PHD PROGRAMME TABLE
Announcements of competition for admission to PhD Courses
41st cycle, Academic Year 2025/2026

PhD Course: AGRI-FOOD SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
Available positions: 4
Evaluation Methods: based on academic and research records

Available positions:

Place n.	Description	Financial support	Specific research topic
1	Scholarship	University scholarship	Microbes and microbial products impacting on health, environment, food, and sustainability.
2	Scholarship	University scholarship	Polymicrobial fermentation by synthetic consortia to unravel microbe-to-microbe interactions in natural whey starter metacommunities for hard-cooked cheese production (MICROSOCIAL)
3	Scholarship	University scholarship	Integrated phenomics and genomics for cereal predictive breeding
4	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by Emilia Romagna Region in implementation of the program "High-Level Skills to Address the Challenges of the Technological, Cultural, Economic, and Social Transition Towards Sustainability"- PR ESF+ 2021/2027 CUP E83C25002380002	Assessing canopy microclimate and wetness conditions to improve growth and phytopathological status of fruit trees towards sustainable crop productions

Areas of the PhD Programme: The joint PhD programme focuses on the production, transformation, quality, and safety of raw materials and food. It is offered by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in association with the University of Almeria (Spain), the Agricultural University of Plovdiv (Bulgaria), the Agricultural University of Iceland (Iceland), and the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra (Portugal) within the UNIgreen Alliance.

The administrative headquarter of the program is the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Each PhD candidate will be assigned to a specific location based on the applications and on the ranking lists. The assigned location will become the primary site for the candidate's study and research activities.

Each PhD candidate must spend a mobility period at a partner institution different from their assigned location for a minimum of 3 months and up to a maximum of 18 months, which may be non-consecutive.

Upon completion of the program, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia will award a joint PhD degree with the aforementioned universities in "Agri-food science, technology and biotechnology".

Official course language is English.

Further information is available on the website of the PhD course at: http://www.steba.unimore.it and here: https://unigreen-alliance.eu/education/unigreen-phd-programme/

Admission requirements: Italian second cycle master's degree ("Laurea Magistrale", under D.M. 270/04 or "Laurea Specialistica", under D.M. 509/99) or Italian degree obtained prior to D.M. 509/99 (the previous Italian regulations) or Second cycle non-Italian Master's degree, equivalent to the Italian degrees mentioned above, in accordance with Article 2 of this Call.

Documents to be attached to the application:

1) "Declaration of priority interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic", indicating interest in one or more scholarships with specific themes, listed in order of preference;

2) degree certificate (or self-certification for Italian degrees) and Transcript of Records including the full list of examinations. Applicants with a non-Italian degree must attach their certificate (including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks) and a legalized translation or Diploma Supplement and, if available, the Declaration of Value ("Dichiarazione di Valore in loco") issued by the competent Italian diplomatic-consular Representation, or the certificates issued by the CIMEA - ENIC-NARIC centre. If the degree certificate is not yet available or if the degree has not yet been obtained, the candidate must attach a description of the degree with a list of the examinations taken using Annex A;

3) Curriculum of research and teaching activities indicating clearly and concisely what candidate has studied, skills acquired (languages, knowledge of computers, use of complex instrumentation, etc.) including any official certifications applicant may have. It must be written in English language using the template reported in *Annex B* and must include the exact name and nature of degrees possessed, publications, if applicable, and contributions to conferences/congresses;

4) Summary of Master thesis in Italian or English, or equivalent – with length between 3000 and 5000 characters (including spaces) – organised under the following headings: statement of purpose, research methodology used, obtained results; if the master's degree is not yet awarded, please submit a summary of the expected Master thesis;

5) Statement of Research Interest, written in English language using the template reported in *Annex C* and referring to the instructions contained therein, which describes the candidate specific research interests and illustrates the reasons why the candidate wishes to attend the PhD Programme;

6) Documents considered useful for the evaluation and/or the academic publications together with the corresponding lists;

7) Letters of presentation/reference/recommendation (maximum 3); in the online application, candidates must enter all the personal data of the

professor/researcher/expert who will send the recommendation letter. Once the application will be submitted, the computer system will send an automatic e-mail to the referent to request to insert the recommendation letter. The deadline to upload the letters is June 30th, 2025, at 11:59 pm (CET); the applicants can check on the summary page of the application, if the presentation/reference/recommendation letter has been sent by the referent. Within the abovementioned deadline, the candidates can send to the referent who has not yet completed the procedure, a reminder by selecting the item "reminder" from the summary page of the application.

8) Copy of a valid ID document.

Evaluation Criteria:

In the evaluation of candidates' qualifications, the Selection Committee assigns scores up to a total of 60 points, as follows:

- Curriculum: from 0 to 30 points,
- Summary of the Master thesis: from 0 to 15 points,
- Publications: from 0 to 5 points,
- Other qualifications: from 0 to 10 points.

The Commission has the option of conducting a cognitive interview by videoconference, which purpose is to examine in depth the qualifications submitted by candidates. This interview does not involve the awarding of a mark.

Once the qualifications have been assessed, the Selection committee will compile a merit-based ranking of candidates based on the scores awarded.

Candidates obtaining a minimum score of 40 points out of the 60 available will be considered eligible.