



**PUBLIC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE PhD PROGRAMME in
Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering
(PRIME)**

XLI Cycle – Academic Year 2025/2026

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ART. 1 – SCOPE OF THE CALL

This call regulates the application procedure for the PhD Course in **Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (PRIME)** for the academic year 2025/2026, corresponding to the XLI cycle of PhD programmes activated under the current regulations.

The PhD Course is organized by Humanitas University in collaboration with Politecnico di Milano. There are 4 available positions, all covered by PhD scholarships or equivalent forms of financial support funded by research grants or other financial resources of the partner institutions; the type and source of funding are described below and in the Research Topic sheets published on the website at <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-prime/>.

The number of positions covered by PhD scholarships or equivalent forms of financial support may be increased upon acquisition of additional funding.

Admission to the PhD Course is granted to candidates passing the selection process, within the limits of the available places, which are assigned according to the merit ranking order, taking into account the preferences expressed by individual candidates regarding the Research Topic to be developed during the doctoral training program.

The assignment of research topics (“Research Topics”) to candidates admitted to the PhD Course is carried out according to the merit ranking and takes into account any specific skills required for the development of the research topic and/or requirements indicated by the funding entity, as well as the preferences expressed by the candidates.

Winners of selection procedures conducted by third-party entities or organizations with which the two universities have signed specific research agreements providing for participation in the PhD Course, may be admitted to the Course, even exceeding the available number of positions.

The legal duration of the PhD programme in Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (PRIME) is 3 years.

The XLI cycle of the PhD in Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (PRIME) is scheduled to begin on December 1st 2025.

The official language of the course is English.

The PhD program in Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (PRIME) aims to prepare a new generation of leaders and innovators in the healthcare field by providing interdisciplinary training that combines skills in medicine and engineering through a transdisciplinary approach.

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

01/A5 – NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

02/D1 – APPLIED PHYSICS, TEACHING, AND HISTORY OF PHYSICS

05/I1 - GENETICS

06/A3 - MICROBIOLOGY AND CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

06/B1 – INTERNAL MEDICINE

06/D1 – CARDIOVASCULAR AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

06/L1 – ANESTHESIOLOGY

06/M1 – GENERAL AND APPLIED HYGIENE, NURSING SCIENCES AND MEDICAL STATISTICS

09/B1 – MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS

09/B3 – MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING

09/G2 – BIOENGINEERING

09/H1 – INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

The PhD training project provides the direct participation of students in active research projects at the organizing institutions or other affiliated entities. Additional information about research topics covered during the PhD course is available on the page <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-prime/>, with details on the scholarship or equivalent financial support associated with each research project.

ART. 2 – ADMISSION CRITERIA

Applicants wishing to enrol on the PhD Programme in Personalized caRe and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (PRIME) must be in possession of the following titles:

- A degree diploma obtained under the regulations prior to Ministerial Decree no. 509 of 03/11/1999, or a specialist degree obtained pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 509 of 03/11/1999, or a master's degree obtained pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22/10/2004, or an equivalent academic qualification obtained abroad, comparable in duration and content to the Italian degree.

Applications may also be submitted by those who obtain the required qualification specified in this call by November 30th, 2025, under penalty of forfeiture of admission to the PhD Course. Such candidates will be admitted conditionally and will lose any secured position in the ranking if, by the enrollment deadline for the PhD Course, they do not prove they have obtained the qualification, including by means of self-certification.

All candidates are required to have knowledge of the English language, demonstrated either by a certification evaluated by the Commission or by having obtained a degree taught in English.

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 foreign academic qualifications is assessed by the evaluation committee appointed to examine applications for admission to the PhD Course, in compliance with the current regulations in Italy and

in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements regarding the recognition of academic degrees.

For this purpose, the University may request the candidate to provide a Declaration of Value issued locally by the competent Italian diplomatic representations in the country where the qualification was obtained. This declaration must confirm that the academic qualification held is suitable for access to study programs at a level equivalent to doctoral studies in the country that issued the qualification.

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 **1 pm Italian time, on July 18th, 2025** via the computerised application located on the following page:

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

No other forms of submission of the application for participation in the procedure are allowed.

To access the online application and register in the system, it is necessary to have an email address. Those who already have a LOGINMIUR account can log in without registering by entering their LOGINMIUR username and password in the credentials field; in this case, it is necessary to select LOGINMIUR from the dropdown menu.

Once registered, the candidate must enter all the required information to complete the application and upload the requested documents in PDF electronic format.

At the time of applying to the selection, the candidate may indicate up to two topic preferences. These preferences are not binding for admission to the course, assignment of the topic, or for movement within the ranking.

Applicants are required to pay a fee for the amount of €30.00 for the selection process via bank draft, under 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 PRIME 41” 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.

Before the application deadline, the system allows saving the application in draft mode. Submission of the application is certified by the online system through the automatic sending of an electronic receipt to the email address provided in the application. After the deadline for submission has passed, the system no longer permits access to or submission of the application.

Each application is assigned an identification number which, together with the call code indicated in the online system, must be specified in any subsequent communication.

The application process requires uploading the following documents exclusively in PDF format:

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. Copy of a **valid identification document**, or for non-EU applicants, a passport;
3. **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;
4. **Certificate of class rank** released by the University where the candidate achieved the academic title required to access the PhD program (failure to submit the certificate due to non-receipt by the home university and duly notified to the doctoral office by writing to phd@hunimed.eu will not result in a penalty);
5. **Motivation letter** no longer than 2,000 characters including spaces, outlining the applicant's reasons for pursuing the PhD program and, if applicable, the rationale behind the chosen research topics indicated in the application.
6. **Copy of receipt of payment** for € 30.00 (thirty euro).

The submission of the admission application must be completed by printing, signing (originally) and converted in PDF 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 – 6 may 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 program is based on an evaluation of qualifications and an interview conducted by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector, in consultation with the Coordinator of the PhD program.

The selection process is intended to assess the candidates' academic background, research abilities, and

aptitude for scientific research related to the themes of the PRIME PhD program, as well as their motivation to undertake the PhD program. The evaluation is based on the review of the submitted documentation and an interview, during which the candidates' foundational knowledge relevant to the development of research topics consistent with the PhD project will be assessed.

Only candidates whose evaluation of their curriculum and qualifications is deemed sufficient for potential admission (minimum score of 15 points) will be admitted to the interview.

The evaluation of the curriculum and qualifications will also take into account the candidate's entire university career, any publications submitted, awards received and periods of study or research with foreign universities and research bodies. Other qualifications and the motivation letter submitted by the candidate will also be taken into consideration, insofar as they provide evidence of the candidate's aptitude for scientific research.

A maximum of 25 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-prime/>.

Candidates may also request the interview to be held via videoconference if indicated when registering for the call. The interview is intended to assess candidates' academic and professional skills acquired and their aptitude for scientific research.

The interview will develop into two moments:

The first part involves the presentation of the candidate's scientific and academic background (with the possibility to present a research project or experience in which the candidate has previously been involved). The second part focuses on discussing the candidate's motivation for pursuing the PhD program and, if applicable, the reasons behind the choice of the research topics indicated in the application. The interview aims to assess the candidate's presentation and response skills, motivation, proficiency in English, and the alignment of their profile with the PRIME PhD program and, if applicable, the preferred research topics.

A maximum of 75 points may be awarded for the interview.

The interview will be conducted in English.

The interview will be held in a public session starting from September 8th, 2025, according to the schedule published on the program's webpage from July 28th, 2025 <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-prime/>.

This publication serves as official notification for all candidates.

Candidates who have not been formally excluded from the selection process are required to attend the interviews as scheduled. Candidate identity will be verified through a valid identification document.



Failure to attend the interview according to the published schedule and procedures will be considered as withdrawal from the selection process, except in cases of force majeure. Such cases must be communicated in advance of the scheduled interview time via email to phd@hunimed.eu and will be evaluated at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

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-prime/>.

ART. 5 – ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

Candidates are admitted to the PhD Programme in the order of the final ranking, up to the number of available positions. In the event of a tie in the final score, priority is given to the younger candidate.

The ranking of suitable candidates is published on the PhD programme website at the following page <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-prime/>.

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.

In such cases, the next candidate in the ranking list will be admitted.

The ranking list may also be used to fill places in the event that an enrolled candidate withdraws within three months from the start of the programme. In this case, the withdrawing candidate is required to return any fellowship payments already received.

Candidates holding scholarships from other countries or institutions, who are successfully ranked, may be admitted to the PhD Programme in excess of the available positions. In this case, the position originally allocated to them will be reassigned to the next candidate in the ranking.

This also applies when a candidate who has completed the enrolment procedure decides to give up their place within the first three months of the course. The student must then refund the months of the scholarship they have already received.

Candidates with a qualifying position in the ranking who are in receipt of scholarships awarded by other countries or institutions can also be admitted to the PhD programme even if the available places have been filled. In such cases, their position is assigned to the next candidate according to the order of the ranking.

5.1 Scrolling of the positions in the ranking

There is only one ranking and this is updated in the event of forfeiture.

For the purposes of the ranking list progression, the preference expressed by candidates regarding the research topic at the time of application is not binding.

Candidates who are assigned a position but fail to complete enrollment within the communicated deadline will be excluded from any subsequent ranking list progression.

5.2 Granting of PhD scholarships or equivalent forms of financial support

PhD scholarships or equivalent forms of financial support are strictly granted on the basis of the research topic proposed to the candidate and the assignment of a PhD scholarship or equivalent form of financial support 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 according to the criteria mentioned above.

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 2025/2026 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 – PHD SCHOLARSHIP AND EQUIVALENT FORMS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

PhD scholarships and equivalent forms of financial support are awarded to candidates admitted to the programme according to the order of the final ranking, until the available resources are exhausted. Scholarships are allocated based on the research topic assigned to and formally accepted by each candidate before the start of the PhD Programme.

Scholarships are granted on an annual basis, disbursed in monthly installments, and are renewed provided that the PhD student has completed the planned activities for the previous academic year and has been admitted to the following year of the programme.

The gross annual amount of the various types of financial support may vary depending on the funding body, any specific requirements indicated, and the applicable tax and social security regime. This is to ensure that each student receives financial support which, after taxes, is at least equal to the amount established by Ministerial Decree of February 23rd, 2022. Specifically:

- The amount of PhD scholarships provided directly by the University is €21,000.00 gross per year. This amount is exempt from IRPEF (personal income tax) pursuant to Article 4 of Law No. 476 of August 13th, 1984, and is subject, with regard to social security, to the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 26 and following, of Law No. 335 of August 8, 1995, and subsequent amendments.

Other forms of equivalent financial support may be defined in relation to specific requirements indicated by the entity funding the research.

For more information regarding the types of financial support associated with each research topic, please visit: <https://www.hunimed.eu/course/phd-prime/>.

Specific information about the type of financial support offered to each candidate will be communicated at the time of topic assignment.

Forms of financial support provided directly by the University may only be combined with additional funding granted by national or international institutions aimed at supporting training periods abroad, subject to prior approval by the PhD Academic Board.

Humanitas University has adopted measures to support the mobility of students who move their residence or habitual domicile to the metropolitan area of Milan in order to attend its PhD programs. Interested individuals may apply for mobility support by writing to phd@hunimed.eu, indicating their place of origin, household composition, and income.

ART. 8 – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PHD STUDENTS

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.

As an integral part of their educational path, students may be authorized by the PhD Academic Board to carry out training or research activities abroad for a total period not exceeding 18 months, which may be non-consecutive.

For research stays abroad lasting 30 or more consecutive days, scholarships provided by the University may be increased by up to 50%, depending on the destination and duration of the stay.

Students may request a temporary suspension from the PhD programme for serious and justified personal reasons. Suspensions longer than thirty days will result in the suspension of the scholarship. Any absences not communicated in advance, as well as any work activities undertaken without authorization from the PhD Academic Board, may result in dismissal from the PhD programme.

ART. 9 – ADMISSION TO SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND AWARD OF THE QUALIFICATION

The title of Doctor of Philosophy, abbreviated as 'Dott.Ric.' or 'Ph.D.', is jointly awarded by Humanitas University and Politecnico di Milano upon successful completion of the PhD programme.

At the time of enrollment, each student is assigned a research topic (Topic).

Admission to subsequent years and the awarding of the degree are governed by the PhD Program Regulations approved by the Academic Board, in compliance with the HUNIMED PhD Program Regulations available at: <https://www.hunimed.eu/it/organizzazione-e-governance/documenti-ufficiali-di-ateneo/>.

ART. 10 – 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. 11 – 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. 12 – 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 programme at the following page <https://www.hunimed.eu/it/organizzazione-e-governance/documenti-ufficiali-di-ateneo/>.