



CALL FOR ADMISSION TO PHD COURSE IN RELIGION, CULTURE AND PUBLIC LIFE FOR THE XL CYCLE

The deadline for this call is 1 pm (CEST) of September 2nd 2024

Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The selection process has been announced at the University of Padua for admission to PhD Course in Religion, Culture and Public Life for the 2024/2025 academic year - XL cycle (hereinafter 'selection process').

The PhD Course in Religion, Culture and Public Life is a Doctoral Program in associated form with the University of Turin, the University of Nicosia and the Catholic University of Uruguay. The agreement regulates the relationships, contributions and commitments of the Parties, the organization of the Course, the specific management of the financial resources and the teaching resources made available by the affiliated institutions.

The research subjects, methods and criteria for candidate selection to be used for ranking purposes are indicated on the specific information sheet of the Course (Annex 1).

The use of the masculine gender has no discriminatory nature but it is understood as a gender-neutral language and responds only to the needs of more immediate communication.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Anyone in possession of the following, regardless of nationality, may apply to take part in the selection process:

- diploma di laurea (pre-reform regime);
- laurea specialistica/magistrale (post-reform regime);
- Second-level academic qualifications awarded by AFAM (Higher Education in Art and Music) institutions.

2.2 Admission to the selection process for candidates who have not yet been awarded their academic qualification

Anyone yet to be awarded the required academic qualification, but who will have received it by and no later than September 30th 2024, may also apply to take part in the entry examinations. Otherwise, admission to the course will be denied.

Admission will be conditionally granted to these candidates, who will have to provide self-certification regarding the qualification awarded (or the certificate itself if the qualification was awarded in a non-EU country), together with an identity document by October 7th 2024. Said certification must be sent via email to phd.application@unipd.it. The self-certification (or the certificate itself if the qualification was awarded in a non-EU Country), must indicate the name of the university that awarded the qualification, the date it was awarded, the kind of degree (second-cycle Italian - degree, Master's Degree or equivalent qualification), and the grade achieved, together with a copy of a valid identity document.

2.3 Admission to the selection process for candidates with an academic qualification awarded abroad

Applicants with an academic qualification awarded abroad can be admitted to a PhD course only if the above-mentioned qualification is equivalent to a second-cycle Italian degree ("Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico"/"Laurea specialistica"/"Laurea magistrale") awarded at an officially recognized foreign academic institution, which grants admission to a PhD course in the education system/Country in which it was awarded (except for significant differences). Said qualification must be comparable to the Italian degree required for the admission to a PhD course (i.e. Master's Degree or another equivalent second-cycle degree).

The suitability of the foreign qualification is ascertained by the Selection Board responsible for admission to the PhD course, in compliance with the relevant legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded and in accordance with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the pursuit of studies.

Admission to the selection process will be conditionally granted to those candidates in possession of an academic qualification awarded abroad that has not yet been officially recognised as equivalent to a second-cycle Italian qualification by the competent academic bodies of Italian universities.



To this end, when completing the online application process, the candidate must request that their qualifications be verified and attach the following documents:

A. For candidates with a degree already obtained:

- certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of both first (Bachelor's) and second-cycle degree (Master's), with grade;
- certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of the list of exams/transcript of records of both first (Bachelor's) and second-cycle degree (Master's), with grade;
- any other documentation deemed useful for the assessment of the suitability of the qualification held (e.g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value, Statements of Comparability and Verification issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC - CIMEA).

B. For candidates yet to be awarded the required academic qualification:

- certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of first (Bachelor's) cycle degree, with grade;
- certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of the list of exams/transcript of records of both first (Bachelor's) and second-cycle degree (Master's), with grade;
- certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) attesting the enrolment in a second cycle degree (Master's);
- any other documentation deemed useful for the assessment of the suitability of the qualification held (e.g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value, Statements of Comparability and Verification issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC - CIMEA).

The above-mentioned documents must be drawn up in Italian or English, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. In cases where self-certification is not permitted (e.g. non-EU candidate with a qualification obtained abroad), if the official documentation issued by the university where the degree was obtained is not already in one of the languages listed above, the candidate must attach also a certified translation in Italian or English. The Selection Committee evaluates the suitability of the foreign degree according to the documentation attached to the application, and can therefore exclude the candidate if such documentation does not provide sufficient information for the assessment.

In the event that the candidate has acquired two (or more) Level II qualifications, she/he must indicate, when completing the application, which qualification she/he intends to use for access to the doctorate.

Art. 3 – APPLICATION FORM

3.1 The application form to participate in the selection process may only be submitted using the dedicated online procedure, available at: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd/dottorati40-rcpl/>. Application forms must be submitted no later than 1 pm (CEST) on the announcement deadline date (**September 2nd 2024**).

3.2 All required documents to be submitted listed in the information sheet for the PhD course must be attached to the application form, together with a copy of a valid identity document, with photo, preferably a passport. For all legal purposes, the application 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.

A non-refundable payment of € 30.00 must be made for the application. This amount must be paid by the final deadline for submitting the application via "PagoPA".

After payment, it is still possible to modify one's application.

Once the application form has been completed, it must be printed, signed and re-uploaded following the instructions described in the online procedure, and a copy of a valid identity document must be attached. The absence of a signature, of the payment of the participation fee by the deadline and/or missing an identity document are grounds for exclusion from the selection process.

The online procedure for submitting the application form can be also accessed through SPID (Public Digital Identity System), by choosing the University of Padua from the list of providers available: in case of access via SPID, no signature will be required when submitting the application.

3.3 After closing the application, the candidate can request 1 **reference letter** by completing the appropriate section on the application form. The candidate can request reference letters before September 5th 2024 at 1 pm (CEST). A notification for completion of the letter will be sent to the referee only after the application has



been fully submitted. The referee will be automatically notified by the system and will have to personally complete the reference letter section in the online procedure and submit it by the deadline of **September 5th 2024 at 1 pm (CEST)**.

Reference letters attached by the candidate will not be taken into consideration.

3.4 The application is automatically sent to the University when the online procedure has finally been completed. Therefore, no paperwork needs to be delivered or sent to the University's offices.

3.5 Candidates are invited to complete applications for the selection process well in advance of the closing date specified in this competition notice.

Candidates are responsible for verifying that the procedure is completed correctly. No complaints will be accepted for any malfunctioning of the IT system due to overload experienced by candidates near the closing date.

3.6 Candidates with disabilities or specific learning disabilities (SLD) may support the admission tests with reasonable adjustments, making an explicit request to the Student Services Office - Inclusion. To this end it is necessary to:

- 1) request the individualized test through the dedicated online application;
- 2) send an email to inclusione.studenti@unipd.it specifying the supports, aids or compensatory measures needed (additional time assigned cannot exceed 30% for candidates with SLD and 50% for candidates with disability);
- 3) send the relevant documentation to the Student Services Office – Inclusion (inclusione.studenti@unipd.it), together with a copy of a valid identity document by 1 pm of September 2nd 2024.

Useful documentation for reasonable adjustments includes:

- certification pursuant to Law 104/1992;
- civil disability certification;
- SLD diagnosis certification (issued for no more than 3 years, or renewed as an adult, by facilities of the National Health Service or by specialists and accredited facilities).

Candidates with disabilities or specific learning disabilities (SLD) residing in foreign Countries must submit the certification about disability or SLD issued in the Country of residence, together with a sworn translation in Italian or English. On the basis of the documentation presented, and after possible interview with dedicated personnel (way to be agreed), supports for the test will be considered.

It is therefore recommended to contact the Student Services Office – Inclusion well in advance of the date of the test, by sending an email to inclusione.studenti@unipd.it.

Further information can be found at the following link: <http://www.unipd.it/accoglienza-prove-ingresso>.

Art. 4 – ADMISSION PROCEDURES AND ENTRY EXAMINATIONS

4.1 Information on selection procedures and the dates for examinations are provided in the information sheet of the Course.

For all intents and purposes, the examination dates indicated in the Course information sheet represent official notification. Candidates will therefore not receive any further call or notification regarding the entry examinations.

To take the examinations, candidates must connect on the day and at the time indicated in the aforementioned information sheet, providing a valid identity document (e.g. a national identity card, passport or driving licence).

4.2 Oral examinations will be considered passed if the candidate obtains a mark equivalent to at least 7/10. The Committee will carry out a pre-selection on the basis of the academic qualifications presented by the candidate. Candidates who pass the pre-selection phase, obtaining a minimum score of 7/10, will be admitted to the oral examination.

The entry examination will be taken in the language indicated in the Language(s) section of the information sheet of the Course, under the item "Admission exam".

4.3 Candidates will take the oral examination remotely via Zoom or, if not available in their country, another equipment agreed with the Commission. Candidates must guarantee that they will use a webcam in order to be correctly identified by the Selection Committee and that they will connect on the day of the oral examination. For identification purposes, and under penalty of exclusion from the selection process, candidates are required to identify themselves showing the same identity document already sent as an attachment to the application before the start of their oral exam.



Failure to connect or be reachable on the day and at the time agreed, or failure to show a valid identity document pursuant to the previous paragraph, may result in exclusion from the selection process.

The University of Padua shall accept no responsibility for any technical issues that may prevent the oral examination from being correctly carried out.

4.4 Oral examinations are public.

Art. 5 – SELECTION COMMITTEES

The Selection Committee is appointed by the Rector in accordance with the University Regulations governing PhD Programmes.

Art. 6 – RANKINGS AND ADMISSION TO COURSES

6.1 Upon conclusion of entry examinations, the Committee compiles the general ranking for admission to the Course based on grades achieved in the examinations. Candidates and grants will be awarded according to the Course ranking.

6.2 Places reserved to candidates in possession of the necessary requirements will be awarded to the eligible candidates on the basis of the general merit ranking.

In any case, these places are reserved only for candidates who specifically applied for them

6.3 If, at the end of enrolment procedures, any places become available, as a result of explicit or tacit enrolment withdrawal, these shall become vacant for other candidates, according to ranking, assigned curriculum and level of eligibility.

6.4 The Rector approves the selection proceedings and declares the ranking official for the admission of candidates. The rankings will be made public from **September 20th 2024** through:

- Publication on the University's official register;
- Publication on the University of Padua website: <https://www.unipd.it/en/phd-course-religion-culture-and-public-life>

Successful candidates must enrol by **September 27th 2024**. Information on enrolment procedures will be published at the same time as the rankings.

Publication of enrolment deadlines are to be considered as official notification for all intents and purposes.

No personal communication will be sent to the candidates. Candidates granted admission to the Courses are responsible for checking enrolment dates and procedures.

Art. 7 – PHD COURSES AND MEDICAL SPECIALISATION SCHOOLS

7.1 If successful in the selection process for a PhD, students enrolled at medical Specialisation Schools will be allowed to enrol in a PhD Course in compliance with the following conditions:

a) compatibility, also in consideration of the distance between the seats, of the activities and commitment envisaged by the Specialization School and the PhD Course, certified by the Board of the Specialisation School and by the Academic Board of the PhD Course;

b) incompatibility between the PhD grant and the emoluments, however denominated, received in relation to the activities of the specialization school.

7.2 In cases of joint attendance, the request for a reduction in doctoral activities is approved by the Academic Board of the PhD Course, after a positive assessment of the consistency of the research activities already carried out in the medical Specialization course with the doctoral project. In order to accept the application referred to in this paragraph, the opinion of compatibility, expressed by the Board of the Specialization School, of the doctoral project with the didactic purposes of the Specialization School is also required. If the application referred to in this paragraph is accepted, the PhD Course will have in any case a duration of no less than two years.

Art. 8 – ENROLMENT

8.1 Successful candidates must enrol by **September 27th 2024**, following the procedures published together with the rankings.

Failure to enrol by the deadlines set for the Course will be considered as renunciation of the place, which will subsequently be assigned to the next candidate according to the ranking.

8.2 The enrolment form must contain all the attachments indicated in the instructions, including a copy of a valid identity document and a passport-size photograph; after concluding the enrolment procedure, the regional fee (art. 11) must be paid as indicated.



The simultaneous enrolment of students in two courses of study is allowed in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 33 of 12 April 2022 and the related implementing decrees.

When completing the enrolment form, the successful candidate declares, inter alia:

- To have acquired the ORCID ID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), indicating it;
- They shall undertake to ask the competent body of the Course for authorisation to carry out work outside of the course;
- They have not already benefited from another PhD Course grant in the past;
- They will not accumulate the grant with another grant, 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;
- They are aware that the grant is only awarded to those who have a yearly income (gross sum) that is below the equivalent of a year's grant amount for the tax years when the grant will mainly be used, and shall provide prompt notification should their income exceed this limit;
- They shall undertake to pay back the monthly grant instalments received in the academic year in which their income exceeded the limit;
- To undertake to register with the INPS separate management as a parasubordinate and to indicate any registration with other social security funds.

8.3 Candidates with a foreign qualification must also attach to their application:

- in case of academic qualifications awarded in non-EU Countries: a copy, in Italian or English, of the second-cycle degree as well as a copy of the certificate indicating the examinations taken and the relative grades, and Declaration of Value issued by Italian diplomatic or consular authorities or, alternatively, Statements of Comparability and Verification issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC - CIMEA;
- in case of academic qualifications awarded in European Union Countries: Diploma and Diploma Supplement in English for the second-cycle qualification or, alternatively, Statements of Comparability and Verification issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC – CIMEA;
- a valid stay permit if already issued, or a copy of the request made to the competent authorities within 8 working days of arriving in Italy (only for non-EU citizens).

Should there be any doubts regarding the nature or validity of academic qualifications awarded in EU countries, the University reserves the right to request the certificate or a Declaration of Value. For further information on the Declaration of Value, visit the web page <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studying/info-07.html>.

Candidates in possession of a foreign academic qualification who have not provided the required documentation requested at the time of enrolment will be enrolled conditionally and will be excluded from the PhD course, with the obligation of refunding grant instalments unduly received, if:

- They do not submit such documentation within 6 months of the start of the course;
- Following verification, the academic qualification does not meet the requirements of the present competition notice and does not permit enrolment on the PhD course.

Art. 9 – VACANT PLACES

Following explicit or tacit withdrawal by successful candidates before the start of the course, any vacant places will be assigned to the next candidates in the ranking for that specific subject by direct call by the Office.

Art. 10 - GRANTS

10.1 Grants are only awarded to those who have a yearly income (gross sum) 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 academic year in which the limit was exceeded. In this case, the PhD student concerned will be obliged to pay back any monthly grant instalments already received.

Should applications have equal merit, the assessment of the applicant's economic situation is the deciding factor in awarding a grant. This is calculated pursuant to ISEE (Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator) values. Unfunded places will be awarded to the younger applicants.

10.2 In accordance with Italian Ministerial Decree 247 dated 23 February 2022, published on the Official Gazette no. 80 of 5/4/2022, the annual amount of the grant is € 16.243, gross sum, less national insurance and pension contributions payable by the recipient to INPS (Italian National Institute for Social Security), pursuant to art. 2, paragraph 26 et. seq. of (Italian) Law no. 335 dated 8 August 1995, and subsequent amendments and integrations.



10.3 PhD grants cannot be used together with other grants, awarded for whatever reason, except for those assigned by national or international institutions for the purpose of integrating the research activities of the PhD student with time spent abroad.

10.4 The amount of the grant is increased by 50% for any time spent abroad.

10.5 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 for a second time.

10.6 The management of financial resources, including grants, is defined and governed by the International Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Research Doctorate in place with partner universities. Places reserved for candidates with foreign degrees are funded directly by the Catholic University of Uruguay and the University of Nicosia in the form of fee waivers.

Art. 11 – ENROLMENT AND TUITION FEES

11.1 PhD students are exempt from university tuition fees and must only pay an amount corresponding to the regional fee for the right to education and stamp duty.

11.2 PhD students may request exemption from payment of the regional contribution, quantified as per the ISEE presented. For PhD students with a grant, the quota for the aforementioned contribution, quantified as per the ISEE, will be withheld from the grant payment.

11.3 The amounts referred to in point 1 can be consulted in the Fees and contributions table for those enrolled in PhD courses for the 2024/2025 academic year. This table will be published on the University of Padua website at the address: <http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/dottorati-ricerca/tasse-borse-studio-opportunita-dottorati>.

Art. 12 – COURSE START DATES AND OBLIGATIONS OF PHD STUDENTS

12.1 Courses will begin on **November 1st 2024**. Admission to a PhD Course is a full time, exclusive commitment.

12.2 For doctoral students from outside Europe who require a visa to enter Italy, the possibility of starting research activities remotely is provided, subject to the positive opinion of the Coordinator of the doctoral course. This possibility is granted upon proof of submission of the visa application at the relevant Embassy or Consulate, to be made as soon as the application procedure is completed.

Arrival in Italy must take place by January 31, 2025.

12.3 Non-European Union citizens must be in compliance with the regulations on entry visas and residence permits.

12.4 As part of their individual study plan, PhD students are required to spend a period abroad-from 3 to 18 months-at an international partner university.

12.5 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 competent body of the Course at the end of each year, as well as the PhD thesis, complete with original contributions, at the end of the course. Theses must be submitted in accordance with the procedures established in the University for PhD courses.

After evaluating the activities carried out by the PhD student, the competent body of the Course will deliberate whether to admit the PhD student to the next year of the course. With a substantiated decision, the Doctoral Board may also propose to the Rector that the student be excluded from continuing the Course.

Art. 13 – OBTAINING THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

The PhD is awarded upon successfully passing the final examination. This examination consists of an oral discussion with the candidate on their thesis.

The supervisory committees for the final examination will be formed and appointed in compliance with the Regulations for PhD courses.

Art. 14 – PROPERTY OF RESULTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

14.1 Intellectual and industrial property rights on the results obtained by the PhD student, including but not limited to software, patentable or non-patentable industrial inventions, know-how, models, data and data collections, are regulated in accordance with current legislation, the University Regulations and, if applicable, on the basis of individual agreements with Universities, Enterprises and Bodies involved.

14.2 PhD students who realize that they made an invention must immediately inform their supervisor or the Director of the Department, who, from that moment on, shall maintain the confidentiality and notify without



delay the Settore Trasferimento di Tecnologia of the University in order to proceed with the evaluation of the results linked to the invention as well as to the appropriate protection measures.

14.3 In any case, the PhD student is guaranteed the opportunity to carry out the usual permitted publishing activities, which should be planned in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 15 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of personal data provided by candidates collected for the purposes identified in this notice takes place in compliance with the provisions of EU Regulation 27.04.2016 n. 679 (General Data Protection Regulation, following: GDPR). Further information can be found here: <https://www.unipd.it/en/privacy>

Art. 16 – INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to art. 5 of Italian Law no. 241 dated 7 August 1990 (New rules regarding administrative procedures and the right of access to administrative documents) and subsequent amendments, the individual responsible for proceedings is Elena Pavan – Ufficio Dottorato di Ricerca (PhD Office).

Art. 17 – NOTES AND WARNINGS

Disclaimer: this is a translation of the selection announcement for PhD Course in Religion, Culture and Public Life. Its purpose is to provide information to international students. It has no legal value. The only official and legally binding source is the original Italian announcement.

17.1 The present announcement is to be considered as official notification for all intents and purposes. No personal notifications will be sent to the candidates.

Any amendments or integrations to the present announcement shall be notified through:

- a) Publication on the University's official register;
- b) Publication on the University of Padua website: <https://www.unipd.it/en/phd-course-religion-culture-and-public-life>

17.2 Candidates can take part in the selection process, subject to verification that they meet the requirements stated in the announcement. Verification will be carried out in accordance with art. 43 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 dated 28 December 2000.

The University will check the truthfulness of the declarations which candidates have provided to substitute certificates and, therefore, may exclude candidates from the selection process at any given moment. Anyone making false declarations will be punished in accordance with the penal code and special applicable laws.

At any given moment, even after Courses have begun, the University may carry out checks into the truthfulness of the declarations provided and may, by a substantiated decision, exclude candidates for failing to meet the requirements set out in the announcement.

17.3 The University shall assume no responsibility for the loss of any notifications resulting from the candidate providing inaccurate indication of their contact and residence details or caused by failure or delay to communicate any variations of these details. The University shall not be held responsible for any telecommunications or postal errors which are not the fault of the University itself.

17.4 Any matters not covered by the present announcement shall be governed by current applicable rules and legislation and, specifically: Italian Ministerial Decree no. 226 dated 14 December 2021; University Regulations on PhD courses; the International Cooperation Agreement for the Joint Research Doctorate in Religion, Culture and Public Life.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

In case of technical issues, please contact the Support Service using the procedure available at the bottom of the webpage <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>

For assistance with completion of the online application:

- Write to phd.application@unipd.it; we cannot guarantee that emails sent to other addresses will be read;
- Telephone Help Desk service at +39 049 8271827 and +39 049 8278978 available Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 12.30 am (CEST).



For information on the PhD course: Contact the telephone number indicated in the information sheet for the PhD course, under the section "Further information".

This selection announcement is available on the website at <https://www.unipd.it/en/phd-programmes-calls-and-admissions> and a copy is available at 'Ufficio Dottorato di ricerca' (PhD Office), in Via Martiri della Libertà no. 8 Padova.

To find out the days when 'Ufficio Dottorato di ricerca' (PhD Office) may be closed, please check the University website.

Padova,

The Rector
Prof. Daniela Mapelli