

NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2014-2020
MINISTERIAL DECREE N. 1061 (10 AUG 2021)

PHD PROGRAMMES FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION-RELATED
SUBJECTS

THE RECTOR

Rectoral Decree no. 665

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Law 240 (30 Dec 2010) on regulations governing university organisation of academic staff and recruitment, as well as government authority to boost the quality and efficiency of the university system;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Ministerial Decree 45 (8 Feb 2013), "Regulations governing accreditation of PhD institutes and programmes and criteria for the establishment of Doctorate Research programmes on the part of accreditation bodies";

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Politecnico di Bari Statute as per Rector's Decree n. 175 (2019);

IN ACCORDANCE WITH Ministerial Decree 1061 (10 Aug 2021) on the allocation of resources for Research and Innovation NOP 2014-2020, with specific reference to Action IV.4 - "Research doctorates and contracts for innovation-based topics" and Action IV.5 - "Research topics on sustainability-based topics" as part of the XXXVII Cycle, as a result of which the Politecnico di Bari has been allocated funding for research doctorate programmes in Sustainability and Innovation macro-areas;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the resolution taken by the Politecnico di Bari's Doctorate School in selecting research topics to be funded for each PhD course and topic macro-area, as part of the abovementioned Ministerial Decree resources allocated to the Politecnico;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the resolution taken by the Academic Senate and Politecnico Administrative Council on 10 Sept 2021;

CONSIDERING the requirement to proceed with the application call selection procedure to allocate the abovementioned funding;

HEREBY DECREES

Art. 1: OBJECTIVES

Following the issue of Ministerial Decree 1061 on 10th August 2021, the Politecnico di Bari was nominated beneficiary of FSE REACT-EU resources for operative and accredited doctorate research programmes within the XXXVII cycle in support of two specific fields of research, namely;

- additional doctorate research grants on **innovation-based topics** (Action IV.4) for PhD students selected on the basis of specific notifications. The objective of the action is to provide additional grant funding on innovation-based topics, specifically PhD research areas which focus on innovation, from enabling technology and the wider field of digital development to the evaluation of human capital in the world of research and innovation;

- additional doctorate research grants on **sustainability-based topics** (Action IV.4) for PhD students selected on the basis of specific notifications. The objective of the action is to provide additional grant funding on topics such as the protection of the ecosystem, biodiversity, reducing the effects of climate change and the promotion of sustainable development.

Therefore, public applications are invited for additional grant funding for the academic year 2021/2022 related to established topic areas (refer to Attachments 1 to 6 of the current document) as part of the Politecnico di Bari's Doctorate Research Programme (XXXVII cycle):

PhD Programme	Department	Number of additional SUSTAINABILITY grants available	Number of additional INNOVATION grants available
Ph.D. IN MECHANICAL AND MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING (hereafter abbreviated to DRIMEG)	Department of Mechanics, Mathematics and Management	4	2
Ph.D. IN ELECTRICAL AND INFORMATION ENGINEERING (hereafter abbreviated to DRIEI)	Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology	3	3
Ph.D. IN RISK, ENVIRONMENTAL, TERRITORIAL AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT (hereafter abbreviated to DRSTATE)	Department of Civil, Environmental, Land, Building Engineering and Chemistry	3	3
Ph.D. IN DESIGN FOR HERITAGE: KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION (hereafter abbreviated to CONOSCENZA)	Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture	3	3
INTER-UNIVERSITY Ph.D. (WITH UNIVERSITY OF BARI "ALDO MORO") IN AEROSPACE SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING (hereafter abbreviated to DRISA)	Department of Mechanics, Mathematics and Management	1	2

<p>INTER-UNIVERSITY Ph.D. (WITH UNIVERSITY OF BARI "ALDO MORO") IN INDUSTRY 4.0 (hereafter abbreviated to DRI4.0)</p>	<p>Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3</p>
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Art. 2: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission applications can be submitted by candidates who hold a degree qualification awarded by the Italian university system prior to Ministerial Decree 509 (1999) or a current Specialist or Master's degree as required by the PhD course applied for. Other academic qualifications are accepted on condition they are recognised as equivalent according to Law 148/2002 or will have obtained this recognition by the final deadline date of 31 October 2021.

With reference to candidates due to graduate from Politecnico di Bari, Ph.D. programme applications may only be submitted after an online request for second level qualification conferment has been made, as per administrative regulations and deadlines issued by the Politecnico's Office for Academic Services.

Candidates with a degree awarded abroad must hold a second level degree (as per the Bologna Process) or a Master's degree which enables the holder to enrol on a PhD programme in their country of origin. These qualifications must be awarded by an officially recognized university.

Candidates whose degree **has already been recognised as equivalent** by an Italian university must provide self-certification with their application indicating details of this documentation.

Where a qualification awarded by a foreign university **has not yet been declared equivalent** to an Italian university degree, the Selection Committee will decide upon the eligibility of the foreign qualification in line with current Italian regulations and those of the country of where the degree was awarded, as well as any international treaties or agreements on qualification recognition for further study.

In order to facilitate the recognition process, candidates must attach all documents pertinent to eligibility to their online applications. The compilation of online applications represents implicit approval for the verification of degrees awarded abroad.

The evaluation of qualification eligibility is only possible if the documentation provided clearly shows all required information, including **specific details** (degree type; typical length of degree course; official title of institute awarding the degree; mark or grade achieved in relation to the scale used in the higher education system in question).

Candidates are accepted provisionally until the validation of all admission requirements. Politecnico di Bari reserves the right to ascertain the fulfilment of these requirements at any time, also after courses have started, in line with Consolidation Act 445/2000, art. 43. Candidates may be excluded at any time on the grounds of substantiated decision.



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Art. 3: APPLICATIONS

Applications to the aforementioned Ph.D. programmes may be made exclusively online from the publication date of the call until 15:00 (Italian time) of **October 18th 2021**. The required application procedures are available for consultation on the Politecnico di Bari's website Esse3 portal (poliba.esse3.cineca.it).

Instructions for obligatory attachments and specific requirements for all PhD programme applications can be found in Attachments 1-6 of this document.

All communication from Politecnico di Bari regarding the selection procedure, including subsequent details on admission ranking and replacement admissions will be sent by email to the address provided by candidates on their online application.

Any applications that are presented in different formats will not be considered.

Candidates are responsible for correct adherence to online procedures.

Candidates are requested to apply for the selection procedure well in advance of the final deadline date.

In order to access the application procedure, candidates must be registered on the ESSE3 platform. Applicants who have not yet registered through the Politecnico di Bari must select *REGISTRAZIONE* and insert the personal data requested. Subsequently, selecting *LOGIN*, they must enter the credentials provided by the system, access their private area and upload the application. The registration procedure is also available in English by clicking on the UK flag located on the upper right of the web page.

Applicants who are already registered with Politecnico di Bari should select *LOGIN* and access their private area using their credentials. Applicants are requested to **update** any new personal data in the HOME section, in particular the email address to which all information regarding the selection procedure will be sent.

Candidates should then select *SEGRETERIA* from the menu on the right, followed by *TEST DI AMMISSIONE - ISCRIZIONI CONCORSO* and the PhD programme they wish to apply for.

During the compilation of the application form, candidates must:

- select the PhD programme which they intend to apply for and the language (Italian or English) they wish to use in the entrance exam, indicate any required assistance for disabled candidates, enter their educational data and follow the subsequent instructions provided by the system.

- upload all necessary documents and self-certification following the examples provided by Politecnico di Bari. These are available at www.poliba.it under *Ricerca/Dottorati di Ricerca*. Candidates must also upload all specific documents required by the PhD programme they are applying for, as well as an identity document. **It is compulsory to upload a copy of a currently valid ID** or an ID with validity that has been extended until 30 Sept 2021 as per Decree Law 56 (30.04.2021).

Each qualification certificate and document must be a .pdf file attachment no greater than **5 MB**. Each file attached must also be named with a numerical code and document type, as indicated in the attachment (e.g., *01.CV, 0.2IDdocument*).

Candidates are advised that there are two separate application calls for each PhD programme, one for the macro-area of Sustainability and one for the macro-area of Innovation. Candidates

who intend to apply for more than one programme must submit a different application for each selection procedure, including all copies of required documentation and certificates.

In accordance with Presidential Decree 445 (28 Dec 2000) and subsequent modifications and additions, candidates who are Italian citizens may provide a self-declaration certificate attesting to the following criteria, as certified by public administrations:

- a) Inclusion on official registers recognised by public administrations;
- b) Membership of professional associations;
- c) Degrees held and examination results;
- d) Professional titles held, specialization qualifications, professional training, continuing education, technical certification;
- e) Student status.

The online application is considered complete only when, at the end of the procedure, the candidate prints a pdf file of the application generated by the system.

After all data has been confirmed and the application submitted online, no further changes will be allowed to the application form. Applicants may add, delete or modify document attachments provided this is before the deadline date, after which no further amendments of any kind will be permitted.

Verification of application legitimacy, including complete and valid self-certification, will be carried out by the Administration Department after the deadline date.

Art. 4: GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION

The following are grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure:

- a. Any application which does not comply with the format set out under article 3 of the present document;
- b. Incomplete applications or those containing errors or lacking documents which are obligatory for the selection procedure, as set out in Attachments 1-6, relative to each individual PhD programme;
- c. False or mendacious self-declaration statements.

Candidates excluded from the selection procedure will be notified by the Postgraduate Office by email at the address registered on the ESSE3 portal.

Art. 5: PUBLIC EXAM PROCEDURE

Public selection examinations will take place on dates to be announced by the Selection Board after the deadline date. These will be posted on the Politecnico notice board; this publication is deemed equivalent to official notification.

Admission to PhD programmes is subject to a public examination designed to ascertain the candidate's knowledge of areas specific to the programme and the research aptitude of each candidate. Oral exams will be held using the Microsoft Teams platform in line with instructions provided to candidates prior to the test. These will be published in the Research Doctorate section of the Politecnico di Bari website. Candidates will be excluded from the selection procedure if there is no online connection due to technical problems not attributable to the Politecnico or due to force majeure. Candidates will also be excluded if they are unable to provide identification or are unavailable on the day of the examination.

In evaluating candidates, and in particular their research project proposals, the Selection Board will also consider the following criteria, as per Art.3 of Ministerial Decree 1061 (10th Aug 2021):

A) ADDITIONAL DOCTORATE RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING FOR INNOVATION-BASED TOPICS (ACTION IV.4)	B) ADDITIONAL DOCTORATE RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY-BASED TOPICS (AZIONE IV.5)
<p>a.a) Relevance of doctorate research project in creating high added value in terms of scientific, social and economic impact on Italy, fostering appropriate research models and the formation of professional profiles as a response to the requirements of the business sector for innovation and competitiveness.</p> <p>A development of research on topics of innovation, digital advancement and enabling technology while supporting the enhancement of human capital, determining factors in the progress of research and innovation in Italy.</p>	<p>b.a) Relevance of doctorate research project in creating high added value in terms of scientific, social and economic impact on Italy, fostering appropriate research models and overlap of knowledge and skills to promote the development of innovative products and services with reduced environmental impact, focusing on topics such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protection of the ecosystem; - biodiversity; - reduction of climate change impact; - enhancement of sustainable development <p>in order to promote green recovery and overcome the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.</p>
<p>a.b) Adherence of doctorate research project to National Strategies of Intelligent Specialisations (SNSI) and PNR and applicability to Law 240/2010 and Ministerial Decree 45/2013 regarding PhD students, with the aim of fostering innovation and exchange between the field of research and world of manufacturing and the certification of research project contributions within the sector of innovation (Law 240/2010, art. 24, section 3 and subsequent modifications and additions).</p>	<p>b.b) Adherence of doctorate research project to National Strategies of Intelligent Specialisations (SNSI) and PNR and applicability to Law 240/2010 and Ministerial Decree 45/2013 regarding PhD students and grant funding to Sustainability-based research projects.</p>
<p>a.c) Measurable nature of expected results and potential impact of implemented actions with reference to the aims of the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe programme (REACT-EU): quantifiable and measurable targets in doctoral research project in line with indicators set out in NOP reference of actions.</p>	<p>b.c) Measurable nature of expected results and potential impact of implemented actions with reference to the aims of the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe programme (REACT-EU): quantifiable and measurable targets in doctoral research project in line with indicators set out in NOP reference of actions.</p>

Candidates are asked to refer to the criteria for the preparation of research project proposals as outlined in Attachments 1 to 6. These attachments also contain information on areas of research eligible for Ministry funding divided into macro-areas and PhD programmes. Candidates should refer to these when preparing research project proposals.

The PhD Programme could be modified in the definition of the research to be carried out and developed during the PhD project, and it will be established once the student joins the PhD course.

All candidates must also demonstrate a good knowledge of English. This can be demonstrated with a recognised language qualification from an accredited examination board showing B2-level knowledge of the language, in line with the Common European Framework for the Knowledge of Languages. In the absence of certification, the candidate's English language level will be assessed during the oral exam.

Non-Italian candidates must demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of Italian. On submission of the application form, this can be demonstrated with a certificate showing B1-level knowledge of Italian, in line with the Common European Framework for the Knowledge of Languages. In the absence of certification, the candidate's Italian language level will be assessed during the oral exam.

Examinations can be taken either in Italian or in English for those candidates who request this option in the online application.

No further direct notification regarding oral examinations will be sent to candidates.

Candidates who do not attend the examination will be considered as having withdrawn from the selection procedure.

Attachments 1-6 of the present document set out guidelines for examination procedure for each of the PhD programmes.

Art. 6: SELECTION BOARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Rector will appoint Selection Boards with a Rector's decree within 10 days of the application submission deadline. Each Board will be composed of:

- a) a Coordinator or, if unavailable, a member of the Board nominated by the Coordinator.
- b) from two to four members nominated by the Board itself (full professors making up at least half of these) belonging to SSDs (areas of scientific research) which differ from each other, as well as that of the Coordinator referred to in point (a).

In addition to these members, the Board may nominate a maximum of two Italian or non-Italian experts, selected from public and private research institutes.

The Selection Board will draft an examination report which will then be submitted to the Postgraduate Office to provide admission ranking lists for each of the PhD programmes.

The Selection Board, considering the binding research topics, defined in art. 1 in implementation of art. 2, letter a) and b) of the Ministerial Decree ("Azione IV.4 – PhD Programmes for innovation-related subject" and "Azione IV.5 – PhD Programmes for Sustainability-related subjects"), will be able to exclude candidates whose abstract of the research programme is not in line with the aforementioned subjects.

ART. 7: ADMISSION RANKINGS AND ELIGIBILITY

The Rector will issue a decree confirming his approval of the acts (*Decreto di Approvazione Atti*) and publish the names of successful candidates by confirming the ranking lists for admission.

Candidates are admitted to the courses in the order of admission rankings until all available positions have been assigned for each programme.



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Grants awarded by the Politecnico di Bari or other public or private institutions will be assigned to eligible candidates in line with the indisputable decisions taken by the Board of Professors of each PhD programme, based on an assessment of the candidate's exam results and CV, as well as the requirements outlined in art.3 of Ministerial Decree 1061/2021 mentioned previously.

In cases where candidates have an identical result, gender balance will be considered, with preference given to the minority gender with higher ranked positions in the same list. If candidates are still level, the younger of the candidates will be selected as the beneficiary.

The general admission ranking list for successful candidates (Decreto di Approvazione Atti) will be published online as with an official notification on the Official Notifications (Albo Ufficiale) page of the Politecnico di Bari website, as well as in the Ricerca/Dottorati di Ricerca section of www.poliba.it.

No direct notification will be sent to successful candidates.

ART. 8: ENROLMENT

Candidates admitted to PhD programmes must enrol online on the Esse3 platform with the same credentials used for the application procedure.

The terms and regulations for enrolment will be published at the same time as the admission ranking list as an official notification on the Albo Ufficiale page of the Politecnico di Bari website, as well as in the Ricerca/Dottorati di Ricerca section of www.poliba.it.

Candidates who fail to enrol as set out under these regulations for successful applicants will be considered as having waived their status as a successful candidate. This waiver will affect any subsequent entries on the admission ranking list and rulings which may arise as a result.

If a successful candidate waives their position or loses their right to admission before the beginning of the PhD programme, a replacement participant will be admitted according to their position on the admission ranking list. If a candidate is admitted to more than one programme, they must opt for only one of these.

Replacement admissions are permitted for a period of no longer than two months from the commencement of the programme.

ART. 9: OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF DOCTORATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Participation in the PhD programme is an exclusive, full-time commitment (subject to a specific discipline), in accordance with art. 10 of the Doctorate Research Programme Regulations, issued as part of Rector's Decree n. 286 (01/07/2013).

As part of Ministerial Decree 1061 (10.08.2021), a candidate's acceptance of the grant funding outlined in this document implies an obligatory period of company-based study and research for a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) months.

A number of grants will also require a period of study and research abroad for a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) months (optional). Details of these can be found in Attachments 1-6 in the descriptions for each individual PhD programme.

Since his/her application, the candidate has been informed about the need to carry out - in case of being a successful candidate - scheduled periods of research activities within the partner company (min. 6 months, max. 12 months). In case of failure to observe the minimum scheduled period of time within the company, the grant funding will be revoked.

In cases where grant funding is revoked, as set out in the Disciplinary Regulations attachment of Ministerial Decree 1061, and more specifically in instances of:

- implementation of research study which differs from the project accepted for funding if this has not been requested in advance and subsequently authorised by the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR);
- incomplete doctorate research programme (over 3-year period) relating to minimum company-based study and research period and minimum period spent abroad (if required);
- negative Academic Board evaluation and consequent non-admission to subsequent year of the PhD programme;
- withdrawal from the PhD programme

the Politecnico di Bari reserves the right to demand beneficiaries return any funds already allocated.

Doctorate Research students are reminded of their obligations to respect:

- the rules and conditions set out in the Doctorate Research Programme Regulations, issued as part of Rector's Decree n. 286 (01/07/2013)
- the Politecnico di Bari's Ethical and Behavioural Code, issued as part of Rector's Decree 582 (28 Sept 2018);
- all applicable rules and Politecnico di Bari regulations, including those pertaining to student fees as stipulated by the Politecnico di Bari..

ART. 10: GRANTS

Grants are annual and are renewable on the provision that the student has completed the programme of activities for the previous study year. This is verified in accordance with procedures set out in the Regulations document, on the understanding that grants must be issued once verification has been successfully carried out. The full amount of the grant, paid in monthly instalments, is initially determined as no less than the figure of €15.343,28 outlined in the Ministerial Decree of 18/06/2008, published in Official Gazette n. 241 on 14/10/2008. This figure is gross and subject to social security contributions, which are to be paid by the beneficiary. This amount may be increased by a maximum of 50 percent for a period of no longer than 18 months if the doctorate student is authorized by the Board to carry out research activity abroad.

In line with Politecnico di Bari's available financial resources, from the second year of the programme every PhD student is provided with a fund for research activity in Italy or abroad which is appropriate to their programme. This funding is no less than 10% of a grant.

As part of the financial support guidelines under art. 8, para.3 of Politecnico di Bari's Doctorate Research Programme Regulations issued as part of Rector's Decree 286 (1 Jul 2013), the rules for first year grant support will also apply for subsequent years of the course.

Grants are awarded after a comparative evaluation of merit and according to admission ranking list order. In cases where candidates have an identical result, gender balance will be considered, with

preference given to the minority gender with higher ranked positions in the same list. If candidates are still level, the younger of the candidates will be selected as the beneficiary.

Doctorate Research grants may not be added to any other types of funding (including research scholarships) except those granted by Italian or non-Italian institutes to provide support to PhD students abroad (with the exception of grants for further training abroad, as per Law 398/89).

Note that the annual personal income established by Politecnico di Bari as compatible with grant allocation is €20,000. This includes property income as well as any other source of recurring income, with the exception of that from occasional work.

Should this limit be surpassed, the candidate will be obliged to refund any grant instalments paid for the fiscal year in which the amount of € 20,000 was exceeded.

ART. 11: FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Upon enrolment on the programme, PhD students are subject to the current Student Fees and Contributions Regulations. These are available on the Politecnico website www.poliba.it under the section Didattica > Servizi di Segreteria > Tasse.

All Doctorate Research students are exempt from the all-inclusive contribution and are only required to pay the electronic revenue stamp and the ADISU Right to Higher Education fee, as well as adhering to the conditions set out in the Politecnico di Bari Fee Regulations.

Politecnico di Bari automatically acquires Equivalent Financial Situation Index certification (ISEE) from the National Social Insurance Agency (INPS) relative to subsidised benefits for higher education study in order to determine the total amount of Regional ADISU fees payable. All declarations should be completed in full on the INPS website by 31st December of the calendar year of enrolment (for Academic Year 2021/22 the deadline will be 31st Dec 2021).

Failure to provide declarations by the deadline date will result in the application of the full fee rate.

The total enrolment fee is €136; a stamp duty of €16 and the first instalment of the Regional Tax (€120). The ADISU fees are divided into three bands according to income, which are respectively €120, €140 and €160. Accordingly, based on the aforementioned ISEE figure, contributions will be invoiced in the online private page of all Doctorate Research students.

All payments must be made using the PagoPA electronic payment system. Payments made this way will be automatically recognised by the Esse3 system.

Up-to-date financial contribution records of Doctorate Research students are an obligatory condition in order to access Politecnico services and maintain PhD student status.

ART. 12: TREATMENT OF PERSONAL DATA

In accordance with Law 675/96, the private nature of information provided by candidates will be guaranteed. All data provided will be used only for the purposes connected with selection procedures. For successful candidates, this data will also be used for purposes related to the PhD programme, in compliance with current regulations as per European General Data Protection Regulations EU2016/679.

Under arts.15-18 of the aforementioned Regulations, candidates have the right to access their personal data as well as request modifications, additions and cancellation. Candidates may also request limits for the treatment of their data by contacting the Politecnico di Bari at rpd@poliba.it.



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In all cases, by participating in the selection process applicants give their implied consent for the publication of their data, including examination results, on the Politecnico di Bari website, in line with the abovementioned Law.

In accordance with Law 241 (7 Aug 1990) and Presidential Decree 184 (12 Apr 2006) and subsequent modifications and additions, any party with a related legal interest may have access to the selection procedure documentation, in line with guidelines set out under current legal rules. Accordingly, any documentation provided by applicants may be made available to other candidates.

ART. 13: PROCEDURAL SUPERVISOR

The Procedural Supervisor for selection proceedings is Antonella Palermo, Politecnico di Bari Research, International Relationships and Postgraduate Office, whose contact details are: antonella.palermo@poliba.it.

ART. 14: REFERENCE FOR REGULATIONS

For any conditions not specified in this document, please refer to current regulations as well as those outlined in the Politecnico di Bari's Regulations for Doctorate Research programmes, issued as part of Rector's Decree 286 (1 Jul 2013) and Ministerial Decree 1061 (10 Aug 2021) and its attachments.

This call for applications is published on the website of the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research as well as the Official Notifications page of the Politecnico di Bari's website (www.poliba.it) and its *Ricerca/Dottorati di ricerca* section.

Bari, 13/9/2021

The Rector
Prof. Francesco Cupertino