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National Operational Program 2014-2020
Ph.D.s on innovation and green thematic
M.D. 10 August 2021, n. 1061
Academic Year 2021/2022 – XXXVII Cycle –

CALL FOR ASSIGNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SCOLARSHIPS
ON INNOVATION THEMATICS

(ACTION IV.4)

CALL FOR APPLICATION'S DEADLINE IS Oct. 15th 2021 (ITALIAN TIME CEST)

Art. 1

Purposes of the announcement and general rules

In fulfillment of the M.D. n° 1061 of 10/08/2021, containing regulation for the assignment of the resources of the **National Operational Program** (PON) "Research and innovation" 2014 – 2020 funded by ESF – REACT EU, the University of Ferrara announces an open competition based on academic qualifications and examinations for the assignment of n° 4 additional Ph.D. scholarships on the thematic of Innovation, enabling technologies and in the broader digital topics (Action IV.4) within the goals of the already accredited Ph.D. courses for the XXXVII Cycle – academic year 2021/2022.

The call is organized according to the thematic areas of Strategia Nazionale di Specializzazione Intelligente – SNSI, (*Smart Specialization National Strategy*) and it establishes that the applications must explicitly state the bound research topics and the relative Ph.D courses.

The positions available in the call and the list of the bound topics of research and the relative Ph.D courses are as follows:

Action IV.4 – "Ph.D.s on Innovation thematic"

SNSI Thematic Area	Positions available	Bound Topics Of Research	Corso di Dottorato di Ricerca
Health, Nutrition, Quality of life	4	<i>Molecular action mechanism of low frequency pulsed electromagnetic fields in osteoarticular cell</i>	Advanced Therapies and Experimental Pharmacology
		<i>Development of new non-viral vehicles for innovative therapeutic strategies in personalized medicine for neuromuscular disorders.</i>	
		<i>Development and optimization of biological systems for infection prevention and control by stable remodulation of the environmental microbiome</i>	

		<i>Development of simplified patient-tailored procedures (personalized therapy) through the aid of virtual/augmented reality for the positioning of vertebral stabilization systems with minimally invasive method</i>	Translational Neuroscience and Neurotechnologies
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For each research topic there is an illustrative form with the characteristics of the planned training course and the candidates' required basic knowledge. The files can be found at the page: <http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/ciclo-37-pon/bando-innovazione/>

The available positions, one (1) for each research topic, will be assigned according to the merit ranking as per art. 7 of this Notice. Should the Examining Commission decide that there are no suitable candidates on one or more research thematic, it will proceed to select possible eligible candidates in other thematic ranks, according to the general ranking order in the SNSI Thematic Area. The Commission judgement is unquestionable.

The Ph.D. Courses have a three-year duration, starting from December 1st, 2021.

Candidates with a foreign qualification compete equally as the other candidates for all available positions of the doctoral courses referred to in this Article.

The calendar for the admission tests will be published within the deadline of this notice at the page: <http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/commissioni-borse-aggiuntive-fse-react-eu.>

This announcement has to be considered an official notification.

Any changes and integrations will be published **exclusively** at the website: http://www.unife.it/Additional_grants_funded_with_SEF_REACT-EU_resources .

Applicants failing to comply with the requirements stated in this announcement will be excluded from the selection.

All communications with applicants concerning this announcement will occur via e-mail. For this purpose, the University of Ferrara will use the e-mail address given by the applicant during the registration process, as illustrated in the following art. 4.

The University Administration takes no responsibility in the event of loss of communications due to errors in the address or e-mail provided by the applicant, by failure or late notification of address changings, or for any postal or telecommunication errors not ascribable to the Administration.

This announcement is available in Italian and English according to the Italian laws and regulations and the University of Ferrara's regulations.

**Art. 2.
Admission Requirements**

Applicants, without any limitation of age nor citizenship, must hold one of the following qualifications before this announcement deadline:

- a) An Italian degree known as "Laurea specialistica/magistrale" or a degree awarded prior to approval of Ministerial Decree D.M. n. 509 of 3 November 1999, updated with D.M. n. 270 of 22 October 2004, n. 270, and equivalent second level degrees;
- b) Foreign academic title declared equivalent to degrees referred to in letter a)
- c) An equivalent foreign academic qualification awarded abroad considered equivalent to the Italian degree in terms of duration, level and area of study, which allows the holder to undertake Ph.D. studies.

Candidates who will achieve the necessary requirements for accessing the doctorate within **October 31st 2021** are also accepted. Should this be the case, applicants must inform IUSS Office via e-mail at dottorato@unife.it by **November 1st 2021**, sending a self-declaration of the achieved degree.

All candidates are admitted to the selectin procedure, under condition that their applications can be verified as per DPR n. 445 of 28 December 2000. The University may carry out checks about the truthfulness of the declarations and request the submission of original documents at any time during the procedures, even after the beginning of the doctoral courses.

The University may, at any time and by order of the Rector, exclude candidates who do not meet the admission requirements from the selection process.

Candidates who are already enrolled in the same Ph.D. Course cannot apply for admission.

Art. 3
Degrees awarded by foreign Universities

The eligibility of a degree awarded by a foreign university, for the sole purpose of the admission to the doctorate, will be decided by the Examining Committee in accordance with Italian Law and that of the country in which the degree has been awarded, and in accordance with international treaties and agreements regarding the proof of recognition of qualifications.

The submission of online applications automatically implies the request of the eligibility recognition of the degree awarded abroad. Applicants should therefore attach to their application the following documents:

- a) Certificate or transcript containing a full academic record of the candidate's career, including marks. EU citizens may submit a self-declaration certifying the possession of an academic qualification, according to DPR n. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- b) Should the aforementioned document not be in Italian or English, the applicant must provide a certified translation of it;
- c) Any other document that could be useful to the Examining Committee for the evaluation of the candidate's degree (Diploma Supplement, for candidates holding a degree awarded in an EU country, such as; "Dichiarazione di Valore in loco" (declaration of value), issued by the Italian Authorities in the Country in which the degree was awarded, for applicants holding a degree awarded in a NON EU country; etc.).

Art. 4
Selection Application Form

The application form for admission to the selection procedure, including all mandatory documentation, must be sent, under penalty of exclusion, **within October, 15th 2021 - at 11.59 P.M. (Italian time CEST)**, using exclusively the appropriate **online procedure**, available at the following link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unife/>

You can find all information for registration and access to the procedure at the links:

[Additional grants funded with SEF REACT-EU resources](#) "**Instructions for completing the online application form through PICA System**"

It is also possible to access the application procedure via SPID (Public System of Digital Identity), choosing from the page of the federations available the University of Ferrara.

The application is completed by entering the information requested and attaching the documents indicated in the reference sheet of the course of interest.

The files must be in **pdf-Adobe format only: maximum size 30 Mb for each attachment.**

The files must be named with the number, surname and first name of the candidate, file name, for example: 1_cognome_nome_curriculum.pdf). In case of multiple files of the same type, add a sequence number to the end (1_cognome_nome_curriculum_2.pdf).

The application must contain the applicant's contact details, the residence and telephone number and e-mail address, as well as the nationality.

The application is to be considered for all legal purposes as a self-certification, pursuant to art. 46 and 47 of DPR 445/2000 and ss.mm.ii. the data contained therein and the documents annexed thereto.

After completing and submitting the application, the candidate will receive an email with confirmation of delivery and an identification code essential for any communication with CINECA and IUSS Office.

It is the responsibility of the candidates to verify the correct conclusion of the procedure. Complaints will not be accepted for any malfunctions of the computer system due to overloads in proximity of the deadline.

Applications which, at **11.59 P.M. (Italian time) on October, 15 2021**, are incomplete in the mandatory compilation and/or annexes will be excluded.

In no case will additions to the documentation be allowed after the notice deadline.

Candidates who wish to participate in the competition for more than one SNSI Thematic Areas must submit more applications, attaching for each the required documentation.

Candidates who wish to take part in the competition for more than one subject of research related to the same SNSI Thematic Area must submit a single application, attaching a specific research project for each topic of interest.

Candidates are invited to complete their application for competitions well in advance of the closing date.

Art. 5

Support for candidates with disabilities or with specific learning difficulties (SLD)

According to law n. 104/1992 and subsequent modifications, candidates with disabilities can outline their particular needs, which will be taken into account when organising the test. Candidates are requested to complete the "Assistance/Extra Time" section, indicating the aids required for carrying out the test and attaching either the certificate of disability or a valid certification pursuant to the Italian Law no. 104 of 1992, which has to be issued by the local competent medical commission.

Pursuant to the Italian law no. 170/2010 and the Ministerial Decree no. 5669, dated July 12 2011, candidates with a diagnosis of Specific Learning Disorder (SLD) can report their needs by filling-in the appropriate section "Aids/Additional time". They have to declare the aids required or carrying out the tests.

Italian candidates must enclose a certificate that testifies the SLD diagnosis. The certificate must be issued by an Italian National Health Care System Office or by a specialist MD or an accredited body at the candidate's Italian Region. Certificate must be valid and in .pdf format

Once the application registration procedure is completed, candidates must open a ticket on SOS (sos.unife.it) – "Servizio Disabilità e DSA" (Disability service and SLD) section – indicating the registration number assigned by the procedure, before the call deadline.

Candidates with specific learning difficulties (SpLD) residing abroad

Candidates with disabilities or SLD, who are resident in foreign countries and intend to use the aids or the compensatory measures, must submit – according to the above described procedures – a certificate of their disability of SLD status. Certificates must be issued in the country where they are resident, and they Candidates must add a certificate legal translation in Italian or English.

Requests evaluation and supporting measures for Candidates with Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD)

All candidates' requests will be considered accepted with reserve and will be evaluated by the Deputy Rector Delegate for disabilities; by the Examination Commission President; by the Inclusion Policies Coordination – Disability and SLD Service, after possibly having received the opinion of experts in the field of disability and SLD.

It will be up to the Disabilities Service Office to communicate, before the test, to the requesting candidates the kind of granted supporting measures.

The University of Ferrara reserves the right not to grant such supporting measures in case of lack of information, expired documents or documents given after the application deadline.

Art. 6

Selection procedure

The selection procedure includes:

- Titles evaluation: up to 40 points. Only candidates who have obtained a qualifications assessment of at least 30/40 points will be admitted to the interview.
- Interview: up to 40 points (including the foreign language knowledge evaluation)

Minimum final vote: 60/80

The following documents shall be taken into account in the assessment procedure:

Curriculum vitae e studiorum	<i>Curriculum vitae in European format, including any publications and links to them; Full university career (bachelor's + master's/ master's degree, single cycle) with certification or complete self-certification of the profit examinations and related votes, plus graduation grade for graduate candidates.</i>	<i>Up to 10 points</i>
Research project	<i>Research project concerning the chosen subject, obligatorily structured as per the format downloadable to the page http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/Additional grants funded with SEF REACT-EU resources</i>	<i>Up to 30 points</i>

For each research bound thematic, a description sheet is available at <http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/ciclo-37-pon/bando-innovazione>

Regarding the *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* evaluation, the Examining Commissions will consider the Degree, the study course, the graduation mark and/or the weighted average of the academic career, as well as educational and professional experiences deemed worthy of evaluation; possible publications and abstracts or communications at conventions regarding the research subject will also be taken into consideration.

In the evaluation of the Research Project proposed by the candidate the Examining Committees will proceed with the awarding the score, according to the following criteria:

- Completeness, innovation and relevance of the expected results of the proposed research project
- Adherence and interest of the proposed research project to the bound thematic selected by the candidate

The oral exam will consist in the exposition and critical discussion of the research project, the verification of knowledge of the subject regarding the proposed research and the verification of language proficiency in at least one Community language, at the applicant's choice.

Pursuant to art. 3 of D.M. 1061 of 10.08.2021 in the overall evaluation of the applications, with particular reference to the project proposal submitted by the candidates, the Commissions will also take into account the following criteria:

- Relevance of the doctoral course in relation to the capacity to create high added value in terms of scientific, social and economic impact on the national territory; encouraging appropriate research models and the training of professional profiles in response to the innovation and competitiveness needs expressed by the entrepreneurial system, through the promotion of research on innovation, digital area and enabling technologies, supporting the enhancement of human capital, as a determining factor for the development of research and innovation in Italy.
- Compliance of the Ph.D. program with the SNSI and the PNR, with the aim of promoting innovation and the exchange between the world of research and the productive world and qualification of the contribution of research projects in the fields of innovation;
- Measurability of expected results and potential impact of the intervention with reference to the REACTEU goals: presence in the project of the doctoral course of quantifiable and measurable targets consistent with the indicators provided by the PON reference action.

The evaluation of the titles and the oral exam will take place in October.

The calendar of admission tests and the composition of the Examining Committees, articulated by SNSI Thematic Area, will be published within the deadline of this Notice at the page:

<http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/commissioni-borse-aggiuntive-fse-react-eu>

Due to the epidemiological emergency, the oral test will be taken in remote mode, without prejudice to the possibility of providing such a test in presence, in compliance with the rules aimed at containing the epidemiological emergency.

The candidate assumes full and exclusive responsibility for the correct indication of the address that will be used by the Examining Committee for the remote connection. The candidate must be available at the personal address on the day and at the time indicated for the oral test, as stated in this article. The Examining Commissions shall have the full power to draw up a schedule of interviews based on time-limits, possibly in agreement with the candidates.

Candidates admitted to the oral test must show the same ID document they submitted in the application. Each candidate is required, before the oral test begins, to identify herself/himself by showing the ID.

Failure or incorrect communication of the personal e-mail address, the unavailability of the candidate on the day and at the appointed time, as well as the failure to present the identification document are grounds for exclusion from the selective procedure.

The University of Ferrara declines any responsibility for the eventuality that technical reasons prevent the smooth conduct of the oral exam in remote mode.

Art. 7 **Ranking list**

After the approval of the competition proceedings, the ranking lists will be available online at the following web page: http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/Additional_grants_funded_with_SEF_REACT-EU_resources
The rankings will be organized by SNSI Thematic Area and by research bound theme.

Publication of the ranking list will be the only official means of communication of the results, therefore **no personal communication will be sent to winner candidates.**

If a Candidate is eligible in more than one ranking list, he/she must choose only one course of study. The choice of Ph.D. Course made during the enrolment **is considered definitive** and it is not possible to make any changes.

Art. 8
Admission to the Ph.D. Courses

Successful candidates are admitted to the Ph.D. course, after the approval of the selection documents, according to the ranking order and up to the completion of the available positions, according to the provisions in art. 1 and art. 7 of this Notice.

Failure to complete the enrollment procedures entails the forfeiture of the right to be admitted to the course. In this case, vacant positions shall be assigned to those who hold a useful position in the ranking list of merit. In case of equal scores, the evaluation of the economic situation will prevail. This is determined by the ISEE certification – tipologia Prestazioni sociali agevolate per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario (*Social benefits for the Right to University Studies*), that must be complete and accurate, and be issued within January 15, 2022.

Should a candidate be eligible in more ranking lists, she/he must choose only one Ph.D. Course.

Art. 9
How to Enroll in the Courses

Winning candidates must enrol via online procedure, following the enrolment instructions that will be available at the web page:

http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/Additional_grants_funded_with_SEF_REACT-EU_resources

The enrolment deadline is set at 11.30 A.M. of November, 5th 2021 (Italian time CET).

No other enrolment method other than the one indicated will be accepted.

The enrolment application will be considered complete only after submission of all the documents listed in the enrolment guide.

Candidates failing to regularize their position within the deadline will be considered as RENUNCIATIVE candidates and vacant positions will be reassigned according to the ranking order.

Art.10
Replacements

Eligible Candidates that did not win the selection may state their interest in covering any places that may not be taken by winning candidates by filling-in the **REPLACEMENT FORM** and sending it via email to dottorato@unife.it, **within November, 5th 2021, h. 11.30 A.M. (Italian time CET).**

The replacement form can be downloaded at this [link](#).

Those who do not comply with the replacement procedure will not be admitted to the replacement list.

Anyone entitled to take over will receive appropriate communication regarding the possibility and terms of enrollment by the IUSS Office.

Art. 11
Scholarships

The annual gross amount of the scholarship is € 15,343.28 and is subject to National Social Security contributions. Fiscal matters regarding scholarships regulated by art. 4 Law 13th August 1984, n. 476. This amount may be different in case of specific international agreements.

The amount of the scholarship can be increased by 50% for any period spent abroad, for a maximum period of 18 months, except in the case of specific agreements for international mobility projects. The scholarship is paid in monthly-delayed instalments.

Scholarships are granted annually and may be renewed every year for the entire duration of the Course as long as the Ph.D. student passes the annual test, which is assessed by the Academic Board, according to art. 17 of the regulations about Ph.D. of the University of Ferrara, and according to the internal regulations of each course. In case of withdrawing from the course or loss of student status within the first month of the research doctorate course, the student loses the right to receive the payment of the scholarship.

Scholarships cannot be granted in conjunction with fellowships or other grants, except for scholarships awarded by Italian or foreign institutions to support the students' research activities abroad. Students, who have already been granted a scholarship, even partially, cannot be granted a second one.

Art. 12
Enrolment Fees

Candidates holding a Scholarship:

Candidates enrolled in Research Doctorate Courses holding a Scholarship or any other kind of financial support – such as those enrolled in the Ph.D. Course with Industrial Doctorate, Salary Keep or High Apprenticeship programmes - must pay the tuition fees outlined in the table below:

Regional contribution	140,00 €
Stamp duty	16,00 €
Insurance	12,00 €
University contribution	532,00 €
Total annual amount	700,00 €

The payment of the fees for first year students is payable in the instalments outlined below:

Instalment	Amount	Description
I Instalment: At the time of enrolment	28,00 €	Stamp Duty - 16,00 € Insurance - 12,00 €
II Instalment: before 31/01/2022	472,00 €	Regional contribution-140,00 € Contribution - 332,00 €
III Instalment (*): before 16/05/2022	200,00 €	Contribution - 200,00 €

Reductions can be applied to Candidates holding a Scholarship with particular income conditions. Further information regarding tuition fees are available by contacting the **Ufficio Diritto allo Studio Studentesse e Studenti** via the SOS Online System.

Web page: <http://www.unife.it/it/iscriviti/tasse/post-laurea/dottorato>

Candidates without a Scholarship

According to the Law 232/2016, Candidates enrolled to a Research Doctorate course who do not benefit from a Scholarship are exempted from fees and contributions to the University.

The amounts below could be subject to changes in future years.

Regional contribution	140,00 €
Stamp duty	16,00 €
Insurance	12,00 €
Total annual amount	168,00 €

Tuition fees payments for the first year must be paid following the deadlines below mentioned:

I Instalment: At the time of enrolment	28,00 €	Stamp Duty - 16,00 € Insurance - 12,00 €
II Instalment: before 31/01/2022	140,00 €	Regional contribution-140,00 €

In the case of termination of studies, forfeiture or exclusion, students who have already paid the enrolment fee **have no right, under any circumstance, to a refund of this fee.**

ART. 13
Obblighi e Diritti dei dottorandi

In accordance with the D.M. n. 1061 of 10.08.2021, the acceptance of the scholarships subject to this invitation to tender requires the carrying out of periods of study and research in the company from a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of twelve (12) months.

The candidate, from the moment of submission of the application, is aware of the need to carry out, in case of assignment of the position, the planned research periods in the enterprise (minimum 6 months, maximum 12) and that non-compliance with the minimum undertaking period will result in the withdrawal of the scholarship.

In the cases of revocation of the exchange, provided by the Disciplinary annexed to D.M. n. 1061, and in particular in the cases of:

- achievement of the Ph.D. in a way different from the project eligible for funding, if it was not previously requested and subsequently granted the necessary permission by the MUR;
- failure to complete the Ph.D. course (three years) of the minimum period of study and research in the company and the minimum foreign period if envisaged;

- the possible negative judgement of the Board of Professors and the consequent non-admission to the following year of the doctoral course;
- renunciation of doctorate

The University of Ferrara will be able to recover from the beneficiary the amounts received.

Moreover, Phd students are subject to the obligations and benefit from the rights provided by the Research Doctorate Regulations of the University of Ferrara, updated as per D.R. n. 50694 of 14 June 2016, as well as all applicable national rules and regulations of the University of Ferrara.

Art. 14 **Personal Data Protection**

Personal data provided by candidates will be used for administrative purposes only and for possible proceedings for the management of the academic career of the winners only.

The treatment of the personal data will be according to the EU Regulation 2016/679 – General Data Protection Regulation.

The communication regarding the request for personal data is mandatory in order to evaluate the prerequisites for participation, or exclusion of the candidate from the selection process.

The personal data provided can be communicated to the Administration of the Università degli Studi di Ferrara and to related external structures within the framework of the Università degli Studi di Ferrara authorised to manage personal data under the direct control of the Owner of the Service of the Data Protection officer, exclusively for the above-mentioned purposes.

The Data Controller is Università degli Studi di Ferrara, in Via Ariosto, 35, Ferrara – Email: rettore@unife.it, PEC: ateneo@pec.unife.it;

The appointed Data Protection Officer is Lepida S.c.p.A., located in Bologna, Via della Liberazione 15, E-mail: dpo_team@lepida.it, PEC: segreteria@pec.lepida.it

In order to pursue the aims mentioned in this announcement, Personal data can be transferred to the appointed Responsible of Data Treatment: Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario, located in via Magnanelli 6/3 - 40033 Casalecchio di Reno (BO).

Art. 15 **Cross-Reference Norms**

For anything not covered in this announcement, the present norms and regulations regarding Research Doctorates apply.

The person responsible for the procedure regarding the competition in this announcement is the Coordinator of the "Ufficio IUSS".

This competition announcement is available on the University of Ferrara website:

http://www.unife.it/dottorato/it/concorsi/Additional_grants_funded_with_SEF_REACT-EU_resources .

THE RECTOR
G. Zauli