

Call for applications for positions with scholarship of innovative doctoral programme with industrial characterization

R.P. Marche FSE+ 2021/2027 - Axis 4 - OS 4a
(cycle XLII – AA.YY. 2026/2029)

Art. 1

Establishment of the Programme

1. A public selection procedure is hereby announced for admission to the innovative doctoral programme with industrial characterization – aa.yy. 2026/2027 (cycle XLII), financed by the Marche Region on European Social Funds Plus – Axis 4 – OS 4a, Decree of the Director of Education, Social Innovation and Sport sector no. n. 163/IISP of August 10th, 2026.
The legal duration of the courses is three years, a from November 1st, 2026 to October 31st, 2029.
2. Within this call for applications, **n. 10 positions with scholarship and with selected research topic** are available, as set out in the individual doctoral programme descriptions (Annexes A, B, C, D, E), which form an integral part of this call.
3. Details and obligations pertaining to the positions available are set out in the individual doctoral course descriptions, published in the individual doctoral programme descriptions (Annexes A, B, C, D, E).
4. **The award of the aforementioned positions with scholarship is subject to the allocation of funding by the Marche Region**, following the selection process set out in the regional public notice referred to in Decree No. 163/IISP of 10 August 2026 issued by the Head of the Education, Social Innovation and Sport Department.
5. **The university reserves the right to withdraw this call for applications or not to fill all the advertised positions should these not be awarded funding following the selection process conducted by the Marche Region.**
6. This call for applications constitutes official notification for all legal purposes. Any changes, updates or additions will be published **exclusively** on the webpage: [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#).
7. The University applies the principles set out in the [European Charter for Researchers](#) and in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and participates in the European Commission's Human Resources Strategy for Researchers – [HRS4R](#). The University of Macerata holds the European "HR Excellence in Research" award, which confirms its commitment to an open, transparent, inclusive and researcher-oriented research environment.

Art. 2

Admission requirements

1. Candidates eligible to participate in the present call for applications are those who, at the time of submission of the application, are:
 - a. inactive, not employed, or unemployed, as defined by current law;
 - b. residents of the Marche Region or have been domiciled in the region for at least 6 months;
 - c. under 36 years of age.

All requirements must be met by the same date.
2. Eligible candidates for this call for applications are graduates holding a Specialist Degree, Master's Degree, single-cycle Master's Degree, or a degree obtained under the regulations in force before [Ministerial Decree No. 509 of 3 November 1999](#); a second-level academic qualification awarded by institutions belonging to the AFAM sector (Higher Artistic and Musical Education); or an equivalent non-Italian second-level academic qualification, such as a Master's Degree, awarded by a foreign university.

3. The eligibility of foreign degrees is verified by the Admission Committee **solely** for the purpose of admission to the Doctoral programme, in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies.
4. All candidates will be provisionally admitted to the selection process and will be excluded from the doctorate if, upon verification, it turns out that their qualifications do not meet the requirements for admission to third-level courses.
5. Candidates who obtain the required qualification referred to in paragraph 2 by the enrolment deadline for the Doctoral programme, set out in Art. 6, paragraph 1 below, may also participate in the selection procedure. In this case, admission to the selection procedure is conditional, and any subsequent enrolment is governed by Art. 6 below.

Art. 3 Application

1. Applications shall be submitted, in either Italian or English, **exclusively** via <https://pica.cineca.it/unimc/dot-2026-rm>, by enclosing a copy of a valid identity document (EU identity card, EU driving licence, passport or residence permit) clearly showing its expiry date and by paying the **compulsory application fee of EUR 20.00 through the online procedure by 11:59 p.m. (Italian time) on October 12th, 2026**.
2. Applications submitted in a manner that does not comply with the requirements set out in the previous paragraph will not be considered.
3. Candidates shall be excluded from the selection procedure if, by the application deadline, they fail to submit one or more of the following:
 - Application form, completed in accordance with Articles 46 and 47 of [Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28th, 2000](#);
 - A self-certification of the Italian academic qualification referred to Art.2, paragraph 2, or, for candidates who have not yet obtained the degree, a declaration of the expected date of award of the qualification;
 - Declarations and documents concerning academic qualifications obtained abroad, as specified in paragraph 9 below;
 - certification of compliance with the requirements set in Article 2, paragraph 1;
 - a valid identity document;
 - payment of the application fee.
4. **Application fees will not be reimbursed under any circumstances**, unless the position for which one is applying is not granted regional funding.
5. Candidates are not allowed to submit multiple applications for the same doctoral course. In the event of multiple applications, only the last submission in chronological order will be considered valid.
6. Separate registrations are required for candidates wishing to apply for different doctoral courses. They should send separate applications, enclosing all the necessary documentation and paying the non-refundable fee for each application.
7. Candidates must **never have received a scholarship** for a doctoral program, not even partially. This requirement must be self-certified in the application form.
8. Candidates holding an Italian academic qualification must provide a self-certification listing the examinations taken, for the purpose of assessing their prior academic studies.
9. Candidates holding, or expecting to obtain, an academic qualification abroad are required to declare and upload a copy of the **second-level qualification** giving access to the Doctoral programme, together

with transcripts or certificates listing the examinations taken, and a copy of the **first-level qualification**, together with transcripts or certificates listing the examinations taken. Each document must be accompanied by a translation in Italian or English.

10. Qualifications, publications and any other relevant documents must be submitted in electronic PDF format and attached **exclusively** to the online application.
11. Without prejudice to Art.2, paragraph 5 above, concerning the degree required for admission, all other submitted qualifications must have been obtained by the deadline of this call.
12. As part of the online application, candidates must select one of the positions and submit a research proposal related to the chosen research topic (maximum 13,000 characters, including spaces).
13. The requirements specified in Art. 2 paragraph 1, must be certified pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of [Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28th, 2000](#), in the online application form.
14. No amendments or additions may be made to the application after submission. Any amendment requires the completion and submission of a new application, including all necessary information, and payment of a new application fee, by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article. The new application shall replace the previous one.
15. The validity of applications will be assessed by the University administration after the submission deadline specified in paragraph 1. The University reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the information provided in the application form. Any false declaration shall be prosecuted in accordance with current legislation and shall result in exclusion from the selection procedure or, if verification takes place after enrolment, from the doctoral programme.
16. Communications concerning this call will be published on the webpage [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#).
17. The University shall not be held liable for technical problems, internet issues or service interruptions that are not attributable to the University. The University shall also not be held liable for any failure to communicate resulting from an incorrect email address provided by the candidate, or for delays or problems caused by third parties, unforeseeable events or force majeure.

Art. 4

Admission Committee

1. Upon designation by the Board of Teachers, the Rector appoints an Admission Committee for each doctoral course, formed by tenured university professors and/or researchers. The Admission Committee is chaired by the Coordinator of the doctoral Programme or his/her delegate
2. The Admission Committee is chaired by the Coordinator of the doctoral programme or his/her delegate.
3. The appointment decrees of the Admission Committees will be published, after the deadline of the call, on the following webpage: [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#).

Art. 5

Selection

1. The admission to the doctoral programmes takes place passing a selection procedure for qualifications and exams, divided into two phases: Preliminary Evaluation and Interview.
2. The **Preliminary Evaluation** shall award a maximum of **30 points**, distributed according to the following criteria:
 - a. Congruence of the candidates's previous academic background to the selected doctoral course (max 10 points);
 - b. Congruence, quality and originality of the submitted research project hypothesis in relation to the selected research topic (max 10 points);

- c. Suitability of the candidate's scientific profile as demonstrated by the submitted research project hypothesis (max 10 points).

A minimum score of 21 points is required to pass the Preliminary Evaluation.

3. Results of the aforementioned preliminary evaluation will be **exclusively** published on the webpage [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#). This publication is an official notification for all purposes.
4. Candidates who have successfully passed the preliminary evaluation, referring to par.2, are admitted to the **interview** phase, in order to assess preparation, ability and aptitude for research, skills and previous experience. Knowledge of the declared foreign languages(s) will also be ascertained. A maximum score of 70 points will be awarded during the interview phase.
5. **A minimum score of 70/100** is required to pass the selection process.
6. **Candidates admitted to the interview are required to attend**, with a valid identity document, on the date and at the time indicated in the doctoral programme descriptions (Annexes. _ _ _ _ _). The interview schedule published in the webpage [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#) constitutes official notification to candidates; **no further notice will be provided**.
7. If a candidate does not attend the interview, they shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the selection procedure.
8. The Admission Committee for each course shall draw up separate ranking lists for position. In the event of equal scores, priority shall be given to the youngest candidate.
9. If no suitable candidates are identified for a position, the corresponding position shall not be assigned.
10. The selection documents and ranking lists for each position, **that has been awarded funding by the Marche Region**, shall be approved by Rector's Decree, which shall identify the successful candidates.
11. **Successful candidates awarded the scholarship position may not enrol without accepting it and the acceptance of the position is subject to the specific requirements and obligations set forth in the course descriptions and in Article 8 below.**
12. The ranking lists and the list of successful candidates will be published exclusively on the webpage [Bando borse Dottorati Innovativi - ciclo XLII](#) and such publication shall constitute official notification for all purposes.
13. The individual evaluation reports issued by the Admission Committee will be made available to each candidate via the application platform (Art. 3, paragraph 1) at the end of the selection procedure, in accordance with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Art. 6

Enrolment in the doctoral programme

1. The successful candidates identified by Rector's Decree **must complete their enrolment by 11:59 p.m. (Italian time) on October 31st, 2026, under penalty of exclusion.**
2. The winners will not receive any further notice regarding the enrolment deadline.
3. It is not possible to enroll in the course by waiving the scholarship.
4. **Enrolment in a type of position different from the one awarded is not permitted.**
5. Failure to obtain the required admission degree by the deadline set out in paragraph 1 of this Article shall result in non-admission to the doctoral programme and ineligibility for enrolment.
6. If a successful candidate is placed on the rankings for multiple doctoral fellowship programs, only one position can be selected at the time of enrollment.

7. To complete enrolment in the doctoral programme, successful candidates are required to:
 - a) log in at <https://sis.unimc.it> and complete the enrolment form by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article;
 - b) pay the first instalment of the applicable tuition fees and/or contributions (Piano tasse) by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article;
 - c) upload the following documents in the "Attachments" section of the enrolment form:
 - [Dichiarazione del percipiente](#);
 - ISEE-U 2026 declaration or ISEE for doctoral programme 2026 declaration (*for winners who wish to benefit from a reduction in tuition fees*);
 - copy of the residence permit or of the receipt confirming the application for a residence permit (*for non-EU citizens already in Italy only*).
8. The University must receive the **enrolment form and payment of the due tuition fees and/or contributions by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1** of this Article in order to confirm acceptance of the position and complete enrolment.
9. Fees and/or enrolment contributions will not be refunded under any circumstances.
10. Failure to complete enrolment by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be deemed a tacit withdrawal.
11. In cases of express or tacit withdrawal from enrolment, the University shall proceed with ranking-list progression and offer the available position to the next eligible candidate.
12. The University will use the contact email address provided in the online application to inform the next eligible candidate of the instructions and deadline for accepting the position.

Art. 7

Additional requirements for candidates with foreign qualifications

1. Successful candidates with admission qualifications obtained in non-EU countries who have not already provided documentation useful for verifying the authenticity and equivalence/comparability of the second-level qualification for admission purposes only when submitting the application (e.g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value issued by the Italian diplomatic authorities in the country where the qualification was obtained, or certificates of authenticity and comparability issued by centres such as ENIC-NARIC) must provide such documentation during enrolment (online in the "Attachments" section) or, in any event, **within one month of the start date of the doctoral programme**.
2. The University reserves the right to request documentation verifying the authenticity and equivalence/comparability of qualifications obtained in EU countries, and to request submission of the original documentation.
3. Candidates with foreign qualifications who do not submit the required documentation at the time of application or enrolment shall be provisionally enrolled and shall subsequently be excluded from the doctoral programme if they fail to provide the requested documentation or if, upon verification, the qualification does not meet the requirements set out in Art. 2. In such cases, any scholarship payments received must be repaid.

Art. 8

Fulfilments and obligations of scholarship recipients

The student must:

- a) Not be enrolled in other university courses at the same time;

- b) Not receive, for the same period and in connection with the same activities or costs covered by the doctoral scholarship, any other incompatible public or private funding, in accordance with the prohibition on double funding pursuant to Article 63 of [UE Regulation No. 1060/2021](#);
- c) develop the research project over the three-year period, following the instructions of the academic tutors;
- d) develop the thesis over the three-year period;
- e) write a report on the activities carried out at the end of each year, to be submitted to the University, countersigned by the academic tutor;
- f) undertake **mandatory study and research abroad** for a period of 3 (three) to 6 (six) months, as set out in the individual Doctoral programme descriptions (Annexes A, B, C, D, E);
- g) undertake **mandatory study and research activities in one or more companies** belonging to the project partner cluster, in accordance with the provisions of the project funded by the Marche Region;
- h) comply with the principles of the University Regulations on doctoral studies and, in general, all current legislation on doctoral studies.

Art. 9 Scholarships

1. The scholarship for attending the doctoral programme, set by [Ministerial Decree No. 247 of 23 February 2022](#), amounts to **EUR 16,243.00 gross per year**, payable to the recipient.
2. Scholarship recipients must register with the INPS Separate Pension Scheme (Gestione Separata INPS), pursuant to Art.2, paragraph 26 of [Law No. 335 of 8 August 1995](#); the tax provisions set out in Art.4 of [Law No. 476 of 13 August 1984](#) shall apply.
3. Scholarship holders who intend to carry out paid activities during the three-year doctoral programme must be authorised by the Academic Board to attend the programme while carrying out such activities. **The gross annual personal taxable income compatible with the doctoral scholarship must not exceed the amount of the scholarship defined by the Ministry, as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article**
4. **Compliance with the aforementioned limit will be assessed by the University administration from the first tax period following the start date of the doctoral programme. If the gross annual personal taxable income exceeds the established limit, the scholarship shall be suspended and the scholarship holder shall be required to repay any monthly instalments unduly received.**
5. The scholarship may not be combined with a research fellowship or with any other scholarship.
6. The scholarship is awarded annually and is confirmed by the Academic Board, subject to successful completion of the assessments required for admission to the following year.
7. The scholarship is increased by 50% for research activities carried out abroad, subject to prior authorisation by the doctoral student's supervisor, for a maximum period of 6 (six) months.
8. The first two monthly instalments of the scholarship will be paid together in December 2026.
9. Payment of the scholarship is conditional upon submission of the Italian tax code (codice fiscale), issued by the Italian Revenue Agency.
10. Receipt of the scholarship does not establish an employment relationship with the University.

Art. 10 Funding for research activities

For research activities in Italy and abroad, each doctoral student is granted an annual research budget equal to 10% of the scholarship amount, in accordance with Art. 9, paragraph 4 of [Ministerial Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021](#).

Art. 11 **University charges and fees**

1. For each year of inscription, the following payments are required:
 - regional tax for the right to higher education (€ 140,00)
 - contribution for insurance coverage (€ 10,00)
 - stamp duty (€ 16,00)
 - annual all-inclusive university fee (Contributo Onnicomprensivo Annuale, COA) for attending doctoral programmes, as it sets out on the webpage [Iscrizioni e tasse](#).
2. The amount of the annual all-inclusive university fee (Contributo Onnicomprensivo Annuale, COA) depends on the ISEE-U declaration or ISEE for doctoral studies declaration, in accordance with the Student Contribution Regulations, available at [Regolamenti didattica e studenti](#).
3. Exemption from the annual all-inclusive university fee (Contributo Onnicomprensivo Annuale, COA) and from the regional tax for the right to higher education are granted to individuals with a recognised disability, under national legislation, equal to or greater than 66%.
4. Withdrawal after enrolment or during the doctoral programme does not entitle the student to a refund of paid charges and fees.

Art. 12 **Personal Data Processing**

1. In accordance with Art. 13 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 \(GDPR\)](#), the University of Macerata undertakes to respect the confidentiality of the information provided by candidates: all personal data will be processed solely for purposes connected with and instrumental to this call, in accordance with the legislation in force.
2. The Data Controller is the University of Macerata, with registered office in Macerata, via Crescimbeni 30-32, represented by the Rector as legal representative. The Data Controller may be contacted at urp@unimc.it or at the certified email address (PEC) ateneo@pec.unimc.it.
3. The Data Protection Officer, appointed pursuant to Article 37 of the GDPR, operates within the Data Controller's organisation. The Data Protection Officer may be contacted at: dpo@unimc.it.
4. All selection procedure records are public. In accordance with [Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990](#), any person with a legally relevant interest is entitled to exercise the right of access to those records within 60 days of their approval.

Art. 13 **Officer in Charge of the Administrative Procedure**

Pursuant to [Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990](#) as amended, the officer in charge of the administrative procedure is Ms Giovanna Biagetti, Doctoral Office, via Gramsci 38, 62100 Macerata (e-mail: scuola.dottorato@unimc.it; PEC: ateneo@pec.unimc.it).

Art. 14 **Final provisions**

1. Doctoral students are required to comply with the Code of Ethics of the University of Macerata ([R.D. n. 254 del 07/05/ 2012](#)).
2. For all matters not provided for in this call for applications, reference shall be made to the Regulations concerning procedures for the accreditation of institutions and doctoral programmes and criteria for the establishment of doctoral programmes by accredited institutions ([M.D. No.226 of December 14, 2021](#)) as well as to the University Doctoral Regulations ([Rector's Decree No. 81 of March 1, 2023](#)).

3. In case of discrepancies between the two language versions of the present call for application, the Italian language version prevails.



Call for application for scholarships in innovative Ph.D. programme with industrial characterization
R.P. Marche FSE+ 2021/2027 - Asse 4 - OS 4a
(cycle XLII – AA.YY. 2026/2029)

PhD Course in LAW AND INNOVATION
Coordinator: Prof. Fabrizio Marongiu Buonaiuti

Research topic	Scholarships	Months to be spent abroad
Service-Oriented Transformation 4.0: Leveraging Industrial Data for the Competitive Transition of the Marche Region.	1	6
Therapeutic Innovation in Social and Health Care Services: Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) as a Case Study. From Scientific Evidence to the Effective Realization of the Right to Health for People in Situations of Complex Vulnerability.	1	6
Artificial Intelligence and Digital Policies in the Fashion Industry: Predictive Models, Digital Product Passports, and Data Governance to Support the Internationalization of the Marche Region's Fashion Industry.	1	6
Specific requirements	Proficiency in at least one of the following foreign languages: English, Spanish, or French.	
Date and place of the interview	21 October 2026 – h. 01:00 p.m. (Italian time) Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza – P.ggia dell'Università 2 - Macerata	



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R.P. Marche FSE+ 2021/2027 - Asse 4 - OS 4a
(cycle XLII – AA.YY. 2026/2029)

PhD Course in EDUCATION AND INCLUSION FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM
Coordinator: Prof. Anna Ascenzi

Research topic		Scholarships	Months to be spent abroad
Glocal DNA: A geolocalized and replicable model for connecting small museums, identity-based networks, and events. From Macerata to the Marche Region.		1	4
Specific requirements	Proficiency in at least one of the following foreign languages: English, Spanish, or French		
Date and place of the interview	21 October 2026 – h. 12:00 p.m. (Italian time) Dipartimento di Scienze della formazione, dei beni culturali e del turismo - Piazzale Bertelli, 1 - C.da Vallebona - Macerata		



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PhD Course in POLITICS, SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY – POLITICA, SOCIETÀ, TECNOLOGIA
Coordinator: Prof. Benedetta Giovanola

Research topics		Scholarships	Months to be spent abroad
SOFIA – Systems Focused on Inclusive Education and Agent-Based Learning in XR in the Field of AI Literacy.		1	6
Human-Centric Decision Support in Industry 5.0: Trustworthy Foundation Models and Conversational Agents for Monitoring, Troubleshooting, and Maintaining Machinery.		1	6
RetURN Digital Twin: From the Internet to the Polling Stations: Using a Digital Twin to Boost Youth Voter Turnout.		1	6
Specific requirements	Knowledge of English.		
Date and place of the interview	20 October 2026 – h. 09:00 a.m. (Italian time) Dipartimento di Scienze politiche, della comunicazione e delle relazioni internazionali - Via Don Minzoni, 22/A - Macerata		



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PhD Course in QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN ECONOMICS
Coordinator: Prof. Margherita Scoppola

Research topic	Scholarships	Months to be spent abroad
QME3 - Mapping the Level of Digitalization in the Marche Region's Manufacturing Sector and Analyzing Its Impact on Business Performance and Employment.	1	6
QME1 – HERMES. Hybrid Earth-observation for Regional Modelling and Economic Simulation. Earth Observation and Regional Economic Modeling: Integration of EO Data into the SAM-CGE Framework for the Marche Region.	1	6
Specific requirements	Language requirements: English B2 level or higher. Basic knowledge in economics, economic policy and quantitative methods in economics.	
Date and place of the interview	21 October 2026 – h. 01:00 p.m. (Italian time) Dipartimento di Economia e diritto, P.zza Strambi 1 - Macerata	



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PhD Course in UMANESIMO E TECNOLOGIE – HUMANITIES AND TECHNOLOGIES
Coordinator: Prof. Roberto LAMBERTINI

Research topic		Scholarships	Months to be spent abroad
The “Digital Portolan”: Semantic Architecture, Text-UX, and Predictive Recommendations for the Interactive Exploration of the Marche Region’s Coastal Heritage and Tourism Services.		1	4
Specific requirements	Proficiency in at least one of the following foreign languages: English, Spanish, French, or German.		
Date and place of the interview	22 October 2026 – h. 11:00 a.m. (Italian time) Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici - Polo Didattico "G. Tucci", Via Morbiducci 40 - Macerata		