

Public competition announcement for admission to no. 16 positions at the PhD Programme in Agri-Food System at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – 33rd Cycle – Piacenza campus

Art. 1
Opening

A public competition for admission to the PhD Programme in Agri-Food System is open.

For the PhD Programme in Agri-Food System, duration of the programme, number of positions available and open to competition (including executive PhD positions, reserved for company or institution employees, according to specific agreements), sites and accredited institutions, Coordinator and calendar of competition examinations are indicated.

The number of scholarships may be increased as a result of funding from public and private institutions, provided that the related agreement is signed within the date of expiration of the public announcement.

An increase in the number of available studentships may result in an increase of positions opened for public competition.

Duration: 3 years.

Positions: 16.

Studentship-based positions: 10

of which 3 “finalised positions” aimed at research on the following projects:

- A multidisciplinary approach to redesign intensive agroecosystems: what’s beyond conservation agriculture?;
- Study of causal agents of rotten and discoloured hazelnuts;
- Growing Advanced industrial Crops on marginal lands for bioRefineries, Studentship funded by European Commission (Bio Based Industries PPP).
- Development of rapid molecular diagnostics methods for the agro-food sector (in collaboration with IIT Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia);
- Waste-derived new materials for agriculture and food systems (in collaboration with IIT Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia);
- Robotics for monitoring and management of crop systems (in collaboration with IIT Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia);

“Executive PhD” reserved positions: 3

of which 2 positions for Consorzio Agrario Terrepadane S.c.r.l. employees, located administratively in Piacenza, Via Colombo 35, for the following research projects:

- Development of innovative consultancy solutions for sustainable crop production;
- Optimizing diet formulation to improve economic and nutritional efficiency in dairy farms.

of which 1 position for Coree Srl employee, located administratively in Milan, Piazza San Babila 5, for the following research project:

- Study of the metabolites involved in the symbiotic relationship between probiotic and host.

In the 33rd cycle, together with the 6 “finalised” studentships, regarding the Biological and Agricultural Areas, other studentships are available for the following areas:

Economic-Legal Area: 2 studentships

- Curriculum: Economics, management and efficiency of the agro-food market;
- Curriculum: Legislation and protection of food system safety, discipline of liability and sanction.

Biological-Agricultural Area: 2 studentships

- Curriculum: Food quality and safety;
- Curriculum: Food technologies.

Fee-based positions: 3.

Fee-based positions are assigned as follows:

2 positions in the Biological-Agricultural Area

1 position in the Economic-Legal Area.

Information: <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/agrisystem>

Coordinator: Prof. Marco TREVISAN.

Calendar of examinations:

Result of the evaluations of qualifications to access the oral exam:

Monday, September 26th, 2017

Oral exam:

Economic-Legal Area Panel:

Wednesday, September 29th, 2017, 10.30 am, (Sala riunioni di Giurisprudenza)

Biological-Agricultural Area Panel:

Thursday, September 29th, 2017, 9.30 am (room Beta)

Art. 2

Admission requirements

Application for participation in the competition, with no restriction with respect to age and nationality, is open to candidates holding a Master’s degree, or a university degree obtained under the education system prior to Ministerial Decree no. 509 of November 3rd, 1999 or a university qualification obtained abroad and recognised as eligible.

Application for participation is also open to candidates that will obtain the qualification referred to in the first paragraph above by October 31st, 2017.

Italian, EU and non-EU candidates who obtained, or will obtain, a qualification abroad, by October 31st, 2017, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD Programme, shall request recognition of its eligibility via the PhD Programme application form. To this end, the application shall be accompanied with appropriate documentation to enable the Examination Panel to rule on the request for eligibility.

Art. 3

Application form

Candidates who intend to participate in the competition must submit an application to the Rector of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore by **Monday, September 11st, 2017**.

The application form is available online at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi-milano> until 2 pm (local time) on the expiration date of the present public announcement.

A printed and duly signed copy of the application form must be delivered by registered mail with return receipt to the following address: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Ufficio Dottorati di ricerca - Largo Gemelli 1, 20123 Milano. Receipt of applications shall be validated by post office date stamp.

In the application form, available in Italian and English, candidates shall precisely declare under their responsibility:

- favourite research topic;
- their participation in the “executive doctoral programme”, reserved for the employees of the company indicated in this competition announcement;
- personal information: surname, first name, fiscal code (for Italian nationals only), date and place of birth, citizenship, residence and domicile elected for the purposes of the competition;
- should candidates possess dual nationality, one of which is for a EU member state, they may opt for EU citizenship;
- EU and foreign nationals should indicate an Italian domicile if possible, or the address of their Embassy in Italy, elected as domicile;
- For graduate students: university degree, date it was obtained and name of the conferring university, or foreign degree;
- For undergraduate students: university degree candidates are studying towards, expected date it will be obtained and name of the conferring university (whether in Italy or abroad);
- foreign languages known.

On pain of exclusion, candidates must complete their application with the following documents:

- detailed curriculum vitae et studiorum;
for graduate students: self-certified Master's degree document with final mark and exam transcripts, or certification of qualification obtained abroad with final mark and exam transcripts;
- undergraduates: self-certified proof of enrolment in one of the above-cited degree programmes with exam transcripts, or in a university programme abroad with exam transcripts;
- a motivational letter (max. 30 lines) indicating reasons for application, expectations and fields of interest;

- a research project (max. 2,000 words) indicating topic, hypotheses and methodology deemed most suitable for the development of a research project in the selected curriculum. The project must be countersigned by a university professor or researcher in national or international scientific institutions. In the absence of countersignature, a letter of introduction by university professors or researchers in national or international scientific institutions has to be included in the application; the letter must be signed by the professor/researcher and enclosed in a sealed envelope in the package containing the application;
- copy of an identification document, duly signed
- copy of the fiscal code (for Italian nationals only);
- receipt of payment of the selection fee of €100.00 (not refundable) – paid by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD).

Applications may further contain:

- certification of any other qualifications, such as postgraduate and specialisation degrees, obtained in Italy or abroad, with exam transcripts;
- a copy of any other qualification deemed useful for the purposes of assessment, and a list thereof on unstamped paper;
- a list, on unstamped paper, of publications deemed relevant for the purposes of assessment, and a copy of the publications that candidates intend to make known to the Panel.
- Applications may further contain any of the following certificates attesting English language knowledge, issued not before 2014:
 - BEC (Business English Certificates);
 - British Chamber of Commerce;
 - CAE (Certificate in Advanced English);
 - CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English);
 - FCE (First Certificate in English);
 - IELTS (International English Language Testing System);
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language);
 - Trinity College London Certificate.

Candidates that do not submit any of the certifications listed above, if admitted to the oral examination, will be interviewed to verify their English knowledge.

Candidates must indicate the curriculum/curricula of the Research Area for which they intend to apply, or if and for which «finalised studentship» they intend to compete.

It is the candidates' responsibility to notify promptly of any change of residence or domicile elected for the purposes of the competition.

Candidates holding a foreign university degree, or that shall obtain it prior to the date of the first competition examination, shall accompany their application with the necessary documentation to enable the PhD Panel to rule on the request for eligibility.

The University Administration assumes no responsibility for misdirected communication due to incorrect residence or domicile information provided by candidates or to absent or late notification of any changes thereof. The University Administration shall bear no

responsibility for any postal or telegraph errors in communication due to circumstances beyond their control.

The university reserves the right to adopt, even after the completion of the exams, measures which exclude candidates who do not meet the requirements or not having complied with the provisions of the public announcement.

Candidates with disabilities must specify in their application the aid required in relation to their disability, in accordance with Law no. 104 of February 5th, 1992.

Art. 4

Admission examinations

The admission examinations consist in the assessment of candidates' qualifications and an oral examination.

In relation to the qualities ascertained, the Panels assign each candidate max. 60 points for each of the two examinations.

Only candidates obtaining a minimum score of 40/60 in the assessment of qualifications are admitted to the oral examination.

For this purpose, the following elements will be evaluated, in addition to research project and motivation letter: postgraduate degree, participation in university courses in higher education, internships and apprenticeships consistent with the chosen curriculum, research grants and fellowships, publications in national and international scientific journals, work experience and collaboration in the field of applied research at universities and public and private bodies, and certifications of language knowledge and skills acquired as in the previous Art. 3.

The oral examination consists in the assessment of candidates' knowledge of the general aspects of the topics of interest of the PhD Programme and research area chosen, as well as aptitude to scientific research.

The oral examination is passed with a minimum score of 40/60.

Foreign candidates or Italian candidates resident abroad unable to take the oral exam at the campus may ask the Panel (while completing the online form) to take the oral exam by video conference. Concerned candidates shall communicate their Skype account and a telephone number. Candidates may be excluded from the competition in case they are unreachable on the agreed day and at the agreed time.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore shall bear no responsibility if any technical reasons prevent the effective conduction of the interview.

Candidates are admitted to the PhD Programme according to the two final merit-based ranking lists of each Research Area, until coverage of the number of positions opened has been completed, with the exclusion of the positions funded by «finalised studentships» for which dedicated merit-based ranking lists shall be drawn.

Candidates applying for a «finalised studentship» that result to be eligible but do not win the competition, will be inserted, based on their scoring, in the general ranking list of their reference area, so as to compete for other studentships or for a fee-based position.

The "finalised studentships" may not be assigned to candidates competing for positions different from those related to the finalised studentships.

The non-finalised studentships and the fee-based positions that, for lack of eligible candidates or due to forfeiture, are not assigned in a Research Area, may be assigned to candidates of the other Research Area based on their ranking.

In order to be allowed to take the examinations, candidates must show a valid identification document pursuant to Art. 35, second Paragraph, of Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28th, 2000 (identity card, driving license, passport).

Art. 5

Examination Panels

Two Examination Panels for admission to the PhD Programme in Agro-Food System shall be appointed: one for the Biological-Agricultural Area and one for the Economic-Legal Area. Each Examination Panel will consist of three tenured academics, to whom no more than two (also foreign) experts from institutions and public and private research institutes may be added. The Examination Panels shall be appointed by the Rector, upon the proposal of the Teaching Panel.

The composition of the Panels will be published, after the expiration date of the present public announcement, at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi-milano>

Art. 6

Results of the competition

The Examination Panels shall arrange separate comparative evaluations of qualifications and separate final merit rankings.

Specific comparative evaluations and merit rankings shall be arranged for each “finalised studentship”.

Specific comparative evaluations and merit rankings shall be arranged for the “executive doctoral” positions.

The results of the evaluation of the qualifications for admission to the oral exam shall be notified to participants from Monday, September 26th, 2016, via online publication at:

<http://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi-milano>

<http://dottorati.unicatt.it/agrisystem>

Art. 7

Admission to the PhD Programme

Candidates are admitted to the PhD Programme according to their ranking until coverage of the number of positions has been completed. Should successful candidates withdraw before the beginning of the Programme, the positions will be covered by the candidates next in line in the ranking.

Provided that they are successful in the admission examinations, research fellows holding grants may be admitted to a PhD Programme as supernumerary in the fee-based positions, retaining their grant, upon condition that the PhD Programme in which they enrol refers to the same scientific area of research for which they are enjoying research grants.

By virtue of the signed agreement, the doctoral students in the Ph.D. Programme will have the opportunity to join the “Double Doctorate Programme” in Agro-Food System organised by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, and in Ciencias de Recursos Naturales organised by Universidad de La Frontera (Temuco, Chile). Students admitted to the

“Double Doctorate Programme” will receive advanced training (equal to a minimum of 10 ECTS) through the teaching programme of Dottorado y Magister en Ciencias de Recursos Naturales of Universidad de La Frontera, and they will have to spend at least six months at this university.

Art. 8

Enrolment

Competition winners must send Ufficio Dottorati di ricerca dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Largo Gemelli 1, 20123 Milan, within 7 (seven) days from the day after receipt of request via email, the following documentation:

- application form to enrol in the PhD Programme available online;
- 2 card-size photographs;
- Personal Tax Data form;
- receipt of payment of the admission fee.

Art. 9

Incompatibility

Attendance of the PhD Programme is not compatible, in Italy, with simultaneous attendance of university degree courses, Postgraduate courses, non-medical Specialisation schools, Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA) or other PhD Programmes (granted the agreements of dissertation joint supervision).

Art. 10

Aid and studentships

Tuition fees for the Programme at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore are set out annually by the Board of Directors.

PhD students enrolled at 33rd Cycle are required to pay annually the PhD Programme tuition fees amounting to € 1.500.00, to be paid in two instalments, the first upon matriculation or renewal of enrolment, the second on June 30th each year.

The enjoyment of a studentship to attend the PhD Programme is compatible with other income earned, also on a regular basis, in the calendar year of the studentship, provided that such income does not exceed the amount of the studentship itself. Should these income limits be surpassed, the studentship shall be revoked for the year in question. For the verification of the income limits, studentship assignees shall annually declare the income earned and notify exceeding of the prescribed limit.

The studentships are annual and are renewed provided that the PhD students have completed the programme of activities set for the previous year.

The amount of the studentship, paid in monthly instalments, is € 13,638.47 per year, before social security charges. The studentship is subject to the payment of social security contributions (INPS separate management) pursuant to Art. 2, Paragraph 26, of Law 335 dated of August 8th, 1995, and subsequent amendments. The studentship is exempt from local income tax and personal income tax (IRPEF).

The studentship amount shall be increased by max. 50 percent, for a period not over 18 months, if the PhD student is authorised by the Teaching Panel to conduct research abroad.

Starting from the second year, to each PhD student, with or without a studentship, is granted a sum covering research activities in Italy and abroad amounting to 10% of the annual gross amount of the studentship, equal to € 1,363.85.

Candidates previously in receipt of studentships (even if partially) may not receive PhD studentships.

Art. 11

Public employee

To public employees admitted to the PhD Programme applies current legislation on leave of absence or special leave.

Art. 12

Certificates and documents in foreign language

Certificates and documents in a foreign language must be translated and legalised by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular offices abroad, and must comply with the national regulation.

Art. 13

Rights and Obligations of PhD students

PhD students are required to regularly participate in the activities set out in their curricula, and to commit to individual and guided study programmes and to carrying out the research activities assigned by the Scientific Panel.

PhD students are also required to consult the Code of Conduct of Università Cattolica and to comply with its principles and aims.

The research procedures and the distribution of the total activity relative to the “*executive* PhD programme” are regulated by the agreement that activates that curriculum.

Art. 14

Public disclosure

This public announcement is published on the website of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi-milano> on the Euraxess European website and on the MIUR website.

Art. 15

Final provisions

This public announcement was originally written in Italian and has been translated into English for easy reference only. The Italian version will be considered definitive for any questions of interpretation.

For any matter not expressly contemplated in this public announcement, the provisions indicated in "Regulatory Norms of the PhD Programmes and PhD Programmes of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore" and regulation in force shall apply.

Further information can be obtained from the PhD Programmes Secretariat (office hours: Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm), phone no. 0523599.476, or at agrisystem-pc@unicatt.it or at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/agrisystem>.

Head of the procedure of the present selection is Dott. Roberto BRAMBILLA, Head of Postgraduate Education Services and Research Partnership, Via Carducci 28/30, Milan.