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Regione Toscana



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DOCTORAL PROGRAMME	LIFE SCIENCES	
COORDINATOR	Pietro Lupetti pietro.lupetti@unisi.it	
Department	Life Sciences	
Course start date	1 st October 2016	
Online application procedure open from	22 July 2016 at 12:00 a.m.	
Call deadline (date and time)	26 August 2016 at 12:00 p.m.	
Selection procedure	Preselection + oral exam	
No. of places	12	
of which:		
Places with University grants	3 grants: 1. Project: Molecular tools applied to study past and future evolutionary trajectory of Antarctic springtails 2. Project: Immunological correlates of protection for new influenza vaccine assessment and new animal models 3. Project: Astrocytes-T cell interactions in the pathogenesis of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) and multiple sclerosis: a mechanistic study	
Places with grants funded by external bodies	6	
Details of grants funded by external bodies	Funding body	Project
	Tuscany Region 4 grants	Pegaso Project
	VisMederi 1 grant	Optimization of cell culture platforms for the evaluation of influenza vaccine immunogenicity
	Department of Life Science (Prof. Baldari – Project Tuscany Region POR FESR 2014-2020 – Bando INSIDE) 1 grant	Characterization of the p66Shc adaptor in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and development of functionalized nanoparticles for the controlled release of drugs in a mouse disease model
Places without grants	2	
Places reserved for graduates of foreign universities	0	
Places reserved to citizens of foreign countries supported by a scholarship by a foreign State	0	
Places reserved for international mobility project grant holders (Marie Curie)	1 Project: Mechanistic insights into oxidative processes at the cellular level to deliver fast kill	



Places reserved for junior research fellows	0
Type of classification (the abovementioned places will be subdivided as shown):	<p>SINGLE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Molecular tools applied to study past and future evolutionary trajectory of Antarctic springtails” 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>SINGLE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Immunological correlates of protection for new influenza vaccine assessment and new animal models” 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>SINGLE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Astrocytes-T cell interactions in the pathogenesis of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) and multiple sclerosis: a mechanistic study” 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Characterization of the p66Shc adaptor in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and development of functionalized nanoparticles for the controlled release of drugs in a mouse disease model”: 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Characterization of nutritional and health properties of local Tuscany varieties and evaluation of innovative nanosystems for delivery of nutraceutical components within organisms”: 2 places with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Drosophila melanogaster: a model system to study the mechanisms of procentriole assembly, centriole to basal body conversion and ciliogenesis”: 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “To be or not to be” territorial: the evolutionary dilemma of male Northern chamois <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>”: 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Optimization of cell culture platforms for the evaluation of influenza vaccine immunogenicity”: 1 place with grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “A study of alpha-2 fucosylation-dependent uptake mechanism and its role in targeting of drug delivery systems”: 1 place without grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT “Developing new strategies for the surveillance and management of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> infections 1 place with no specific project”: 1 place without grant -----</p> <p>ONE LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE TOPIC/PROJECT Mechanistic insights</p>



	into oxidative processes at the cellular level to deliver fast kill: 1 place reserved for international mobility project grant holders (Marie Curie)
Programme duration	3 years
Documents for evaluation (to be sent with the online application form)	<p>a - Curriculum vitae et studiorum (signed at the bottom and containing the statement “I declare that the contents of this curriculum correspond to the truth, pursuant to Presidential Decree 445/2000”) including a list of any publications.</p> <p><u>Candidates who have gained (or will gain by 31 October 2016) a degree at an Italian University</u> must specify in their CV all details of their education to date and qualifications for admission, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. University issuing the degree;2. type of degree – old Italian system/first cycle/second cycle (specialistica/magistrale);3. degree programme title;4. list of exams and relative grades;5. date on which degree was obtained and final grade/date degree expected to be obtained (before 31 October 2016). <p><u>Candidates who have gained (or will gain by 31 October 2016) a degree at a foreign University</u> (lasting at least four years) must specify in their CV:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. University issuing the degree;2. type of degree – (lasting at least 4 years – second cycle) – e.g. Master’s degree;3. date on which degree was obtained and final grade/date on which degree expected to be obtained (before 31 October 2016). They must also provide: a degree certificate with a list of exams taken and grades (transcript) – issued in Italian or in English, or translated into Italian or English – and a copy of any other documents deemed useful for the evaluation of the qualification (e.g. Diploma supplement, Declaration of value); <p>b – Research project in English language: (short description of the candidate’s motivational aspects leading to compete for a PhD position in Life Sciences with specific references to the selected research project);</p> <p>c – Letters of reference (no more than two) from University professors and/or Italian or international professional researchers;</p> <p>d – Thesis abstract.</p>
Exam details	<p>Preselection (Evaluation of qualifications): candidates’ presence is not required. Minimum score for admission to the oral exam: 20/40</p> <p>Oral exam: The aim of the oral exam is to ascertain the candidates’ aptitude for research. Candidates will be required to discuss the proposed research project in front of the Board in English. During the oral exam candidates’ knowledge of English will be tested. Candidates residing/domiciled abroad who have demonstrated their inability to attend the oral exam can ask to perform the oral exam via videoconference. In this case the University of Siena cannot be held responsible for the oral exam being missed due to technical problems of any nature or cause. The Board will check that the requirements are met for the correct performance of the exam (proof of candidates’ identity and fairness of the exam). Minimum score: 40/60</p> <p>Admission: Minimum score: 60/100 Candidates who obtain a total score of at least 60/100, considering the sum of the results obtained in the selection procedure (minimum score in the preselection 20/40 – minimum score in the oral exam 40/60), will be included in the list of successful candidates in order of merit.</p>



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Oral exam

The date of the oral exam will be published on the website <http://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> under the name of the programme of interest, at least 15 days prior to the exam date. The list of candidates admitted to the oral exam will be published on the following page: www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca by clicking on the name of the programme of interest. **Candidates will not receive an invitation to attend the exam.**

Admission requirements

- Italian degree (*Laurea*) awarded according to the university rules prior to Ministerial Decree no. 509/99 (lasting at least 4 years)
- Italian second cycle degree (*Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale*) lasting 3+2 years or a single 5-year cycle)
- Academic qualification (degree) gained abroad, equivalent to an Italian qualification in level, length and content.

Applicants must be in possession of the admission requirements or gain their degree **before 31 October 2016**.

Academic qualifications obtained abroad

Academic qualifications obtained abroad, following courses lasting at least four years, must be recognized as second cycle degrees and permit admission to doctoral programmes in the country in which they were awarded.

Candidates with a foreign academic qualification must attach the following to the online application:

a transcript, i.e. a certificate attesting to the qualification with a list of exams passed and grades, in Italian or in English, or translated into Italian or English, and a copy of any documents that may be of use in assessing the suitability of the qualification (e.g. Diploma supplement, curriculum, Declaration of Value).

The candidate may be asked at any time to present further documentation in order to assess the admissibility of that already presented.

Candidates with a foreign qualification are admitted conditionally to the selection procedure and will be barred from the doctoral programme should, on assessment, the qualification not meet the admission requirements. Winners must present the documentation indicated in article 5.

The University can, by reasoned decision, exclude candidates from the selection procedure at any time if they lack the admission requirements specified in this call.

Application procedure

Applications must be compiled and sent electronically, **between 12.00 a.m. on 22nd July 2016 and 12.00 a.m. on 26th August 2016** using only the online enrolment procedure, at <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it>. Please follow the "Application instructions" available at www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca, and select the relevant doctoral programme. The "Applications instructions" differ according to whether or not the candidate is already registered on the portal <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it> and therefore is already in possession of a user name and password. The "Documents for evaluation" specified in the table (see art. 1 of the Doctoral programme competition announcement) must be sent with the online application form in electronic format. As confirmation that your application has been registered, an automatic "Application memo" will be issued.

The application form is automatically sent to the University when the procedure at <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it> has been completed. No printed materials need to be sent or delivered to the University offices.

Admission and enrolment

There will be a single final ranking list, published on the following page: www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca selecting the Doctoral Programme of interest.

Successful candidates will not be notified in person.

Places may be reserved for graduates of foreign universities, foreign grant recipients, those participating in specific international mobility programmes, or recipients of research grants in the same scientific-disciplinary area as the research programme, depending on their place in the ranking list, and as long as the study or research grant has the same duration as the Doctoral Research programme (at least 3 years).

The simultaneous enrolment on a first or second cycle degree, postgraduate specialization course or another Doctoral Programme is not permitted.



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Doctoral students may attend medical specialization courses at the same time as the Doctoral Programme. In this case, the duration of the Doctoral Programme is reduced to a minimum of two years (art. 19, Law 240/2010), as long as the following criteria are respected:

- a) the specialization student must have won a competition for admission to the doctoral programme at the same University in which he/she wishes to attend the specialization school.
- b) joint attendance can take place during the last year of the specialization school but must be compatible with the activities and commitments provided for by the school itself, following permission from the board of the relevant school.
- c) The academic board of the doctoral programme decides whether to accept requests for reductions in the programme length following an evaluation of the research activities already conducted during the medical specialization school, as certified by the board of the specialization school.
- d) During the year of joint attendance the specialization student cannot receive the doctoral research grant.

Instructions for enrolment

Students admitted (with or without scholarship) must **present the request for enrolment by 30 September 2016**.

Enrolment must be completed online **using the specific on-line enrolment** procedure available at <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it> and following the "instructions for enrolment" available at www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca selecting the appropriate doctoral programme. Enrolment will open and close at the dates that will be indicated at the web page www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca

Before completing the procedure the system generates a form for payment of the single instalment of university fees and regional taxes, as determined in articles of the Doctoral Programme call (Bando).

At the end of the online procedure, when completed correctly, the student can print out the receipt of provisional enrolment.

Enrolment is confirmed on payment of fees.

Candidates who do not comply with the above by the prescribed deadlines will be considered to have withdrawn ipso iure.

Enrolment is definitive once the credentials for admission to the programme have been verified. Until then, enrolment is conditional.

Considering that the ranking list may be updated up to 31 December, replacement candidates, must complete enrolment, under penalty of exclusion, within six days of having received e-mail confirmation from the *Ufficio per il dottorato di ricerca*. The Administration declines all responsibility should the e-mail not be received due to third parties or technical problems.

Candidates with foreign academic qualification

Candidates who meet the requirements to enrol but hold a **foreign academic qualification** (from at least a four-year programme) that has not been yet declared equivalent to an Italian qualification by an Italian university, must also attach an electronic copy of the following documents during the online enrolment procedure:

- copy of the original qualification awarded - translated and authenticated by the competent Italian Consulate or Embassy;
- a transcript, i.e. a certificate attesting to the qualification with a list of exams passed and grades, in Italian or in English - translated and authenticated by the competent Italian Consulate or Embassy.
- copy of any document that may be of use in assessing the suitability of the qualification (e.g. Diploma supplement)
- copy of the Declaration of Value (*Dichiarazione di valore "in loco"*) issued by the competent Italian Consulate or Embassy abroad, in compliance with current norms on the admissibility of foreign students to degree programmes in Italian universities. The **Declaration of Value** must clearly indicate that the academic qualification allows access to doctoral programmes in the country in which it was awarded.

The original or authenticated copies of the documentation listed above must be presented to the Doctoral admission Office (*Ufficio per il dottorato di ricerca*) of the University of Siena **within six months of the official start of the programme**. Candidates who do not present the documentation regarding the foreign qualification are admitted to the programme "conditionally". They will be dismissed from the doctoral programme if they do not present the documentation within six months of the official start of the programme. They will also be dismissed if, on assessment of the documents, the qualification is considered not suitable for admission to the programme.

Non-EU candidates who have passed the admission exam will be admitted to the courses as long as they have a permit to enter and



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reside in Italy and are legally residing in Italy (art. 39, par. 5, Legislative Decree. 25.07.1998 no. 286 as modified by art. 26 Law 30.07.2002 no. 189); they must present a copy of their passport and a valid residence permit issued by the competent authorities. Non-EU citizens residing abroad must present a copy of their passport, entrance visa and residence permit for the purpose of study issued by the competent *Questura* (Police headquarters).

Successful candidates who do not complete the enrolment procedure by the deadline will be considered to have renounced their place.

Vacancies may be made available to the next candidates in the ranking list by 31 December.

Research grants

Research grants are awarded on the basis of the ranking list formed following the admission exam.

If the grant is financed by external public or private institutions, the amount will be paid only when the corresponding funding will be received.

The gross annual amount of the research grant is 13,638.47 Euros.

As long as the student is authorized by the Academic Board to carry out research abroad, the amount of the grant is increased by up to 50% for a maximum of 18 months during the period abroad.

The grant will be paid for the whole duration of the course.

Payments are normally made in monthly instalments in arrears.

The doctoral grant cannot be accumulated with other study/research grants awarded for any purpose, except those awarded by national or foreign institutions for the purpose of integrating the training and research activities of grant recipients with stays abroad.

Those who have used a research grant to attend a Doctoral Programme, or part of a Programme, cannot be awarded a second grant.

PhD students awarded "Pegaso" scholarships

For the purpose of awarding three-year scholarships funded by the Tuscany Region as part of the Pegasus Project, candidates must meet the following additional requirements:

- a) comply with the provisions established by executive decree for the award of Pegasus Scholarships for PhDs – Year 2016 - POR FSE 2014/2020 (art. 8) and by the Convention between the Tuscany Region and the University of Siena, in particular:
- b) not be over 35 at the time of application for participation in the competition;
- c) have an adequate knowledge of English equivalent to at least level B2;
- d) express willingness to carry out study and research stays abroad for at least six months during the three years of study and be aware that failure to fulfil the stay abroad will lead to withdrawal of the entire scholarship;
- e) willingness to attend courses for the acquisition of soft skills that will be offered during the doctoral three years, in particular:
 - linguistic enhancement: deepening of the use of English or other foreign language;
 - IT enhancement: deepening of the use of the main computer systems, including of a specialistic nature;
 - research management: rules related to the enhancement and dissemination of scientific research, protection of intellectual property and patenting methods in the national and international fields;
- f) preparation of doctoral thesis in Italian or English (in the case of prevailing scientific literature in the subject, either in English or another foreign language), prevision in any case of thesis summary in both Italian and English; an electronic version of the doctoral thesis must be filed in the in e-repository, as provided for in the "CRUI guidelines for the filing of the doctoral theses in open archives";
- g) undertake to prepare an annual report for each year of the doctorate and a final report on the training attended, research activities undertaken and the degree of satisfaction. The reports must be signed by the assignee him/herself and countersigned by the project manager/Director of the PhD and submitted to the PhD Office in Via del Refugio 4, Siena, by the third day following the reference deadline;
- h) be aware that the Tuscany Region does not reimburse the costs of those who abandon scholarships in the first three months of the course. Therefore, in case of cancellation, for whatever reason, or interruption of the course in the first three months without having achieved any documented results in terms of acquired skills, the University of Siena is required to request the return of monthly payments received;
- i) be aware that cases of suspension from the PhD are only those due by law, to be reported along with the reasons in real time, so that they can be sent to the Region within 5 days of their occurrence. Suspensions of different types are not normally acceptable;
- j) be aware that false declarations are punishable under the Penal Code and special laws.

Attendance



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Admission to the Doctoral Programme implies full time and exclusive commitment, except as specifically provided for in the following cases: joint attendance with a medical specialization school; public employee not on study or extraordinary leave; Business Doctoral Programme; Industrial Doctoral Programme and advanced traineeships; activities authorized from the Academic Board.

Awarding of the qualification

The qualification of PhD is gained when the final exam has been passed, pursuant to art. 18 of the Doctoral Programme Regulations, issued by Rector's Decree no. 1016 of 4 July 2013.

Doctoral theses must be filed by the doctoral students themselves, in electronic format, in the University Repository: USiena-air <http://usiena-air.unisi.it/>, in order to ensure that they are automatically filed in the National Libraries, as provided for by the CRUI guidelines for the filing of doctoral theses in open archives.

University fees

A 304,00 Euro enrolment fee plus 16,00 Euro virtual stamp duty must be paid on enrolment using the specific form downloaded during the online procedure or using a credit card.

Regional tax

There is a yearly Regional Tax for the Right to University Studies, as set out in Regional Law 3 January 2005 n. 4. The 140,00 Euro Regional Tax must be paid using the form downloaded during the online enrolment procedure or using a credit card

Exemption from payment of taxes and fees

Students with certified disability equivalent to 66% or higher, are exempt from the payment of any taxes or fees.

False declarations

Pursuant to art. 75 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000, without prejudice to art. 76 on criminal matters, should false contents emerge when checking declarations in lieu of certification, the declarant loses any benefits awarded as a result of the provision issued on the basis of the false declaration.

Person in charge and handling of personal data

The person in charge of the procedure, pursuant to arts. 4, 5 and 6 of Law no. 241/1990 as subsequently amended, is Ms Alessandra Rillo, head of the *Ufficio per il dottorato di ricerca* (PhD office). The personal information provided by candidates will be collected by the University of Siena for the purpose of managing the selection procedure and processed automatically in line with the law in force, to which reference should be made regarding any matters not specified in the announcement.

For any matters not covered by this summary, please consult the official competition call published at www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca selecting the Doctoral Programme of interest, the University's Degree Course Regulations (Regolamento Didattico) and Regulations on Doctoral Programmes (Regolamento in materia di dottorati di ricerca).