THE RECTOR

IN RELATION TO the D.P.R. No 382 of July 11, 1980, on the reform of the university and, in particular, chapter II on research doctorates;

IN RELATION TO Law No 476 of August 13, 1984, "Regulations on scholarships and research doctorates in the university";

IN RELATION TO Law No 398 of November 30, 1989, "Regulations on university scholarships";

IN RELATION TO the D.M. of September 11, 1998, establishing the allowances for the doctorate scholarships;

IN RELATION TO the Statute of the Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale issued by D.R. No 825 of December 19, 2011;

IN RELATION TO Law No 210 of July 3, 1998, "Rules for the recruitment of university researchers and professors" and, in particular, art. 4 on research doctorates;

IN RELATION TO the Law No 240 of December 30, 2010, article 19, subparagraph 1, which has modified the Law No 2010 of July 3, 1998, article 4;

IN RELATION TO the D.M. No 45 of February 8, 2013, "Regulations on the evaluation of universities and doctoral programs and regulations on the institution of research doctorates in the university" published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale No 104 of May 6, 2013;

IN RELATION TO the D.R. No 389 of July 18, 2013, by which the Regulation on research doctorates at the University degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale was issued;

IN RELATION TO the Ministerial note dell’11.03.2016 “Guidelines on the procedures for the accreditation of PhD programmes A.A. 2016-2017”, which requests a report of the Evaluation Committee in case of prosecution of already active PhD courses;

IN RELATION TO the proposals for the institution and renewal of research doctorates for the 31st cycle approved by the Departments;

IN RELATION TO the approval by the Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale Evaluation Committee expressed on April 19, 2016;

IN RELATION TO the resolution of the Academic Senate and the Governing Board on April 26, 2016, in favour of the institution of research doctorates for the 32nd cycle;

DECREES AS FOLLOW

Art. 1 Announcement

The Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale (hereinafter University) announces a public selection based on qualifications and examinations for admission to research doctorates (hereinafter PhD Programmes) for the Academic Year 2016-2017 – 32nd cycle. Modalities, criteria and details are explained in the Attachment A, which consists of 3 forms, one for each PhD Programme. Attachment A is an integral part of this announcement.

According to the cited D.M. D.M. No 45 of February 8, 2013, the activation of all PhD programmes is subject to confirmation of their accreditation by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR).

Art. 2
Admission Requirements

Applicants, regardless of gender, age and nationality, must hold one of the following qualifications or achieve the qualification no later than 31.10.2016, under penalty of forfeiture from admission in case of positive evaluation:

- an Italian degree awarded before the D.M. No 509 of November 3, 1999;
- an Italian Laurea specialistica or Laurea Magistrale;
- an equivalent academic qualification awarded abroad previously acknowledged by Italian academic institutions, also established by inter-university cooperation and mobility agreements.

The Academic Board of each PhD Programme will ascertain the equivalence of each academic title to the relevant Italian degree, for the sole purpose of this call. In that case, applicants must enclose with the application form the necessary documents to allow the declaration of equivalence, translated and legalized by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representatives of the country of origin, according to the existing rules for the admission of foreign students to degree courses at Italian universities.

Art. 3
Applications

Applicants are required to apply and submit, under penalty of exclusion from admission, the documentation described in Attachment A relative to the course for which they wish to participate, according the online procedure available at http://gomp.unicas.it, no later than 17:00, Italian time, on August 26, 2016.

Under penalty of exclusion from admission, candidates must pay a 40 € non-refundable application fee. Payment can be made either via credit card or by bank transfer using MAV (Modulo Avviso di Pagamento) printable from the University Website at the end of the online application procedure.

Under penalty of exclusion from admission, candidates must also submit copy of a valid identification document and (if any) all qualifications that can be considered for admission, as indicated in Attachment A.

The interest to compete for the scholarship must be specified in the application form.

The University cannot be held responsible for any missing required document sent online due to reasons that cannot be ascribed directly to the University administration itself. Further, the University administration will not regard as valid application forms submitted after the deadline set in the present announcement.

In compliance with the law n. 104 of February 5, 1992, candidates with a disability may request special equipment in relation to their disability and additional time to complete their admission examinations. Confidential data of the candidates with disabilities will be saved and treated in compliance with the Decree n. 196/2003.

Applications not submitted as described herein will be rejected.

Art. 4
Admission Tests

Unless otherwise specified in Attachment A, admission is based on the evaluation of the qualifications of the candidate, the documentation submitted as indicated in Attachment A and, if any, on a written and oral exam that will evaluate the candidate’s expertise, penchant for research, and knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

Art. 5
Examinations Dates

Examinations will take place in the day, time, and location indicated in Attachment A.
Candidates must provide a valid identification document to be admitted to the tests. No personal notification about the examinations shall be sent directly to candidates.

**Art. 6**

**Examination Committees**

The examination committees granting admission to the PhD Programmes are appointed by the Rector on the proposal of the PhD Boards of the different doctoral programmes. Each committee will be composed of three members chosen among university professors and researchers (as well as foreign universities) relating to the scientific areas in which the PhD Programme refers. The committee may be supplemented by up to two experts, also non Italians, chosen from universities and public and private research institutions.

The assessment of candidates’ competence precedes other admission tests, as indicated in Attachment A.

Each candidate is evaluated on a maximum of 60 available points for each exam. Only candidates who pass the written exam with a score equal to or higher than 40/60 will be admitted to the oral exam. Candidates who score at least 40/60 on the oral test pass. At the end of the oral exam the Committee shall draw up a list of the candidates with the awarded scores. The list, undersigned by the President and the Secretary of the Committee, will be posted on the day of the oral exam in the hosting Department.

The evaluation of the qualifications of the candidates (eventually including their research projects) may not be expressed in the form of a vote, but as an admission judgement, if the examination includes other subsequent tests.

At the end of the admission exams, the Committee will publish a general ranking of candidates based on the sum of the two exam scores achieved by each candidate.

**Art. 7**

**Admission to PhD Programmes**

Upon verification of the regularity of the admission procedures, candidates will be admitted to the PhD Programme by a Decree of the Rector according to their final ranking and until all available positions have been assigned.

The final merit list with the candidates ranking is unique for each PhD Programme. In the case a candidate renounces admission within ten days after the beginning of the doctoral activities or because he/she does not enrol in due time, the following eligible candidate will be offered the position.

If a candidate is admitted contemporarily to two or more PhD programmes, he/she will have to choose which to attend.

The research fellows who have obtained the qualification in the competition may be admitted to the courses in supernumerary, provided that the PhD Programme concerns in the same scientific disciplinary field as their university research contract.

The final candidates ranking will be published in the University website at:


not later then October 3, 2016. The courses will officially start at the beginning of the academic year.

**Art. 8**

**Enrolment**

Within ten days from the final ranking publication in the University website, the candidates who have been admitted must submit their application using exclusively the web procedure available at

http://gomp.unicas.it.
Art. 9
Tuition fees
PhD students with a research scholarship are exempted from the payment of the tuition fees. However, they must pay the annual enrolment fee of € 520. This amount must be paid with precompiled forms available in the Research Doctorates webpage of the University in two instalments of equal amount (or, if preferred, in one single payment): the first instalment must be paid during the enrolment procedure and the second instalment must be paid by February 28, 2017. Any delay in the payment will be fined in accordance with the University Tax and Fees Regulation.

Art. 10
Research Scholarships
The number of available scholarships can be increased by funding provided by public or private institutions after the publication of the present announcement, but before the conclusion of the admission process. An additional oral exam, on research topics coherent with the activities of the funder, might be required to award these latter scholarships.

The scholarships provided by institutions external to the University will be supplied only after the conclusion of all the procedures to establish the relative agreement between such institutions and the University and after the transfer of funds to the University.

The external scholarships not related to specific research will be assigned to the candidates who ranked first.

The assignment of scholarships is subjected to the condition that the student’s income does not exceed € 7,746.86 during the year he/she is granting the scholarship.

Under penalty of exclusion from admission, students applying for a scholarship must declare that the aforementioned income limit is not exceeded by marking the appropriate box in the online application form.

Scholarships are assigned on the basis of the candidate’s position in the final ranking. In case of equal ranking, the admission is based on the economic condition of the student, in compliance with the D.P.C.M. of April 9, 2001.

The scholarship amounts to € 16,431.64 gross per year; this includes National Insurance Contributions (INPS) which fellowship recipients are required to pay. The payment is made on a monthly basis.

The scholarship will cover the whole time-length of the PhD Programme.

The scholarship may be increased by 50% for research periods spent abroad.

Scholarships are non-cumulative; they cannot be combined with other grants, except for those awarded by national or foreign scientific Institutions for activities related to study or research periods spent abroad.

Art. 11
Rights and Duties of PhD Students
PhD students are expected to attend seminars, training activities, lectures, and to continuously carry out their studies and research activities. At the end of each year, students must present a report on their research and educational activities to the PhD Board.

A motivated decision of the PhD Board may state the expulsion of the student from the PhD Programme and consequent loss of the scholarship in case of:

a) negative evaluation of the PhD Board about access on the following year of the Programme;

b) open-ended or fixed-term contract working activities, or working activities performed without prior authorization of the PhD Board;
c) extended and unjustified absences.
It is in the rights of PhD students to obtain a leave of absence for serious and documented illnesses. Maternity leave is granted in appliance with the Decree of the Ministry of Employment of July 12, 2007, and published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale No 247 of October 23, 2007. The PhD Board must expressly authorize absences caused by reasons different from those listed in the previous paragraphs.
Once the leave of absence is terminated, the PhD Board decides whether to readmit the PhD student to the year of the program in course or to readmit the PhD student to the following year of the Programme. Students readmitted during the year will have a scholarship, minus the amount already paid in the year in which it was absent.
In case of suspension longer than thirty days, or in case of expulsion from the PhD Programme, the scholarship will not be paid.
Enrolment to PhD Programme is not compatible with enrolment to any other university programme, specialization school, other doctoral programmes, and to first and second level masters.

Art. 12
Graduation
The qualification of Dottore di ricerca (PhD) is awarded as a result of the positive evaluation of a research thesis which contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study. The doctoral thesis, accompanied by a summary in English or Italian, is written in Italian or English, or in another language prior approval by the PhD board. The thesis is evaluated by at least two highly qualified professors, even from non-Italian institutions, different from those belonging to the PhD board or involved as supervisors, who express an analytical judgment and propose the admission of the candidate to the public discussion or its postponement for not longer than six months, in case significant additions or correction are needed. After this period, the thesis must be admitted to public discussion, accompanied by a new judgement produced by the same evaluators, that takes into account the corrections and/or additions made by the candidate.
After the public discussion, run by the Examination Committee mentioned in the following Article 13, the thesis is approved or rejected, on the basis of a written collegial judgement. The Committee may unanimously attribute the honors in the presence of significant scientific results.

Art. 13
Final Examination Committees
The Rector appoints the Committees conferring the PhD Degree on a proposal of the PhD Board of each Programme. Each Committee is composed of at least three members of high scientific qualification.

Art. 14
Privacy
In appliance with the Legislative Decree No 196/2003, together with its subsequent modifications and integrations, the University undertakes to use personal information provided by the candidates for institutional purposes and for the accomplishment of the admission procedures only. Within the principles of the aforesaid decree, participation in the admission procedures implies the expression of a silent agreement that the personal data of candidates and those concerning the results of their admission to PhD Programmes are published in the website of the University.

Art. 15
Referring rules
For all matters that are not expressly disciplined by this call, please refer to the specific rules governing this area.

The present decree is entered in the official reports of the University and published into the websites of the University, the MIUR and the UE. The notice of the publication will be sent to the Gazzetta Ufficiale of the Repubblica Italiana for the publication that follows.

Cassino, 8th July 2016

THE RECTOR

Professor Giovanni BETTA