



Rector's Decree No. 2601

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE RESEARCH DOCTORATE COURSE IN  
CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM - ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023 (38th COURSE)**

**THE RECTOR**

HAVING REGARD TO Article 4 of Law No. 210 of 3 July 1998, as amended by Article 19, Paragraph 1, of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of LUMSA (Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta);

HAVING REGARD TO Ministerial Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No. 308 of 29 December 2021, entitled "Regulation on the procedures for accreditation of doctoral offices and courses and on criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited bodies";

HAVING REGARD TO Ministerial Decree of 9 April 2022, No. 351, Investment 4.1, entitled "Extension of the number of research doctorates and innovative doctorates for the public administration and for cultural heritage", as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP);

HAVING REGARD TO Ministerial Decree of 9 April 2022, No. 352, Mission 4, Component 2 ("From Research to Business"), Investment 3.3 "Introduction of innovative doctorates that meet the innovation needs of businesses and promote the hiring of researchers from businesses", as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP);

HAVING REGARD TO the "Regulations on research doctorate courses", issued by Rector's Decree No. 2546 of 7 March 2022;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolutions of the relevant academic bodies,

**Decrees:**

**ARTICLE 1 - ESTABLISHMENT**

Henceforth is established the Research Doctorate Course in CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM - 38th COURSE, with its administrative office at LUMSA University (Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta, hereinafter, "LUMSA").



**As per Ministerial Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021, research doctorate courses may be established only after accreditation by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), with the favourable opinion of the National Agency for the Assessment of the University and Research System (ANVUR), and the fulfilment of ministerial accreditation requirements. In the event of an unfavourable opinion, the courses concerned shall be immediately suspended, and, therefore, the right to enrol successful candidates in the non-accredited courses shall expire.**

Following below is an indication of the number of places available, the number of scholarships available, the duration, the responsible department, the admission procedures, and the person in charge of the procedure.

Course title: CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM

The doctorate in “Contemporary Humanism” is aimed at developing knowledge and critical skills in reading and interpreting the historical-cultural, literary, philosophical and educational tradition in its making and its effects on the present, starting from the synthetic and comprehensive category of humanism. This is a very present category in current debates and promising as regards the critical reading capacity it offers of contemporary society - even in aspects that go beyond the traditional perimeter of humanistic studies - and the future prospects it opens up, also in terms of applications. The international and interdisciplinary openness of the doctorate is furthermore aimed at offering an adequate context for an integrated humanistic approach, as well as a complete and integral training of students, through a contamination of research and teaching styles and methods, transversal to disciplinary and national borders. In addition to specific activities regarding individual disciplines, the doctorate is characterized by activities common to various curricula, starting from the category of humanism, with courses structured throughout the academic year and an annual residential seminar in Italy or abroad. Through consolidated partnerships with international academic institutions, including the Australian Catholic University, in Australia, the Institut Catholique de Paris, in France, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, in Chile, the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Portugal, and the Université Catholique de Lyon, in France, a period of study and research abroad is envisaged for each doctorate student, in order to obtain a double-degree.

The doctorate, despite having a strong unitary nature, will be divided into 4 curricula:

1. **Education:** The curriculum aims, starting from the hermeneutic category of humanism, to offer a doctoral education of excellence in educational disciplines, from the points of view of history,



such as the history of pedagogy and educational institutions, and of empirical and experimental research, and to provide adequate critical tools for the interpretation of tradition and contemporaneity, with a view to promoting the culture of sustainability and active citizenship within schools and educational institutions;

2. **Philosophy and Religion:** The curriculum aims, starting from the hermeneutic category of humanism, to offer a doctoral education of excellence in the philosophical field, from the points of view of history, such as the history of ideas, the history of philosophy and religious history, and of theory, with a particular emphasis on moral philosophy and theoretical philosophy, and to provide adequate critical tools for the interpretation of tradition and contemporaneity. Particular attention will be paid to the ethical and bioethical challenges that new technologies and social changes pose to the understanding of the human condition (e.g. posthumanism, transhumanism);
3. **Social and Political Studies:** The curriculum aims, starting from the hermeneutic category of humanism, to offer a doctoral education of excellence in sociological and political fields, from the points of view of history and theory, and to provide adequate critical tools, in terms of the concepts and methodology of theoretical and empirical research, for the interpretation of tradition and contemporaneity, with particular reference to the ways in which humanism is strengthened, confirmed or superseded by the contemporary corpus of social theory.
4. **Literature and Cultural Sciences:** The curriculum aims, starting from the thematic and hermeneutic key of humanism, to offer a doctoral education of excellence in linguistic-literary (especially comparative) and cultural studies field, and to provide adequate critical tools to articulate the complexity of the historical tradition of humanism, in its many forms, with the challenges that contemporaneity poses towards this tradition in terms that are at times nostalgic and celebratory, at times critical and problematizing, and at times fiercely oppositional.

Places: 4

LUMSA scholarships: 2

National Recovery and Resilience Plan scholarships (Ministerial Decree of 9 April 2022, No. 351 and No. 352): 2

Places without scholarship: none.

Duration of the course: 3 years

It should be noted that 2 of scholarships are funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan by the European Union Next GenerationEU fund (as per Ministerial Decree No. 351 and Ministerial. Decree No. 352 of 9 April 2022), and are intended for specific projects concerning issues in line with the strategic



economic and social objectives of the Italian Government, specified as follows:

- No. 1 scholarship for carrying out a research project entitled “*Female empowerment and new technologies*”, under the supervision of Prof. Consuelo Corradi (as per Ministerial Decree No. 351);
- No. 1 scholarship for carrying out a research project entitled “*Youth association and the training of the governing class: the case of Catholic university students in Italy and internationally. Digital valorisation of historical and documentary sources*”, under the supervision of Prof. Francesco Bonini (as per Ministerial Decree No. 352);

It should also be noted that additional scholarships may be allocated to specific projects in the event that specific funding is allocated by external bodies.

For such purpose, during the application process, candidates admitted to the oral exam must complete the documentation for self-certifying the requirements envisaged by such funding bodies.

**Qualifications required to access the doctorate:** Master’s level degree.

**Venue for the course:** Department of Human Sciences - Communication, Training and Psychology - Piazza delle Vaschette, 101 - 00193, Rome.

**Admission assessments:** the “curriculum studiorum et vitae”, any publications, the research project plan, and the oral exam set for 22-23/09/2022.

The exact scheduling of the exams, with an indication of the methods for carrying them out, will be made known before the oral exam by a notice published on LUMSA’s website:

[https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca\\_dottorati\\_prove](https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca_dottorati_prove).

By means of this notice, notification for all legal purposes shall be understood to have been fulfilled.

Venue for the exams: Piazza delle Vaschette, 101 - 00193 - Rome.

Person in charge of the procedure: Dr. Raffaella Berardi - LUMSA, Via di Porta Castello, 44 - 00193 Roma – Tel. (+39) 06 68422.265 – [dottorati@lumsa.it](mailto:dottorati@lumsa.it).

## ARTICLE 2 - ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Those in possession of a Master’s degree obtained in Italy or a similar academic qualification obtained abroad and previously recognized as suitable can submit an application to participate in the call for applications to the research doctorate, without any limitation of age or citizenship, according to the methods indicated in the following Article 3.



If an academic qualification obtained abroad has not been recognized as suitable, the application for participation will not be considered admissible.

Those who will achieve the qualification required by the call by the date of enrolment in the doctorate course may also participate in the admission exams, under the condition of forfeiture of admission in case of not achieving the qualification by such time. In this case, the admission will be considered “conditional” and the candidate will be required to submit, under penalty of exclusion from admission, on enrolment in the course, certification or self-certification of the relevant degree obtained.

LUMSA may, at any time during the procedure, carry out checks on the veracity of provided statements. In the event of any false or untrue declarations, LUMSA may order the immediate exclusion of the candidate from the selection procedure, without prejudice to any resulting criminal liability.

### ARTICLE 3 - APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Applications to participate in the call must be submitted by 11:59 pm (Italian time zone) on 04/08/2022. The application procedure is online and requires the payment of an admin fee of € 50.00 as a contribution to the expenses of the procedure. The methods for submitting an application are detailed in the “Guidelines for applying to the call”, made available at [https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca\\_dottorati\\_bandi](https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca_dottorati_bandi).

Candidates are required to submit the following documentation:

- a) a front and back photocopy of a valid identification document;
- b) a photocopy of the candidate’s fiscal code / health card (for residents in Italy only);
- c) a “curriculum studiorum et vitae”;
- d) a degree certificate with an indication of the exams taken or self-certification of graduation with an indication of the exams taken, for candidates who have obtained their qualification in Italy;
- e) a certificate or self-certification of enrolment in relevant exams, accompanied by self-certification of the presumed graduation date (to be achieved by 31 October 2022), for candidates who will obtain the qualification in Italy by 31 October 2022;
- f) proof of the academic qualification obtained abroad and recognized as suitable;
- g) a plan of the research project, written in Italian or in English, of a length between 1,000 and 2,000 characters, with a title and a bibliography of 15-20 references. In particular, when competing for one of the scholarships funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the title must correspond with the relevant title for the National Recovery and Resilience Plan as defined in Article 1;
- h) two letters of reference in Italian or in English;
- i) a list of publications and, if possible, the PDF version of 1 (one) publication (scientific article or



monograph).

- j) certification or self-certification of any scientific qualifications, active participation in national and international conferences, and periods of study or post-graduate research in Italian or foreign universities or research bodies;
- k) certification or self-certification of the candidate's language skills;
- l) certification or self-certification of any research grants.

In the case of candidates enrolled in degree courses in Italy whose qualification has not yet been achieved, self-certification of the presumed graduation date must be submitted. It is understood that this qualification must be obtained without exception by 31 October 2022 and duly transmitted to the Doctoral Office by that date, under penalty of non-enrolment in the doctorate course.

International candidates or candidates in possession of a qualification obtained abroad, in addition to their degree certificate, which must be translated and legalized by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representatives abroad, must also present the Declaration of Value and Apostille, issued by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representative abroad, under penalty of non-admission of the application. Alternatively, the foreign qualification may be accompanied by the Certificate of Comparability, instead of the Declaration of Value, and the Certificate of Verification, instead of the Apostille, from the credential evaluation service of Cimea ([www.cimea.it](http://www.cimea.it)). For European candidates, the Declaration of Value and the Certificate of Comparability may be replaced by the Diploma Supplement issued by the university at which the degree was awarded. Documents presented in languages other than French, English, German or Spanish must be accompanied by translations legalized by the competent authorities. Foreign candidates or those in possession of a qualification obtained abroad who, as per the call's procedure, may be admitted to the doctoral course must also register on the University portal ([www.universitaly.it](http://www.universitaly.it)) in order to formalize their application. In case of the denial of a visa by the competent authorities, admission shall be forfeited and LUMSA will automatically proceed with the exclusion of the student from the course.

It should also be noted that it will be possible to attach to the application an Equivalent Financial Situation Indicator (ISEE) certification or self-certification, so that it may be used by the Selection Board in cases of equal merit. The absence of any ISEE certification or self-certification, the highest ISEE score will be attributed.

LUMSA reserves the right at any time to request additional documentation or to carry out checks on statements made.

It is not possible to supplement the submitted application documentation after the deadline for the call.



Candidates, whose application has been declared inadmissible, will be notified of their exclusion from the call by email to the email address indicated by the candidate.

As per Article 20 of Law No. 104/92, and Article 16 of Law No. 68/1999, in order to benefit from any additional aids and time in the admission exams, eligible candidates with relevant disabilities or impairments must apply via the dedicated online procedure when applying for the call. Before accessing the online procedure, such candidates are advised, in any case, to notify the Scientific Research Office ([dottorati@lumsa.it](mailto:dottorati@lumsa.it)). The data collected in this regard will be kept and treated with the confidentiality required by current applicable legislation on the protection of personal data. For any further information, please refer to the Privacy Policy annexed to this call, drawn up as per Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679, and specific provisions for the management of data relating to persons with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs). All the relevant documentation is always available upon request by writing to [privacy@lumsa.it](mailto:privacy@lumsa.it).

#### **ARTICLE 4 - ADMISSION EXAMS**

The selection process for the doctorate will be carried out in two phases aimed at ascertaining the candidate's abilities and aptitudes for scientific research in the disciplinary fields of the doctorate, as well as adequate knowledge of the English language and of any additional foreign languages, among French, Portuguese and Spanish, as declared by the candidate.

The first selection phase consists in the evaluation of the following: a) the curriculum studiorum et vitae; b) any scientific publications; c) the research project plan.

Candidates will not be present during this first phase of evaluation of the applications.

The oral exam is set for 22-23/09/2022.

The research project plan may be written in Italian or in English, must be of a length between 1,000 and 2,000 characters and must have a bibliography of 15-20 references. For each research project, the Selection Board will evaluate: for scholarships funded by LUMSA: a) the relevance to the central topics of the doctorate; b) the innovative potential for research; c) the methodology in research design; and for scholarships funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan by the European Union Next GenerationEU fund: a) the relevance with respect to the funded project and the central topics of the doctorate; b) the innovative potential for research; and c) the methodology applied in the research design.

Interdisciplinary research projects are positively evaluated in particular. After enrolment in the course, the final research project, which in any case may evolve over the course of the three-year period, will be approved by the Academic Board on the basis of the objectives of the doctorate. In this regard, the definitive research project may not necessarily coincide with the one presented by the candidate during



the selection phase.

The second selection phase consists of an oral exam focused on: a) discussion of the research project plan presented; b) the candidate's knowledge of the English language, and of any additional foreign languages, among French, Portuguese and Spanish, as declared by the candidate.

To sit the oral exam, the candidates must present one of the following valid identification documents: a national identity card, a passport, a driving licence, an identification card or document with photograph and official stamp or equivalent issued by a State Administration.

The oral exam shall be public.

Candidates may request to take the oral exam via electronic means, by making a request to the Scientific Research Office ([dottorati@lumsa.it](mailto:dottorati@lumsa.it)) within 3 days from the date set for the oral exam.

The absence of a candidate on the day and time of the oral exam shall be considered as a waiver of the exam itself, whatever the cause.

#### **ARTICLE 5 - SELECTION BOARD**

The Selection Board of the call, appointed by the Rector under guidance from the Academic Board, will be made up of three (3) effective members and three (3) alternate members chosen from among professors and full-time university researchers of LUMSA or of other Italian or foreign universities who are experts in the topics pertaining to the macro-sectors consistent with the objectives of the course, and may be supplemented by another two (2) experts, chosen from public or private research institutions or entities.

The Selection Board will evaluate each candidate out of 40 (forty) points for the first selection phase (evaluation of relevant qualifications) and 60 (sixty) points for the oral exam, of which 10 (ten) points will be reserved for the assessment of competence in the English language.

Only candidates who have achieved a score of at least 27 out of 40 points in the first selection phase will be admitted to the oral exam. Notice of the oral exam and the procedures for carrying it out will be published on the LUMSA website: [https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca\\_dottorati\\_prove](https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca_dottorati_prove).

The oral exam (interview) will be considered as passed if the candidate obtains a score of no less than 40 out of 60 points, of which at least 6 out of 10 points pertaining to the candidate's competence in the English language. Once the call procedures have been completed, the Selection Board will compile a general merit ranking based on the scores obtained by the candidates in the individual exams. Eligibility for the selection will be considered over a minimum score of 67 out of 100 points.

In cases of equal merit, an evaluation will be made of the financial situation of the candidates, determined as per Italian Prime Ministerial Decree of 9 April 2001, as amended. In the event of any further equality of merit, the younger student shall prevail.



The Selection Board will make the results public through publication on LUMSA's website [http://www.lumsa.it/ricerca\\_dottorati\\_graduatorie](http://www.lumsa.it/ricerca_dottorati_graduatorie).

By means of this notice, public notification for all legal purposes shall be understood to have been fulfilled. Therefore, no communications will be sent by email and/or to the candidate's physical address.

#### ARTICLE 6 - ADMISSION TO THE COURSE

Candidates will be admitted to the course according to the order established in the final merit ranking, up to the number of places available.

If any candidate decides not to enrol, the place will be offered to the next candidate in the ranking, until all the places are allocated.

As per Article 51, Paragraph 6 of Law No. 449/97, the course may be attended, also exempting the set number of places, by holders of research grants who have passed the admission exams.

#### ARTICLE 7 - ENROLMENT IN THE COURSE

Enrolment in the doctorate course shall be online, to be completed by 31/10/2022.

All the doctoral students will be required to pay the Annual Regional Tax (€ 140) and the associated Stamp Duty (€ 16), to be paid online.

**Candidates admitted to the doctorate whose application is not be submitted according to the indicated procedures, and who do not accept the place within 7 days of the publication of the final ranking, will be considered to have withdrawn their candidacy, and the corresponding places will be made available to other eligible candidates, according to the order of the ranking.**

#### ARTICLE 8 - SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships, the number of which is indicated in the above Article 1, are assigned after a comparative evaluation of merit based on the exams set by the Selection Board, and according to the order of the final ranking.

The annual scholarship, determined as per Article 1, Paragraph 1, of Ministerial Decree No. 247 of 23 February 2022, is equal to € 16,243.00 (sixteen thousand, two hundred, and forty-three / 00), subject to the separately managed INPS social security contribution, as per Article 2, Paragraphs 26 and following, of Law No. 335 of 8 August 1995, as amended and supplemented.



The scholarship covers the entire duration of the course, however the effective disbursement must be confirmed by the Academic Board as valid at the end of each year of enrolment in the course subject to the passing of assessments to verify the work carried out.

The frequency of payment of the scholarship will be monthly starting from the beginning of the course. The amount of the scholarship will be increased by 50% for the period of study abroad of the doctorate student.

The granting of the scholarship categorically excludes the establishment of any subordinate employment relationship with the University.

It should be noted that any additional scholarships destined for specific research projects will be disbursed only after the granting of the funding by the granting bodies. Any doctorate student receiving a scholarship funded by an external body must carry out the research project for which the funding is granted according to the project's technical file.

When enrolling in the doctorate programme, any doctorate student receiving a scholarship from an external body will be asked to sign a letter of commitment to comply with the obligations set out in the respective agreements, under penalty of exclusion from the scholarship.

#### **ARTICLE 9 - RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE DOCTORATE STUDENTS**

Admission to the doctorate course implies an exclusive, full-time commitment to the course. The Academic Board must authorize any paid work by PhD students, verifying its compatibility with the teaching, study and research activities of the course.

The rights and duties of the doctoral students are governed by Article 15 of the “Regulations on research doctorate courses”.

#### **ARTICLE 10 - AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF THE RESEARCH DOCTORATE**

At the end of the course, doctoral students are required to pass a final exam by submitting a written thesis, in order to demonstrate that they have obtained results of significant scientific value. These results are assessed by a specific Assessment Board.

The Assessment Board for the final exam is formed and appointed in accordance with the “Regulations on research doctorate courses”.

#### **ARTICLE 11 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**



As per EU Regulation No. 2016/679, the personal data provided by the candidates will be collected and processed at LUMSA for the purposes of managing the selection process, as well as for statistical purposes. The provision of such data is mandatory for the purposes of assessing the admission requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the call for applications.

The relevant comprehensive privacy policy is annexed to this call for applications (Annex A).

## ARTICLE 12 - OTHER PROVISIONS

For matters not provided for in this call, reference shall be made to the “Regulations on research doctorate courses”, and to current applicable legislation on doctorate programmes.

The submission of an application for participation in the selection process implies acceptance by the candidate of the rules and regulations contained in this call and in the “Regulations on research doctorate courses”.

The person in charge of the procedure for applications to the doctorate in CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM, as referred to in this call is Dr. Raffaella Berardi - LUMSA - Via di Porta Castello, 44 - 00193 Rome - Tel. (+39) 06 68422265 - [dottorati@lumsa.it](mailto:dottorati@lumsa.it).

For academic and scientific questions relating to the doctorate programme and the selection procedure, interested parties are invited to contact Prof. Stefano Biancu at [s.biancu@lumsa.it](mailto:s.biancu@lumsa.it).

This call for applications is published on the LUMSA website ([https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca\\_dottorati\\_bandi](https://www.lumsa.it/ricerca_dottorati_bandi)), on the European website of Euraxess, and on the website of the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR).

Notice of the publication of the call on the LUMSA website will be published in the Special Series “Concorsi ed esami” (trans. “Calls and exams”) of the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic.

Rome, 08/06/2022

THE RECTOR  
(Prof. Francesco Bonini)