



UNIVERSITÀ
di CAMERINO



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SUBJECT: Call for Applications – Cycle XLII, A.Y. 2026/2027, for admission to the PhD course in “THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE”. Second session dedicated exclusively to scholarships funded under the Public Notice PR Marche FSE+ 2021–2027 – Axis 4 – SO 4a for the assignment of innovative PhD research scholarships with industrial characterization – A.Y. 2026/2027 (XLII cycle).

The Rector

With regard to Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010 “Rules on the organisation of universities, academic staff, and their recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to incentivise the quality and efficiency of the university system”, in particular the Art. 19 “Provisions on PhD Programmes”;

Having regard to Decree of the Minister of Education, University and Research No. 45 of 8 February 2013, “Regulations governing the procedures for the accreditation of PhD institutions and courses and criteria for the establishment of PhD courses by accredited bodies”;

With regard to Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 226 of 14 December 2021 “Regulations laying down procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes and locations, and criteria for the implementation of PhD programmes by accredited bodies”;

With regard to Decree of the Minister of University and Research No. 247 of 23 February 2022 “Increase in PhD scholarships”;

With regard to Decree of the Minister of University, and Research No. 301 of 22 March 2022 laying down New guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programmes;

With regard to Law No. 33 of 12 April 2022 “Provisions on simultaneous enrolment in two higher education programmes”;

With regard to the University Statute, issued with Rector’s Decree No. 194 of 30 July 2012, and published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic - General Series - Part One, No. 200 of 28 August 2012, which entered into force on 27 September 2012; amended by Rector’s Decree No. 179 of 18 September 2015, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No. 236 of 10 October 2015, and entered into force on 09 November 2015;

With regard to the adoption of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their recruitment and the adoption of the human resources strategy;

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Piazza Cavour 19/f
62032 Camerino MC

Codice fiscale: 81001910439
Partita IVA: 00291660439
protocollo@pec.unicam.it
www.unicam.it

Area Biblioteche, Internazionalizzazione della Didattica e Formazione Avanzata

Polo Santa Caterina - Via Viviano Venanzi, 24
62032 Camerino MC

Dott.ssa Annalisa Albanesi
Responsabile di Area
+39 0737 402765
annalisa.albanesi@unicam.it

Ufficio Formazione Avanzata iSAS - International School of Advanced Studies dottorato@unicam.it

Resp. **Dott.ssa Natascia Alessandrini**
natascia.alessandrini@unicam.it
+39 0737 402173

Dott.ssa Isabella Calzolari
isabella.calzolari@unicam.it +39 0737 402058

Dott. Daniele Quadrani
daniele.quadrani@unicam.it +39 0737 402124



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With regard to the University Guidelines and the UNICAM OTM-R (Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers) Policy, approved by the Academic Senate in their meeting No. 28 of 31 May 2016;

Considering the accreditation procedure for PhD programs of Cycle XLII, which the Ministry of University and Research communicated on May 14, 2026, with a positive outcome for the UNICAM PhD programs submitted for Cycle XLII;

Considering that subject to the conditions to proceed, and to the availability of further funding for the XLII PhD cycle, additional scholarships and/or PhD positions without scholarship may be provided;

With regard to the Decree of the Director of the Education, Social Innovation and Sport sector No. 163/IISPOF 10/08/2026. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 OS 4a DGR No. 1027/2026. Public Notice for the assignment of innovative PhD research scholarships with industrial characterisation, academic year 2026/2027 (Cycle XLII) and its related documents;

With regard to the results of the Public Notice referred to in the preceding point, pending the fulfillment of the provisions outlined in said Notice, under which 7 additional scholarships aimed at these Funds were awarded to UNICAM—in addition to the calls for applications already issued for Cycle XLII through Rectoral Decrees No. 49985 of June 23, 2026, and No. 60824 of July 21, 2026 (1st Session Calls for Applications);

With regard to the meeting of the SAS Board of September 15, 2026, during which the preparatory aspects for the issuance of this call for applications were approved as a matter of urgency and with immediate effect, within its area of competence;

With regard to the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022;

With regard to the Regulations on PhD Programmes, issued with Rector's Decree No. 215/2025;

With regard to the Internal Regulations of the PhD Programme of National Interest in 'Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience', administratively based at the University of Camerino;

Considering it necessary to proceed with the urgent issuance of the Call for Applications referred to in the subject, without prejudice to the premises set out herein;

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DECREES

Art. 1 – SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE PHD COURSE IN “THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE” – 2nd Session

Public selection procedure for admission to the XLII cycle (a.y. 2026/27) of PhD programme of National Interest in “THEORETICAL AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCE”, with administrative headquarter at the *School of Advanced Studies* - International Doctoral School of the University of Camerino (henceforth referred to as SAS), unique for EU and non-EU citizens, is hereby launched for all non-associated PhD courses at the University of Camerino.

This session of the Call for Applications relates exclusively to 1 PhD scholarship funded within the PhD Programme covered by this Call by the Public Notice for the assignment of innovative PhD research scholarships with industrial characterization, A.Y. 2026/2027 (Cycle XLII), issued by the Marche Region with Decree of the Head of the Education, Social Innovation and Sports Sector No. 163/IISP of 10/08/2026. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 SO 4a DGR No. 1027/2026.

Camerino, *date of registration*

The Rector
Prof. Graziano Leoni

Università degli Studi di Camerino

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UNICAM (university of Camerino) PhD Programme "Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience"
Call for applications 2026 - 2nd Session
Cycle XLII – Academic Year 2026-27

Applications are now open for innovative PhD research scholarships with industrial characterization, A.Y. 2026/2027 (Cycle XLII), funded under the Public Notice issued by the Marche Region with Decree of the Head of the Education, Social Innovation and Sports Sector No. 163/IISP of 10/08/2026. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 SO 4a DGR No. 1027/2026.

*Applications must be sent **by 1.00 pm CEST (Italian time zone) on 22 October 2026.***

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE

The selection procedure comprises the following main steps (timing is purely provisional):

- 1 – **(From the date of publication to October 22, 2026) Call launching** – Selection procedure: candidates must submit the Application form through website: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phd42dintan/domande> **by 1:00 p.m. (Italian time) on 22 October 2026.** In particular, they must present their identity document, Curriculum vitae, a short hypothetical research project, letters of reference (up to three), a letter of motivation (statement of purpose), and choose the Topic of interest among those proposed. **Annex 1** lists the topics made available in this Call for Applications. It will be the exclusive responsibility of the candidate to verify any update to the procedure set out in this Call for Applications via the official link (University institutional website, "Bandi" section).
- 2 – **(by October 26, 2026) Verification of eligibility requirements and evaluation of CVs** – UNICAM appoints the Evaluation Committees for the whole selection procedure. A shortlist of the candidates who are admitted / admitted "subject to confirmation" to the second stage of the selection procedure is published. The interview calendar is established and published. In the meantime, further eligibility checks may be carried out if necessary.
- 3 – **(by October 26 or 27, 2026) The second phase of the evaluation procedure is carried out:** the candidates admitted or admitted "subject to confirmation" will have to undergo remote oral interviews according to the published calendar.

The dates and methods of carrying out the oral tests and any corrections will be published on the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi> after the closing of the Call. This publication has the value of official

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**Area Biblioteche,
Internazionalizzazione della Didattica
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notification for all legal purposes; therefore, the candidates will not receive any personal communication regarding the invitations for the interviews.

4 – **(by October 28, 2026, subject to change)** The **final merit-based ranking lists** are published; successful candidates must submit their acceptance or waiver **by October 31, 2026**.

5 – **(1 November 2026)** Mandatory start date for PhD programs: **November 1, 2026**.

Art. 1 PhD PROGRAMMES AND RESPECTIVE CURRICULA

Duration of PhD programmes: **Three years**.

National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” usually lasts three years and aims to contribute to the training of future generations in the neuroscience sector. By putting the best scientific and cultural resources of various universities and research centres into a system, we intend to promote an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach to the study of neuroscience. National PhD Programme in “Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience” aims to provide PhD students with the scientific knowledge and methodologies necessary for the integrated study of neuroscience in areas ranging from the investigation of the mind-body-brain relationship to molecular neurobiology and cellular, computational, cognitive, preclinical, clinical, diagnostic, rehabilitative neuroscience up to the study of neurorobotic systems. PhD students will find themselves inserted in scientifically stimulating environments where, in addition to curricular teaching and research, they will deepen aspects relating to transversal training and the acquisition of “soft skills”.

The Programme is developed in collaboration with other Italian universities, public and private research entities, Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance (AFAM) institutions, or enterprises, in accordance with the agreements and conventions configured for the various PhD cycles.

1.1 The programme is divided into the following 4 curricula:

COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Its purpose is theoretical and methodological training in predominantly cognitive research areas, such as perception, language, memory, attention, action, decision making, and intelligence. The curriculum extends to the study of cognitive function deficits and can have translational implications. Furthermore, for completeness, the study of cognitive functions is also addressed in the interaction with non-cognitive

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constructs such as, for example, emotions, personality, and motivation. This curriculum is characterised by a strongly interdisciplinary approach which, as such, makes use of models and methods derived mainly from experimental psychology, medicine, linguistics but also from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). In addition to a theoretical component, the training provided by this curriculum offers a relevant one in the practical field. Research in cognitive neuroscience is mainly carried out in laboratories where human participants are tested using various non-invasive investigation and/or stimulation techniques. The equipment most commonly used in cognitive neuroscience research are EEG, TMS, combined TMS-EEG, tDCS and tACS, eye tracker, and structural and functional magnetic resonance. This allows students who choose this curriculum to be exposed to a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies, many of which can also be used in research in other fields. The didactic offer includes three types of courses: 1) theoretical, relating to the various fields of cognitive neuroscience (perception, language, etc., and the deficits thereof), 2) methodological (statistics, coding, theory); and 3) practical, relating to the use of equipment. Other skills such as scientific writing, elements of research ethics, and open data science, will be shared across all curricula.

KEY WORDS: Memory; Learning; Emotions; Language; Neuropsychology; Neurophysiology; Neuroeconomics; Decision Making

NEUROSCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Over the past three decades, massive technological and conceptual developments have led to the neuroscience of complex systems, an already multidisciplinary field of study in its relations with mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, addressing issues classically pertinent to disciplines traditionally belonging to the field of human sciences.

What originally may have seemed a pure cultural trend has given rise to real fields of research and teaching. Examples of this important process of cultural development is the field of neuro-aesthetics, understood as the analysis of the brain processes involved in the production and use of the artistic and scientific creative experience. Understanding of the fundamental processes of plasticity and memory has led to neuro-pedagogy interested in the development of didactic programmes inspired by the brain processes that lead to the learning behaviours. The study of individual and social decision-making in the field of morality resulted in the development of fields such as neuro-economics and neuro-law, inspiring innovative application experiences that have changed the initial disciplines (think, for example, of neuro-leadership and neuro-politics understood as the study of the neural processes that determine the characteristics of whoever is in charge of a company, or a political party, or a religious group). The aspiration to investigate

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even wider knowledge from a cerebral point of view is inspiring fields such as neuro-philosophy and neuro-ethics, as well as neuro-literature and neuro-poetry. Despite the criticised oversimplification of the prefix “neuro” with which they are indicated, these research domains promise to greatly extend the understanding of human nature, not so much and not only in relation to single individuals, but to the inherently social characteristics of each of them..

KEY WORDS: Neurophilosophy; History of Neuroscience; Arts and Neuroscience; Neuropolitics; Social Neuroscience; Education

PRECLINICAL CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE (relevant in the present Call)

The programme of this curriculum is centred on the need to facilitate the transfer to clinical practice of neuroscientific knowledge acquired in the laboratory, with a translational approach. PhD students will acquire specific skills to bridge the gap between the design, execution, and interpretation of experiments on cellular, animal, or human models, and the challenges of experimental medicine, particularly in the field of neurorehabilitation and drug development. All activities will be based on the use of innovative data analysis methodologies, from electrophysiology to neuroimaging, from neuropsychology to experimental techniques for the study of cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying various functions and disorders of the central nervous system. Strategic topics are the following: Preclinical neuroscience (genetic and molecular mechanisms of neuro-psychiatric pathologies); clinical neuroscience (neurology, psychiatry, neurorehabilitation, both of the adult organism and for neurodevelopmental disorders); tools and methods for the analysis of normal and pathological brain connectivity, design and development of hardware and software for the recording and non-invasive modulation of brain activity; identification of biomarkers for neuro-psychiatric diseases; study of the gut-brain-axis identification of new pharmacological targets for neuro-psychiatric diseases; computational modelling; machine learning; optogenetics, chemogenetics; clinical trial design; digital neuroscience, with a focus on telemedicine, telerehabilitation and development of serious games applications for diagnosis and cognitive training; ethical aspects. Core disciplines such as physiology, pharmacology, neurology, epidemiology, statistics, genetics, and neuroinformatics will be part of the teaching in the curriculum. Practical activities are foreseen, participation in seminars, journal clubs, presentation of reports, and research results.

KEY WORDS: Psychiatry; Neurology; Neurorehabilitation and Treatment; Clinical Trials; Neuropharmacology Neurophysiology; Neuromodulation; Brain Function; Affective Disorders; Neurological Disorders; Drug Development; Neurochemistry; Neurobiology; Genetics; Neurorehabilitation; Brain Stimulation; Wearable Robotics

COMPUTATIONAL AND SYSTEM NEUROSCIENCE

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Piazza Cavour 19/f
62032 Camerino MC

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protocollo@pec.unicam.it
www.unicam.it

Area Biblioteche, Internazionalizzazione della Didattica e Formazione Avanzata

Polo Santa Caterina - Via Viviano Venanzi, 24
62032 Camerino MC

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Computational neuroscience aims to design and use quantitative methods in neurophysiology and neurobiology. The development of these methods has significantly increased our understanding of the functioning of the nervous system, and is clearly becoming vital to the neuroscience community. Expanding training in the application of computational methods to neuroscience problems is a widely recognised need. Furthermore, in order to develop such methods for the study of system neurosciences, it is important to train students in the field of innovative imaging techniques, related devices, and methods of analysis. Students recruited in this curriculum will learn to develop mathematical models and computer simulations, but also to develop methods for anatomical / functional non-invasive imaging and for the related data analysis with different neuroscientific objectives. Models, imaging techniques and analysis methods will be used (1) for basic science: To better understand the development and functions of the nervous system in various animal models and in humans, and (2) for translational science: to develop wearable and implantable medical devices (“neurotechnology”) for restoring and repairing compromised nervous systems due to neurological disorders or traumatic injuries. This curriculum will provide horizontal skills that can also be used in other PhD school curricula. In particular, models will be based on biophysics, machine learning, advanced signal processing, and will address the neuroscientific problem at different levels. The innovative imaging techniques and data analysis methods will involve areas of applied physics at the basis of measurement devices and techniques, including artificial intelligence for the interpretation and prediction of results, also requiring multidisciplinary interactions with other curricula. Students will also be exposed to empirical techniques in neuroscience and neurophysiology to strengthen their skills and enable them to experimentally validate their models.

KEY WORDS: Mathematical Models; Connectomics; Brain Dynamics; Brain Imaging; Brain architecture; Neuronal Networks; Machine Learning; Large-Scale; Data Analysis; Neurologically Inspired AI Systems; Artificial Neural Network

1.2 Universities, AFAM Institutions and affiliated research institutions for Cycle 42 (positions offered in the 1st Session of the Call):

Università degli Studi di Messina, Università degli Studi di Padova, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” – Dipartimento di Psicologia, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” – Dipartimento di Scienze e Biotechnologie Medico-Chirurgiche, Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Università degli studi di Genova, Università degli studi di Bologna, Conservatorio Statale di Musica “E.F. Dall’Abaco” (Verona), IRCCS Ospedale Sacro Cuore Don Calabria, IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - IBF e IN, (in collaboration with) Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia - IIT

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1.3 Partner companies for Cycle 42 for reserved positions (offered in the 1st Session of the Call):

AM microsystem s.r.l., Biotecnica s.n.c

Art. 2 POSITIONS AND PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

Funding is available for 1 PhD position with a scholarship under this Call for Applications:

1 scholarship - TANREG 1 - Chronic pain and neurodegeneration: a translational approach to understanding biological mechanisms and developing innovative therapeutic strategies.

Note. The scholarship available for this 2nd Session of the Call for Applications pertains exclusively to UNICAM as the Host Institution, given the specific features of their funding.

Drawing from the ranking list of suitable candidates, the University reserves the right to assign other positions. The assignments will be subject to the availability of further funding for the XLII PhD cycle.

Art. 3 COMMITMENTS OF PhD STUDENTS

According to the national law and the current regulation in UNICAM, PhD positions require a full-time commitment, both in terms of training and research activities, and possibly teaching, tutoring and student services. In accordance with current regulations, research and training periods in Italy and abroad are foreseen. Please, read UNICAM Regulations in force for a more in-depth overview.

Within the specific funding framework of this Call for Applications, in addition to the standard requirements, the awarded PhD student is required in particular to:

- carry out a period of mobility abroad ranging from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 6 months;
- not be enrolled simultaneously in other university courses;
- not benefit, for the same period and in relation to the same activities or costs covered by the PhD scholarship, from other incompatible public or private funding, in compliance with the prohibition of double funding pursuant to Article 63 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060;
- develop the research project over the three-year period, following the indications of the academic supervisors;
- prepare a report on the research project carried out at the end of each year, to be submitted to the University and countersigned by the academic supervisor, aimed at the continuation of the activity;

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annalisa.albanesi@unicam.it

Ufficio Formazione Avanzata ISAS - International School of Advanced Studies dottorato@unicam.it

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- comply, within their area of competence, with the rules laid down in the Public Notice issued by the Marche Region with Decree of the Head of the Education, Social Innovation and Sports Sector No. 163/IISP of 10/08/2026. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 SO 4a DGR No. 1027/2026.

Without prejudice to the full-time commitment and the requirements provided for in the Funding Programme, work activities, including paid ones, concerning practical professional training or limited external work activity that allows the acquisition of skills relating to the formative field of the PhD Programme, are also compatible with the PhD Programme, subject to approval by the Scientific Board of the PhD Programme and authorization by the SAS Board.

Art.4 CAREER, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PhD STUDENTS

The rights and responsibilities of PhD students and the requirements for obtaining the degree (“Dottore di ricerca” or “PhD”) are outlined in the UNICAM Regulations for PhD Programmes and the acts issued with Rector's Decree No. 215/2025, available at: <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/regolamenti> (SECTION “Regulations of general interest”).

Concurrent enrollment in two higher education courses is regulated by Law No. 33/2022 and implementing decrees.

UNICAM and its partners (in case of PhD Programs carried out in partnership with further Institutions) may support non-EU students in finding an accommodation, limited to rooms/apartments that are available in the University college at the time the PhD students arrive in Italy.

Before commencing their activities within their respective PhD programme, PhD candidates must hold valid health insurance coverage, either through registration with the Italian National Health Service (Sistema Sanitario Nazionale - SSN) or via a private insurance policy.

For non-EU PhD candidates: applicants may, independently and at their own expense, register with the National Health Service or, alternatively, take out private insurance policies that meet at least the minimum criteria required by the competent Authorities for the issuance of a post-graduate student visa.

Proof of health/insurance coverage can be provided to the relevant Office, upon request, by submitting a copy of their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with a validity period compatible with the PhD programme, or by providing annual receipts of registration/renewal with the National Health Service, or by providing annual receipts of purchase/renewal of a private health insurance policy along with its general terms and conditions.

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Piazza Cavour 19/f
62032 Camerino MC

Codice fiscale: 81001910439
Partita IVA: 00291660439
protocollo@pec.unicam.it
www.unicam.it

Area Biblioteche, Internazionalizzazione della Didattica e Formazione Avanzata

Polo Santa Caterina - Via Viviano Venanzi, 24
62032 Camerino MC

Dott.ssa Annalisa Albanesi
Responsabile di Area
+39 0737 402765
annalisa.albanesi@unicam.it

Ufficio Formazione Avanzata iSAS - International School of Advanced Studies dottorato@unicam.it

Resp. **Dott.ssa Natascia Alessandrini**
natascia.alessandrini@unicam.it
+39 0737 402173

Dott.ssa Isabella Calzolari
isabella.calzolari@unicam.it +39 0737 402058

Dott. Daniele Quadroni
daniele.quadroni@unicam.it +39 0737 402124



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All PhD candidates benefit from accident and civil liability insurance coverage provided by the University for the entire duration of the programme, solely for activities related to the PhD course, in accordance with the terms offered by the relevant insurance companies.

In the event of an invention made by the PhD candidate within the scope of the university research activity, the University Regulations on intellectual property and patents shall generally apply.

Art. 5 SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH BUDGET

* **The gross amount of the scholarships** (including taxes paid by the recipient) is approximately €1.353 per month, and approximately **€16.243 per year** (based on a duration of 3 years). Please note that these amounts may slightly vary in the event of any further updates by the National Authorities.

* For all PhD students who are entitled to it under current national legislation, for periods of stay and residence abroad (so-called "mobility abroad"), additional funding is guaranteed corresponding to an increase of no less than 50% of the amount of the scholarship.

*Each PhD student, with or without scholarship or other forms of support, **has a budget for research activity** in Italy or abroad of at least **€9.745,80** during the three-year course and in accordance with the rules established by Italian law, regulations and UNICAM guidelines.

When provided by the administrative headquarter, the scholarship is paid to the PhD candidate in monthly installments in arrears (each installment is paid the following month) and only after the enrollment procedure has been fully finalized. The payment of the scholarship requires the PhD candidate to hold an Italian Tax Code (Codice Fiscale) and a suitable Italian or online bank account.

The accrual of the scholarships begins on the official start date of the PhD programmes, which is November 1, 2026.

In general, PhD students can be recipients of a scholarship if the maximum amount of annual emoluments does not exceed the annual amount of the scholarship (gross cost of recipient, currently set by the Ministry at €16.243,00 per year).

For the benefit of the scholarship, PhD students avail themselves of the faculty of self-certification to be referred to the tax period coinciding with the calendar year in which the scholarship is actually paid.

This communication must be sent to the SAS offices (dottorato@unicam.it) no later than 31 July of each year. The university administration may carry out checks on the veracity of the aforementioned self-certifications.

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In the event that the annual emoluments of the PhD student with scholarship, during the course of the PhD programme (with the exception of the year of issue of the Call) exceed the annual above-mentioned amount of €16,243.00 of the scholarship net of charges, the PhD student shall forfeit the receipt of the scholarship, with the obligation to repay the amount already received in the reference calendar year.

For the purposes of determining the limit of emoluments referred to in the previous paragraphs, the taxable income resulting from certification or tax return deriving from work services is taken into consideration.

Anyone who, even partially, has benefited from a scholarship for a PhD programme, cannot ask to benefit from it a second time.

Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships conferred for any reason, except with those granted by national or foreign institutions aimed at supporting stays abroad for the purposes of training or research activity of PhD students.; in the case of scholarships or positions funded under specific programmes or agreements, also in terms of compatibility, the specific rules of the programme or agreement must be taken into account.

Art. 6 FEES FOR ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE TO PhD PROGRAMMES

The annual fees for accessing PhD programs and attending them will be specified in the Manifesto of Studies, available under "University Fees". The Manifesto of Studies will be approved by the Academic Bodies and published on the university's official website.

Candidates who are admitted to the PhD programs are required to pay the regional tax for the right to university study, amounting to €140, as well as a stamp duty of €16, which is paid electronically.

Art. 7 APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

The application for participation in the selection procedure must be filled out **exclusively** (under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure/admission) on the format accessible from the website <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phd42dintan/domande> by **October 22 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (Italian time)**. Only applications that are submitted within the specified deadline will be considered.

For each application, the candidate must pay a non-refundable fee of € 20,00 in accordance with the instructions of the online procedure, under penalty of exclusion. The payment must be made, under penalty of exclusion, by the aforementioned deadline of this call. Under no circumstances will the fee be refunded.

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Candidates are advised to submit their application for the selection procedure well in advance of the deadline stated in this Call.

It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the sequence of actions required to submit their application on the portal and to ensure the correct completion of the online procedure.

Please note that no complaints will be accepted for any computer system malfunctions that may occur due to high traffic or overload near the deadline.

The University administration cannot be held responsible for any failure to receive documentation due to third-party liability or technical issues.

The guidelines for using the online portal will be made available at the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>.

Applicants are required to register using the following link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unicam/phd42dintan/domande>

Once registered, applicants will receive their login details for the portal. The application can then be submitted through the portal.

The mandatory language for filling out the application is English.

What information and documents are needed during the first step of the selection procedure:

- Personal data;
- Valid identity document;
- (only for candidates to whom this case applies) residence permit;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Choice of the Topic;
- Short hypothetical research project in English, consistent with the topic of interest, which will be used exclusively for evaluation purposes and will be binding for any research activities that may be carried out during the PhD course;
- Statement of purpose: in English or Italian, specifying: the reasons for enrolling in a PhD programme at Unicam; consistency with the candidate's academic career; research interests; research ideas for future projects; any experience gained during the completion of the degree thesis;
- Final statements.

The application may also include the name of up to 3 contact persons (presenters), i.e. professors/researchers, who are considered capable of supporting the application by completing the reference form; if there are names, the presenters will be sent a request via email to provide a letter of

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introduction. The letter of introduction must be received **by October 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** (Italian time). It is also strongly recommended for the purposes of evaluating the application.

Art.8 TOPIC OF THE CALL OF APPLICATION

In relation to the research fields linked for A.Y. 2026/2027 to the PhD programme of this Call for Applications, and based on the results of the Public Notice under which the scholarships provided herein are funded, specific research topics have been defined for the three-year research projects to be carried out by the PhD students.

A detailed description of each topic, with any reference to the relevant Curriculum, will be available in **Annex 1** to the Call; it will be the exclusive responsibility of the candidate to verify any updates of the documentation referred to in this Notice, including in relation to the Annexes, which may be supplemented as needed, on an urgent basis, also via a Notice posted at the official link of the Call for Applications (University institutional website, "Bandi" section).

Art. 9 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE COMPETITION

In general, Italian and foreign citizens in possession of a specialization/master's degree or similar university qualification recognised as suitable by the academic authorities, on the basis of laws and regulations in force, may submit an application to participate in the competition for admission to PhD Programmes, without discrimination as regards gender, age, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political opinions, socioeconomic conditions, and disabilities.

Regarding the educational qualification required for admission to the PhD programs, reference is also made to Ministerial Decree (MUR) no. 226/2021 and the Marche Region's public notice —under which the scholarships covered by this Call are funded — as also highlighted in the following paragraph.

For the purposes of this Call for Applications, pursuant to the Public Notice under which the scholarships provided herein are funded, additional candidate requirements apply, as listed below in this paragraph:

Recipients of the scholarships are graduates who, as of the date of submission of the application to participate in the Public Notice issued by the University for the selection of PhD students, are classified under current legislation as inactive, unattached, or unemployed, are resident in the Marche Region or domiciled in the regional territory for at least 6 months, and are under 36 years of age. All requirements must be held as of that same date. All requirements must be held at the time of application submission.

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Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad must present, for the purposes of enrolment, the Certificate of Comparability and Verification of the foreign university qualification issued by the [centro ENIC-NARIC in Italia \(CIMEA\)](#)¹ or, alternatively, the Declaration of Value issued by the Italian Embassy in the country where the qualification was issued. The documents must contain all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification.

In the Declaration of Value, it must be specified that the qualification that allows access to PhD Programmes on site has been obtained after 17 years of education, and that it satisfies the academic requirements for access to third cycle courses in the issuing country. The Declaration of Value or the CIMEA Comparability and Verification Certificate must be issued by **31 October 2026** and sent to Unicam, via email, to dottorato@unicam.it, by the same deadline, under penalty of forfeiture and exclusion from the PhD programme.

Candidates who have obtained the academic qualification abroad are also required to submit:

1. First-cycle diploma or degree certificate - level 6 E.Q.F. (e.g., Bachelor's Degree), if this qualification was obtained abroad, and second-cycle diploma or degree certificate - level 7 E.Q.F. (e.g. Master's Degree) that gives access to the PhD programme in the country of origin. These qualifications must have been issued by an officially recognised academic institution, indicating the date of achievement of the qualification and, where available, the final grade;
2. Certificate of the exams (Transcripts) taken during the first- and second-cycle university course, with the relevant grade.

These documents, if not already produced in English, their official translation into Italian, and certified as compliant with the original either by the University that issued them or by the competent Italian representations or by subjects recognised by the competent Italian representations according to the provisions in force.

This documentation must be presented **by October 31, 2026** in an original copy to formalize enrolment; UNICAM cannot guarantee that the enrolment of PhD students will be carried out if the required documents are missing or provided late.

If the qualification has not already been recognised, the Scientific Board of the relevant PhD Programme and the SAS Board will decide and declare its equivalence, solely for the purpose of admission to the PhD

¹ If the qualification has been issued in a country that is a signatory to the Lisbon Convention, the certificate of comparability of qualifications can be downloaded independently and free of charge via ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database Italy. (*check the type of certificate needed on the Cimea website). In any case, the verification certificate must be requested from the ENIC NARIC (CIMEA) centre.

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Programme, after having carried out the appropriate checks, and on the basis of the laws and regulations in force.

Art. 10 CANDIDATES EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Selection Committee is appointed in accordance with current laws, as well as the Unicam Regulation and the PhD programme Regulation in force.

The names of Committee members will be made public at <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>.

The first phase of the evaluation will consist of subjecting the hypothetical research project, referred to in article 7 of this Notice, to analysis for the detection of any infringements attributable to plagiarism; if the analysis reveals this type of infringement, the responsible candidate will be excluded from the procedure.

On the basis of the documentation produced by the candidates, in particular the research project hypothesis, the Selection Committee will carry out its evaluation in accordance with the provisions of the *European Framework for Research Careers* for the R1 profile “First stage researchers”, that is:

- ability to conduct original research under the guidance of supervisors;
- ambition to develop knowledge of research-related methodologies and disciplines;
- good knowledge of the research area in which they intend to develop their thesis;
- ability to produce data under the guidance of supervisors;
- critical ability, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- ability to illustrate research results and their meaning.

When preparing the *short list* of suitable candidates, the Selection Committee will also take into account any specific criteria indicated in relation to Research Topic, the candidate’s CV, with particular reference to the degree grade, other qualifications, scientific publications and conference presentations, prizes and awards. Any letters of presentation from the presenters and the statement of purpose will also be evaluated.

At the end of the evaluation process, the Selection Committee prepares the shortlist by Curriculum subdivided by Research Topic, of the eligible candidates admitted or admitted “subject to confirmation” to the second phase of the evaluation procedure, which consists of the interviews. If candidates are identified with profiles suited to a curriculum not chosen by them, the Committee will have the right to assign a Research Topic different from that indicated by the candidate.

The suitable candidates, listed in the short list, will be allowed to participate in the second phase of the evaluation procedure and will be invited to an interview or interviews to produce the final ranking for Research Topic.

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Oral interviews are strictly scheduled for October 26 and/or 27, 2026; schedules and virtual classrooms of the interviews and any corrections will be published on the website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>. This publication has the value of official notification for all legal purposes; therefore, candidates will not receive any personal communication regarding the invitations for the interviews. The interview dates cannot be postponed on the basis of the needs of the candidates.

The interviews will preferably be conducted in English, remotely.

In this case, as well, for the evaluation, reference will be made to the provisions of the *European Framework for Research Careers* for the R1 profile (*First-stage researchers*).

The shortlist of suitable candidates and the interview calendar will be published on the Unicom institutional website: <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>.

In the meantime, further eligibility checks may be carried out if necessary.

Only upon request, excluded candidates will be sent a summary assessment of their performance drawn up by the Selection Committee.

The following table shows the criteria for the two evaluation phases:

Admission criteria and related weight: Scientific qualification
Scientific qualification: max 20 points Project proposal: max 20 points Access to interview: min 20/40 points Interview: 60 points Total score: 100 points Admission: min 60 points

Art. 11 ACCEPTANCE OF POSITIONS, HOW TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The final ranking lists will be drawn up on the basis of the total scores obtained in the second evaluation phase by each candidate for each Research Topic. As many ranking lists as there are Research Topic will be drawn up. The results of the selections will be approved with a specific Rector's Decree.

Candidates may be deemed eligible for multiple Research Topics, when available. In the event that a candidate appears in more than one ranking list, he/she will be asked to accept only one of the positions won, allowing the subsequent sliding of the ranking list to the next candidate.

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Final ranking lists:

- will be in decreasing order of score and, in case of equal scores, the youngest age will be considered. In case of further equal scores, the less represented gender will be considered;
- will report as many ranking lists as there are Research Topic, based on the evaluation of the relevant Selection Committee.

The final ranking lists will be published on the University institutional website <https://www.unicam.it/ateneo/bandi>. The publication of the results on the indicated website has the value of official communication to the interested parties, who are required to constantly consult the website without the need for further notices; however, communications may occur from the reference office (dottorato@unicam.it) to facilitate or further clarify any specifics of this phase.

The positions or scholarships must be accepted by the assignees **by October 31, 2026**.

In case of express or tacit renunciation of the position, the ranking list may be scrolled down until all available positions are filled. This scrolling process must be concluded within an appropriate deadline pursuant to the Public Notice under which the scholarships corresponding to this Call for Applications are funded.

Only upon request, excluded candidates will be sent a summary assessment of their performance drawn up by the relevant Selection Committee.

Participants in the selection will have 30 days to submit any complaints to the email address: dottorato@unicam.it. These will be sent to the University Manager for the prevention of corruption and transparency who, in collaboration with the Student Ombudsman, will examine and respond to the issues submitted to him/her, within 30 days following the submission of the complaint. Generic and unsubstantiated complaints will not be examined.

The scholarships and positions will be assigned according to the selection procedure indicated in this Notice, until the positions and scholarships made available in the Notice are allocated. UNICAM reserves the right not to assign or to assign further scholarships/positions made available, even in the event of a candidate's withdrawal, by scrolling through the ranking lists in the established order. The scholarships will then be confirmed annually by the SAS Board, following verification of the activities carried out by the PhD student in the previous year by the Teaching Committee of the relevant PhD Course.

Art. 12 AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE RANKING LIST

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Admitted candidates must accept the scholarship as indicated in Art. 11 by submitting the appropriate form. The form will be made available via email to selected candidates, via the email address dottorato@unicam.it.

Once the selection procedure tests have been completed, and after acceptance by the PhD student, the Rector's decrees of appointment will be issued.

Non-EU candidates must meet the specific admission requirements of this Call for Applications and be able to produce, by October 31, 2026, for enrolment purposes, the documents and authorisations necessary to reside in Italy to attend the PhD programme in person starting November 1, 2026.

All candidates must also:

- Submit the application for enrolment, exclusively online through the appropriate section on the University website, where all the necessary information is published. Enrolment is considered regularly closed and therefore accepted when the entire online procedure has been completed, all the required fees have been paid, and the required attachments have been uploaded;
- Start their PhD programme on 1 November 2026;
- Provide an Italian/online bank account for payments relating to the scholarship (must be in the name of the PhD student);
- Participate in a safety training course before starting the research activity and undergo a mandatory medical check-up;
- (foreign PhD students) must register with the Italian National Health Service and renew the registration every year, at their own expense (or, alternatively, take out the insurance policy referred to in Art. 4 of this call for applications and renew it annually, entirely at their own expense), promptly notifying dottorato@unicam.it. Such registration (or policy stipulation) is a prerequisite for participating in the PhD programme;
- Register at the portal of the Ministry of University and Research: <https://loginmiur.cineca.it/front.php/login.html>;
- Register autonomously with a separate Italian national insurance and pension scheme (only the scholarship recipients) meaning "Gestione separata INPS".

Art. 13 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The University of Camerino (UNICAM), as Data Controller, informs candidates that the processing of personal data provided during participation in the selection or otherwise acquired for this purpose is carried out in compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and current national legislation. The data is

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collected and processed exclusively for the completion of selective procedures, for the management of subsequent university careers and for institutional reporting activities linked to scholarships/phd positions' funding. The processing is necessary for the fulfillment of a legal obligation to which the Data Controller is subject (Art. 6, par. 1, letter c of the GDPR) and for the execution of a task of public interest (Art. 6, par. 1, letter e of the GDPR). The provision of data is mandatory for the evaluation of participation requirements. Failure to provide data will make it impossible to participate in the selection procedure and the exclusion from the competition. Personal data may be communicated to authorized University personnel, to the Selection Committees, to the partner or co-financing bodies mentioned in this announcement and to the competent public bodies in the cases provided for by law.

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Art. 14 RULES FOR REFERENCE

For matters not covered by this Call, reference is made to the laws and regulations in force about PhD Programme, in particular to:

- Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021;
- Regulations on PhD Programmes of the University of Camerino issued with Rector's Decree No. 215/2025;
- Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies of the University of Camerino, issued with Rector's Decree No. 168/2022.
- Internal Regulations of the PhD Programme in "Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience";
- Decree of the Director of the Education, Social Innovation and Sport sector of the Marche Region No. 163/IISPOF 10/08/2026. PR Marche FSE+ 2021-2027 Axis 4 OS 4a DGR No. 1027/2026. Public Notice for the assignment of innovative PhD research scholarships with industrial characterisation, academic year 2026/2027 (Cycle XLII) and its related documents;

Art.15 FINAL INFORMATION

Director of the SAS: Prof. Michele Loreti

Coordinator of the PhD Programme in "Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience": Prof. Roberto Ciccocioppo

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Piazza Cavour 19/f
62032 Camerino MC

Codice fiscale: 81001910439
Partita IVA: 00291660439
protocollo@pec.unicam.it
www.unicam.it

Area Biblioteche, Internazionalizzazione della Didattica e Formazione Avanzata

Polo Santa Caterina - Via Viviano Venanzi, 24
62032 Camerino MC

Dott.ssa Annalisa Albanesi
Responsabile di Area
+39 0737 402765
annalisa.albanesi@unicam.it

Ufficio Formazione Avanzata iSAS - International School of Advanced Studies dottorato@unicam.it

Resp. **Dott.ssa Natascia Alessandrini**
natascia.alessandrini@unicam.it
+39 0737 402173

Dott.ssa Isabella Calzolari
isabella.calzolari@unicam.it +39 0737 402058

Dott. Daniele Quadrani
daniele.quadrani@unicam.it +39 0737 402124



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Manager of the administrative procedure: Ms. Natascia Alessandrini

Contacts: For administrative information relating to this Notice, please contact the Post Graduate and Excellence Programmes Office ("Ufficio Formazione Avanzata") - Division "Libraries, International Education, Post Graduate and Excellence Programmes":

- e-mail address: dottorato@unicam.it;
- contacts:
Daniele Quadrani: 0039 -0737/402124.
Isabella Calzolari: 0039 -0737/402058.

This Call shall be published on the European Euraxess website, on the website of the Ministry of University and Research, on the institutional website of the University, and on the SAS website.

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**Area Biblioteche,
Internazionalizzazione della Didattica
e Formazione Avanzata**

Polo Santa Caterina - Via Viviano Venanzi, 24
62032 Camerino MC

Dott.ssa Annalisa Albanesi
Responsabile di Area
+39 0737 402765
annalisa.albanesi@unicam.it

Ufficio Formazione Avanzata
iSAS - International School of Advanced Studies
dottorato@unicam.it

Resp. **Dott.ssa Natascia Alessandrini**
natascia.alessandrini@unicam.it
+39 0737 402173

Dott.ssa Isabella Calzolari
isabella.calzolari@unicam.it +39 0737 402058

Dott. Daniele Quadrani
daniele.quadrani@unicam.it +39 0737 402124