



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Students' Services Area
PhD Office

Call for application for admission to the Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies - DREST 42nd cycle, Academic Year 2026/2027

Issued with Rectoral Decree n. 592 prot. n. 175684 – 7th July, 2026

APPLICATIONS OPENING: 07 July 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (CET)
APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: 25 August 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (CET)

ARTICLE 1 - Institution

A selection procedure for admission to the Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies, hereinafter DREST, for the 42nd cycle (2026/2027) is hereby open, with the participation of University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, "Federico II" University of Naples, "L'Orientale" University of Naples, University of Palermo, University for Foreigners of Perugia, "Ca' Foscari" University of Venice, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", "G. Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies.

The actual activation of courses and students' enrolment are subject to the approval by the Ministry of University and Research upon positive opinion expressed by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Research (ANVUR), as indicated in the Ministerial Decree no. 301 of March 22nd, 2022.

This call is equivalent to notification to all intents and purposes. Any changes, updates or additions to the content of this call will be announced, **exclusively**, on the following website <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-42> and on the online University notice board: <https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>

ARTICLE 2 - Course description

DREST (Italian Doctoral School of Religious Studies – www.drest.eu) is a research training school dedicated to specialist knowledge concerning the critical knowledge of religious experience and the heritage of sources from which it generates and on which it is founded, of the historical manifestations and cultural, juridical, philosophical and linguistical constructs with whom it expresses itself in time. The aim is to create a scientific community of teachers and students who are able to produce knowledge and tools in order to understand the deep ribs of that past and its persistence in the long term or in the historical present of our society in the European Research Area.

DREST is divided into six subject areas or curricula:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Buddhism and Religions of Asia
- Law and Religions
- AI and Religious Studies

These areas are all characterised by the integration of theoretical (historiographical, juridical, philological, philosophical, linguistic, technological, theological) reflection and the competent implementation of excavation methods on written, iconographic and oral sources.

All PhD students in Religious Studies are supposed to spend during the three years not less than 6 months abroad: regardless of the chosen research area, they will have to demonstrate that they master classical and/or modern languages, necessary to the study of the sources and the scientific literature. PhD Students will be asked to commit increasing their knowledge in each field with an innovative contribution, recognizable at international level too, thanks to its originality.

The Italian National PhD program in Religious Studies has a three-year duration (2026/2027-2028/2029) starting from November 1st, 2026.

The actual activation of the course and enrolment are subject to the positive evaluation by the MUR, having acquired the favourable opinion of ANVUR, as indicated in Ministerial Decree no. 301 of 22 March 2022 '*Guidelines for the accreditation of research doctorates pursuant to art.4, paragraph 3 of the regulation referred to in Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021*'.

ARTICLE 3 – Scholarships, locations and selections

DREST allocates 30 funded positions, of which 5 are with open-topic and 25 are with research topic-specific. These positions are distributed across the six curricula and the involved institutions as follows:

	Buddhism and Religions of Asia	Judaism	Cristianity	Islam	Law and Religions	AI and Religious Studies
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia		1	13	3		1
“Federico II” University of Naples					1	
“L’Orientale” University of Naples	1			1		
University of Palermo		1	1	1		
University for Foreigners of Perugia			1			
“Ca’ Foscari” University of Venice	1					
University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”			1			
“G. Alberigo” European School for Advanced Religious Studies		1	1	1		

In the case of open-topic scholarship, the doctoral activity will be carried out on a research topic assigned by the Academic Board on the proposal of the doctoral student, shared with the curriculum coordinator; on the other hand, topic-specific scholarships have a specific research topic and bind the PhD students to carry out the research activities indicated in the description of each scholarship at the university or research institute to which the scholarship is related.

A specific selection is open for each curriculum as detailed below:

- Selection 1: curriculum Buddhism and Religions of Asia
Available positions: 2

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	“L’Orientale” University of Naples	Open-topic scholarship	-
2	“Ca’ Foscari” University of Venice	Topic-specific scholarship	Textual and ritual practices of premodern Japanese Buddhism: the Zen tradition (Admission requirements include competence in reading and understanding premodern and modern Buddhist texts)

- Selection 2: curriculum Judaism
Available positions: 3

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Financed by the Department of Education and Humanities with funding from the <i>Società Consortile Progetto Traduzione Talmud Babilonese</i> (Babylonian Talmud Translation Project)	Kabbalah, Talmudic and Halakhic literature. Philosophy, and science in the diverse expressions of Jewish culture in the Italian peninsula during the 17th and 18th centuries, with a specific focus on figures and works that have not yet been the subject of dedicated research.
2	University of Palermo	Open-topic scholarship	-
3	“G. Alberigo” European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Bologna)	Topic-specific scholarship	History of the Interpretations of Lamentations from the Minor Midrashim (Lamentations Zuta and Lamentations Rabbah/Gadol) to the Pesikta Rabbati. Analysis of the manuscript tradition and digital study of the textual variants in Aramaic and Hebrew through the construction of a lexical database.

			(Admission requirements include to read and comprehend academic texts in English, Hebrew, and Aramaic).
--	--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- Selection 3: curriculum Christianity
Available positions: 17

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	History of Vatican policy towards the Soviet bloc countries, 1945–1991. An investigation into the diplomacy, politics, and intelligence archives of Eastern European countries from the Cold War to the dissolution of the USSR. (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in German and Russian or other languages of Eastern Europe)
2	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	The sense of the end in Europe between 1517 and 1530. European voices inside and outside the catastrophe: diaries, chronicles, and reports on the Sack of Rome (1527) between eyewitness testimony and external observation. Scholars, diplomats, and military figures from the manuscript tradition to nineteenth-century editions. (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Latin, Italian and French)
3	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Financed by the Department of Education and Humanities and the Unesco Chair for religious pluralism and peace with funding from Med-Or Italian Foundation (Main location: Bologna)	The formation, thought, and impact of Laurenti Magesa's (1946–2012) theological research. A study of published and archival sources to reconstruct the African and international debate surrounding the historical transitions in his thought. (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in English, French, and Italian)
4	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Financed by the Department of Education and Humanities with funding from Theological Faculty of Emilia Romagna (FTER) (Main location: Bologna)	The military lexicon of the Latin Vulgate: historical-cultural contexts, differing translation techniques from Hebrew and Greek, philological-semantic investigation, and theological reinterpretation. The project requires analyzing the military lexicon of the Latin Vulgate, examining its roots in the warfare practices of the ancient world and the ways in which Saint Jerome translates

			and reworks Hebrew and Greek terminology.
5	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities with funding of "Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII" (FSCIRE)</p> <p>(Main location: Bologna and Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>History of the Syriac Bible: the case of Job.</p> <p>Stratification of the Hebrew Vorlage, Targumic influence, and the textual tradition of the LXX through the verification of Syriac renderings in reaction to or in convergence with the translation choices of the Septuagint.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Syriac, Greek, and English, as well as expertise in palaeography and papyrology)</p>
6	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities with funding of "Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII" (FSCIRE)</p> <p>(Main locations: Reggio Emilia and Bologna)</p>	<p>History of the Syriac Bible: the case of the Psalter.</p> <p>Analysis and study of the stratification and multiple circulation of the Psalter in the Syro-Hexaplaric translation from Origen and in the Peshitta, and comparison with the Arabic translation.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Syriac, Greek, and English, as well as expertise in palaeography and papyrology)</p>
7	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities with funding of the Unesco Chair for religious pluralism and peace</p> <p>(Main location: Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>Digital restoration, transcription, critical edition, and annotation of the appendices, sheets, supporting documents, and clippings of Yves Congar's "Mon Journal du Concile", alongside the reconstruction of the manuscript's textual structure and a comparison with the correspondences in the archives of his interlocutors.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Latin, French, German and Italian)</p>
8	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities with funding of the Unesco Chair for religious pluralism and peace</p> <p>(Main location: Bologna and Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>Analysis of the sources, editorial history, and contents of Karol Wojtyła's work, U podstaw odnowy. Studium o realizacji Vaticanum II, Kraków 1972.</p> <p>Archival investigation into the preparatory versions, publishing history, and contemporary diocesan and national sources, alongside a comparison with contemporary commentaries and the Pastoral Synod of the Archdiocese of Kraków (1972–1979), in contrast with other major diocesan synods of the 1970s</p>

			(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Polish, German, Latin and French)
9	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities with funding of RESILIENCE</p> <p>(Main location: Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>Design, creation, and historical-critical study of a RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) system for the pastoral letters of European bishops from 1958 to 2025.</p> <p>Construction of a multilingual dataset and a five-level ontology (objects, actors, references, themes, and relations) derived from the subject index of COD, the indexes of DS, and the FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) system.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in European Languages and Latin)</p>
10	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities (Main location: Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>The correspondences of the Sack of Rome (1527).</p> <p>A critical edition of the correspondences of Roman prelates, Imperial captains, and French diplomats, as well as the correspondences of Gian Matteo Giberti, Lorenzo Pucci, Hugo de Moncada, Sebastian Schertlin von Burtenbach, and Guillaume and Jean Du Bellay.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in French, German, and English, as well as expertise in diplomatics)</p>
11	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities (Main location: Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>The reception of the Creed in the Georgian and Caucasian context through the Study of the Georgian text of the Treatise on the faith attributed to Hippolytus: comparison with the Greek and Armenian sources and contextual analysis of confessional pluralism in the Caucasus.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Old Georgian, Greek, Latin, and Armenian).</p>
12	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Funded by Department of Education and Humanities</p> <p>(Main location: Reggio Emilia)</p>	<p>Sources for Xhosa, Zulu, and Sesotho hymnology in South Africa between the 19th and 20th centuries.</p> <p>Classification of the musical repertoire of Southern African churches and a study of the adoption of polyphony in the worship of Reformed churches in the South African region.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in</p>

			English, Dutch, Xhosa Zulu, and Sesotho)
13	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Funded by Department of Education and Humanities (Main location: Reggio Emilia)	Heterodox movements in the Balkans, 9th–13th centuries: Paulicians, Bogomils, Phundagiagites, and Tondrakians. Reconstruction of the history of these movements over time through the analysis and comparison of primary sources and the historiographical tradition, together with the study of the manuscript textual tradition. (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills of Church Slavonic, Greek, Armenian, and Latin).
14	University of Palermo	Open-topic scholarship	-
15	University for Foreigners of Perugia	Topic-specific scholarship	Religious history and history of ecclesiastical institutions in the twentieth century.
16	University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"	Topic-specific scholarship	Religious life and the control of faith in the provinces of the early modern Kingdom of Naples.
17	"G. Alberigo" European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Bologna)	Topic-specific scholarship	Catholic or ecumenical continental networks of theologians in the post-conciliar period: 1963–2025. Identification of archives, inventory of sources, analysis of production, prosopography, and construction of a global digital meta-archive. (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in German, English, French, Italian and Latin)

- Selection 4: curriculum Islam
Available positions: 6

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	The formation of the first generation of Akbarian ta'wil after Ibn 'Arabi. A study of Sadr al-Din al-Qunawi (d. 1274), Fakhr al-Din 'Iraqi (d. 1289), Mu'ayyad al-Din Jandi (d. c. 1290), and Sa'd al-Din Farhani (d. 1300). (Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Arab, Italian, Classic Persian)

2	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship	<p>Critical edition of the work of Ibn Kathir (d. 1373), <i>Al-Bidaya wa-al-Nihaya</i>, Vol. XIII.</p> <p>Indexing of the Cairo printed edition (1932–1939) and collation of manuscripts (BAV Arabe 178, BL Or. 1510, PU Garrett, Cairo, and Damascus: DaK Cairo, MaA Damascus) and other sources for a critical edition and historical analysis of the accounts concerning the fall of Baghdad in 1258.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Arab, English and French)</p>
3	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	<p>Topic-specific scholarship</p> <p>Financed by the Department of Education and Humanities and the Unesco Chair for religious pluralism and peace with funding from Med-Or Italian Foundation</p> <p>(Main location: Bologna and Rome)</p>	<p>Chronicle, history, and theological reinterpretation of the Sultan's defeats, 1456–1683.</p> <p>A study of court and literary sources on the defeats of the Ottoman army from the siege of Belgrade (1456) to the siege of Vienna (1683).</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Turkish, Arab, English)</p>
4	University of Palermo	Open-topic scholarship	-
5	“L’Orientale” University of Naples	Open-topic scholarship	-
6	“G. Alberigo” European School for Advanced Religious Studies (Palermo)	Topic-specific scholarship	<p>Alessandro Bausani’s Italian translation of the Qur’an: Publishing history, critical reception, and translation strategies.</p> <p>A study of the author’s personal archives, publishing documentation, correspondence, and subsequent scientific and translational production.</p> <p>(Admission requirements include extensive comprehension skills in Arab, Italian and English)</p>

- Selection 5: curriculum Law and Religions
Available positions: 1

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	“Federico II” University of Naples	Topic-specific scholarship	Religious Pluralism, Faith-Based Organizations, and the Principle of Horizontal Subsidiarity

- Selection 6: curriculum AI and Religious Studies

Available positions: 1

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	Topic-specific scholarship Financed by the Department of Education and Humanities with funding from Fondazione Rut	Paths and figures of the Jewish contribution to Italian society: Biographical research on participation in political, social, cultural, and economic life.

The number of available scholarships and positions may increase as a result of funding from public or private entities acquired after the publication of this call, and no later than, the date of publication of the final rankings. It is therefore recommended to regularly check the [University website](#), where updates will be provided.

The candidates awarded scholarships will be required to carry out the research projects assigned to them by the Academic Board, except for any modifications established by the same body.

The doctoral candidate will carry out his/her research activities at the agreed location to which the scholarship awarded on the basis of the results of the selection procedure refers.

ARTICLE 4 – Admission requirements

The competition is open to any candidate, regardless of age or nationality, who as of **November 6th, 2026**, holds an Italian degree obtained prior to M.D. 509/99 or an Italian second level degree (laurea specialistica, under D.M. 509/99 or laurea magistrale, under M.D. 270/04), or equivalent second-level academic qualification awarded by institutions belonging to the AFAM branch or Second cycle non-Italian Master's degree, equivalent to the Italian degrees mentioned above, which must be recognized as suitable by the selection committee in accordance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with applicable international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the purpose of continuing studies.

Verification

The competent offices will be checked the information sent by candidates in order to verify correctness.

All candidates are admitted to the selection process conditionally, pending verification of the above-mentioned requirements. The Administration reserves the right to exclude, at any time, candidates who do not meet the admission requirements.

ARTICLE 5 – Admission application – how to apply

Applications must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, by **August 25th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (CET)** by following the online procedure from www.esse3.unimore.it:

- 1) proceed to "Registration" to obtain login credentials (user-ID and password) and access the restricted area. ATTENTION: Those who are in possession of an Italian document (identity card, passport, driving licence) must use SPID credentials by accessing to 'Register with SPID'. Those who do not have an Italian document can register in Esse3 using the 'Registration' button.

- 2) Log in with the credentials received following registration and access the Restricted Area, then select from the menu tab “Admission” – “Admission Exams” – “Ph. D.”.

PLEASE NOTE: as part of the required information in making the application, the candidate must declare the possession of a high school qualification (indicating all the details of the qualification awarded).

In the case of candidates with disabilities or with diagnosis of SLD, in accordance with Law no. 104/1992 and Law no.170/2010, any adaptations required for taking the examinations must be reported in the application. The same request for adaptations to take the examinations must be sent by mail to: disabilita@unimore.it and segr.dottorati@unimore.it.

Field's and thematic' choice

Each candidate may submit up to two applications, one for each curriculum, thus participating in two separate selections.

In addition, for each field, it is possible to indicate in form “[Declaration of priority and binding interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic](#)” a maximum of eight topic-specific scholarships in order of preference and priority. This choice is binding and irrevocable. The selection board will verify the candidate's eligibility to apply for each topic-specific scholarship on the basis of his/her educational and professional background and the linguistic and disciplinary knowledge acquired and considered essential by the board to develop the research envisaged by the thematic grant.

Application fee

Each application must refer to a single selection procedure. Candidates interested in two selection procedures must submit a separate application for each selection procedure they intend to participate in. Furthermore, a non-refundable fee of €25.00 is required to cover administrative costs for each application submitted.

The invoice will only be available on www.esse3.unimore.it – Registered Area – “Taxes” section, at the end of the procedure with the final data saving.

The application fee of €25.00 must be paid by **August 25th, 2026**.

Candidates must retain the payment receipt and upload it as an attachment during the enrolment process only if they enrol in the first year of the PhD program (within the deadline and according to the procedures outlined in Article 7).

Application Submission Finalization and Acceptance

The application will be considered to be correctly submitted only by saving the data (“Save the data”) after the “Explicit confirmation of the validity of the application” given by the candidate at the end of the online procedure mentioned above.

For further information, please refer to the application guide: <https://www.unimore.it/sites/default/files/2025-05/vediallegato.html> .pdf.

At the end of the admission procedure, a summary reminder of the candidate's admission application is generated. This document must be kept by the candidate and should not be sent to anyone.

No other methods of submitting the application and the related attachments are permitted.

Should the applicant need to reopen the application and correct the data or add extra documents before the deadline of August 25th, 2026, at 1.00 pm (CET), candidates can send an e-mail to the PhD Office (segr.dottorati@unimore.it) attaching a scanned copy of an identity document. The candidate must make the corrections / additions he deems appropriate within the same deadline (August 25th, 2026, at 1.00 pm (CET)). In this case, please note that the candidate will have to save data again selecting "Save data" following the explicit confirmation of the application.

It should be noted that if the admission procedure for the selection on Esse3 is still open at the strict deadline of the call for applications (August 25th, 2026, at 1.00 pm (CET)), the application cannot be closed in any way neither considered valid.

The Administration reserves the right to exclude, at any time, candidates who have not paid the €25.00 fee referred to in this article.

The Administration shall not be held responsible in the event that a candidate selects the wrong selection procedure.

Any communications to candidates concerning this call are made by e-mail. For this purpose, is used e-mail address indicated by the candidate during the registration procedure.

Should the applicant occur of any technical and/or operating difficulties, please write to the following e-mail address: webhelp@unimore.it

Applications submitted according to the procedures outlined above will be considered valid only if received by this Administration within the strict deadline set by the call for applications.

Therefore, any applications submitted after the specified deadline, as well as those submitted using methods other than those indicated above, will be excluded.

Commitments Undertaken with the Application

By submitting the application for admission, the candidate agrees:

- 1) to attend the PhD program on a full-time basis, in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the Academic Board;
- 2) to reside permanently at the chosen location for the entire duration of the program, except during periods of study and research previously authorised by the Academic Board;
- 3) to promptly communicate any changes in residence or contact details;
- 4) in the case of candidates who will obtain their degree after the application deadline but no later than November 6, 2026, submit the degree certificate or a self-declaration confirming the awarding of the degree to the PhD Office by November 6, 2026, via email to segr.dottorati@unimore.it; candidates failing to comply will not be considered.

The Administration may decide, at any time, with its reasoned decision, the exclusion from the selection.

Liability

Admission applications and or related attachments will not be considered for any of the following reasons: submission or receipt of applications after the deadline or non-compliance with the procedural requirements of the competition.

The Administration cannot be held responsible for any loss of correspondence due to the following situations: incorrect contact details, failure or delay in notification of a change in address, technical errors, negligence of third parties, or a force majeure. Furthermore, the Administration shall assume no responsibility for attachments not received as a result of third-party involvement, faulty attachment of documents by the candidate, or any type of network failure.

Submission of documentation for the evaluation

Candidates must attach the following certificates, documents and publications:

- 1) degree certificate (or self-certification for Italian degrees) and Transcript of Records including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks. 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 - ENICNARIC 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](#);

- 2) curriculum vitae of their scientific and teaching activities (using [Annex B](#));
- 3) a digital copy of the thesis of Italian second level degree (“Laurea Magistrale”, “Laurea Specialistica” or degree obtained prior to M.D. 509/99), or equivalent in the case of a degree obtained abroad; or an abstract thereof;
- 4) any binding preference for open-topic or topic-specific scholarships related to the chosen competition (using the form “[Declaration of priority and binding interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic](#)”);
- 5) one's own research project that demonstrates the ability to articulate the stages and timeframe of a PhD course: it must be articulated in a scientific concept - a description of the state of the art - a presentation of the sources and tools for the study - the timeframe and stages of realisation articulated by deliverables - the research centres outside Italy considered suitable for the research (using [Annex C](#));
- 6) a motivational letter, of no more than two pages, illustrating the candidate's motivations for attending the Course, the description of his/her specific research interests as well as the reasons for any preference for a maximum of two thematic scholarships among those advertised;
- 7) certification of English language proficiency (TOEFL, CAE/Proficiency, or others) or other foreign languages (indicating the level), as well as an indication of knowledge of the languages of the sources included in the project and a plan for acquiring any missing skills.
- 8) academic qualification certificates and documents considered useful for the purposes of evaluation with corresponding list;
- 9) scientific publications with list. Publications in languages other than Italian, English, French, German and Spanish, or which do not include a summary in one of the above languages, must be produced in original language and translated into Italian or English, French, German and Spanish.
- 10) a copy of a valid identity document.

For the information of candidates, please note that pursuant to article 15 of Law no. 183 of November 12th, 2011, certificates regarding personal qualities, status and facts issued by the public administration can be only used for private purposes. Self-certification, under articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, can replace attested declarations for public administration or public services purposes.

All academic qualifications, documents and publications considered useful for the application procedure must be attached in .pdf or .rtf file form with a maximum size of 20 MB. Attachments larger than 20 MB must be divided into smaller files.

Certificates issued by the competent authorities of the foreign candidate's country of citizenship must comply with the provisions in force in the same country. Certificates in a language other than Italian, English, French, German or Spanish, must also be translated and authenticated by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular authorities.

An Italian translation must be attached to all documents written in a language other than Italian, English, French, German or Spanish and must be certified as conforming to the foreign text by a competent Italian diplomatic authority or an official translator.

ARTICLE 6 – Selection Committee

Six commissions are appointed by decree of the Rector, one for each curriculum. The committees are composed as follows:

- one member proposed by the Curriculum Council, who may also be part of the Academic Board, but must not be the coordinator of the same;
- a member external to the Academic Board selected among full university professors and researchers at Italian or foreign universities or research centres;

- for each commission, up to two substitute members and two experts may be appointed, selected from European and non-European public and private research institutions and organizations.

ARTICLE 7 – Admission procedures

Selection aims

The selections are aimed to verify the candidate's preparation and aptitude to carry out research activities related to the framework of the national doctoral program's specifications for the various topics of the fields and in relation to the individual projects.

The selection procedure is carried out by means of an assessment of qualifications and an interview, also in telematic mode.

Evaluation of candidate qualifications

For the evaluation of qualifications, each Selection Committee has a maximum score of 60 points, distributed as follows:

- 0 to 20 points about candidate's profile, as follows:
 - examinations taken, grade of degree and thesis/abstract: 0 to 4 points.
 - curriculum vitae and experience considered relevant: 0 to 4 points,
 - other qualifications, e.g. Masters relevant to the PhD topics, specialized courses, relevant degrees: 0 to 3 points,
 - Certified knowledge of foreign languages: 0 to 2 points,
 - publications: 0 to 4 points,
 - Evaluation of the motivation letter submitted (explaining and the venues: 0 to 3 points.
- 0 to 40 points about project proposal, as follows:
 - relevance of the concept: 0 to 10 points;
 - quality of analysis and updating of the state-of-the-art: 0 to 10 points,
 - feasibility within the doctoral program: 0 to 10 points
 - originality and architecture of the work plan: 0 to 10 points.

Candidates obtaining a minimum of 40 points will be admitted to interview.

The list of candidates admitted to the interview and any variations in the methods and terms of the selection procedure will be announced publicly in a date by September 9th, 2026 only on the University website at link <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-42>.

Interview evaluation

The Selection committee has the capacity to assign scores up to 60 points in the interview. Candidates may opt to have their interview in Italian or English. Candidates will be admitted to the examination upon presentation of a valid identity document or passport.

During the interview will be assessed the knowledge of the English language and other possible languages which candidates declared in the application (specified in [Annex C](#)).

The committee will also assess the language knowledge of the sources required for the scientific work, with the discussion of sources relevant to the topics of the project and its critical implications.

During the interview, candidates will discuss the research project and they will be given the opportunity to deepen or further develop it orally (attachments or additional written documentation will not be accepted).

Evaluation criteria:

- a) basic knowledge of the general references of religious studies in their disciplinary aspects (historical, exegetical, philosophical, legal, technological): 0 to 10 points
- b) knowledge of the specific disciplinary reference framework of the project: 0 to 20 points
- c) argumentative skills and knowledge of the languages of literature: 0 to 15 points
- d) knowledge of source languages and their use: 0 to 15 points

Candidates with a score of at least 40 points will pass the interview.

Exam schedule

Interview via Microsoft Teams between September 11th and September 19th, 2026. The operational indications on how to conduct the interview via Microsoft Teams will be communicated at the time of publication of candidates admitted to the interview. The link to the interview will be provided by the committee.

ARTICLE 8 – Ranking

At the end of the selection processes, each committee will draw up six final ranking lists (one for each curriculum).

The six final ranking lists will be approved by a Rector's Decree, once all documentation has been declared valid, and will be published simultaneously.

Candidates will be admitted to the Course according to the order of the final rankings and up to the number of available places for each PhD Curriculum.

The final rankings of candidates will be announced publicly exclusively by:

- publication on the University website at link <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-42>,
- publication on the online University notice board <https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>.

ARTICLE 9 – Enrolment and Reassignment of places

Enrolment to reserved places with specific topic

Within the mandatory **three-day time limit**, starting from the day after the publication of the final rankings on the online University notice board as mentioned above in Art. 8, those candidates qualifying for places with specific topics must enrol in the first year of the PhD Programme exclusively in the modality described on this web page: <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/doctoral-research-programmes/enrolment-phd-programs>.

Reassignment of reserved places with specific topics

Once the procedure of the previous point is completed, if reserved places with specific topics become available, the PhD Office will request by e-mail to PhD candidates eligible for reserved places to enrol within a peremptory deadline of two days, starting from the day following the day on which the e-mail is sent.

Enrolment to places without specific topic

Once the previous steps have been completed, the PhD Office will request, by e-mail, the doctoral candidates for places without specific topic to enrol within a deadline of two days, starting from the day after the day on which the e-mail was sent.

The six replacement procedures will proceed until all available places have been allocated, with the enrolment.

The six replacement procedures are independent of each other.

The procedure will be concluded within 90 days from the publication on the University website of the list of those admitted to the PhD Course for the academic year 2026/2027, referred to in Article 8.

Forfeiture due to non-Compliance

Candidates who fail to complete their enrolment within the deadlines and according to the procedures specified above will be considered as having forfeited their place.

In the event that the documentation submitted by the candidate contains false or misleading statements relevant for enrolment purposes, and without prejudice to the criminal penalties set forth in Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000 and subsequent amendments, the candidate will automatically and officially lose any right to enrolment. Any fees already paid will not be refunded.

The university administration reserves the right to request that enrolled students regularize any incomplete documentation and/or present proof of payment of the stamp duty or the first instalment, under penalty of exclusion.

ARTICLE 10 – Scholarships

The scholarships, which number is indicated in the specific PhD Programmes Table, will be awarded according to the positioning of candidates on the relevant final merit lists.

In the case of candidates of equal merit, a decision will be made on the basis of the candidates' financial situation, determined in accordance with the Italian Prime Minister's Decree of April 30th, 1997 and subsequent amendments. Candidates of equal merit will be requested by e-mail to submit for the purposes of evaluating their financial situation:

- Receipt of submission of the Single Sworn Declaration for calculating the ISEE bracket (DSU); this must be forwarded within the final deadline of two days from the following day the e-mail was sent. Failure to comply will result in loss of the right to admission.
- The formal I.S.E.E. (Indication of Equivalent Financial Situation) by I.N.P.S.; this must be forwarded within the final deadline of five days from the following day the e-mail was sent. Failure to comply will result in loss of the right to admission.

In the event of a tied ISEE indicator, the youngest candidate takes precedence.

Amount and payment method of the scholarships

The annual amount of a study scholarship is € 17.000,00 (barring subsequent regulatory amendments) and is subject to the I.N.P.S. social security contribution under the separate management fund.

Study scholarships are automatically renewed when PhD students continue in the following year, unless a motivated ruling to the contrary is made by the Teaching Committee.

Study scholarships will be paid in monthly deferred instalments.

PhD scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships or other forms of financial assistance paid by the University and/or the State, with the exception of those designed to be integrated with PhD student research activities, for periods spent abroad.

In any case, the prohibition of double funding as stipulated by Regulation (EU) No. 2021/241 of February 12th, 2021 must be respected.

Confirmation and increase of the scholarships

Scholarships are confirmed upon doctoral candidates progressing to the next academic year, unless the Academic Board issues a reasoned resolution to the contrary.

Scholarship amounts will be increased by 50% for periods spent abroad of no longer than 12 months. This period may be extended up to a maximum of 18 months for doctoral students under joint guidance or Double Degree program with foreign institutions. This increase may also be granted to students who have been awarded positions without a scholarship.

From the first year, each PhD student (with or without scholarship) is guaranteed a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad, for an amount not less than 20% of the annual amount of the study scholarship.

ARTICLE 11 – Fees for PhD Programmes, benefits and services

Enrolment fee

Fee for PhD program of national interest in “Religious Studies” which must be paid in one instalment to the enrolment by those who enrol is € 159.67 (the amount of the payment slip that can be downloaded online includes the regional tax, the stamp duty and the insurance coverage).

Right to study

Candidates, if in possession of the provided requirements, can apply to Er.GO (Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education) for the following benefits:

- Scholarship (financial support to the study, with admission by ranking list) incompatible with other types of scholarships awarded for any purpose;
- Accommodation facilities, (with admission by ranking list) for non-resident students “Fuorisede” enrolled in a PhD programme;
- Subsidies for dining service.
- Contributions for international mobility;
- Peer tutoring collaborations in favor of disabled students or students with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Therefore, anyone intending to apply for one of the aforementioned benefits must exclusively refer to the Announcement and to the Application procedure of the Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education – District headquarters of Modena and Reggio Emilia for the 2026/2027 academic year, that will be available at <http://www.er-go.it> starting from July 2026.

To request interventions for the right to study it is necessary to be in possession of the ISEE Certification 2026 for subsidized services for the right to university study and of the digital identity system SPID.

International students, to request interventions for the right of study, must be in possession of the documentation referred to at the link: <https://www.er-go.it/>, section “International Students”.

Applications can be submitted even if not yet enrolled on a PhD Programme. Therefore, applications can be submitted even if the final rankings of candidates for admission to PhD Programmes have not yet been announced publicly.

For information and assistance exclusively in completing the online application, please use the contacts available at the following link: <https://www.er-go.it/contatti>.

The amounts, and the deadlines for the contribution for the following years will be determined from year to year and will be notified approximately towards the end of July on the web page <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/doctoral-research-programmes>.

ARTICLE 12 - Rights and Responsibilities of PhD Students

PhD Programmes require a full-time and exclusive commitment. PhD students may accept forms of employment, pending authorization from the PhD Programme Teaching Committee, related to work activities useful for the acquisition of skills pertaining to the PhD research area, after evaluation of compatibility of those activities with the fruitful development of the educational, didactic and research activities of the doctoral course.

PhD students are required, under penalty of exclusion, to perform the research projects assigned to them and to be involved in related study, further research, periods abroad, teaching, as well as any internships affiliated with public or private bodies, in accordance with the requirements set by the competent Teaching Committee.

The additional obligations and rights of PhD candidates, including cases of incompatibility, suspension of attendance requirements, and exclusion, as well as the procedures for obtaining the title of PhD, are governed in accordance with the provisions referred to in Article 7 of the Regulations for PhD Programmes.

Enrolment in more than one degree programme (e.g., PhD programme and Master's or Bachelor's degree programme) is permitted in accordance with Law No. 33 of April 12th, 2022, and Ministerial Decree No. 930/2022, as specified at the following link: <https://www.unimore.it/en/education/enrolment-and-admission/concurrent-enrolment-two-courses-study>

ARTICLE 13 – Public employees

In accordance with the law, and compatible with the administration's requirements, a public employee admitted to a PhD course is placed on special leave for study purposes without allowance for the duration of the course and is entitled to a scholarship if the required conditions are met. In the event of admission to a PhD course without a scholarship, or if the scholarship is renounced, the person on leave retains the salary, social security and pension benefits enjoyed by the public administration with which the employment relationship is established. If, following the award of the doctorate, the employment relationship with the public administration is terminated at the employee's request within the following two years, the sums paid pursuant to the second sentence shall be refunded.

A public employee who has already obtained a doctoral degree or has been enrolled on PhD courses for at least one year, benefiting from the leave, shall not be entitled to extraordinary leave with or without pay.

The period of special leave is useful for the purposes of career progression, retirement and social security.

ARTICLE 14 – Awarding of the PhD

The PhD is awarded upon completion of the PhD Programme, when students pass their final examination that consists in the presentation of a PhD Thesis on original research, carried out meticulously and where results are adequately and scientifically relevant. Should the assessment be negative, the final examination cannot be repeated.

Public thesis defence will take place before an Examination Board appointed in compliance with the University PhD Research Program Regulations.

The Rector awards the title of PhD. The issue of the above title is dependent upon the candidate's submission to the competent office of the copy of the final thesis in digital format, which will be guaranteed to be kept and publicly accessible in the special open access archive of the University, as well as to be deposited in the ministerial database, in compliance with the regulations in force concerning thesis embargo and copyright.

Upon completion of the PhD programme, graduates will be invited to fill out a "*Questionnaire on the opinions of programme attendees*" for the Alma Laurea database. This will enable the Alma Laurea Inter-University Consortium to monitor the training of doctoral students.

ARTICLE 15 – Handling of personal data

The University Administration, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 196/03, as amended by Legislative Decree 101/2018, will use the applicant's personal data solely for the fulfilment of the selection procedures and for administrative purposes.

In accordance with the principles to mentioned rules, by participating in the competition, the candidate authorizes the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia to publish his/her personal data as well as information relating to the admissions examinations on the University website.

The University of Modena and Reggio Emilia adopts equal opportunity principles in its selection procedures and rejects any type of discrimination based on sex, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation, state of health, and any other status or quality that is not strictly relevant to the call outlined in this document.

ARTICLE 16 – Publication

This call is equivalent to notification to all intents and purposes. It will be published on the online University notice board (<https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>), on the website of the University [2](#), and on the Website of the Ministry of University and Research: <http://bandi.miur.it/doctorate.php/public/cercaFellowship>.

Any changes, updates or additions to the content of this call will be announced, exclusively, on the online University notice board (<https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>) and on the following website: <https://www.unimore.it/en/call-drest-42>.

ARTICLE 17 – Additional Regulations and Director responsible for overseeing all procedures

For matters not explicitly covered in this application procedure, refer to the provisions contained in art. 4 of Law no. 210 of July 3, 1998, art. 19 of Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010, Ministerial Decree no. 226 of December 14, 2021 and to the University regulations in force governing PhD Programmes and to the Teaching Regulations of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

The person responsible for the procedure is Irene Bonacini, the PhD Office Representative – Via Università, 4 – Modena - e-mail: segr.dottorati@unimore.it).

For further information, candidates may contact the PhD Office - Via Università 4, 41121 Modena - phone +39 059/2056423 - e-mail: segr.dottorati@unimore.it.