

Rector's Decree No. 245 of 26 June 2024

SUBJECT: Establishment of the 40th PhD cycle, appointment of course coordinators and call for applications.

THE RECTOR

CONSIDERED	the Statutes of Universitas Mercatorum;
CONSIDERED	Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 on " <i>Rules on the organization of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegating to the Government to promote the quality and efficiency of the university system</i> ";
CONSIDERED	Law n. 232 of 11/12/2016, cd. Law of Stability 2017, in particular paragraph 262 which reads verbatim: " <i>Students of PhD programmes who are not scholarship recipients are exempt from paying fees or contributions to the University</i> ";
CONSIDERED	D.M. 14 December 2021, n. 226 " <i>Regulations on the accreditation of doctoral establishments and courses and criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited bodies</i> ";
CONSIDERED	the current Regulations of the Universitas Mercatorum Doctorates;
CONSIDERED	Decree M.U.R. No. 247 of 23/02/2022 by which the annual amount of the scholarship was restated, with effect from 1 July 2022, to € 16,243.00 gross of the social security costs to be borne by the applicant in addition to the costs borne by the Institution;
CONSIDERED	the Guidelines for the accreditation of PhD students issued with D.M. n. 301 of 22/03/2022 - pursuant to art. 4, paragraph 3, of D.M. 226/2021 (hereinafter "LG - DM226");
CONSIDERED	Note No. 8614 of 02 May 2024 of the MUR concerning " <i>Computerized procedure for the accreditation of doctoral courses - XL cycle. Opening note</i> ";
CONSIDERED	Ministerial Decree No. 629/2024 by which they were assigned, for the year 2024/2025, to apply to the PNRR, Mission 4, component 1 "Strengthening the offer of education services: from kindergartens to the University" - Investment 3.4 "Teaching and advanced university skills" and Investment 4.1 "Extension of the number of innovative PhDs and doctorates for public administration and cultural heritage of n. 779 doctoral scholarships of three years for the attendance of doctoral courses accredited ex D.M. n. 45/2013 and ex D.M. n. 226/2021 and by accredit ex D.M. n. 226/2021 for doctorates in programs dedicated to digital and environmental transitions, for research doctorates PNRR, for doctorates for Public Administration and for doctorates for cultural heritage;
CONSIDERED	Table A of D.M. 629/2024 which assigns, among other things, to Universitas Mercatorum, a financial endowment of € 70,000.00 for the attribution of a total of n. 1 scholarship to be valid on the PNRR, M4C1 - Inv. 4.1 "Public administration";
CONSIDERED	the D.M. 630 of 24/04/2024 with which they have been attributed, for the year 2024/2025, to the PNRR, Mission 4 "Education and research", Component 2 "From Research to Enterprise" - Investment 3.3 "Introduction of innovative doctorates that respond to the needs of innovation of enterprises and promote the recruitment of researchers from enterprises", of n. 2,868 three-year doctoral scholarships for the attendance of paths for innovative doctorates (below, also courses) accredited ex DM 45/2013 XXXVII cycle - Academic Year 2021/2022 and to be accredited ex DM 226/2021 XXXIX cycle - Academic Year 2023/2024;
CONSIDERED	Table A of D.M. 630/2024 above, which allocates, inter alia, to Universitas Mercatorum, an actual PNRR budget of € 840,000.00 equal to n. 14 grants and



	provides for co-financing by companies for the amount exceeding the value of € 60,000,00 up to the total cost of the exchange;
CONSIDERED	the resolutions of the Colleges of Teachers approving proposals for confirmation of accreditation for the 40-year cycle of their PhD Courses, with administrative headquarters at Universitas Mercatorum, prepared by the relevant Coordinators in accordance with the requirements of the MUR and indicated in the CINECA tab;
CONSIDERED	the Convention for the activation and operation of the PhD course in <i>Big Data and Artificial Intelligence</i> with the San Raffaele Telematic University, from the 39th cycle;
CONSIDERED	the Convention for the activation and operation of the PhD course in <i>Business Finance Management and Crisis Prevention</i> with the Pegasus Telematic University, as of the 38th cycle;
CONSIDERED	the expressions of interest and the agreements concluded for the activation and the financing, with the enterprises interested in co-financing scholarships of doctorate as foreseen by the aforementioned D.M. 630/2024;
CONSIDERED	the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of 2 and 7 May 2024 respectively on the establishment of the 40-person PhD courses with administrative headquarters at Universitas Mercatorum;
RESERVED	the results of the checks by the MUR and ANVUR pursuant to art. 11 of DM 629/2024, paragraphs 22 and 23, and pursuant to art. 8 of DM 630/2024, paragraphs 22 and 23;
RESERVED	any changes and additions;

DECREE

ART. 1

The institution, for the academic year 2024/2025, the 40th cycle of the PhD Course with administrative headquarters at the Telematic University *Universitas Mercatorum*, subject to accreditation or verification of the maintenance of accreditation requirements by the Ministry of Universities and Research.

ART. 2

For each PhD Course activated for the 40th cycle, the professor indicated in the attached Description Sheet of the Course is appointed as Coordinator of the Course (Annexes B.1, B.2, B.3), an integral part of this call. The appointed Coordinator shall remain in office for the period corresponding to the legal duration of the Doctoral Course activated for the 40th cycle, that is for the academic period 2024/2025 - 2026/2027.

ART. 3

The competition, by titles and exams, for admission to the PhD Courses - 40 years - of three year duration, the details are given in the attached notice that is an integral part of this decree.

The application for admission to the selection may be submitted from 12:00 (Italian time) on 27 June 2024 and no later than 12:00 (Italian time) on 27 July 2024.

Rome, 26 June 2024

THE RECTOR
Signed Prof. Giovanni Cannata



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS, BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND EXAMS, FOR ADMISSION TO THE PHD COURSES - 40TH CYCLE

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AT THE TELEMATIC UNIVERSITY "UNIVERSITAS MERCATORUM"

ART. 1

Establishment and call for competition

1. The 40th cycle of PhD Courses with administrative headquarters at the Telematic University *Universitas Mercatorum* is hereby instituted, of three years, subject to accreditation and verification of the maintenance of accreditation requirements by the Ministry of Universities and Research.
2. Pending the above-mentioned accreditation/renewal procedure for the 40th cycle, a call for applications, based on qualifications and exams, is hereby issued for admission to the following three-year PhD courses with administrative headquarters at the Telematic University *Universitas Mercatorum*:
 1. PhD Course in associated form in "*Big data and artificial intelligence*";
 2. PhD Course in associated form in "*Financial Business Management and Crisis Prevention*";
 3. PhD Course in non-associated form in "*Sustainability and ESG agenda*".
3. The PhD Courses will start from 1 December 2024 and will end on 30 November of the third year of the course, unless indicated by the MUR and ANVUR.
4. For each PhD Course referred to in paragraph 2 above, a specific Descriptive Sheet (Annexes B.1, B.2, B.3) is attached to the present call, which is an integral part of it and which contains:
 - Coordinator and administrative headquarters of the PhD Course;
 - the *curricula*, if any;
 - the total number of positions offered in the call for applications and their type;
 - the number of scholarships and their type (including the indication of scholarships with a restricted topic);
 - the admission requirements;
 - the methods of selection;
 - the University web page dedicated to the Doctorate referred to in paragraph 2 above, where any useful information can be found with reference to the training course, the competition calendar and any notification useful for candidates.
5. The number of places and scholarships indicated in the descriptive sheets attached to this call may be increased following any additional financial resources of the University, regional and/or national and/or European and/or international and/or PNRR and/or other external subjects; of each grant will be given appropriate publicity on the University's website at the following link: <https://www.unimercuratorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section.
6. Any additional positions or scholarships, subject to the acquisition of the necessary funding by external subjects and the signing of the relevant agreement, will be made known by a subsequent rectoral decree published on the University institutional website.



7. Each place in the competition ex D.M. 629/2024 and ex D.M. 630/2024 will be awarded "*sub condicione*", as subject to verification of eligibility for PNRR support, carried out by the Ministry on the basis of the eligibility requirements identified respectively by articles. 7, 8, 9, 10 of D.M. 629 and art. 7 of D.M. 630/2024. In the event that a place does not pass the test with a positive result, we will promptly notify all interested parties.
8. The Administration reserves the right to revoke this notice of competition, to suspend or postpone the competitive tests or to suspend or not proceed with the admission of the winners or to suspend or not to award all the scholarships provided for in the competition notice itself, due to needs currently not assessable or foreseeable. The Administration reserves the right not to award scholarships or to suspend the disbursement following the occurrence of unforeseen or foreseeable causes that will lead to the disappearance of both public and private external financing.
9. This call, drawn up in Italian and translated into English, is published electronically on the institutional website of the Telematic University *Universitas Mercatorum* following link: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section; this notice is an official notification to interested parties for all the information contained in it, **therefore candidates will not receive further communications**.
The notice of this call will also be published on the European website *Euraxesse* and on the Ministry of Universities and Research website.
Any corrections will be made known, exclusively, with publication on the aforementioned institutional website of the University.

ART. 2

Admission requirements

1. Applicants for admission to the PhD courses indicated in Art. 1, paragraph 2, of this call are entitled to apply, regardless of age or nationality, if they possess one of the following qualifications:
 - a Postgraduate or Master's Degree achieved pursuant to Italian Ministerial Decree number 270/2004 (replacing 509/1999);
 - a University Degree with a minimum duration of four years, achieved in compliance with the previous regulations;
 - an academic qualification equivalent to an Italian degree with at least four years duration achieved at international universities.
2. Those who will obtain the qualification required for admission **by the deadline of 31 October 2024** may also submit the application. In this case, the admission to the selection will be arranged "with reservation" and the candidate will be required to submit to the PhD Office by e-mail to the address dottorati@unimercatorum.it, under penalty of forfeiture, a replacement declaration of certification by the same undersigned, pursuant to art. 46 of the DPR 28.12.2000, n. 445 within 5 days of obtaining the title.
For these candidates for the purpose of participation in the competition will be evaluated the weighted average of the marks of the exams taken and the writing of the thesis being filed.
3. **Any additional requirements required for admission to the selection, subject to exclusion, are indicated in the Descriptive Sheets attached to this notice. The Commission is responsible for verifying that these requirements exist.**
4. All candidates are admitted to the selection procedure subject to verification of the self-



certified declarations in compliance with Italian Presidential Decree number 445/2000 and its subsequent amendments. The University is entitled, at any time during the proceedings, even after the start of the Doctoral Courses, to perform inspections on the authenticity of the declarations submitted and to request the presentation of the original documents. The Administration is entitled to order, at any time, with justified provisions, the exclusion of candidates from the competitive procedure or the forfeiture of admission to the Doctoral Course, for breach of the requirements prescribed by this call, without prejudice to the criminal liability resulting from false declarations. This measure is notified to the interested party with a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.

ART. 3

Academic qualification obtained abroad

1. Applicants holding a foreign academic qualification [equivalent to a *laurea specialistica / magistrale / vecchio ordinamento (degree obtained under the previous degree regulations)*] may submit an application for admission, attaching the qualifications obtained accompanied by an Italian or English translation by the competent diplomatic or consular representations or by an official translator. Such applicants are admitted to take part in the competition subject "to reservation" and will be excluded from the competition or, if they are successful, from the PhD programme in which they are enrolled, if it is found, following verification, that their qualifications do not meet the requirements hereunder and therefore do not permit enrolment in the PhD programme.
2. For applicants holding a foreign qualification that has not already been declared equivalent, it will be necessary to send:
 - Bachelor's degree and Master's Degree which gives access to the PhD in the country of origin, issued by an officially recognized academic institution, with its final vote;
 - Certificate of the proficiency exams (Transcripts) taken during the first and second level university course with relative vote;
 - Where applicable, any other document useful for the purpose of the declaration of suitability (e.g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value in Loco, issued respectively by the same University and/or the Italian Consular Representations abroad, attestation of comparability and verification issued by ENIC_NARIC Centres).

These documents must be written in an Italian or English language, otherwise they will be excluded from the competition. In cases where the official documentation issued by the university where the qualification was obtained is not in English, the candidate must also attach a certified translation in Italian or English.

3. The academic qualification obtained abroad must be comparable, in period of study, level and disciplinary field, to an Italian second-level academic qualification.
4. The suitability of the foreign qualification is determined by the PhD programme admission committee, in accordance with the applicable regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with the applicable international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of university studies.
5. Candidates holding the qualification obtained in foreign universities, if winners, will have to submit within the deadline for registration the degrees translated, legalized in Italian and accompanied by "*Dichiarazione di valore in loco*" (Declaration of Value) issued by the competent



Italian Representations of the country in which the qualification was obtained, alternatively a so-called "Attestato di comparabilità" (Statement of Comparability of the foreign academic qualification) issued by the ENIC-NARIC centre in Italy (CIMEA), containing all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification.

ART. 4

Application for Admission

1. The application to participate in the selection, complete with the required documentation, under penalty of exclusion, has to be compiled and submitted exclusively by electronic transmission, using the dedicated on-line procedure, which is available at: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section **from 12:00 (Italian time) 27 June 2024 and no later than 12:00 (Italian time) 27 July 2024**.
At the end of the procedure, the confirmation of the application will be sent to the e-mail address indicated by the candidate; it is the responsibility of the candidate to verify the correct receipt of the confirmation email. After that, the system will close automatically and will not allow the application.
The application submitted in different ways will not be taken into account for the purposes of participation in the competition. In any case, additions to the documentation will not be allowed after the above indicated deadline of the call.
Before the final closing of the application, applicants must print the application, sign it and upload the PDF in the procedure, attaching a copy, in color, of a valid ID, the research project and other useful titles, pursuant to art. 5; no signature will be required for access via SPID. With the final closure of the online procedure, the application is automatically forwarded to the University, therefore, no delivery or dispatch of the paper material to the Offices must be made.
2. It will be the responsibility of the candidate to check the correct loading of the requested, taking into account that will be evaluated, for the purpose of participation in the competition, only and exclusively the titles correctly attached. The Administration assumes no responsibility in case it is impossible to read the documentation presented in electronic format due to corrupted files or folders.
3. Applicants are invited to complete their application to participate in the competition well in advance of the end of this call. It is the responsibility of the candidates to verify the correct conclusion of the procedure. Complaints will not be accepted for any malfunction of the computer system due to technical problems and/ or overloads of the communication line and/ or application systems.
4. During the online application process, candidates must choose the/the PhD Course/s and the/the subject/s they wish to apply for. **Each candidate can compete for a maximum number of n. 3 themes.** If there is an interest in competing for more than one research topic (maximum 3) it is mandatory to indicate the order of preference. The candidate will have to upload a research project for each selected topic, for a maximum of n. 3 research projects.
Candidates wishing to compete for more than one Doctoral Course must complete an application for each Course.
5. For all legal purposes, the application is to be considered as a self-certification, pursuant to articles 46 and 47 of Italian Presidential Decree 445/200, as amended, of the data contained therein and the documents attached to the same.



6. Candidates with disabilities and / or diagnosed with specific learning disabilities (SLD) who intend request the assistance required by current legislation, must fill in the "Invalidity Declaration" section within the online pre-registration application. Disability certifications must be:

- issued by INPS, pursuant to Law 118/1971 (civil invalidity) and / or
- issued by the competent public health structure of the territory according to Law 104/92 and subsequent additions (handicap certificate).

SLD certifications must:

- be issued by structures of the SSN or by accredited authority not earlier than 3 years from the date of taking the admission interview, except in the case of certifications drawn up after the age of majority (Article 3 of Law 170/2010 and subsequent State Agreement - Regions of 24/07/2012);
- meet the criteria of the 2011 Consensus Conference;
- be complete with diagnosis and nosographic reference codes, according to Law 170/2010.

Candidates with disabilities and / or with SLD resident in foreign countries, who intend to take advantage of the measures referred to in the previous paragraph, must submit a certificate certifying the status of disability or SLD issued in the country of residence, accompanied by a certified translation into the language Italian or English. The Commissions in charge of examining the certifications referred to in the preceding paragraphs ascertain that the foreign documentation certifies a specific disability or learning disorder recognized by Italian law.

ART. 5

Documents to be attached to the application

1. For the purposes of the assessment of qualifications, candidates must attach the following documents in PDF format to the application form:
 - Copy of a valid identity document;
 - *Curriculum vitae et studiorum*, dated and signed and containing the consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with the relevant legislation;
 - Dissertation and, for only undergraduate candidates, writing the thesis in the course of filing countersigned by the speaker;
 - Title of study showing the study plan, the exams passed with relative marks and the passing of the final exam with relative vote. The document must be produced in certified copy or in simple copy, the conformity of which to the original is declared by the candidate in the telematic application.
 - Research project related to the theme of the PhD, drawn up by the candidate according to the standard model attached to this call (Annex A). This research project is solely aimed at selection and does not necessarily have to be the research project that will be entrusted;
 - Any publications accompanied by their abstracts;
 - Any documents attesting to the knowledge of the foreign language indicated in the descriptive sheet of the doctorate chosen by the candidate, as well as any additional linguistic knowledge or computer skills. For foreign students only, Italian language certification is required at least level B1;
 - Any documents related to further training;
 - Possible letter of references of university lecturer with criteria of commission ASN or qualified international researcher;
 - Free paper list of titles and publications annexed to the application.



2. Documents must be produced in Italian or English. Any document in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by a legalized translation into Italian or English, otherwise the same cannot be evaluated.
3. Applicants undertake full and exclusive responsibility for the truthfulness of the information entered in the application form and the content of the annexes. The University reserves the right to carry out the checks and verifications envisaged by the applicable regulations and reserves the right to adopt at any time, subject to adequate justification, the measures for excluding any applicants who have not complied with the provisions of this Call or who do not meet the requirements laid down herein.

ART. 6

Admission Tests and Evaluation of Qualifications

1. The admission tests to the PhD courses are designed to determine the candidate's ability to undertake scientific research and the candidate is also required to demonstrate a good knowledge of the language indicated in the schedule of each PhD course attached to this call for applications. In the course of the interview, non-Italian candidates will also be required to have knowledge of the Italian language if provided for in the individual PhD course sheet attached to this Call.
2. The selection procedure involves **the assessment of qualifications**, including the mandatory submission of a **research project**, as well as an **interview**.
3. The above-mentioned **Research Project**, of no more than 800 words, drawn up in accordance with the Standard Model (Annex A), must indicate:
 - a) Title of the research project;
 - b) Project theme;
 - c) Project objectives, related to the themes of the PhD Course and/or to the binding research topics indicated in the sheets of each PhD Course attached
 - d) State of the art;
 - e) Methodology and relative timing on the 3 years of the doctorate;
 - f) Expected results and possible risk strategies;
 - g) Estimation of foreign period;
 - h) Degree of organizational and financial feasibility;
 - i) Involvement of Italian and/or international companies and/or research structures and/or researchers, with relative reasons;
 - j) Essential bibliography up to a maximum of 12 titles (outside the 800 words).
4. If the candidate is admitted to the PhD course, the research project submitted by the candidate does not normally represent a binding work programme; On the other hand, if a candidate is admitted to the PhD course with the award of a restricted scholarship, funded by an external public or private Entity, following the approval of a specific research project, the work programme is considered binding for the candidate, subject to any changes, during the course of the research, agreed in advance with the tutor and the Coordinator of the PhD Course and authorised by the funding Entity.
5. The **competition calendar will be published on the website of the University** indicated in the Description Sheets, by the President of the Examination Commission.
The publication of this notice, of the data contained in the descriptive sheets and of the



competition calendar has the value of full notification. Therefore, competitors who have not been notified of their exclusion from the competition will have to take, without any further notice, the examination test according to the calendar indicated.

Any changes to the date and time of the selection tests will be published on the same website of the University indicated in the Description Sheets

6. The Examination Committee, referred to in the following Art. 7, for the evaluation of candidates has **100 points** divided as follows:

QUALIFICATIONS	Max 30 points
RESEARCH PROJECT	Max 20 points
INTERVIEW	Max 50 points

The minimum score to enter the interview is at least **15 points** out of 50.

7. For the purpose of evaluating the qualifications, without prejudice to the autonomy of the Examination Board, the following documents will be taken into account:
- a) **Thesis and degree title (*laurea*)** showing the study plan, the exams passed with relative marks and the passing of the final exam with relative vote **Max 10 points**
(or, for only undergraduate candidates, preparation of the thesis in the course of filing countersigned by the rapporteur, valid certificate of enrolment showing the study plan, the exams passed with relative marks)
 - b) **Graduation grade** **Max 6 points**
(or, failing this, for only candidates graduating the weighted average grade of the exams taken)
 - c) **Publications in peer-reviewed journals or series** **Max 4 points**
(already published or with publisher's certificate, of acceptance and forthcoming publication)
Patents
(evaluable if with specific relevance to the topics covered by the PhD)
 - d) **Postgraduate degrees**, such as: *diploma di specializzazione* (postgraduate diploma), postgraduate programmes, master's degree requiring a period of study of at least one year **Max 4 points**
(awarded by qualified universities or research institutions if they are consistent with the topics covered by the PhD)
 - e) **Any professional and research experience** **Max 3 points**
(collaboration grants for research activities; scholarships, evaluable if awarded following selective procedures carried out exclusively by Italian or foreign universities or by research institutes of primary and proven relevance; periods of study and research abroad -including the Erasmus period- evaluable if carried out at universities or qualified research institutes for a continuous period of not less than 3 months; prizes awarded by National and International Scientific Societies)



f) **Language certification** **Max 2 points**
(issued according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Foreign Languages; for foreign students, the certification of the Italian language at least level B1)

g) **Other documents deemed useful** **Max 1 point**
(participation in research activities, reference letter of university lecturer with criteria ASN commission or by qualified international researcher, appointment as a subject scholar)

For those who graduate by **31 October 2024**, the weighted average grade of the examinations, which replaces the graduation grade in b), must be determined by:

1. multiplying each exam grade by the respective number of credits (30 "cum laude" counts as 30);
2. adding up all the results obtained;
3. dividing the result by the sum of the useful credits (those of the graded examinations);
4. multiplying the average obtained by 110 and dividing the result by 30 (thus obtaining the grade in one hundred and tenths).

In accordance with the principle of loyal cooperation, the applicant must provide all the information necessary to enable the Commission to carry out the evaluation of the qualifications in a comprehensive and objective manner. It is understood that where the information provided by the candidate is deficient, inaccurate or incomplete, the Commission will not be able to give a score.

8. For the **Research** Project, in a short form (no more than 800 words) prepared according to the indications in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article and the format, the evaluation criteria are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a) <i>Relevance to the themes of the PhD Course</i> | Max 10 points |
| b) <i>Scientific value, originality, innovation and articulation of the proposal</i> | Max 5 points |
| c) <i>Consistency with one of the binding research topics indicated in the card of each PhD Course</i> | Max 5 points |

10. For the **assessment of the oral test** (interview), without prejudice to the autonomy of the Admission Commission, the evaluation criteria are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a) <i>Ability to answer in-depth questions about the research project presented</i> | Max 30 points |
| b) <i>Adequate knowledge of the topics of the PhD Course</i> | Max 10 points |
| c) <i>Clarity of presentation, skills of synthesis and critical approach</i> | Max 5 points |
| d) <i>Ability to conduct part of the test in the foreign language indicated in the PhD Sheet</i> | Max 5 points |

10. During the interview will be verified the knowledge of the foreign language indicated in the descriptive sheets (Annexes B.1, B.2 and B.3) and, for foreign students, also the knowledge of the Italian language.



11. To take the tests, candidates must present a valid identification document, the color copy of which has been attached to the application
12. The interview is public, and will take place on the day and at the appointed time and in the presence of one or more candidates who wish to attend voluntarily. It is forbidden to make the audio/video recording of the interview, as well as to disseminate the audio/video recording made.
13. The absence of the candidate on the day and time of the oral test will be considered as a waiver of the competition, whatever the cause.
14. The interview is considered passed if the candidate has a minimum overall score of **35 points** out of 50.

ART. 7

Examination Boards and related formalities

1. For admission to each PhD Course, the Examiner Commission will be appointed by Rector's Decree, composed according to the art. 14 of the University Regulations containing the rules on PhD cited in the preambles.
2. The composition of the individual Commissions will be published on the University website at the following link: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section.
3. The individual admissions Committees are in charge of, in addition to other duties, the following:
 - posting of the selection calendar on the University's website indicated in the descriptive sheets attached to this call;
 - to define the procedures for carrying out the test (by videoconferencing or in presence);
 - the publication of the results of the evaluation of qualifications and the research project;
 - the timely publication of each evaluation (qualification evaluation and interview) on the University's website indicated in the Description Sheets according to the timing of the competition calendar.
4. The results of the evaluation of qualifications will be made available on the University's website at: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section. **Candidates will not receive any notice or notice of the examination. It is the responsibility of each candidate to monitor the site periodically by consulting the page of notices related to this selection.**
5. For all the themes of the call, the Examination Committee will draw up separate rankings for each topic (referred to in Annexes B.1, B.2, B.3), taking into account the scores obtained by the candidates in the evaluation of the qualifications and the project and in the oral test (interview) in accordance with Article 6 above, and shall indicate the names of the successful candidates whose profile has a prevalence index/preference in terms of affinity with the research theme.
6. The identification of the PhD students receiving the PNRR scholarships takes place in relation



to the ability of the doctoral research project to contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR).

It will not be possible to award PNRR doctoral scholarships to doctoral candidates who have renounced the aforementioned scholarships to be valid on the 38 cycle and on the 39 cycle in application of D.M. n. 629/2024 and 630/2024, on the basis of the application for participation in the selection.

According to the MUR, in order to avoid State aid hypotheses, the employees of the co-financing companies of the D.M. 630/2024 scholarship cannot receive the doctoral grant.

7. The preference expressed on the subject of the exchange will not be binding on the committee.
8. Applicants who have received a doctoral grant (even partial) in Italy are not eligible for a grant.
9. The same candidate may be eligible for several topics. If the candidate is a winner for a theme and accepts the post, it will not be taken into account in the possible sliding in the ranking related to a different theme as already entered in the other ranking.
10. In the event that applications for one or more of the types of posts available in a doctoral course are not received, in the event of resignation or in the absence of suitable candidates in the same ranking, and in any case in all cases, the Commission may reserve the right to allocate the post, after verification of the requirements, to the first of the eligible persons.
11. The Commission's work will begin with the holding of the preliminary meeting, in order to establish the criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the competition tests, in order to ensure an appropriate and transparent comparative assessment of candidates, and shall be completed no later than 05 September 2024.

ART. 8

Approval of the general ranking of merit

1. The Rector's Decree will approve for each selection the general ranking of merit, formulated according to the descending order of the total score reported by each candidate and with the indication of the type of place assigned. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates, the youngest candidate shall prevail.
2. The above-mentioned general ranking lists of merit relating to individual competitions for admission to PhD courses - 40 consecutive cycle - are approved by Rector's Decree **within 15 days of the closure of the work of the Admission Commissions**, and will be published on the University's website: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section. Therefore, no personal communication will be sent to the candidates.

Art. 9

Enrolment in the PhD Course

1. For the purposes of admission to the PhD Course, **the winning candidates**, with or without scholarship, must submit the application for registration and make the relevant declarations within the mandatory period indicated at the time of publication of the ranking list and exclusively in accordance with the operating procedures that will be published **on the University website**, at the following link: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca> in the dedicated section.



2. Candidates are admitted to the courses according to the order of each ranking, in the manner defined in art. 7 and 8, up to the competition of the number of available places.
3. In the event of a useful placement in several rankings, the candidate will have to exercise only one option.
4. **Those who will not make the registration, bearing the chosen option, within the deadline will be considered forfeited to all intents and purposes and the vacancies will be assigned to those who hold a useful position in the ranking of merit.**
5. Following any waivers submitted by the beginning of the course, as many candidates will take over in the order of the ranking. After 31 January 2025, this admission is possible after a favourable opinion of the College of Teachers, pursuant to art. 14 of the Regulations of the Doctorates of Research of Universitas Mercatorum.
6. **The winners who have graduated by 31 October 2024 must self-certify the achievement of the title, by the scheduled date of registration, otherwise forfeiture of the same, at the following e-mail address: dottorati@unimercatorum.it.**
7. The winner who does not accept the type of scholarship awarded will not be able to benefit from other types of scholarships on the same PhD Course and lapses from admission to the Course.
8. Foreign citizens, who are not already legally resident in Italy, must present their residence permit within the deadline for registration.
9. **Candidates who are eligible but not winners are invited to consult the web page** of the Doctoral Course indicated in the descriptive sheet in order to acquire useful information related to possible shifts in the general ranking of merit.

ART.10

Taxes and contributions

1. **No later than the deadline for registration**, the winners, Italian and foreign, with or without scholarship, are required to pay the annual service fee of € 142.00 and the annual regional fee for the right to study at university, for the a.a. 2024/2025, of € 140,00.
2. In any case, all PhD students are required to pay annual fees relating to the regional fee for the right to study and the service fee at the time of matriculation or renewal of enrollment in the PhD program.
3. Students with a disability of not less than 66% are exempt from paying the regional tax, but are required to pay the service fee of € 142.00.

ART.11

Scholarships

1. The scholarships, which can also be financed with the help of several sources of funding, have a total duration of at least three years. They are allocated, for the entire duration of the course, to PhD course participants according to the order defined in the general ranking list of merit

and are renewed, annually, after positive verification of the completion of the programme of activities planned for each year. The procedures for renewal are established by the Faculty Board and codified in the course regulations. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the student renounces it, the unused amount of the scholarship is reinvested by the University for the funding of PhDs.

2. The amount of the scholarship for the academic year 2024/2025 is € 16,243.00, gross of social security charges payable by the beneficiary, and is paid in monthly instalments.
3. Scholarships granted for research activities abroad and authorised by the Teaching Board will be 50% higher, for a total period of 6 months.
4. For research activities in Italy and abroad, in addition to the scholarship, the beneficiary is also granted a budget equal to 10% of the scholarship for each year of the programme. This budget is also granted to PhD students without a scholarship and will be allocated to the latter to support research and training activities.
5. If you have already received a grant for a PhD programme, you may not apply for a second grant.
6. Scholarships may not be combined with other scholarships for any reason whatsoever, except for those awarded by national or foreign institutions to supplement, stays abroad, training or research activities of scholarship holders abroad. Scholarships for PhD attendance are compatible with Erasmus scholarships.
7. For places covered by PNRR scholarships with a specific subject, it is not possible to disregard the acceptance of the scholarship, therefore, in case of withdrawal of the scholarship, the winner automatically lapses from admission to the PhD course.
8. The PhD scholarship is subject to the payment of separately managed INPS social security contributions, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 26, of Italian Law number 335, to the extent of two-thirds paid by the administration and one-third by the holder of the scholarship. PhD students benefit from the protections and related rights.
9. The PhD student is authorized by the Coordinator, subject to the approval of the supervisor/s for the following expenses:
 - a) postings of PhD students in Italy and abroad, registrations to conferences, seminars, etc;
 - b) purchase of research items relevant to the field of study (e.g. chemical reagents, electrical and electronic equipment, stationery, etc.);
 - c) goods/equipment (e.g. hardware, software, scientific equipment). All goods must be inventoried and as such, at the end of the PhD cycle, will remain the property of the University. Of course, no goods/equipment may be purchased for personal use (e.g.: mobile phones, tablets, etc.);
 - d) publication costs;
 - e) research-specific training (e.g. language programmes, higher education programmes, etc.);
 - f) events in the organisation of which PhD students are directly involved (e.g. PhDay);
 - g) if unused funds are available, the Teaching Committee may resolve to use them to pay for the travel expenses of foreign committee members for the discussion of the dissertation, which involves the award of an additional foreign qualification to the PhD student (e.g. doctor europaeus).

ART.12 Obligations and rights of PhD students

1. The doctoral course requires an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the provisions of article 12, paragraph 4 and article 10, paragraph 2, letter b) of D.M. 226/2021. The PhD student is required to ensure attendance to the PhD course on the basis of the guidelines established by the Board of Lecturers.
2. Doctoral candidates with or without a scholarship shall:
 - exclusively commit themselves to completing the training programme decided by the Teaching Committee;
 - continuously attend the programme activities as planned by the Teaching Committee;
 - participate in the common programmes within the PhD programme;
 - submit oral or written reports on their activities and research work;
 - draw up the personal activity reports referred to in paragraph 3 below;
 - comply with all other decisions by the Teaching Committee or provided for in the specifications for the implementation of specific funding to cover the doctoral scholarship;
 - prepare a doctoral thesis, at the end of the programme, with original contributions.
3. The activities of PhD students shall be recorded in special personal registers and include: coursework, research activities, personal study, bibliographic research and research in archives, in-progress verifications, participation in seminars, programmes and conferences, activities at facilities outside the University (other universities, research bodies, businesses), in Italy and abroad, any supplementary teaching and tutoring activities and any other activities decided by the Teaching Committee in relation to the PhD programme. **It is absolutely forbidden to carry out doctoral research activities at private bodies or facilities, unless authorised by the Teaching Committee. Violation of this rule entails disqualification from the PhD programme.**
4. **The PhD students who have been awarded scholarships on a subject subject subject subject in addition to the provisions of this notice of competition and the University Regulations of the PhD are required to comply with the specific provisions provided by the funding bodies, including the mandatory period to be carried out at institutions/companies in Italy and abroad.**
5. The legitimacy of the different activities carried out by the PhD students is certified by the Coordinators based on the indications provided by the supervisor and by the co-supervisor/s.
6. At the end of each year of the Course, the Faculty Board, based on a detailed report on the activities and research carried out by each PhD student, decides on the admission to the following year or proposes to the Rector the exclusion from the course.
7. For proven reasons, the PhD student may ask the faculty board for an extension of the time allowed for the presentation of the PhD thesis, for a maximum duration of twelve months, without further financial charges.
8. The Faculty Board may decide to extend the duration of the PhD course for a period not exceeding twelve months, for justified scientific needs linked, among other things, to needs in



the context of co-safeguards lasting more than three years. or the need for a proven increase in scientific productivity, (for example: for the submission or outcome of a patent application as well as in the event of an extension of the duration of a research project of significant national or international interest); in cases of extension, the corresponding duration of the scholarship must be ensured with funds from the University budget, therefore the motivated proposal for extension of the faculty board will be submitted for the approval of the Board of Directors for the related financial verification. The beneficiary PhD students are obliged to comply with everything resolved by the faculty with reference to the extended training course, including carrying out the course activities.

9. For proven reasons provided for by current legislation such as maternity, serious illness and civil service, PhD students may request the suspension of the course for a maximum duration of six months. No scholarship or other equivalent funding is envisaged for the duration of the suspension.

The Faculty Board, following communication from the course coordinator, takes note of the suspensions. Suspension of more than thirty days for one of the above-mentioned reasons involves the obligation to fully recuperate the periods of interruption of the activity and, therefore, in such cases, the duration of the educational programme is extended for a period corresponding to the period of the interruption.

10. The extension and suspension periods referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of this article may not exceed a total of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.
11. Without prejudice to the interventions for the right to study as per Italian Legislative Decree dated March 29 2012, number 68.
12. Without prejudice to the application of the rules for the protection of parenthood referred to in the decree of the Italian Minister of Labour and Social Security dated July 12, 2007, published in the Italian Official Gazette of October 23 2007, number 247, PhD students on leave retain the right to the scholarship that will be paid at the end of the suspension period, namely the resumption of the course attendance up to the total duration of the scholarship itself.
13. It is the responsibility of the PhD Course Coordinator to promptly notify the competent office of the interruption of the PhD student's activity for the consequent administrative measures.
14. The PhD student may be authorized by the faculty board to carry out paid activities that allow them to acquire skills relating to the educational environment of the PhD, after evaluating the compatibility of the same activities with the successful performance of the training, teaching and research activities of the PhD course. In such cases, the maximum income limit, which the PhD student can receive as compatible with the scholarship, is equal to the amount of the scholarship itself.
15. For each PhD student, the faculty board normally provides for the carrying out of research and training activities, consistent with the PhD project, at highly qualified institutions abroad, for a total period not exceeding twelve months. This period can be extended up to an overall maximum of eighteen months for PhDs co-supervised with foreign subjects or for those in aggregate form activated pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2, of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/2021. In planning the training activities abroad, the board can take into account the proposal of the supervisor and the co-supervisor/s of the PhD student who must propose the program of activities, the title of the project and the invitation letter from the foreign



supervisor. For periods of attendance abroad in the amount the scholarship is increased by 50%.

16. Doctoral candidates are required to maintain confidentiality in relation to the research activities in which they participate in external bodies.
17. Following enrolment in the course, **each PhD student must activate the e-mail address of the University through which he will receive institutional communications.** It is mandatory to consult the institutional mail as well as to constantly inquire through the University's website for general and specific communications related to the doctorate.
18. The PhD students can carry out, within the limit of forty hours for each academic year as an integral part of the training project, with the approval of the College of Teachers and without increasing the amount of the scholarship:
 - tutoring, even paid, of students in the degree and master's degree programmes;
 - integrative teaching activities;
 - third mission activities.

The conduct of the activities shall be recorded in the personal records. All other forms of teaching are strictly prohibited and it is the task of the coordinator to monitor compliance with this provision.

Civil servants admitted to PhD courses shall enjoy, for the normal duration of the course, the leave provided for by collective bargaining or, for employees under public law, special leave for study purposes, compatible with the requirements of the administration, pursuant to art. 2 of Law 13.8.1984, n. 476/1984, and subsequent amendments, with or without cheques and unless expressly waived, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a PhD course, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the budget for the research carried out in Italy and abroad, referred to in article 22, paragraph 3, remains unchanged.

19. All information of an administrative nature concerning PhD students and their career will be published on the website at the following link:
<https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca>. This publication is a substitute for any other communication and, therefore, the winners are required to link to the above-mentioned site for a constant update.

ART. 13

Final examination and qualification

1. The qualification of *Dottore di Ricerca*, abbreviated as "*Dott. Ric.*" or "Ph.D.", is awarded on the basis of a positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation. The PhD thesis must be written in Italian or English. It may also be written in any other foreign language, subject to authorisation by the Teaching Committee.
2. The thesis is discussed at the end of the PhD programme, subject to admission to the final examination by the "examiners"; the thesis discussion may be postponed for up to a maximum of 6 months, if requested by the "examiners", in the event that they deem significant additions or corrections to the thesis to be necessary.



3. As regards the procedures and deadlines for submitting the thesis, PhD students must comply with the provisions of the "University Regulations on PhD Programmes" (*Regolamento di Ateneo*).
4. The title of PhD is awarded by the Rector.

Art. 14

Processing of personal data

1. In compliance with articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR - EU General Data Protection Regulation number 2016/679, the personal data provided by candidates is collected at Universitas Mercatorum, for the purposes of managing the selection and is processed on paper and using an automated database. The provision of such data is mandatory for the purposes of verifying the requirements of participation in the selection and its management.
2. The Data Subject is entitled to the rights specified in Articles 15 to 22 of the previously mentioned EU Regulation 2016/679, which include the right of access to the data concerning the Data Subject, as well as certain complementary rights, including the right to have erroneous, incomplete, or unlawfully collected data rectified, updated, completed, or erased, as well as the right to object for legitimate reasons to their processing.
3. The Data Controller is Universitas Mercatorum. It is possible to contact the Data Controller by writing to Piazza Mattei, n. 10 - 00186 Roma (RM) or by e-mail to the following e-mail address: privacy@unimercatorum.it.
4. For more detailed information, please refer to the privacy policy published on the University website at the following link: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/privacy>.

ART. 15

Organisational unit Responsible for the process

1. The organizational unit responsible for the competition procedure is the Doctorate Office for Research Training, at Piazza Mattei, 10 - Rome (RM) 00186; email contact dottorati@unimercatorum.it - Person in charge of the procedure: the Director General, Ms Patrizia Tanzilli.

ART. 16

Postponement

1. For what is not provided for by this call, please refer to the provisions of current legislation, as well as the University Regulations containing rules on PhD cited in the foreword, available on the University website at the following link: <https://www.unimercatorum.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca>.

THE RECTOR
Signed Prof. Giovanni Cannata



ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

- Annex A - Standard Research Project Template;
- Annex B - Description Sheets:
 - N. 1 - PhD course in "*Big data and artificial intelligence*;
 - N. 2 - PhD course in "*Financial Business Management and Crisis Prevention*";
 - N. 3 - PhD course in "*Sustainability and ESG agenda*".