INTERNATIONAL PHD COURSE IN
ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY
in agreement with
MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY
SAPIENZA UNIVERSITA’ DI ROMA

SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT
32ND CYCLE
Deadline: 6 October 2016, 13.00 (CEST)

Art. 1 - PURPOSE

For the 2016/2017 academic year – 32nd cycle the University of Padova publishes the Selection Announcement for admission to the PhD Course ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION AND VASCULAR BIOLOGY (hereunder called Selection Announcement) in agreement with Maastricht University and Sapienza Università di Roma.

The agreements detail the relationships, contributions and responsibilities of the Parties, the organisation of the course, financial management and teaching resources made available at each Institution for every course.

The PhD Course table (Appendix 1) specifies the fields of research, plus candidate selection criteria and methods so that a ranking may be drawn up. The table also includes the number of funded and unfunded places available, which will be awarded in accordance with the PhD Course ranking.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. The Selection Announcement is open to applicants with the qualifications listed hereunder, irrespective of their citizenship:
   - Italian Diploma di Laurea (vecchio ordinamento);
   - Master’s Degree (Italian Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale - nuovo ordinamento);
   - An academic qualification issued by a non-Italian university and recognized as equivalent to an Italian second-cycle higher education degree by Italy’s academic authorities.

   The eligible qualification must be in the field of Biological Science. The Admissions Committee may also take into consideration qualifications awarded in other fields.

2. Admission of graduands

   Applicants waiting to be awarded a qualification may also apply for the entry examinations provided they obtain their qualification no later than 31st October 2016. If not their admission will be forfeited. These applicants will be admitted on condition (sub condicione) that they submit their qualifications by 31st October 2016 together with a copy of a valid identity document. They must submit all relevant documentation of the awarding of their qualification by fax to +39 049 8271934 or in person at Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca, via del Risorgimento, 9 – Padova (Italy). Certifications (or self-certifications, in case of degrees awarded by Italian Institutions or in EU
countries) should state the name of the awarding University, award date, grade and type of qualification.

3. Admission of applicants with foreign (non-Italian) qualifications not yet recognized as equivalent to an Italian second-cycle higher education degree by Italy’s academic authorities

Applicants with a foreign qualification, provided it is equivalent to a second cycle degree as per Italian legislation, may still apply with reserve. The course should have had duration of four years and give access to a PhD course in the country in which it was obtained. Eligibility will be ascertained by the course’s Admissions Committee. Hence, in their online application, candidates must request an evaluation of their qualification. Evaluation by the PhD course’s Admissions Committee is valid for the sole purpose of admission to the selection procedure.

Applicants must send:
1. a copy of the degree certificate with a level rating or final grade, where available;
2. a complete academic transcript including a list of the examinations and grades;
3. any other documentation that may help evaluate the qualification (e.g. Diploma Supplement, European-format Curriculum Vitae);
4. a translation of the documents attached in Italian or English under the applicant’s own liability.

Art. 3 – APPLICATION

Applications for the selection procedure must be completed online, starting from 6 September 2016 in accordance with the procedures explained on:

Once the online application form has been completed, it must be signed following the instructions of the online application and an identity document must be attached. If the application is not signed and/or the identity document is not attached, applicants will be excluded from the selection.

The application form must be printed, signed and uploaded by 13.00 (CEST) of the Selection Announcement deadline date.

The application form is automatically submitted on the completion of the online procedure. Candidates are not, therefore, required to send or deliver in person any printed material to the University’s offices.

Applicants must indicate whether they are exclusively competing for unfunded places. This choice is final.

All required documents listed in the PhD Course table must be attached to the application form, together with a copy of an identification document. Qualifications must be attached in pdf format.

For all legal purposes, the application form is to be considered as a self-certification of the data included therein and of the attached documents, in accordance with articles 46 and 47 of (Italian) Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments

In compliance with Law no. 104/92 as amended with Law no. 17/99, students with a disability may request a personalized test (use of special equipment and extra time, etc.) to complete the admissions examinations. As set forth in Law no. 170/2010, applicants with dyslexia are entitled to 30% extra time in written tests, provided the aforesaid extra time has been envisaged by the
relative PhD selection procedure and provided that the request for support has been made. Eligible candidates may apply by filling in the form available with the application form online.

Art. 4 - ADMISSIONS TESTS AND PROCEDURES

1. The admissions test and procedure are stated in the course table (Appendix 1).

The test dates in the PhD Course table (Appendix 1) are considered to be an official invitation to attend. Therefore, applicants shall not receive any other invitation or correspondence regarding the tests.

In order to take the oral exam applicants must come to the University on the day and at the time stated in the PhD Course. They must bring a valid form of identification (e.g. identity card, passport, driving license).

2. The pass-mark in the oral test is 7/10.

The oral test will be held in the language stated in the Languages section, under Admission exam, in the PhD Course table (Appendix 1).

3. Oral examinations are open to the public.

Art. 5 - SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for the admissions procedure shall be appointed by the University Rector on proposal by the PhD Board. The Selection Committee shall comprise three members chosen amongst the university professors or researchers.

Art. 6 – FINAL RANKING AND ADMISSION

1. At the end of the admissions test, the Selection Committee will draw up a ranking based on the applicants’ examinations scores. Admission to the course will be based on such ranking.

2. The Rector shall approve the selection procedure records and declare the ranking official.

The rankings will be published starting from 20 October 2016 via:
- publication in the official University register;
- publication on the University of Padova website: http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-e-graduatorie

The enrolment procedure and deadline will be published along with the final ranking and they should be concluded by 26 October 2016.

The publication of the enrolment deadlines is equivalent of being notified to by all effects and purposes.

Applicants will not receive any correspondence at their home or communicated address. It is responsibility of each applicant to check dates and modalities of enrolment.

3. Any places which become available following explicit or tacit renunciation or withdrawal of the right to enrol, will be assigned to the next candidates down on the ranking.

Art. 7 – PHD COURSES AND MEDICAL SPECIALIZATION SCHOOLS

Those students enrolled on Medical Specialization Schools at the University of Padova will only be able to enrol on a PhD course if they are successful in the admission selection process for PhD courses and, more specifically, provided that they must:
- be enrolled in the final year of the medical specialisation school;
- have been given a declaration by the Board of the medical specialisation school that their attendance of both courses is compatible and duly authorised.

Candidates who are successful in the selection process for admission to the PhD course, when enrolling onto the PhD Course, must:
- provide a declaration signed by the Director of the specialisation school certifying that attendance of both courses has been declared compatible and authorised by the Board of the specialisation school;
- undertake to carry out their research activities according to the specific instructions provided by the Course Teachers’ Council.

At least one month before the end of the joint attendance, the individual must ask the PhD Course Teachers’ Council to officially acknowledge the period of joint attendance. The PhD Course Teachers’ Council, having verified the research activities carried out by the individual and certified by the Board of the specialisation school during the period of joint attendance, may then formally acknowledge the validity of said period for the purposes of being awarded the PhD.

In any case, the thesis and its assessment must follow the provisions set forth by art. 15 of the present announcement.

During the period of joint attendance, those enrolled with the specialisation school will not be able to benefit from PhD grants or other forms of funding.

**Art. 8 – ENROLLMENT**

Successful candidates, with or without a grant, must enrol by 26 October 2016, following the procedures published together with the rankings.

**Those who fail to enrol within these terms, automatically forfeit their place (be it funded or unfunded), which will be awarded to the following candidate in the ranking.**

The enrolment form must be duly signed and submitted (fax and emails will be accepted) to the Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca, of the University of Padova along with the documents listed hereunder:
- the first-year PhD enrolment form (filled in and signed);
- a copy of a valid ID document (i.e.: passport);
- a copy of the payment receipt (See subsequent Art.10);
- one passport-size photo.

By filling in the enrolment form, successful applicants declare, inter alia, that:
- they are not enrolled and will not enroll for the duration of this PhD course in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course, unless this is expressly allowed by the present selection announcement or relevant legislation;
- if enrolled in a bachelor or graduate/postgraduate course (Italian Laurea or Laurea Magistrale), they must declare they will obtain all credits (except those related to the final examination) by 31 October 2016;
- if enrolled in a postgraduate Specialisation degree, they will complete their studies by 31 October 2016;
- they will pass the final examination (e.g. the thesis defense) of the graduate or postgraduate degree in which they are enrolled within ninety days from commencement of the PhD (this does not apply in the case of prior enrollment in PhD courses);
- that they are not enrolled, nor shall they enrol, with a School of Specialisation (with the exception of the cases stated by art. 7 of the present announcement). If enrolled, they shall declare that they will undertake to suspend attendance before beginning the PhD course, where this is possible; if enrolled in the final year, they shall declare that they will complete their specialist training before the start date of the PhD Course;
- they undertake to request permission to the competent body should they wish to work outside the PhD.

Applicants who have been awarded a grant must also declare that:
- they have never been awarded other Italian PhD grants;
- they will not combine this grant with grants of any other kind, unless they have been awarded by national or international organizations and which involve trips abroad as part of the Grant Holder’s research;
- they acknowledge that the grant will only be assigned to applicants whose annual income, during the PhD programme, does not exceed the sum of the money funded. Moreover, should a candidate’s income exceed the annual grant, he/she shall inform the Academic Board immediately;
- they shall pay back the monthly installments received during the year in which their income exceeded the limit.

Candidates who graduated abroad must also attach the following documentation:
1. a copy, in Italian or in English, of the academic qualification awarded abroad, complete with the declaration of value (only for academic qualifications awarded in non-EU countries), and a copy of the certificate indicating the names of the examinations taken and the relative marks. These documents must be legalised by Italian diplomatic or consular authorities.
2. a valid residence permit if already issued, or a copy of the receipt of the request made to the competent Authorities within 8 days from first arriving in Italy (only for non-EU citizens).

Art. 9 – GRANTS

Grants will be awarded in accordance with the PhD Course ranking.
Grants are only awarded to those who have a yearly income that is below the equivalent of a year’s grant amount for the tax years when the grant will mainly be used. Should the grant holder’s income exceed this limit, they will lose their right to the grant for the year in which the limit was exceeded. In this case, the individual concerned will be obliged to pay back any monthly grant instalments already received.

Should two applications have equal merit: to award a grant, the assessment of the applicant’s financial position is the deciding factor, calculated pursuant to ISEE or ISEEU values (equivalent economic status indicators); an unfunded place is awarded to the younger applicant.

Based on (Italian) Ministerial Decree dated 18th June 2008, the annual amount of the grant is Euro 13,638.47, gross of the national insurance and pension scheme contributions payable to INPS (Italian social security institute) by the recipient, pursuant to art. 2, paragraph 26 et.seq. of (Italian) Law no. 335 dated 8th August 1995, and subsequent amendments and integrations.

PhD grants cannot be held concurrently with other grants, awarded for whatever reason, except for those assigned by national or international institutions for the purposes of integrating the research activities of the PhD student with time spent abroad;

The amount of the grant is increased by 50% for any time spent abroad.
The grant takes effect when the holder effectively begins to attend the course.
The grant is paid in deferred monthly instalments.

Anyone who has already benefited from a PhD grant, cannot do so again.
In the case of PhD courses in agreement with other institutions the management of financial resources, including grants, is defined and governed by the individual agreements in place.

According to the agreement, an additional grant funded by Maastricht University will be awarded following the rules of Maastricht University.

Art. 10 - ENROLMENT AND TUITION FEES

1. PhD students are exempt from paying the university fees and must only pay an amount corresponding to: insurance, the regional student support fee and stamp duty.
2. PhD students may request exemption from payment of the regional student support fee based on the ISEE provided. For PhD students with a grant, the share of the aforementioned fee, payable based on the ISEE, will be withheld from the grant payment for the month of July.
3. The amounts referred to by point 1. can be consulted in the fee and contributions Table for those enrolled on PhD courses for the 2016/2017 academic year. This table will be published on the University of Padova website at the following address: http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/dottorati-ricerca/tasse-borse-studio-opportunita-dottorati

Art. 11 – COURSE START DATES AND OBLIGATIONS OF PHD STUDENTS

The Academic Year for this PhD course will start on 1st November 2016. Admission onto a PhD course is a full time, exclusive commitment. According to the International cooperation agreement for the joint PhD programme in Arterial hypertension and vascular biology among Maastricht University, the Università degli Studi di Padova and the Sapienza Universita’ di Roma all enrolled PhD students will have to sign a cotutelle agreement with Maastricht University and will have to spend at least 6 months at Maastricht University in order for the partner universities to issue the joint PhD degree.

PhD students are obliged to carry out the activities relating to their approved research plan and to present a report on the activities and research carried out to the Course body in charge at the end of each year, as well as the PhD thesis, complete with original contributions, at the end of the course. Thesis must be submitted in accordance with the procedures established in the University’s PhD regulations.

After evaluating the work carried out by the PhD student, the Course body in charge shall decide whether to admit the PhD student onto the next year of the course. With a deliberation based on just cause, the Teachers’ Council may also propose to the Dean that the student be excluded from continuing the Course.

Art. 12 – PhD DEGREE AWARD

The PhD is awarded upon successfully passing the final examination. Said examination consists of an oral discussion with the candidate on their thesis which will have to be written in English with a summary in Italian. The oral exam will take place in Maastricht. The admission to the final exam will be approved by an Assessment Committee made up of members of the partner Universities. Following the successful completion of the final examination, if the requirements of both partners in the cotutelle are met, a joint diploma will be issued by Maastricht, signed by both Rectors. PhD students who do not meet the requirements of Maastricht University but who do fulfill those of the University of Padova may obtain only the Italian diploma.

Art. 13 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The personal data required by article 3 of the present announcement will be processed exclusively for the purposes of the activities connected with the selection process for admission to the PhD courses. The processing of personal data on behalf of the University of Padova is carried out by CINECA interuniversity Consortium, in the person of the Director and by the members of staff of the Consortium who have been appointed by said Director. The provision and collection of data is compulsory in order for the selection process to be carried out and any sensitive data is handled in accordance with (Italian) Law no. 68/1999 and (Italian) Law no. 104/1992. It is compulsory and necessary to provide the data indicated in the announcement in order for the admission requirements to be correctly assessed and the rankings
to be compiled. Any candidates who fail to provide the data requested will be excluded from the selection process.

The University of Padova is the data controller, whom any candidate may contact in order to exercise their rights pursuant to article 7 of (Italian) Legislative Decree no. 196/2003.

CINECA is the data processor, appointed by the data controller. The persons in charge of processing are the members of staff of CINECA, who have been appointed by the Director of said Consortium.

Art. 14 – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to art. 5 of (Italian) Law no. 241 dated 7th August 1990 (New rules on administrative procedures and on access to administrative documents) and subsequent amendments, the individual responsible for proceedings is Dott.ssa Maria Zanato – Head of the ‘Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca’ (PhD Office).

Art. 15 - NOTES AND CAUTION

1. The present announcement is to be considered as official notification for all intents and purposes. No notices will be sent to the candidate’s home. Any amendments or integrations to the present announcement shall be made known through:
   a) publication on the University’s official register;
   b) publication on the University of Padova website http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-e-graduatorie

2. Candidates are allowed to take part in the selection process with reserve, subject to verification that they meet the requirements stated by the announcement. Said verification will be carried out in accordance with art. 43 of (Italian) Presidential Decree no. 445 dated 28th December 2000. Therefore, the University may exclude candidates from the selection process at any given moment and shall also officially check the truthfulness of the declarations which candidates have provided to substitute certificates: whoever makes false declarations will be punished in accordance with the penal code and special applicable laws. The candidate in question will be informed of their exclusion via written notification sent to the home address indicated on their application form.

At any given moment, even after Courses have begun, the University may carry out checks into the truthfulness of the declarations provided and may, with just cause, exclude candidates for failing to meet the requirements imposed by the announcement.

3. The University shall assume no responsibility for the loss of any notifications resulting from the candidate providing inaccurate indication of their residence and home address, or caused by failure or delay to communicate any variations of said addresses. The University shall also not be held responsible for any postal or telecommunications errors which are not the fault of the University itself.

4. Any matters not covered by the present announcement shall be governed by current applicable rules and legislation and, in particular: (Italian) Ministerial Decree no. 45 dated 8th February 2013; University PhD regulations issued with (Italian) Regional Decree no. 2547 dated 3rd October 2013 and subsequent amendments; Agreements for the creation of PhD courses in agreement with other Institutions and agreements for PhD funding.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For assistance with completion of the online application form:
- Please write to bando.dottorati@unipd.it; we cannot guarantee that emails sent to other addresses will be read.
- Telephone Help Desk service on (+39) 0498271939 available from Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 12.30.

For course information
Please contact the telephone numbers indicated on the information sheet for the PhD course you are interested in, under the section “For further information”.

Per altre informazioni contattare:
Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca al n. 049 8271929/1930 - Via del Risorgimento, 9 - Padova
(orario telefono: da lunedì a venerdì dalle ore 10.00 alle ore 12.30);
(orari sportello: da lunedì a venerdì dalle ore 10.00 alle ore 12.30, martedì e giovedì anche dalle ore 15.00 alle ore 16.30).

The present selection announcement is available on the website http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-e-graduatorie and a copy is also available at the ‘Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca’ (PhD Office), in Via del Risorgimento 9, Padua.
To find out the days when the ‘Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca’ (PhD Office) may be closed, please check the University website.

The Rector
Prof. Rosario Rizzuto