

Public competition announcement for admission to the PhD programmes in "Criminology", "Social Work and Personal Social Services" and "Sociological theory and applied research" at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - XLI cycle - Milan campus

Art. 1

Opening

For each PhD programme, for which an open competition is announced, the coordinator, duration, number of places on the course, number of scholarships and affiliated institutions are indicated.

The number of scholarships may be increased as a result of funding from public and private entities, provided that the relevant agreement is signed by the deadline of the call for applications.

The increase in scholarships will define an increase in the number of places on offer. Any subsequent amendments and/or additions to the call for applications will be publicised on <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>

The activation of the PhD programme and the related selection procedures are subjected to accreditation and the verification of the maintenance of requirements by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR).

PhD programme in: CRIMINOLOGY

Coordinator: Professor Francesco CALDERONI

Duration: 3 years

Places: 5

- Places with scholarship: 4
- Places without scholarship: 1

Information: For further information, please visit the PhD programme website <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/criminologia> and, in particular, the PDF brochure detailing the characteristics of the programme and the research project.

The PhD programme takes place in the Research Centre on Innovation and Crime (*TRANSCRIME*) of Università Cattolica.



Collaborating partner universities:

- Comillas Pontifical University (Spain);
- University of *Surrey* (UK);
- Cardiff University (UK);
- University of *Leeds* (UK);
- University of Lausanne (Switzerland);
- University of *Maribor* (Slovenia);
- University of Northumbria, New Castle (United Kingdom);
- Stockholm University (Sweden);
- University of *Utrecht* (Netherlands);
- *Vrije - Universiteit Amsterdam* (Netherlands);

- University of Florence;
- University of Milano-Bicocca;
- University of Palermo.

The international PhD programme in Criminology combines training, research and teaching. The training programme is determined by the Academic Board according to the characteristics of each candidate: PhD students with scholarship will be engaged in full-time activities also at one of the affiliated locations; PhD student without scholarship will be engaged in training and research activities with periodic review.

Eligible candidates are undergraduates who obtain their degree, in Italy or abroad, by October 31, 2025.

The PhD programme is taught in English. The candidates will have the possibility to obtain the *Doctor Europæus label* and the opportunity to realize a *cotutelle* thesis. During the three-year period, it is also possible to spend a research period abroad within international organisations and/or at European universities and research centres.

In addition to the application form, each candidate must enclose:

- a detailed *CV* in English;
- a research project in English. The project must briefly present the state of the art, the research problem and questions, the objectives and methodology, the expected results and possible limitations of the research and bibliographical references. The entire document must not exceed 20,000 characters (including spaces);
- at least two reference letters. These letters must be sent directly by professors/lecturers to the e-mail address (transcrime@unicatt.it) no later than the deadline of this notice;
- for university graduates, self-certification of the degree held, with final grade and list of examinations taken with the relevant marks, or certification of the



degree obtained at a foreign university, with final grade and list of examinations taken with the relevant marks;

- for undergraduates, self-certification of enrolment in a degree course with the list of examinations taken and the relevant marks, or in a foreign academic course with the examinations taken and the relevant marks;
- Certifications of any further qualifications, such as specialising Master's programmes and specialisation programmes taken in Italy or abroad, with a list of the examinations taken and the relative marks, and a copy of any other qualification considered useful for assessment purposes;
- publications deemed useful for the evaluation.

Evaluation procedure

Evaluation for admission to the PhD programme is based on the following elements:

- (a) *curriculum vitae* and other qualifications;
- (b) research project;
- (c) interview.

The evaluation is based on a scale of 0 to 70 points awarded according to the following criteria:

- elements (a) and (b) are rated from 0 to 20 points each. Only candidates scoring at least 30 points are admitted to the interview. The results of the assessment of elements (a) and (b) are communicated to the candidate by *e-mail* together with an invitation the interview, if any. These results will also be visible at <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/results>;
- element (c) is rated from 0 to 30 points. The interview, in English, is aimed at discussing the candidate's motivation and presenting the project as well as answering questions from the Selection Board. Only candidates who score at least 20 points in the interview can be admitted to the PhD programme.

The final ranking is the result of the sum of the scores obtained during the evaluations a), b) and c).

Candidates are admitted to the PhD programme in the order of ranking, on the basis of places available.

Amount of scholarship

In recognition of cooperation in the Transcrime Centre's activities, PhD students enrolled in the first year may receive an integration of their scholarship up to a maximum of € 5,000.00 gross per year. Those enrolled in the second and third year may also receive an integration of their scholarship up to a maximum of € 6,500.00 gross per year.



The 50% increase of the scholarship for research activities abroad, provided for each scholarship holder, will in any case be calculated on the basic amount of scholarship established by law.

Financial support for competition winners living abroad

In order to promote the internationalisation of the PhD programme, winners of scholarship, resident abroad may receive up to € 5,000.00 for documented travel and accommodation expenses incurred in moving to Milan during the first year of the PhD programme.

PhD programme in: SOCIAL WORK AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Coordinator: Professor Elena CABIATI

Duration: 3 years

Places: 4

- Places with scholarship: 3
- Places without scholarship: 1

Information: <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/socialwork>

Collaborating partner universities

- *Ben Gurion* University (Israel);
- *Bournemouth* University (UK);
- *Cardiff* University (UK);
- Politecnico di Milano;
- University of Molise;
- University of Rome III;
- University of Trieste.

The multidisciplinary PhD programme focuses on the specific *social work* competences included in the specific disciplinary scientific field SPS/07. The object of study on the one hand concerns the existential suffering and vulnerability of individuals, families and local communities, and on the other hand the ability of the helping professions (*primarily* social workers) and public/private *welfare* organisations (*personal social services*) to activate personalised interventions in order to promote, in individual situations of need or risk, better opportunities for care/protection, recovery, prevention or promotion of social well-being.



The main research directions proposed are in the following areas:

- Social Work theories for practice;
- Participatory social work research;
- Social Work education;
- Social Work in child protection;
- Intercultural Social Work;
- Social advocacy;
- Case management;
- Social work with groups;
- Social facilitation and family mediation skills;
- Development of social capital;
- Community Social Work;
- Social Work with people in poverty;
- Social Work with disabled people;
- Social work for preventing violence and supporting victims;
- The voluntary sector's contribution to social welfare, including its support for the sustainability of local welfare;
- Shared governance in local welfare (co-planning, co-design);
- Integration of personal social services with employment services and health services;
- Fourth (informal) sector participatory practices in service planning.

Choice of places to compete for

Candidates must indicate in their application form which position or positions they are applying for, choosing from (NB: candidates may indicate one or more positions, or even all of them):

- a) position with a scholarship for research on the topic: 'Co-planning and co-design processes in social work', to be developed within the theoretical and methodological framework of *Relational Social Work*.
- b) position with a scholarship for research on the topic: 'Forms of protection for non-self-sufficient persons in the context of social services, with particular reference to support administration', to be developed within the theoretical and methodological framework of *Relational Social Work*;
- c) position with a scholarship for research on the topic: 'Social work interventions in favour of unaccompanied foreign minors, with particular reference to the Gorizia area' (this scholarship requires 18 months of study and research at the Convitto Salesiano San Luigi in Gorizia and an optional period of up to 6 months abroad);
- d) position without scholarship for research on a topic of candidate's choice.



Admission tests

The admission tests consist of an evaluation of the qualifications submitted, a written test and an oral test. A (non-binding) guiding reading list for exam preparation is provided, which can be viewed at <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/socialwork>

Documents to be submitted

For the purposes of assessing the qualifications, candidates must enclose with their application, under penalty of exclusion:

- a detailed *curriculum vitae* (in Italian or English);
- for university graduates, self-certification of the graduate degree, with final grade and list of examinations taken with the relevant marks, or certification of the degree obtained at a foreign university, with final grade and list of examinations taken with the relevant marks (in Italian or English);
- for undergraduates, self-certification of enrolment in a graduate degree programme, indicating the examinations taken and the relevant marks, or in a foreign academic course, indicating the examinations taken and the relevant marks;
- for graduates, an electronic copy of their dissertation (in Italian or English);
- for undergraduates, an electronic copy of their final dissertation and a file with a short written presentation, in free form, of the theme and content of their dissertation, indicating the name of the supervisor (in Italian or English).

Candidates may also enclose with their application a list, on plain paper, of publications considered useful for assessment purposes, as well as a copy in electronic format of those that the applicant considers useful to make known to the Selection Board (in Italian or English).

Evaluation of Titles

The titles that will be taken into account for the assessment will concern:

- the *curriculum studiorum* (academic qualifications, grade, continuity of study interests, student career, relevance between the curriculum and the PhD programme; language and transversal skills);
- the quality of the dissertation (relevance of the topic of the dissertation with the PhD programme and with the place for which one is applying; relevance and originality of the topic, presence or absence of an empirical research part; articulation of the contents, structure of the text and effectiveness of the written expression; relevance, breadth and international references) and of any publications (scientific level, editorial placement, relevance with the PhD programme);
- any professional experience (relevance to the PhD programme and the place for which the candidate is applying, originality or innovativeness);



- any research experience, other than empirical or theoretical research carried out for the dissertation (relevance to the PhD programme and the place for which the candidate is applying, scientific level).

Written test

The written test will consist of writing a paper (in Italian or English, at the candidate's choice) on the basis of an outline chosen by the candidate from among those provided by the Selection Board. One of three envelopes prepared by the Board will be drawn by one of the present candidates. The envelope will contain three titles, from which each candidate may choose the task to be followed for his or her paper. The time available will be two hours.

The titles will cover conceptual categories fundamental to Social Work and Personal Social Services Policies, with relevant sociological, psychological and legal references. Candidates will be invited to carry out the paper by developing the proposed topic in a way that best suits their preparation, from a perspective that may focus more on Social Work or Personal Social Services Policies, as they choose.

Oral interview

The oral interview (in Italian or in English, at the candidate's choice) will include:

- (1).an assessment of the candidate's knowledge of social work, sociology and social policy based on the content of the paper;
- (2).an assessment and orientation interview that will take into account each candidate's skills, aptitudes, interests and perspectives in relation to the specific post(s) for which he/she has declared to be applying;
- (3).an English language proficiency test (or Italian, if the interview is conducted in English) will be carried out through the translation of a short piece of specialist literature.

Scoring

The Selection Board awards each candidate the following score:

- evaluation of qualifications: up to 30 points;
- evaluation of the written test: up to 30 points;
- oral interview: up to 40 points, of which up to 16 points will be allocated on the basis of the knowledge referred to in point (1) above; up to 16 points will be allocated on the basis of the results of the interview referred to in point (2) above with values that may be differentiated according to the different posts for which the candidate is applying; up to 8 points will be allocated for knowledge of English (or Italian, if the interview is conducted in English), referred to in point (3) above.

Any candidate who has obtained a score of not less than 21/30 in the evaluation of qualifications shall be admitted to the written test.



Any candidate who has obtained a score of not less than 21/30 in the written test assessment shall be admitted to the oral interview.

The oral interview is deemed to have been passed if the candidate has obtained a score of not less than 28/40.

At the end of the exams, the Selection Board will compile merit rankings, *one for each place*, based on the scores obtained by the candidates and taking into account any differentiated assessments obtained in relation to each place in the oral exam.

In order to sit the written test and the oral interview, candidates must present a suitable valid identification document pursuant to Article 35, second paragraph of Presidential Decree 445 of 28 December 2000 (identity card, driving licence, passport).

PhD programme in: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Coordinator: Prof. Rosangela LODIGIANI

Duration: 3 years

Places: 6

- Places with scholarship: 5

Including:

- 1 position with a scholarship for the implementation of the research project on 'Counterfactual evaluation of interventions and policies: models and applications', co-funded by the Centre for Research on Cooperation and Non-Profit Organisations of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;
- 1 position with a scholarship for the research project 'Innovating policies and intervention practices through FamILens, a model for family impact analysis', co-funded by the Centre for Family Studies and Research at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.
- Places without scholarship: 1

Information: <http://dottorati.unicatt.it/sociologia>

The PhD programme in Sociological theory and applied research is based on over thirty years of teaching and research experience gained in various PhD programmes linked to the Department of Sociology at Università Cattolica, Milan campus.

Thanks to this significant history of specialisation in the social sciences, it integrates the theoretical and methodological knowledge of general sociology with that of applied sociology, combining third-level training for academic recruitment with advanced



training for public institutions, businesses and organisations (both profit and non-profit) operating at both national and international level.

On this basis, the PhD programme in Sociological theory and applied research aims to train professionals in the theoretical and empirical research of contemporary social phenomena, economic, organisational and cultural processes, capable of applying their knowledge and skills both in academia and within public, private and third sector organisations.

The course draws on a teaching staff made up of scholars from various disciplines (general sociology, economic, labour and organisational sociology; sociology of cultural processes, education and communication; sociology of the family; sociology of welfare and migration; sociology of development; research methodology; economic policy, anthropological disciplines) Most of them are affiliated with the Department of Sociology at Università Cattolica and are part of important national and international research networks, as well as being involved in professional and third mission activities. The teaching staff also includes professors from foreign universities (in particular: *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* [Spain]; *Université du Lorraine* [France]; *University of Manchester* [United Kingdom]; *Universidad de Navarra* [Spain]).

Admitted candidates will therefore have the opportunity to carry out their doctoral project in one of the many fields of research for which they will find support among the faculty members of the University, including: social theory; generative studies; economic and organisational processes; work and the labour market; labour and human resources policies; platform economy; migration and integration processes; communication and new media; cultural processes; fashion studies; food studies; learning systems and processes; inclusive and intercultural education; disability studies; women's studies; family; welfare and social policies; family impact analysis of policies; health; cooperation and development; public policies and evaluation; social and cultural anthropology.

During the first year and part of the second, in order to integrate and support personal research work with the acquisition of in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge, the programme includes training activities carried out using highly participatory teaching methods.

A period of specialisation abroad is also considered an integral part of the programme.

Assessment procedure

When responding to this call, candidates must attach a research project of no more than 10,000 characters (spaces and bibliographical references included) divided into the following sections: subject, brief state of the art, research question, methods that would be adopted to answer the question. The project written by the candidates will not be binding with regard to the actual research to be carried out during the PhD programme.

The admission exam, which aims to assess the candidate's preparation, skills, and aptitude for scientific research, consists of:

- a written test;



- an oral test.

In relation to the assessment of the written test, which aims to assess theoretical and methodological sociological knowledge, the Commission may award each candidate up to 60 points.

Candidates who obtain a minimum of 40 points in this first assessment will be admitted to the oral test.

During the oral test, the candidates' sociological knowledge and skills will be further assessed, any qualifications and the research project attached to the application will be discussed, and knowledge of English will be tested through a short conversation in English and/or reading and translation of a passage. Alternatively, at the candidate's choice, the selection tests may be conducted in English. In this case, knowledge of Italian will also be assessed during the interview.

The Selection Board will award each candidate up to 40 points for the oral exam. The oral exam will be considered passed only if the candidate has obtained at least 25 points out of 40.

When responding to this call for applications, candidates may also choose to apply for a sponsored scholarship. Candidates who opt for this possibility must explicitly indicate this choice in their application form and attach their research project in accordance with the procedures described above. In this case, the topic of the project must be relevant to the finalisation of the scholarship for which the candidate intends to apply and must demonstrate the candidate's interest and skills in the topic to which the scholarship is dedicated. The project written by the candidates will not be strictly binding with regard to the future development of the research thesis, which may be finalised in detail during the first months of the PhD programme, under the supervision of the reference professors of the centre co-funding the scholarship, and which will in any case remain focused on the topics for which the scholarship is intended.

The 'sponsored scholarship' cannot be awarded to candidates who have not applied for the specific scholarship and, if not awarded to any candidate, will not be added to other scholarships.

At the end of the competition, three ranking lists will be drawn up:

- a general list for the PhD programme, relating to all candidates who have passed the assessment and oral exam. Candidates in positions 1 to 3 or the following in the ranking list will be admitted to the PhD programme with a scholarship, subject to formal withdrawal by the previous candidates;
- a list dedicated to the scholarship 'Counterfactual evaluation of interventions and policies: models and applications'. The candidate in first place or the next candidate on the ranking list will be admitted to the PhD programme, subject to formal withdrawal by the previous candidate;
- a list dedicated to the scholarship 'Innovating policies and intervention practices through FamILens, a model for family impact analysis'. The candidate in first place or the next candidate on the ranking list will be admitted to the PhD programme, provided that the previous candidate formally withdraws.



In the event that a candidate is successful in more than one ranking list, he/she may choose which one to accept and the next candidate on the other list will then be admitted.

To take the oral test, candidates must show a suitable valid identification document in compliance with Article 35, second paragraph of Italian Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000 (ID card, driver's license, passport).

Art. 2

Admission requirements

PhD programmes are open, without age or nationality restrictions, to those who hold a specialised or graduate degree, or a degree awarded in accordance with the educational regulations prior to the entry into force of Italian Ministerial Decree, of 3 November 1999, No 509, as amended and supplemented, or a suitable foreign qualification.

Applications may also be submitted by those who will obtain the above mention qualification, in Italy or abroad, referred to in the first paragraph by October 31st, 2025.

Art. 3

Application form

Those wishing to take part in the competition must submit their application to the Rector of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, by the final deadline of **Tuesday September 2nd, 2025**.

The application form is available at: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi> until 12 p.m. (local time) on the closing date of this notice.

In the application, to be completed *online* only and available in Italian and English, candidates must declare under their own responsibility:

- their personal details: surname, first name, tax code (only for Italian citizens), date and place of birth, citizenship, elected residence for the purposes of the competition;
- the name of the competition in which they intend to participate;
- the type(s) of scholarship(s) for which they intend to apply;
- for graduates: the qualification held, the date and the university at which it was awarded;
- for undergraduates: the degree to be awarded, the expected date and the university where it will be awarded;
- known foreign languages.



Each application must refer to only one PhD programme. Candidates wishing to take part in more than one competition must submit several applications, enclosing the necessary documentation for each one.

To the application candidates must always attach (*upload*) in *.pdf* or *.jpg* format:

- *curriculum vitae*;
- self-certification attesting to the degree held or self-certification of enrolment attesting to the degree intended to be pursued;
- duly signed identification document;
- tax code (only for Italian citizens);
- passport-size photograph (ID use);
- for students with a qualification obtained or to be obtained abroad in NON-EU countries: translation, legalisation and Declaration of Value required at the offices of the Italian Consulate/Embassy in the country where the qualification was obtained or will be obtained. EU students may submit the *Diploma Supplement* of their home university as an alternative to the Declaration of Value;
- additional documentation specifically required for each individual PhD programme.

The application will only be complete and valid afterwards:

- having uploaded all mandatory documents and any optional documents;
- having paid the selection fee of € 50.00 (non-refundable) to be paid *online*;
- downloading the application file, which will be generated automatically by the system;
- uploading the *.pdf* file of the application itself on the portal.

At each step candidates are asked to confirm what they have entered by clicking on the 'continue' icon visible at the bottom right.

As proof of the validity of the application, the candidate will receive a confirmation *e-mail* from the PhD Office.

In the event of non-receipt of the *e-mail*, the candidate will have to log back into the portal to complete the procedure and finalise the application.

The University reserves the right to adopt, even after the competition tests have been held, measures for the exclusion of candidates who do not meet the requirements or who have not complied with the provisions of the notice of competition.

Candidates with disabilities, for the purposes of the competition, must specify in their application the aid required in relation to their disability, pursuant to the Italian Law No. 104 of 5 February 1992.



Art. 4

Selection Board

The Rector, on the proposal of the Academic Board, shall issue a decree appointing the Selection Board for admission to the PhD programmes, which shall be composed of three tenured professors, to which no more than two experts, including international ones, may be added, chosen from public and private research bodies and structures, ensuring, where possible, a balanced representation of women and men.

The composition of the Selection Boards will be published after the deadline on the following webpage: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>

Art. 5

Competition tests modalities

In the current call for applications are indicated the modalities for the competition tests. The calendar will be available on the following webpage: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>

The results of the selection process will be published on the following webpage: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/results>

The Selection Boards reserves the right to conduct the oral test by videoconference, according to the instructions that will be communicated to all admitted candidates.

Art. 6

Admission to PhD programmes

The candidates will be admitted to the PhD programmes, unless otherwise specified, in order of ranking up to the number of places advertised. In the event of any eligible candidates dropping out before the start of the PhD programme, they will be replaced in accordance with the order of the ranking list.

In the event of successful placement in several rankings, the candidate must exercise the option for only one PhD programme.

Research scholarship holders, unless otherwise specified, may be admitted to the PhD programme in supernumerary numbers, without holding a scholarship, while retaining their research scholarship, subject to passing the admission tests and provided that the PhD programme they are attending relates to the same scientific area of research for which they are scholarship recipients.



Art. 7

Enrolment

The winners of the competition must register within 3 days from the day after they receive the relevant invitation by e-mail, by accessing the web page <https://iscrizioni.unicatt.it/iscrizioni/>

In order to obtain a visa, candidates, after completing their registration, must register on the portal www.universitaly.it and follow the indicated procedure.

Art. 8

Scholarships and contributions

The amount of the fees required for access and attendance of PhD programmes activated at Università Cattolica is determined annually by the University Board of Directors.

Research doctorate students enrolled in the XLI cycle are required to pay annual fees for access to doctoral programmes in the amount of €836.00, payable in two instalments, the first of €536.00 at the time of enrolment or renewal of enrolment and the second of €300.00 by April 30 of each year.

Receipt of a scholarship for attending a PhD programme is compatible with other income, including income received continuously in the calendar year in which the scholarship is granted, provided that it does not exceed the amount established for the scholarship. If the (gross) income limit is exceeded, the scholarship is cancelled for the entire year in question. In order to verify the limit set, the person concerned is obliged to report any exceeding of the prescribed limit.

Scholarships are awarded for one year and are renewed on condition that the PhD student has completed the programme of activities planned for the previous year.

The amount of the scholarship, paid in monthly instalments, is € 16,243.00 per year, gross of social security charges. The scholarship is subjected to the payment of INPS social security contributions under separate management pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 26 of the Italian Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as amended. The scholarship is exempt from paying local income tax and personal income tax (IRPEF).

This amount is increased by a maximum of 50% for a total period not exceeding 12 months if the PhD student is authorised by the Board of Professors to carry out research activities abroad. The period may be extended up to a maximum of 18 months pursuant to Art. 9, para. 3 of Italian Ministerial Decree 226/21.

As of the first year, each PhD student, with and without scholarship, is guaranteed a budget of 10% of the gross annual amount of the scholarship, i.e. € 1,624.30, for research activities in Italy and abroad.

A PhD scholarship may not be awarded to anyone who has previously received one, even partially, for another PhD programme.



Art. 9

Public employees

Current legislation on leave of absence or special leave applies to public employees admitted to the PhD Programme.

Art. 10

Rights and duties of PhD students

PhD students are required to regularly follow the activities envisaged for their training and to devote themselves with full commitment to individual and guided study programmes and to carrying out the research activities assigned by the Board of Professors. PhD students are also required to read the Code of Ethics of Università Cattolica and to respect its principles and aims.

Art. 11

Public disclosure

This public announcement is published on the website of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi> on the Euraxess European website and on the Ministry of Universities and Research website.

Art. 12

Final provisions

This public announcement was originally written in Italian and has been translated into English for easy reference only. The Italian version will be considered definitive for any questions of interpretation.

For all matters not expressly provided for in this notice, the provisions of Rector's Decree No. 1098 of February 26th, 2025 shall apply: “Regulations for PhD programmes at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore” and current regulations.

Further information can be obtained from the PhD Office, telephone +39 027234.5633,
e-mail: dottorati.ricerca-mi@unicatt.it or on the website:
<https://dottorati.unicatt.it/concorsi>.



The person in charge of the procedure for this call for applications is Dr Roberto BRAMBILLA, Director of Postgraduate Education and Research Partnership, Via Carducci 28/30, Milan (Italy).

