

NOTICE OF COMPETITION FOR ADMISSION
TO THE AFAM DOCTORATE RESEARCH COURSE IN

MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS FOR AUDITORY DISPLAY
AND COMPUTER-AIDED COMPOSITION

40th CYCLE – A.Y. 2024/2025

NOTICE DEADLINE: September 9, 2024 - 12:00 (CEST)

Changes and/or additions to the notice will be published
on the website of the “Vincenzo Bellini” State Music Conservatory of Catania at the following link
[Conservatorio di Catania](#)

THE DIRECTOR

Having regard to art. 33 of the Italian Constitution;

Having regard to Law 21 December 1999, n. 508;

Having regard to Presidential Decree 28 February 2003, n. 132;

Having regard to the Decree of the Ministry of University and Research n. 470 of 21 February 2024, “Accreditation of doctoral courses offered by AFAM Institutions” in art. 3, paragraph 3, which provides that “AFAM Institutions may request accreditation of courses and related locations, including in an associated form, by entering into agreements or establishing consortia, which may be the administrative headquarters of the courses, with one or more of the following entities: other Italian AFAM Institutions in possession of the requirements set out in the previous paragraphs or similar foreign Institutions, with the possibility of issuing a final multiple or joint qualification [...]”;

Having regard to the Decree of the Ministry of University and Research no. 544 of 27 March 2024, with which the annual amount of the scholarship for attending the PhD courses was re-determined, starting from the academic year 2024/2025, at € 16,243.00 gross of social security costs to be paid by the recipient

Having regard to the Decrees of the Ministry of University and Research no. 629 and no. 630 of 24 April 2024, which allocate funds to the Institutions for the implementation of Research Doctorates respectively on PNRR M4C1 – Inv. 4.1 “Extension of the number of research doctorates and innovative doctorates for public administration and cultural heritage”, and on PNRR M4C2 – Inv. 3.3 “Introduction of innovative doctorates that respond to the innovation needs of companies and promote the hiring of researchers by companies”;

Seen the Decree of the Ministry of University and Research no. 778 of 12 June 2024, “Adoption of the ANVUR Guidelines for the accreditation of Research Doctorates of AFAM Institutions”;

Seen the Statute of the Vincenzo Bellini Conservatory of Catania approved with d.D.G.

no. 1489/2022, Annex E (registered by the Court of Auditors on 10 November 2022 at no. 2844), valid from 01 January 2023;

Seen Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021 “Regulation containing methods of accreditation of doctoral locations and courses and criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited bodies”;

Seen the Teaching Regulations of the Vincenzo Bellini Conservatory of Catania;

Seen the directorial decree adopting the integrated teaching regulation for the purposes of activating research doctorates;

Having seen the MUR note Prot. 9166 of 13 May 2024;

Having seen the resolutions of the Academic Council n. 81 of 18 May 2024 and of the Board of Directors n. 43 of 21 May 2024;

Having seen the resolution of the Academic Council n. 107 of 10 July 2024,

DECREES

Art. 1 – NOTICE

A competition for qualifications and exams is announced for admission to the AFAM PhD Course of the XL cycle, A.A. 2024/2025, in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition of three-year duration.

The PhD Course Sheet, which is to be considered an integral part of this announcement, contains the indication of the number of places advertised, the topic and the type of tests. The Sheet also indicates the website where the information relating to the PhD Course and the evaluation criteria for admission applications are published.

Changes, updates or additions to the PhD Course Sheet will be published on the website of the [Conservatorio di Catania](#) even after the deadline of the announcement, and in any case at least ten days before the oral interview.

The number of places with scholarships may be increased following further funding from external bodies, public or private, regional and/or national and/or European and/or international obtained either through announcements or agreements. In these cases, where the scholarship is funded on a restricted topic and for specific projects, the Conservatory reserves the right to resort to new selection procedures. Appropriate publicity will be given to each funding at the link [Conservatorio di Catania](#)

The number of places and scholarships may also be increased following any financial resources made available by the Sicilian Region, under the Action PR FSE+ SICILY 2021 2027 – Priority 2, ESO 4.7. – activated. Regional Department of Education and Professional Training Department of Education, University and the Right to Study of the Sicilian Region, pursuant to D.D.G. n. 579 of 21 May 2024, which approved Notice n. 15/2024 for the funding of PhD scholarships in Sicily. In which case, candidates eligible for said scholarships must satisfy the following criteria:

- a) be in possession of the requirements set out in art. 2 of this announcement, born or resident in Sicily on the date of publication of notice 15/24 of 21 May 2024, selected within the selection procedures of the Catania Conservatory and usefully classified for the purposes of admission to the PhD course and the assignment of regional scholarships for the relevant academic year (academic year 2024/25 for the window of the first cycle of AFAM research doctorates, XL university cycle);
- b) be no older than 35 years of age at the time of application to participate in the PhD competition;
- c) carry out a mandatory period of study and research abroad lasting no less than 8 months and no more than 12 months (with at least two continuous periods of 4 months).

The regional scholarships will be assigned under the condition of their effective activation and the publication of the decree of the Sicilian Region approving the final ranking of allocation of resources to the Catania Conservatory.

In the event of equal merit, scholarships will be assigned with priority to deserving candidates who are holders of international protection (with refugee status or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) within the limits of one scholarship, ordinary or reserved.

This announcement, written in Italian and translated into English, is published within the Transparent Administration of the institutional website of the Conservatory of Catania; said publication has the value of official notification to the interested parties for all the information contained therein, therefore the candidates will not receive further communications. This announcement is also advertised on the dedicated page of the institutional website. The notice of this announcement will also be published on the European Euraxess website and on that of the Ministry of University and Research. Any corrections will be made known, exclusively, with the publication on the institutional web page.

1.1. Activation and accreditation

Pursuant to art. 3 of Ministerial Decree 21 February 2024, no. 470, the selection procedures and the Doctoral Courses can be activated pending the passing of the initial evaluation by ANVUR and the ministerial accreditation. In the event that the initial evaluation and/or accreditation procedures are not successful, the Doctoral Course in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition cannot be activated, and any beneficiaries identified will lose the possibility of enrolling. The communication will be sent to the email addresses communicated with the registration form.

1.2. Doctoral Program Information

The available position and scholarship, research topics, admission requirements, methods and selection criteria for the formation of the ranking for the Doctoral Program in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition are indicated in the Doctoral Program Information, an integral part of this announcement and published on the website of the [Conservatorio di Catania](#). The scholarship may be increased if further funding becomes available, without prejudice to the terms for submitting the application for admission indicated in the following art. 3 of the announcement.

The Catania Conservatory reserves the right, in the event of failure to finalize agreements with external entities for the financing of scholarships by 25 September 2024, to revoke the assignment of positions to aspiring doctoral students.

1.3. *Type of positions in competition*

The positions covered by this announcement are Positions with a restricted theme scholarship on specific projects funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), i.e. positions that bind the assignees to carry out the doctoral activity on a specific research topic indicated in the Doctorate Sheet, an integral part of this announcement and published on the website of the Catania Conservatory. The project relating to the individual scholarship is carried out thanks to the European PNRR funds and any co-financing. These positions are subject to the reporting rules and specific obligations of the projects from which they are financed.

Art. 2 - ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Those who, on the deadline of the call, are in possession of at least one of the following qualifications may participate in the selection for the PhD in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition without any age or citizenship restrictions:

- a) Second level academic diploma (DCSL);
- b) V.O. academic diploma if accompanied by a secondary school diploma;
- c) II level degree diploma;
- d) Master's degree;
- e) Single-cycle degree of V.O.;
- f) Similar qualification obtained abroad, recognized as equivalent to the aforementioned second level academic qualifications for the sole purpose of participating in the competition for admission to the PhD pursuant to international agreements (EQF 7).

Those who obtain the qualification required for admission by the date of enrollment in the PhD Course may also apply to participate in the selection.

The suitability of the foreign qualification is assessed by the Admissions Committee for the sole purpose of carrying out the tests, without prejudice to subsequent checks by the Administration in compliance with the legislation in force in this area in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued and with international treaties or agreements regarding the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies. In this case, the application for participation must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- a) qualification for admission to the Course translated, in Italian or English, by the competent diplomatic or consular representations or by an official translator;
- b) request for a judgment of suitability to the Admissions Committee.

In the event of admission to the Course, in order to issue a residence visa, it will, in any case, be necessary to request the certificate of equivalence from the competent diplomatic authorities in one's country of origin.

When submitting the application for admission to the PhD, the candidate self-declares possession of the qualification required under this article, pursuant to art. 46 and 47 of Law 445/2000.

Anyone who has already benefited, even partially, from a scholarship for attending Doctoral Courses or equivalent Courses at other universities in Italy, will not be able to benefit from another Doctoral scholarship.

Pursuant to Ministerial Decree 470/2024, art. 11, paragraph 5, "Public employees admitted to a doctoral course benefit, for the normal duration of the course, from the leave of absence provided for by collective bargaining or, if employed under public law, from extraordinary leave for study reasons, compatible with the needs of the administration, pursuant to article 2 of Law 13 August 1984, no. 476, with or without allowances and unless explicitly waived, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a doctoral course, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the budget for research activities carried out in Italy and abroad as per Article 9, paragraph 4 remains unchanged. Please note that in the academic year 2024/2025, there are no positions without a scholarship available for this call. This means that, if a public employee wins the position advertised, he or she must necessarily opt for unpaid leave in his or her workplace for the entire period of attendance of the Doctoral Course in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition, in order to be able to regularly receive the PNRR scholarship.

The Catania Conservatory may carry out specific checks, at any stage of the procedure, on the truthfulness of the substitute declarations made by the candidate. If the check finds that the content of the declarations is false, the candidate will be excluded from taking the competition tests or, if already registered because he or she won the competition, will be declared to have forfeited his or her position, without prejudice to the criminal sanctions provided for by art. 76 of Law no. 445/2000.

In the case of activation of the Doctoral Scholarships made available by the Sicilian Region, under the Action PR FSE+ SICILY 2021 2027 – Priority 2, ESO 4.7., the requirements set out in this article are integrated, limited to the aforementioned Scholarships, with what is indicated in article 1 of this announcement.

Art. 3 - APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE SELECTION

3.1. Procedure for the application for admission

The application for admission to the selection, duly completed and accompanied by the attachments listed in the following paragraph 3.2, must be submitted electronically via the ISIDATA portal, without fail by 12:00 (CEST) on 9, September 2024.

A mandatory fee of €50.00 non-refundable is required for admission to the selection, to be paid via PagoPA by the deadline for submitting applications, uploading the receipt of the payment made to the IT portal.

Only one application per candidate can be submitted.

Applications not sent by the deadline of the call or for which the payment of the admission fee for the selection has not been made by the deadline of the call will not be admitted to the competition.

No communication will be sent to candidates via email regarding the submission of the application.

The receipt of the application sent and the receipt of payment must be retained by the candidate and, if requested, must be presented to the Admissions Committee for the Doctoral Competition.

Candidates are therefore invited to complete the application to participate in the competition well in advance of the deadline to allow the Offices to guarantee the necessary assistance. Complaints will not be accepted for any malfunctions of the IT system due to technical problems and/or overloads of the communication line and/or application systems.

3.2. Documents to be attached

Candidates must produce and attach the following documents in pdf format (maximum size 50 MB):

- a) valid identification document with photo (identity card or passport), front/back scan;
- b) professional artistic curriculum (no specific format is required);
- c) doctoral project;
- d) qualifications assessable pursuant to art. 6 paragraph 2 of this announcement;
- e) self-declaration drawn up by the candidate in which the interested party declares under his/her own responsibility that he/she has not already benefited from PhD scholarships, even partial ones;
- f) in the case of a scholarship co-financed by a company (scholarships pursuant to Ministerial Decree 630/2024): self-declaration of not being employees of the financing company;
- g) privacy information form;
- h) any certifications pursuant to Law 104/92, as integrated by Law 17/99, for candidates with disabilities and pursuant to Law 170/2010 for candidates with specific learning disabilities;
- i) certification¹ of the achievement of each academic/university qualification held by the candidate (access qualification and any additional qualifications), first and second level, indicating:
 - AFAM institution that issued the qualification (or similar foreign institution);
 - type of academic diploma or university degree (II level, V.O., master's degree, single-cycle master's degree, etc.);
 - name of the academic diploma or university degree course with indication of the class;
 - date of achievement of the qualification with indication of the final grade.

Only public employee candidates are required to provide a document signed by the employer certifying the willingness to grant unpaid leave to the candidate, should the candidate win a position, for the entire period of attendance of the Doctoral Course in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition. The lack of such certification from the employer will prevent the public employee candidate from continuing the competition process.

Those who do not yet have a second level qualification at the date of submission of the application are required to provide certification relating to the exams taken and the grades obtained with the weighted average of the exam grades indicated at the bottom (the weighted average is only required for academic graduates in AFAM institutions).

The documents that all candidates are required to attach must be produced in Italian or English. For identity documents and qualifications issued in a language other than Italian, the official translation into Italian or English carried out by the Institution that issued the qualification or by an authorized body must be attached.

¹ Type of attestation to attach for qualifications obtained in:

1. AFAM institutions or Italian universities: self-certification, dated and signed, of the achievement of the first and second level qualification (First and second level academic diploma or Afam diploma of V.O. with secondary school diploma or three-year and master's degree, or V.O. degree) and the Diploma Supplement;
2. Academic institutions of EU/non-EU countries: certification, Transcript of Records of the first and second level qualification, and the Diploma Supplement. If available, a document useful for the purposes of declaring the authenticity and equivalence of the qualification (e.g. Declaration of Value issued by the Italian diplomatic authorities in the country in which the qualification was obtained, or certificate of authenticity and comparability issued by centers such as ENIC-NARIC). Candidates who do not have these documents at the application stage and who are awarded a PhD position, must still produce the document at the registration stage, and in any case by the start date of the Course.
3. Italian private academic institutions: as an alternative to the certificate, it is possible to attach the self-certification complete with all the data requested above, and the Diploma Supplement (if present).

According to current legislation, the Catania Conservatory cannot accept certifications issued by other Italian public administrations. The qualifications held by candidates, if issued by Italian academic institutions, must be self-certified.

For registrations with reservations, please refer to article 8.3 of this announcement.

The application is to be considered for all legal purposes as a self-certification, pursuant to articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/200 and subsequent amendments, of the data contained therein and of the documents attached thereto.

Art. 4 – REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

A candidate will be excluded from participating in the admission competition if:

- he/she does not meet the general admission requirements, as per art. 2 of this announcement;
- he/she submits the application without the documents indicated in art. 3.2;
- he/she does not produce the receipt of the payment of €50.00 (fifty euros) as a contribution for participation (for the Italian candidate only);
- he/she does not produce a copy of the academic qualification translated as per the previous art. 2 (for the candidate in possession of a foreign qualification only);
- he/she does not produce a request for a judgment of suitability to the Admissions Committee if the same has not already been declared equivalent (for the candidate in possession of a foreign qualification only);
- he/she does not have an active personal PEC address.

Art. 5 - ADMISSION TESTS

The admission exam to the Doctoral Course is aimed at ensuring an appropriate comparative evaluation of the candidates. The dates, verification methods and evaluation criteria of the admission tests are indicated in the Doctorate Sheet, an integral part of this announcement, and published on the website of the Catania Conservatory.

The list of candidates admitted to take the admission tests will be published on the website of the Conservatory at the link [Conservatorio di Catania](#).

The admission tests are public.

The results of the admission tests will be published on the institutional website at the link Catania Conservatory. The publication on the website has the value of notification. No communication will be sent to candidates via email.

The absence or failure to connect online, where required, of candidates on the day or at the time established for the competition tests is considered a waiver of participation in the selection. During the admission tests, candidates must show a valid identification document (identity card or passport) in original, under penalty of exclusion from the competition.

Any waivers of participation in the competition must be communicated to the address protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it

5.1. *Services for people with disabilities and with DSA*

Pursuant to Law 104/92, as integrated by Law 17/99, candidates with disabilities may request an individualized test (use of aids, any additional time, etc.) to complete the admission tests scheduled. In application of Law 170/2010, candidates with specific learning disabilities may benefit from 50% additional time in written tests, where foreseen in the selection for admission to the chosen Doctorate, upon request for an individualized test.

These requests must be submitted by selecting the corresponding fields in the registration procedure, attaching specific documentation.

5.2. *Instructions for compiling the research project*

The research project must be relevant to the objectives of the Doctoral Course. The research project, no longer than 2500 characters including spaces, must indicate:

- a) title of the project;
- b) relevance to the curriculum characterizing the Doctoral Course;
- c) objectives of the project, relevant to the curriculum characterizing the Doctoral Course;
- d) research methodology that is intended to be adopted, timetable and relative timing, developed over the 3 years of the Doctoral Course;
- e) expected results and possible risk strategies;
- f) forecast of any period abroad;
- g) degree of organizational and financial feasibility;
- h) involvement of Italian and/or foreign research facilities and/or researchers, with relative motivations;

i) involvement of companies;

l) essential bibliography up to a maximum of 12 titles (outside the 2000 characters including spaces).

In the event of admission of the candidate to the Course, the research project presented by the candidate does not normally constitute a binding work program.

Art. 6 - EXAMINING COMMITTEE AND ASSESSABLE QUALIFICATIONS

6.1. Examining Committee

The examining committee for admission to the PhD in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition is appointed by the Director of the Catania Conservatory.

The composition of the examining committee can be consulted on the Catania Conservatory website

The meetings of the examining committee, composed of five members identified within the Doctoral Teaching Board, are held in person, although remote connection of one or more members is possible. The committees define, in the preliminary meetings, the methods of applying the evaluation criteria indicated in the PhD Form which will be reported in the competition minutes and as indicated below.

The committee has 100 points divided as indicated below:

titoli	punti 40
prova scritta	punti 30
colloquio orale	punti 30

6.2. Evaluable qualifications

For the evaluation of qualifications, without prejudice to the autonomy of the Admissions Committee, the following documentation can be evaluated:

a) the academic diploma or degree thesis in full format (or, for graduating candidates only, the draft of the thesis being submitted, countersigned by the supervisor and with the stamp of the AFAM Institute or university of reference) evaluateable in consideration of the content and congruence with respect to the Doctoral Course: max 6 points attributable;

b) the academic diploma or degree grade, evaluateable according to proportional parameters (or equivalent characteristics for the reserved ranking); or, in its absence, the weighted average grade of the exams taken (for graduating candidates who obtain their degree from AFAM Institutes or Italian Universities by the date of enrollment in the Doctoral Course): max 10 points attributable;

c) artistic, cultural and professional production, evaluateable if with specific relevance with respect to the chosen curriculum; monographs and miscellaneous publications if provided with ISBN, assessable if with specific relevance to the chosen curriculum and already published; publications in peer-reviewed journals or series, assessable if with specific relevance to the chosen curriculum and already published; patents, assessable if with specific relevance to the Doctoral Course: max 6 points attributable;

d) post-graduate qualifications, such as: specialization diploma, advanced training courses, first and second level masters, with a duration of at least one year issued by AFAM Institutes or by qualified Universities or research bodies, assessable if consistent with the Doctoral Course: max 2 points attributable;

e) collaboration grants for research activities, assessable if consistent with the Doctoral Course; scholarships, assessable if awarded following selection procedures carried out exclusively by AFAM Institutes or by Italian or foreign Universities, or by research institutes of primary and proven relevance; periods of study and research abroad (including the Erasmus period) assessable if carried out at universities or qualified research institutes for a continuous period of no less than 3 months; awards obtained at national and international level if consistent with the Doctoral Course: max 2 points attributable;

f) appointment as expert of the subject assessable if consistent with the Doctoral Course, decided on a date prior to the date of publication of the announcement in the last seven years: max 2 points attributable;

g) the Research Project, in short form (no more than 2500 characters including spaces) prepared according to the indications in art. 5 paragraph 3 of the announcement: max 12 points attributable.

With reference to point b) of this article, for those who obtain the access qualification by the date of enrollment in the Doctoral Course, the weighted average grade of the exams taken, which replaces the degree grade referred to in letter b), must be calculated:

– by multiplying the grade of each exam taken by the respective number of credits (30 cum laude is to be considered as 30);

– by adding all the products obtained;

– by dividing the result by the sum of the useful credits (those of the exams with a grade);

– by multiplying the average obtained by 110 and dividing the result by 30 (thus obtaining the grade in hundredths).

The weighted average is not required for diploma and degree candidates at foreign AFAM and University Institutes.

Art. 7 – RANKING

The examining commission will express a judgment of merit on each candidate for the purpose of assigning the positions with a restricted topic, taking into account the skills, experience and specific aptitudes of the candidates, as well as the profile sought and indicated in the Doctorate Sheet.

Employees of a company cannot express interest in (or be assigned to) a position financed or co-financed by the same company.

The positions with a restricted topic and the reserved ones are assigned on the basis of the general ranking of merit, identifying the first classified among those who have obtained the highest score in the admission tests.

Finally, the Director publishes the final outcome document with the indication of the winning and eligible non-winning candidates, the overall score obtained in decreasing order and the suitability for each specific scholarship.

In the case of a scholarship funded by an external body or reserved positions, the Commission may be integrated by experts representing the external body for the sole purpose of expressing an opinion on the suitability of the candidates competing for the assignment of the scholarship subject to external funding or the reserved position. Any integration of the Commission will be indicated on the website of the Catania Conservatory.

Following the publication of the final ranking, decrees approving the documents will be drawn up and can be consulted on the website of the Catania Conservatory. Candidates who have passed the admission tests and have been awarded one of the positions on the notice are admitted to the Doctoral Course according to the order of the ranking, without prejudice to the specific rules regarding positions with a restricted theme or reserved contained in this article.

In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be applied:

- if the position is covered by a scholarship, the evaluation of the less favorable economic situation prevails, determined pursuant to the Prime Ministerial Decree of 5 December 2013, no. 159, art. 8, paragraph 4;
- in the event of further equality, the youngest candidate will prevail.

The above-mentioned general merit ranking is approved by directorial decree and will be published on the institutional page of the Catania Conservatory ([Conservatorio di Catania](#)) for 5 working days, a deadline within which a complaint can be lodged against it. After this deadline, the ranking is to be considered definitively approved. The posting will be considered as official notification to the interested parties, therefore, no personal communications will be sent to the candidates.

The ranking will be scrolled following an express or tacit renunciation of the position, until its expiry (DM 630/2024, art. 8, paragraph 8). In the event of scrolling, the position covered by the scholarship will be offered to the eligible candidates according to the ranking order, without prejudice to the constraints described above for reserved or subject-specific positions.

The rankings will be scrolled for the assignment of positions following any renunciations

Art. 8 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AND ENROLMENT

8.1. *Acceptance of the Doctoral Scholarship*

Candidates who have been awarded the Doctoral Scholarship are required to communicate their acceptance within 48 hours of the publication of the ranking, by sending an email to protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it. In the event of failure to communicate acceptance of the scholarship by the winners, the administration will proceed to scroll the ranking.

8.2. *Enrolment procedure*

The student secretariat will proceed with the enrolment of the winning candidates who have expressed acceptance also following scrolling of the ranking where available, upon payment by the winner, through the PagoPA system, of the fees provided for in art. 9.

8.3. *Enrollment with reservation*

Those who are waiting to obtain the qualification by the date of enrollment in the Doctoral Course must communicate their willingness to accept the place and enroll in the Doctoral Course as soon as they have obtained the required qualification, communicating it to the address protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it always respecting the established deadlines. The above communication must be accompanied, under penalty of

exclusion, by a scan of their valid identity document (identity card or passport). Failure to communicate by the deadline indicated in the ranking will be equivalent to the candidate renouncing the position.

Those who do not have Italian citizenship and do not have the specific documentation mentioned above at the time of enrollment will be enrolled with reservation. In order to dissolve the reservation and authorize the payment of the PhD scholarship, interested candidates are required to promptly send, upon arrival in Italy, the following documents to protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it:

- a) Valid identity document and tax code;
- b) (for citizens of non-European countries) valid residence permit. Those who do not have one must request it within 8 days of arrival in Italy and send a copy of the insured receipt issued by the Police Headquarters to the Catania Conservatory.

The Catania Conservatory reserves the right to request from PhD students the declaration of authenticity and equivalence also for qualifications obtained in EU countries, and the exhibition of the original documentation. The suitability of the foreign qualification is verified by the Catania Conservatory in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was issued, and with international treaties or agreements regarding the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies.

Candidates in possession of a foreign qualification who fail to exhibit the required documentation will subsequently be excluded from the Doctoral Course, with the obligation to return any monthly payments of the scholarship received, if they fail to exhibit such documentation or, following verification, the qualification produced does not comply with the requirements set out in art. 2.

The Catania Conservatory reserves the right to carry out checks on the documentation relating to the qualifications declared by the doctoral student at any time and, if the documentation provided does not comply with what he/she declared, the doctoral student will be excluded and will have to proceed with the return of any monthly payments of the scholarship received.

8.4. Enrolment of Sub-entrants

Following any scrolling of the ranking, a communication will be sent to the eligible candidate for the sub-entry with an indication of the enrolment terms assigned at the same time. Enrolment will take place according to the procedure described in the previous paragraph. Eligible candidates for the sub-entry who do not enrol within the indicated deadline will be considered as having tacitly renounced their place.

8.5. Additional requirements for candidates requesting a residence visa

After completing the enrolment procedure, candidates who require a study visa to stay in Italy must register on the University portal, make a “pre-enrolment application” for the Doctoral Course and follow the procedure indicated therein for the purposes of requesting the visa.

8.6. Supernumerary candidates

Eligible candidates in the ranking may be admitted as supernumerary candidates if they belong to the following categories:

- a) recipients of scholarships funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) or by institutions in their country of birth, citizenship, residence or domicile; they must submit formal certification of such scholarships by the day before the start date of the Course. If candidates come into possession of the certification after the deadline of this announcement, they must send it to protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it attaching a scan of a valid identity document (identity card or passport);
- b) holders of an Apprenticeship contract for the PhD, who do not fall within the places advertised.

Admission as supernumerary candidates is subject to verification of the documentation submitted and the maximum number of places for the PhD Course approved during the ministerial accreditation phase.

Art. 9 - REGISTRATION FEES

PhD students are required to pay registration fees for each academic year. The amount relating to the fees for attending the Doctoral Courses paid by the doctoral students consists of the regional tax for the right to study, the stamp duty and the insurance premium. For information purposes, the current amount is €166.00, (Regional tax for the right to study €140.00; stamp duty of €16.00; insurance fee of €10.00) and may be subject to changes by the competent bodies.

Withdrawal or exclusion from the Doctoral Course does not entitle the student to a refund of fees already paid.

Art. 10 - PLACES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

10.1. *Assignment*

The Doctoral Programme Information Sheet, an integral part of this announcement, contains an indication of the positions and scholarships available.

The scholarships, which can also be financed with the contribution of multiple funding sources, have a total duration of at least three years. They are assigned, for the entire duration of the course, to those enrolled in the Doctoral Programme according to the order defined in the general merit ranking and are renewed annually, subject to positive verification of the completion of the programme of activities planned for each year. The procedures for renewal are established by the Doctoral Council and codified in the Course Regulations. If the scholarship is not renewed, or if the doctoral student renounces it, the unused amount of the scholarship is reinvested by the Catania Conservatory to finance other Doctoral Programmes.

For any positions reserved for beneficiaries of apprenticeship contracts for the PhD, the winners are enrolled with reservation until the date of signing the contract. The apprenticeship contract must be finalized by November 11, 2024, under penalty of forfeiture of enrollment in the PhD Course. The assignees of any positions reserved for beneficiaries of apprenticeship contracts for the PhD will forfeit their enrollment in the PhD Course if the contractual relationship with the institution to which they belong should cease before the end of the legal duration of the Course.

Those who have already benefited (in whole or in part) from a scholarship for attending a PhD Course in Italy cannot receive the scholarship.

10.2. *Payment*

The scholarships are paid monthly in arrears (payment is made no earlier than the twenty-fifth day of the month), with the exception of PhD students with foreign citizenship, for whom the payment is always made in monthly installments in advance. The payment of the scholarship to foreign candidates will be conditional on the issuance of an entry visa by the competent Italian diplomatic representation in their country and on obtaining a tax code. Therefore, the request for a tax code must be submitted first to the Italian Embassy in the country of origin at the same time as the visa request, in order to shorten the issuance times.

The PhD scholarship, for the academic year 2024/2025, has a gross annual amount of € 16,243.00 and is subject to the payment of INPS social security contributions under separate management, two thirds paid by the Conservatory of Catania and one third paid by the scholarship holder. PhD students enjoy the protections and related rights. The recipients of a PhD scholarship must register with the INPS separate management.

The payment of the PhD scholarship may, however, only take place after the PhD student has communicated to the Catania Conservatory the bank details (IBAN) that will be used for the payment of the scholarship. For the purposes of such payment, the current account (mandatory Italian) must be in the name of the PhD student who has been awarded the scholarship, or he must be among the joint account holders.

The increase in the scholarship is set at 50%, for a total period not exceeding twelve months, for carrying out research activities abroad authorized by the Doctoral College.

An additional budget of at least 10% of the value of the scholarship must also be provided for the support of research activities. The aforementioned budgets are also guaranteed to the PhD students referred to in art. 8 of this Call and will be assigned to the Catania Conservatory to support the research and training activities of the PhD student in conjunction with the start of the courses.

The prohibitions on cumulating the Doctoral grant are governed by the relevant national legislation and by the current Regulations on Doctoral Research, to which reference is made.

10.3. *Expense authorizations*

The PhD student is authorized by the Coordinator, subject to approval by the supervisor, for the following expenses:

- a) PhD student missions in Italy and abroad, registrations for conferences, seminars, etc.;
- b) consumables for research in which the PhD students are involved;
- c) goods/equipment (for example: hardware, software, scientific equipment).

The goods must be inventoried and as such at the end of the PhD cycle they will remain the property of the Catania Conservatory. Naturally, it is not possible in any case to purchase goods/equipment for personal use (for example: cell phones, tablets, etc.);

- d) publication costs;
- e) specific training for research (for example: language courses, advanced training courses, etc.);
- f) events in whose organization the PhD students are directly involved (for example: PhDay);
- g) in the event of unused funds being available, the Doctoral College may decide to use them to pay for the travel of foreign commission members for the discussion of the thesis, which provide for the awarding of the additional foreign title to the doctoral student (for example: doctor europaeus).

10.4. *Compatibility and incompatibility*

Admission to the Doctoral Course entails an exclusive and full-time commitment on the part of the doctoral student. Concurrent enrollment in other academic courses is permitted under the conditions governed by Law 12 April 2022, no. 33, art. 2, paragraph 2, and by DDMM 930/2022 and 933/2022.

The cases of total or partial incompatibility for the use of the scholarship are established by the legislation in force. In particular, scholarships cannot be cumulated with research grants or with other scholarships awarded for any reason. In the event of subsequent incompatibility, the scholarship installments relating to the period for which they were unduly received must be returned.

Anyone who has already benefited from a PhD scholarship in Italy cannot benefit from it a second time.

Those who have renounced scholarships under the PNRR within the XXXVIII cycle and the XXXIX cycle (DM 629/2024, art. 14, paragraph 1, letter cc) and DM 630/2024, art. 11, paragraph 1, letter dd) cannot be awarded PhD scholarships.

10.5. Cancellations and forfeitures

Enrollment in the PhD Course, with the simultaneous assignment of the PhD scholarship, is subject to the outcome of the checks relating to the coherence and compliance of the related research project with the thematic areas bound by the PNRR projects. It is also subject to ministerial accreditation following the initial evaluation by ANVUR, as indicated in art. 1.1 of this announcement.

10.6. Mobility abroad

The PhD student is required to complete a mobility period abroad of n. 6 (six) months; said mobility period must be concluded within the timeframe indicated by the Doctoral Teaching Board.

Art. 11 – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

11.1. The Course requires an exclusive and full-time commitment, without prejudice to the provisions of the following paragraph 7, and of Article 9, paragraph 2, letter b) of Ministerial Decree no. 470/2024. Doctoral students, with or without a scholarship, are required to:

- carry out the training course approved by the Doctoral Board with exclusive commitment;
- attend regularly the course activities planned by the Board itself;
- participate in common courses within the doctoral school;
- present oral or written reports on the activities and research carried out;
- draw up personal registers of the activities referred to in the following paragraph 3;
- comply with anything else approved by the Doctoral Board or provided for by the implementing regulations of specific funding to cover doctoral scholarships;
- write, at the end of the course, the doctoral thesis with original contributions.

11.2. Doctoral students must follow the training path agreed with the supervisor and the co-supervisor(s) and approved by the Doctoral Board, consistent with the Training Project approved by the Board itself and advertised annually at the link Conservatorio di Catania.

11.3. The activities of the doctoral students must be reported in specific personal registers and/or specific IT platforms and include: course activities, research activities, personal study, bibliographic research and archive research, ongoing assessments, participation in seminars, courses and conferences, activities at facilities external to the AFAM Institute where they carry out the Course (other AFAM institutes, universities, research bodies, companies), in Italy and abroad, any supplementary teaching activities and tutoring activities and anything else arranged by the Doctoral Board that leads to the completion of the training path. It is absolutely forbidden to carry out research activities related to the doctorate at private institutions or facilities, unless authorized by the Doctoral Board. Violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the Doctoral Course.

11.4. The veracity of the various activities carried out by the doctoral students is certified by the Coordinator on the basis of the indications provided by the supervisor and co-supervisor(s).

11.5. At the end of each year of the course, the Doctoral Board, on the basis of a detailed report on the activity and research carried out by each doctoral student, decides on admission to the following year or proposes to the Director the exclusion from continuing the Doctoral Course.

11.6. The doctoral student may request from the Doctoral Board, for proven reasons, an extension of the time required for the presentation of the doctoral thesis, for a maximum duration of twelve months, without additional financial burdens.

11.7. The Doctoral Board may decide to extend the duration of the doctoral course for a period not exceeding twelve months, for justified scientific needs related, among other things, to the needs of the course within co-tutelle lasting more than three years or to the needs of a proven increase in scientific productivity (for example: for the submission or outcome of a patent application as well as in the case of an extension of the duration of a research project of significant national or international interest); in the cases of extension, the corresponding extension of the duration of the scholarship must be ensured with funds from the budget of the Catania Conservatory, therefore the motivated proposal for extension of the Doctoral Board will be submitted to the approval of the Board of Directors for the relative financial verification. The beneficiary doctoral students will be required to comply with all decisions of the Doctoral Board with reference to the extended training course, including the performance of competitive activities.

11.8. Doctoral students may request, for proven reasons provided for by current legislation such as maternity, serious illness and civil service, suspension of the course for a maximum duration of six months. The payment of the scholarship or other equivalent funding is not foreseen for the duration of the suspension. The Doctoral Board, following communication from the Course Coordinator, takes note of the suspensions. Suspension exceeding thirty days for one of the reasons indicated above entails the obligation to fully recover the periods of interruption of the activity and, therefore, in such cases, the duration of the training course will be extended for a period corresponding to that of the interruption.

11.9. The periods of extension and suspension referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of this article may not exceed a total duration of eighteen months, except in specific cases provided for by law.

11.10. The provisions of the interventions for the right to study referred to in Legislative Decree 29 March 2012, no. 68 remain in force for doctoral students.

11.11. The Course Coordinator must promptly communicate to the competent office the interruption of the doctoral student's activity for the consequent administrative measures.

11.12. Doctoral students are required to maintain confidentiality in relation to the research activities in which they participate at external institutions.

11.13. Following registration for the Course, each doctoral student will be given an email address at the Catania Conservatory through which they will receive institutional communications. It is mandatory to consult the institutional email address as well as to keep constantly informed via the Catania Conservatory website, for general and specific communications relating to the doctorate. The doctoral student is also required to register on the ministerial website at the MIUR Login page, in order to be registered as a research potential of the Catania Conservatory.

11.14. Doctoral students may carry out, as an integral part of the training project, subject to the approval of the Doctoral Board and without any increase in the scholarship:

- supplementary teaching activities, within the limit of forty hours for each academic year. For the activities referred to in this paragraph, doctoral students are paid the grants referred to in article 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of Legislative Decree 9 May 2003, no. 105, converted, with amendments, by Law 11 July 2003, no. 170.

11.15. The performance of the activities must be indicated in the personal registers. Specific teaching collaborations provided for by specific national regulations are reserved for which the relevant discipline will apply. All other forms of teaching are strictly prohibited and it is the coordinator's duty to monitor compliance with this provision.

11.16. All administrative information concerning the doctoral students as well as their careers will be published on the dedicated institutional web page. The aforementioned publication replaces any other communication and, therefore, the winners are required to connect to the aforementioned site for constant updates.

Art. 12 - OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS

Intellectual and industrial property rights on the results eventually achieved by the PhD student, including, by way of example and not limited to, software, patentable or non-patentable industrial inventions, know-how,

models, data and data collections, are regulated in accordance with current legislation and possibly based on what is established in the individual agreements with third-party entities.

The PhD student is obliged to communicate without delay to the Supervisor and the Doctoral Coordinator the achievement of the results, undertaking not to disclose them or use them without the prior authorization of the Catania Conservatory

The PhD student is also required to sign a specific commitment of confidentiality and recognition of intellectual property rights in relation to the information, data and documents of a confidential nature of which he/she may become aware in carrying out his/her activity in, or on behalf of, the Catania Conservatory.

In any case, the PhD student is guaranteed the possibility of carrying out the ordinary publication activities foreseen by the training course (dissemination of results), which must be planned in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 13 - AWARDING THE DOCTORATE

The title of doctor of research, abbreviated to "Ph.D.", is awarded following the positive evaluation of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of investigation.

The research work, together with the report on the activities carried out during the PhD course, is examined by at least two anonymous evaluators identified by the Doctoral Board, not belonging to the institution that awards the doctoral title and in possession of highly qualified experience, of which at least one must be a permanent or fixed-term AFAM professor. The evaluators may belong to foreign or international institutions.

Within 30 days of receiving the research work, they express a written analytical opinion, proposing admission to public discussion or postponement of the discussion of the same for a period not exceeding six months. After this period, the final research work, accompanied by a new written opinion provided by the evaluators, is in any case admitted to discussion.

The discussion takes place publicly before a Commission appointed by the Doctoral College respecting, where possible, gender balance. In any case, it must be composed of at least two thirds of subjects belonging to Italian or foreign institutions not belonging to the Conservatory that offers the Course, coming from AFAM institutions.

At the end of the discussion, the commission expresses a written and motivated opinion on the research work presented in the thesis and, when it unanimously recognizes a particular scientific/artistic importance, it can award honors.

The title of doctor of research is conferred by the Director, who certifies its achievement, with the release of the parchment.

The training activities carried out by the students in one or more locations are certified by a document attached to the final diploma (diploma supplement).

Art. 14 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Pursuant to art. 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679, the processing of personal data provided by candidates when participating in the Doctoral competition or otherwise acquired for this purpose by the Catania Conservatory is aimed at carrying out the competition activities and managing the related operations and activities.

The personal data will be processed by the persons in charge of the competition procedure, including the examining commissions, in the ways and within the limits necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes, which may also possibly include communication to third parties.

The legal basis of the processing is to be found in art. 6, paragraph 1, letters (c) (processing for legal obligations) and (e) (processing for reasons of public interest), and 9, paragraph 2, letter (a) (processing for reasons of public interest) of EU Regulation 2016/679.

The provision of personal data is essential to allow registration and any refusal to provide them will make it impossible to proceed with any admission to the Doctoral Courses.

The Catania Conservatory will retain and use the personal data and contact details provided by those enrolled in the Doctoral Courses even after the completion of the competition procedures, for operational, administrative-accounting and/or other purposes connected to the management of institutional activities and for obligations related to legal obligations, as well as for the disclosure of any future opportunities (scholarships, prizes, etc.).

Candidates are granted the right to access their personal data, to request rectification, erasure, limitation of processing, as well as to oppose their processing by sending requests to protocollo@conservatoriocatania.it

In addition to the administrative and judicial protections, an appeal to the Privacy Guarantor Authority is permitted: <https://www.garanteprivacy.it> in the event that it is believed that the processing is in violation of the EU Regulation.

The data controller is the Vincenzo Bellini State Music Conservatory of Catania with registered office in via Istituto Sacro Cuore n. 3 – 95125 Catania – Tel: +39 095 437127; + 39 095 507985

- PEC protocollo@pec.conservatoriocatania.it

The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dpo@conservatoriocatania.it

For more information, please consult the website at the Data Protection page

Art. 15 - CONDITIONS OF EFFECTIVENESS

This call is issued pending accreditation of the PhD Course in Machine Learning Applications for Auditory Display and Computer-aided Composition, pursuant to Ministerial Decree 470/2024. In the event that the Course is not accredited, it will not be possible to proceed with activation for the XL cycle - academic year 2024/2025.

In the case of scholarships financed or co-financed in any capacity by third-party bodies, the assignment of scholarships is subject to confirmation of the commitment to financing.

Art. 16 - REFERENCE RULES

For anything not covered by this announcement, please refer to the Teaching Regulations available on the Conservatory website and to DDMM 470/2024 (AFAM PhD Regulations), 544/2024 (Doctorate scholarship amounts), 629/2024 and 630/2024 (funding of Doctorate scholarships).

The submission of the application to participate in the selections, through the procedure referred to in art. 3, implies acceptance by the candidate of the rules contained in this announcement and in the Regulations on Doctorate courses, and of the reporting rules specific to the various research projects on which the scholarship is funded.

The Administrative Director of the Catania Conservatory, Dr. Omar Moricca, contactable at direttoreamministrativo@conservatoriocatania.it

Catania, 9, August 2024

Prot. n. 4493/2024

Director of the Catania Conservatory
Prof. Epifanio Comis

NB: The description of the types of scholarships contained in the "2024/2025 Call Sheet" is attached to this announcement.