

ABSTRACT
INTERNATIONAL PhD XXVII CYCLE
University of Catania

Activation

The University of Catania for the XXVII cycle has activated the following PhD Courses:

Course title	Duration in years	Places		Associated Universities
		WITH BURSARY	Total	
AGRICULTURAL FIELD				
1. PRODUCTIVITY OF PLANTS CULTIVATED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT	3	5 bursaries: PON	5	Torino – Italy Athens – Greece
2. PHYTOSANITARY TECHNOLOGIES AND DEFENCE OF AGROECOSYSTEMS	3	2 bursaries: PON	2	Agadir – Morocco Inat Iresa - Tunisia
ENGINEERING FIELD				
1. ENERGY	3	5 bursaries: PON	5	Messina – Italy Aalborg - Denmark Montpellier 2 -France Zilina – Slovakia
2. SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	3	4 bursaries: PON	4	Polytechnic Bari - Italy; Tomas Bata Zlin – Czech Republic Iasi – Romania Pazmany – Hungary Potsdam - Germany Emuni – Slovenia
3. INFORMATICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING	3	3 bursaries: Telecom Italia S.p.A.	3	Ostwetfalen-Lippe - Germany Polish Academy – Poland Saint-Petersburg (SUAI) – Russia
MEDICINE AND SURGERY FIELD				
1. TRANSLATIONAL BIOMEDICINE	3	2 bursaries: Ist. Sup. Sanità	2	Nencki - Poland Szeged – Hungary
2. NEUROPHARMACOLOGY	3	8 bursaries: PON	8	Bologne - Italy Chieti Pescara - Italy Milan – Italy Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2 – France
MATHS, PHYSICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES FIELD				
1. NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS	3	- 1 bursary: Dip. di Fisica - 1 bursary: A.S.I.	2	Saint Andrews (Great Britain) Bucharest (Romania)

Admission Requirements

Italian University degree (old regulation, at least 4 years courses) or a specialist degree/master (new regulation 3+2 years courses) or with a foreign certifiably equivalent academic qualification.

In case the academic qualification has not been certified equivalent yet, candidates must request a certification of suitability from the Doctorate Academic Board by attaching the appropriate documents (qualification type, name and duration, study programme specifying each single educational activity including a list of courses taken and their grades). These documents, translated and legalised, must be sent together with the application form.

Candidates must draft their admission separately for each competition in either Italian or English according to the facsimile accompanying this notice.

It is also possible to participate for those regularly attending the last year of a degree course (Italian University degree old regulation or specialist degree/master or foreign certifiably equivalent academic qualification) and that are certain to obtain the diploma within the 30th November 2011. In the latter case admission will be conditioned by the production of the degree diploma before the 05th December 2011, otherwise candidates will lose the right to attend the course.

In any case, the selection Committees will take into account only the qualifications sent by candidates within the deadline of this call for admission.

According to the Italian Law n. 240/2010 (art. 18, co.1, lett. C), those candidates having family relationship or affinity, within the 4th grade included, with an Italian (1st and 2nd category) or foreign professor being a member of the Doctorate Academic Board of the PhD Course they intend to apply, with the Rector or with a Member of the Administration Board of the University of Catania, will not be admitted to the competition.

Therefore, candidates have to declare in the application form, according to art. 47 of the Italian D.P.R. 445/2000, not to have any family relationship or affinity, within the 4th grade included, with an Italian (1st and 2nd category) or foreign professor being a member of the Doctorate Academic Board of the PhD Course they intend to apply, with the Rector, nor with a Member of the Administration Board of the University of Catania. In case of absence of the mentioned declaration, candidates will be excluded.

Application Form

Candidates must fill in the application form available at the website www.unict.it and complete the form with all requested information, following the on-line procedure, not later than the 24th November 2011.

After this deadline, the online procedure will be closed and no applications can be filled in and/or completed. All applications filled in and closed in due time following the on line procedure will be accepted.

Those applications lacking in the declarations concerning the requested admission requirements will be excluded from the selection.

If in the same application form, candidates indicate more than one PhD program, only the first in the list will be considered as valid.

All candidates are admitted conditionally to the competition.

University Administration can dispose, with a motivated measure, the exclusion from the competition.

On the application form, to be filled in Italian or English language, the candidate will declare clearly, precisely and with utmost responsibility:

- a) name and surname, fiscal code, date and place of birth, residence and contact details (postcode, phone, email). For foreigners not having an Italian fiscal code, the online system will generate a temporary fiscal code for registration;
- b) exact denomination of the appropriate competition;
- c) applicant's citizenship;
- d) University degree (at least 4 yrs courses) or a specialist degree/master's (3+2 yrs courses) with the date and University name, or a foreign certifiably equivalent academic qualification, or a qualification for which is requested, for admission purposes only, the certifiability of equivalence to the PhD Academic Board;
- e) any other qualifications to be attached to the application, (see paragraph 4);
- f) a commitment to attend full-time for the entire length of the doctoral course as laid out by the Doctorate Academic Board;

- g) adequate knowledge of English – without which admission is denied – documented either through self authentication or certificates (see paragraph 4, letter b). Foreign candidates must also declare an adequate knowledge of the Italian language by self-authentication or certificates;
- h) a commitment to communicate with the utmost urgency any change in contact details; For disable person:
- i) to have the _____% of handicap level

The following must be declared in the online application:

- a) dated and signed curriculum vitae (CV)
- b) *Graduate Records Examinations, Toefl*, for English language or any other equivalent qualifications;
- c) research project;
- d) at least one Reference letter by a Professor;
- e) a list of any pertinent publications with their abstracts;
- f) photocopy of a valid ID;
- g) qualification title or self-authentication of the title achievement within the 30th November 2011.

The application to the competition must be completed with all requested information, following the online procedure available at the website www.unict.it, not later than the 24th November 2011.

Candidates have to pay, not later than the deadline of this call, a **€100,00 contribution for administrative expenses**.

All requested documents, as like as a stamped copy of the online application, all dated and signed, must, in any case, be presented not later than the 24th November 2011 directly or by post mail, at the following address: “Al Magnifico Rettore dell’Università degli Studi di Catania – Ufficio Dottorato di Ricerca – Piazza Università, 2 – 95131 CATANIA”. If not presented, candidates will be excluded from the competition.

For postal applications the post office date stamp will count.

Furthermore, candidates with foreign qualifications requiring them to be validated by the Doctorate Academic Board must attach to the application form documents related to: type, denomination, course length, study plan specifying each single educational element with their marks.

All attachments must be either in Italian or English.

Everything declared in the CV constitutes declarations which substitute certificates. The candidate assumes complete responsibility for all declarations in the CV. Misrepresentations in the CV will immediately disqualify the candidate and any/all bursary must be refunded retroactively, and in addition there may be further sanctions by the Italian Law. The Administration reserves the right to effect any necessary lawful investigation. The University reserves the right in any case to exclude any candidate who does not comply with all the requirements of the Notice.

The University Administration assumes no responsibility for the loss of communication due to inexact contact details or late communication in the correction of given details, nor for any postal slip-ups or missed calls attributable to the mentioned Administration.

Application must be filled in according the online procedure at the following website address: www.unict.it

Candidates must fill in the participation application following the online procedure. Once completed and closed, the system will send an email to the indicated email address, confirming the application registration.

In any case, at the end of registration (otherwise candidates will lose the right to attend the course) candidates must submit, before the expiring date of the 24th November 2011, together with a copy of the registration made on line, all the titles and documents dated and signed. All these documents can be submitted directly or through mail services, to the following address “Al Magnifico Rettore dell’Università degli Studi di Catania – Ufficio Dottorato di Ricerca – Piazza Università, 2 – 95131 CATANIA”.

The University administration is not responsible for incorrect information related to residence or contact number as well as missed or late communication of changes. The administration, in any case, will verify the content of applications, and can decide to exclude from the course, with determined measure.

Procedures for participation:

New users, being without 'pin code' issued by the Università of Catania, must click the voice "portale studenti" and then "registrazione utente". For foreign students without fiscal code the system will create a temporary fiscal code useful for registration only. At the end of the registration procedures new users will have their personal 'pin code'.

The described procedure does not apply to whom is already registered and own a personal 'pin code'.

After having the "registrazione utente" done, click the voice "portale studenti", enter the fiscal code and the PIN code, that the system has previously created for you, under the voice "login". Then click the voice "versamenti" while choosing the course "concorso ammissione DOTTORATO" and select the voice "dottorato di ricerca (995)", following the system instructions.

In order to pay the €100, 00 contribution, use one of the following options:

a) immediate on line payment Payable by credit card (visa and MasterCard only). In this case after registration of payment, take a note of the ID and click the voice "pagamenti on line" and follow instructions.

b) postponed payment (Epos procedure) After registration of payment, take a note of the ID and go to the nearest Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.P.A. In this case the payment must be registered at least one day before the deadline of the call.

Once the payment is made, candidate must fill the application (istanza di partecipazione) according to instructions available on the website.

In order to close "chiusura" the application, it must be entered the identification number of the payment. Once "chiusura" is made the system will send an email at the email address indicated, confirming that the operation has been completed.

The university administration is not responsible for incorrect contact details or late communication of changes in the contact details.

The administration, in any case, will verify data entered in the application as well as check the correspondence of the identification number and the payment.

The administration, in any moment, may exclude from the competition, with motivated measures.

Allocation of places

The doctoral places are financed according to the following criteria:

Bursaries financed by the PON Industrial Research Funds

- PhD in "*Energy*": n. 5 bursaries – Energy and Energy Conservation Field
- PhD in "*Systems Engineering*": n. 4 bursaries – Energy and Energy Conservation Field;
- PhD in "*Neuropharmacology*": n. 8 bursaries – Human Health and Biotechnologies Field;
- PhD in "*Productivity of Plants Cultivated in the Mediterranean Environment*": n. 5 bursaries – Food Farming Field;
- PhD in "*Phytosanitary Technologies and Defence of Agro-ecosystems*": n. 2 bursaries – Food Farming Field;

Bursaries financed by public and private Institutions:

- PhD in "*Translational Biomedicine*": n. 2 bursaries by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità;
- PhD in "*Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering*:" n. 3 bursaries by Telecom Italia S.p.A.;
- PhD in "*Nuclear And Particle Astrophysics*": n. 1 bursary by the Agenzia Spaziale Italiana - **subject:** "*Ultra high Energy Astrophysics from space and ground based experiments: Fermi and AGILE satellites, MAGIC and H.E.S.S. Cherenkov telescopes*";
- PhD in "*Nuclear And Particle Astrophysics*": n. 1 bursary by the Dipartimento di Fisica of the University of Catania.

The Doctorate Academic Board of each PhD will assign bursaries to PhD students, on the basis of projects and training fields.

Selection Process

The selection process for the admission to each doctorate consists in evaluating the following documents:

- a. degree;
- b. CV;
- c. *Graduate Records Examinations, Toefl*, for English language, or any other equivalent qualifications;
- d. Publications, if any;
- e. Research project.

The selection pass mark is 80/120.

Commissions will evaluate only titles and qualification presented before the expiry dates of this call.

Nomination and duties of the Examining Commission

Each examining commission for admission to doctoral courses are formed and nominated in accordance with the law.

Prior to evaluating any qualifications, each commission must establish the general criteria. Each commission has 120 points available for the evaluation of each candidate.

The selection pass mark is 80/120.

Once the selection is completed, the commission will compile a pass list signed by the President and Secretary of the Commission which is then posted in the notice board of the place in which selection took place.

In the case that two or more candidates classify with the same points, the commission will interview the candidates so that the pass list can be differentiated.

Approval of the Competition Acts

The Competition Acts and the Pass List together with the proclamation of winners will be approved by a decree of the Rector of the Università degli Studi di Catania. Pass lists will be published on line on the University website.

Course Admission

Candidates will be admitted to the courses according to the pass list order and to the number of places available for each doctoral course. Should any candidates withdraw, the next candidate in descending order would take the place. Should any candidate be listed in more than one list, only one doctoral course may be followed.

Candidates having a 66% or more of handicap level, being eligible, but not winner, will be admitted to the PhD course in the places outside the admission list, without bursary, within half of the given places, rounded in excess and are dispensed with tax and contributions

Registration Form

Winning candidates must submit the following documents within 20 days from the day after notice of winning:

1. binding request for enrolment in the 1st year of the course;
2. photocopy of the original fiscal code;
3. self-authenticated statement of:
 - a. place and date of birth
 - b. citizenship;
 - c. degree with marks, date and University or equivalent foreign University qualification;
 - d. not being simultaneously enrolled on a degree or university diploma course, nor at a school of specialisation nor on another doctorate course;
 - e. commitment for the entire length of the course, the non-enrolment on a degree or university diploma course, nor at a school of specialisation nor on another doctorate course;
 - f. never been awarded and used a bursary for another research doctorate;
 - g. commitment to assiduously frequent all the activities of the doctorate as laid out by the Doctorate Academic Board;

- h. being aware that the bursary of this Notice cannot be accumulated with another bursary except with those allowed by national or foreign institutions useful for integrate, with foreign travel, education or research activities of the bursary holder;
- i. not benefiting from a personal annual income of over €12.000,00 or to forgo the bursary should that limit be exceeded (to calculate annual income all incomings must be counted, excluding paid occasional activities, army income, and civilian duty);

Foreign citizens must also be in possession of the following:

- a) to own civil and political rights in their home country;
- b) all the prerequisites required of Italian citizens except Italian citizenship.

If requested documents will not be presented in due time, this will be considered as a renounce to the Doctorate, whatever the reason is.

Bursary

The bursary will be awarded to the highest classified winners provided their annual income does not exceed €12.000,00 gross and according to the current norms.

To receive the bursary, the candidate must provide:

- a) self-certification of gross annual income;
- b) photocopy of the INPS (national pensions) form confirming a position as contributor;
- c) declaration of awareness that the bursary of this Notice is exempt of personal income tax and that however its use cannot give rise to assessments which affect judicial or economic careers.

Any unclaimed bursaries or fractions thereof shall contribute to those in the following cycle of doctorate courses.

The bursary is to be applied to the entire length of the doctorate course, being confirmed upon admission of the bursary holder and awarded to the top ranked winners. The bursary is worth **€13.638,47 indexlinked gross annually**, the value of the bursary will be adjusted according to raise scheduled by the Italian Law.

At the end of each year of the course, students must prepare and present a report of their activities and research to Doctorate Academic Board whose evaluation will determine their admission to the following year or a proposal to the Rector of exclusion from the course.

Before the 15th of November every year students must enrol to the following year, enrolment is conditioned by the deliberation of the teaching board, according to the PhD regulation of the Università degli Studi di Catania (art.14), in case of missing enrolment to the years following the first will justify exclusion from the PhD.

The bursary will be raised by 50% for any periods at Universities or research institutions abroad. Disbursement is based on attendance, and effective study and research activity. Bursaries for research doctorates are entitled to tax relief according to Italian Law (Law no. 476, 13/8/1984).

The bursaries cannot be accumulated with another bursary except with those allowed by national or foreign institutions useful for integrate, possibly with foreign travel, education or research activities of the bursary holder.

Whoever makes use of a bursary for a research doctorate even for only one year or fraction thereof, cannot apply a second time.

Incompatibility

The students admitted to the course of research doctorate cannot be simultaneously enrolled on any other university course (degree or university diploma course I, or II level, school of non-medical specialisation, specialisation abroad, nor on another doctorate course etc.)

The students enrolled to a doctorate course, winner of a place with bursary, cannot receive, in addition to the bursary, any other payments resulting from funds of the budget of the University of Catania.

On the contrary, the students enrolled to the doctorate course without a bursary can receive the above mentioned contributions only for carrying out research activity.

Civil Servants

A civil servant admitted to the course of research doctorate is required to be on special study leave (art. 2 Law n°476/84) and subsequent modifications and integrations (art. 52, c.57 of the Law 28/12/2001, n. 448, Financial Law 2002)

Student Obligations

Enrolled students must attend the doctorate courses and assiduously carry out the activities of study and research in the premises designated by the PhD Academic Board.

Attainment of Qualification

The title *Dottore di Ricerca* (PhD) is attained at the end of the course by passing the final exam. The title is conferred by the Rector of the University of Catania to those students who, having passed the final exam, have obtained a relevant scientific outcome documented through a final written dissertation or a graphic work. These outcomes are verified by a Commission, established according to the Regulations of the University of Catania for Research Doctorates.

The certificate attesting the title achievement is released after the PhD student has made the registration of his/her final thesis in the institutional archive of the University of Catania in which the thesis will be filed and can be consulted. After the release of the title of *Dottore di Ricerca* (PhD), the University of Catania will take care of the legal registration, in an electronic way, in the national Libraries of Rome and Florence. The thesis registration can be postponed up to a year, under the PhD student request, for patent covering reasons.

Personal data

Candidates personal data are the responsibility of the University of Catania to be used only in the management of correlated procedures according to the decree n. 196/2003 and the Regulations used by the University of Catania.

Postponement

Although not explicitly reported in this Notice, Ministerial Decree 224 of 30/04/1999, law 210/98, in the Regulations of the University of Catania for Research Doctorates, and in subsequent modifications as well as in the conventions of interuniversity and international cooperation, provide for eventual postponements.

Date, _____

Signed by
the Rector of the University of Catania
(A. Recca)

and who, according to Law 448 (Finance Law 2002) of 28/12/2001, art. 52 ss. 57 “*In the case of admission to a research doctorate without bursary, or by forgoing such, the candidate retains his salary, pension and social security contributions. Should the qualification be assigned, the aforementioned salary and contributions should continue for the next two years despite the role with the public administration having ceased by choice of the researcher for the two years following the assignment.*”

i) not to have any family relationship or affinity, within the 4th grade included, with an Italian (1st and 2nd category) or foreign professor being a member of the Doctorate Academic Board of the PhD Course they intend to apply, with the Rector nor with a Member of the Administration Board of the University of Catania.

l) to be acquainted with all the norms of the Competition Notice, the ‘*Regulations of the University of Catania, Research Doctorate*’ as well as all the other pertinent dispositions and norms.

Due attachments to the application form:

- 1) candidate’s CV, dated and signed;
- 2) *Graduate Records Examinations* , *Toefl*, for English language, or any other equivalent qualifications;
- 3) research project;
- 4) at least one Reference letter of a Professor;
- 5) list of publications with corresponding abstracts;
- 6) Degree Diploma;
- 6) photocopy of a valid ID;

I authorise the use of my personal details and those relative to my university career as per decree n. 196/2003

Tick the box and sign.

YES signature _____ NO signature _____

Date _____

Signature _____