



Public competition announcement for admission at the PhD Programme in Agro-Food System at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore 37th Cycle – Piacenza campus

Art. 1

Opening

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

The number of scholarships may increase 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 scholarships may result in an increase in the number of positions opened for public competition. Any further changes and / or additional information to the competition will be published on the site <https://progetti.unicatt.it/progetti-ateneo-bandi-e-concorsi-milano-piacenza-brescia#content>

Coordinator: Prof. Paolo AJMONE MARSAN.

Duration: 3 years.

Positions: 20

Scholarship-based positions: 15

of which 11 “finalized” to research on the following projects:

- *Agrovoltaico – An integrated solution to combine production of agricultural crops and electricity*. Scholarship financed by Rem Tec S.r.l.;
- *Regenerative Agriculture & Farm-to-Fork Strategy: Resilient Farming Practices Towards Sustainably-Competitive Agroecosystems*;
- *Ingredients and processing technologies for innovative and sustainable food products*. Scholarship financed by the Eugenio and Germana Parizzi Foundation;

- *Innovative approaches for biosolution in crop protection: the case study of essential oils.* Scholarship financed by Azelis Italia S.r.l.;

- *Micro and nanoplastics interactions with the soil microbiota*. Scholarship financed by MINAGRIS project H2020 (MICro- and NAno-Plastics in AGRicultural Soils: sources, environmental fate and impacts on ecosystem services and overall sustainability);
- *Food security in low income countries: nutritional and ethical aspects*. Scholarship financed by Romeo and Enrica Invernizzi Foundation, Project C3S “Production of proper food: sufficient, safe and sustainable”;
- *Landscape genomics and big data analysis to improve adaptability and sustainability of maize crop*. Scholarship financed by Regione Emilia-Romagna (DGR n. 752 del 24/05/2021), with resources of European Social Fund, under the project: “Big data for a more digital, resilient and green Europe”. POR FSE 2014/2020 Thematic Objectives 10;
- *Microbiome and Diet in Oncological Patients*. Scholarship financed by Istituto Gentili S.r.l.;
- *Priming plant immune responses with soil-borne microorganisms eliciting Induced Systemic Resistance*;
- *Impact of micro-and nano-plastics and other stressors on ecosystem services in agriculture*. Scholarship co-financed by MINAGRIS project H2020 (MICro- and NAno-Plastics in AGRicultural Soils: sources, environmental fate and impacts on ecosystem services and overall sustainability);
- *Assessment of the impact of MNP and other stressors on crop physiology and productivity*. Scholarship financed by MINAGRIS project H2020 (MICro- and NAno-Plastics in AGRicultural Soils: sources, environmental fate and impacts on ecosystem services and overall sustainability).

In the 37th cycle, in addition to the 11 “finalized” scholarships, 4 others are available in the following areas:

Biological-Agricultural Area: 2 scholarship-based positions

- Department of Agricultural and Food Economics. Curriculum: *Agricultural Economics*;
- Department of Sustainable Crop Production. Curriculum: *Horticulture and Tree Growing*.

Economic-Legal Area: 2 scholarship-based positions

- Department of Economic and Social Sciences. Curriculum: *Economics, Management and efficiency of the agro-food market*;
- Department of Legal Sciences. Curriculum: *Law and protection of the agro-food system's security, regulation of responsibility and sanctions*.

“Executive PhD” reserved positions

- no. 1 position for Horta S.r.l. located administratively in Piacenza, Via Egidio Gorra 55,
for the following research project: “*Advanced modelling of crops, pests and diseases*”.

Positions without scholarship: 4

- 3 position in the Biological-Agricultural Area;
- 1 position in the Economic-Legal Area.

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

Calendar of examinations:

Result of the evaluations of qualifications to access the oral exam: Friday, September 24th 2021.

Oral exam (via *Miscrosoft Teams*):

- Economic-Legal Area Panel: Wednesday, September 29th 2021, 3.00 p.m.
- Biological-Agricultural Area Panel: Thursday, September 30th, 2021, 9.00 a.m.

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, 2021.

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 13th 2021.

The application form is available online at <https://progetti.unicatt.it/progetti-ateneo-bandi-e-concorsi-milano-piacenza-brescia#content> until 2.00 p.m. (local time) on the expiration date of the present public announcement.

The doctoral secretariat is available, during the office opening days and times, to support candidates in the online registration phase.

In the application form, to be filled in online only, available in Italian and English, candidates shall precisely declare under their responsibility:

- favourite research topic;
- 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 – upload format .pdf or .jpg:

- detailed curriculum vitae et studiorum (only English version);
- 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 (Italian or English version);
- 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 (Italian or English version);
- a motivational letter, only English version (max. 30 lines), indicating reasons for application, expectations and fields of interest;
- a research project, only English version (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, only English version, by university professors or researchers in national or international scientific institutions has to be included in the application;
- copy of an identification document, duly signed;
- copy of the fiscal code (for Italian nationals only);
- card-size photograph;

- students with a degree obtained or to be obtained in NON-EU countries shall provide a translation, authentication and a certificate of equivalence of qualification of their foreign degree certificates, issued by the Italian Consulate/Embassy representative offices in the countries where they have obtained/will obtain the degree. EU students must provide a Diploma Supplement from the University where they completed their studies as an alternative to the certificate of equivalence of qualification.

Applications may further contain – upload format .pdf or .jpg:

- 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:

- BEC (Business English Certificates);
- British Chamber of Commerce;
- CAE (Certificate in Advanced English);
- CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English);
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System);
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

The application is complete and valid only after having paid the participation fee for the selection of €100.00 (non-refundable) to be paid online by credit card after uploading the .pdf of the application, which it is generated at the end of the upload path of all documents.

To confirm the validity of the enrollment, participation in the competition, the candidate will receive a confirmation email from the Research Doctorates Office.

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, in order to attend the selection examination, must specify in their application the aid required in relation to their disability, in accordance with Italian 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:

- degree relevant to the areas relating to the doctorate, degree mark or average marks for undergraduates at the time of evaluation of qualifications, achievement of masters degrees, participation in higher education university courses, internships and traineeships consistent with the chosen research address, research grants and scholarships, publications in national and international journals relating to the agro-food sector, work and collaboration experiences in applied research at universities and public or private bodies (score up to 46/60);
- research project, motivational letter and certifications related to the knowledge of the English language as per the previous art. 3 (score up to 14/60).

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.

The interview, in English, will take place electronically, via *Microsoft Teams* platform.

Candidates are responsible for providing adequate audio and video equipment via *Microsoft Teams*.

The candidate can be excluded if it cannot be found on the agreed day and 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 «finalized scholarships» for which dedicated merit-based ranking lists shall be drawn.

Candidates applying for a «finalized scholarship» 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 scholarships or for a fee-based position.

The "finalized scholarships" may not be assigned to candidates competing for positions different from those related to the finalized scholarship.

The non-finalized scholarships 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 <https://progetti.unicatt.it/progetti-ateneo-bandi-e-concorsi-milano-piacenza-brescia#content>

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 “finalized scholarship”.

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 Friday, September 24th 2021, via online publication at:

<https://progetti.unicatt.it/progetti-ateneo-bandi-e-concorsi-milano-piacenza-brescia#content>

<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 Dottorato y Magíster 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

The winners of the competition must complete enrolment within 7 days starting from the day following the one in which the related email with the invitation will be received, by accessing the following website: <https://iscrizioni.unicatt.it/iscrizioni/>

Art. 9

Incompatibility

Attendance of the PhD Programme is not compatible with enrolment in other study programmes, postgraduate schools (except for medical specialisation schools), and other PhD Programmes (except in the case of joint dissertation supervision agreements).

Art. 10

Aid and scholarships

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

PhD students are required to pay tuition fees annually amounting to €1.516,00, to be paid into three instalments: the first (of €516.00) upon enrolment, the second (of €500.00) by February 28th, and the third (of €500.00) on June 30th each year.

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

The scholarships 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 scholarship, paid in monthly instalments, is € 15,343.28 per year, before social security charges. The scholarship is subject to the payment of social security contributions (INPS separate management) pursuant to Art. 2, Paragraph 26, of Italian Law 335 dated of August 8th, 1995, and subsequent amendments. The scholarship is exempt from local income tax and personal income tax (IRPEF).

The scholarship 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 scholarship, is granted a sum covering research activities in Italy and abroad amounting to 10% of the annual gross amount of the scholarship, equal to €1,534.33.

Those who have previously, even partially for another PhD course, benefited from it may not be eligible for a doctorate scholarship.

Art. 11

Public employee

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

Art. 12

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.

Art. 13

Public disclosure

This public announcement is published on the website of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at <https://progetti.unicatt.it/progetti-ateneo-bandi-e-concorsi-milano-piacenza-brescia#content> on the Euraxess European website and on the MIUR website.

Art. 14

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 Schools 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. 0523 599.476/493, or at agrisystem-pc@unicatt.it or at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/agrisystem>.

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

Nomina dei membri del collegio dei docenti del corso di Dottorato per il Sistema Agro-alimentare – ciclo XXXVII – sede di Piacenza

Corso di Dottorato in SISTEMA AGRO-ALIMENTARE

Collegio dei docenti:

- Prof. Paolo AJMONE MARSAN, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Coordinatore;
- Prof. Stefano AMADUCCI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Pier Sandro COCCONCELLI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Enrico FABRIZI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Davide GALLI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Daniele GENERALI, Università degli Studi di Trieste;
- Prof. Giuseppe MANFREDI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Francesco MASOERO, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Lorenzo MORELLI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Daniele MORO, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof.ssa Mariacristina PIVA, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Stefano PONI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Daniele RAMA, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Vittorio ROSSI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof.ssa Giorgia SPIGNO, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.
- Prof.ssa Mariachiara TALLACCHINI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Marco TREVISAN, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Emanuele Antonio VENDRAMINI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Dott. Filippo ROSSI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- Prof. Tood ALESSANDRI, Northeastern University (STATI UNITI D'AMERICA);
- Prof. Massimo BIONAZ, Oregon State University, (STATI UNITI D'AMERICA);
- Prof. Thomas HECKEL, Università di Bonn (GERMANIA);
- Prof. Dimitrios KARPOUZAS, Università della Tessalia (GRECIA);
- Prof. Giancarlo MOSCHINI, Iowa State University, (STATI UNITI D'AMERICA);
- Prof. Paolo SABBATINI, Michigan State University, (STATI UNITI D'AMERICA);
- Prof. John Lewis WILLIAM, Università di Adelaide (AUSTRALIA).