



**Subject: NOTICE OF SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION TO PhD PROGRAMME “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”  
(CYCLE 39, Academic Year 2023/2024)**

**The Rector**

**Having regard to**

Presidential Decree No. 382 of 11 July 1980, “Reorganisation of university teaching, related academic category, as well as organisational and teaching experimentation”;

Law No. 210 of 03 July 1998, “Rules for the recruitment of researchers and tenured university professors”, in particular Art. 4 “PhD Programmes”;

Ministerial Decree No. 224 of 30 April 1999, “Regulations on the matter of PhD programmes”;

Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010 “Rules on the organisation of universities, academic staff, and their recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to incentivise the quality and efficiency of the university system”, in particular the Art. 19 “Provisions on PhD Programmes”;

Decree of the Minister of Education, University, and Research No. 45 of 08 February 2013 “Regulations laying down procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations, and criteria for the implementation of PhD programmes by accredited bodies”;

Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 226 of 14 December 2021 “Regulations laying down procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations, and criteria for the implementation of PhD programmes by accredited bodies”;

Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 247 of 23 February 2022 “Increase in PhD scholarships”;

Decree of the Minister of University, and Research No. 301 of 22 March 2022 laying down New guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programmes;

Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 118/2023 concerning the allotment of three-year PhD scholarships for the attendance of PhD programmes, in specifically dedicated and declined programs (PNRR [National Plan for Recovery and Resilience] funding);

Rectoral Decree No. 151/2023 concerning the results of the evaluation procedure of project proposals submitted by UNICAM Researchers, in order to allocate funding under the Ministerial Decree N. 118/2023;

Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 117/2023 concerning the allotment of innovative PhD scholarships that respond to the innovation needs of companies and promote the hiring of researchers by companies (PNRR funding);

Ministerial Guidelines made available by the Minister of University and Research in relation to the financial reporting of doctoral scholarships funded under Decrees No. 117/2023 and No. 118/2023;

Law No. 33 of 12 April 2022 “Provisions on simultaneous enrolment in two higher education programmes”;

The University Statute, issued with Rector’s Decree No. 194 of 30 July 2012, and published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic - General Series - Part One, No. 200 of 28 August 2012, which entered

into force on 27 September 2012; amended by Rector's Decree No. 179 of 18 September 2015, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No. 236 of 10 October 2015, and entered into force on 09 November 2015;

the adoption of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their recruitment and the adoption of the human resources strategy;

the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022;

the Regulations on PhD Programmes, issued with Rector's Decree No. 169/2022;

the University Guidelines and the UNICAM OTM-R (Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers) Policy, approved by the Academic Senate in their meeting No. 28 of 31 May 2016;

the Agreements (and possible addenda) signed by UNICAM and further Institutions/Bodies that are partners or co-funders, in the framework of specific research topics or specific Phd Programs;

the Commitment by the Institute of Neuroscience – Italian National Research Council (*Istituto di Neuroscienze del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*) and the Institute of Science and Technologies for cognition – Italian National Research Council (*Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*) to fund n.3 scholarships in relation to the Project “EBRAINS-Italy - European Brain ReseArch INfrastructureS-Italy” - CUP B51E22000150006 / Call MUR n. 3264 of 28/12/2021 “Rafforzamento e creazione di IR nell’ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR)”, Mission 4 “Istruzione e Ricerca”, Component 2 “dalla Ricerca all’ Impresa” Investment line 3.1 “Fondo per la realizzazione di un sistema integrato di infrastrutture di ricerca e innovazione” supported by the European Union - NextGenerationEU

## DECREES

### Art. 1 – PhD PROGRAMME

The “first stage” call of the selection procedure, unique for EU and non-EU citizens, for admission to the PhD programme in “THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE”, 39<sup>th</sup> cycle, Academic Year 2023-2024, activated by the School of Advanced Studies - International Doctoral School of the University of Camerino (henceforth referred to as SAS) is hereby launched.

The “second stage” call will be launched following the timeline set in the “first stage” call.

Camerino, date of the protocol

The Rector  
Prof. Claudio Pettinari

**UNICAM (university of Camerino) PhD Program “Theoretical and applied Neuroscience”  
Call for applications 2023  
XXXIX cycle - academic year 2023-24**

The UNICAM PhD Program “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” is now accepting applications!

**You have to participate in a 2-stage selection procedure.**

*Apply to the first step of the Selection Procedure **by 4 August, 2023, at 1.00 pm Italian time***

#### **TIMELINE**

The selection procedure comprises the following main steps (dates are provisional):

- 1- **[Call opening – 4 August]** Call opening - **First stage** of the selection procedure: candidates must submit the Application form through <https://vele.unicam.it/CallforApplication/?st=6> by August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1 pm Italian time . Application consists in the submission of a CV, a short hypothetical research project, choose the Thematic Areas of interest and indicate up to 2 research topic of potential interest.
- 2- **[August 5 to 9 August]** **Eligibility checks, CV and project evaluation** – UNICAM appoints an Evaluation Committee for the purpose. A shortlist of the candidates who are *admitted / admitted “subject to confirmation”* to the second stage of the selection procedure is published .
- 3- **[10 August – 1 September]** **Second stage** of the selection procedure is launched: candidates who are *admitted / admitted “subject to confirmation”* to the second stage of the selection procedure submit their application through the dedicated weblink within 1 September, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Italian time. Within this timeframe applicants can choose a third research topic to add to the ones selected during the first phase. The evaluation committee, following first phase screening, can suggest the additional topic to include. Further eligibility checks are carried out, where needed.
- 4- **[4 September – 15 September]** Calendar of interviews is established by **September the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Between 6 and 15 September:** Web interviews and evaluation of the candidates by Scientific Panels appointed by UNICAM Doctoral Board (“Consiglio SAS”) take place. Candidates’ linguistic (english), transversal skills, and know-how are assessed.
- 5- **[18 September – 20 September]** For each Research Topic, a final merit-based ranking list is determined. The procedure of acceptance of the position/grant is activated.
- 6- **[1 December - 31 December 2023]** **Provisional Starting date of the Phd Programs:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023** (*in any case, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023*).

#### **PHD PROGRAMS AND THEMATIC AREAS**

**Regular duration of the Phd Programs: 3 years**

National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience”<sup>1</sup> usually lasts three years and aims to contribute to the training of future generations in the neuroscience sector. By putting the best scientific and cultural resources of various universities and research centres into a system, we intend to promote an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach to the study of neuroscience. National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” aims to provide PhD students with the scientific knowledge and methodologies necessary for the integrated study of neuroscience in areas ranging from the investigation of the mind-body-brain relationship to molecular neurobiology and cellular, computational, cognitive, preclinical, clinical, diagnostic, rehabilitative neuroscience up to the study of neurorobotic systems. PhD students will find themselves inserted in scientifically stimulating environments where, in addition to curricular teaching and research, they will deepen aspects relating to transversal training and the acquisition of “soft skills”.

### 1.1 The Programme is divided into the following 4 curricula:

#### COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE:

Its purpose is theoretical and methodological training in predominantly cognitive research areas, such as perception, language, memory, attention, action, decision making, and intelligence. The curriculum extends to the study of cognitive function deficits and can have translational implications. Furthermore, for completeness, the study of cognitive functions is also addressed in the interaction with non-cognitive constructs such as, for example, emotions, personality, and motivation. This curriculum is characterised by a strongly interdisciplinary approach which, as such, makes use of models and methods derived mainly from experimental psychology, medicine, linguistics but also from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In addition to a theoretical component, the training provided by this curriculum offers a relevant one in the practical field. Research in cognitive neuroscience is mainly carried out in laboratories where human participants are tested using various non-invasive investigation and/or stimulation techniques. The equipment most commonly used in cognitive neuroscience research are EEG, TMS, combined TMS-EEG, tDCS and tACS, eye tracker, and structural and functional magnetic resonance. This allows students who choose this curriculum to be exposed to a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies, many of which can also be used in research in other fields. The didactic offer includes three types of courses: 1) theoretical, relating to the various fields of cognitive neuroscience (perception, language, etc., and the deficits thereof), 2) methodological (statistics, coding, theory); and 3) practical, relating to the use of equipment. Other skills such as scientific writing, elements of research ethics, and open data science, will be shared across all curricula.

**KEY WORDS:** Memory; Learning; Emotions; Language; Neuropsychology; Neurophysiology; Neuroeconomics; Decision Making

#### NEUROSCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Over the past three decades, massive technological and conceptual developments have led to the neuroscience of complex systems, an already multidisciplinary field of study in its relations with mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, addressing issues classically pertinent to disciplines traditionally belonging to the field of human sciences.

What originally may have seemed a pure cultural trend has given rise to real fields of research and teaching. Examples of this important process of cultural development is the field of neuro-aesthetics, understood as

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<sup>1</sup> Accreditation procedure is ongoing - PhD Programmes can be activated upon positive accreditation evaluation by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) and by Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems (ANVUR)

the analysis of the brain processes involved in the production and use of the artistic and scientific creative experience. Understanding of the fundamental processes of plasticity and memory has led to neuro-pedagogy interested in the development of didactic programmes inspired by the brain processes that lead to the learning behaviours. The study of individual and social decision-making in the field of morality resulted in the development of fields such as neuro-economics and neuro-law, inspiring innovative application experiences that have changed the initial disciplines (think, for example, of neuro-leadership and neuro-politics understood as the study of the neural processes that determine the characteristics of whoever is in charge of a company, or a political party, or a religious group). The aspiration to investigate even wider knowledge from a cerebral point of view is inspiring fields such as neuro-philosophy and neuro-ethics, as well as neuro-literature and neuro-poetry. Despite the criticised oversimplification of the prefix “neuro” with which they are indicated, these research domains promise to greatly extend the understanding of human nature, not so much and not only in relation to single individuals, but to the inherently social characteristics of each of them.

**KEY WORDS:** Neuro-Philosophy; History of Neuroscience; Arts and Neuroscience; Neuro-Politics; Social Neuroscience

#### PRECLINICAL CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

The programme of this curriculum is centred on the need to facilitate the transfer to clinical practice of neuroscientific knowledge acquired in the laboratory, with a translational approach. PhD students will acquire specific skills to bridge the gap between the design, execution, and interpretation of experiments on cellular, animal, or human models, and the challenges of experimental medicine, particularly in the field of neurorehabilitation and drug development. All activities will be based on the use of innovative data analysis methodologies, from electrophysiology to neuroimaging, from neuropsychology to experimental techniques for the study of cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying various functions and disorders of the central nervous system. Strategic topics are the following: Preclinical neuroscience (genetic and molecular mechanisms of neuro-psychiatric pathologies); clinical neuroscience (neurology, psychiatry, neurorehabilitation, both of the adult organism and for neurodevelopmental disorders); tools and methods for the analysis of normal and pathological brain connectivity, design and development of hardware and software for the recording and non-invasive modulation of brain activity; identification of biomarkers for neuro-psychiatric diseases; study of the gut-brain-axis identification of new pharmacological targets for neuro-psychiatric diseases; computational modelling; machine learning; optogenetics, chemogenetics; clinical trial design; digital neuroscience, with a focus on telemedicine, telerehabilitation and development of serious games applications for diagnosis and cognitive training; ethical aspects. Core disciplines such as physiology, pharmacology, neurology, epidemiology, statistics, genetics, and neuroinformatics will be part of the teaching in the curriculum. Practical activities are foreseen, participation in seminars, journal clubs, presentation of reports, and research results.

**KEY WORDS:** Psychiatry; Neurology; Neurorehabilitation and Treatment; Clinical Trials; Neuro-Pharmacology Neurophysiology; Neuromodulation; Brain Function; Affective Disorders; Neurological Disorders; Drug Development; Neurochemistry; Neurobiology; Genetics; Neurorehabilitation; Brain Stimulation; Wearable Robotics

#### COMPUTATIONAL AND SYSTEM NEUROSCIENCE

Computational neuroscience aims to design and use quantitative methods in neurophysiology and neurobiology. The development of these methods has significantly increased our understanding of the functioning of the nervous system, and is clearly becoming vital to the neuroscience community. Expanding training in the application of computational methods to neuroscience problems is a widely recognized need.

Furthermore, in order to develop such methods for the study of system neurosciences, it is important to train students in the field of innovative imaging techniques, related devices, and methods of analysis. Students recruited in this curriculum will learn to develop mathematical models and computer simulations, but also to develop methods for anatomical / functional non-invasive imaging and for the related data analysis with different neuroscientific objectives. Models, imaging techniques and analysis methods will be used (1) for basic science: To better understand the development and functions of the nervous system in various animal models and in humans, and (2) for translational science: to develop wearable and implantable medical devices (“neurotechnology”) for restoring and repairing compromised nervous systems due to neurological disorders or traumatic injuries. This curriculum will provide horizontal skills that can also be used in other PhD school curricula. In particular, models will be based on biophysics, machine learning, advanced signal processing, and will address the neuroscientific problem at different levels. The innovative imaging techniques and data

analysis methods will involve areas of applied physics at the basis of measurement devices and techniques, including artificial intelligence for the interpretation and prediction of results, also requiring multidisciplinary interactions with other curricula. Students will also be exposed to empirical techniques in neuroscience and neurophysiology to strengthen their skills and enable them to experimentally validate their models.

**KEY WORDS:** Mathematical Models; Connectomics; Brain Dynamics; Brain Imaging; Brain architecture; Neuronal Networks; Machine Learning; Large-Scale; Data Analysis; Neurologically Inspired AI Systems; Artificial Neural Network

## 1.2 Universities and affiliated research institutions

- 1) University of Bologna
- 2) University of Cagliari
- 3) “G. D’Annunzio” University, Chieti Pescara
- 4) University of Messina
- 5) University of Milano
- 6) University of Napoli Federico II
- 7) University of Padova
- 8) University of Palermo
- 9) University of Parma
- 10) University of Pisa
- 11) University of Roma Tre
- 12) St. Anna School of University Studies and Advanced Studies
- 13) “La Sapienza” University of Rome
- 14) International School of Advanced Studies of Trieste
- 15) IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca
- 16) Pegaso Online University
- 17) University of Siena
- 18) University of Teramo
- 18) University of Torino
- 19) University of Ferrara
- 20) University of Modena e Reggio Emilia
- 21) National Research Council -CNR
- 22) Italian Institute of Technology – IIT

## PHD POSITIONS

At least **39** positions are made available.

Some scholarships are theme-bound and are funded under the NGEU Programme (“Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza - Missione 4 - Componenti 1 e 2”); in particular, the following are currently available:

- N. 32 scholarships in the framework of Ministerial Decree n.118/2023;
- N. 3 scholarships in the framework of Project “EBRAINS-Italy - European Brain ReseArch InfrastructureS-Italy” - CUP B51E22000150006 / Call MUR n. 3264 of 28/12/2021 “Rafforzamento e creazione di IR nell’ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR)”, Mission 4 “Istruzione e Ricerca”, Component 2 “dalla Ricerca all’ Impresa” Investment line 3.1 “Fondo per la realizzazione di un sistema integrato di infrastrutture di ricerca e innovazione” supported by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

Further details will be made available in the second stage of the call.

Depending on the number of scholarships awarded, at least n. 10 positions are made available **without scholarship**.

Drawing from the ranking list of suitable candidates, the University reserves the right to assign other positions. The assignments will be subject to the availability of further funding for the XXXIX PhD cycle.

Positions and scholarships are theme-bound, and topic specific. The research activity is to be primarily conducted at the host university offering the scholarship. A complete list of topic is made available at the second stage of the selection procedure.

During the first-stage call, applicants should select up to two topics of their potential interest. The candidate is not bound to the topic choice, while he/she will be at second stage.

## TIME COMMITMENT of PHD STUDENTS

According to National Laws and UNICAM regulations in force, Phd positions require a full-time commitment, in terms of training and research activities. Limited didactic and tutoring activities to support undergraduate teaching programs are possible. Training and research periods abroad are mandatory.

Additional activities/commitments are possible for specific research topics/scholarships, if part of the PhD program or included in the specific agreements/funding rules governing scholarships and/or positions. More details are given in the second stage of the selection procedure.

Please, read UNICAM Regulation in force for an in-dept view.

Without prejudice to the full-time commitment, work activities, including paid ones, concerning practical professional training or limited external work activity that allows the acquisition of skills relating to the formative field of the PhD Programme, are also compatible with the PhD Programme, subject to the authorisation of the Board of the SAS, following the approval of the Academic Boards.

Please, read UNICAM Regulation in force for an in-dept view.

## CAREER, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PHD STUDENTS

The rights and responsibilities of PhD students and the requirements for obtaining the degree are outlined in the UNICAM PhD Program Regulations and the acts issued with Rector's Decree No. 169/2022. You can find these regulations at the following link: <https://isas.unicam.it/school/unicam-regulations>.

The laws and regulations governing simultaneous enrollment in two higher education courses are governed by Law No. 33/2022 and the related decrees.

UNICAM and its partners (in case of Phd Programs carried out in partnership with further Institutions) may support non-EU students in finding an accommodation, limited to rooms/apartments that are available in the University college at the time the phd students arrive in Italy.

PhD students are required to enroll or be enrolled in the Italian National Health System at the beginning of their program. During the entire duration of the program, PhD students are provided with accident and civil liability insurance coverage, which applies specifically to activities related to the PhD program.

If a PhD student carry out inventions as part of their research, the University/institution Regulations on patents will apply.

### SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH BUDGET

\* **Total amount of the scholarship** (gross of withholding tax paid by the recipient): approximately €1,353 per month, approximately **€16.243 per year** (based on a duration of 3 years). Please note that these amounts may slightly vary in the event of any further updates by the National Authorities.

\* The monthly rate of the scholarship is increased by an amount of 50% per month, in case of mobility abroad.

\* **Research Budget:** a research budget of at least **€ 9745,80** is made available to all Phd Students (with or without scholarship) during the 3-year course. This budget can be utilized in accordance with the rules established by Italian law, UNICAM Regulations, and guidelines.

The scholarship is paid to the Phd Student in monthly installments (each rate is normally paid the month after) and after the registration procedure is fully completed (for foreign students, it occurs only after the arrival in Italy); the payment of the scholarship requires that the phd student has an Italian Fiscal Code and is header of a proper Italian/online bank account.

The counting of the scholarships runs from the starting date of the Phd Programs, being 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (in any case, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023).

In case the phd students arrive later (within 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024), no rates will be paid before his/her arrival in Italy, nor before registration procedure is closed and proper bank account is available.

PhD students can receive the scholarship if the total annual emoluments do not exceed the net amount of the scholarship after deducting costs. For the academic year 2023/2024, the estimated amount is around €14.346.

For the benefit of the scholarship, PhD students avail themselves of the faculty of self-certification to be referred to the tax period coinciding with the calendar year in which the scholarship is actually paid.

This communication must be sent to the SAS offices ([postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it)) no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July of each year. The university administration may carry out checks on the veracity of the aforementioned self-certifications.

In the event that the annual emoluments of the PhD student with scholarship, during the course of the PhD programme (with the exception of the year of issue of the Call) exceed the annual amount of the scholarship net of charges, the PhD student shall forfeit the receipt of the scholarship, with the obligation to repay the amount already received in the reference calendar year.

Anyone who, for at least one year, has benefited from a scholarship for a PhD programme, cannot ask to benefit from it a second time.



Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships conferred for any reason, except with those granted by national or foreign institutions aimed at supporting stays abroad for the purposes of training or research activity of PhD students.

### **FEES FOR ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE TO PhD PROGRAMS**

The annual fees for accessing PhD programs and attending them will be specified in the Manifesto of Studies, available under "University Fees." The Manifesto of Studies will be approved by the Academic Bodies and published on the university's official website.

Candidates who are admitted to the PhD programs are required to pay the regional tax for the right to university study, amounting to €140, as well as a stamp duty of €16, which is paid electronically. However, PhD students without a scholarship who are listed in the ERDIS (Regional Body for the Right to University Education) ranking and eligible for the right to study are exempt from paying the regional tax. Once the compliance with the requirements is verified, the regional tax will be reimbursed to these students

### **HOW TO APPLY – first step of the selection procedure**

The application for participation in the selection procedure must be filled out exclusively (under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure/admission) on the format accessible from the website <https://vele.unicam.it/CallforApplication/?st=6> **by August 4, 2023 at 1.00 pm Italian time**. Only applications that are submitted within the specified deadline will be considered.

Candidates are advised to submit their application for the selection procedure well in advance of the stated deadline. It is the candidates' responsibility to ensure that the online submission process is completed correctly. Please note that no complaints will be accepted for any computer system malfunctions that may occur due to high traffic or overload near the deadline.

The University administration cannot be held responsible for any failure to receive documentation due to third-party liability or technical issues

IT guidelines are made available in the website <https://isas.unicam.it/>.

Applicants are required to register using the following link: <https://vele.unicam.it/CallforApplication/?st=6>. Once registered, applicants will receive their login details for the portal. The application can then be submitted through the portal.

The mandatory language for filling out the application is English.

*What information and documents are needed during the first step of the selection procedure:*

- Personal data
- CV (online template): data related education and training; work experiences; ...
- Identity document
- Choice of the Phd Program/Thematic Area of interest
- selection of 2 research topics of potential interest
- 3 names of presenters, meaning professors / researchers, who will receive a request by e-mail to provide a cover letter, drawn up according to a predetermined template indicated in that same e-mail. The letter of presentation must be received within 6 of august, 2023 at 11.59 pm (Italian time). It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that at least 1 teacher / researcher has carried out the procedure for uploading the cover letter. The failure to provide this letter shall be a cause of exclusion from the selection procedure / admission

- Short hypothetical Research program
- Final declarations.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

The PhD Program and curricula are associated with specific thematic areas. Research topics for the three-year research projects undertaken by PhD students will be defined and provided for each program. The descriptions of these topics can be found in the same section of the website where the call for applications is published.

During the initial stage of the selection procedure, applicants are allowed to indicate their preference for up to two research topics. However, this choice is not binding at this stage.

During the second stage of the selection procedure, a more detailed description of each research topic will be made available. Applicants are then required to choose a third research topic. The evaluation committee, after the initial screening, may suggest additional topics that can be considered.

## HOW TO APPLY – second step of the selection procedure

Information will be made available at the second stage of the selection procedure.

## ELIGIBILITY

Italian and foreign citizens in possession of a Specialisation/Master's degree, or an equivalent university qualification recognised as suitable by the academic authorities on the basis of laws and regulations in force, can apply for participation in the selection procedure for admission to the PhD Research Programs, without discrimination based on gender, age, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political opinions, socio-economic conditions, or disabilities.

Applicants due to be awarded their master's (or equivalent qualification) by the date of enrolment in the PhD programme may also apply. In such a case, admission shall be allowed "under reserve" and the candidate shall confirm he/she has obtained the qualification when accepting the position/scholarship and after the publication of the final ranking list, within the deadline set in the acceptance form.

Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad, must submit, for enrolment purposes, the Declaration of Value, issued by the Italian Embassy of the country in which the qualification was issued, or the Statement of Comparability and Verification of the qualification issued by CIMEA (Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Centre).

In the Declaration of Value, it must be specified that the qualification that allows access to doctoral courses was obtained after 17 years of schooling, and that it meets the academic requirements for access to third-cycle courses in the country of issue.

An official translation in Italian of the diploma and of Transcript of Records is also required, showing the exams taken and the grades obtained, if not already produced in English.

This documentation must be sent **within 30 November, 2023**, by email to [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it), and presented in original copy to formalise the registration, once the candidate has arrived at Italy; UNICAM cannot ensure that the registration of the phd students is carried out and concluded, if the required documents are missing or provided with delay.

If the qualification has not already been recognised, the Selection Board will decide on and declare its equivalence, for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD Programme, after having carried out the appropriate controls and on the basis of laws and regulations in force.

## EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

The Selection Board and Scientific Panels are appointed according to the Laws and UNICAM regulation; UNICAM Regulation is available at <https://isas.unicam.it/school/unicam-regulations>.

The names of the evaluators and their CVs are made public on the SAS website (<http://isas.unicam.it>) for transparency and accountability purposes.

The initial evaluation stage involves the submission of a research program that undergoes an analysis to identify any instances of plagiarism. If the analysis detects any plagiarism, the candidate responsible will be excluded from the selection procedure.

On the basis of the documentation produced by the candidates, in particular the hypothesis of a research programme, the Selection Board shall carry out its own evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of the *European Framework for Research Careers* (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>) for the R1 profile (*First stage researchers*). In particular, the following elements are evaluated:

- ability to conduct original research under the guidance of supervisors;
- ambition to develop knowledge of research-related methodologies and disciplines;
- good knowledge of the research area in which they intend to develop their thesis;
- ability to produce data under the guidance of supervisors;
- critical ability, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- ability to illustrate research results and their meaning.

When compiling the shortlist of eligible candidates, the Selection Board will consider various factors, including the candidate's CV. The CV will be evaluated with a focus on the candidate's graduation score, additional qualifications, scientific publications, conference presentations, as well as any prizes or awards they have received. The evaluation will also include an assessment of the presentation letters provided by the presenters. These considerations help the Selection Board in identifying the most suitable candidates for further stages of the selection process.

At the end of the first stage of the evaluation process, the Selection Board shall prepare the short list of suitable candidates for the PhD Programme on the basis of the score achieved by each candidate.

The list of suitable candidates is published on the Unicam institutional website and on the page <https://isas.unicam.it/>. Candidates that pass the first phase are allowed to apply for the second stage of the selection procedure.

Only upon request, excluded candidates will be sent a brief evaluation on their application by the Selection Board.

Suitable candidates, listed in the shortlist, are invited to the interviews. The final ranking list for each Topics then generated. The interviews are conducted remotely, using the English language. They are carried out by scientific panels appointed by the Academic Board of the PhD program. The schedule for the interviews will be determined and communicated by September 5th, 2023. The evaluation process will be based on the

principles and guidelines outlined in the European Framework for Research Careers, specifically focusing on the R1 profile for first-stage researchers. This framework provides a standardized approach to evaluating the research potential and capabilities of the candidates.

### **Admission criteria and pertaining weight:** Scientific qualifications

**Scientific qualifications:** max 20 points  
**Project proposal:** max 20 points  
**Admission to oral exam:** Minimal score 20/40  
**Oral exam:** 60 points  
**Total score:** 100 points  
**Admission:** Minimum of 70 points

### **FINAL SCORE and AWARD OF POSITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Final ranking lists are drafted on the basis of total scores obtained by each candidate.

There will be as many ranking lists as many research topics.

Candidates may have chosen up to 3 research topics; in case a candidate chooses more than one topic, he/she may be named in more than one list.

The final ranking lists is compiled based on the total scores obtained by each candidate. There are separate ranking lists for each research topic.

The final ranking lists will be published on the SAS website <https://isas.unicam.it>. In the event of equal scores, the candidate with the younger age will be given priority. If there are still equal scores after considering age, gender may be taken into account as a determining factor. The number of ranking lists will correspond to the number of research topics.

Final ranking lists will be published on the website <https://isas.unicam.it>.

Only upon request, the excluded candidates will be sent a brief evaluation of their performance drawn up by the Selection Board.

Participants in the selection procedure will have 30 days to submit any complaints to [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it). These will be sent to the Head of Corruption Prevention and Transparency of the University, who, in collaboration with the students' Ombudsman, will examine and respond to the issues submitted to him/her within 30 days following the submission of the complaint.

Scholarships and positions will be awarded according to the selection procedures set out in this Call, until positions and scholarships made available in the call are allocated.

UNICAM reserves the right to allocate further scholarships/positions made available, also in case of resignation or withdrawal of a candidate, by scrolling down the ranking lists on the basis of the order set.

Scholarships shall then be confirmed yearly by the Board of the SAS, after verification of the activities carried out by the PhD student in the previous year by the Academic Board.

On the basis of the ranking lists, at least 10 places will be made available without the use of a scholarship; candidates in this position must indicate whether they can obtain financial support from public and / or private entities other than the University of Camerino.

Also activities of PhD students not receiving scholarships shall be subject to verification by the Academic Board.

## AFTER THE FINAL RANKING LISTS

If candidates are successful and are offered a position on the UNICAM PhD programs, they have to accept the scholarship/position by submitting the relevant form within 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023. The form will be made available by email to the candidates awarded, through the email address [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it)

Once the selection procedure is completed and the PhD student has accepted the offer, the ranking list formulated by the Selection Board will be submitted for approval by the Rector. The Rector will approve the ranking list, and allocate the available places and scholarships to the selected candidates.

Candidates who require a visa to enter Italy, once they have been officially admitted to the PhD program, must submit an application for pre-enrolment through the University portal, at <https://www.universitaly.it/index.php/dashboard>, within 30 November, 2023.

All candidates should also:

- submit application for enrolment, addressed to the Rector of the University of Camerino, within the 30 November 2023, exclusively online through the appropriate section on the University website where all the necessary information is published. Enrolment is considered regularly closed, and therefore accepted, when the entire online procedure has been completed, and all the required fees have been paid, and the required attachments have been uploaded;
- start their Phd Program on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2023 (in any case, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023)<sup>2</sup>
- Make an Italian/online bank account available for payments which are related to their position/scholarship (it must be headed to the candidate)
- Attend a Security/safety training and participate in medical check required, before starting the Research Activity
- (Foreign students) Register with the Italian National Health Service, and renew their registration every year, by immediately notifying [postlaurea@unicam.it](mailto:postlaurea@unicam.it). Such a registration is precondition to carry out the phd programme;
- Register at Mur portal <https://loginmiur.cineca.it/front.php/login.html>
- Register autonomously at "gestione separata INPS" (for social security purposes).

## PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The University, implementing the "Code regarding the protection of personal data" (Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, and subsequent amendments), "Consolidated Law on privacy and the use of information systems" (Legislative Decree No. 271/2009, and subsequent amendments), and the General Data Protection

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<sup>2</sup> - Note for foreign / non-EU students: you should arrive in Italy within the starting date of the Phd Program; otherwise, you should arrive in Italy no later than 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2024, and start your activity remotely on the starting date of the Program. Enrollment must be closed as soon as you arrive in Italy, within a week from your arrival. In order to complete registration, you have to provide promptly: Declaration of Value/Statement by CIMEA; an official translation in Italian of the diploma and of Transcript of Records is also required, showing the exams taken and the grades obtained, if not already produced in English; Italian fiscal code; residence permit.

Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679), as data controller, undertakes to process the personal data and contacts provided by the candidate for the completion of the selection procedures, and for the pursuit of its institutional purposes.

The University of Camerino, in the context of managing the Phd Programme and carrying out the relevant reporting activities, collects and processes the personal data of candidates, as well as data related to the courses and scholarships/fellowships; furthermore, University of Camerino collects and processes data concerning: the research and training activity carried out in Italy and abroad, payments (research budget; scholarship) and relevant supporting documents, training outcomes and outputs, graduation, mobilities. Certain data of the scholarship holders, non-scholarship holders and reserve list candidates are shared with possible partners of Projects/Agreements the scholarships/positions are funded and managed in the framework of, as well as with Agencies and Institutions responsible for the Funding Programmes (where relevant).

Participation in the selection procedure implies the expression of tacit consent, so that:

- the names of the candidates and the results of the selection procedure tests are published on the UNICAM website, and the SAS website, at <http://isas.unicam.it>;
- data will be treated for management and reporting activities mentioned above.

## RULES FOR REFERENCE

For matters not covered by this Call, reference is made to the regulations in force on the subject of PhD programmes, in particular to:

- Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021
- Regulations on PhD Programmes of the University of Camerino issued with Rector's Decree No. 169/2022
- Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022.

## FINAL INFORMATION

**SAS Director:** Prof. Michele Loreti

**Coordinator of the Phd Programme:** Prof. Roberto Ciccocioppo

**Manager of the administrative procedure:** Mrs. Natascia Alessandrini.

**Contacts:** for information, interested parties can timely send an email to [phd.neuroscience@unicam.it](mailto:phd.neuroscience@unicam.it) .

This Call shall be published on the European Euraxess website, on the website of the Ministry of Education, University, and Research, on the institutional website of the University, and on the SAS website.