

PNRR, Mission 4 “Education and Research,” Component 1 “Enhancement of Educational Services: from Nursery Schools to Universities.”

- Investment 3.4 “Advanced University Teaching and Skills” and Investment 4.1 “Extension of the Number of Research Doctorates and Innovative Doctorates for Public Administration and Cultural Heritage.”

- Investment 3.3 “Introduction of Innovative Doctorates that Meet the Innovation Needs of Businesses and Promote the Hiring of Researchers by Businesses.”

FSE Sicily 2021-2027, for the Academic Biennium 2024-2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ASSOCIATED AFAM PhD PROGRAMME IN SCIENCES FOR ARTISTIC PRODUCTION AND HERITAGE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AT THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS OF CATANIA XL CYCLE – (AFAM I CYCLE) – ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

ART. 1 - Establishment and Announcement of the Call for Applications

1. The first three-year cycle of the AFAM *PhD Programs*, with administrative headquarters at the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania, is hereby established.

2. The call for applications is announced for admission to the three-year associated AFAM *PhD Programme* with the administrative headquarters at the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania titled **Sciences for Artistic Production and Heritage** (hereinafter referred to as the *PhD Programme*).

3. The *PhD Programme* is expected to start in the first decade of December 2024.

4. Three specific descriptive forms (**Attachments A, B, C**) are attached to the *PhD Programme* mentioned in paragraph

5. These forms are an integral part of the call and include the following information, among others:

- administrative headquarters of the PhD Programme;
- total number of places available and their types;
- number and types of scholarships and specific competition requirements for candidates with a foreign degree necessary for admission to the PhD Programme;
- division of the PhD Programme into curricula, including respective titles and declarations;
- admission test procedures;
- website link of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania presenting all useful information regarding the training program, the competition schedule, and any necessary notifications for candidates;
- name of the PhD Programme Coordinator.

5. The number of places and scholarships indicated in the forms attached to this call may be increased due to additional financial resources from institutional, regional, national, European and/or international resources. Each financing will be duly publicized on the institutional website <https://abacatania.it> on the page: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

6. **The number of places and scholarships indicated in the forms attached to this call may also be increased due to financial resources provided by the Sicilian Region, under Action PR FSE+ SICILIA 2021-2027 – Priority 2, ESO 4.7.**, activated by the Regional Department of Education and Professional Training of the Sicilian Region, as per D.D.G. n. 579 of May 21, 2024, which approved Notice No. 15/2024 for funding Research Doctorate scholarships in Sicily. In this case, only for the resources identified and allocated by the Sicilian Region mentioned in the above notice, eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

a) meet the requirements outlined in Art. 2, paragraph 1 of this call, candidates born or residing in Sicily on the date of publication of Notice 15/24 of May 21, 2024, selected within the selection procedures of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania, and appropriately classified for admission to the PhD Programme and the allocation of regional scholarships for

the academic year of reference (First cycle of AFAM research doctorates - Academic Year 2024/25, XL Cycle University doctorate programs);

b) be no older than 35 years at the time of the application for the PhD Programme competition;

c) Mandatorily spend a study and research period abroad of not less than 8 months and not more than 12 months (with at least two continuous periods of 4 months each). Regional scholarships will be awarded under the condition of their effective activation and the publication of the decree by the Sicilian Region approving the final ranking of the allocation of resources to the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania.

7. In the event of equal merit, scholarships will be awarded preferentially to deserving candidates holding international protection status (with refugee status or subsidiary protection beneficiaries) within the limits of one ordinary or reserved scholarship.

8. The Administrative office reserves the right to revoke the call for applications, to suspend or postpone the competition tests, to suspend or not proceed with the admission of winners, or to suspend or not award all scholarships provided for in the call, due to currently unforeseeable needs. In particular, the allocation of the available positions in this call, as well as the award of scholarships funded by the PNRR, are subject to private company co-financing, ministerial approval, and the signing of the Obligation Act related to the involved project. If the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) does not provide funding to cover the aforementioned scholarships, the scholarships will not be awarded, resulting in the withdrawal of the positions assigned to the winning candidates.

9. This call, drafted in Italian and translated into English, is published **within the transparent administration section** of the institutional website of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania; this publication **serves as an official notification to all interested parties for all information contained within**. Therefore, candidates will not receive any further communications. This call is also advertised on the institutional webpage <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>. The notice of this call will also be published on the European Euraxess website and the website of the Ministry of University and Research. Any amendment will be announced exclusively through publication on the institutional webpage <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

10. The generic use of the masculine gender in this call is not intended to be discriminatory but as gender-neutral to ensure effective communication.

ART. 2 - General Admission Requirements

1. Applications for the PhD Programme mentioned in Art. 1, paragraph 2 of this call may be submitted, without age or nationality restrictions, by candidates holding one of the following qualifications:

- a. Second-level, postgraduate academic diploma (Academies of Fine Arts);
- b. Old system academic diploma supplemented by a high school diploma;
- c. Second-level degree;
- d. Master's degree;
- e. Old system university degree;
- f. Equivalent foreign qualification pursuant to international agreements (EQF Level 7).

2. Candidates who will obtain the qualification required for admission by the latest date of December 6, 2024 (date of enrollment in the PhD Programme) may also submit the application for the selection process, provided they commit to self-certifying the attainment of the qualification by the same date, under penalty of exclusion from enrollment. For these candidates, the weighted grades achieved in the exams taken and the draft thesis will be assessed for participation in the competition.

3. All candidates are admitted to the competition with a reservation to verify the self-certified declarations pursuant to DPR no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments. At any time during the procedure, including after the start of the *PhD*

Programme, the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania may verify the authenticity of the declarations produced and request the presentation of the original documents. The Administration may, at any time, exclude candidates from the competition procedure or revoke their admission to the *PhD Programme* for lack of the requirements listed in this call, subject to criminal liability for false statements. This decision will be communicated to the concerned parties exclusively via certified email, which each candidate is required to activate for this purpose.

ART. 3 - Requirements for Candidates Holding a Foreign Qualification

Candidates with a foreign qualification not yet recognized as equivalent to the access qualifications referred to in the previous Art. 2, paragraph 1, must request eligibility - solely for the purpose of admission to the PhD Programme competition - from the Admission Commission of the *PhD Programme* in compliance with the current regulations in Italy and the country where the qualification was issued, as well as international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for further study. In this case, the application must be accompanied, **under penalty of exclusion**, by the following documentation to be submitted using the online procedure described in the subsequent Art. 4:

- a) Qualification for admission to the *PhD Programme* translated into Italian or English by the competent diplomatic or consular authorities or by an official translator;
- b) Request for an eligibility assessment by the Admission Commission. It should be noted that in the case of admission to the *PhD Programme*, for the issuance of the residence visa, it will still be necessary to request the equivalency certificate from the competent diplomatic authorities in the country of origin.

ART. 4 - Application Procedure (Deadline and Methods)

1. The application for the competition, accompanied by the required documentation, **under penalty of exclusion**, must be completed and submitted exclusively online using **the dedicated online procedure form** available at: <https://pica.cineca.it/accademiadicatania/> starting **from 2pm on August 6, 2024 until 2pm on September 6, 2024**. After this deadline, the system will automatically close, and it will no longer be possible to submit the application. Applications submitted in any other way will not be considered for the competition. No supplements to the documentation will be accepted after the deadline for the call. Candidates can access the application form through credentials they already possess or by registering anew.

Each candidate may submit only one application.

No additional documents will be accepted after the deadline of the announcement under any circumstances. Applications that are not submitted according to the procedures indicated in this article will be deemed invalid for participation in the competition and will be automatically excluded.

Before the final submission of the application, candidates must print the application, sign it, and upload the PDF into the procedure, attaching a colour copy of a valid identification document, the research project, and other relevant titles.

With the final closure of the online procedure, the application will be automatically forwarded to the competent offices of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania; therefore, no paper material delivery or shipment is required.

2. Candidates are encouraged to complete the application for the competition well in advance of the deadline. It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the correct completion of the procedure. Complaints about any malfunctions of the IT system due to technical problems communication line and/or application system overloads will not be accepted.

3. The application must be accompanied by documents, qualification certificates, the research project, and a colour copy of a valid identification document, all submitted in PDF electronic format; **each file may have a maximum size of 30 MB**. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the correct uploading of the required documents, bearing in mind that only and exclusively the correctly attached documents will be evaluated for participation in the competition. The Administration assumes no responsibility if it is impossible to read the documentation submitted in electronic format due to damaged files or folders.



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4. For all legal purposes, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, the candidates' application is to be considered as a self-certification regarding the data contained in it and the documents attached to it.

5. By the deadline for submitting the application, all candidates must, under penalty of exclusion, pay a fee of **€30.00** (thirty euros) for participation in the tests for the PhD Course. The payment receipt must be attached to the application form.

6. The payment should be made to the following bank account:

IBAN: **IT46S0623016911000015187639**. For international transfers, please include the following SWIFT/BIC code: **CRPPIT2PXXX**. The account is held at the cashier institute of the Academy: "CREDIT AGRICOLE" - Agency no. 9, Catania, Viale Ruggero di Lauria No. 45 – ZIP Code 95127. The aforementioned fee will not be refunded under any circumstances. Candidates who make the payment using methods other than those described above or outside the specified deadlines will not be admitted to the selection process.

7. A candidate will be excluded from the competition if they:

- Do not meet the general admission requirements outlined in Article 2 of this notice.

- Submit the application without:

a) digital copy of their identity document and research project;

b) payment receipt of €30.00 (thirty euros) as the participation fee (for Italian candidates only);

c) translation of the academic titles, as required by Article 3 (for candidates with foreign qualifications only);

d) request for a suitability assessment from the Admission Committee if their title has not already been declared equivalent (for candidates with foreign degrees only);

e) effective active personal PEC (certified email) address.

8. In case of technical issues, technical support is available via the link found at the bottom of the application form pages. Support is available on weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

9. Candidates may submit only one application for participation in the AFAM *PhD Programme*.

Art. 5 - Documentation to Attach to the Application

1. For the evaluation of qualifications, candidates must attach to their application their documents, thesis, and other qualifications mentioned in the following Art. 6, either in authenticated copies or in simple copies, with the candidate declaring within the online application that these copies are in conformity with the originals.

2. Candidates with refugee status or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection must attach documentation proving temporary protection or a residence permit for international protection (political asylum, subsidiary protection, and/or humanitarian reasons).

3. For participation in the competitive procedure, documents and acts may be submitted in Italian, English, French, or Spanish. Documents and acts in other languages must include a certified translation into Italian, which must be validated by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representation, or by an official translator, or accompanied by a self-declaration of authenticity.

ART. 6 - Admission Test and Assessable Qualifications

1. The admission test for the *PhD Programme* is designed to assess the candidate's aptitude for scientific research. In the case of interviews with foreign candidates, the Admission Committee will evaluate the candidate's proficiency in Italian at its sole discretion.

2. The competitive procedure will involve the evaluation of the candidates' qualifications, including the mandatory submission of a research proposal in accordance with the format attached to this call (**attachment A**), and an oral examination.

3. The research proposal must pertain to only one of the three curricula defining the *PhD Programme*, as specified in the sheet attached to the call (Attachment B). Relevance to the curriculum will result in additional points as specified in section g), paragraph 7 of this article. The research proposal, not exceeding 2000 characters including spaces, must include:

- a) title of the project;
- b) relevance to the curriculum defining the *PhD Programme*;
- c) objectives of the project, related to the curriculum defining the *PhD Programme*;
- d) state of the art regarding studies and specialist literature relevant to the curriculum defining the *PhD Programme*;
- e) research methodology to be adopted, project timeline and schedule over the 3 years of the *PhD Programme*;
- f) expected results and possible risk strategies;
- g) prediction of the period abroad;
- h) degree of organizational and financial feasibility;
- i) involvement of research institutions and/or Italian and/or foreign researchers, with related motivations;
- j) involvement of companies;
- k) essential bibliography (up to a maximum of 12 titles excluding the 2000 characters including spaces).

In case of admission to the *PhD Programme*, the submitted research proposal does not normally constitute a binding work program.

4. The competition calendar will be published on the official website <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca> by the Chair of the Admission Committee. The publication of this call and the data contained in the attached sheets constitutes notification for all purposes. Therefore, candidates who have not been notified of exclusion from the competition must take the exam without any further notice according to the indicated calendar. Any changes to the date and time of the selection tests will be published on the same official website <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

5. As specified in the following article 7, the Admission Committee has 100 points to evaluate candidates, awarded as follows:

- qualifications: **max 40 points** (including the research proposal, max 12 points);
- interview: **max 60 points**. The minimum score to access the interview is at least 12 points.

The minimum score needed to pass the interview is 42 points.

6. The Committee will exclude candidates who have submitted a research proposal not relevant to the chosen curriculum defining the *PhD Programme* and will not evaluate their documents and qualifications.

7. For the evaluation of qualifications, subject to the autonomy of the Admission Committee, the following documentation is assessable:

- a) final academic degree or diploma theses (or, for candidates who are graduating, the thesis draft in the process of deposit signed by the supervisor and stamped by the AFAM or other university institute) evaluated based on content and relevance to the curriculum: **max 6 points**;
- b) academic degree or diploma final grade, evaluated according to proportional parameters or, in the absence, the weighted grades (for graduates obtaining their degree at AFAM institutions or Italian universities by December 6, 2024): **max 10 points**;
- c) artistic, cultural, and professional production will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum. Published monographs, anthologies, art catalogs, publications in journals with ISBN and/or ISSN certified by a Scientific Committee will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum; patents will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum: **max 6 points**;
- d) post-graduate qualifications such as specialization diplomas, 1-year minimum advanced courses, first and second-level masters, issued by AFAM institutions or universities or qualified research entities, will be evaluated if relevant to the

chosen curriculum: max 2 points; e) Research collaboration grants will be evaluated if relevant to the chosen curriculum while scholarships if awarded following selective procedures carried out exclusively by AFAM institutions, Italian or foreign universities, or by research institutes of primary and proven relevance; study and research periods abroad (including Erasmus periods) will be evaluated if carried out at universities or qualified research institutes for a continuous period of not less than 3 months; awards received from national and international artistic or historical-artistic research institutions, if relevant to the chosen curriculum: **max 1 points**;

f) other documents considered useful by the Admission Committee for a complete evaluation, such as:

- Appointment as an expert in the field obtained within the last seven years before this call is issued will be evaluated if relevant to the chosen curriculum: **max 2 points**;

- Certificate of English language proficiency of at least level B2 of the CEFR: **max 1 points**.

g) a brief Research Proposal (no more than 2000 characters including spaces) submitted according to the indications of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article and the format (**attachment A**): **max 12 points**.

Regarding point b of this paragraph, for candidates obtaining the access title by December 6, 2024, the weighted grades, which replaces the degree grade referred to in letter b), is calculated by:

- multiplying the grade of each exam by the respective number of credits (30 cum laude is considered as 30);

- summing all the obtained products;

- dividing the result by the sum of the useful credits (those obtained from graded exams);

- multiplying the obtained average by 110 and dividing the result by 30 (thus obtaining the grade in hundredths).

The weighted grade is not required for graduates and undergraduates at foreign academies of fine arts and university institutions.

8. The exam interview is public and will be conducted exclusively in person on the designated day and time, with the presence of one or more candidates who wish to attend voluntarily. The absence of the candidate on the day and time of the interview will be considered a withdrawal from the competition, regardless of the cause.

9. The Admission Committee will maintain its autonomy in evaluating the exam interview based on the following criteria:

a) clarity of presentation: **max 10 points**;

b) ability to synthesize: **max 10 points**;

c) critical thinking and adequate knowledge of the subjects related to the presented titles: **max 20 points**;

d) ability to answer in-depth questions about the presented research project: **max 20 points**.

ART. 7 – Admission Committee and Its Duties

1. For the candidates' admission to the **PhD Programme**, an Admission Committee will be appointed by a director's decree within seven days from the deadline for submitting applications for the competition. The Committee will be composed according to Article 16 of the *Regulations of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania* regarding AFAM PhD programmes, which contain all relevant rules.

2. The composition of the Committee will be published on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

3. The Admission Committee will be responsible for:

- posting the competition schedule on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>;

- publishing the results of the evaluations of qualifications at least three working days before the interview;

- promptly publishing each evaluation (candidates' qualification and interview) on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>, according to the competition schedule.

4. The Committee will propose the awarding of each scholarship to each candidate based on the evaluation of the research project, title evaluation, exam interview, as per Article 6, and the possession of specific requirements requested by the type of funding or refugee or subsidiary protection status. It will not be possible to assign PNRR PhD scholarships to

candidates who have declined such scholarships for the 38th and 39th university cycles as per D.M. No. 629 and 630/2024, based on what was declared in the application for selection.

5. In case of equal merit, scholarships will be awarded preferentially to deserving candidates with international protection status (refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) within the limit of one scholarship.

6. The Committee's work will commence by September 11, 2024, with a preliminary meeting to establish the criteria and methods for evaluating the competition tests, ensuring an appropriate and transparent comparative evaluation of candidates. The work must be concluded by September 20, 2024, or following any possible ranking adjustments.

ART. 8 - Approval of the General Merit Ranking

1. The general merit ranking, including eligible and non-eligible candidates, will be approved by a director's decree. The ranking will be formulated in descending order based on the total points obtained by each candidate, with an indication of the type of scholarship awarded. In case of equal merit between two or more candidates, preference will be given to the deserving candidate with international protection status (refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection), within the limit of one scholarship; in case of further ties, the younger candidate will prevail. The winner candidate who does not accept the assigned type of scholarship will not be eligible for other types of scholarships for the same PhD programme and will lose admission to the programme.

2. The aforementioned general merit ranking will be approved by a director's decree and **published on the institutional webpage**: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca> for five working days, during which appeals can be submitted. After this period, the ranking will be considered definitively approved. The publication will serve as official notification to the interested parties; **therefore, no personal communications will be sent to the candidates.**

ART. 9 Admission of Public Employees

1. Public employees admitted to the *PhD Programme* are entitled, for the normal duration of the *Programme*, to the leave provided by collective bargaining agreements or, if they are employed under public law, to extraordinary study leave, subject to administrative requirements, as per Article 2 of Law No. 476 of August 13, 1984, with or without scholarship, unless explicitly waived. This is applicable only if they are enrolled in a PhD programme for the first time, regardless of the disciplinary field. They also retain the right to a budget for research activities conducted in Italy and abroad as per Article 11, paragraph 5 of D.M. 470/2024.

ART. 10 Incompatibility, Concurrent Enrollment, and Prohibition of Scholarship Cumulation

1. Enrollment in the *PhD Programme* is not compatible with simultaneous enrollment in another PhD programme, first and second level courses in AFAM institutions, any level of degree courses, specialization schools, and first and second level master's programs.

2. The Academic Board may authorize the PhD candidate to engage in paid activities that allow for the acquisition or dissemination of knowledge related to the *PhD Programme*, after evaluating the compatibility of such activities with the successful completion of the program's training, teaching, and research activities. The candidate's maximum annual income cannot exceed 50% of the annual scholarship amount.

3. The PhD scholarship cannot be combined with research grants or any other scholarships awarded for any reason.

4. The Academic Board may decide to exclude a candidate upon PEC notification for the following reasons:

- a. Failure to meet requirements for advancing to the next year or completing the *PhD Programme*;
- b. Insufficient performance in intermediate and/or annual evaluations;

- c. Prolonged and unjustified absence or prolonged unavailability;
 - d. Conduct incompatible with research ethics and the rules of good behaviour prescribed by the organization hosting the *PhD Programme*.
5. Such a decision must be made by an absolute majority of the voting members of the Academic Board.
6. From the date of the exclusion decision, the scholarship disbursement is suspended.
7. Upon the candidate's written request, enrollment in the *PhD Programme* may be suspended, generally for up to one year, subject to the Academic Board's decision, in the following cases:
- a. Civil service;
 - b. Health care for a family member;
 - c. Absence due to serious and documented illness.
8. Pursuant to the decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare dated July 12, 2007, published in the Official Gazette No. 247 on October 23, 2007, female candidates are subject to Articles 17 and 22 of the Consolidated Law on the protection and support of maternity and paternity (Legislative Decree No. 151/2001), and male candidates may be granted paternity leave under Article 28 of the aforementioned Legislative Decree No. 151/2001.
9. In deciding on the suspension, the Academic Board may set terms, conditions, or checks, compatible with intermediate evaluation deadlines, granting provisional advancement to subsequent years until the suspension period is fully recovered and the legal duration of the program is completed.
10. Should a candidate decide to enroll in one of the study programs mentioned in paragraph 1, they must submit a formal request to the Academic Board for authorization to freeze their PhD program enrollment.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ASSOCIATED AFAM PhD Programme WITH ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AT THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS OF CATANIA IN SCIENCES FOR ARTISTIC PRODUCTION AND HERITAGE
XL CYCLE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25 – (AFAM I cycle)

ART. 1 - Establishment and Announcement of the Call for Applications

1. The first three-year cycle of the AFAM PhD Programmes, with administrative headquarters at the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania, is hereby established.
2. The call for applications is announced for admission to the three-year associated AFAM PhD Programme with the administrative headquarters at the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania titled "Artistic Production Sciences and Heritage" (hereinafter referred to as the PhD Programme).
3. The PhD Programme is expected to start in the first decade of December 2024.
4. Three specific descriptive forms (Attachments A, B, C) are attached to the PhD Programme mentioned in paragraph 2. These forms are an integral part of the call and include the following information, among others:
 - Administrative headquarters of the PhD Programme;
 - Total number of places available and their types;
 - Number and types of scholarships and specific competition requirements for candidates with a foreign degree necessary for admission to the PhD Programme;
 - Division of the PhD Programme into curricula, including respective titles and declarations;
 - Admission test procedures;
 - Website link of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania presenting all useful information regarding the training program, the competition schedule, and any necessary notifications for candidates;
 - Name of the PhD Programme Coordinator.

5. Number of places and scholarships indicated in the forms attached to this call may be increased due to additional financial resources from institutional, regional, national, European and/or international resources. Each financing will be duly publicized on the institutional website <https://abacatania.it> on the page: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

6. The number of places and scholarships indicated in the forms attached to this call may also be increased due to financial resources provided by the Sicilian Region, under Action PR FSE+ SICILIA 2021-2027 – Priority 2, ESO 4.7., activated by the Regional Department of Education and Professional Training of the Sicilian Region, as per D.D.G. n. 579 of May 21, 2024, which approved Notice No. 15/2024 for funding Research Doctorate scholarships in Sicily. In this case, for the resources identified and allocated by the Sicilian Region mentioned in the aforementioned notice, eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- a) Meet the requirements outlined in Art. 2, paragraph 1 of this call, born or residing in Sicily on the date of publication of Notice 15/24 of May 21, 2024, selected within the selection procedures of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania, and appropriately classified for admission to the PhD Programme and the allocation of regional scholarships for the academic year of reference (First cycle of AFAM research doctorates - Academic Year 2024/25, XL Cycle University doctorate programs);
- b) Be no older than 35 years at the time of the application for the PhD Programme competition;
- c) Mandatorily spend a study and research period abroad of not less than 8 months and not more than 12 months (with at least two continuous periods of 4 months each). Regional scholarships will be awarded under the condition of their effective activation and the publication of the decree by the Sicilian Region approving the final ranking of the allocation of resources to the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania.

7. In the event of equal merit, scholarships will be awarded preferentially to deserving candidates holding international protection status (with refugee status or subsidiary protection beneficiaries) within the limits of one ordinary or reserved scholarship.

8. The Administrative office reserves the right to revoke the call for applications, to suspend or postpone the competition tests, to suspend or not proceed with the admission of winners, or to suspend or not award all scholarships provided for in the call, due to currently unforeseeable needs. In particular, the allocation of the available positions in this call, as well as the award of scholarships funded by the PNRR, are subject to private company co-financing, ministerial approval, and the signing of the Obligation Act related to the involved project. If the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) does not provide funding to cover the aforementioned scholarships, the scholarships will not be awarded, resulting in the withdrawal of the positions assigned to the winning candidates.

9. This call, drafted in Italian and translated into English, is published within the transparent administration section of the institutional website of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania; this publication serves as an official notification to all interested parties for all information contained within. Therefore, candidates will not receive any further communications. This call is also advertised on the institutional webpage <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>. The notice of this call will also be published on the European Euraxess website and the website of the Ministry of University and Research. Any amendment will be announced exclusively through publication on the institutional webpage <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

10. The generic use of the masculine gender in this call is not intended to be discriminatory but as gender-neutral to ensure effective communication.

ART. 2 - General Admission Requirements

1. Applications for the PhD Programme mentioned in Art. 1, paragraph 2 of this call may be submitted, without age or nationality restrictions, by individuals holding one of the following qualifications:

- a. Second Level Postgraduate Academic Diploma (Academies of Fine Arts);
- b. Old System Academic Diploma supplemented by a high school diploma;
- c. Second level degree;
- d. Master's degree;
- e. Old System University Degree;
- f. Equivalent foreign qualification pursuant to international agreements (EQF Level 7);
- g. Certificate of English language proficiency of at least level B1 of the CEFR.

2. Those candidates who will obtain the qualification required for admission by the latest date of December 6, 2024 (date of enrollment in the PhD Programme) may also submit the application for the selection process, provided they commit to self-certifying the attainment of the qualification by the same date, under penalty of exclusion from enrollment.

For these candidates, the weighted average of the grades achieved in the exams taken and the draft thesis will be assessed for participation in the competition.

3. All candidates are admitted to the competition with a reservation to verify the self-certified declarations pursuant to DPR no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments. At any time during the procedure, including after the start of the PhD Programme, the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania may verify the authenticity of the declarations produced and request the presentation of the original documents. The Administration may, at any time, exclude candidates from the competition procedure or revoke their admission to the PhD Programme for lack of the requirements listed in this call, subject to criminal liability for false statements. This decision will be communicated to the concerned parties exclusively via certified email, which each candidate is required to activate for this purpose.

ART. 3 - Requirements for Candidates Holding a Foreign Qualification

Candidates with a foreign qualification not yet recognized as equivalent to the access qualifications referred to in the previous Art. 2, paragraph 1, must request eligibility - solely for the purpose of admission to the PhD Programme competition - from the Admission Commission of the PhD Programme in compliance with the current regulations in Italy and the country where the qualification was issued, as well as international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for further study. In this case, the application must be accompanied, under penalty of exclusion, by the following documentation to be submitted using the online procedure described in the subsequent Art. 4:

- a) Qualification for admission to the PhD Programme translated into Italian or English by the competent diplomatic or consular authorities or by an official translator;
- b) Request for an eligibility assessment by the Admission Commission. It should be noted that in the case of admission to the PhD Programme, for the issuance of the residence visa, it will still be necessary to request the equivalency certificate from the competent diplomatic authorities in the country of origin.

ART. 4 - Application Procedure (Deadline and Methods)

1. The application for the competition, accompanied by the required documentation, under penalty of exclusion, must be completed and submitted exclusively online using the dedicated online procedure form available at: <https://pica.cineca.it/accademiadicatania/> starting from 2pm on August 6, 2024 to 2pm on September 9, 2024. After this deadline, the system will automatically close, and it will no longer be possible to submit the application. Applications submitted in any other way will not be considered for the competition. No supplements to the documentation will be accepted after the deadline for the call. Candidates can access the application form through credentials they already possess or by registering anew.

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No additional documents will be accepted after the deadline of the announcement under any circumstances. Applications that are not submitted according to the procedures indicated in this article will be deemed invalid for participation in the competition and will be automatically excluded.

Before the final submission of the application, candidates must print the application, sign it, and upload the PDF into the procedure, attaching a color copy of a valid identification document, the research project, and other relevant titles.

With the final closure of the online procedure, the application will be automatically forwarded to the competent offices of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania; therefore, no paper material delivery or shipment is required.

2. Candidates are encouraged to complete the application for the competition well in advance of the deadline. It is the candidates' responsibility to verify the correct completion of the procedure. Complaints about any malfunctions of the IT system due to technical problems communication line and/or application system overloads will not be accepted.

3. The application must be accompanied by documents, qualification certificates, the research project, and a color copy of a valid identification document, all submitted in PDF electronic format; each file may have a maximum size of 30 MB. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the correct uploading of the required documents, bearing in mind that only and exclusively the correctly attached documents will be evaluated for participation in the competition. The Administration assumes no responsibility if it is impossible to read the documentation submitted in electronic format due to damaged files or folders.

4. For all legal purposes, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, the candidates' application is to be considered as a self-certification regarding the data contained in it and the documents attached to it.

5. By the deadline for submitting the application, all candidates must, under penalty of exclusion, pay a fee of €30.00



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(thirty euros) for participation in the tests for the Doctoral Course. The payment receipt must be attached to the application form.

6. The payment should be made to the following bank account:

IBAN: IT46S0623016911000015187639. For international transfers, please include the following SWIFT/BIC code: CRPPIT2PXXX. The account is held at the cashier institute of the Academy: "CREDIT AGRICOLE" - Agency no. 9, Catania, Viale Ruggero di Lauria No. 45 – ZIP Code 95127. The aforementioned fee will not be refunded under any circumstances. Candidates who make the payment using methods other than those described above or outside the specified deadlines will not be admitted to the selection process.

7. A candidate will be excluded from the competition if they:

- Do not meet the general admission requirements outlined in Article 2 of this notice.
- Submit the application without:
 - a) Digital copy of their identity document and research project;
 - b) Payment receipt of €30.00 (thirty euros) as the participation fee (for Italian candidates only);
 - c) Translation of the academic title as required by Article 3 (for candidates with foreign qualifications only);
 - d) request for a suitability assessment from the Admission Committee if their title has not already been declared equivalent (for candidates with foreign degrees only);
 - e) effective active personal PEC (certified email) address.

8. In case of technical issues, technical support is available via the link found at the bottom of the application form pages. Support is available on weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

9. Candidates may submit only one application for participation in the AFAM Doctoral Research Program.

Art. 5 - Documentation to Attach to the Application

1. For the evaluation of qualifications, candidates must attach to their application their documents, thesis, and other qualifications mentioned in the following Art. 6, either in authenticated copies or in simple copies, with the candidate declaring within the online application that these copies are in conformity with the originals.

2. Candidates with refugee status or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection must attach documentation proving temporary protection or a residence permit for international protection (political asylum, subsidiary protection, humanitarian reasons).

3. For participation in the competitive procedure, documents and acts may be submitted in Italian, English, French, or Spanish. Documents and acts in other languages must include a certified translation into Italian, which must be validated by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representation, or by an official translator, or accompanied by a self-declaration of authenticity.

ART. 6 - Admission Test and Assessable Qualifications

1. The admission test for the PhD Programme is designed to assess the candidate's aptitude for scientific research. In the case of interviews with foreign candidates, the Admission Committee will evaluate the candidate's proficiency in Italian at its sole discretion.

2. The competitive procedure will involve the evaluation of the candidates' qualifications, including the mandatory submission of a research proposal in accordance with the format attached to this call (Annex A), and an oral examination.

3. The research proposal must pertain to only one of the three curricula defining the PhD Programme, as specified in the sheet attached to the call (Annex B). Relevance to the curriculum will result in additional points as specified in paragraph 7(g) of this article. The research proposal, not exceeding 2000 characters including spaces, must include:

- a) Title of the project;
- b) Relevance to the curriculum defining the PhD Programme;
- c) Objectives of the project, related to the curriculum defining the PhD Programme;
- d) State of the art regarding studies and specialist literature relevant to the curriculum defining the PhD Programme;
- e) Research methodology to be adopted, project timeline and schedule over the 3 years of the PhD Programme;
- f) Expected results and possible risk strategies;
- g) Prediction of the period abroad;

- h) Degree of organizational and financial feasibility;
- i) Involvement of research institutions and/or Italian and/or foreign researchers, with related motivations;
- j) Involvement of companies;
- k) Essential bibliography up to a maximum of 12 titles (excluding the 2000 characters including spaces).

In case of admission to the PhD Programme, the submitted research proposal does not normally constitute a binding work program.

4. The competition calendar will be published on the official website <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca> by the Chair of the Admission Committee. The publication of this call and the data contained in the attached sheets constitutes notification for all purposes. Therefore, candidates who have not been notified of exclusion from the competition must take the exam without any further notice according to the indicated calendar. Any changes to the date and time of the selection tests will be published on the same official website <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

5. As specified in the following article 7, the Admission Committee has 100 points to evaluate candidates, awarded as follows:

- Qualifications: max 40 points (including the research proposal, max 12 points);
- Interview: max 60 points. The minimum score to access the interview is at least 12 points.

The minimum score needed to pass the interview is 42 points.

6. The Committee will exclude candidates who have submitted a research proposal not relevant to the chosen curriculum defining the PhD Programme and will not evaluate their documents and qualifications.

7. For the evaluation of qualifications, subject to the autonomy of the Admission Committee, the following documentation is assessable:

- a) Final academic degree or diploma theses (or, for candidates who are graduating, the thesis draft in the process of deposit signed by the supervisor and stamped by the AFAM or other university institute) evaluated based on content and relevance to the curriculum: max 6 points;
- b) Academic degree or diploma final grade, evaluated according to proportional parameters or, in the absence, the weighted grades (for graduates obtaining their degree at AFAM institutions or Italian universities by December 6, 2024): max 10 points;
- c) Artistic, cultural, and professional production will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum. Published monographs, anthologies, art catalogs, publications in journals with ISBN and/or ISSN certified by a Scientific Committee will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum; patents will be evaluated if specifically relevant to the chosen curriculum: max 6 points;
- d) Post-graduate qualifications such as specialization diplomas, 1-year minimum advanced courses, first and second-level masters, issued by AFAM institutions or universities or qualified research entities, will be evaluated if relevant to the chosen curriculum: max 2 points;
- e) Research collaboration grants will be evaluated if relevant to the chosen curriculum while scholarships if awarded following selective procedures carried out exclusively by AFAM institutions, Italian or foreign universities, or by research institutes of primary and proven relevance; study and research periods abroad (including Erasmus periods) will be evaluated if carried out at universities or qualified research institutes for a continuous period of not less than 3 months; awards received from national and international artistic or historical-artistic research institutions, if relevant to the chosen curriculum: max 2 points;
- f) Other documents considered useful by the Admission Committee for a complete evaluation, such as:
 - Appointment as an expert in the field obtained within the last seven years before this call is issued will be evaluated if relevant to the chosen curriculum: max 2 points;
- g) A brief Research Proposal (no more than 2000 characters including spaces) submitted according to the indications of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article and the format in Annex A: max 12 points.

Regarding point b of this paragraph, for candidates obtaining the access title by December 6, 2024, the weighted grades, which replaces the degree grade referred to in letter b), is calculated by:

- Multiplying the grade of each exam by the respective number of credits (30 cum laude is considered as 30);
- Summing all the obtained products;
- Dividing the result by the sum of the useful credits (those obtained from graded exams);
- Multiplying the obtained average by 110 and dividing the result by 30 (thus obtaining the grade in hundredths).

The weighted grade is not required for graduates and undergraduates at foreign academies of fine arts and university institutions.

8. The exam interview is public and will be conducted exclusively in person on the designated day and time, with the presence of one or more candidates who wish to attend voluntarily. The absence of the candidate on the day and time of the interview will be considered a withdrawal from the competition, regardless of the cause.

9. The Admission Committee will maintain its autonomy in evaluating the exam interview based on the following criteria:

- a) Clarity of presentation: Maximum of 10 points
- b) Ability to synthesize: Maximum of 10 points
- c) Critical thinking and adequate knowledge of the subjects related to the presented titles: Maximum of 20 points.
- d) Ability to answer in-depth questions about the presented research project: Maximum of 20 points.

ART. 7 – Admission Committee and Its Duties

1. For admission to the PhD program, the Admission Committee will be appointed by a director's decree within seven days from the deadline for submitting applications for the competition. The Committee will be composed according to Article 16 of the Regulations of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania regarding AFAM PhD programs, which contain the relevant rules.

2. The composition of the Committee will be published on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

3. The Admission Committee will be responsible for:

- Posting the competition schedule on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>;
- Publishing the results of the evaluations of qualifications at least three working days before the interview;
- Promptly publishing each evaluation (candidates' qualification and interview) on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>, according to the competition schedule.

4. The Committee will propose the awarding of each scholarship to each candidate based on the evaluation of the research project, title evaluation, exam interview, as per Article 6, and the possession of specific requirements requested by the type of funding or refugee or subsidiary protection status. It will not be possible to assign PNRR PhD scholarships to candidates who have declined such scholarships for the 38th and 39th university cycles as per D.M. No. 629 and 630/2024, based on what was declared in the application for selection.

5. In case of equal merit, scholarships will be awarded preferentially to deserving candidates with international protection status (refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection), within the limit of one scholarship.

6. The Committee's work will commence by September 11, 2024, with a preliminary meeting to establish the criteria and methods for evaluating the competition tests, ensuring an appropriate and transparent comparative evaluation of candidates. The work must be concluded by September 20, 2024, or following any possible rankings adjustments.

ART. 8 - Approval of the General Merit Ranking

1. The general merit ranking, including eligible and non-eligible candidates, will be approved by a director's decree. The ranking will be formulated in descending order based on the total points obtained by each candidate, with an indication of the type of scholarship awarded. In case of equal merit between two or more candidates, preference will be given to the deserving candidate with international protection status (refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection), within the limit of one scholarship; in case of further ties, the younger candidate will prevail. The winner who does not accept the assigned type of scholarship will not be eligible for other types of scholarships for the same PhD program and will lose admission to the program.

2. The aforementioned general merit ranking will be approved by a director's decree and will be published on the institutional webpage: <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca> for five working days, during which appeals can be submitted. After this period, the ranking will be considered definitively approved. The publication will serve as official notification to the interested parties; therefore, no personal communications will be sent to the candidates.

ART. 9 Admission of Public Employees

1. Public employees admitted to the PhD program are entitled, for the normal duration of the program, to the leave provided by collective bargaining agreements or, if they are employed under public law, to extraordinary study leave,

subject to administrative requirements, as per Article 2 of Law No. 476 of August 13, 1984, with or without grant, unless explicitly waived. This is applicable only if they are enrolled in a PhD program for the first time, regardless of the disciplinary field. They also retain the right to a budget for research activities conducted in Italy and abroad as per Article 11, paragraph 5 of D.M. 470/2024.

ART. 10 Incompatibility, Concurrent Enrollment, and Prohibition of Scholarship Cumulation

1. Enrollment in the PhD program is incompatible with simultaneous enrollment in another PhD program, first and second level courses in AFAM institutions, any level of degree courses, specialization schools, and first and second level master's programs.

2. The Academic Board may authorize the PhD candidate to engage in paid activities that allow for the acquisition or dissemination of knowledge related to the PhD program, after evaluating the compatibility of such activities with the successful completion of the program's training, teaching, and research activities. The candidate's maximum annual income cannot exceed 50% of the annual scholarship amount.

3. The PhD scholarship cannot be combined with research grants or any other scholarships awarded for any reason.

4. The Academic Board may decide to exclude a candidate upon PEC notification for the following reasons:

- a. Failure to meet requirements for advancing to the next year or completing the PhD program;
- b. Insufficient performance in intermediate and/or annual evaluations;
- c. Prolonged and unjustified absence or prolonged unavailability;
- d. Conduct incompatible with research ethics and the rules of good behavior prescribed by the organization hosting the PhD program.

5. Such a decision must be made by an absolute majority of the voting members of the Academic Board.

6. From the date of the exclusion decision, the scholarship disbursement is suspended.

7. Upon the candidate's written request, enrollment in the PhD program may be suspended, generally for up to one year, subject to the Academic Board's decision, in the following cases:

- a. Civil service;
- b. Health care for a family member;
- c. Absence due to serious and documented illness.

8. Pursuant to the decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare dated July 12, 2007, published in the Official Gazette No. 247 on October 23, 2007, female candidates are subject to Articles 17 and 22 of the Consolidated Law on the protection and support of maternity and paternity (Legislative Decree No. 151/2001), and male candidates may be granted paternity leave under Article 28 of the aforementioned Legislative Decree No. 151/2001.

9. In deciding on the suspension, the Academic Board may set terms, conditions, or checks, compatible with intermediate evaluation deadlines, granting provisional advancement to subsequent years until the suspension period is fully recovered and the legal duration of the program is completed.

10. Should a candidate decide to enroll in one of the study programs mentioned in paragraph 1, they must submit a formal request to the Academic Board for authorization to freeze their PhD program enrollment.

ARTICLE 12 - Enrollment of Successful Candidates

1. For admission to the *PhD Programme*, **successful candidates** must submit their enrollment application and related declarations **between 2:00 PM on October 15, 2024 and 2:00 PM on October 22, 2024**, exclusively following **the operational procedures that will be published by September 20, 2024, on the institutional webpage** <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>. **Candidates who do not complete the procedure by the specified deadline will be considered to have forfeited their place**, and the vacant spots will be allocated to candidates next in line according to the merit ranking. **The ranking will be adjusted to fill the vacant spots** according to the terms indicated in the following table:

Publication date of eligible candidates entitled to the
ranking list progression
September 20, 2024
**(October 14, 2024 in case of ranking list
progressions and/or additions)**

Deadline for enrollment application
**from 2:00 PM on October 15, 2024 to 2:00 PM on
October 22, 2024**

2. After the final deadline of September 20, 2024, further re-ranking will take place in the event of withdrawals by winners or if additional resources become available.
3. From October 14, 2024, no further available PhD positions will be assigned; these will be reserved for the activation of the next cycle, except for any resources made available under the PNRR.
4. Successful candidates who will obtain their academic diploma or degree by December 6, 2024, must self-certify the attainment of the title by the aforementioned date at the following email address: dottorati@abacatania.it.
5. If a candidate is successfully placed in multiple rankings for different PhD programs, they must choose only one PhD program.
6. Candidates who are eligible but not winners of the competition are invited to consult the institutional webpage <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca> for useful information regarding any re-ranking of the general merit lists.

Art. 13 - Scholarships, Fees, and Contributions

Scholarships, which can be financed from multiple sources, have a total duration of at least three years. They are awarded to candidates enrolled in the PhD program according to the order defined in the general merit ranking and are renewed annually, subject to positive verification of the completion of the activities scheduled for each year. The renewal procedures are established by the Doctoral Committee and codified in the course regulations. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the doctoral student renounces it, the unused amount will be reinvested by the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania to fund other PhD programs.

2. The amount of the scholarship for the academic year 2024/2025 is €16,243.00, and it is disbursed in monthly installments, paid after the completion of the attendance and research activities, except for foreign doctoral students, who receive the payments in advance monthly instalments. The disbursement of the scholarship to foreign candidates is conditional upon the issuance of the entry visa by the competent Italian diplomatic representation in their country and the obtaining of a tax code. Therefore, in order to shorten the issuance times the request for a tax code must be presented primarily at the Italian Embassy in the country of origin simultaneously with the visa request. Foreign winners will receive operational instructions via email regarding all the procedures for obtaining the tax code.
3. The scholarship amount is increased by 50% for a total period not exceeding twelve months for research activities abroad authorized by the Doctoral Committee.
4. An additional budget equal to at least 10% of the scholarship value must be provided to support research activities. The aforementioned budgets (paragraphs 3 and 4 of this article) are also granted to the doctoral students mentioned in Art. 9 of this Call and will be assigned by the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania to support the doctoral student's research and training activities in conjunction with the start of the courses.
5. Candidates who have already received a scholarship for a PhD program cannot request a second one.
6. Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships awarded for any reason, except for those granted by national or international institutions to supplement, with stays abroad, the training or research activities of the scholarship recipients. Scholarships for attending the PhD are compatible with the Erasmus contribution.
7. For positions covered by PNRR scholarships, the acceptance of the scholarship itself is mandatory; therefore, in case of renunciation, the winner automatically forfeits admission to the PhD Programme.

8. The doctoral student must return the installments of the scholarship already received in the event of renunciation of the course if they exceed the income limit mentioned in Art. 10, paragraph 2, or if they are in one of the cases of incompatibility provided for by the current legislation.

11. The PhD Programme scholarship is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions (separate management), pursuant to article 2, paragraph 26, of Law 8 August 1995, no. 335, two-thirds of which are borne by the administration while one-third by the scholarship holder. Doctoral students benefit from the related protections and rights.

12. If the funds allocated for the research and training activities of the doctoral students enrolled in the third year are not fully utilized, the *PhD Programme* Coordinator may exceptionally authorize the research activities of first-year or second-year doctoral students for whom the funds have not yet been allocated.

13. The doctoral student is authorized by the Coordinator, with the supervisor's approval, for the following expenses:

- a) Missions of doctoral students in Italy and abroad, conference registrations, seminars, etc.;
- b) Consumables for research involving doctoral students;
- c) Goods/equipment (e.g., hardware, software, scientific equipment). These must be inventoried and will remain the property of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania at the end of the PhD program. In any case, personal use items (e.g., mobile phones, tablets, etc.) cannot be purchased;
- d) Publication expenses;
- e) Specific research training (e.g., language courses, advanced training courses, etc.);
- f) Events directly involving doctoral students in their organization (e.g., PhDay);
- g) If there are unused funds, the Doctoral Committee may decide to use them to cover the travel expenses of foreign commission members for the thesis defense, which confer the additional foreign title to the doctoral student (e.g., doctor europaeus).

ART. 14 - University Study Right Fee

1. By the enrollment deadline, both Italian and foreign winners are required to pay a stamp duty of €16.00 and the regional fee for the right to university study for the 2024/2025 academic year.

ART. 15 - Obligations and Rights of Doctoral Students

1. The *PhD Programme* requires full-time and exclusive commitment, subject to the provisions of paragraph 7 of this article and Article 9, paragraph 2, letter b) of Ministerial Decree no. 470/2024. Doctoral students, both with and without scholarships, are required to:

- engage exclusively in the training program as decided by the Doctoral Board;
- attend the scheduled courses consistently;
- participate in common courses within the *PhD Programme*;
- present oral or written reports on the activities and research carried out;
- maintain personal logs of activities as specified in paragraph 3;
- comply with any decisions made by the Doctoral Board or any regulations related to specific funding for doctoral scholarships;
- prepare a doctoral thesis with original contributions at the end of the program.

2. Doctoral students must follow the training path agreed upon with their supervisor and co-supervisor(s), and approved by the Doctoral Board, which aligns with the training project established by the Board and publicized annually on the official website of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania at <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>.

3. The doctoral students' activities must be recorded in specific personal logs and/or in dedicated digital platforms. These activities include course attendance, research activities, personal study, bibliographic research, archival research, interim assessments, participation in seminars, courses, and conferences, activities at external institutions where the PhD program is conducted (other AFAM institutions, universities, research institutes, companies), both in Italy and abroad, any supplementary teaching activities, and anything else stipulated by the Doctoral Board that contributes to completing the



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training program. **It is strictly prohibited to conduct research related to the PhD at private institutions without the authorization of the Doctoral Board. Violating this rule will result in expulsion from the *PhD Programme*.**

4. The accuracy of the various activities undertaken by doctoral students is certified by the Coordinator based on the information provided by the supervisor and co-supervisor(s).

5. At the end of each year of the *PhD Programme*, the Doctoral Board will decide on their admission to the following year or propose to the Director their exclusion from the program, based on a detailed report on the activities and research carried out by each student.

6. Doctoral students may request an extension of up to twelve months for submitting their doctoral thesis, for valid reasons, without additional financial obligations.

7. The Doctoral Board may decide to extend the duration of the PhD program by up to twelve months for justified scientific needs related, among other things, to co-supervised programs lasting longer than three years or to the need for a significant increase in scientific productivity (e.g., submission or outcome of a patent application, or an extension of a nationally or internationally significant research project). In such cases, the corresponding extension of the scholarship duration must be ensured, with funds covered by the budget of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania. The proposed extension by the Doctoral Board will be submitted for approval by the Board of Directors for financial verification. Beneficiary doctoral students must comply with all decisions made by the Doctoral Board regarding the extended training path, including course activities.

8. Doctoral students may request a suspension of up to six months for valid reasons specified by current regulations, such as maternity, serious illness, and civil service. During the suspension period, the scholarship or other equivalent funding will not be disbursed. The Doctoral Board, upon notification from the *PhD Programme* Coordinator, will acknowledge the suspension. A suspension exceeding thirty days for the reasons mentioned above requires the doctoral student to make up the entire interruption period, thus extending the duration of the training path accordingly.

9. The total period of extensions and suspensions mentioned in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 cannot exceed eighteen months, except in specific cases provided by law.

10. The rules governing student support interventions, as outlined in Legislative Decree 29 March 2012, no. 68, remain applicable to doctoral students.

11. The *PhD Programme* Coordinator must promptly notify the relevant office of any interruption in the doctoral student's activities for the necessary administrative actions.

12. Doctoral students are obliged to maintain confidentiality regarding the research activities they participate in at external institutions.

13. Upon enrollment in the *PhD Programme*, **each doctoral student will be given an email account from the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania through which they will receive institutional communications.** It is mandatory to regularly check institutional email and stay informed through the Academy's website for general and specific announcements related to the PhD program. Doctoral students are also required to register on the Ministry's website at the Login MIUR page to be listed as a potential researcher for the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania.

14. Doctoral students may engage in additional teaching activities, as an integral part of their training program, with the prior approval of the Doctoral Board and without any increase in their scholarship:

- Supplementary teaching activities, up to a maximum of forty hours per academic year. For these activities, doctoral students will receive the allowances specified in Article 1, paragraph 1, letter b) of Legislative Decree 9 May 2003, no. 105, converted, with modifications, by Law 11 July 2003, no. 170.

15. These activities must be recorded in personal logs. Specific teaching collaborations provided by national regulations will apply, except as provided in Article 10, paragraph 2 of this call. All other forms of teaching are strictly prohibited, and it is the responsibility of the Coordinator to ensure compliance with this provision.

16. All administrative information regarding doctoral students, as well as their academic progress, will be posted on the institutional website <https://abacatania.it/dottoratidiricerca>. This publication replaces any other form of communication; therefore, successful candidates are required to regularly visit the aforementioned site for updates.

ART. 16 - Attainment of the Doctorate Degree

1. The title of Doctor of Philosophy, abbreviated as “Ph.D.,” is awarded following a positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study.

2. The research work, along with a report on the activities carried out during the PhD Programme, is evaluated by at least two anonymous reviewers selected by the Doctoral Board. These reviewers must not be affiliated with the institution awarding the PhD and must possess high qualifications, with at least one being a permanent or temporary faculty member of an AFAM (Higher Education in Art and Music) institution. Reviewers may be from foreign or international institutions.

3. Within 30 days of receiving the research work, the reviewers must provide a detailed written assessment, recommending either admission to the public defense or deferral of the defense for a period not exceeding six months. After this period, the final research work, accompanied by a new written opinion from the reviewers, is admitted to the defense in any case.

4. The defense takes place publicly before a Commission appointed by the Doctoral Board, ensuring, where possible, gender balance.

5. The Commission must consist of at least two-thirds members from Italian or foreign institutions not affiliated with the academy that offers the *PhD Programme*, specifically from AFAM institutions.

6. At the end of the defense, the Commission provides a written and reasoned evaluation of the research work presented in the thesis. If the Commission unanimously recognizes the work as having exceptional scientific/artistic merit, it may award the thesis a distinction (*cum laude*).

7. The educational activities completed by the students at one or more institutions are certified in a document attached to the final diploma (*diploma supplement*).

ART. 17 - Processing of Personal Data

1. Pursuant to Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR – *General Data Protection Regulation* (EU Regulation no. 2016/679), the personal data provided by candidates will be collected by the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania for the purpose of managing the selection process and will be processed both in paper form and through an automated database. Providing such data is mandatory for verifying the requirements for participation in the competition and for its management.

2. Candidates have the rights set forth in Articles 15 to 22 of the aforementioned *EU Regulation 2016/679*, including the right to access their personal data, as well as other complementary rights, such as the right to have erroneous, incomplete, or unlawfully collected data rectified, updated, completed, or deleted, and the right to object to their processing for legitimate reasons. These rights may be exercised by contacting the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania, Via del Bosco 34/A, 95125 Catania, which is the data controller through its Director. Requests should be addressed to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) with the subject “Privacy Rights” via email: protocollo@abacatania.it, or via certified email (PEC):

abacatania@pec.it. For further and more detailed information, please refer to the privacy notice published on the website of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania.

ART. 18 - Organizational Unit Responsible for the Procedure

1. The organizational unit responsible for the PhD competition process is the Research Doctorates Office, located at Via Raimondo Franchetti, 5 95123, Catania; contact email: dottorati@abacatania.it.

ART. 19 – Referral

1. For any matters not covered in this call, reference is made to the *Regulations of the Academy of Fine Arts of Catania concerning AFAM PhD Programmes*, as cited in the preamble, which can be consulted on the Academy's website at the following link: Atti e regolamenti – Accademia di Belle Arti Catania.

Prot.n. 3312
Catania, 05-agosto-2024

Research Project Format (max 2000 characters including spaces)

ATTACHMENT A

AFAM PhD Programme, First Cycle in:

Artistic Production and Heritage Sciences

Candidate: (Last Name, First Name)

Project Title:

Relevance to Curriculum No. _____

(see ATTACHMENT B)

Project Objectives:

State of the Art:

Methodology and Timeline over the 3 Years of the PhD:

Expected Results and Potential Risk Strategies:

Planned Period Abroad (min. 6 months - max. 12 months):

Organizational and Financial Feasibility:

Involvement of Research Structures and/or Italian or Foreign

Researchers including Related Motivations:

Involvement of Companies:*

Essential Bibliography (up to a maximum of 12 titles, not included in the 2000-character limit):

(For topics covered under DM 630/24, Art. 7, comma 1, letter c), a company placement of at least 6 months and up to 18 months is mandatory.)



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COURSE CURRICULA

ATTACHMENT B

No. 1: *Archives and Theatrical Repertoires: Documents, Costumes, Set Design, Stage Techniques, Repertoires, Dramaturgies, Contemporary Performances*

The curriculum aims to select research projects focused on the study and cataloging of archival, costume, scenographic, stagecraft, and dramaturgical heritage of several important Italian theaters. This study and cataloging process represents a significant innovation in the research landscape of many Italian theatrical institutions. It is intended to enhance and make accessible a heritage that is at continuous risk of dispersal, as well as to pave the way for future safeguarding and restoration initiatives.

The curriculum's focus is on the digital archiving projects of paper materials, costumes, set design, stagecrafts, as well as contemporary dramaturgical repertoires, with particular reference to the classical tradition, drama, dance, and melodrama.

Special attention will be given to proposals that demonstrate strong inclinations towards digital/environmental transition and the internationalization of archives, as well as their enhancement, continuous implementation, efficiency, sustainability, and technological innovation. This is in line with the most recent developments in the reorganization of tangible and intangible heritage. Digital archives that offer a multidisciplinary approach and are capable of interacting with various databases, including international and open-source platforms like the Europeana portal, will be particularly valued.

In the evaluation process, special importance will be given to the concept of repertoire, as distinguished by Diana Taylor within the framework of Richard Schechner's school, as a means of preserving and transmitting knowledge through an embodied measure. This is exemplified by the genealogical traditions of theater actors and the inherent character of performance, understood also as rituals and ceremonies.

N. 2: *Visual Communication Design and Public Utility*

The curriculum aims to select research projects that investigate and reflect on the role of the intellectual-technician and professionals in the field of visual communication design and public utility. Additionally, it seeks to promote research projects focused on the transmission and communication of values rooted in local and international cultural and artistic heritage. Public utility graphics are distinguished from commercial graphics by the cultural component of graphic and communicative practice, forming a perspective developed by women and men, who, through graphic design, have committed themselves to fostering a citizenry that observes to understand, seeking in it a reaction and a shared consensus that enhances responsibility within the society we live in.

The graphic designer performs a technical and intellectual activity aimed at achieving a specific goal, which is not art for art's sake. What is designed encompasses a range of communicative artifacts in various fields: from the design of visual identities for public and private entities producing cultural events and exhibitions, to editorial design for books, catalogs, monographs, and series systems for mass distribution, all the way to responsible public utility graphics aimed at the community—graphics that champion civil engagement, freedom, dignity, and rights, inclusion without



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catania

No. 3: *New Methodologies in Contemporary Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts*

ethnic, gender, or political opinion discrimination.

The objective is to train researchers interested in the critical-methodological and practical aspects of "Visual Communication Design and Public Utility"; that is, to design with a new awareness of the intellectual and social responsibility inherent in the graphic design profession. In the context of technological and digital transition, graphic design is exploring new paths, delving into new methods, tools, and processes for innovation and design culture.

The curriculum aims to select research projects that suggest hypotheses, reflections, and comparisons concerning methodological developments in visual arts, particularly in relation to the increase of symbolic, digital, and social platforms. These platforms serve as spaces of constant visual overexposure, while simultaneously functioning as venues for profiling, linguistic production, and artistic creation, alongside traditional exhibition spaces.

Projects of particular interest include studies on the current and future potential of imagination as a divergent human, cybernetic, and artificial faculty. Research is also encouraged on the influence of applied sciences and technology on the quality and quantity of contemporary artistic production, as well as analyses of the dematerialization process affecting the body, style, and fashion as cutting-edge themes in recent visual and performing arts practices.

Special consideration is given to research topics that explore the international evolution of artistic methods and thought, particularly in response to the persistent spread of preordained and homogenizing models that shape the formalization of artworks. This exploration is expected to address the aesthetic, ethical, cultural, geographical, and political aspects of art, acknowledging contemporary art's role as a producer and propagator of critical issues rather than solutions.

In the evaluation process, structured investigations that appropriately consider museums, galleries, exhibitions, movements, artists, cultural legacies, and evolutionary phases in the history of visual arts will be highly valued. These studies should also explore the cross-disciplinary thinking that connects contemporary arts with fragmented temporal experiences, particularly in relation to immersive, auditory, and performative techniques inspired by digital and environmental transitions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION SHEET

ATTACHMENT C

PhD Programme CoordinatoR

Prof. Vittorio Ugo Vicari
Email: vittoriougovicari@abacatania.it

Administrative Headquarters

Accademia di Belle Arti di Catania, Via del Bosco 34/A,
95125, Catania

Duration

3 years

Artistic Disciplinary Sectors (SAD)

ABPR19, ABTEC37, ABPR17, **ABVPA61**, ABVPA62,
ABST47, ABST48, ABST53, ABST54, ABPR22, ABPR23,
ABAV02, ABAV05, ABAV07, ABAV11, ABAV13,
ABTEC38, ABTEC40, ABTEC42, ABTEC44, CODD01,
CODD02, CODD03, CODD04, CODD05, CODD06,
CODM04, ISDC03, ISDC05, ISSC01, ISDE02.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

10 positions with scholarships, distributed as follows:

3 positions for Curriculum No. 1:
*Archives and Theatrical Repertoires: Documents, Costumes,
Scenography, Stage Technology, Repertoires, Dramaturgy,
Contemporary Performance*

no. 2 funded under DM 629/24

no. 1 funded under DM 630/24, in collaboration with the
Rossini Opera Festival of Pesaro

5 positions for Curriculum No. 2:
Design of Visual Communication and Public Utility

no. 2 funded under DM 629/24

no. 1 funded under DM 630/24, in collaboration with the
International Museum of Ceramics of Faenza

no. 2 funded under DM 630/24, in collaboration with the
Municipality of Syracuse

2 positions for Curriculum No. 3:
*New Methodologies of the Contemporary in Visual,
Performing, and Applied Arts*

both funded under DM 629/24

Total Number of Positions

10 positions, subject to possible redistribution by the
Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) or
assignments by the Sicilian Region, based on Action PR
FSE+ SICILY 2021-2027 – Priority 2, ESO 4.7, which may
be allocated by the merit ranking list.

Admission Test Modality

- Evaluation of qualifications
- Evaluation of the research project prepared according to the
guidelines of the call for applications
- Interview, which will be conducted according to the
methods specified in Art. 6, paragraph 8, of the call for
applications.

Location and Schedule of the Admission Test

They will be published on the institutional web page:
<https://abacatania.it/dottorati>

Other Useful Information

Any additional announcements will be made available on the
institutional web page: <https://abacatania.it/dottorati>

Useful Contacts: Administrative Contact Person

Dr. Alessandro Blancato