

Announcement of competition for 23 study awards to support the international mobility of doctoral students at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Year 2024

Article 1 - Object of the announcement

For the year 2024, the selection is announced for assigning 23 study awards of € 3,000.00 gross each, open to all doctoral students of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, who are planning or have already planned a study-stay abroad lasting not less than 9 months - not necessarily consecutive - aimed at research activities and the writing of the doctoral thesis at international universities or research centres.

The grant will be awarded based on the criteria in Article 4 of this announcement.

To participate in the selection of study awards, the research activity abroad must be accepted – or currently underway - by the host institution abroad and approved by the Doctoral Programme Coordinator.

For applicants winning the study award, the mobility period must begin within three months of acceptance, failing which the amount already disbursed shall be returned in full.

Article 2 - Requirements for admission

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements at the time of application:

- a. Be regularly enrolled in one of the Doctoral Programmes of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- b. Be in good standing with the payment of the PhD tuition fees;
- c. Be authorised to spend research periods abroad by the Programme Coordinator;
- d. Have been accepted, or currently underway, by the host institution.



For the purpose of participation in the selections under this announcement, applications will also be considered from doctoral students who, at the time of publication of this announcement, have already begun and not yet completed the period of mobility abroad for the preparation of their thesis. In this case, should the planned mobility period result less than the 9 months foreseen by the present announcement, applicants commit to require the extension of the study-stay abroad through the Doctoral Programmes Office and indicate it in the announcement application form.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the mobility period, doctoral students must submit a report on the activities carried out at the host institution to the PhD faculty.

Article 3 - Application for participation

Those who wish to participate in the competition must submit their applications to the Rector of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore by the peremptory deadline of October 31, 2024.

The application form, available at <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>, must be signed and submitted via e-mail to dottorati.ricerca-mi@unicatt.it, until 12.00 p.m. (local time) of October 31, 2024, complete with the following documents:

- a. curriculum vitae et studiorum;
- b. concise description (maximum 2 pages) of the research project to be carried out at the host institution abroad, including the name of the tutor of Università Cattolica and reference professor, if any, at the host institution. The Scientific Disciplinary Sector (SSD) or Scientific Disciplinary Group (GSD) to which the research content pertains must be stated in the research description. The document must be signed by the tutor;
- c. Copy of the application for the study-abroad stay signed by the Programme Coordinator;
- d. Copy of the letter, or formal e-mail, attesting the doctoral student acceptance at the host institution.



Applications that are incomplete or sent after the deadline of this announcement will not be considered.

Article 4 - Selection of candidates

Proposals received will be submitted for evaluation by the Scientific Research Committees of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, appointed by Rector's Decree No. 9303 of Dec. 1, 2022.

Study awards will be made available to the Scientific Committees, proportionally to the number of applications received, to be subsequently awarded to applicants whose proposals are deemed meritorious, until the available funds are exhausted.

In relation to the submitted documentation, the Scientific Committees award up to 100 points to each candidate according to the following criteria:

- a) originality and innovativeness of the project, research objectives, methodological rigour and theoretical framing of the topic to be addressed, up to a maximum of 50 points;
- b) international qualification of the host institution, up to a maximum of 20 points;
- c) publications, supplementary teaching activities performed, presentation of papers at conferences/seminars, up to a maximum of 20 points;
- d) a co-thesis agreement or a double doctoral degree or the formal PhD candidate participation into an institutional research group is awarded 10 points.

Article 5 – Conferring and acceptance of the study award

Final merit rankings will be published at <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>.

Winners of the mobility award are required to submit their acceptance letter (downloadable at the link indicated) to the Doctoral Programmes Office dottorati.ricerca-mi@unicatt.it within 5 working days from the day after the publication of the final merit rankings at <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>.



After the five-day period has elapsed, the candidate will be considered to have given up and the ranking list will be adjusted.

Upon acceptance, the winner must confirm the date of departure and return.

Article 6 - Study award increasing the PhD scholarship

The total amount of the study award increasing the scholarship for PhD international mobility is €3,000.00 (Euro three thousand/00) gross.

The contribution is subject to INPS separate-management social security withholding which, for the year 2024, is 35,03%, of which 1/3 is borne by the grantee and is exempt from local income tax and personal income tax IRPEF (Art. 4 Law No. 476 of 13/8/1984 and Art. 6 Law No. 398 of 30/11/1989).

The study award will be disbursed in two instalments:

- the first instalment, equal to 50 percent of the full amount due, after the doctoral student accepts the contribution;
- the second instalment upon receipt of the following documentation sent to the Doctoral Programmes Office:
 - a. certificate issued by the host institution, indicating the start and end dates of the mobility period spent abroad, duly signed by a responsible person at the host institution;
 - b. copy of the activity report submitted by the doctoral student.

Awarding of the mobility grant is compatible with the 50% increase in the ordinary doctoral grant, as per Art. 9, para. 3 of Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, for the case of a doctoral student's stay-abroad.



Article 7- Return of the study award and waiver of mobility

Awarding of the study award in support of international mobility is linked to actual stays at-the host university or research centre.

In case of early termination of the stay, or in case of non-performance of the planned activity, the doctoral student will be required to return the full contribution not due.

Art. 8 - Final rules

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

The person in charge of the proceedings of this announcement is Dr. Roberto BRAMBILLA, Director of Postgraduate Education and Research Partnership, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Via Carducci 28/30, Milan, Italy.

Further information can be obtained from the Doctoral Programmes Office, telephone +39027234.5635, e-mail: dottorati.ricerca-mi@unicatt.it or webpage: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>.

