energy exchanges between ice surfaces and the atmosphere and development of katabatic winds", based at the University of Trento, with the obligation

<p>for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months and a period of study and research at companies, research centres or Public Administrations (curriculum Climate System)</p> <p>1 bound to the topic “Alterations in microbial circuit functioning in polar areas induced by climate change: functional alterations and implications for international climate crisis management”, based at University of Naples "Federico II", with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months and a period of study and research at companies, research centres or Public Administrations (curriculum Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity)</p>	
<p>Other scholarships (CUP H73C23000530005)</p> <p>3 funded by Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – CNR (subject to the finalisation of the <i>addendum</i> to the existing agreement), 1 of which tied to Arctic themes supported by the Programme for Research in the Arctic (PRA) and 2 tied to Antarctic themes and supported by the National Programme for Research in the Antarctic (PNRA), with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months.</p> <p>2 funded by Istituto di Scienze Polari - ISP CNR, of which 1 scholarship bound to the topic “Study of the impact of Arctic heatwaves on the snowpack, on surface hydrological regime and on vegetation cover”, based at the Istituto di Scienze Polari with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System) and 1 scholarship bound to the topic “Impact of fire emissions and dust uplift on the Arctic atmosphere”, based at the Istituto di Scienze Polari with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Climate System)</p> <p>1 funded by Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica – INAF bound to the topic “Polar regions: relevance for astrophysical observations and Sun-Earth interactions” with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months. (curriculum Astronomy, Space & Earth’s Observation)</p> <p>1 funded by Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale – OGS bound to the topic “Reconstruction of oceanic palaeo-circulation and its interactions with the Antarctic ice sheet in the George V Land sector (East Antarctica)”, based at Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Ocean & Cryosphere)</p> <p>1 funded by the University of Pisa bound to the topic “Glacial geology and shape analysis of the Terra Victoria relief to reconstruct the impact of climate change on the late Cenozoic evolution of the Antarctic glacial system”, based at the University of Pisa, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Solid Earth)</p> <p>1 funded by the University of Genova bound to the topic “Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of emerging contaminants in Antarctica”, based at the University of Genova, with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Human Impacts)</p> <p>1 funded by the University of Bari “Aldo Moro” bound to the topic “Influence of climate variations on coastal dynamics in Terranova Bay, Antarctica”, based at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro", with the obligation for the successful candidate to carry out a period of study and research abroad of minimum 6 months (curriculum Solid Earth)</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Total number of places available</p>	<p>33</p>

Admission procedure

Assessment of qualification and interview (possibility of video conferencing interview as described in Art. 2, paragraph 5 of the Call for Applications).

The interview will be held in English language.

The schedule of examinations (to be held approximately from mid-September 2023, will be available on the University website at: <https://www.unive.it/dincall-phd> on the 7th of September 2023.

Language/s

Candidates are required to have a certified English proficiency of at least the B2 level - under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) - at the time of enrolment, or no later than March 31st, 2024 if acquiring it subsequently, otherwise they will be excluded from the PhD Programme (see Art. 3, paragraph 4 of the call).

Qualifications eligible for assessment

Required qualifications (described in Art. 5 of the Call for Applications)

Optional qualifications

- Up to two reference letters by university professors, researchers or other experts;

- Specialist master's or other postgraduate courses, including thesis title and abstract in English;
- Scientific publications with abstract in English;
- Research experience acquired at universities or research institutes;

Test and qualification assessment criteria

The Committee may assign up to 100 points as follows:

- Qualifications: 70 of which 42 for the PhD research proposal and 5 for each reference letter [minimum score for admission to interview (research proposal + qualifications) 50/70].
- Interview: 30.

Minimum admission score: 65/100.

Interview subjects

The interview, in English language, will involve a discussion of the candidate's research proposal and motivations, as well as evaluating skills acquired in subjects necessary for quantitative analysis and model generation such as mathematics and statistics. The interview will assess the candidate's competencies in foundation subjects as well as their motivation and adequate skills to fluently communicate in English language.

Further information

During the second or third year, all PhD students must carry out a study/research period at an international university or research institute.

Specifications and Fulfillments related to the PNRR-funded scholarships, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023

Following the issuance of the Ministerial Decree no.118 dated 2 March 2023, Ca' Foscari University of Venice has been awarded PNRR resources, which were partly allocated to the 39th cycle of PhD Programmes (a.y. 2023/2024) under the following investments of Mission 4, Component 1, "Strengthening the supply of education services: from kindergartens to universities":

- Investment 3.4 "Advanced Teaching and University Skills", which aims to increase the pool of human capital committed to research-oriented activities in programmes dedicated to digital and environmental transitions;
- investment 4.1 "Extension of the number of PhD research and innovative programmes for the Public Administration and Cultural Heritage", aims to increase human capital across research-oriented activities for Public Administrations and Cultural Heritage;

1 - General Standards:

1.1 PhD Programmes will be activated *sub condicione* to the accreditation provided by the Ministry of University and Research pursuant to Ministerial Decree 226/2021 and PNRR scholarships, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023, shall be announced *sub condicione* to confirmation of funding, also by the Ministry.

1.2 PNRR scholarships, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023, will be awarded *sub condicione* to the Ministry's positive verification of eligibility for PNRR support.

1.3 The PNRR-funded PhD scholarships, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023, are all awarded for specific topics, and may include a compulsory period of study and research at companies, research centres or Public Administrations, and a compulsory period abroad in accordance with what is summarised in the table below and specified in this annex, which is an integral part of the call:

	periods abroad	periods at companies or research centres or public administrations
Ministerial Decree 118/2023 scholarships I 4.1 PNRR Research	minimum 6 months mandatory	Optional
Ministerial Decree 118/2023 scholarships I 4.1 Public Administration		mandatory at companies or research centres or Public Adm. (minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months)
Ministerial Decree 118/2023 scholarships I 3.4 Digital and Environmental Transitions		mandatory at companies or research centres (minimum 6 months, maximum 12 months)

It is specified that periods of study and research abroad, including non-continuous periods, from a minimum of six (6) months up to the maximum limit provided laid down in Article 9, Paragraph 3 of the Decree of the Minister of University and Research no. 226, dated 14 December 2021, should be provided over the three-year term.

1.4 The applicant, since the submission of the application, is aware in the following cases the scholarship shall be revoked:

- implementation of the PhD programme in a manner that differs from the project accepted for funding, where the necessary authorisation has not been previously requested and subsequently granted by the MUR (Ministry of University and Research);
- failure to carry out periods of study and research at companies or research centres or public administrations and abroad, as specified in the table above.

2 - PhD term:

2.1 The Programme has a duration of not less than 3 years. The PhD related to the PNRR 118/2023 places activated under this Call for application will start indicatively in December 2023 and is expected to end by November 2026.

2.2 The activities of PhDs funded under Ministerial Decree 118/2023 must still be launched by 30 December 2023.

3 - Disbursement of PhD scholarships:

3.1 The disbursement of PNRR-funded scholarships, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023, will indicatively take place starting in December 2023, *sub condicione* to the Ministry's positive verification of eligibility for PNRR support.

3.2 For the PhD student who has been awarded a PNRR scholarship, as per Ministerial Decree 118/2023, there is no possibility of waiving the scholarship without forfeiting the PhD.

3.3 The civil servant, placed in the merit ranking among the winners, is admitted conditionally until placed on unpaid leave by the institution to which he/she belongs, which must take place before the start of the Course.

3.4 In the case of failure to obtain the degree, or in the event that the PhD student is not evaluated positively for the purpose of renewing the scholarship, or withdraws from the PhD programme, the Ministry will proceed to partial revoke the funding. In the event of withdrawal, the PhD student is required to repay the amounts disbursed in relation to the current year at the time of withdrawal.

4 - Reporting:

4.1 Periodic reporting will be done through the dedicated online platform (<https://dottorati.mur.gov.it>) and using the forms therein. Each PhD student should produce a report indicating the time commitment (broken down into months at a company or research centre or Public Administration, onsite, abroad), and a summary of the main activities carried out, also stating that they comply with the principle of "no significant harm to the environment." It will be the responsibility of the PhD Programme Coordinator, through the same platform, to verify and validate what the PhD student has indicated.

5 - Statement of place acceptance:

5.1 A statement must be attached to the online registration application in which the applicant(s):

- acknowledge the provisions of Ministerial Decree no. 118 dated 2 March 2023;
- formally undertake to comply with the **principles and priorities of the PNRR** for all research activity:
 - the proposed and planned research activities will adhere to the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, i.e., won't do significant harm to the environment;
 - the exploitation of research results through appropriate circulation of the results pursued, however, in accordance with the principles of "Open science" and "FAIR Data" will be encouraged, while respecting intellectual property;

At the same time, they will certify that they are aware that failure to comply with these principles will result in revoking the scholarship;

- certify that they are aware that the modification of project objectives and expected results (where not previously communicated to, and evaluated by, the MUR) will result in the revocation of the scholarship and the full refund of any amounts already paid;

- certify that they are aware that any negative judgment of the Teaching Board, and the consequent non-admission to the following year of the PhD programme, will result in the revocation of the sums already disbursed for the current year, and that failure to obtain the qualification will result in the revocation of the sums already disbursed for the final year of the programme;

- certify that they are not currently receiving any other scholarship in any capacity awarded, and undertake, for the duration of the scholarship, not to benefit from any other grant in any capacity awarded, except for those eligible under current national regulations.