

Call for application for admission to the PhD program in Information and communication technologies (ICT) 42nd cycle, Academic Year 2026/2027

Issued with Rectoral Decree n. 632 prot. n. 190749 – July 15, 2026

APPLICATIONS OPENING: 15 July 2026 at 3:00 p.m. (CET)
APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: 1 September 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (CET)

ARTICLE 1 - Institution

Selective procedures are announced for admission to the following PhD program in Information and communication technologies (ICT), administratively based at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, with a duration of three years starting from November 1st, 2026, for the 42nd cycle, Academic Year 2026/2027.

The actual activation of programmes 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.

The available positions and scholarships, research topics, admission requirements, and the selection procedures and criteria for the ranking lists are detailed in the PhD Programme Tables. Such Tables complement the Call for Applications and are available on the [University website](#).

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/bando-ict-asi-42> and on the online University notice board: <https://wss.unimore.it/public/albo/>.

ARTICLE 2 - Course description

The PhD Programme offers three curricula:

- 1) Computer engineering and Science;
- 2) Electronics and Telecommunications;
- 3) Industrial Applications of ICT.

The topics of the ICT PhD Programme concern the disciplines of Computer Engineering and Science, Electronics, Electronic Measurements, Telecommunications, Electromagnetic Fields, Control Theory and Automation and Electrical Engineering, as well as industrial applications of the aforementioned disciplines in the strategic priority areas defined by the Horizon Europe programmes and the National Research Programme.

Official course language: English. However, all the PhD students are encouraged to learn the Italian language during the course. Further information is available from the PhD Programme website at: <http://www.ict.unimore.it/> (entry " Research Topics "). The Programme is part of the PhD School in "E4E (Engineering for Economics – Economics for Engineering)".

The PhD program has a three-year **duration** (2026/2027-2028/2029) starting from November 1st, 2026.

ARTICLE 3 – Available positions

Under this call for applications, the PhD Programme in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) allocates 2 positions with topic-specific scholarships.

The 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.

The available positions are:

Place n.	Location	Description	Specific research topic
1	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by the Italian Space Agency	Electrophysiological and Morphological Dynamics of Human Cortical Organoids in Simulated Microgravity
2	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by the Italian Space Agency	Hybrid Foundation Models and Quantum Optimization for Lunar Data Analysis and Discovery

ARTICLE 4 – 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 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. The qualification must be obtained by **October 31st, 2026**.

Failure to meet this deadline will result in exclusion from the PhD programme.

The information provided by candidates will be thoroughly verified by the competent offices to ensure its accuracy.

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

Applications must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, by **September 1st 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 or CIE credentials by accessing to 'Register with SPID or CIE'. 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.

A non-refundable fee of € 25.00 is required for each application submitted to cover administrative costs.

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 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](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 September 1st, 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 (September 1st, 2026, at 1.00 pm (CET)). Please note that, once any corrections or additions have been completed, 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 (September 1st, 2026, at 1.00 pm (CET)), the application cannot be closed in any way neither considered valid.

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

Applications submitted in accordance with the procedures described above shall be considered valid only if they are received by the University Administration no later than the application deadline specified in this call.

Applications submitted after the deadline, as well as those submitted through procedures other than those specified above, shall not be considered and will be excluded from the selection process.

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 promptly communicate any changes in residence or contact details;
- 3) in the case of candidates who will obtain their degree after the application deadline but no later than October 31, 2026, submit the degree certificate or a self-declaration confirming the awarding of the degree to the PhD Office by October 31 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) In order to express interest in also competing for the scholarships linked to a specific research topic, candidates must complete and attach the file [“Declaration of priority interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic”](#);
- 2) 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 diplomaticconsular 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](#);
- 3) a curriculum vitae including their scientific and teaching activities in Italian or English using the form in [Annex B](#); the CV must include the university-level qualifications held;
- 4) a summary of the Master's thesis, written in Italian or English, consisting of a minimum of three and a maximum of six pages, and structured as follows: thesis motivations, research methods, and results obtained. In the case of graduating students, a written presentation of the thesis to be discussed must be provided;
- 5) a short text in English (Statement of Research Interest) using the form in [Annex C](#), in which the candidate illustrates her/his motivation for attending the Course and the description of her/his specific research interests. The candidate must indicate a preference for one of the two research topics available;
- 6) optional certificates of English competence (TOEFL, Proficiency or others);
- 7) optional certificate of completion of the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) test, if owned;
- 8) letters of introduction/recommendation/reference (maximum three); in the online application, applicants must enter all the personal details of the

professor/researcher/expert who will be sending the letter of recommendation. Once the application has been submitted, the computer system will send an automatic e-mail to the contact person requesting the letter of recommendation. The deadline for uploading letters is September 1st 2026, 11.59 pm (CET); applicants can check on the application summary page whether the contact person has sent the cover letter/recommendation. Within the aforementioned deadline, applicants may send a reminder to the contact person who has not yet done so by selecting the 'reminder' item from the application summary page;

- 9) any other document considered useful for the candidate's assessment and/or scientific publications; candidates must provide a full list of all the documents and publications attached;
- 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.

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.

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.

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

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

Each committee responsible for the evaluation of candidates will be appointed by a Rector's decree and composed of three permanent members and one or more substitute members. They will be selected from the University's tenured professors and researchers. A maximum of two Italian and/or foreign experts may be chosen from public and private research bodies or institutions. An administrative staff clerk may be called to verbalize.

ARTICLE 7 – Admission procedures

Selection will be based on the **assessment of qualifications and an interview**.

Evaluation of candidate qualifications

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

- Curriculum vitae including research and teaching activities, and description of motivation (Motivation) and research interests (Statement of Research Interest): 0 to 35 points,
- Exams taken and grades achieved: from 0 to 15 points,
- Publications: from 0 to 5 points,
- Other qualifications: from 0 to 5 points.

Candidates will be admitted to the interview if the evaluation of their presented qualifications has reached a score of at least 40 points out of the 60 available.

Interview evaluation

The list of the candidates admitted to the interview, and any variation in the selection procedure, will be published by September 11th, 2026 at the following University website address: <https://www.unimore.it/en/bando-ict-asi-42>.

For the interview, the Examiners may award a score of up to 40 points.

The interview, which will be conducted in English, will focus on the research project submitted by the candidates and on their knowledge of the topics listed under the "Research Topics" section of the application.

Candidates who achieve a total score of 70 out of 100 will be considered eligible.

Exam schedule

Interview via Microsoft Teams on September 15th, 2026 at 10:00.

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 process, each committee will publish a final merit-based list ranking.

The final merit list will be approved by a Rector's Decree, once all documentation has been declared valid.

Candidates will be admitted to PhD Programmes according to their positioning on the merit list until all available places have been allocated for each PhD Programme. In case of a tie, preference is given to the younger candidate.

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

- publication on the University website at <https://www.unimore.it/en/bando-ict-asi-42> and
- publication on the online University notice board (<https://titulus-unimore.cineca.it/albo/>).

ARTICLE 9 – Enrolment

Under penalty of exclusion, within the mandatory seven-day time limit, starting from the day following the date indicated in the final rankings published on the online University notice board, those candidates qualifying for a position on the merit list 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>.

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 – Reassignment of places

In the event of vacancies, eligible candidates will be contacted by e-mail and will be invited to enrol, in accordance with the requirements indicated in the preceding article, within two days from the following day of the sending of the email. Failure to comply will result in loss of the right to admission.

The procedure will be considered complete within 90 days from the day the list of admitted candidates for the academic year 2026/2027 is published on the University website, as indicated in article 8.

ARTICLE 11 – Scholarships

The scholarships 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.

The annual amount of the scholarships is € 17.000,00 (barring subsequent regulatory amendments) for all PhD programmes. These amounts are 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 Academic Board.

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.

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 programme 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 10% of the annual amount of the study scholarship.

ARTICLE 12 - Fees for PhD Programmes, benefits and services

Fees for PhD program “Information and communication technologies (ICT)” which must be paid in one instalment to the enrolment by those who enrol are € 159.67 (the amount of the payment slip that can be downloaded online includes the regional tax, the stamp duty and the insurance coverage).

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 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 13 - 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 Academic Board, 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 programme. Research grants to PhD students without scholarships are allowed, provided the Academic Board deems the research area compatible with topic of the doctoral thesis.

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 Academic Board.

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>.

The joint attendance of the PhD programme and a medical specialisation school is allowed in compliance with the following general criteria:

- a) compatibility, also in consideration of the distance between the seats, of the activities and commitment provided by the graduate school and the PhD programme, certified by the board of the medical specialisation school and by the PhD Academic Board;
- b) incompatibility between the PhD scholarship and any remuneration, however denominated, received in relation to the activities of the specialisation school.

In cases of joint attendance referred to in this article, the request for reduction of doctoral activities is accepted by the Academic Board of the doctoral programme, after positive evaluation of the consistency of the research activities already carried out in the medical specialisation course, with the doctoral project. For the purposes of accepting the application referred to in this paragraph, the opinion of compatibility, expressed by the board of the specialisation school, of the doctoral project with the educational purposes of the graduate school itself is also required. If the application referred to in this paragraph is accepted, the PhD programme has a duration of no less than two years.

ARTICLE 14 – Public employees

In accordance with the law, and compatible with the administration's requirements, a public employee admitted to a PhD programme, upon request, is placed on special leave for study purposes without allowance for the duration of the programme and is entitled to a scholarship if the required conditions are met.

In the event of admission to a PhD programme 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 programmes 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 15 – 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 Programme 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 16 – 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 17 – 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 <https://www.unimore.it/en/bando-ict-asi-42>, 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/bando-ict-asi-42>.

ARTICLE 18 – 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 Paolo Grasso, 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.