

Call of Application

Ph.D. in Sustainable Development MQF/EQF Level 8

➤ Overall Programme Description

Sustainable Development is a fast-growing discipline within areas of study that complement such growth, thereby developing in tandem. It requires researchers who can collect and analyse information from multiple academic disciplines.

The Ph.D. in Sustainable Development is an interdisciplinary programme presenting "alternative" narratives and paradigms in contrast to the dominant meta narratives across the key areas. The students will be free to collaborate with scholars across the various disciplines on original interdisciplinary research. In so doing, students will help create new fields of inquiry that will have a wide impact in many aspects of daily life.

For a complete programme description, please refer to the detailed programme description accessible at <https://unimedea.eu/sustainable-development>

➤ Course Type

Full time/Part time.

➤ Duration

36-60 months.

Studies for the Ph.D. programme shall extend over three years of full-time study or six years of part-time study.

On the recommendation of the MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board, students may be granted an extension of studies period of up to two years in order to enable them to complete their studies, irrespective of whether they are registered on a full-time or a part-time basis.

➤ Mode of Delivery

Blended learning.

➤ Target Group

The target candidates to follow the Ph.D. programme are students who have already been awarded a Master's Degree, as described in detail in the section on Entry Requirements below.

➤ Language of Thesis

The thesis shall be written in the English language.

The MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board may authorise the writing of the thesis in the Italian language.

➤ Programme Milestones and Exit Award

The Ph.D. programme will be articulated as described below:

- 1- A Research Process module which reflects both the general research process and the specificities of research in sustainable development, dealing with related issues and challenges;
- 2- Development and drafting of the research project under the guidance of a Supervisor as appointed by the MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board;
- 3- Writing and defence of the dissertation through a VIVA, demonstrating the original contribution to the research field of reference;
- 4- Ph.D. candidates who fail to satisfy the conditions of the final VIVA and having exhausted any available reassessment opportunities or may, at the discretion of MED.E.A.'s Evaluation Board, be entitled to an *MPhil Exit Award* on condition that they have achieved and delivered more than 60% of the work expected at this level and manifested such in the form of a high-level dissertation.

Information for Applicants

➤ Application schedule and procedure

Applications and all required documents must be submitted via email at admissions@pegasointernational.eu

The application form is available for download at the following link:

<https://unimedea.eu/sustainable-development>

Applications may be submitted at any time of the year but eligible candidates shall be registered with effect from one of the following dates:

- 1st October
- 1st February
- 1st June

For registration to be effective from any of the above dates, candidates must submit their applications one month prior to the registration schedule of interest as indicated below:

- 31st August for registration on 1st October
- 30th December for registration on 1st February
- 30th April for registration on 1st June.

For each registration period, a total of 30 Ph.D. places are available.

Applications exceeding this number will be evaluated for the next available registration period.

The MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board reserves the right to assess for admission additional applications where the research proposals of academic and strategic relevance for MED.E.A. are concerned.

➤ Entry Requirements

Candidates shall possess a Master's degree (EQF/MQF level 7) in any area deemed relevant by MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board.

Candidates should have proficiency in English or Italian language.

Candidates applying for this Ph.D. programme are expected to hold basic IT skills and appropriate research skills and competences. Such skills are considered to be a pre-requisite for this Ph.D. programme. Candidates unable to meet the aforementioned IT requirements, are invited to follow separate dedicated courses to gain such skills.

➤ Language Requirements

Candidates are expected to hold at least a B2 English language level of the CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference and submit the relevant language certification.

Candidates unable to meet the aforementioned language requirements, are invited to follow separate courses to gain such skills.

➤ Required Documents

Candidates shall submit their application, attaching the following documents:

- Update CV;
- Research proposal of approximately 1000 words (*See below*);
- Degree qualification certificates and transcript(s) as provided by the issuing Institution;
- International English language certificate;
- Copy of a valid identity document (such as passport or ID card);
- Receipt of payment of € 500,00 as application fee.

Note that attachments must be in PDF using standard international fonts.

Do not use macros, special characters, password-protected attachments or electronic signatures.

MED.E.A. reserves the right to verify the authenticity of the certificates provided with the competent issuing authorities.

➤ Research Proposal

Ph.D. candidates are to submit an outline of the research proposal (of approximately 1000 words) that is pertinent to the Ph.D. programme disciplines and areas of study.

The research proposal, to be filled out along with the application, shall include the following items:

- Research Title;
- Main area of study being proposed;
- Personal Motivation for the Choice of Research Theme;
- Outline of Literature and Theoretical Frameworks or Propositions;
- Aim of the research;
- Research Methods for Data Collection and Analysis;
- Expected results and contribution of the research.

➤ Selection criteria and procedures

Eligible candidates shall be evaluated according to the following academic criteria:

- **Academic record:** Candidates are expected to have sufficient background in theory and research methodology relevant to their discipline and research project as stipulated in the entry requirements above. Candidates unable to meet the aforementioned research methodology requirements, should follow a separate course in Research Methods in Social Sciences with MED.E.A. to gain such skills.
- **Quality of the research proposal:** The originality and feasibility of a Ph.D. proposal play a crucial role for MED.E.A. Applicants for the Sustainable Development PhD programme are to provide a short research statement of 1000 words rather than a full research proposal.
- **Potential supervision:** The MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board carefully examines whether it can provide suitable supervision for the candidate, taking into account the profile of the applicant and distribution of supervision among its academic staff for the entire period concerned.
- **Language abilities:** All candidates should have a good knowledge of English. The expected minimum level of English language proficiency is B2 of the CEFR - Common European Framework of Reference.

Candidates whose application complies with the requirements stated in sections Entry Requirements, Language Requirements and Required Documents, will be admitted for an interview with the MED.E.A.'s Post-Graduate Admissions Board in order to assess the above selection criteria.

The interviews schedule will be notified to the eligible candidates via email at the email address provided by each candidate on the application form.

➤ Tuition fee

€ 9.000,00 (including application fee of € 500,00) to be paid in single instalments of € 3.000,00 per academic year according to the registration schedule or
€ 8.000,00 (including application fee of € 500,00) if payment is made in a single instalment upon enrolment.

➤ Payment modalities

The payment of the tuition fee must be made by bank transfer to the following bank account:

Pegaso International
Banca Sella
IBAN: IT73F03268034020H6994959800
BIC/SWIFT: SELBIT2BXXX

Please, indicate in the object of payment: **Student name and surname and course title.**

➤ Ph.D. termination and withdrawal

Students may terminate or withdraw from the Ph.D. programme strictly within, and no later than, 15 days from the date of receipt of their personal access credentials.

Should a termination request be received beyond the established deadline, students shall still exercise the right to terminate or withdraw from the course but the amount paid will be withheld and will not be refunded.

The above-mentioned request may be accepted only if the payments records are up to date of the year of attendance, effective from the commencement of the Ph.D. programme.

Failure to access the e-learning platform shall not exempt students from the payment of the tuition fee.

➤ Further Information

MED.E.A., operated by Pegaso International Ltd., is accredited and duly licensed by the MFHEA - Malta Further and Higher Education Authority, operating under License number 2016-001, as provided by the Laws of Malta, and is not answerable for the conduct, assessment or judgment of any third party or counterpart entity with regard to the conferment of its qualifications.

The recognition procedure and evaluation of the MED.E.A. Ph.D. qualification does not fall within the competence of the issuing institution.

The Rector
F.to Prof. Luigia Melillo