



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA**
1240

Annex 1 to Call for applications for admission to the PhD of national interest in Innovation in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of infections at epidemic-pandemic risk, University of Siena, 42nd cycle, academic year 2026/2027

Disclaimer: This document is a non-official version of the PhD course selection notice meant to provide information in English – only the Italian version approved with Rector's Decree Prot. N. 122666 dated 01/07/2026 shall be legally binding.

Selection notice

Deadline for applications:

3 August 2026; 14:00 (Central European Summer Time - CEST)

Art. 1 - Subject

1. The University of Siena announces a selection procedure for admission to the doctoral course national interest in Innovation in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of infections at epidemic-pandemic risk for academic year 2026/2027, 42nd cycle, for n. **30 positions** of which 29 positions with a scholarship and 1 position reserved for employees.
2. All specific information for the positions announced including the research topic and the selection procedures are outlined in the attached schedules (Annex 2) which are an integral part of this notice.
3. The number of scholarships may be increased because of additional funding that must actually be acquired by the University of Siena in time to be assigned by 31 December 2026. These scholarships will be assigned only after completion of the acts necessary for the acquisition of the resources required for the scholarship and ascertained by the competent offices. If the number of scholarships increases, the number of positions without scholarships may be increased provided that at least 75% of the total available positions are financially covered.
4. Any increase of scholarships and the consequent integration to the present notice will be published on the website of the doctoral courses, 42nd cycle (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>).
5. The duration of the doctoral course is 3 years, beginning from **1 November 2026**.
6. The activation of each position is dependent on the positive assessment by ANVUR of the accreditation request which was completed by the University of Siena by the deadline indicated by MUR.

Art. 2 – Admission requirements

1. Applicants who possess at least one of the following academic qualifications, or who will obtain it by 31 October 2026, may apply for admission to PhD programs without limitations of age or citizenship:
 - *Diploma di Laurea* conferred by an Italian university before D.M. 509/1999 or
 - *Laurea Specialistica* conferred by an Italian university according to D.M. 509/1999 or
 - *Laurea Magistrale* conferred by an Italian university according to D.M. 270/2004 or
 - academic degree conferred by a foreign University, comparable for level, nature, duration, content and academic rights (access to doctoral courses) to the Italian master's degree. In this case a "statement of comparability" (*dichiarazione di equipollenza*) by competent academic authorities,

including the context of inter-university cooperation and mobility agreements, is required and in the application for admission the candidate must indicate the date of issue of the statement of comparability as date of the achievement of the title and the Italian university that has issued it. If no statement of comparability has been issued, yet, the eligibility of the qualification is ascertained by the selection committee, also based on the indications of the competent office of the University in compliance with the law in force in Italy and in the country where the title was awarded and international treaties or agreements in the field of recognition and qualifications for the continuation of studies.

2. The schedule attached to this notice (annex 2) indicates any specific master's degrees required by individual doctoral courses.
3. The academic qualification awarded abroad, lasting at least 4 years, must be qualified second level according to the university system of the country in which it was obtained and allow access to doctoral courses. Candidates with foreign academic qualifications must attach the following documentation to the online application: certificate of title with list of exams and grades (transcript) in Italian, English or French, or translated into Italian, English or French and a copy of any other document deemed useful for the assessment of eligibility of the qualification (e.g. Diploma supplement, curriculum, Declaration of value - *Dichiarazione di valore in loco* or Statement of comparability and verification of qualifications through the CIMEA DiploMe portal, for further details see art. 5, point 8). The candidate may be asked at any time to integrate the submitted documentation to verify eligibility. Candidates with a foreign academic qualification are admitted to the selection under condition. **If admitted for matriculation, they must deliver the documentation indicated in article 5, paragraph 8 when matriculating.** If, after verification, the qualification does not comply with the requirements of this notice, the candidates will be excluded from the doctoral programme.

Art. 3 – Application

1. Applications must be submitted from 3 July 2026 (09:00 hrs, Central European Time – CEST) **by the peremptory deadline of 14:00 hrs (CEST) of 3 August 2026** through the online platform at <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it>. Instructions for the online application procedure are available in the section "How to apply to PhD positions" on the University of Siena webpage "*Informazioni per dottorandi e dottori di ricerca*" on (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/informazioni-dottorandi-e-dottori-di-ricerca>). The application for admission is subject to **a one-time contribution of €30.00, payable exclusively online via PagoPA; failure to do so will result in exclusion.**
2. The documents required for evaluation indicated in annex 2 must be uploaded to the telematic system in PDF format, except for the reference letter/s. If reference letters are required, the email of the lecturer/s who will submit the letter directly on-line must be indicated. The indicated lecturer/s must upload the reference letter by 6 August 2026, 23:59 (CEST).
3. The "Selection application reminder" (*Promemoria domanda di partecipazione selezione*) will be automatically issued to confirm that the application has been registered successfully. When closing the procedure on the online platform <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it> the application is automatically forwarded to the University of Siena. Applicants are therefore not required to send or deliver any documentation to the University offices.

Art. 4 - Selection examinations and admission

1. The dates of examinations are indicated on the attached schedule (Annex 2) or will be published on the reference pages of the related doctoral course on the website of the University of Siena (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>) usually at least 15 days before the date of the examination. This publication is to be considered as the official notification. **Candidates will therefore not receive any individual convocations or communications regarding the examination dates.**
2. The composition of the selection committee in charge of evaluating the candidates will be published on the website of the 42nd cycle of the PhD courses of the University of Siena

(<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>) upon the expiration of the notice.

3. The examinations, aimed at assessing the candidate's aptitude for scientific research, will take place as indicated in the attached schedules. To take part in the examinations, candidates must present the valid identification document (ID card, passport) uploaded during the application process. The modalities of the interview are indicated on the schedules attached to the notice or will be made known on the reference pages of the relevant PhD course on the University of Siena's website (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>). If it will be conducted on an online platform, the candidate must ensure the use of a webcam to allow his/her identification to the selection committee, be available at the registered personal address during the registration on the day indicated for the oral examination. The selection committee may agree with the candidates on a precise timetable for the start of the interview. For identification each candidate shall be required, before the interview begins, to identify himself/herself, showing the same identity document submitted during the application procedure. Failure to communicate the personal address, failure to connect, the unavailability of the candidate on the date or time set or the failure to present a valid identification document, as indicated beforehand, constitute grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure. The University declines any responsibility for technical difficulties that may hinder a regular conduction of the interview. The oral examinations, including those conducted on online platforms, are public.
4. The selection committee, appointed by the Rector after consulting the academic board, shall be composed of at least three up to seven members of which at least three tenured professors and not more than two experts, also from foreign countries, selected from public or private research institutions and centres. The evaluation criteria of the examinations are established in advance by the selection board in plenary session.

Art. 5 – Ranking lists and enrolment

1. The Rector will approve the selection acts and rankings and issue a decree regarding the admission of candidates. The ranking of eligible applicants and winners of positions will be published on the reference pages of the doctoral course on the website of the University of Siena (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>) **by 2 October 2026**. The ranking is based on the candidate's total score in the evaluation of the CV, titles, research project, and any test.
2. In the event of equality of merit, the youngest candidate shall prevail.
3. The positions will be assigned based on the ranking of merit. The publication of ranking lists has the value of official notification. **Winners will therefore not receive any personal communication regarding their final ranking.** In case of useful placement in more than one ranking list of different doctoral research programmes, the candidate must opt for only one position.
4. **Winners** must enrol, under penalty of forfeiture, **by 14:00 hrs (CEST) of 8 October 2026**. Only if there are still positions available, due to non-enrolment or explicit waiver by entitled persons, the ranking list will be scrolled. The terms for scrolling are indicated in the following table:

	<i>Date of publication</i>	<i>Peremptory deadline for enrolment</i>
Ranking lists	By 2 October 2026	by 14:00 hrs (CEST) of 8 October 2026
1st scrolling	14 October 2026	by 14:00 hrs (CEST) of 19 October 2026
2nd scrolling	21 October 2026	by 14:00 hrs (CEST) of 26 October 2026

The list of replacement candidates is notified through the same procedure adopted for the final ranking. Should the candidate renounce to his/her position or fail to enrol, the next candidate in the ranking list shall be assigned a position in accordance with the dates indicated above. After these deadlines, and in any case no later than 31 December 2026, replacements are possible only after approval by the academic board of the doctoral course.

4. Medical residents enrolled in a medical specialty school may be admitted to joint attendance of a PhD course in compliance with the following criteria:

- a) The medical resident must be a winner of the admission competition for the PhD course activated at the University.
- b) The medical specialty school committee and the PhD academic board must certify the compatibility of the activities and total commitment required by both the speciality school and the PhD course, also taking into account the distance between the locations.
- c) During the period of joint attendance, the medical resident cannot receive the PhD scholarship.

In the case of admission to joint attendance, the PhD student may request a reduction in PhD activities and in the duration of the PhD course, which cannot, in any case, be less than two years. The application for the reduction of PhD activities is accepted if the PhD academic board assesses that the research activities already carried out during the medical specialty school are consistent with the PhD project and, at the same time, the medical specialty school committee deems the PhD project compatible with its own educational objectives.

5. Winners must submit their request for enrolment no later than the deadline indicated under paragraph 4, using the dedicated online enrolment procedure available at <https://segreteriaonline.unisi.it>, following the instructions in section “How to enrol in the first year” on the University of Siena internet page “*Informazioni per Dottorandi e Dottori di ricerca*” (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/informazioni-dottorandi-e-dottori-di-ricerca>).
6. Candidates who hold a foreign academic qualification, of at least four-year duration, as of art. 5, paragraph 3, **must attach during the online matriculation:**
 - copy of the original degree awarded or certificate of the qualification issued by the awarding university in digital format
 - **proof of authenticity of the the degree awarded** (one of the following three options)
 - o “Certificate of Comparability” and “Certificate of Verification” issued by the Italian ENIC-NARIC Centre (CIMEA), <https://cimea-diplome.it/page-diplome>;
 - o Declaration of Value (DoV) issued by Italian diplomatic missions;
 - o Diploma Supplement issued by the University, following the standard scheme developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and UNESCO/CEPES (valid only for countries that have joined the international agreement).
 - **English language certificate of at least B2 level** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), issued by internationally recognized institutions (mandatory requirement to obtain an entry visa).

The eligibility of the foreign qualification (which must be translated into Italian, English, or French)—unless already recognized under current legislation—is assessed by the selection committee for the sole purpose of admission to the competition. This assessment is conducted in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued, as well as with international treaties or agreements regarding the recognition of qualifications for further education.

Candidates **must present the required documents at the moment of matriculation. Candidates may be excluded at any time, even after admission, if they fail to present the documents requested above, or if verification reveals that their qualification does not meet the requirements specified in this call.**

7. Candidates admitted and expecting to obtain their degree by 31 October 2026, according to the provisions of Article 2, must submit the required documents as a rule by 4 November 2026.
8. Non-EU winning candidates can only be admitted to the courses if they comply with the current provisions regarding entry and stay in Italy and if they are legally present on national territory (Article 39, paragraph 5, of Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, n. 286, as amended by Article 26 of Law 30 July 2002, n. 189). If they are already in Italy, they are required to send a copy of their passport and a valid residence permit, issued by the competent authorities for one of the following reasons: family, work, long-term stay, as well as for other reasons that meet the requirements of Article 39, paragraph 5, of Legislative Decree 286/1998. If, however, the candidates reside abroad, upon their arrival in Italy they must present

a copy of their passport with an entry visa for study purposes, along with a copy of the residence permit application submitted to the competent Police Headquarters (*Questura*).

9. Enrolment is confirmed upon payment of the *Tassa Regionale di Diritto allo Studio Universitario* (DSU; Regional Fee for the Right to University Study) (€140,00) and the virtual stamp duty (€16,00) through the PagoPA system (art. 5 of Code for Digital Administration and Legislative Decree 179/2012). An enrolment receipt may be printed out at the end of the online procedure.
10. Those admitted who do not comply with the above requirements within the above peremptory deadlines shall be considered *ipso iure* to have resigned.
11. Final enrolment completion is conditional on verification that the course access requirements have been met. Until that time, enrolment is intended to be conditional.

Art. 6 – Scholarship allocation

1. The academic board of the doctoral course allocates the scholarships in compliance with the ranking order.
2. In case of waiver or failure to enrol by the winner of a scholarship, the scholarship will be allocated by scrolling the ranking list.
3. Scholarships which are dedicated to a specific research activity, bind the recipients to carry out such
4. Those who have already received, even partially, a scholarship for the attendance of doctoral courses or equivalent courses at the University of Siena or other Italian universities, cannot benefit from another doctoral scholarship.
5. Should a scholarship winner with a foreign academic qualification not submit the necessary documentation (as of art. 5, paragraph 8) or the submitted documentation not attest the validity of the qualification for an academic course similar to a PhD (*Dottorato di ricerca*) in the country of achievement, the candidate loses his/her position and must return any doctoral scholarship disbursements.
6. The annual amount of the scholarship is Euro 16.243,00, eligible for the INPS separately managed social security contribution. The duration of the scholarship is equal to the entire duration of the course and will be paid in deferred monthly instalments. If the doctoral student renounces to the scholarship or the continuation of the course, the University will interrupt payment of the scholarship.
7. The doctoral scholarship cannot be combined with other scholarships awarded for any reason, except for those granted by national or foreign institutions that are intended to supplement the scholarship holder's training or research activities with study and research periods abroad.
8. In the case of a scholarship financed by public or private external bodies, the scholarship will only be allocated if the financier has actually paid the corresponding amount to cover the scholarship.

Art. 7 – Fees and contributions

1. Doctoral students benefitting from a scholarship must pay annually the DSU Tuscan regional tax of € 140,00, the virtual stamp duty of € 16,00, and the university fee of € 340,00 (payable in two instalments).
2. Doctoral students without scholarship must pay annually the DSU Tuscan regional tax of € 140,00 and the virtual stamp duty of € 16,00.
3. Students with certified disability greater than or equal to 66% are exempt from payment of university fees and the DSU Tuscan regional tax.

Art. 8 – Duties and doctoral students

1. The admission to the doctoral course entails exclusive, full-time commitment.
2. All PhD students undertake, through the letter of acceptance of the position, to carry out **a study and research period abroad of at least 180 days** at suitable institutions identified in agreement with the

supervisor. Only in cases of serious and justified needs can the academic board approve an exemption from this commitment.

3. For courses requiring mandatory attendance, winning candidates must make the necessary arrangements with the course coordinator in good time to agree on the terms of attendance.
4. Doctoral students are required to carry out activities related to the approved research project. At the end of each year, doctoral students are required to submit a report on their activities and research to the academic board for the purpose of admission to the following year. If there is a valid reason, the academic board has the authority to exclude candidates from admission to the following academic year.
5. At the end of the course, doctoral students submit their doctoral thesis with original contributions for the purpose of admission to the final examination.

Art. 9 – Awarding of the degree

1. The title of *Dottore di ricerca* (PhD) is awarded according to the modalities indicated in the University Regulations governing doctoral courses.
2. Doctoral dissertations must be up-loaded by the doctoral students in electronic format with a digital signature (compliant with Italian legislative decree n. 82 of 7 March 2005 and successive modifications) in the University repository USiena-Air <http://usiena-air.unisi.it/>, to be filed in the national libraries.

Art. 10 – Relevant legislation

For any matter not explicitly covered by this selection notice, the University shall refer to the following Italian legislation:

- Art. 4 of Italian Law 3 July 1998, no. 210;
- Decree of the Minister of University and Research 14 December 2021, no. 226;
- University regulations on PhDs in compliance with DM 226/2021 (available on the website <https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca>).

Art. 11 – Processing of personal data

1. The processing of personal data of candidates is carried out by the University of Siena exclusively for institutional purposes and for managing this notice. The information on the processing of the student's personal data can be obtained in the Privacy section of the University Portal (<https://www.unisi.it/ateneo/adempimenti/privacy>).
2. The University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the data and information provided by the candidate, which will be treated in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 on the protection of personal data and Legislative Decree 196/2013 of the Privacy Code, for provisions not incompatible with the Regulation itself. The data controller is the University of Siena, legally represented by the pro-tempore Rector, Prof. Roberto Di Pietra. The candidate can assert his/her rights (articles 15 and following of the EU Regulation) by contacting the Data Controller and writing to pec email rettore@pec.unisipec.it or e-mail segreteria.rettore@unisi.it.
3. The provision of data is mandatory for the management of the relationship between the student and the University (eg. selection, admission, enrolment, university career management, etc.). Any refusal to process data implies the exclusion from the selection.

Art. 12 – Notice advertising

1. This selection notice shall be published on the reference pages of the doctoral course on the website of the University of Siena (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>) and advertised online on the University of Siena, Euraxess, and Ministry of University and Research webpages.
2. Furthermore, this notice and the rankings of candidates will be published on the official University website <http://albo.unisi.it>.

Art. 13 – Final provisions

1. The person in charge of the administrative procedure is Jacqueline Irene Muller, Head of the Office for doctoral courses (*Ufficio per il Dottorato di ricerca*) at the University of Siena.
2. Any changes or additions to the contents of this notice will be published on the reference pages of the doctoral course on the website of the University of Siena (<https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati-di-ricerca-42-ciclo>).

Annex 2 containing the schedule with the description of the type of positions and selection modalities