

Notes and FAQ

PhD Programme in Biosciences



DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOLOGIA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

2025-2026 - XLI 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 project ?

Yes, there is a template available at the PhD Programme website (<https://dottorato.biologia.unipd.it/admission-and-general-information/>)

Only Projects submitted using the proposed template and not exceeding the maximum allowed length will be considered.

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

The research project should delineate the candidate's future research interests, goals, and methodologies. It should encompass a summary of the candidate's motivation for pursuing a PhD within our programme. Candidates must select one or more projects from those proposed by our PhD programme and indicate their intended applications. If applying for multiple projects, a separate PDF file must be submitted for each project.

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 ?

Yes

4. Is there a template for the CV ?

Yes, there is a template available at the PhD Programme website (<https://dottorato.biologia.unipd.it/admission-and-general-information/>)

Only CV submitted using the proposed template will be considered.

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 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'.

10. I have submitted my application successfully, but I am unable to upload referee contacts or reference letters whenever I click on the dedicated link. The message "No application submitted includes letter of reference/ No applications calls for reference letter" comes out. What do I have to do ?

Reference letters are not foreseen for our programme, so nothing else is required for your application.