

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR 11 EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHERS

HORIZON 2020 MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE COFUND DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

UNIPhD

“Eight century legacy of multidisciplinary research and training for the next-generation talents”

Cicle XXXIX Academic Year 2023/2024

Call Opening: 6 December 2022

Application deadline: 31 January 2023, 1 p.m. CET (Italian time zone)

Table of contents

PREAMBLE.....	1
ART. 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME.....	2
ART. 2 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	3
ART. 3 - PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.....	4
Art. 4 - SELECTION PROCESS.....	6
ART. 5 - THE EVALUATION COMMITTEES	10
ART. 6 - ENROLMENT AND VACANT PLACES.....	10
ART. 7 - SALARY AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.....	11
ART. 8 - COURSE START DATES AND TUITION FEES.....	12
ART. 9 - OBLIGATIONS OF UNIPhD FELLOWS.....	12
ART. 10 - OBTAINING THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION.....	13
ART. 11 - PROPERTY OF RESULTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY.....	13
ART. 12 - ETHICAL PRINCIPLES.....	13
ART. 13 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA.....	14
ART. 14 - FINAL PROVISIONS.....	14

PREAMBLE

“Eight century legacy of multidisciplinary research and training for the next-generation talents” (Acronym: UNIPhD) is a 60-month COFUND project receiving a financial contribution by the European Union under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Grant Agreement. The programme offers the most talented Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) coming from all over the world a brand new International, Intersectoral, Interdisciplinary and Innovative “training through research” programme. The UNIPhD Doctoral Programme serves as a pilot project, not only to help develop a high quality research

environment for all doctoral candidates at the University of Padua, but also to further stimulate the internationalization and modernization of the Veneto Region and the Italian third cycle education.

The formal commitment of outstanding research institutes, amongst which the National Research Council (CNR), the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN), as well as regional medical research institutes (VIMM - Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, IOV - Veneto Institute of Oncology), will provide a fertile ground to establish and foster interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation. The long-term collaborations between Unipd and the non-academic sector in the Veneto region will ensure that all ESRs be exposed to research in the non-academic sector, both private and public. Such consolidated exchanges are attested by the official endorsement of the Programme by the Regione del Veneto; UniSMART; Assoindustria Veneto Centro; Azienda Ospedale - Università di Padova (AOPD), Padua Hospital; Galileo Visionary District; Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE); Fondo Ambiente Italiano (FAI), Italian Environmental Fund. Moreover, the international networks of each individual research group are complemented by the institutional networks of Unipd, including over 370 active bilateral agreements with top-ranking Universities worldwide. Finally, a unified training programme will be offered to develop the transferable and soft skills of the ESRs.

This call for applications is published on the UNIPHD web page (<https://www.uniphd.eu>). Any additions, modifications or updates concerning this call for applications will be published on such web page. For all intents and purposes, this call for applications constitutes an official notice.

ART. 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

1.1 Purpose of UNIPHD

The UNIPHD Doctoral Programme (UNIPHD) is designed by the University of Padua (Unipd) to be a game-changer in Doctoral Education. The main focus is set on the individual talents of each Early Stage Researcher (ESR), who is placed at the center of the action as to leverage a personalized and holistic training programme. A paradigm change is explored by UNIPHD with the final goal to foster what will be a “transformative wave” in the regional and national Academic sector, providing guidelines for the next-generation training towards frontier research, while **enhancing our global capacity to respond to urgent challenges emerging around us.**

1.2 About the programme

The PhD offer reflects the exceptionally broad research scope of Unipd, which includes Arts&Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering, Physics, Technology, Life Sciences, Medicine, Natural Sciences, and shows a strong consistency with the areas of regional specialization (i.e. Smart Agrifood, Smart Manufacturing, Creative Industries, and Sustainable Living).

The first UNIPHD call for applications was launched in January 2022 and led to the award of 39 (36 month long) fellowships for the Academic Year 2022/2023. This new **call** for applications offers **a total of 11 (36 month long) fellowships for the Academic Year 2023/2024. They are addressed to incoming transnational ESRs, in all scientific areas (the following positions are available: 3 in the Life Sciences - LS domain; 3 in the Physical Sciences and Engineering - PE domain; 3 in the Social Sciences and Humanities - SH domain; 2 cross-domain PE-LS).** Applicants must be eligible for PhD studies and comply with all MSCA requirements. They will be selected according to criteria of excellence following an open, transparent, and merit-based selection procedure.

10 Doctoral Courses participate in this UNIPHD call, each of them offers at least 1 research topic, selected based on their excellence, impact, and relevance against emerging challenges. Applicants will choose 1 topic and develop a research proposal on it (see Annex 1 - UNIPHD Doctoral Courses & Research topics, Academic Year 2023/2024). Field-specific technical skills and theoretical knowledge will be provided within each Doctoral Course. A unified training offer, common to all the UNIPHD ESRs, will cover several thematic areas: (i) communication, dissemination, and exploitation; (ii) professional development; (iii) funding opportunities for research and proposal writing skills; (iv) entrepreneurship. These courses will help the ESRs to gain solid skills that would suit the needs of both the academic and non-academic sectors, thus substantially increasing the ESRs' market value and broadening their career opportunities.

Each ESR will be exposed to different environments through **2 interdisciplinary, intersectoral and/or international secondments, 1 of which mandatory**.

ART. 2 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible, applicants of any nationality are required to meet the following criteria **by the call deadline**, under penalty of exclusion:

- ✓ **Mobility.** Applicants **should** not have resided or have carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline that is from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2023.
- ✓ **Qualification.** Applicants should hold a Master's degree or another academic qualification recognized as equivalent to a second cycle degree in the framework of the Bologna process (e.g. Italian Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale), that grants access to PhD-programmes in the country where the degree was obtained.
- ✓ **Early Stage.** Applicants should not have already been awarded and should not be attending a doctoral degree course and must be in their first 4 years (or full-time equivalent) of research experience.

Particular attention will be paid to applicants with special needs, such as persons with disabilities and refugees.

2.1 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 30 September 2023**, 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 5 October 2023. Such certification must be sent via email to phd.application@unipd.it and msca.cofund@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.

2.2 Admission to the selection process for candidates in possession of 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). Such 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).

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:

- If already awarded, certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of both first (Bachelor) 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) 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, Statement of Comparability and Verification issued by ENIC-NARIC - European Network of Information Centres and National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union).

The above-mentioned documents must be drawn up in Italian or English, under penalty of exclusion from the selection.

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.

ART. 3 - PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

3.1 Submission process

Applications shall be submitted exclusively online through the dedicated PICA platform <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>.

Deadline for the application submission is **on Tuesday, 31 January 2023, at 1 p.m. CET (Italian time zone)**.

Applicants can submit only 1 application, choosing 1 research topic (see Annex 1 – UNIPHD Doctoral Courses & Research topics, Academic Year 2023/2024). Applicants are requested to contact potential supervisors and ask for their support in preparing their research proposal and identifying the secondment options that best fit their research idea. Detailed information on possible research options,

potential supervisors and secondment opportunities is available on the dedicated UNIPhD website (<https://uniphd.eu/>).

Please note that the PhD Course in **Arterial Hypertension and Vascular Biology** is carried out in agreement with Sapienza University of Rome, which, for the Academic year 2023/24, will be the administrative seat of the Course. Therefore, the PhD students who will be selected, will be formally enrolled at Sapienza University of Rome but will carry out their research activities at the University of Padua. Furthermore, the contract will be signed by the doctoral candidate and the relevant Host Department of the University of Padua.

Applicants must use the Pica platform to invite up to two **referees** (e.g., professors at the university where they obtained the Master's degree or supervisors in any other legal entity from the academic or non-academic sector where they have studied or worked – see paragraph 3.2). They will be invited to independently upload their evaluation of the applicant by **Tuesday, 14 February 2023**.

To be considered admissible, under penalty of exclusion, an application must be:

- ✓ Submitted before the deadline using the available online platform for submission (*PICA platform* available at this link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>), and each single attachment must be uploaded in .pdf format. Applicants must first register on the platform and follow the instructions described in the Guide for applicants available on the UNIPhD website (<https://uniphd.eu/>)
- ✓ Complete (i.e. all the requested documents should be correctly submitted using the mandatory templates available on the UNIPhD website)
- ✓ Written in English
- ✓ Readable, accessible and printable.

The inability to comply with any of the above prerequisites will be ground for exclusion of the applicant at any time during the selection procedure or at the employment contract signature.

Using the UNIPhD templates for the application form, the CV and the project proposal is mandatory. They are available on the UNIPhD website.

The PICA submission system performs a general check on the completeness of the required information and reports any errors that have to be corrected before submission. Once the application is signed, it can be submitted to Unipd. Only proposals submitted via the on line PICA platform will be considered eligible.

3.2 Application documents

Application documents that applicants are asked to provide include:

- A copy of a valid ID (national iD card or passport; if the document is not in English, you should upload an official translation thereof)
- A detailed CV, max. 2 pages (a mandatory template is provided on the UNIPhD website <https://uniphd.eu/>)
- Academic Bachelor's and Master's diplomas, including a certificate or self-certification (in the cases provided for by Italian law) of the full transcript of attended courses and of the grades' translation in English. Such documents must be drawn up in Italian or English, under penalty of exclusion from the selection

- Motivation letter and plans for envisioned professional orientation, max. 1 page
- Declaration of mobility (which must be filled out on line on the PICA platform - <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>)
- The email-addresses of up to two referees (e.g., professors at the university where the applicant obtained the Master's degree or supervisors in any other legal entity from the academic or non-academic sector where the applicant has studied or worked). Referees will be invited to upload their evaluation of the applicant independently by 14 February 2023
- Research project, max 4 pages (a mandatory template is available on the UNIPhD website <https://uniphd.eu/>) containing: title of the proposal and indication of the chosen research topic; potential supervisor; concept, objectives, methodology of the proposed research; preferred secondment options
- Table of ethical issues and Ethics self-assessment (which must be filled out on line on the PICA platform - <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>)
- Declaration concerning eligibility for the family allowance
- Abstract of Master's Thesis (max 4 pages).

This call for proposals, its attachments and any document that may be relevant to the submission process are available on the UNIPhD website (<https://uniphd.eu/>).

ART. 4 - SELECTION PROCESS

An indicative timeline of the selection process is provided below. Any delays or relevant communications concerning the general process will be communicated through the UNIPhD website. UNIPhD fellowships will be assigned through a competitive and transparent international recruitment process fully compliant with the OTM-R policy. Following the principles and requirements of the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and applying the HRS4R Human Resources Strategy for Researchers, the entire selection process will strive to emphasise the excellence of applicants. Equal opportunity policies concerning gender, nationality, and disability will be respected throughout the whole selection process.

Timeline of the UNIPhD selection and recruitment procedure

6 December, 2022	Publication of the call
31 January, 2023	Call closure
21 February, 2023	Step 1 - Eligibility check
28 March, 2023	Step 2 - Evaluation of the application documents
9 May, 2023	Step 3 - Interviews
23 May, 2023	Step 4 - Final Ranking
1 October, 2023	Date of recruitment of selected UNIPhD Fellows

The full selection procedure will last 16 weeks from the application deadline until the final ranking and entails the following 4 steps.

- **STEP 1) Admissibility/Eligibility check** (completed within 3 weeks after application)

The eligibility check will be carried out by the Technical Committee (TC), which is composed of administrative personnel. The TC reserves the possibility to ask applicants for additional information or clarifications. Results of the eligibility check will be anonymously published on the UNIPhD website as soon as the process is concluded, and applicants will be notified by email about the publication of results.

- **STEP 2) Evaluation of the application documents** (completed within 8 weeks after the application deadline)

A Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will be established for each of the Doctoral Courses involved in this UNIPhD call. The 3 members of each SEC will first assess independently and remotely the applications, assigning their score to each applicant according to specific criteria. The SEC will then meet either physically or telematically to discuss the individual assessments and reach a consensus. At this step, SECs will also flag proposals that pose ethical issues and will involve the UNIPhD Ethics Committee for a preliminary evaluation. Applicants may be asked to address ethical concerns during the interview. Applicants will be ranked and the list of those admitted to Step 3 will be anonymously published on the UNIPhD website. All applicants will be notified by email about the publication of results. Applicants admitted to Step 3 will be invited for an interview through email. Applicants who did not pass will be duly informed on the outcome of Step 2 of the evaluation.

- **STEP 3) Interview** (completed within 14 weeks after the application deadline)

All interviews will be conducted in English by the SEC of each Doctoral Course, plus 2 additional members: 1 representative of the non-academic sector and 1 motivational expert.

Each interview will last approximately 30 minutes and will be scheduled through videoconference (Zoom) in consideration of the time zone of the applicants' country of residence. The applicant will be informed well in advance about technical requirements needed for the interview. Telephone-conference may be used in case technical problems occur during the videoconference. At the start of the interview, the applicant is required to demonstrate the original ID that was attached to the application. Each interview will be assessed according to the criteria described below and a global score will be assigned to each applicant.

- **STEP 4) Final decision and ranking** (completed within 16 weeks after application deadline)

The UNIPhD Executive Board (EB), in collaboration with the Technical Committee (TC), will review the results of all evaluation procedures and will determine a final merit-based ranking for every research topic in each Doctoral Course weighing the scores obtained in Step 2 and 3. **11 PhD fellowships will be awarded in this call.** The final lists of applicants admitted to the Programme will be published on the UNIPhD website anonymously. All applicants selected for Step 3 will be duly informed via email about the publication of results, and individual feedbacks on the outcome of the evaluation will be sent to each applicant on whether their proposal was funded.

4.1 Redress procedure

Applicants may submit a request for redress if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their proposal has been evaluated that may affect the final decision on the selection of the application. The EB, assisted by the TC, will examine requests for redress and treat them confidentially. Requests for redress may be asked by the applicant at the end of Steps 1, 2, and 4 of the evaluation process. A reply will be sent to the applicant within 7 working days. Requests must be:

- ✓ Related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks, as described in the guidelines available on the UNIPHD website and in the Guide for Applicants
- ✓ Including a clear description of the grounds for complaint
- ✓ Received within 7 working days after the applicant was notified the evaluation result.

In the redress procedure, the qualified experts' scientific or technical judgement will not be called into question. A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether the proposal is admitted to the next step or approved for funding. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed on the other criteria. The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.

4.2 Applicants with disabilities or specific learning difficulties

Candidates with disabilities or specific learning disabilities (SLD) may take 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 inclusionestudenti@unipd.it specifying the supports, aids or compensatory measures needed (additional time assigned cannot exceed 50% more than the time foreseen for the test)
3. Send the relevant documentation to the Student Services Office - Inclusion (inclusionestudenti@unipd.it), together with a copy of a valid identity document by 1 pm of 31 January 2023. The form to be filled in is available at the webpage <http://www.unipd.it/accoglienza-prove-ingresso>.

Useful documentation for reasonable adjustments include:

- Certification pursuant to Law 104/1992
- Civil disability certification
- SLD diagnosis certification (issued no more than 3 years ago, 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. Supports for the test will be considered on the basis of the documentation provided, and after a possible interview with dedicated personnel (to be performed in ways that will be agreed).

It is highly recommended to contact the Student Services Office - Inclusion well in advance of the date of the test, by sending an email to inclusionestudenti@unipd.it.

Further information is available at the following link: <https://www.unipd.it/en/inclusion-reception-and-admissions-tests>.

4.3 Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated in 4 steps according to the following criteria.

The inability to comply with any of such criteria will be ground for exclusion of the candidate at any time during or after the selection procedure.

Step 1: Eligibility – Technical Committee		
<i>Threshold for admission to evaluation: A pass/fail-evaluation will be applied for each criterion.</i>		
Admissibility of proposals	Deadline, Completeness, in English, Document quality	PASS/FAIL
Eligibility of candidates	Mobility rule, Qualification (→Second Cycle degree diploma by 30 September 2023), Early Stage	PASS/FAIL
Step 2: Evaluation of the application documents – Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)		
<i>Threshold for admission to Step 3: Both thresholds (60/100) for CV and research proposal need to be passed. An overall score of 140/200 is required for admission to Step 3. Justified career breaks (e.g. maternity leave, military service) or variations in the chronological order of CVs will not be penalised.</i>		
Evaluation of the CV (0-100) <i>Threshold CV 60/100</i>	Use of the provided UNIPHD CV template is compulsory	max. 100
Quality of prior education (programme and exam grades/full transcript of records, abstract and short summary of Master thesis → max. 4 pages)		max. 50
Quality of the candidate (motivation and recommendation letters)		max. 25
Achievements (e.g. actual length of studies, awards/honours, previous research experience, publications, mobility experience)		max. 25
Evaluation of the research proposal (max. 4 pages) <i>Threshold Research 60 / 100</i>	Use of the provided UNIPHD project proposal template is compulsory	max. 100
Relevance of the proposed research project		max. 40
Clarity of the objectives and soundness of methodology		max. 40
Quality of proposed secondments with respect to the 3 i's dimensions (international, interdisciplinary, intersectorial)		max. 20
Step 3: Interview		
Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) + non-academic representative + motivational expert		
<i>Threshold for admission to Step 4: 70 / 100</i>		
All interviews will be carried out via Zoom in English and will last approximately 30 minutes.		
Excellence of the candidate		max. 100
Coherence between the candidate's motivation and career prospective		max. 30
Knowledge of the subject(s) relevant to the research project		max. 30
Evidence of creative and critical thinking		max. 20
Potential of the candidate to reach a position of professional maturity		max. 20

Step 4: Final ranking – Executive Board reviews all evaluation procedures

For each fellowship a merit-based ranking is determined by weighing the scores for the evaluation of

CV (30%), project (30%) and interview (40%)		
Overall score <i>Threshold for admission in the ranking list: 70/100</i>	Weight	max. 100
Evaluation of the CV (Step 2)	30%	max. 30
Evaluation of the research proposal (Step 2)	30%	max. 30
Evaluation of the interview (Step 3)	40%	max. 40

Clearance by the relevant Ethics Committee is a prerequisite for the final approval of the proposal for funding. If two or more candidates applying for the same PhD position have the same score, the position will be offered to the candidate belonging to the least represented gender in the Doctoral Course at the time of the ranking (in first instance) or the youngest one (in second instance). In case, for any reason, one or more of the successful candidates decide not to enroll, the fellowship will be offered to the next applicant in the ranking for the same position.

ART. 5 - THE EVALUATION COMMITTEES

A Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will be established for each of the 10 UNIPHD Doctoral Courses involved in this call and Unipd is committed to ensure their gender-balanced compositions. At the second step of the Selection process, each SEC is composed by 3 members:

- 1 internal member, chosen among the supervisors of the Doctoral Course, who will act as Chairperson
- 2 internationally recognized experts, 1 for each of the research topics originally offered by the PhD Courses, external to the Doctoral Course, and to Unipd.

At the third step of the Selection process (Interview phase), each SEC will be assisted by 2 additional members: 1 representative of the non-academic sector, and 1 counsellor/motivational expert.

5.1 Expert appointment: Conflict of interest (CoI) and confidentiality

For the whole duration of the evaluation and the selection process, SEC members will conform to the European C&C for the recruitment for researchers and maintain absolute confidentiality of applications and associated documents, as well as guarantee the absence of any Conflict of interest (CoI).

ART. 6 - ENROLMENT AND VACANT PLACES

Successful candidates must enrol by the deadline indicated on the UNIPHD website (indicatively between the end of June and July 2023), following the procedures published together with the rankings.

Failure to enrol by such deadlines will be considered as renunciation of the place, which will subsequently be assigned to the next applicant according to the ranking list.

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.

When completing the enrolment form, in order to be considered eligible, the successful candidate declares, inter alia, that:

- They are not enrolled, nor shall they enrol for the duration of the PhD, in another university Course

- If enrolled in a first- or second-cycle degree course (with exclusion of the academic qualification required to access the PhD, in accordance with art. 2):
 - They will have been awarded all credits, except for those relating to the final examination, by 30 September 2023
 - If enrolled in a university master course, they will have fulfilled the attendance obligations established by the master by 30 September 2023
 - The final examination of the course first enrolled in, will have been passed no later than ninety days after the start of the PhD
- They shall 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 UNIPhD Fellow with time spent abroad
- Applicants 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, together with the translation, legalisation and Declaration of Value issued by Italian diplomatic or consular authorities or, alternatively, Statements of Comparability and Verification issued by ENIC-NARIC
 - 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 ENIC-NARIC
- 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>
- Applicants 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: (i) they do not submit such documentation within 12 months of the start of the course; (ii) following verification, the academic qualification does not meet the requirements of the present competition notice and does not permit enrolment on the PhD course.

Following explicit or tacit withdrawal by successful candidates before the start of the course, in order to assign any vacant places available, the PhD Office will contact directly the other eligible candidates according to the ranking drawn up for that specific research topic.

ART. 7 - SALARY AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

7.1. Composition of the UNIPhD fellow salary

The UNIPhD fellow **annual salary**, which is paid monthly, is set by the Grant Agreement in € 32.520 gross amount (ca. €23.280 net amount) for researchers with no family responsibilities or € 34.920 gross amount (ca. € 25.044 net amount) for researchers with family responsibilities (i.e. spouse,

children).

Specifically, salary (gross amount) comprises the following allowances:

- **Living** allowance: € 2.510/month for 36 months
- **Mobility** allowance: € 200/month for 36 months, covering fellows' expenses linked to their mobility (i.e. relocation, travel expenses)
- **Family** allowance: € 200/month for 36 months for UNIPhD Fellows with family obligations at the time of the call deadline. The family allowance is reserved to applicants linked to another person by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised, or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the applicant.

UNIPhD Fellows receive additional financial support to cover **research, training and networking costs**, that is, purchase of equipment, consumables, publications, Open Access costs, fees for scientific journals, travel expenses (e.g. related to conference/intensive courses participation, networking activities) and external services. The funding will be managed by the Host Department and will be subject to the approval of their supervisor. Unipd will hold the property rights on equipment and consumables, purchased on the project budget.

7.2 Employment contract and conditions

Unipd will enter with the Fellow a 3-year (36 months) employment contract ("Assegno di ricerca"); it will be signed by the Fellow and the Director of the Host Department and will specify the Fellow's employment conditions and the Unipd obligations.

The provided employment contract scheme is defined by the Italian Law 240/2010, art. 22, it is **tax-exempt and includes compulsory social security coverage and social benefits**: the Italian National Institute for Insurance - INPS will cover a contribution to pension funds, insurance against work accidents, sickness, maternity (5-month maternity leave is compulsory and paid jointly by INPS and Unipd up to the total amount of the fellowship), parental leave (optional 6 months can be claimed: the first 3 months are paid by INPS with 30% of salary, the last 3 months are not paid), adoption leave (same conditions as maternity apply) and foster care. The contract shall be suspended due to maternity leave, parental leave and serious sick leave, certified by an appropriate doctor's note, for the period established in the regulations in force. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the suspension due to force majeure has also been introduced. In such cases of suspension, the termination of the contract will be postponed and the duration of the extension corresponds to the duration of the contract suspension.

According to the Legislative Decree 22/2015, art. 15, at the termination of the contract, the Fellows may claim unemployment benefit for up to 6 months (i.e. DIS-COLL benefit paid by INPS).

ART. 8 - COURSE START DATES AND TUITION FEES

Selected applicants will be enrolled in the UNIPhD Doctoral Courses starting in the Academic Year 2023/2024. Courses will begin on 1 October 2023. Admission to a PhD course is a **full time, exclusive commitment**.

UNIPhD Fellows are exempt from university tuition fees.

ART. 9 - OBLIGATIONS OF UNIPhD FELLOWS

9.1. Activities of UNIPhD fellows

UNIPhD Fellows shall carry out the activities as foreseen by the UNIPhD programme and eventual other obligations of the PhD course, as well as relating to their approved research project, and shall 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 Regulations for PhD courses. After evaluating the activities carried out by the UNIPhD Fellow, the competent body of the Course will deliberate whether to admit the UNIPhD Fellow to the next year of the course. With a substantiated decision, the competent body may also propose to the Rector that the Fellow be **excluded from continuing the Course**.

9.2 Secondments

To ensure that the ESRs recruited within UNIPhD will receive the most innovative, avantgarde training and fully benefit from all opportunities on offer, UNIPhD Fellows have to carry out 2 secondments, one of which mandatory, for a minimum period of 3 months and a maximum of 18 months, and each of them labelled with (at least) 1 of the 3 i's (international, interdisciplinary, intersectorial).

9.3 Publications

All scientific publications resulting from the research funded under the present call must be open access (free of charge online access for any user). Moreover, in all the publications and other dissemination material (e.g. conference posters) UNIPhD Fellows shall acknowledge the funding programme as follows: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101034319 and from the European Union - NextGenerationEU".

ART. 10 - OBTAINING THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

The award of the PhD is subject to full compliance with University regulations for PhD Courses. A final examination is foreseen and consists of an oral discussion with the fellow on their thesis.

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

ART. 11 - PROPERTY OF RESULTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Intellectual and industrial property rights on the results obtained by the UNIPhD Fellows, 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.

The Fellows 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 Valorisation Office 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.

In any case, the UNIPHD Fellow 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. 12 - ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

All the research and innovation activities carried out during the PhD shall comply with ethical principles and relevant national, EU and international legislation, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols. Particular attention shall be paid to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person, the right to nondiscrimination and the need to ensure high levels of human health protection. Research and innovation activities proposed under these projects shall have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

ART. 13 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of personal data provided by applicants 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. 14 - FINAL PROVISIONS

For anything not specified in this call, see Law no. 240/2010, the Unipd current “Regulations Governing Research Grant Awards” and subsequent amendments and integrations, Italian Ministerial Decree no. 226 dated 14 December 2021; University Regulations on PhD courses issued with Rectoral Decree no. 2996 dated 20 July 2022. In accordance with the Italian Presidential Decree DPR 445/2000, at any stage of the procedure, the University shall have the right to verify the applicant’s self-certifications and statutory declaration. If the aforementioned statements are found to be false, then the declarer shall forfeit any benefits that they may have gained from the false statements, without prejudice to any sanctions envisaged by the Italian criminal code or by special laws, that shall be governed by Art. 756 of Italian Presidential Decree DPR no. 445/2000. The person responsible for the present procedure is Andrea Berti, Head of Research and Business Relations Area at Unipd.

For questions or information about this call for proposals, please contact: msca.cofund@unipd.it.

This English version of the “UNIPHD Programme” call has the sole purpose of enabling applicants to understand the content thereof; only the Italian version of the call is legally binding.

Date of registration

The Rector
Daniela Mapelli

Annexes:

1. UNIPHD Doctoral Courses & Research topics – Academic Year 2023/2024.