



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI CASSINO E DEL LAZIO MERIDIONALE**

**Innovation, Research and Third Mission Area
Research Sector – PhD and Research Fellowships Office**

Decree n. 572/2026

This is an English courtesy translation of the original Call for Applications and is not binding for legal purposes.
In the event of disputes or discrepancies, the Italian version of the Call prevails.

THE RECTOR

- HAVING REGARD TO** the Statute of the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, issued by Rector's Decree (D.R.) no. 661 of 26 July 2018 and published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* – General Series – no. 186 of 11 August 2018;
- HAVING REGARD TO** Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998: "Regulations for the recruitment of tenured University Researchers and Professors", and in particular Art. 4 concerning PhD programmes;
- HAVING REGARD TO** Art. 19, paragraph 1, of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, which amended Art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998, containing regulations on PhD programmes;
- HAVING REGARD TO** Ministerial Decree (D.M.) no. 226 of 14 December 2021, "Regulations concerning the methods for the accreditation of PhD institutions and programmes and criteria for the establishment of PhD programmes by accredited institutions";
- HAVING REGARD TO** Ministerial Decree (D.M.) no. 247 of 23 February 2022, which determined that, effective from 1 July 2022, the annual amount of the PhD scholarship is €16,243.00, gross of social security contributions paid by the recipient;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the Guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programmes, issued by Ministerial Decree (D.M.) no. 301 of 22 March 2022, and transmitted via MUR note prot. 8424 of 23 March 2022;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the Regulations on PhD Programmes of the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, issued by Rector's Decree (D.R.) no. 326 of 13 May 2022, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the MUR circular letter prot. no. 2386 of 13 May 2026, communicating the opening of the online platform for submitting accreditation proposals for PhD programmes for the XLII cycle, A.Y. 2026/2027;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the proposals for the renewal of the PhD programmes for the XLII cycle submitted by the Departments of this University;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the letters of intent, agreements, and conventions concluded, or being finalized, with third-party Entities and Companies for the funding or co-funding of PhD scholarships for the XLII cycle – A.Y. 2026/2027;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Governing Board, dated 20 May 2026 and 27 May 2026 respectively, approving the establishment and activation of PhD programmes for the XLII cycle – A.Y. 2026/2027, as well as the allocation of the corresponding resources;
- HAVING REGARD TO** the accreditation proposals for the PhD programmes of this University duly transmitted to the MUR through the CINECA online platform;
- HAVING REGARD TO** Rector's Decree (D.R.) no. 547 of 21 July 2026, which increased the number of positions available for selection in the PhD programme in "Methods, Models, and Technologies for Engineering" and the PhD programme in "Educational Models and Contexts: Sport, Inclusion, and Technologies";
- CONSIDERING THAT** the actual start and activation of each of the PhD programmes indicated



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DEEMING IT NECESSARY

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in Article 1 of this Call remain subject to the ministerial accreditation decree, pursuant to the aforementioned Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021;

to proceed with the publication of this Call subject to obtaining ministerial accreditation for the individual programmes, in order to ensure compliance with the timeline for conducting the selection procedures;

to make any changes, updates, or additions to this Call, including those resulting from subsequent ministerial provisions, which will be made known exclusively via publication on the University's institutional website:

<https://www.unicas.it/ateneo/bandi-di-concorso/corsi-di-dottorato-di-ricerca-aa-20262027-xxii-ciclo/>

HEREBY DECREES

Art. 1 - Establishment

The selection procedures for admission to the PhD programmes activated at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio for the academic year 2026/2027 – XLII cycle, are hereby announced. Details are provided in Annex "A", which consists of 5 forms (one for each programme) and constitutes an integral part of this Call. For each PhD programme, Annex "A" indicates:

- a) The programme Coordinator;
- b) The total number of positions available;
- c) The research topics;
- d) The documentation to be attached to the application;
- e) The selection procedures;
- f) The evaluation criteria for applications;
- g) The schedule of the admission examinations;
- h) The webpage of each programme.

No positions without scholarships are available under this selection.

Pursuant to Art. 5, paragraph 6 of Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021 of the Minister of University and Research, the actual activation of the programmes is subject to the formal adoption of the accreditation decree by the Ministry, or to the positive verification of the maintenance of the accreditation requirements. The selection procedures are therefore carried out subject to the favourable outcome of this verification. Any negative outcome of said evaluation will be promptly communicated to the candidates.

The number of scholarships available under this Call may increase due to funding from public or private entities acquired after the publication of this Call, provided that the relevant agreement is finalized by the closing date of the selection procedure.

Scholarships funded by external entities will be disbursed only after the formalization of the relevant agreements and the actual transfer of funds to the University.

Art. 2 - Admission Requirements

Applications may be submitted, without restriction regarding age or citizenship, by candidates who, by the deadline for application, hold one of the following qualifications:

- A degree (*diploma di laurea*) awarded under the Italian regulations prior to Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 509/99;
- An Italian second-level degree (*laurea specialistica* or *laurea magistrale*) or an equivalent second-level academic qualification issued by institutions belonging to the AFAM (Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance) sector;



- An academic qualification obtained abroad, previously recognized by Italian academic authorities, including within the framework of inter-university cooperation and mobility agreements.

The eligibility of the foreign academic qualification may be assessed, for the sole purpose of admission to the selection, by the Selection Committee, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued, as well as international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies. In this case, candidates must attach to the application any documents deemed useful for the evaluation of the qualification's eligibility (degree certificate; transcript of records; type of qualification; standard duration of the programme; name of the awarding academic institution; date of graduation; grade/final assessment). All documents must be translated into Italian if they are written in a language other than English.

Candidates who have not yet obtained their degree may apply on condition that they obtain it by 31 October 2026, under penalty of forfeiture of their place.

Art. 3 - Application Procedure

Candidates are required to submit their application, together with the documentation requested in Annex "A", under penalty of exclusion, **no later than 12:00 PM (noon) Italian time on 31 August 2026**, using the online procedure accessible via the address <https://gomp.unicas.it>.

PLEASE NOTE: Suspension of support services. Please note that **from 10 to 21 August 2026**, the University will observe its summer closure period; therefore, **the technical and administrative helpdesk service dedicated to applicants will not be active**. Please note, however, that the GOMP online platform (<https://gomp.unicas.it>) will remain fully active and accessible, allowing applications to be submitted without interruption. Support requests received during the closure period will be taken in charge and processed **starting from 24 August 2026** and up until the deadline of the call for applications.

Once the application has been completed, a payment notice for the application fee of €40,00 (forty/00) will be generated. This fee must be paid, under penalty of exclusion, **by 31 August 2026** via the pagoPA system or by credit card. The application fee is non-refundable.

A copy of a valid identification document must be attached to the application.

Candidates are responsible for verifying that the required documentation has been correctly uploaded, bearing in mind that only qualifications that have been correctly attached will be evaluated.

The University Administration assumes no responsibility if the electronically submitted documentation cannot be read due to corrupted files or folders, or in the event of failure to transmit the documentation online due to reasons not attributable to the Administration itself.

Candidates with disabilities, pursuant to Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992, must explicitly request the necessary assistance as well as any extra time required to take the selection exams in relation to their disability. In this regard, personal data will be stored and processed with the confidentiality required by Legislative Decree no. 196/03, as amended by Legislative Decree no. 101/2018, and by EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

Submission of the application implies full acceptance by the candidate of the rules contained in this Call. Failure to comply with these rules will result in exclusion from the selection procedure.

All candidates are admitted to the selection procedure conditionally, pending verification of the requirements set out in the Call.

Art. 4 - Admission Examination

The admission examination consists of a selection procedure designed to assess the candidate's preparation and aptitude for scientific research. During the selection process, the committee will also evaluate the suitability of candidates to carry out the research specified for



topic-specific (*tematica vincolata*) scholarships.

The selection procedures and evaluation criteria for the admission examinations are specified in the factsheets of each PhD programme contained in Annex "A" to this Call.

Art. 5 - Examination Dates

The examinations will take place on the date, at the time, and in the manner indicated in the same Annex "A".

Any changes to the schedules will be promptly posted on the official page of the University website dedicated to these selections:

<https://www.unicas.it/ateneo/bandi-di-concorso/corsi-di-dottorato-di-ricerca-aa-20262027-xxii-ciclo/>

No individual notices or convocations will be sent to candidates.

To take the examinations, candidates must present a valid identification document.

Failure to attend the examinations will be considered a withdrawal from the selection procedure, regardless of the cause.

Art. 6 - Selection Committees for Admission to the Programmes

The Selection Committee for admission to each PhD programme is appointed by Rector's Decree, upon proposal of the respective Academic Board (*Collegio dei docenti*), and is normally composed of three tenured university professors and/or researchers qualified in disciplines relating to the scientific fields of the programme. The Committee may be supplemented by up to two additional experts in the same disciplines.

In the case of programmes divided into curricula, the Committee may be expanded to include at least one professor or researcher competent in the subject areas of each curriculum.

In the case of programmes or scholarships funded by external entities, the Committee may be supplemented by up to two experts representing these entities.

Art. 7 - Admission to the Programmes

At the end of the selection procedures, the Committee draws up the general merit ranking list, which is unique for each PhD programme. This list is approved by Rector's Decree and made public by publication on the University web page:

<https://www.unicas.it/ateneo/bandi-di-concorso/corsi-di-dottorato-di-ricerca-aa-20262027-xxii-ciclo/>

by 12 October 2026.

Candidates will be admitted to the programme up to the total number of positions available for selection in each PhD programme.

If the PhD programme is divided into curricula and has opted to draw up separate ranking lists for each curriculum, candidates will be admitted to each curriculum up to the number of positions available for that curriculum. Should the number of candidates admitted to a curriculum be lower than the number of scholarship positions advertised and not specifically assigned to that curriculum, these positions may be assigned to candidates competing in other curricula, moving down their respective ranking lists based on the final score achieved.

If a candidate ranks high enough to be admitted to multiple ranking lists, they must choose only one PhD programme.

Art. 8 - Admission in Excess of Quota

Candidates who have already been selected within the framework of European Union research programmes or other international cooperation programmes may be admitted in excess of the official quota, even if they have not submitted an application for admission to the competitive selection procedure within the deadline established by the call, provided they submit a



request for enrolment in the PhD programme.

Enrolment is in any case subject to verification of the academic qualifications held and to the prior approval of the PhD course's Academic Board, which — if the candidate holds a qualification obtained abroad — shall assess the suitability of such qualification.

Art. 9 - Enrolment in the Programmes

Successful candidates, based on the final ranking list, must submit their enrolment application under penalty of forfeiture **within 7 days from the date of publication of the selection results** on the University website, using exclusively the online procedure available at <https://gomp.unicas.it>.

Within the same deadline, candidates are required to pay the enrolment fees for the PhD programme. Pursuant to the University Regulations on Fees and Contributions for the A.Y. 2026/2027, the annual amount—inclusive of the regional student welfare tax (*tassa regionale per il diritto allo studio*) and stamp duty — is €156,00. Payment can be made via the pagoPA notice generated at the end of the online enrolment application, or by credit card.

Eligible candidates placed in a useful position on the merit ranking list who wish to waive their place in the PhD programme must submit an explicit declaration of withdrawal to the email address: office.phd@unicas.it, attaching a copy of a valid identification document.

Upon expiry of the enrolment deadline, candidates who have not completed their matriculation will be considered to have WITHDRAWN for all intents and purposes, and the remaining vacant positions will be assigned to the next eligible candidates by scrolling the ranking list (*scorrimento*). Replacement candidates will receive a specific notice at the email address provided during the selection application process. This communication will specify the methods and strict deadlines for matriculation, failing which the replacement candidate will likewise forfeit their right to enroll.

Successful candidates holding an academic qualification obtained abroad must, after submitting their matriculation application, email the following documents to office.phd@unicas.it:

- For qualifications obtained in European Union countries: The Diploma Supplement or the Statement of Comparability issued by ENIC-NARIC centres (CIMEA). For further details, please visit: <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-attestat-di-comparabilita-e-verifica-dei-titoli>;
- For qualifications obtained in non-European Union countries: The Declaration of Value (Dichiarazione di Valore in loco) issued by the competent Italian Diplomatic-Consular Representation in the country where the qualification was awarded, or alternatively, the Statement of Comparability issued by ENIC-NARIC centres (CIMEA). For further details, please visit: <https://www.unicas.it/international-unicas/international-office/international-welcome-service/>.

Successful candidates with a foreign qualification who do not possess the required documentation at the time of enrollment will be conditionally enrolled (*iscritti con riserva*). They will be excluded from the PhD programme —with the obligation to repay any scholarship monthly installments already received — should they fail to submit the documentation within three months from the start of the programme, or if, upon verification, the qualification produced does not comply with the requirements set out in this Call.

Successful candidates who require an entry visa for Italy must register on the University portal (<https://www.universitaly.it/studenti-stranieri>) concurrently with the completion of their enrollment and submit their pre-enrollment application for the PhD programme, following the procedure indicated therein for visa issuance. For information and assistance, please contact the Foreign Students Office of the University International Relations Centre via email at laura.morone@unicas.it.

The issuance of an entry visa for study purposes is a sine qua non condition for the continuation of the procedure.

Withdrawal from enrollment does not entitle the candidate to a refund of the fees paid. PhD



students are required to pay enrollment fees for each year of the programme.

The duration of the programme is three years, commencing on **1 November 2026**.

Art. 10 - Scholarships

The gross annual amount of the scholarship, established by Ministerial Decree no. 247 of 23 February 2022, is €16,243.00, inclusive of social security contributions to be paid by the PhD student, and is disbursed in equal monthly installments.

Scholarships will be awarded based on the general merit ranking list; in the event of equal merit, the assessment of the personal economic situation pursuant to current regulations shall prevail.

Pursuant to the resolution of the Governing Board of the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio dated 27 May 2026, any total personal gross income derived from employment, assimilated, or self-employed activities earned by the PhD student during each calendar year of scholarship disbursement cannot exceed the annual gross amount of the scholarship itself, equal to €16,243.00. When filling out the application, candidates are required to declare compliance with the aforementioned income limit for the calendar year concerned.

The scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS "*Gestione Separata*" social security contributions under current legislation, to the extent of two-thirds paid by the University and one-third paid by the scholarship recipient. Upon matriculation, PhD scholarship recipients are required to register with the INPS Gestione Separata, if not already registered.

The scholarship is renewed on an annual basis, provided that the PhD student has completed the scheduled training and research activities and does not exceed the income limit during the calendar year of disbursement. If this income limit is exceeded, the scholarship will be revoked for the entire year, and the recipient will be required to repay the amount received for the reference year.

The scholarship will be increased by 50% for research periods abroad, authorized by the Academic Board of the PhD programme, for a minimum of one continuous month and for no longer than twelve (12) months. This period may be extended up to a maximum total of eighteen (18) months for PhD programmes under joint supervision (*cotutelle*) with foreign institutions or activated pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021.

PhD scholarships cannot be combined with research fellowships (*assegni di ricerca*), research contracts pursuant to Law 79 of 29 June 2022, or any other scholarships awarded for any reason, except for those granted by national or foreign institutions intended to integrate the research activity of the PhD student with stays abroad.

Anyone who has already benefited from a PhD scholarship, even partially, cannot benefit from one a second time.

Starting from the first year, each PhD student, with or without a scholarship, is guaranteed a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad of an amount not less than 10% of the annual scholarship value.

Art. 11 - Rights and Duties of PhD Students

Following enrollment in the programme, an institutional University email account will be activated for each PhD student, through which all official communications will be sent.

PhD students are required to participate in educational activities and carry out their research activities in accordance with the terms and modalities established by the Academic Board (*Collegio dei docenti*), following the training project agreed upon with their Supervisor and co-Supervisor(s).

At the end of each academic year, the Academic Board, having consulted the Supervisor and co-Supervisor(s), decides on the admission of the PhD student to the following year based on the verification of the fulfillment of the training obligations. A negative evaluation results in exclusion from the programme.

Within three months of the start of the programme, the PhD student must register in the



University's institutional research catalogue (IRIS), in which they are required to enter the publications produced both during the programme and in the subsequent three years.

As an integral part of the training project and subject to the prior approval (*nulla osta*) of the Academic Board, PhD students may carry out tutoring activities—including paid positions—for Bachelor's and Master's degree students, as well as supplementary teaching activities (*didattica integrativa*) up to a maximum limit of forty (40) hours per academic year.

PhD students may submit an application to withdraw from their studies at any time. For scholarship holders, this results in the immediate suspension of the scholarship and the obligation to return any monthly installments received after the date of withdrawal.

Foreign PhD students from non-EU countries are required to initiate the procedures for the issuance of a residence permit (*permesso di soggiorno*) once they arrive in Italy, in accordance with the timelines and stay regulations of Italian law, under penalty of forfeiture of their status and benefits.

Art. 12 - Compatibility and Incompatibility

Admission to the PhD programme entails an exclusive, full-time commitment, without excluding the possibility of a different specific discipline for courses under agreement or partnership or for PhD students that take benefit from apprenticeship contracts.

Subject to prior authorization by the Academic Board (*Collegio dei docenti*), PhD students are permitted to participate, including on a paid basis, in research activities carried out within department structures, as well as in research projects funded by national or international public or private entities.

Authorization to engage in paid activities is granted by the Academic Board, having consulted the Supervisor, following an assessment of the compatibility of such activities with the successful performance of the educational, teaching, and research activities of the PhD programme. Permissible paid activities are limited to those that enable the acquisition of competencies relating to the educational field of the PhD.

The regulations governing incompatibilities and dual enrollment are defined by current legislation, specifically by Law no. 33 of 12 April 2022, Ministerial Decree (D.M.) no. 930 of 29 July 2022, and the relevant ministerial FAQs.

Art. 13 - Suspension

Attendance of the programme must be suspended in cases of maternity, paternity, adoption, and foster care in accordance with current legislation, civil service, or documented illness and injury lasting more than thirty days.

Attendance may also be suspended, upon request of the PhD student, for parental leave, a probationary period of employment, or serious and proven reasons.

When deliberating upon the suspension, the Academic Board may establish terms, conditions, and verifications, compatibly with the deadlines for ongoing evaluations.

The total duration of the suspension, even if cumulative, cannot exceed six months, except in the case of maternity leave.

Periods of suspension must be made up at the end of the programme. During the suspension, the disbursement of the scholarship is suspended.

Art. 14 - Award of the Degree

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (*PhD / Dottore di Ricerca*) is awarded following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of inquiry. The PhD thesis, accompanied by a summary in Italian or English, must be written in Italian or English, or in another language subject to prior authorization by the Academic Board.

The thesis, to which a report by the PhD student on the activities carried out during the



three-year period and any publications is attached, is evaluated by at least two highly qualified experts, who may belong to non-Italian institutions and must be external to the entities that contributed to the award of the PhD degree, hereinafter referred to as "reviewers". The reviewers provide a detailed written assessment of the thesis and propose either its admission to the public defense or its postponement for a period not exceeding six months if they deem significant additions or corrections necessary. Once this period has elapsed, the thesis is in any case admitted to the public defense, accompanied by a new written opinion from the same reviewers, issued in light of any corrections or additions made.

At the conclusion of the defense, held before the Examination Committee referred to in Art. 15 below, the thesis is approved or rejected by means of a reasoned written assessment adopted collectively. The Committee, by unanimous vote, has the authority to award honors (con lode) in the presence of results of exceptional scientific significance.

Art. 15 - Examination Committee for the Final Exam

The Examination Committee for the final defense in each PhD programme is appointed by the Rector, upon proposal of the respective Academic Board, and is composed of three members qualified in the disciplines relevant to the programme. At least two members must belong to other Italian or foreign universities and must not be members of the Academic Board. The committee may be supplemented by up to two experts external to the University.

Art. 16 - Processing of Personal Data

Data will be processed, for the purposes identified in this Call, pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, as amended by Legislative Decree no. 101/2018, and EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR). For further details, please visit the following link: <https://www.unicas.it/privacy/>.

Participation in the selection procedure implies, in compliance with the principles of the aforementioned regulations, the expression of consent for the candidates' personal data and those relating to the selection examinations to be published on the website of the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio.

Art. 17 - Reference Regulations

For anything not expressly provided for in this Call, the legislative and regulatory provisions governing PhD programmes shall apply.

This decree is included in the University's official internal record collection.

Cassino, July 24, 2026

THE RECTOR
Prof. Marco DELL'ISOLA

Director of the Area
Dott. Massimiliano Mignanelli

Head of the Sector
Dott.ssa Carla Manzo