



**ANNOUNCEMENT OF 15 PHD GRANTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS FOR THE ADMISSION TO
THE DOCTORAL COURSES (31st series):
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE: 29th MAY 2015**

Art. 1 – PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

For the academic year 2015/2016, the *Università degli Studi di Padova*, Italy, is offering 15 research fellowships for foreign students to attend Doctoral Courses (see annex 1 for the list of doctoral courses and related research lines).

The duration of the doctoral courses is three years, commencing on 1st October 2015 and ending on 30th September 2018.

Each position will be covered by a fellowship of 13.638,47 Euro per year (gross value), fully funded by the *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo*.

During the 3-year doctoral programme, the successful candidates will be offered full board and lodging at the ESU – *Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario*. The relevant charges will be covered by the *Università degli Studi di Padova* through *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo*.

Art. 2 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be deemed eligible, applicants are required to meet the following criteria by the deadline date of the call:

- have foreign (non-Italian) citizenship;
- have foreign (non-Italian) residence;
- be in possession of a foreign (non-Italian) academic qualification recognised as equivalent to the *Diploma di Laurea/ Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale* amounting to at least four years of full time university education and leading to a doctorate in the country where the studies were carried out. For the sole purpose of this selection procedure, the qualification must be recognized equivalent to an Italian one by the Commission of the PhD course applied for (art. 4),
- be no more than 35 years old.

Candidates shall be admitted to the selection procedure with reserve.

The University may, at any time, exclude applicants who do not meet the admission requirements. In such an event, candidates will be notified by e-mail.

Art. 3 – HOW TO APPLY

Candidates can only apply for one Doctoral Course among the ones listed in Annex 1 – List of Doctoral Courses and related research lines. In case of several curricula within one Course, candidates shall choose one of them.



We inform applicants that for the academic year 2015/2016, the list of the Doctoral Courses is provisional and that their activation depends on the conclusion of the Ministry examination process on their requisites (DM 45/2013). Application forms will be selected only for those Doctoral Courses that will be confirmed by the Ministry.

Applications for the competition will be available from 28th April 2015. Applications must be exclusively completed and submitted online at the web address: <http://unipd.cineca.it/foreignstudents31> by 10.00 a.m. (Italian local time) of the deadline date (**29th May 2015**).

Only submitted applications will be taken into consideration.

An Identity Document must be attached to the application form.

The University shall accept no liability for cable, IT or e-mail errors for which the University is not responsible.

In order to fill in the online form, applicants must first obtain a username and a password. They will then be able to proceed with the application form by clicking on 'Enter' (see annex 2 for the guidelines for the completion of the application form).

Candidates **must** state the following information and any other relevant information on the application form and do so under their own liability:

- personal data, date and place of birth, place of residence;
- citizenship;
- academic degree, with an indication of when and from which university it was awarded;
- the Doctoral Course and the chosen curriculum they are applying for.

Moreover candidates **must**:

- specify a Skype ID where they can be contacted by the Course Commission/ Evaluation Committee for a possible interview if there is a need for clarifications on the documents submitted;
- specify their knowledge of language required by the course;
- include an original research plan;
- specify the names and email addresses of two professors or experts who will write the letters of reference. These letters must be written by professors or experts who have supervised candidates in their studies and research. The requests to fill in the reference letters are sent by the candidate through the online procedure and the reference letters are filled in electronically by the professors/experts. Reference letters can be filled in and sent online by the professor/expert by 4th June 2015.
- attach the scanned copies of the certificates of the academic qualification with the list of the examinations and the marks. If these certificates are written in a language different from Italian, English, French or Spanish, an Italian or English translation must also be attached;
- attach a copy of a valid Identity Document.

Finally candidates **can**:

- attach an official document (e.g. issued by the University or by an authorized agency of the country) specifying that their qualification (see art. 2) gives access to the PhD in the country where the qualification was issued;
- specify their education, research and work experiences;
- attach or write an abstract of their thesis (if a thesis was written in order to achieve the degree);
- specify any additional information complementary to the data provided in the application form that may be relevant to the selection process;
- attach any other qualification that should be taken into account (e.g. research papers and publications, language knowledge certificates etc.).

The application must be completed in Italian or English.

All the attached documents must be in Italian, English, French or Spanish or accompanied by a translation in Italian or English.

Art. 4 – RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PRESELECTION PROCEDURE

A Commission, appointed by the Rector for each PhD course, will check for recognition of candidates' qualifications and preselect candidates. The preselection for the evaluation of the eligible candidates will be based on the documents submitted.

To be eligible, candidates must achieve a score of 10 out of 10 based on the following criteria:

- feasibility of the research project and its relevance to the course's research interests (up to 5 points);
- relevance of the candidate's training and academic background with the course's research interest (up to 5 points).

During the evaluation period (in June) candidates may be contacted via Skype for an interview in order to discuss about the application submitted. Candidates must be available at the Skype address specified in the application form on the day and at the time fixed by the Commission. Before the interview candidates must show the same document submitted with the application form. Candidates will be excluded from the selection procedure if they do not connect or show up on the fixed day and hour and if they do not show the identity document.

Candidates shall be admitted to the selection process described hereunder (art.5) only if they are deemed eligible, that is if they achieved a total of 10 points out of 10.

Candidates deemed ineligible will not be entitled to proceed to the next phase of the selection process. The preselection score will not be tallied towards the final score.

Art. 5 – EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Candidates who pass the preselection process, and hence considered eligible, will be evaluated by a sole University Committee appointed by Rectoral Decree.

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Educational and professional curriculum: max 70 points

Letters of reference: max 30 points

To be included in the final ranking, candidates must be awarded a minimum overall score of 70 points.

During the evaluation period candidates may be contacted via Skype for an interview in order to discuss about the application submitted.

A research grant will be awarded to the first fifteen candidates in the ranking. In the event of a winner withdrawing from the competition, the second-placed candidate in the ranking shall be declared the winner.

Art. 6 –RANKING OF CANDIDATES AND ADMISSION TO COURSES

The list of successful candidates shall be officially approved and issued by Rector's Decree. This will be published starting from **29th July 2015** on:

- the '*albo ufficiale di Ateneo*' (official University register);
- the *Università degli studi di Padova* website: <http://www.unipd.it/en/node/1053>

Candidates will be admitted to the chosen Doctoral Course according to the ranking order. Successful candidates will be notified by e-mail.

Successful candidates must confirm their will to enrol by **1st September 2015** either by sending a fax to number +39 049 8271934 (a copy of a valid ID document must be attached) or by sending an email to doctoral.grants@unipd.it including a scanned copy of a valid ID document.

In the communication, they will have to confirm the choice of the Doctoral Course and of the curriculum (if any).

If successful candidates fail to confirm their choice by **1st September 2015**, they will forfeit their position on the course. The fellowships available will be awarded according to the final ranking. The eligible candidates will be contacted directly by the *Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca* by email.

On their arrival in Italy, successful candidates who have confirmed their intention to enrol must complete the enrolment procedure by presenting the following documents to the *Università degli Studi di Padova – Servizio formazione alla ricerca*, located in via del Risorgimento 9, Padova:

- the enrolment application form for the Doctoral Course;
- a photocopy of a valid identity document;
- legalization of the academic degrees or a copy of the request of legalization submitted to the embassy/consulate;
- a "*dichiarazione di valore in loco*" (statement of value) for qualifications of non-EU countries;
- two passport-size photos.

Art. 7 – SCHOLARSHIPS

The value of the award is of 13.638,47 € per year (gross amount).

The fellowship is subject to social security contribution.

The value of the fellowship is increased by 50% for periods of study abroad excluding those in the official country of residence. For periods of study abroad students must have the approval of the Doctoral Course.

Fellowships are paid in monthly instalments. The first instalment is paid the month following the actual beginning of the course.

Fellowships are subject to the general terms and conditions specified in annex 3.

Art. 8 – BOARD AND LODGING

During the 3-year doctoral programme the winners will be offered full board and lodging at the ESU – *Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario*.

Relevant charges will be covered by the *Università degli Studi di Padova* through the *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo*.

Art. 9 - ATTENDANCE FEES

Successful candidates will be exempted from paying attendance fees. Relevant charges will be covered by the *Università degli Studi di Padova* through the *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo*.

Art. 10 – DUTIES OF GRANT HOLDERS

Admission to the PhD course requires exclusive and full-time commitment.

Doctoral candidates are responsible to follow the approved research plan and to annually present a report on the activity and research they conducted to their Doctoral Course. At the end of the course, they have to present a doctoral thesis which includes their own original contributions.

The Doctoral Course will deliberate on candidate's progression to the following academic year based on the evaluation of the candidate's research activity. Given a valid reason, the Doctoral Course also has the authority to exclude candidates from progressing to the following academic year.

Art. 11 – ATTAINMENT OF THE DEGREE

The PhD is attained once the final examination has been passed. This examination involves candidates discussing their thesis.

The evaluation committees responsible for the final examinations are formed and nominated according to the University's Regulations.

Art. 12 – REFERENCE LAWS

For any matters not specified within this present selection announcement, reference shall be made to:

- Art. 4 of Italian Law no. 210 dated 03.07.1998;
- Ministerial Decree D.M. no. 45 dated 8.02.2013;
- The University's Regulations regarding Doctoral Courses available at <http://www.unipd.it/node/17774> (Italian version only)

Art. 13 - PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

In accordance with Legislative Decree DL 196/03, any personal data provided on paper or electronic form shall be handled only for the purposes of this selection announcement and the entering into and managing of the relationship with the University.

Art. 14 - FINAL PROVISIONS

In accordance with Italian Law Art.5 of Law no. 241 dated 07.08.1990 and subsequent amendments, the Officer in charge of this selection procedure is Mrs Maria Zanato – Head of *Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca – Università degli Studi di Padova*.

This selection announcement is available on the web site of the *Università degli Studi di Padova*:
<http://www.unipd.it/en/node/1053>

Any amendments or supplementary information to this announcement will be published on:

- the '*albo ufficiale di Ateneo*' (official University register);
- the Università di Padova website:

<http://www.unipd.it/en/node/1053>

Further information and detailed instructions can be obtained from:

Università degli Studi di Padova - Servizio Formazione alla Ricerca

Mrs. Katia Milan (+39 049 8271929) Mon-Fri from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Valentina Bregaglio (+39 049 8271930) Mon-Fri from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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The Rector
Prof. Giuseppe Zaccaria