Notes and FAQ
PhD Programme in Biosciences

DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOLOGIA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

2024-2025 - XL cycle

Notes

- After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email. This email will include a password enabling you to access the list of candidates admitted to the oral colloquium and the final list of candidates accepted into the PhD Course. It is essential for candidates to retain this email and password for future reference. Please note that the password is automatically generated, and the PhD Course secretary cannot issue a new one.

- We recommend candidates applying for scholarships funded by the University to also select scholarships with general topics "Network and Quantitative Biology." These scholarships, funded by the Department of Biology, align with the themes proposed by the faculties within the department and are listed in the "funded by the University" section.

- Candidates are encouraged to carefully read the priority research projects outlined by our PhD Programme and in case to email the faculties for further details.

- We remind you that the publication dates of the results of the evaluation of the titles and of the oral exams are to be considered until midnight of the specified date. We kindly ask you not to contact the doctoral office to inquire about the publication of the results.

FAQ

1. **Is there a specific template for the research statement ?**

No, there isn't a template for the research statement. You are free to organize the statement in a way that best suits your needs.

2. Is there a guideline to prepare my research statement ?

The research statement should delineate your current and future research interests, goals, and methodologies. It should encompass a summary of your background and expertise, as well as your motivation for pursuing a PhD within our programme. We strongly encourage candidates to identify one or more projects from those proposed by our PhD programme, for which you intend to apply, along with a brief description of your intended research plan for each.

Drafting the research statement requires the ability to generate original content and well-structured arguments within the candidate's field of research interest. Generative artificial intelligence or AI-assisted technologies, such as ChatGPT or similar services, should be used cautiously, primarily for enhancing language and readability. If the candidate has used these tools during the drafting of the research statement, they must include a statement taking full responsibility for the content.

3. I'm interested in more than one project proposed by the PhD Programme, should I have to submit a separate research statement for each project ?

No, a single research statement (a single pdf file), with the same limitation of 2000 words, has to be uploaded, even if more than one project is indicated.

4. Is there a template for the CV ?

No, there is no specific template for the CV. Regardless of the format, we advise candidates to include past and present work and research experience, educational history including degree scores, a list of attended conferences, workshops, and summer schools, details of posters and oral presentations, published papers, and language certificates if available.

5. Can I apply to more than one curriculum ?

Yes, during the submission, you are required to indicate a ranking of priority for the available curricula in our PhD Programme. However, you may also express interest in projects from different curricula. This does not pose any problem.

6. Which is the difference between scholarships funded by the University and by External Public or Private Bodies/Departments.

The distinction lies in the funding source that supports the scholarship. However, the salary, duration, and rules remain consistent regardless of the funding scheme.

7. Would it be possible to propose in the research statement my own research project, focusing on topics different from those outlined in the priority list of the PhD Programme?

The candidate may propose a project on topics different from those indicated by the PhD as priorities. However, it should be noted that one of the criteria for evaluating the research statement is the coherence of the candidate's expertise and past experience with the priority topics, as well as their motivation to pursue these projects. Therefore, we recommend specifying within the 2000 words of the research statement which project the candidate feels most suited to pursue.

8. **My thesis is still under embargo. What document can I upload instead of the complete thesis?**

   If your thesis is under embargo, you can upload the abstract or summary along with a certification of the embargo, such as a signed declaration from your supervisor or a screenshot of the thesis submission website indicating the embargo period. The abstract of the thesis and the embargo certificate should be submitted in a single pdf.

9. **When accessing the PICA platform, I'm presented with options to select projects funded by External Public or Private Bodies/Departments, yet I'm unable to find those funded by the University. How can I apply for University-funded projects?**

   When you access the submission, you're automatically considered for the fellowship funded by the University. Therefore, even if you close the submission without selecting any fellowships funded by External Public or Private Bodies/Departments, you'll still be considered for University-funded fellowships. However, we recommend that candidates always select the fellowships funded by the Department of Biology 'DiBio su fondi Budget MUR Dipartimenti di Eccellenza 2023-2027'.