



Students' Services Area  
PhD Office

## **Call for application for admission to the Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies - DREST 41<sup>st</sup> cycle, Academic Year 2025/2026**

Issued with Rectoral Decree n. 673 prot. n. 190930 – 04/07/2025  
Amended with Rectoral Decree n. 809 prot. n. 231170 – 29/07/2025

**APPLICATIONS OPENING: 08 July 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (CET)**  
**APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: 26 August 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (CET)**

### **ARTICLE 1 - Institution**

A selection procedure for admission to the Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies, hereinafter DREST, for the XLI cycle (2025/2026) is hereby open, with the participation of “Aldo Moro” University of Bari, University of Florence, University of Insubria, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, “Federico II” University of Naples, “L’Orientale” University of Naples, Suor Orsola Benincasa University of Naples, University of Palermo, “Sapienza” University of Rome, University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Turin, “Ca’ Foscari” University of Venice, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, University of Pisa, “G. Alberigo” European School for Advanced Religious Studies. It has administrative office in Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia. The administrative headquarters will be the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

**The actual activation of courses and students’ enrolment are subject to the approval by the Ministry of University and Research upon positive opinion expressed by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Research (ANVUR), as indicated in the Ministerial Decree no. 301 of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**

**This call is equivalent to notification to all intents and purposes.** Any changes, updates or additions to the content of this call will be announced, **exclusively**, on the following website <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-41> and on the online University notice board: <https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>

### **ARTICLE 2 - Course description**

DREST (Italian Doctoral School of Religious Studies – [www.drest.eu](http://www.drest.eu)) is a research training school dedicated to specialist knowledge concerning the critical knowledge of religious experience

and the heritage of sources from which it generates and on which it is founded, of the historical manifestations and cultural, juridical, philosophical and linguistical constructs with whom it expresses itself in time. The aim is to create a scientific community of teachers and students who are able to produce knowledge and tools in order to understand the deep ribs of that past and its persistence in the long term or in the historical present of our society in the European Research Area.

DREST is divided into six subject areas or curricula:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Buddhism and Religions of Asia
- Law and Religions
- Transdisciplinarity and Technological Frontier Research

These areas are all characterised by the integration of theoretical (historiographical, juridical, philological, philosophical, linguistic, technological, theological) reflection and the competent implementation of excavation methods on written, iconographic and oral sources.

All PhD students in Religious Studies are supposed to spend during the three years not less than 6 months abroad: regardless of the chosen research area, they will have to demonstrate that they master classical and/or modern languages, necessary to the study of the sources and the scientific literature. PhD Students will be asked to commit increasing their knowledge in each field with an innovative contribution, recognizable at international level too, thanks to its originality.

The Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies has a three-year duration (2025/2026-2027/2028) starting from November 1st, 2025.

The actual activation of the course and enrolment are subject to the positive evaluation by the MUR, having acquired the favourable opinion of ANVUR, as indicated in Ministerial Decree no. 301 of 22 March 2022 '*Guidelines for the accreditation of research doctorates pursuant to art.4, paragraph 3 of the regulation referred to in Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021*'.

### ARTICLE 3 – Scholarships, locations and selections

DREST allocates 30 funded positions, of which 3 are with open-topic and 27 are with research topic-specific. These positions are distributed across the six curricula and the involved institutions as follows:

	Buddhism and Religions of Asia	Judaism	Cristianity	Islam	Law and Religions	Transdisciplinarity and Technological Frontier Research
University of Bari			1			
University of Florence			1			
University of Insubria					1	
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia		1	9	2		
“Federico II” University of Naples					1	
“L’Orientale” University of Naples	1	1				

Suor Orsola Benincasa University of Naples						1
University of Palermo		1	1	1		
“Sapienza” University of Rome					1	
University for Foreigners of Perugia			1			
University of Turin						1
“Ca’ Foscari” University of Venice		1				
University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”			1			
“G. Alberigo” European School for Advanced Religious Studies		1	1	1		

In the case of open-topic scholarship, the doctoral activity will be carried out on a research topic assigned by the Academic Board on the proposal of the doctoral student, shared with the curriculum coordinator; on the other hand, topic-specific scholarships have a specific research topic and bind the PhD students to carry out the research activities indicated in the description of each scholarship at the university or research institute to which the scholarship is related.

A specific selection is open for each curriculum as detailed below:

**- Selection 1: curriculum Buddhism and Religions of Asia**  
**Available positions: 1**

Place n.	Location	Description
1	“L’Orientale” University of Naples	Open-topic scholarship

**- Selection 2: curriculum Judaism**  
**Available positions: 5**

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship  Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	Programming of Language Models for the Study of Variants of the Talmud in Aramaic and Hebrew, and for Linguistic and Theological Analysis  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Hebrew and Aramaic)
2	“L’Orientale” University of Naples	Open-topic scholarship	-

3	University of Palermo	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by ITSERR Italian Strengthening of Esfri RI Resilience project (ITSERR) - CUP B53C22001770006	Collection and Study of the Life and Works of Elia Benamozegh (Knowledge of the following language is required for the study of the sources: Hebrew)
4	"Ca' Foscari" University of Venice	Topic-specific scholarship	Transitions, Ruptures, and Boundaries in the Formation and Construction of Religious Identity in Judaisms of the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Area
5	"G. Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Bologna)	Topic-specific scholarship	Elia Benamozegh and His Works (Knowledge of the following language is required for the study of the sources: Hebrew)

**- Selection 3: curriculum Christianity**  
**Available positions: 15**

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Bari	Topic-specific scholarship	Augustine: Wirkungsgeschichte and the History of Augustinian Historiography between Christendom and Modernity (16th–21st Centuries)
2	University of Florence	Topic-specific scholarship	History of Religious Movements and Christian Institutions from Late Antiquity to the Contemporary Era
3	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	Forms and Experiences of Religious Conversion in the History of Christianity
4	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Emilia Romagna Region in implementation of the program "High-Level Skills to Address the Challenges of the Technological, Cultural, Economic, and Social Transition Towards Sustainability"-PR ESF+ 2021/2027 CUP E83C25002380002	Religious Illiteracy: Genealogies, Transformations, and Impacts in a Historical-Comparative Perspective. The 2025–2026 Report
5	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Emilia Romagna Region in implementation of the program "High-Level Skills to Address the Challenges of the Technological, Cultural, Economic, and Social Transition Towards Sustainability"-PR ESF+ 2021/2027 CUP E83C25002380002	Synodality, Conciliarity, and Collegiality: The Evolution of Decision-Making Participation in Christian-Catholic Communities as Reflected in Synodal Documents

6	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Theological Faculty of Emilia Romagna (FTER)	Rethinking the Presence of the Church in Local Contexts: From Historical Models to the Contemporary Trajectories Guiding Processes of Ecclesiological Genesis
7	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	The Addenda of Yves Congar to His Diary of the Second Vatican Council: Design and Implementation of the Digital Restoration of the Manuscript Fragments, with Transcription, Annotation, and Critical Edition in French
8	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	The Transmission of Fourth-Century Conciliar Canons in Ge'ez: A Comparative Hypothesis with the Greek and Arabic Traditions  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Ancient Greek, Arabic, and Ge'ez)
9	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	Representations of the Fall of Jerusalem: A Comparative Study of Jewish and Christian Traditions Based on Literary, Epigraphic, and Numismatic Sources in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)
10	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	Sources for Xhosa, Zulu, and Sesotho Hymnology in South Africa between the 19th and 20th Centuries  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, and Latin)
11	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	Sources and History of the Sabbatarian Community in Ethiopia from Abba Ewostatewos to King Zär'a Ya'eqob  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Ge'ez)
12	University of Palermo	Topic-specific scholarship	(De)Legitimation of Political and Religious Power: Case Studies on the Relationship between States and Christian Churches in Western Europe from the Middle Ages to the Contemporary Era

13	University for Foreigners of Perugia	Topic-specific scholarship	Catholicism and Italian Identity: The Case of Umbria in the Twentieth Century
14	University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"	Open-topic scholarship	-
15	"G. Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Bologna)	Topic-specific scholarship	A Critical Re-Edition of John Calvin's Correspondence: Understanding his Theological and Pastoral Education and Development  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: French and Latin)

**- Selection 4: curriculum Islam**  
**Available positions: 4**

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	Sources, Stereotypes, and Uses of Images of the "Enemy" in the History of Islam  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Arabic)
2	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Human Sciences	Integrated Synopses: Machine Learning for the Historical, Philological, Exegetical, and Theological Analysis of Quranic Translations in Arabic and Persian  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Arabic and Persian)
3	University of Palermo	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by ITSERR Italian Strengthening of Esfri RI Resilience project (ITSERR) - CUP B53C22001770006	History of Quranic Exegesis and Textual Tradition: Sources, Methods, and Hermeneutics  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Arabic)
4	"G. Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Palermo)	Topic-specific scholarship	Collapses and Downfalls in Islamic History  (Knowledge of the following languages is required for the study of the sources: Arabic)  (In collaboration with Department of Education and Human Sciences DESU - Department of Excellence)

- **Selection 5: curriculum Law and Religions**  
Available positions: 3

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Insubria	Topic-specific scholarship	The Right to Religious Freedom and Religious Rights
2	"Federico II" University of Naples	Topic-specific scholarship	Religious Pluralism, Faith-Based Organizations, and the Principle of Horizontal Subsidiarity
3	"Sapienza" University of Rome / UNESCO Chair in Religious Pluralism and Peace	Topic-specific scholarship	Interpretations of Papal Infallibility after the First Vatican Council

- **Selection 6: curriculum Transdisciplinarity and Technological Frontier Research**  
Available positions: 2

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	Suor Orsola Benincasa University of Naples	Topic-specific scholarship	Research and New Technologies in the Humanities
2	University of Turin	Topic-specific scholarship	Digital Technologies and Loneliness

The number of available scholarships and positions may increase as a result of funding from public or private entities acquired after the publication of this call, and no later than, the date of publication of the final rankings. It is therefore recommended to regularly check the [University website](#), where updates will be provided.

The candidates awarded scholarships will be required to carry out the research projects assigned to them by the Academic Board, except for any modifications established by the same body.

The doctoral candidate will carry out his/her research activities at the agreed location to which the scholarship awarded on the basis of the results of the selection procedure refers.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – Admission requirements**

The competition is open to any candidate, regardless of age or nationality, who as of **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, holds an Italian degree obtained prior to M.D. 509/99 or an Italian second level degree (laurea specialistica, under D.M. 509/99 or laurea magistrale, under M.D. 270/04), or equivalent second-level academic qualification awarded by institutions belonging to the AFAM branch or Second cycle non-Italian Master's degree, equivalent to the Italian degrees mentioned

above, which must be recognized as suitable by the selection committee in accordance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with applicable international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the purpose of continuing studies.

### **Verification**

The competent offices will be checked the information sent by candidates in order to verify correctness.

All candidates are admitted to the selection process conditionally, pending verification of the above-mentioned requirements. The Administration reserves the right to exclude, at any time, candidates who do not meet the admission requirements.

## **ARTICLE 5 – Admission application – how to apply**

Applications must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, by **August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (CET)** by following the online procedure from [www.esse3.unimore.it](http://www.esse3.unimore.it):

- 1) proceed to "Registration" to obtain login credentials (user-ID and password) and access the restricted area. ATTENTION: Those who are in possession of an Italian document (identity card, passport, driving licence) must use SPID credentials by accessing to 'Register with SPID'. Those who do not have an Italian document can register in Esse3 using the 'Registration' button.
- 2) Log in with the credentials received following registration and access the Restricted Area, then select from the menu tab "Admission" – "Admission Exams" – "Ph. D."

PLEASE NOTE: as part of the required information in making the application, the candidate must declare the possession of a high school qualification (indicating all the details of the qualification awarded).

In the case of candidates with disabilities or with diagnosis of SLD, in accordance with Law no. 104/1992 and Law no.170/2010, any adaptations required for taking the examinations must be reported in the application. The same request for adaptations to take the examinations must be sent by mail to: [disabilita@unimore.it](mailto:disabilita@unimore.it) and [segr.dottorati@unimore.it](mailto:segr.dottorati@unimore.it).

### **Field's and thematic' choice**

Each candidate may submit up to two applications, one for each curriculum, thus participating in two separate selections.

In addition, for each field, it is possible to indicate in form "[Declaration of priority and binding interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic](#)" a maximum of ten topic-specific scholarships in order of preference and priority. This choice is binding and irrevocable. The selection board will verify the candidate's eligibility to apply for each topic-specific scholarship on the basis of his/her educational and professional background and the linguistic and disciplinary knowledge acquired and considered essential by the board to develop the research envisaged by the thematic grant.

### **Application fee**

Each application must refer to a single selection procedure. Candidates interested in two selection procedures must submit a separate application for each selection procedure they intend to participate in. Furthermore, a non-refundable fee of €25.00 is required to cover administrative costs for each application submitted.

The invoice will only be available on [www.esse3.unimore.it](http://www.esse3.unimore.it) – Registered Area – "Taxes" section, at the end of the procedure with the final data saving.

The application fee of €25.00 must be paid by **August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.



Candidates must retain the payment receipt and upload it as an attachment during the enrolment process only if they enrol in the first year of the PhD program (within the deadline and according to the procedures outlined in Article 7).

### **Application Submission Finalization and Acceptance**

**The application will be considered to be correctly submitted only by saving the data ("Save the data") after the "Explicit confirmation of the validity of the application" given by the candidate at the end of the online procedure mentioned above.**

For further information, please refer to the application guide:  
<https://www.unimore.it/sites/default/files/2025-05/vediallegato.html> .pdf.

At the end of the admission procedure, a summary reminder of the candidate's admission application is generated. This document must be kept by the candidate and should not be sent to anyone.

No other methods of submitting the application and the related attachments are permitted.

Should the applicant need to reopen the application and correct the data or add extra documents before the deadline of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1.00 pm (CET), candidates can send an e-mail to the PhD Office ([segr.dottorati@unimore.it](mailto:segr.dottorati@unimore.it)) attaching a scanned copy of an identity document. The candidate must make the corrections / additions he deems appropriate within the same deadline (August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1.00 pm (CET)). In this case, please note that the candidate will have to save data again selecting "Save data" following the explicit confirmation of the application.

It should be noted that if the admission procedure for the selection on Esse3 is still open at the strict deadline of the call for applications (August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1.00 pm (CET)), the application cannot be closed in any way neither considered valid.

The Administration reserves the right to exclude, at any time, candidates who have not paid the €25.00 fee referred to in this article.

The Administration shall not be held responsible in the event that a candidate selects the wrong selection procedure.

Any communications to candidates concerning this call are made by e-mail. For this purpose, is used e-mail address indicated by the candidate during the registration procedure.

Should the applicant occur of any technical and/or operating difficulties, please write to the following e-mail address: [webhelp@unimore.it](mailto:webhelp@unimore.it)

Applications submitted according to the procedures outlined above will be considered valid only if received by this Administration within the strict deadline set by the call for applications.

Therefore, any applications submitted after the specified deadline, as well as those submitted using methods other than those indicated above, will be excluded.

### **Commitments Undertaken with the Application**

By submitting the application for admission, the candidate agrees:

- 1) to attend the PhD program on a full-time basis, in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the Academic Board;
- 2) to reside permanently at the chosen location for the entire duration of the program, except during periods of study and research previously authorised by the Academic Board;
- 3) to promptly communicate any changes in residence or contact details;
- 4) in the case of candidates who will obtain their degree after the application deadline but no later than November 7, 2025, submit the degree certificate or a self-declaration confirming

the awarding of the degree to the PhD Office by November 7, 2025, via email to [segr.dottorati@unimore.it](mailto:segr.dottorati@unimore.it); candidates failing to comply will not be considered.

The Administration may decide, at any time, with its reasoned decision, the exclusion from the selection.

### **Liability**

Admission applications and or related attachments will not be considered for any of the following reasons: submission or receipt of applications after the deadline or non-compliance with the procedural requirements of the competition.

The Administration cannot be held responsible for any loss of correspondence due to the following situations: incorrect contact details, failure or delay in notification of a change in address, technical errors, negligence of third parties, or a force majeure. Furthermore, the Administration shall assume no responsibility for attachments not received as a result of third-party involvement, faulty attachment of documents by the candidate, or any type of network failure.

### **Submission of documentation for the evaluation**

Candidates must attach the following certificates, documents and publications:

- 1) degree certificate (or self-certification for Italian degrees) and Transcript of Records including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks. Applicants with a non-Italian degree must attach their certificate (including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks) and a legalized translation or Diploma Supplement and, if available, the Declaration of Value ("Dichiarazione di Valore in loco") issued by the competent Italian diplomatic consular Representation, or the certificates issued by the CIMEA - ENICNARIC centre. If the degree certificate is not yet available or if the degree has not yet been obtained, the candidate must attach a description of the degree with a list of the examinations taken using [Annex A](#);
- 2) curriculum vitae of their scientific and teaching activities (using [Annex B](#));
- 3) a digital copy of the thesis of Italian second level degree ("Laurea Magistrale", "Laurea Specialistica" or degree obtained prior to M.D. 509/99), or equivalent in the case of a degree obtained abroad; or an abstract thereof;
- 4) any binding preference for open-topic or topic-specific scholarships related to the chosen competition (using the form "[Declaration of priority and binding interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic](#)");
- 5) one's own research project that demonstrates the ability to articulate the stages and timeframe of a PhD course: it must be articulated in a scientific concept - a description of the state of the art - a presentation of the sources and tools for the study - the timeframe and stages of realisation articulated by deliverables - the research centres outside Italy considered suitable for the research (using [Annex C](#));
- 6) a motivational letter, of no more than two pages, illustrating the candidate's motivations for attending the Course, the description of his/her specific research interests as well as the reasons for any preference for a maximum of two thematic scholarships among those advertised;
- 7) certification of English language proficiency (TOEFL, CAE/Proficiency, or others) or other foreign languages (indicating the level), as well as an indication of knowledge of the languages of the sources included in the project and a plan for acquiring any missing skills.
- 8) review of a recent book or a classic of historiography, a critical note on one or more essays of particular relevance, or a note to a judgment related to the research topic (maximum 8,000 characters);
- 9) academic qualification certificates and documents considered useful for the purposes of evaluation with corresponding list;
- 10) scientific publications with list. Publications in languages other than Italian, English, French, German and Spanish, or which do not include a summary in one of the above languages,

must be produced in original language and translated into Italian or English, French, German and Spanish.

11) a copy of a valid identity document.

For the information of candidates, please note that pursuant to article 15 of Law no. 183 of November 12th, 2011, certificates regarding personal qualities, status and facts issued by the public administration can be only used for private purposes. Self-certification, under articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, can replace attested declarations for public administration or public services purposes.

All academic qualifications, documents and publications considered useful for the application procedure must be attached in .pdf or .rtf file form with a maximum size of 20 MB. Attachments larger than 20 MB must be divided into smaller files.

Certificates issued by the competent authorities of the foreign candidate's country of citizenship must comply with the provisions in force in the same country. Certificates in a language other than Italian, English, French, German or Spanish, must also be translated and authenticated by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular authorities.

An Italian translation must be attached to all documents written in a language other than Italian, English, French, German or Spanish and must be certified as conforming to the foreign text by a competent Italian diplomatic authority or an official translator.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Selection Committee**

Six commissions are appointed by decree of the Rector, one for each curriculum. The committees are composed as follows:

- one member proposed by the Curriculum Council, who may also be part of the Academic Board, but must not be the coordinator of the same;
- a member external to the Academic Board selected among full university professors and researchers at Italian or foreign universities or research centres;
- a foreign member selected from full university professors and researchers, including Italian ones, working at foreign universities or research centres.

For each commission, up to two substitute members and two experts may be appointed, selected from European and non-European public and private research institutions and organizations.

## **ARTICLE 7 – Admission procedures**

### **Selection aims**

The selections are aimed to verify the candidate's preparation and aptitude to carry out research activities related to the framework of the national doctoral program's specifications for the various topics of the fields and in relation to the individual projects.

The selection procedure is carried out by means of an assessment of qualifications and an interview, also in telematic mode.

### **Evaluation of candidate qualifications**

For the evaluation of qualifications, each Selection Committee has a maximum score of 60 points, distributed as follows:

- 0 to 20 points about candidate's profile, as follows:
  - examinations taken, grade of degree and thesis/abstract: 0 to 4 points.
  - curriculum vitae and experience considered relevant: 0 to 4 points,

- other qualifications, e.g. Masters relevant to the PhD topics, specialized courses, relevant degrees: 0 to 3 points,
- Certified knowledge of foreign languages: 0 to 2 points,
- publications: 0 to 4 points,
- Evaluation of the motivation letter submitted (explaining and the venues: 0 to 3 points.
- 0 to 40 points about project proposal and the review, as follows:
  - relevance of the concept: 0 to 7 points;
  - quality of analysis and updating of the state-of-the-art: 0 to 10 points,
  - feasibility within the doctoral program: 0 to 7 points
  - originality and architecture of the work plan: 0 to 8 points
  - rating of the review: 0 to 8 points.

Candidates obtaining a minimum of 40 points will be admitted to interview.

The list of candidates admitted to the interview and any variations in the methods and terms of the selection procedure will be announced publicly in a date by September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 only on the University website at link <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-41>.

### **Interview evaluation**

The Selection committee has the capacity to assign scores up to 60 points in the interview. Candidates may opt to have their interview in Italian or English. Candidates will be admitted to the examination upon presentation of a valid identity document or passport.

During the interview will be assessed the knowledge of the English language and other possible languages which candidates declared in the application (specified in [Annex C](#)).

The committee will also assess the language knowledge of the sources required for the scientific work, with the discussion of sources relevant to the topics of the project and its critical implications.

During the interview, candidates will discuss the research project and they will be given the opportunity to deepen or further develop it orally (attachments or additional written documentation will not be accepted).

Evaluation criteria:

- a) basic knowledge of the general references of religious studies in their disciplinary aspects (historical, exegetical, philosophical, legal, technological): 0 to 10 points
- b) knowledge of the specific disciplinary reference framework of the project: 0 to 20 points
- c) argumentative skills and knowledge of the languages of literature: 0 to 15 points
- d) knowledge of source languages and their use: 0 to 15 points

Candidates with a score of at least 40 points will pass the interview.

### **Exam schedule**

Interview via Microsoft Teams between September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The operational indications on how to conduct the interview via Microsoft Teams will be communicated at the time of publication of candidates admitted to the interview. The link to the interview will be provided by the committee.

## **ARTICLE 8 – Ranking**

At the end of the selection processes, each committee will draw up six final ranking lists (one for each curriculum).

The six final ranking lists will be approved by a Rector's Decree, once all documentation has been declared valid, and will be published simultaneously.

Candidates will be admitted to the Course according to the order of the final rankings and up to the number of available places for each PhD Curriculum.

The final rankings of candidates will be announced publicly exclusively by:

- publication on the University website at link <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-41>,
- publication on the online University notice board <https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>.

## **ARTICLE 9 – Enrolment and Reassignment of places**

### **Enrolment to reserved places with specific topic**

Within the mandatory **three-day time limit**, starting from the day after the publication of the final rankings on the online University notice board as mentioned above in Art. 8, those candidates qualifying for places with specific topics must enrol in the first year of the PhD Programme exclusively in the modality described on this web page: <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/doctoral-research-programmes/enrolment-phd-programs>.

### **Reassignment of reserved places with specific topics**

Once the procedure of the previous point is completed, if reserved places with specific topics become available, the PhD Office will request by e-mail to PhD candidates eligible for reserved places to enrol within a peremptory deadline of two days, starting from the day following the day on which the e-mail is sent.

### **Enrolment to places without specific topic**

Once the previous steps have been completed, the PhD Office will request, by e-mail, the doctoral candidates for places without specific topic to enrol within a deadline of two days, starting from the day after the day on which the e-mail was sent.

The six replacement procedures will proceed until all available places have been allocated, with the enrolment.

The six replacement procedures are independent of each other.

The procedure will be concluded within 90 days from the publication on the University website of the list of those admitted to the PhD Course for the academic year 2025/2026, referred to in Article 8.

### **Forfeiture due to non-Compliance**

Candidates who fail to complete their enrolment within the deadlines and according to the procedures specified above will be considered as having forfeited their place.

In the event that the documentation submitted by the candidate contains false or misleading statements relevant for enrolment purposes, and without prejudice to the criminal penalties set forth in Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000 and subsequent amendments, the candidate will automatically and officially lose any right to enrolment. Any fees already paid will not be refunded.

The university administration reserves the right to request that enrolled students regularize any incomplete documentation and/or present proof of payment of the stamp duty or the first instalment, under penalty of exclusion.

## **ARTICLE 9 – Scholarships**

The scholarships, which number is indicated in the specific PhD Programmes Table, will be awarded according to the positioning of candidates on the relevant final merit lists.

In the case of candidates of equal merit, a decision will be made on the basis of the candidates' financial situation, determined in accordance with the Italian Prime Minister's Decree of April 30th, 1997 and subsequent amendments. Candidates of equal merit will be requested by e-mail to submit for the purposes of evaluating their financial situation:

- Receipt of submission of the Single Sworn Declaration for calculating the ISEE bracket (DSU); this must be forwarded within the final deadline of two days from the following day the e-mail was sent. Failure to comply will result in loss of the right to admission.
- The formal I.S.E.E. (Indication of Equivalent Financial Situation) by I.N.P.S.; this must be forwarded within the final deadline of five days from the following day the e-mail was sent. Failure to comply will result in loss of the right to admission.

In the event of a tied ISEE indicator, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

### **Amount and payment method of the scholarships**

The annual amount of a study scholarship is € 16.243,00 (barring subsequent regulatory amendments) and is subject to the I.N.P.S. social security contribution under the separate management fund.

Study scholarships are automatically renewed when PhD students continue in the following year, unless a motivated ruling to the contrary is made by the Teaching Committee.

Study scholarships will be paid in monthly deferred instalments.

PhD scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships or other forms of financial assistance paid by the University and/or the State, with the exception of those designed to be integrated with PhD student research activities, for periods spent abroad.

In any case, the prohibition of double funding as stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 2021/241 of February 12th, 2021 must be respected.

### **Confirmation and increase of the scholarships**

Scholarships are confirmed upon doctoral candidates progressing to the next academic year, unless the Academic Board issues a reasoned resolution to the contrary.

Scholarship amounts will be increased by 50% for periods spent abroad of no longer than 12 months. This period may be extended up to a maximum of 18 months for doctoral students under joint guidance or Double Degree program with foreign institutions. This increase may also be granted to students who have been awarded positions without a scholarship.

From the first year, each PhD student (with or without scholarship) is guaranteed a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad, for an amount not less than 20% of the annual amount of the study scholarship.

## **ARTICLE 11 – Fees for PhD Programmes, benefits and services**

### **Enrolment fee**

Fee for PhD program of national interest in "Religious Studies" which must be paid in one instalment to the enrolment by those who enrol is € 159.67 (the amount of the payment slip that can be downloaded online includes the regional tax, the stamp duty and the insurance coverage).

### **Right to study**

Candidates, if in possession of the provided requirements, can apply to Er.GO (Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education) for the following benefits:

- Scholarship (financial support to the study, with admission by ranking list) incompatible with other types of scholarships awarded for any purpose;
- Accommodation facilities, (with admission by ranking list) for non-resident students "Fuorisede" enrolled in a PhD programme;
- Subsidies for dining service.
- Contributions for international mobility;

- Peer tutoring collaborations in favor of disabled students or students with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Therefore, anyone intending to apply for one of the aforementioned benefits must exclusively refer to the Announcement and to the Application procedure of the Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education – District headquarters of Modena and Reggio Emilia for the 2025/2026 academic year, that will be available at <http://www.er-go.it> starting from July 2025.

To request interventions for the right to study it is necessary to be in possession of the ISEE Certification 2025 for subsidized services for the right to university study and of the digital identity system SPID.

International students, to request interventions for the right of study, must be in possession of the documentation referred to at the link: <https://www.er-go.it/>, section “International Students”.

Applications can be submitted even if not yet enrolled on a PhD Programme. Therefore, applications can be submitted even if the final rankings of candidates for admission to PhD Programmes have not yet been announced publicly.

For information and assistance exclusively in completing the online application, please use the contacts available at the following link: <https://www.er-go.it/contatti>.

The amounts, and the deadlines for the contribution for the following years will be determined from year to year and will be notified approximately towards the end of July on the web page <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/doctoral-research-programmes>.

## **ARTICLE 12 - Rights and Responsibilities of PhD Students**

PhD Programmes require a full-time and exclusive commitment. PhD students may accept forms of employment, pending authorization from the PhD Programme Teaching Committee, related to work activities useful for the acquisition of skills pertaining to the PhD research area, after evaluation of compatibility of those activities with the fruitful development of the educational, didactic and research activities of the doctoral course. Research grants to PhD students without scholarships are allowed, provided the Teaching Committee deems the research area compatible with topic of the doctoral thesis.

PhD students are required, under penalty of exclusion, to perform the research projects assigned to them and to be involved in related study, further research, periods abroad, teaching, as well as any internships affiliated with public or private bodies, in accordance with the requirements set by the competent Teaching Committee.

The additional obligations and rights of PhD candidates, including cases of incompatibility, suspension of attendance requirements, and exclusion, as well as the procedures for obtaining the title of PhD, are governed in accordance with the provisions referred to in Article 7 of the Regulations for PhD Programmes.

Enrolment in more than one degree programme (e.g., PhD programme and Master's or Bachelor's degree programme) is permitted in accordance with Law No. 33 of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and Ministerial Decree No. 930/2022, as specified at the following link: <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/enrolment-and-admission/concurrent-enrolment-two-courses-study>

## **ARTICLE 13 – Public employees**

In accordance with the law, and compatible with the administration's requirements, a public employee admitted to a PhD course is placed on special leave for study purposes without allowance for the duration of the course and is entitled to a scholarship if the required conditions are met. In the event of admission to a PhD course without a scholarship, or if the scholarship is renounced, the



person on leave retains the salary, social security and pension benefits enjoyed by the public administration with which the employment relationship is established. If, following the award of the doctorate, the employment relationship with the public administration is terminated at the employee's request within the following two years, the sums paid pursuant to the second sentence shall be refunded.

A public employee who has already obtained a doctoral degree or has been enrolled on PhD courses for at least one year, benefiting from the leave, shall not be entitled to extraordinary leave with or without pay.

The period of special leave is useful for the purposes of career progression, retirement and social security.

## **ARTICLE 14 – Awarding of the PhD**

The PhD is awarded upon completion of the PhD Programme, when students pass their final examination that consists in the presentation of a PhD Thesis on original research, carried out meticulously and where results are adequately and scientifically relevant. Should the assessment be negative, the final examination cannot be repeated.

Public thesis defence will take place before an Examination Board appointed in compliance with the University PhD Research Program Regulations.

The Rector awards the title of PhD. The issue of the above title is dependent upon the candidate's submission to the competent office of the copy of the final thesis in digital format, which will be guaranteed to be kept and publicly accessible in the special open access archive of the University, as well as to be deposited in the ministerial database, in compliance with the regulations in force concerning thesis embargo and copyright.

Upon completion of the PhD programme, graduates will be invited to fill out a "*Questionnaire on the opinions of programme attendees*" for the Alma Laurea database. This will enable the Alma Laurea Inter-University Consortium to monitor the training of doctoral students.

## **ARTICLE 15 – Handling of personal data**

The University Administration, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 196/03, as amended by Legislative Decree 101/2018, will use the applicant's personal data solely for the fulfilment of the selection procedures and for administrative purposes.

In accordance with the principles to mentioned rules, by participating in the competition, the candidate authorizes the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia to publish his/her personal data as well as information relating to the admissions examinations on the University website.

The University of Modena and Reggio Emilia adopts equal opportunity principles in its selection procedures and rejects any type of discrimination based on sex, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation, state of health, and any other status or quality that is not strictly relevant to the call outlined in this document.

## **ARTICLE 16 – Publication**

This call is equivalent to notification to all intents and purposes. It will be published on the online University notice board (<https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>), on the website of the University <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-41>, and on the Website of the Ministry of University and Research: <http://bandi.miur.it/doctorate.php/public/cercaFellowship>.

Any changes, updates or additions to the content of this call will be announced, exclusively, on the online University notice board (<https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>) and on the following website: <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-41>.



## **ARTICLE 17 – Additional Regulations and Director responsible for overseeing all procedures**

For matters not explicitly covered in this application procedure, refer to the provisions contained in art. 4 of Law no. 210 of July 3, 1998, art. 19 of Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010, Ministerial Decree no. 226 of December 14, 2021 and to the University regulations in force governing PhD Programmes and to the Teaching Regulations of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

The person responsible for the procedure is Irene Bonacini, the PhD Office Representative – Via Università, 4 – Modena - e-mail: [segr.dottorati@unimore.it](mailto:segr.dottorati@unimore.it)).

For further information, candidates may contact the PhD Office - Via Università 4, 41121 Modena - phone +39 059/2056423 - e-mail: [segr.dottorati@unimore.it](mailto:segr.dottorati@unimore.it).