



SCUOLA SUPERIORE MERIDIONALE



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II

Scuola Superiore Meridionale - Doctoral Programs – 41th cycle – Academic year 2025/2026

Call for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE
27 AUGUST 2025

This document has no legal value. It is only intended to provide information in English about the call for applications

The Scuola Superiore Meridionale (SSM) hereby announces a call for applications for 50 PhD scholarships for the academic year 2025-2026 in the following Doctoral Programs:

ID	Acronym	Title	Info	ANNEXES FOR DETAILED INFOS
01	ACMA	Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology and Cultures. Historical Research, Preservation, Cultural Heritage, Management, and Use	Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Carlo Rescigno Contact e-mail: acma@ssmeridionale.it webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/archeologia-e-culture-del-mediterraneo-antico-acma/	1
02	CTO	Clinical and Translational Oncology	Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Michelino De Laurentiis Contact e-mail: cto@ssmeridionale.it Webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/clinical-and-translational-oncology-cto/	2

03	SPACE	Cosmology, space science & space technology	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Salvatore Capozziello</p> <p>Contact e-mail: space@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/cosmology-space-science-space-technology-space/</p>	3
04	GEM	Genomic and experimental medicine	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Brunella Franco</p> <p>Contact e-mail: gem@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>Webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/genomic-and-experimental-medicine-gem/</p>	4
05	GHG	Global History and Governance	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Daniela Luigia Caglioti</p> <p>Contact e-mail: ghg@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/global-history-and-governance-ghg/</p>	5
06	LOSPD	Law and Organizational Studies for the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Luigi Maria Sicca</p> <p>Contact e-mail: lospd@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/law-and-organizational-studies-for-people-with-disability-lospd/</p>	6

07	MPHS	Mathematical and physical sciences for advanced materials and technologies	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Nicola Fusco</p> <p>Contact e-mail: mphs@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>Webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/mathematical-and-physical-sciences-for-advanced-materials-and-technologies-mphs/</p>	7
08	MERC	Modeling and engineering risk and complexity	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Mario di Bernardo</p> <p>Contact e-mail: merc@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>Webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/modeling-and-engineering-risk-and-complexity-merc/</p>	8
09	MOSES	Molecular Sciences for Earth and Space	<p>Jointly activated with the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa</p> <p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Nadia Rega</p> <p>Contact e-mail: moses@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/molecular-sciences-for-earth-and-space-moses/</p>	9
10	TTCL	Texts, Traditions and Book Cultures. Italian and Romance Studies	<p>Program duration: 4 years No. of scholarships: 5 Coordinator: Prof. Andrea Mazzucchi</p> <p>Contact e-mail: ttcl@ssmeridionale.it</p> <p>webpage: https://www.ssmeridionale.it/testi-tradizioni-e-culture-del-libro-studi-italiani-e-romanzi-ttcl/</p>	10

Successful candidates will receive a scholarship (including social security contributions) and additional

research funding as specified in the ‘Scholarship’ section of this call.

Courses will begin on November 2, 2025.

No fees or contributions are required to enroll in the doctoral program. Successful candidates are only required to pay the regional tax for the Diritto allo Studio Universitario (DSU), levied each year, as long as they are enrolled in the course.

Admissions to the SSM Doctoral Programs are based on a public competitive exam of all the candidates consisting of an evaluation of the documents submitted by the applicant and, for shortlisted candidates, of an oral interview.

SSM Doctoral Programs combine coursework and research activities. The former usually takes place in the first year; designed to broaden the doctoral students’ knowledge and to prepare them for research, it aims to further the student’s specialization in a specific scientific area and his ability to pursue independent research. Doctoral students are expected to spend at least two semesters of study and research in qualified foreign universities or scientific institutions and, during these research stays, are entitled to a 50% increase of the relevant allotments of their scholarship. At the end of the Doctoral Program, provided that all due obligations have been fulfilled and the dissertation successfully defended, the student will be awarded a *PhD* degree in their program of choice.

Admission Requirements

To apply for one of the SSM Doctoral Programs (no restriction of age or citizenship applies), candidates are required to possess one of the following degrees:

- “Laurea specialistica” or “laurea magistrale” (Master’s degree), as defined in the Italian Ministerial Decree nr. 509/1999 and its subsequent modifications and integrations.
- 4 or 5 year “Laurea” degree obtained according to the old organization of the Italian degree system.
- An equivalent degree at the Master level obtained after a 5-year cycle from a foreign university.

Successful applicants who do not already hold the required degree by the deadline of this Call for Applications will be admitted on condition of obtaining the required degree by the date of enrolment in the Ph.D. program. If the application is successful, failure to obtain the qualification by that date will invalidate the admission.

Applicants who are already in possession of a Ph.D. qualification issued by an Italian university, or have already benefited from a scholarship to attend a Ph.D. programme in Italy, are ineligible.

The selection committees will certify the equivalence of non-Italian degrees after having examined the documents attached by the candidates to their applications and taking into account any other relevant information.

This does not apply if the candidate’s degree has been already declared equivalent to an Italian academic degree by virtue of an agreement between Italy and the country in which the candidate’s degree was awarded.

Candidates lacking the appropriate requirements can be excluded at any moment of the selection process. In this case, excluded candidates will be notified of the decision and of the reason of their exclusion.

Applications

Applications will only be accepted if submitted through the following website:

<https://pica.cineca.it/ssm/dottoratoxli-ssm/domande/>

Applications received in any other form will not be considered. The SSM is not responsible for any online application not properly completed by candidates.

Activation of the platform through which applications are to be uploaded will be announced with a notice posted on the SSM website at the following address: <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>.

The **deadline** for completing the online application is **27 August 2025 at 1400 CET**.

The **deadline** for the submission of reference letters is **29 August 2025 at 1400 CET**.

Candidates intending to apply for more than one PhD program can do so by submitting multiple applications – a separate one for each program they intend to apply.

SSM is not responsible for any malfunctions due to technical problems and / or overload of the communication line and / or of the application systems, nor for any loss of mail due to incorrect information relating to the candidate's address or due to delayed communication of change of address indicated in the application, nor for any errors attributable to third parties, accidents or *force majeure*.

The following documents **are required to be submitted as** attachments to the application. Lack of any of them will entail the exclusion of the candidate:

- a) **Copy of a valid identity document** (passport or ID card);
- b) **Curriculum vitae** following the template made available at <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>;
- c) **Copy of the master's thesis** (candidates who obtained their degree abroad without submitting a thesis are required to attach a description of a comparable research experience). Candidates who have not yet submitted their thesis by the application's deadline are required to submit an extended abstract in Italian or in English (max. 1,500 words/9,000characters long, including bibliography and sources);
- d) **An abstract** in Italian or in English of the master's thesis or of a comparable researchexperience (max. 1,000 words/6,000 characters long);
- e) **Transcript(s) of records** issued by the applicant's university, listing the exams/courses taken during the degree, the grades/marks awarded, and (if applicable) the grade for the final exam. Applicants are also required to attach the degree transcript(s) of any previous degree(s) (in a single .pdf file). Should such transcript(s) be in a language other than Italian, English, French, Spanish or German, applicants are also required to submit a translation in one of the aforementioned languages. Alternatively, candidates are allowed self-certify the grade or mark of their master's degree(s), by submitting a **declaration in lieu of certification, prepared** in accordance with article 46 of D.P.R. n.445/2000 and subsequent amendments. Candidates who have not yet obtained the degree are required to provide a signed statement listing the courses they've followed for the achievement of their Master's degree, as well as the grades received for each final exam (in this case, a declaration in lieu of certification has to be attached, modelled on the template made available in the course of the online application process).
- f) A **personal statement** in which the applicants discuss their research interests and their reasons for

applying for the chosen doctoral program (max. 1,000 words/6,000 characters).

g) Either a scientific report or a research proposal, depending on the selected program (see annexes):

- . A scientific report, written in English (max 2,500 words/15,000 characters, including a short bibliography), is required for the **GEM, MERC, MOSES, MPHS** and **SPACE** doctoral programs. The report is expected to contain a description of the topic of the master's thesis or of a scientific topic of interest to the candidate, organized into sections that clearly describe the state of the art, the objectives, the results obtained, the methodology used and possible applications and future developments;
- . A research proposal, written in either Italian or English (max 2,500 words/15,000 characters) following the templates made available at <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati> is required for the **ACMA, CTO, GHG, LOSPD** and **TTCL** doctoral programs.

The proposal should show the candidate's knowledge of the state of the art in the field, be scientifically and methodologically sound, and illustrative of the candidate's scientific interests and of their relevance for the research themes of the selected program. The proposal does not preclude or foreclose the dissertation's topic, which can be selected only subsequently. For the **GHG** and **TTCL** doctoral programs, the research project is expected to include a review or a discussion of a text, such as, for example, a book or essay or a public document (minimum 500/3,000 characters-max 1,000 words/6,000 characters) that particularly inspired the candidate in her/his choice to pursue her/his studies as well as in the conception and writing of the project itself. For the **CTO** doctoral program, the candidates are required to attach to the proposal a short review of clinical trials (max 1,000 words/6,000 characters) that have most shaped the candidate's understanding of the kind of work he or she would like to do as a PhD student.

h) Copies of up to 3 scientific publications by the applicant, if available (in a single .pdf file).

i) A signed Statement of Veracity prepared using the template available on the website of the SSM at: <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>

During the application procedure, applicants may also ask **two** scholars to write **recommendation letters** in support of their applications. Scholars are required to send such letters according to the guidelines they will receive from the online submission system once the candidate submits the application. Lack of recommendation letters does not entail exclusion from the application procedure.

Selection Process

The selection process is based on the candidates' comparative evaluation, with the aim of assessing their level of competence, talent, motivation, and inclination for scientific research relevant to their chosen field of study.

Selections will be based on the evaluations of the following elements:

- Academic record and qualifications.
- The scientific report/research proposal and the personal statement.
- The oral interview (for candidates admitted to this stage of the procedure).

All candidates are required to demonstrate a good knowledge of at least one foreign language. For the **GEM, GHG, LOSPD, MERC, MOSES, MPHS, SPACE** and **CTO** doctoral programs, a good knowledge of English is required. In these cases, the interview may be conducted entirely in English.

The selection committees will evaluate each candidate by assigning a score of max 100 points divided as follows: 60 points max for the academic record, qualifications and scientific report or research proposal and 40 points max for the oral interview. Candidates who obtain a score of at least 40 points (out of 60) for their academic record and scientific report/research proposal will be shortlisted and interviewed orally. To qualify to the final ranking, applicants must obtain a score of at least 30 points (out of 40) on the oral interview.

For the **ACMA** and **TTCL** doctoral programs, for which the Italian language is required for research activities, the selection committees will verify the level of competence of non-Italian candidates and their ability to participate satisfactorily in the programs' educational and research activities.

The outcome of the evaluation, the list of candidates admitted to the oral interviews, and the interview schedule will be published by **16 September 2025** on the SSM website at the following URL: <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>.

Oral interviews will be conducted between **17 September 2025** and **30 September 2025**.

Publication of the outcome of the evaluation, of the names shortlisted candidates and of the schedule of the interviews on the SSM website will amount to official notification; candidates will not receive any further notification by email or other personal communication.

Shortlisted candidates may be interviewed by video conference (e.g., Skype, Zoom, Teams, etc.).

At the interview, candidates must present a valid identification device. Candidates are required to show a valid document of identification at the oral tests. Candidates who fail to participate in the oral test, for any reason whatsoever, will incur exclusion from the call.

The final score will result from the sum of the scores resulting from the assessment of the academic record and qualifications, of the research proposal, and of the oral interview.

The absence of the candidate on the day, place and time of the interview will be considered as withdrawal, whatever the cause, and the candidate will be automatically excluded from the procedure.

The selection Committees are expected to conclude the selection process by **30 September 2025**.

Selection Committees

The composition of the Selection Committees will be published on the website of the SSM at <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>.

In their first meeting, which may also be held remotely, each Committee will set evaluation criteria for the academic record and qualifications and for the oral interview, and devise procedures for assigning the scores.

Ranking Lists

Candidates will be ranked according to the total sum of the points they scored during the evaluation of the application documents and qualifications and the interview.

Selected candidates will be admitted to the selected Doctoral Program on the basis of their place in the ranking list, until all the available positions are filled.

If a candidate eligible for enrollment in a Doctoral Program does not accept her/his position, the position will be assigned to the next one in the ranking list.

Enrolment Procedure

Ranking lists will be finalized with a Decree by the Responsabile della Scuola Superiore and then published on the SSM website at the following URL: <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>. Ranking lists will be published after **6 October 2025**.

Publication of the list amounts to an official notification of the results to the candidates.

By **October 31, 2025**, accepted candidates are required to forward the following documents:

- The enrolment form, properly filled, dated and signed;
- A certification in lieu of declaration regarding the master's degree and the grade or mark earned during the final exam;
- A certification in lieu of declaration with which the admitted candidate declares not to have, or to have had in past, accepted any other PhD scholarships at another institution. The enrolling PhD students must also declare they are not attending any other academic course. Should this not be the case, candidates are required to sign a declaration confirming that they have requested to be suspended from the other academic course.
- The copy of an identification device, duly undersigned.

Candidates are also required to provide proof of payment of the above-mentioned regional tax (the relevant forms will be made available at <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>).

If their academic degree is not automatically considered equivalent to an Italian one, candidates who are non-Italian citizens and/or who graduated abroad will be required to forward a degree certificate, previously translated and legalized (with an attached "dichiarazione di valore" / *statement of value*) by the Italian Embassy/Consulate of the country in which the degree-granting institution is located.

Further information on this subject is available at the MUR (Italian Ministry for University and Research) website at <https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/>.

All the above-mentioned declarations will be included in a form made available on the SSM website at <https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>.

Candidates who do not fulfill the above-mentioned requirements will not be enrolled in the doctoral program.

Scholarship

Scholarships are awarded for 4 years, and renewed each year on condition that the Ph.D. student completes the program scheduled for the previous year, and is thus admitted to the following one by the Board of the relevant Doctoral Program.

Each doctoral scholarship amounts to € 19,000 yearly, provided in monthly instalments for the whole length of the program (that is, 4 years). For previously authorized research stays abroad, each monthly instalment is increased by a maximum of 50%; the extra funding is provided for no more than 12 instalments. It will not be provided for periods spent in the student's place of residence (city or province).

The student cannot accept any other funding, unless it is provided by other national or foreign institutions to finance additional research or study abroad periods. Scholarship's disbursement is conditional to the fulfillment of study and research requirements.

An additional sum, equal to 10% of the yearly amount of the PhD scholarship for the first year and 20% of the yearly amount of the PhD scholarship for each of the remaining three years, will be allotted to each Ph.D. student, to cover research-related expenditures.

Ph.D. students are required to enroll in the "Gestione separata" of the INPS (*Italian National Social Security Institute*). To register with INPS, please refer to the website <http://www.inps.it>

Fees and contributions

Students enrolled in the Doctoral Programs of the SSM are required to pay a fee levied by the Regione Campania under its 'right to education' requirements. The fee is levied each year for the entire duration of the doctoral program.

Rights and obligations of Ph.D. Students

Enrolling in the Doctoral Program amounts to a full-time employment and is incompatible with other work commitments. Students are expected to attend all the course and activities, to submit all the requested oral and written reports, and to fulfill the requirements set by the Board of the Doctoral program they are enrolled in. Admission to each subsequent year is conditional on the fulfillment of such requirements. Students are not permitted to enroll in, or attend, any other university program simultaneously with the SSM Doctoral Program.

Students enrolled in a Doctoral Program may request a leave of absence for reasons such as maternity or paternity, serious illness, or civil service (in the last case, up to 1 year).

They will have to make up for absences lasting more than 30 days; such absences entail the suspension of the scholarship for as long as they last. However, the course length stays the same; in such cases, the completion of the course is deferred.

Ph.D. students are allowed to carry out study and research activities abroad for no less than two academic semesters, and for up to 12 months overall. Such stays abroad are to be authorized by the coordinator of the Doctoral Program, following a request from the dissertation supervisor.

Dissertation and Degree of Research Doctor

The degree of "Research Doctor" (in its shortened Italian form "Dott. Ric.", corresponding to "Ph.D.") is

granted after successful completion of a final examination consisting in the defense of the PhD dissertation. The degree is awarded by the Responsabile della Scuola as per the latter's regulations.

No more than 30 days after the defense of the Ph.D. dissertation, the SSM will deposit it in electronic format in the MUR's (Italian Ministry for University and Research) database and in the National Libraries of Rome and Florence. The Program's Doctoral Board is entitled to establish an embargo on parts of the dissertation in order to protect data covered by industrial secrets, patents or specific intellectual property agreements.

Access, Treatment of Personal Data and Person in Charge of the Procedure

All candidates can request to access documents related to the Call, according to existing Regulations about the right to be informed about its administrative acts.

The SSM will however respect the privacy and protect the candidates' personal data in all cases.

The Head of the Office for Institutions and Human Resources of the Scuola Superiore Meridionale for the administrative part of the selection procedure and for all those acts that are outside the remit of the Selection Committees.

Advertising of the Call

This call is published in an electronic format on the websites of the SSM and of the University of Naples Federico II, as well as on those of "Euraxess" and of the MUR (Italian Ministry for University and Research) website. It is also advertised in other relevant venues such as newsletters and websites.

All the documents related to this call will be also published on the Official Register of the University of Naples (www.unina.it).

The electronic publication amounts to an official notice to all the interested candidates, who will not receive any personal communication.

Reference

For anything that is not specified in the present summary, please refer to the official Italian-language announcement published on the SSM website:

<https://www.ssmeridionale.it/bando-di-concorso-pubblico/?categBandi=Dottorati>.

Only the full Italian-language call for applications is binding in case of controversies.

ANNEX 8

ID NUMBER	MERC 08
PHD TITLE	MODELING AND ENGINEERING RISK AND COMPLEXITY
AVAILABLE POSITIONS	5 fellowships with open research topic
LINES OF INVESTIGATION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM	<p>The objective of this Ph.D. program is to empower students to develop and apply innovative methodological approaches for studying risk and complex systems, fostering a dynamic interplay between theory and applications. The doctoral program in MERC (Modeling, Engineering, Risk, and Complexity) begins with a rigorous first year designed to enhance students' interdisciplinary foundations. This foundational year features courses taught by internationally renowned researchers in fields such as dynamical systems and control, statistics and probability, stochastic differential equations, PDEs, numerical analysis of complex systems, modeling and analyzing complex networks, risk analysis, early warning systems, fundamentals of natural hazards, industrial risk, reinforcement learning, and data-driven control.</p> <p>During the first year, students select their research topics according to their interests among current, cutting-edge research projects. Examples of these research project proposals can be found on the MERC Ph.D. program website (see address below).</p>
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	Prof. Mario di Bernardo
SCIENTIFIC REPORT	Scientific report in English (max. 2,500 words/15,000 characters, short bibliography included) with a description of the topic of the master's thesis or a scientific topic addressed subsequently by the candidate in the course of her/his experience, divided into sections illustrating the state of the art, objectives, results obtained, methodology used, and possible future developments.
COURSE LENGTH (IN YEARS)	4
ANNUAL GROSS AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP	€19,000 + 50% increase of the monthly installment of the fellowship for stays abroad (for a maximum of 12 monthly installments)
RESEARCH BUDGET	10% of the fellowship in the first year, 20% of the fellowship in the three following years
PROGRAM'S E-MAIL ADDRESS	merc@ssmeridionale.it