

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



Application procedure for national Ph.D . Programme in Artificial Intelligence A.Y. 2022/2023 (38th cycle)

This document cannot be used for legal purposes and it is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications.

Article 1

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO PHD PROGRAMME

1. For the academic year 2022/2023 (38th cycle) the University of Naples Federico II is accepting applications for the admission to National PhD Programme in Artificial Intelligence – Agrifood and Environment Area – with administrative headquarters at the University of Naples Federico II. Selection procedures and available PhD grants are available in the annexed form, being an integral part of this Call.

2. The National PhD Programme in Artificial Intelligence is carried out, under the coordination of the National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche – CNR) and the University of Pisa, through five Joint PhD Programmes. Each of the 5 PhD Programmes includes a leading university, as well as a large consortium of universities and research institutions. The 5 doctorates will focus on the foundational aspects of artificial intelligence. Specifically, five specialization areas are included in the national PhD programme in Artificial Intelligence, referring to as many doctorates with administrative headquarters at the following universities:

- Health and life sciences, Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma
- Agriculture (agrifood) and environment, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
- Security and cybersecurity, Sapienza Università di Roma
- Industria 4.0, Politecnico di Torino
- Society, Università di Pisa

3. For Agrifood and Environment area, the following institutions / universities participate in the PhD:

- University of Naples Federico II
- University of Perugia
- University of Udine
- Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome
- National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche – CNR)

4. The University of Naples Federico II is committed to achieve and promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

Article 2

ORGANIZATION OF THE PhD ACTIVITIES

1. PhD students are involved in a unique, joint and shared didactic-scientific project; they can carry out their research and training activities in the different venues of the universities / institutions involved in the national PhD programme. These PhD students are ensured the actual sharing of the facilities needed for their teaching and research activities aimed at performing their PhD project.

2. At the end of the Programme, after passing the final exam, the diploma of "National PhD Programme in Artificial Intelligence" is jointly issued by each administrative headquarters university, with the universities

of the other four administrative headquarters, along with their respective logo and that of the National Research Council (CNR). Moreover, the diploma will show the logos of the participating universities / institutions.

3. The educational activity of the Doctoral Programmes starts on the 1st of November of its first year and ends on the 31st of October of its third year.

Article 3

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

1. The application form to participate in the selection process may only be submitted using the dedicated online procedure, available at: <https://pica.cineca.it/unina/> Application forms must be submitted no later than August 3rd, 2022 1 pm (CEST)). In order to apply for the call, candidates should pay, under penalty of exclusion, the application fee of € 30,00. The application fee has to be paid in the manner described in the procedure. The fee paid for participation in the selection will not be refundable under any circumstances. Candidates graduated abroad are exempted from the payment of the examination fee.

2. Once the application form has been completed, it must be printed, signed and re-uploaded following the instructions described in the online procedure, and copy of a valid identity document must be attached. A missing signature and/or missing identity document could lead to exclusion from the selection process. After closing the application, the candidate can request reference letters by completing the appropriate section on the application form. The candidate can request reference letters before the same closing date for applications, i.e. August 3rd 2022 at 1 pm (CEST). A notification for completion of the letter will be sent to the referee only after the application has been fully submitted. The referee will be automatically notified by the system and will have to personally complete the reference letter section in the online procedure and submit it by the deadline of August 5th 2021 at 1 pm (CEST).

3. The list of the candidates admitted to the programme will be published at the following address <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione> at least five days before the interview; before that deadline the selection committee will have to establish the evaluation criteria for the curriculum and for the interview.

4. Candidates with disabilities declaring in the procedure to request support during the entrance examination should submit a request made pursuant to the existing Law (Law n. 104/1992 as integrated and amended by Laws no. 17/1999 and no. 53/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions) and a medical certificate. Full details regarding this request are given to candidates with specific needs in the procedure.

Article 4

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. To apply to the above PhD Programme candidates (with no restriction about age and citizenship) should have obtained one of the following degrees:

- master degree, equivalent to "laurea specialistica" or "laurea magistrale"(as defined in the Italian Ministerial Decree nr. 509/1999 and its subsequent modifications and integrations);
- academic degree, equivalent to the "laurea vecchio ordinamento" Degree, of a total minimum duration of 4 years;
- an equivalent degree obtained from a foreign university.

The candidates, who does not have completed yet the academic degree during the selection procedure, have to graduate by the date of the enrollment.

2. The equivalence of the degree of the candidates graduated abroad will be evaluated on the basis of the documents attached by the candidate to the application form. Candidates with a master degree conferred from a foreign University (and which was not yet declared equivalent - by virtue of agreements between the foreign Country and Italy - to the Italian master/specialist degree), requiring - for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD programme – that this equivalency be declared, must deliver the certificate of the master degree issued from their University, with the corresponding final grade, the list of the passed examinations and their marks and syllabi, and any other related useful document. Should the certificate be written in language other than Italian, English, French, Spanish or German, the candidate must also submit its translation into one of the aforesaid languages.

3. The foreign academic title and the supporting documents should be uploaded in the application procedure.

4. Candidates will be admitted conditionally. The University of Naples Federico II has the right to exclude at any time those candidates who do not fulfil the necessary requisites.

Article 5

ADMISSION EXAMS

1. Admission to the PhD Programme is based on the assessment of:

- the curriculum vitae and a research project. An overall motivated score should be assigned according to the criteria established by the Selection Committees during the preliminary meeting. For some PhD Programmes, the annexed form provides a minimum score for the curriculum to access to the next text.

- an interview

2. The exam schedule and venue will be published on July 25th, 2022 at the following <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>

The publication of the exam schedule is to be considered as official notification for all intents and purposes. No personal communication will be sent to the candidates regarding the exam dates. Any amendments to the exam schedule will be published in the PhD webpage of the University. PhD applicants therefore are encouraged to check the PhD webpage constantly.

3. The curriculum vitae, signed and provided with a copy of a valid ID, and the research project must be only uploaded during the online application submission, both written in Italian and /or English.

4. To take the interview (also via videoconference) and avoid disqualification, candidates must compulsorily hold a valid identification document.

5. A candidate's failure to attend the exams or videoconference will be considered equivalent to resigning from the application process.

6. The Selection Committee will be published at the following link <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>. The Selection Committee is appointed with Rectoral Decree and it is composed by three or five effective members, selected among ordinary professors or associates or researchers. Two experts, regardless the nationality, selected among private or public research institutions can be added to the Selection Committee. Moreover, depending the number of the effective members, are appointed two or three substitute members.

7. The meetings of the Selection Committees may be held in-presence, entirely or in part, pursuant to the anti-contagion safety protocol.

8. The videoconference interviews of candidates will be held as follows:

a) via video meeting platforms, ensuring the simultaneous connection among the committee members and each candidate, in accordance with the regulation on personal data protection and confidentiality. This shall be written in the session's minute.

b) audio and video recording of remotely held interviews is forbidden.

c) the interview shall be held publicly, forwarding to all candidates the event's link and ensuring to any third party the possibility to attend using the link available at <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>

Article 6

RANKING OF CANDIDATES AND ENROLMENT

1. The Rectoral Decree approving the ranking of the PhD programme will be published by September 20th 2022, at the following link: <http://www.unina.it/didattica/postlaurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>

This publication will formally notify the winners of the competition results. No further personal communication will be sent to the candidates.

The ranking list of the candidates will be ordered by following the decreasing order of the sum of their marks, which will include the research proposal and curriculum evaluation and the interview.

2. The winners, by September 26th 2021 at 1.00 pm CET, must enroll in the PhD programme. After that date, should any places will become available, the following in the ranking may enroll for such vacant places. To that end, at the following link <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione> from September 29th 2021, at least each week, will be published the list of the candidates entitled to the enrollment. This publication will formally notify the candidates entitled to enroll in the PhD Programme. No further communication will be sent to the candidates.

3. Should candidates fail to enroll in the PhD programme by the deadline indicated in the above mentioned notice, they will be considered tacitly renunciative and they will lose any right to enroll.

4. Here following the documents to submit for the enrollment, owing the instructions that will be indicated at the following address: <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-diricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>:

a) the Regional tax receipt;

b) enrolment form that will be available at the above mentioned address;

5. Candidates are required to provide correct e-mail address for any personal communication. The University is not held responsible for any loss of correspondence due to erroneous contact information, to any delay in notifying a change of address or to any disruption due to third party action.

6. The attendance to the PhD programme requires an exclusive and fulltime participation.

7. For the PhD students obligations, the incompatibilities and the suspension of the participation

to the PhD programme, reference is made to the article 15 of the University Regulation of the PhD programmes, published at the address: <http://www.unina.it/didattica/postlaurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/informazioni-generalis>.

8. Ph.D. students recipient of scholarship assigned under Ministerial Decree 351 and Ministerial Decree 352 have to satisfy the following requirements:

- a) for the scholarship PNRR ricerca: candidates are expected to spend a study abroad period of at least 6 months;
- b) for the scholarship Pubblica Amministrazione, Patrimonio Culturale, Transizioni digitali e ambientali: candidates are expected to spend a study abroad period of at least 6 months, moreover candidates are expected to spend a research and study period in private firms, research centres or public entities of at least 6 months and not exceeding 12 months;
- c) for the scholarship funded by Ministerial Decree 352: candidates are expected to spend a study abroad period of at least 6 months, moreover candidates are expected to spend a research and study period in private firms of at least 6 months and not exceeding 12 months.

Article 7

STUDY GRANT ALLOCATION

1. PhD grants are detailed in the annexed document, being an integral part of this application call. In the event of specific-topic related grants, PhD grant holders are required to carry out the doctoral activity on the specific research topic at a specific venue, as set out in the annexed document (Annex A). The research areas are listed at the following link <http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-diricerca/bandi-di-ammissione>. To this aim, when applying, candidates are allowed to express their own preferences regarding the venue and any specific research topic; these preferences will not be binding for the purpose of the PhD grants allocation.

2. In compliance with the ranking order, taking note of the preferences expressed and after assessing the suitability of the candidate's training and profile, the Selection Committee decides on the assignment of the grants to the entitled candidates and these grants will then be conferred, by rectoral decree, at the end of the ranking scrolling procedures.

3. In the event of waiver or non-enrolment of the successful candidate with grant, the available PhD grant will be reallocated following the candidates' ranking as set in the above Art. 5.

4. If a grant is financed by an external entity, the commitments provided for in the agreement for the PhD student are to be fulfilled.

5. Positions with scholarships pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 351 of 9 April 2022 and the Ministerial Decree n. 352 of 9 April 2022 are granted under the condition of the approval of the ministerial funding. The PhD scholarships are granted to the candidates only to pursue the restricted topics indicated in the aforementioned decrees and in compliance with the eligibility criteria pursuant to art. 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Ministerial Decree n. 351 of 9 April 2022 and art. 6 of the Ministerial Decree n. 352 of 9 April 2022.

6. Those who have already benefited, even partially, from a PhD grant or equivalent programme at University of Naples Federico II or at any other Italian university cannot receive another PhD grant.

7. For the academic year 2022/2023, the total gross annual recipient amount of the PhD grant is € 16,243.00. The grant is allocated only in the event of non-existence of incompatibility, as provided for by applicable laws.

Since the grant allocation starts from November 1st, 2022, the non-existence of incompatibility must remain in force from that date (November 1st, 2022), also in the event of subsequent allocation after ranking scroll.

8. It is only possible to enrol in the PhD with a scholarship, except in the event that the winner renounces the same as the holder of a research grant (on November 1st, 2021) or public employee with maintenance of salary.

Article 8

FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Students enrolled at PhD Programme are required to pay, for each year of course, the regional tax for education.

Article 9

RESPONSIBLE PERSON FOR THE ADMISSION PROCESS AND HANDLING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. The Office Head of the PhD, Research grants and Study Scholarship of the University of Naples Federico II is responsible responsible for the procedure referred to in this call.

2. Personal data of the applicants will be handled according to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) n.679/2016 of April 27th, 2016, concerning the protection of individuals and other subjects with respect to the processing of personal data, the Personal Data Protection Code, (Law Decree no. 196/2003 supplemented and amended by the Legislative Decree no. 101/2018). The data collected are treated for the purposes of the procedure for which they are issued and will be used exclusively for this purpose and, in any case, in the context of the institutional activities of the University of Naples Federico II. The interested party has the rights pursuant to art. 15-22 of the EU Regulation.

Article 10

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE CALL

1. This PhD call will be published in the webpage of the University of Naples Federico II, in the webpage Euraxess and in the webpage of the Ministry of University and Research. 2. The PhD call and the final ranking list will be published in the Official Notice Board of the University of Naples Federico II, available at the following address www.unina.it

THE RECTOR

Matteo Lorito

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



Finanziato dall'Unione
europea
NextGenerationEU



Ph.D. course **PhD AI.it *Intelligenza Artificiale***

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023 (38° CYCLE)

Area Agriculture (Agrifood) and Environment

Coordinator Prof. Francesco Loreto

Administrative Headquarter Departement of Biology

Positions:

N. 20 con borsa

Scholarship details:

- n. 4 co-funded by University of Naples Federico II and CNR - Napoli
- n. 2 funded by the University of Naples Federico II under D.M. 351/2022 scholarship M4C1-Inv. 3.4. Transizioni digitali e ambientali – Napoli
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Naples Federico II and *A.I. Tech S.r.l.* ex D.M. 352/2022 – Naples
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Naples Federico II and **3BEE S.r.l.** ex D.M. 352/2022 – **Napoli**
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Naples Federico II and **EVJA S.r.l.** ex D.M. 352/2022 – **Napoli**
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Naples Federico II and **OASIS S.r.l.** ex D.M. 352/2022 – **Napoli**
- n. 1 co-funded by **CNR-IAC** and by **CNR** – **Napoli**
- n. 1 co-funded by **CNR-STEMS** and by **CNR** – **Napoli**
- n. 2 co-funded by the University of Pisa ex D.M. 351/2022 M4C1-Inv. 4.1 Ricerca PNRR – **Napoli**
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Perugia and by the CNR – Perugia
- n. 1 funded by the University of Udine - Udine
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Parma and the University of Pisa - Parma
- n. 1 co-funded by the University of Florence and the University of Pisa - Firenze

	<p>n. 1 funded by the University of Florence ex D.M. 351/2022 M4C1-Inv. 4.1 Ricerca PNRR – Firenze.</p> <p>n. 1 co-funded by the University of Naples Parthenope and Unlimited Technology S.r.l. ex D.M. 352/2022 –Napoli</p>
<p>Admission requirements: (should candidates have not obtained the academic title for the admission to the call, please upload the transcript of records)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "laurea specialistica" or "laurea magistrale": no specific academic requirements - Foreign academic title equivalent
<p>Selection criteria: Evaluation of curriculum and research project; interview</p>	
<p>Evaluation of curriculum:</p>	<p>The curriculum, signed and accompanied by a copy of a valid identification document, must be uploaded only during the application process. The curriculum must provide information about the candidate's academic education as well as his/her professional and research experience.</p> <p>The candidate must attach any document useful for the assessment of his/her curriculum.</p> <p>Applicants can provide reference letters, as described in the application procedure.</p> <p>Minimum grade: 36 out of 60</p>
<p>interview:</p>	<p>The interview will assess the candidate's knowledge, her/his aptitude for research, openness to academic experiences in Italy and abroad, and an interest in scientific deepening.</p> <p>Minimum grade: 24 out of 40</p> <p>The exam schedule and venue will be published on July 25th 2022 at the following link http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione.</p> <p>The oral exam will take place remotely</p>
<p>research project:</p>	<p>The research project is on a subject freely chosen by the candidate as long as it falls within the scientific interests of the PhD programme, it must be produced via upload when submitting the application for participation in the competition and it will be evaluated together with the curriculum so as to bring out the design skills of the candidate.</p> <p>In addition to reporting the candidate's personal data, data and being duly signed, the project must be structured as follows: TITLE (MAX 300 characters including spaces), INTRODUCTION (MAX 3,500 characters including spaces), RESEARCH OBJECTIVES (max 1,000 characters including spaces), PROPOSED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, METHODS AND CONTENTS (MAX 4,000 characters including spaces), EXPECTED RESULTS AND DEGREE OF INNOVATION OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH (MAX 2,000 characters including spaces), CONCLUSIONS AND POSSIBLE TRANSLATIONAL EFFECTS (MAX 1,000 characters including spaces), BIBLIOGRAPHY (MAX 3,000 characters) characters including spaces), characters including spaces)</p>
<p>Exam schedule:</p>	<p>The exam schedule and venue will be published on July 25th 2022 at the following link http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione</p> <p>The list of the candidates admitted to the interview will be published at the following address http://www.unina.it/didattica/post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca/bandi-di-ammissione at least 5 days before the interview</p>
<p>Information on the academic activities:</p>	<p>The National PhD Programme in Artificial Intelligence is carried out, under the coordination of the National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche – CNR) and the University of Pisa, through five Joint PhD Programmes. Each of the 5 PhD Programmes includes a leading university, as well as a large consortium of universities and research institutions. The 5 doctorates will focus on the foundational aspects of artificial intelligence. Specifically, five specialization areas are included in the national PhD programme in Artificial Intelligence,</p>

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- Industria 4.0, Politecnico di Torino
- Society, Università di Pisa

Thanks to the coordinated horizontal/vertical structure, the national PhD in AI will train researchers, innovators and professionals with specialisations in the cuttingedge topics of AI and in high-impact application sectors, but also endowed with an integrated and "complex" vision of the ecosystem of AI technologies and solutions, capable of tackling problems with a systemic, multi-disciplinary approach.

<https://www.phd-ai.it/>