



**PUBLIC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE PhD PROGRAMME
IN MOLECULAR AND EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE, 38TH CYCLE,
UNDER DIRECTORATE GRANT DECREES NOS. 1034/2022,
1035/2022, 1055/2022 E 1554/2022, FUNDED FROM THE
NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN (NRRP),
MISSION 4, COMPONENT 2, investment 1.3, 1.4 e 1.5**

XXXVIII Cycle – Academic Year 2022/2023

Issued by Rector's Decree No. 127/2022



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ART. 1 – SCOPE OF THE CALL

Humanitas University, in implementation of Directorial Grant Decrees 1034/2022, 1035/2022, 1055/22 e 1554/2022, announces 9 additional positions supported by scholarship from the NATIONAL RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN (NRP), Mission 4, Component 2, investment 1.3, 1.4 e 1.5.

Admission to the Doctoral Program is granted to candidates who pass the selection within the limits of the available positions to be assigned according to the order of the ranking list.

The research projects associated with the individual grants under this notice meet the following requirements for PNRR funding:

- a) be consistent with the goals and objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the overall strategy and the PNRR Component Detail Sheet;
- b) be oriented towards the achievement of results measured by reference to milestones and targets that may have been assigned to the Investment within the timeframe established by the Plan;
- c) be in accordance with the principle of "do no significant harm" (DNSH) under Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 consistent with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (European Commission Communication 2021/C58/01);
- d) be suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- e) be supportive of the participation of women and young people, also consistent with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 77 of May 31, 2021 (so-called Simplification Decree), as amended by Conversion Law No. 108 of July 29, 2021, regarding the management of the NRP.

The Course is organized by Humanitas University in agreement with IRCCS Humanitas.

The assignment of research topics ("topics") to candidates admitted to the Doctoral Program is made according to the merit ranking and takes into account any specific expertise required for the development of the research topic.

The legal duration of the PhD programme in Molecular and Experimental Medicine is 3 years.

The XXXVIII cycle of the MEM PhD programme is scheduled to begin on March 1st 2023.

The official language of the course is English.

The programme of the PhD Course in Molecular and Experimental Medicine covers the scientific and disciplinary areas listed below and provides for research activities to develop along, yet not remain limited to, the following main areas, which include: oncological immunopathology, molecular cardiometabolics, genetics, neurosciences. An overview of regenerative and precision medicine is the theme running throughout the programme. The course provides specific training for enabling technologies, such as imaging, flow cytometry, genomics and bioinformatics.

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The PhD will be conducted in a stimulating cultural and scientific environment involving the organisation of Journal clubs and seminars given by national and international speakers, participation in congresses, informal meetings between scholars from different disciplines, encouraging researchers to work independently and collaboration with research groups abroad. Liaising with non-Italian tutors and discussants further develops the international dimension.

The main scientific and disciplinary areas covered by the PhD programme are as follows:

- 05/D – PHYSIOLOGY
- 05/E – EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
- 05/F – APPLIED BIOLOGY
- 05/G – EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGICAL SCIENCES
- 05/H – HUMAN ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY
- 06/A - PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS
- 06/C – GENERAL CLINICAL SURGERY
- 06/D – SPECIALISED CLINICAL MEDICINE
- 06/F – INTEGRATED CLINICAL SURGERY
- 06/I – CLINICAL RADIOLOGY

The training project of the Doctoral Course provides for the direct participation of students in research programs funded under the NRP Mission 4, component 2, investment 1.3, 1.4 e 1.5

The selection and awarding of additional scholarships may be made only on constrained topics for the description of which please refer to the attached "Research topics" available on the course webpage, in the total number and within the scope of the PhD Courses as detailed below:

PROJECT ID	PROJECT TITLE	CONSTRAINED TOPIC	CUP	N. OF SCHOLARSHIPS
CN00000041	National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology	Centro Nazionale 3 - CN3 Sviluppo di terapia genica e farmaci con tecnologia a RNA	G43C22001360007	4
CN00000041	National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA	Centro Nazionale 3 - CN3 Sviluppo di terapia genica e farmaci con tecnologia a RNA	B83C22002860006	1

	Technology			
CN00000033	National Biodiversity Future Center	Centro Nazionale 5 - CN5 Bio-diversità	B43C21000910006	1
ECS00000037	<i>MUSA - Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action</i>	Ecosistemi dell'innovazione	B43D21011030006	1
PE00000007	<i>One Health Basic and Translational Research Actions addressing Unmet Needs on Emerging Infectious Diseases</i>	Partenariato 13 - PE13 Malattie infettive emergenti	B23C22000810006	2

ART. 2 – ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants wishing to enrol on the PhD Programme in Molecular and Experimental Medicine, MEM curriculum, must either be in possession of a “laurea magistrale” awarded in accordance with D.M. 270/2004 or an equivalent university qualification awarded by a foreign university (usually referred to as a Master’s Degree), in one of the subjects listed below:

- LM-6 Biology
- LM-7 Agrarian biotechnologies
- LM-8 Industrial biotechnologies
- LM-9 Medical, Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Biotechnologies
- LM-13 Pharmacy and Industrial Pharmacy
- LM-17 Physics
- LM-18 Computer Science
- LM-21 Biomedical Engineering
- LM-22 Chemical Engineering
- LM-32 Computer Engineering
- LM-41 Medicine and Surgery
- LM-42 Veterinary Medicine

- LM-46 Dentistry and dental prosthetics
- LM-53 Materials Science and Engineering
- LM-60 Natural Sciences
- LM-61 Human nutrition
- LM-70 Food Science and Technology
- LM-71 Industrial Chemistry Science and Technology

The Selection Committee appointed to examine applications for admission to the Doctoral Program will consider the possibility of admitting to the selection candidates with a master's degree obtained in classes other than those indicated above against the acquisition during the candidate's entire university career of at least 60 CFUs in the areas 05 - Biological Sciences and 06 - Medical Sciences.

Applicants who are waiting to be awarded the required qualification at the date of submission can also take part in the selection process providing that they have passed all of the Degree course exams or equivalent study programmes at the time of the online application and are awarded the qualification by December 13th 2022. All candidates are required to submit a proof of the awarded qualification – even writing a self-declaration – by the above-mentioned deadline.

Also, doctors in specialist training who are enrolled in the last course year at a School of Specialisation can apply. If these candidates pass the selection process, they may provisionally enrol on the PhD and complete their enrolment by the date on which the PhD teaching activities commence provided that by that date they obtain the Medical Residency title.

Further information regarding the equivalence and/or equalization of Italian academic qualifications please consult: <http://www.miur.gov.it/equipollenze-ed-equiparazioni-tra-titoli-accademici-italiani1>.

The equivalence of a foreign academic qualification is evaluated by the Committee appointed to assess applications for admission to the PhD Course in accordance with current legislation in Italy and the country where the qualification itself was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements pertaining to the recognition of the qualification. For this purpose, the University may require the applicant to provide a Declaration of value *in loco* issued by the competent Italian diplomatic authorities in the country where the qualification was awarded. This document should provide evidence that the academic qualification allows access to post-graduate programmes equivalent to that of the country where the qualification was awarded.

ART. 3 - ADMISSION APPLICATION

The application for the admission procedure, together with the attachments described below, must be submitted **online**, on pain of exclusion, no later than **13.00 Italian time**, on **December 13th 2022** via the computerised application located on the following page:

<https://pica.cineca.it/humanitas/tipologia/dottorati>



No other forms of application to take part in the procedure will be accepted.

An email address must be supplied in order to access the online application and register on the system. Those already in possession of a LOGINMIUR username can gain access without registering by accessing with their LOGINMIUR account username and password; applicants accessing the system in this way must first select LOGINMIUR from the dropdown menu.

Once registration is complete, applicants must enter all of the data required to generate the application and attach the requested documents in PDF format.

Applicants are required to pay a fee for the amount of €30.00 for the selection process via bank draft, on penalty of exclusion, to the BANCA INTESA SAN PAOLO S.P.A. bank account – IBAN: IT10K0306909606100000102343 – BIC CODE: BCITITMM made out to Humanitas University, and must indicate the following reference: “PhD MEM 38 PNRR” followed by their name and surname.

Please note that the payment of the quota does not guarantee enrolment on the selection process. Under no circumstances can the application fee for the selection process be refunded.

The online form allows candidates to save their application in draft mode prior to the application deadline. The submission of the application to take part in the selection procedure is certified by the form, which automatically sends an electronic receipt to the email supplied in the application. Once the deadline for submission has expired, the system will no longer allow access to the application or the electronic form to be sent.

Every application submitted will be assigned a reference number which, together with the code of the call indicated in the software app, must be specified for any subsequent communications.

The application procedure requires the following documents to be uploaded in **PDF** format only:

1. **Curriculum vitae** (maximum 2 pages) describing the qualifications held (including publications and participation at conferences) and any professional or research experience which can be used to assess the applicant’s aptitude for scientific research (candidates are advised to use the Europass format for their CV <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/it/documents/curriculum-vitae>);
2. **Letter of Motivation** in English totalling a maximum of 2,000 characters including spaces, explaining why the applicant wishes to enrol on the PhD programme and the reason for their choice of research topics indicated on their application; please do not repeat information provided in the CV;
3. Copy of a valid **identification document**, or for non-EU applicants, a passport;
4. **Diploma Supplement** – or equivalent certification – issued by the university which awarded the academic qualification presented for the purposes of admission to the selection process, i.e. certification in English or Italian language from the university where the applicant was enrolled, listing exams taken, their value in credits and the statistical distribution of the degree course examination marks, and the minimum and maximum mark required for the qualification to be awarded. Applicants whose graduation is still pending must attach a statement from their supervisor to the list of examinations taken, attesting that the applicant can be awarded the

academic qualification required for admission to the PhD programme by the deadline specified in this public call, in addition to the study programme and the transcript of the exams taken;

5. **Copy of receipt of payment** for € 30.00 (thirty euro).

The submission of the admission application must be completed by printing and signing the electronic form filled in by the applicant. The signed form in PDF format must then be uploaded in the designated area of the online form.

Applicants failing to submit one or more documents listed above in points 1 – 5 will be excluded from the selection process.

In addition to the documentation specified above, the university reserves the right to request a copy of the qualifications and/or publications indicated by the applicant.

ART. 4 – SELECTION PROCESS

Admission to the PhD Programme is based on a selection process which assesses qualifications and an interview carried out by a Commission appointed by decree of the Rector consisting of a maximum of seven members.

The aim of the selection process is to assess the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of applicants for scientific clinical or translational research, as well as their reasons for wishing to undertake a PhD Programme. The assessment of these elements is based on the evaluation of the documentation submitted by the applicants and an interview designed to establish whether candidates possess the specific basic skills needed to carry out the research projects indicated in the application. Where necessary, this may also be done using a multiple-choice test.

Only those candidates ranking in the first 30 positions and those that have obtained *ex equo* in final position based on the assessment of the curriculum and qualifications will pass to the interview phase.

The evaluation of the curriculum and qualifications will also take into account the candidate's entire university career, any publications submitted, professional and laboratory experience and periods of study or research with foreign universities and research bodies. Other qualifications submitted by the candidate pertaining to their aptitude for scientific research will also be considered. A maximum of 40 points can be awarded for the evaluation of the curriculum and qualifications; when awarding a score, the Commission takes into account the circumstances and time in which each candidate has gained their qualifications. The Commission may also request a formal opinion from the members of the PhD Academic Board who do not form part of the Commission evaluating whether the curriculum of the individual candidate is suited to the topics of research indicated in the application.

The assessment results regarding the curriculum and qualifications will be posted on the PhD programme page: <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-in-medicine/>.

The interview will be open to the public and will be held starting from January 16th 2023 according to the timetable posted on the website for the PhD programme from January 9th 2023. Candidates may



also request the interview to be held via videoconference if indicated when registering for the call. Prior to the interview, candidates may be asked to take a short multiple-choice test designed to assess specific knowledge needed to develop the research topics chosen by candidates in the application. The interview is intended to assess the professional skills acquired and their aptitude for scientific research. The interview will include a presentation of the degree final thesis or a research project to which the candidate has contributed, followed by a general discussion aimed at assessing the candidate's motivation. A maximum of 60 points may be awarded for the test and the interview.

The interview will be held in English language.

The timetable of the interviews will be posted from January 9th 2023 on the website <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-in-medicine/>. **This post will be considered official notification** for all intents and purposes. Candidates who are not notified that they are excluded from the selection process are required to attend the interview according to the timetable and will be asked to provide a valid identification document.

Once the interviews are over, the Commission will draw up the general ranking on the basis of the total score awarded to the candidates following the assessment of their curriculum and qualifications, and the interview.

Applicants achieving a minimum overall score of 60/100 are considered to have passed the selection process.

The points awarded to each individual candidate will be posted, guaranteeing their privacy, on the PhD programme web page at <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-in-medicine/>. The publication of the results is considered official notification of the successful candidates for all intents and purposes and any appeals must be made by the deadline starting from the date of publication.

ART. 5 – ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

Candidates are admitted to the programme in accordance with the order of the ranking, until all of the available places are taken. In the event that candidates are awarded the same score, the youngest candidate will be assigned the place on the course.

There is only one ranking, is updated in the event of forfeiture and it is published on the PhD programme website at the following page <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-in-medicine/>.

This publication is considered official notification of the successful candidates for all intents and purposes and any appeals must be made by the deadline starting from the date of publication.

Candidates who are admitted to the course but fail to complete enrolment by the deadline will forfeit their place. The next candidate on the ranking is then eligible for the place.

PhD scholarships are strictly granted on the basis of the research topic proposed to the candidate and the assignment of a PhD scholarship is dependent upon this. Candidates must send notification

of their formal acceptance of the research topic assigned to them by the deadline according to the procedure explained when they were assigned the topic and complete the enrolment. Once the deadline for accepting the topic has expired, candidates who have failed to complete enrolment will be considered not to have accepted and other candidates in the ranking will take their place.

ART. 6 – ENROLMENT

Candidates who are successfully admitted to the programme must complete online enrolment via the procedure at <https://humanitas.esse3.cineca.it/>. During the enrolment phase, candidates are required to pay the annual fee, which includes the regional tax for the right to study, accident insurance and stamp duty, set at €250.00 (two hundred and fifty euro) for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Withdrawal from the PhD programme does not entitle candidates to a refund of any registration fees already paid.

Non-EU candidates must provide a receipt of the application for the Italian permit of stay (*permesso di soggiorno*) by the enrolment deadline. Further details can be found at the following website page: <https://www.hunimed.eu/international-students/>.

The University reserves the right to request the original copies of qualifications obtained abroad or to check they are valid at the time of enrolment. Until such time, candidates are provisionally admitted to the course and may be excluded from the course if found not to meet the requirements.

ART. 7 – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PHD STUDENT

PhD scholarships are of a yearly duration, distributed in monthly instalments and renewed providing that the PhD student has completed the programme of activities scheduled for the previous year, which is verified in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Regulations for the PhD Course in Molecular and Experimental Medicine.

The gross annual amount totals €18,000.00. This sum is exempt from IRPEF income tax according to the provisions of art. 4 of Law no. 476 of 13th August 1984, and is subject to social security contributions according to the provisions of art. 2, section 26 and subsequent sections, of Law no. 335 dated 8th August 1995 and subsequent modifications.

Admission to the PhD Programme implies a full-time and exclusive commitment. By enrolling on the PhD programme, students undertake to:

- i) comply with the University's Code of Ethics and that of the institution where they carry out their main PhD activities;
- ii) behave according to general principles of scientific integrity and conduct their studies and research in accordance with criteria of honesty, precision, efficiency and objectivity;

- iii) attend courses, seminars, tutorials and teaching modules forming part of the PhD programme, as well as carry out continuous study and research on the premises designated for this purpose by the partnering institutions;
- iv) complete compulsory training programmes on safety at work provided for employees and collaborators working for Humanitas University and partnering bodies on the basis of the type of activities they carry out.

In particular, doctoral students holding doctoral research fellowships financed from PNRR funds undertake to sign a declaration stating that they are aware that the intervention is co-funded by PNRR - Mission 4 Component 2, investment 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 and that they undertake to comply with the conditions specified in the funding program.

As an integral part of their own PhD training project students may be authorised by the Academic Board to spend a maximum total of 18 months, which may or may not be continuous, carrying out training or research abroad. For periods abroad lasting 30 consecutive days or more, the scholarship may be increased by up to 50 percent depending on the destination.

Students may request a temporary suspension from the PhD programme in the event of serious and justified personal reasons. A suspension in attendance for a period of more than thirty days will result in the scholarship being suspended.

Any absences without prior notification and authorisation may represent grounds for expulsion from the PhD Programme.

ART. 8 – ADMISSION TO SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND AWARD OF THE QUALIFICATION

The PhD qualification, abbreviated as: "Dott.Ric." or "Ph.D.", will be awarded by Humanitas University following the successful completion of the PhD programme.

Each student will be assigned a research topic at the time of enrolment.

At the end of the first year of the course, students will present their individual research project to a Selection and Evaluation Commission. In the event that a research project is not approved, the student will not be admitted to the second year and as a result will lose the benefits associated with the status of PhD student.

Students can be provisionally admitted to the second year ("ammissione con riserva") when the Committee's evaluation is only partially positive, highlights critical issues and suggests changes to be made to the individual training project, which must be implemented by the end of second year of the PhD programme.

Admission to the third year is contingent upon a positive evaluation of the Poster which the PhD student presents to illustrate the progress made in their PhD project. The Poster must contain the following sections: Abstract, Introduction, Results and Conclusions and will be evaluated by an internal commission, taking the following aspects into account: clarity of contents illustrated by the Poster, clarity of the presentation, quality of the work and evaluation of actual future prospects for



further progress and successful completion of the PhD programme. The Commission is appointed by the Selection and Evaluation Commission.

In order to be admitted to the final exam, students must present the preliminary version of their doctoral thesis at the Viva session to two Examiners indicated by their Supervisors, with the agreement of the PhD student and approval of the Course Co-ordinator.

The Viva session comprises a public seminar and a brief moment for evaluation on the part of the examiners mentioned above.

The examiners are asked to provide a written analytical judgement of the work presented including comments and suggestions for any improvements to be made before the final submission of the doctoral thesis.

ART. 9 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/679, the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of information supplied by candidates; all data supplied will only be used for the purposes associated with the admission procedure and for managing relations with the University, in full compliance with current legislation.

ART. 10 – PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROCEDURE

The person responsible for the selection process involved in this public call is Dott.ssa Paola Antonicelli.

For further information please send an email to: phd@hunimed.eu.

ART. 11 – REFERENCE PROVISIONS

For matters not expressly provided for by this call, please refer to current provisions relating to Research doctorates, the Regulations of Humanitas University and those concerning the PhD program at the following pages: <https://www.hunimed.eu/it/organizzazione-e-governance/documenti-ufficiali-di-ateneo/> and <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-in-medicine/>.