

Research options available

Research topic(s) offered by every Doctoral Course involved in UNIPH_D are frameworks within which every applicant has to present an original research project in collaboration with a Supervisor at the University of Padua.

Potential Supervisors at Unipd have proposed the following detailed research options, which are related to the research topic. They are offered as a guideline and should facilitate your contact with potential Supervisors. Supervisors' e-mail is specified in every research option table. You are welcome to contact them directly.

Note that this research option list is not at all exhaustive and, within the topic you have chosen, you are free to propose a different research project.

Doctoral Course	LINGUISTIC, PHILOLOGICAL AND LITERARY SCIENCES
Macro-area	Humanities
Department name	Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies
Webpage	http://www.maldura.unipd.it/disll-corso-di-dottorato/en.html
Research topic	<p>Linguistic change in morphology, syntax and phonology</p> <p>The research field intends to investigate how languages change and why they do. It also aims at providing an explanation for the speed according to which a given phenomenon spreads through the language and how it interacts with the phonological or syntactic environment.</p>
Link to the UNIPH_D Call (Academic Year 2023/2024)	https://uniphd.eu/
Latest Update	02.12.2022
#Number of available Research Options	2 <i>Scroll down to see all the Research Options</i>

#1 Research Option Description

Doctoral Course	Linguistic, philological and literary sciences
Department name	Department of linguistic and literary studies
Research topic	Linguistic change in morphology, syntax and phonology
Research option	Diacronic change in the morphosyntax of the complementizer system
Supervisor	Supervisor: Cecilia Poletto, cecilia.poletto@unipd.it Research team: Emanuela Sanfelici
Webpage	https://www.unipd.it/contatti/rubrica?detail=Y&ruolo=1&check-out=cerca&persona=Poletto&key=B27818C39F600AECA088503AB10FB5F1
Context of the research activity and objectives	<p>The PhD candidate will investigate the diachronic development of the complementizer system through the history of Italian starting from the first attestation until the XVII century. This will be compared with what is found in the literature on Old through Middle French and German to determine how the changes in the complementizer system affect the general structure of the clause and other left peripheral phenomena, like verb second and the distribution of different types of embedded clauses in relation to the main clause. The work will benefit from an unpublished tree data bank that is being developed at the University of Padua and from the expertise of Sam Wolfe from Oxford University, whose research on Old Romance and Old French in particular is related to the phenomenon to be studied by the PhD candidate. The work will have a quantitative and a qualitative component, which should both integrate each other with the goal of a better understanding how syntactic change proceeds. The sentence structure of Old Italian has been recently extensively investigated, but the distribution of complementizer doubling in Old Italian and complementizer deletion in Renaissance Italian is still waiting for a systematic investigation. There is at present virtually no literature on this topic for Italian, which is however the closest comparison language to French. The group in Padua and Oxford are a good team to tackle this fundamental problem.</p>
Infrastructures	Library, linguistic laboratory, data base on Old Italian, Old French
Skills and competencies for the development of the activity	Advanced knowledge of formal syntax, knowledge of Italian and French
Training offer	General courses for PhD students (80 hours during the first year) Specific courses for PhD students (120 hours per year) Lab training Basic programming skills (Python)
Possible Secondments	6 months University of Oxford (Prof. Sam Wolfe) 3 months State archive Venice

#2 Research Option Description

Doctoral Course	Linguistic, philological and literary sciences
Department name	Department of linguistic and literary studies
Research topic	Linguistic change in morphology, syntax and phonology
Research option	Negative items in Northern Italian dialects
Supervisor	Supervisor: Cecilia Poletto, cecilia.poletto@unipd.it Research team: Emanuela Sanfelici, Jacopo Garzonio
Webpage	https://www.unipd.it/contatti/rubrica?detail=Y&ruolo=1&check-out=cerca&persona=Poletto&key=B27818C39F600AECA088503AB10FB5F1
Context of the research activity and objectives	The PhD candidate will investigate the distribution of negative concord items (NICs) across dialects comparing dialects that display a preverbal negative marker with those that have a postverbal negative marker to provide a comprehensive study of NICs and gather insight into their internal structure and on the structure of negative clauses.
Infrastructures	Library, linguistic laboratory, data base ASIt (Atlante Sintattico d'Italia)
Skills and competencies for the development of the activity	Advanced knowledge of formal syntax, knowledge of Italian
Training offer	General courses for PhD students (80 hours during the first year) Specific courses for PhD students (120 hours per year) Lab training Specific training in field work
Possible Secondments	6 months University of Cambridge (Prof. Adam Ledgeway) 3 months Ladin Institute Pera di Fassa