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**UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH VERSION OF THE DECREE N. 823 OF 2024/02/02**

**This document has no legal value and it released to help foreign candidates.**

**For the official documents please refer to the Italian version of the decree n. 823 of  
2024/02/02**

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CALL FOR SELECTION FOR ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS MIGRATIONS,  
DIFFERENCES, SOCIAL JUSTICE  
UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO  
Academic Year 2023/2024 (XXXIX Cycle)

THE RECTOR

*<List of referred Italian laws inside the decree n. 823 of 2024/02/02>*

DECREES

**Art. 1**

**Call for selection for one PhD position -Doctoral Course in Migrations, Differences, Social  
Justice**

A public selection based on project evaluation, qualifications and interview is announced for the Doctoral Course in Migrations, Differences, Social Justice – A.Y. 2023/2024 (XXXIX cycle) – Administrative Headquarters at University of Palermo. It is available a position with scholarship financed by Università degli Studi di Firenze, “Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie, Alimentari Ambientali e Forestali – DAGRI.

The scholarship is financed with funds from the research project “PRETICVBURUNDI” of the DAGRI-UNIFI (contrat n° PRRPB-IDA-D276-BI/108107/CS/CDS/2019 pour le renforcement des capacites et la supervision des travaux de terrassement, de bio-ingenierie et de recuperation de l'eau de pluie), whose scientific director is Professor Federico PRETI, full professor of SSD AGR/08 Idraulica agraria e sistemazioni idraulico-forestali at the Department of “Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie, Alimentari, Ambientali e Forestali (DAGRI)” of the Università degli Studi di Firenze.

Date, time and location of the test will be published on the website at the following link [www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati). This publication will be considered for all intents and purposes as notification.

**Art. 2**

**Admission requirements**

1. Degrees required



According to the scientific purposes of the research project to which the scholarship is linked, the PhD position will be assigned to a candidate in possession of all the following criteria:

- Master's degree belonging to the following degree classes: LM-23 Ingegneria civile, LM-35 Ingegneria per l'ambiente e il territorio, LM-69 Scienze e tecnologie agrarie, LM-73 Scienze e Tecnologie Forestali ed Ambientali, and equivalent or foreign academic qualification.
- Presentation of a research project based on the following topic: *"Research activity on the analysis of the performance of soil and water conservation techniques, built also with the use of native plant species, in the Great Lakes Region, in particular for the case study of Burundi. The research tools to be used may be based on field data, interviews and questionnaires, satellite analysis, and agro-hydrological and erosion phenomena modelling"*.

Candidates without a qualification belonging to one of the above-mentioned degree classes will be excluded from the competition.

May participate candidates in possession of an academic qualification awarded abroad equivalent in terms of level of study (Master's Degree) to the access qualifications specified above.

May also participate candidates who already hold a research doctorate. In this case the candidate, if he has already benefited from a doctoral scholarship, even partially, may be admitted without scholarship, but only if in useful placement in the merit ranking of the winners.

All candidates are admitted to the selections with reserve.

After the verification of the documentation produced, if the academic qualification held does not comply with the above requirements or the declarations made are not true, at any time the University may order the exclusion from the selection procedure of the course and a Rector decree will be issued. In case of false declarations, the university will be able to take legal action.

2. Admission to the selection for candidates in the process of obtaining their degree.

Can participate to the selection candidates that will be awarded of the master's degree before the date of the enrollment in the PhD. Candidates have 15 days from the graduation day to send to the Research Doctorate Office, under penalty of exclusion, a self-certification declaration (or a certification in the case of a title obtained in non-EU countries) of the successful achievement of the title.

3. Academic qualification obtained abroad

Citizens in possession of an academic qualification obtained abroad, equivalent in terms of level of study to the Italian academic qualifications required for access to the doctorate course, must attach the degree certificate issued by the university of origin to the application form. If the academic qualification has not already been declared equivalent to an Italian qualification, the board of examinee will ascertain the suitability of the qualification, in compliance with art. 2 of Law 148/2002, of the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued, as well as of the treaties of international agreements on the matter of recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies. The suitability ascertained by the commission will be valid only for the purpose of accessing the competition.

Candidates holding qualifications obtained in a non-European country, in case of admission to the course, must produce an Italian legal translation of the qualifications or a "declaration of local value", issued by the Italian diplomatic-consular, in compliance with the Italian law on the foreign students admission to Italian Universities.

Foreign qualifications can be replaced by the Diploma Supplement, issued by the competent institutions according to the standards established by the European Commission and concern the overall training path for obtaining the degree. The University reserves the right to request the "declaration of local value" in cases where there are doubts about the validity of the qualification.



Candidates with a foreign academic qualification will be admitted to the selection with reserve. A candidate will be excluded from the selection of from the PhD course if it turns out that his qualification does not comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

#### 4. Fee for participation in the competition procedure

To participate in the competition, in compliance with the resolution of the Board of Directors no. 05 – 2013.11.4, candidates are required to pay a contribution of € 50.00, under penalty of exclusion, before the deadline for submitting the application.

The payment, in no case refundable, must be made through the PagoPA service, accessible from the online procedure of the student portal or at any PSP (Payment Service Providers - in the Italian territory). For more information, see the page <https://unipa.it/ateneo/pagamenti.html>.

Those who pay the competition fee in ways other than those described above or outside the deadline will not be allowed to participate in the competition procedure.

Disabled people with confirmed infirmity higher than 66% are exempt from paying the participation fee.

### **Art. 3**

#### **Applications of admission**

Candidates must observe the following steps of the online procedure:

- a) Register on the Student Portal of the University of Palermo, available at <http://studenti.unipa.it> - To register, select the link "Click here to register on the Student Portal" and follow the instructions. Already registered candidates can skip directly to point b);
- b) access the Student Portal <http://studenti.unipa.it> using your credentials (username and password), click on "Click here to access your Reserved Area";
- c) click on "New Practice" item inside the "PRACTICES" menu. Select the item "Dottorati di ricerca/PhD" from the proposed list and then select "Application for participation in the competition for access to a PhD course / PhD Courses - Call for applicants";
- d) complete the online application;
- e) at the end of the procedure, for candidates not subject to exemption, a payment PagoPA receipt of € 50 (fifty/00) is generated. The fee is in no case refundable and must be paid according to the methods indicated in the previous article point 4, by the deadline date of the announcement, published at the link:

[www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/)

The application for participation in the competition for admission to the PhD course, completed online, is valid as a self-certification made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000 and art. 3 of Law no. 127/97.

The candidate must also attach to the application, via upload, the following documents in pdf format:

1) (Annex A) - Europass Curriculum Vitae

2) (Attachment B) - Research project. Brief description of the research project proposed by the candidate and of the objectives and obtainable results.

3) (Attachment C) - Self-certification signed and rendered pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000, of the qualification obtained and the exams taken. For qualifications obtained abroad, attach the Diploma Supplement or degree certificate issued by the university of origin or similar certification (in Italian or English) of the overall educational path for the achievement of the degree, which constitutes an access requirement.



4) (Annex D) - Signed self-certification, made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000, of the additional qualifications held and any scientific publications.

5) Copy of a valid identification/passport document.

6) In case of disability, the medical certificate certifying the disability higher than 66%.

Graduating students must attach a copy of the exams taken or an equivalent self-certification, made pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000.

Graduating students from foreign universities must attach certification of the exams taken (in Italian or English), issued by the University of origin.

The following will cause exclusion from the competition procedure:

- the lack of possession of a qualification belonging to one of the degree classes indicated in the doctoral file;
- qualifications obtained abroad, not equivalent in terms of level of study (Master's Degree) to the qualifications specified in the course description, which consequently do not give access to PhD programmes;
- self-certifications of the access title without signature pursuant to D.P.R. 445/2000;
- failure to submit one of the following documents: Research Project (Annex B), Self-certification of admission qualification (Annex C), copy of identification document.

The publications and qualifications owned by the candidate and listed in Annex D must not be uploaded with the application form. The candidate can indicate an institutional link, where the examining commission can view them.

The candidate with a disability must specify in the application form, in accordance with Law 104/92, as integrated by law 17/99, the necessary assistance in relation to their condition.

The documents presented must be drafted/translated into Italian or English, by and under the responsibility of the candidate.

It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the correct conclusion of the procedure through the Student Portal (section "PRACTICES" - "MY PRACTICES"). The application will be duly submitted if at the end of the procedure the program returns the information that it is in the status "BOLLETTINO PAGATO" (if payment of the € 50.00 fee is due), or "CONSEGNATA" (only in the case of exemption from payment of the fee).

Complaints will not be accepted for any malfunctioning of the computer system due to overloads encountered by candidates near the deadline. Therefore, it is advisable to send the application for participation in the competition well in advance of the deadline date of the announcement.

All candidates are conditionally admitted to the competition procedure. Failure to participate to the interview, regardless of the reason, is equivalent to renunciation.

The Administration may order at any time, with a motivated provision, the exclusion due to lack of the required requisites. This provision will be communicated to the interested party at the e-mail address registered in the student portal.

The University Administration assumes no responsibility in the event of loss of communications, due to inaccurate indications by the candidate of residence, address, e-mail address, or failure or late communication of the change of the same.

#### **Art. 4**



### **Board of examiners**

The boards of examiners for the admission to the PhD Courses are composed respecting the art. 11 of the Regulations for PhD courses. They are proposed by the PhD Boards and appointed by the Rector.

### **Art. 5 Admission tests**

#### **1. Method of selection**

The competition will take place through project evaluation, qualifications, and interview.

The interviews are public and could take place online, through the Microsoft Teams platform.

The list of candidates and the relative annexes to the applications are made available to the coordinators of the doctoral courses who will forward them to the Presidents of the Commissions.

If the interview will be online, the admitted candidates will receive an e-mail with the link for the interview on Microsoft Teams.

#### **2. Evaluation criteria: project, qualifications and telematic interview**

The Board of examiners have a total of 100 points distributed as follows:

Project Evaluation - maximum 30 points.

The test is passed with the minimum vote of 21/30.

- For the evaluation of the projects, the Commissions will have a maximum of 30 points available and, if the project receives an evaluation of at least 21 points, the candidate will be admitted to the oral test. The project will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. *Originality of the project: maximum 15 points;*
2. *Consistency with the research topics of the doctorate and with any restricted topic on which the candidate has expressed a preference: maximum 10 points;*
3. *Methodological rigor and knowledge of the reference scientific literature: maximum 5 points.*

Evaluation of qualifications - maximum 10 points.

- For the evaluation of qualifications, each Commission will comply with the following criteria:

1. *Entry title to the competition: 0 points;*
2. *Other second level degree: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
3. *PhD title: 1 point (max 2 points);*
4. *Certificate of post-graduate specialization university courses: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
5. *Attendance of specialization schools recognized by the MUR: 0.2 points/year (max 1 point);*
6. *2nd level University Master recognized by the MUR: 0.5 points (max 1 point);*
7. *Post-graduate periods spent in Italian or foreign scientific institutions: 0.1 points/month (max 2 points).;*
8. *Scientific publications: 1 point (max 2 points), only publications published on the deadline date of the call will be evaluated, which will be relevant to the objectives of the course and provided with ISBN, ISSN, ISMN or DOI.*

The maximum overall score attributed to scientific qualifications and publications cannot exceed 10 points. Higher scores will be considered equal to 10.

The assessment of qualifications is carried out before the oral test takes place, with a document attached to the minutes.

Interview - maximum 60 points.



The test is passed with the minimum grade of 31/60.

The test will be aimed at ascertaining the preparation, skills and aptitude of the candidate for scientific research. The exam consists of an interview in which the candidate will present the research project attached to the application.

For all candidates, the interview will take place online through the Microsoft Teams platform, according to the provisions of the Commission. Before starting test candidates, under penalty of exclusion from participation, must show a valid identification document deposited in copy with the application form.

Candidates must have a Personal Computer (laptop or desktop), possibly also a tablet, an Internet connection with a download speed of at least 1024 Kbs and 512 Kbs for upload, Webcam and microphone.

The candidate must also demonstrate good knowledge of the English language.

The Commissions can decide that the oral exam will be held in English.

The list of candidates admitted to the interview, with the indication of the score assigned to the research project and the qualifications, will be published online at link [www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati).

The date of the interviews will be published at the link: [www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/) and will be valid as notification and official convocation of the candidates, who therefore will not have to wait for further communication.

Interviews dates will be published at least twenty days before the starting date in compliance with art. 6 D.P.R. 487/1994. Any changes to the dates or place of the tests will be published at the same link and will be valid as notification and official convocation. Candidates Therefore will not have to wait for further communication.

Failure to communicate the personal email, failure to connect, absence or unavailability of the candidate on the established day/time, failure to show a valid identification document, will cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

## **Art. 6**

### **Rankings and admission to the courses**

At the end of the selection procedures for the PhD course, a general merit ranking will be compiled, showing all suitable candidates. The ranking will contain the score attributed to the candidates and any preferences expressed for the scholarships with a restricted theme (maximum 5);

The merit ranking will be approved by Rector's Decree, having ascertained the regularity of the documents.

In case of equal merit, the younger female candidate will precede.

In case of equal merit with all male candidates, the younger candidate will precede.

The merit ranking will be published exclusively at the following link: [www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/)

This publication is valid as official notification to the candidates and will take place after the conclusion of the competition tests. No home communications will be sent.

Appeals against the ranking will not be admitted after the sixtieth day from the approval of the competition documents by rectoral decree.

In case of available position due to renunciation, a communication will be sent to the suitable incoming candidate setting a deadline to complete the enrolment procedure.

Failure to register within the indicated deadline will be considered as renunciation.

## **Art. 7**



### **Italian public employees**

Italian public employees in a winner position, will be admitted to the doctoral course, upon payment of the fees for access and attendance.

An Italian public employee, who is a winner position, can alternatively:

- Benefit from the doctoral grant: in this case the public administration, with which the employment relationship is established, "compatibly with its needs", places the employee on extraordinary leave for study reasons, without pay, for the duration of the doctoral course (Law 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended by art. 52, paragraph 57 of Law no. 448 of 28.12.2001 and by Law no. 240 of 30.12. 2010 art. 19, point 3, paragraph a);
- Renouncing the scholarship: in this case the public administration, with which the employment relationship is established, "compatibly with its needs", places the employee on extraordinary leave for study reasons, for the duration of the doctoral course; the same is admitted to the doctoral course as a supernumerary and retains the economic treatment relating to his employment relationship.
- The period of extraordinary leave is useful for the purposes of career progression, retirement and social security treatment, enjoyed by the administration to which they belong. Special leave, with or without allowances, shall not be granted to public employees who have already obtained a PhD degree or to those who have been enrolled in doctoral courses for at least one academic year and who have received such leave. (Law n. 240 of 30.12.2010 art. 19 point 3) paragraph b).

### **Art. 8 Enrollment**

The winning candidate must enroll online, within the peremptory deadline of 7 days, starting from the day following the publication of the ranking list on the website:

[www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/)

The procedure can be completed by accessing the Students Portal (<http://studenti.unipa.it>) using the same credentials received during registration. The enrollment procedure can be started through the link "Enrollment application for a PhD course" that can be reached via the hypertext path *APPLICATIONS – NEW APPLICATION FORM - Dottorati di Ricerca/PhD*. At the end of the procedure, after uploading the self-certifications, the Research project and others required documents in pdf format, a PagoPA payment receipt is printed. Using the PagoPA service the candidate can pay the enrollment fee.

Applicants who fail to pay the enrollment fee by the deadline will be excluded from the course and this decision will be irrevocable.

### **Art. 9 Contributions for access and attendance to courses**

The annual fee for PhD courses is determined by resolution no. 8.15 of the Board of Directors of 2022/07/05 and with Decree no. 3045 of 2022/17/11, as specified below:

Secretarial fees € 200.00  
Regional tax €140.00  
Stamp duty €16.00

People with a disability higher than 66% are exempt from paying the secretarial fees.

Who has used a scholarship for a PhD course, even for a single year or a fraction of it, can not apply for a second time and is placed among the winners in excess of the grant.

### **Art. 10**



### **Scholarship**

The annual scholarship is € 16,243 gross amount (Ministerial Decree No. 247 of 23 February 2022) including social security charges to be paid by the PhD student and it's subject to the INPS social security contribution.

In any case, the granting of the scholarship can only take place after the doctoral student, at the time of enrollment, has provided his/her bank details (IBAN). For payment purposes can be used only personal bank account number

The PhD student must be in possession of a valid tax code (Codice Fiscale) and has to be registered to the "Gestione Separata" service of INPS.

The scholarship is annual and is renewed only if the PhD student is admitted to the next year by the PhD Board.

Scholarship payments are one month postponed.

The scholarship is increased by 50% in proportion and in relation to periods of training abroad. The period abroad has to be authorized by Board of PhD and can't be more than eighteen months.

Scholarships are subject to the provisions on tax relief as stated in art. 4 of the law 13.8.1984 n. 476 and in art. 6.6 of the law 398/89.

For the entire duration of the course, doctoral students are not allowed to combine their scholarship with others conferred for any reason, except with those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for integrating the training or research activity of the scholarship holders with stays abroad (Article 6 of Law No. 398 of 30th November 1989).

### **Art. 11**

#### **Attendance and obligations of doctoral students**

Admission to the PhD involves an exclusive full-time commitment, according to the Regulations of the PhD courses of the University of Palermo.

Doctoral students are required to carry out their research activity according to the guide and rules established by the PhD Board, in compliance with the training plan defined in the activation proposal, except as specified in the art. 12 of D.M. n. 226 of 14/12/2021.

At the end of each course year, doctoral students have to submit a report on their research. The PhD Board may ask doctoral students to prepare reports and/or intermediate reports in order to evaluate their training path.

The PhD Board decides on admission to the following year or, in case of a negative assessment, on exclusion from the course.

Exclusion from the course is not allowed in cases of maternity or serious and documented illness.

In the event of unjustified suspension, lasting more than thirty days, the scholarship will be suspended and recovered later.

In compliance with art. 14, point 3), of the Regulations of the Research Doctorate courses of the University of Palermo, "PhD students can carry out up to 40 hours, as part of the training project and, under authorization of the PhD Board, tutoring activities to students of degree programmes and master's degree students. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, doctoral students are paid the allowances referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of Decree-Law 9 May 2003, n. 105, converted, with amendments, by Law 11 July 2003, n. 170."

The PhD students are required to enroll to "Gestione separata" INPS.

### **Art. 12**

#### **Incompatibility**

Enrollment in the doctoral course is incompatible with enrollment in Italy and abroad in other doctoral courses. Thesis co-supervision and international doctorates which require double enrollment are an





exception. For joint attendance of a doctoral course and a Master course, it's necessary to get a positive evaluation from the respective Boards.

#### **Art. 13**

##### **Achievement of the PhD title**

The title of research doctor, abbreviated with the words: "Dott. Ric." or "Ph.D.", is released after the the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by a summary in Italian or English, is written in Italian or English or in another language with the prior authorization of the PhD Board. The thesis is defended in front a Commission that formulates an articulated judgment, which takes into account the judgments expressed by the PhD Board for the research developed in the three years course. The title of PhD is awarded upon passing a final exam. In order to take this exam, the PhD student has to be admitted to th "final exams" by the Teachers' Committee at the end of the third year of the course, with the payment of a fee for admission to the exams and stamp duties required by law. This oral examination will be evaluated by a special Commission established in accordance with art. 16 of the "Regulations of the PhD courses" of the University of Palermo.

The University takes care of the deposit of the thesis at the national libraries of Rome and Florence, through the IRIS application and guarantees its public consultation on the web.

The title of PhD is conferred by the Rector who certifies this achievement with the release of a parchment.

#### **Art. 14**

##### **Managing of personal data**

In compliance to legislative decree n, 196/2003, the University will respect the confidential nature of the information provided by the candidate. All data received will be processed only for the purposes connected to the competition and to the management of the PhD student's career, up to the achievement of the PhD title. PhD students enrolled in PhD courses will be officially registered on the private mailing lists of the University of Palermo, used by the university to send communications to all PhD students.

#### **Art. 15**

##### **Responsible for the procedure**

According to art. 5 of law n. 241/1990, the official responsible for the procedure referred to in this announcement is Mr Carmelo Priolo - email: dottorati@unipa.it. For further information, candidates can contact the Area Ricerca e Trasferimento Tecnologico - U.O. Research Doctorates, Piazza Marina n. 61 - 90133 Palermo, telephone +39 091 238 93135 / 99521 / 93345 / 93127 / 93796.

#### **Art. 16**

##### **Final rules**

Although not explicitly reported in this announcement, reference is made to the rules contained in Law no. 210/98, in the D.M. no. 224 of 30.4.1999, in the law 240/2010, in the D.M. no. 226 of 2021/14/12, published in the GURI n. 308 of 2021/12/29, in the Regulations of the PhD courses of the University of Palermo, issued with DR n. 3900 of 2022/09/09, as well as with the other provisions in force on the matter.

This call for applications and related attachments are available on the University of Palermo website at: [www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/](http://www.unipa.it/didattica/dottorati/)

Attached to this notice:



- 1 PhD sheet, one for each PhD course in Migrations, Differences, Social Justice;
- Europass Curriculum Vitae template (Annex A);
- Project template (Annex B);
- Substitutive Declaration template relating to the certification of the admission qualification and study plan with the exams taken and the grades obtained (Annex C)
- Self-certification Declaration template, relating to the list of qualifications and publications held (Annex D);

THE RECTOR  
Prof. Massimo MIDIRI