



Rectoral Decree No. 3635

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE RESEARCH DOCTORATE IN CONTEMPORARY
HUMANISM - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027 (CYCLE XLII)**

THE RECTOR

CONSIDERING Article 4 of Law of 3 July 1998 No. 210, modified by Article 19, Paragraph 1, of Law of 30 December 2010, No. 240;

CONSIDERING the Statute of LUMSA University (Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta);

CONSIDERING Ministerial Decree 14 December 2021, No. 226, published in the Official Gazette 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 doctorate courses by accredited bodies”;

CONSIDERING the “Regulation on Research Doctorate Courses”, issued by Rector’s Decree No. 2546 of 7 March 2022;

CONSIDERING the resolutions of the relevant academic bodies;

Decrees:

ARTICLE 1 - ESTABLISHMENT

Henceforth is established the Research Doctorate (PhD) course in CONTEMPORARY HUMANISM - Cycle XLII, 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, Universities 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 call for applications, if ongoing, or the activation of the courses concerned will be suspended, and therefore applications submitted and the right to enrol in the non-accredited courses for successful candidates 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 topical category in current debates and promising as regards the critical reading capacity it offers of contemporary society - including 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 Universidade 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, with the possibility of obtaining a double-degree.

The doctorate, though it has a strong unitary nature, will be articulated in 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 philosophy of law, 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:** From the launchpad of humanism, the curriculum aims to offer advanced education in the field of political science and sociology, providing critical tools for the analysis of contemporary societies and political institutions, in addition to a historical perspective. With a plurality of sources and empirical methods, the curriculum explores new forms of subjective and collective action, new institutional and cultural configurations, and political structures emerging



from ongoing change processes. Particular attention is given to the ways by which the field of humanism is strengthened, affirmed or superseded by the corpus of contemporary social and political 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 French studies) 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: 5 (five)

LUMSA scholarships: 4 (four)

Places without scholarship: no. 1 (one)

Course duration: 3 (three) years.

Note that additional scholarships may be allocated to certain projects in the event that specific funding is allocated by external bodies, and may be assigned by drawing from the final ranking of applications, based on the provisions of Article 6 of this call for applications.

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

Course venue: Department of Human Sciences - Communication, Training and Psychology - Piazza delle Vaschette, 101 - 00193, Rome.

Admission assessments: curriculum studiorum et vitae, any publications, the research project plan, and the oral exam.

Additional admission requirements:

- For all candidates: knowledge of the English language to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- For foreign candidates: good knowledge of Italian.
- Availability to carry out a period of mobility abroad of at least 3 months.

The calendar of exams, and indications on how they will be carried out, will be published before the oral exam on the LUMSA website, <https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>, under the Calls section.

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



Exam venue: 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 – Email address: 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 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, admission will be considered “conditional” and the candidate will be required to submit, under penalty of exclusion from admission, on enrolment for 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 - ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

Applications to participate in the call must be submitted by 12:00 pm (Rome time zone) on 03/07/2026. 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 applications are detailed in the Guidelines for Call Applications, made available at <https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>.

Candidates are required to submit the following documentation:

- a) Double-sided photocopy of a valid identification document;
- b) a photocopy of the candidate's fiscal code / health card (for residents in Italy only);
- c) 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 for relevant exams, accompanied by self-certification of the presumed graduation date (to be achieved by 31 October 2026), for candidates who will obtain the qualification in Italy by 31 October 2026;
- 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 1000 and 3000 characters, with a title and a bibliography of 10-20 references;
- h) ANNEX 1: Self-certification for the call for applications to the PhD in Contemporary Humanism - Cycle XLII (annexed to this call);
- i) a letter of reference in Italian or in another European language among the following: French, English, Portuguese, Spanish, or German;
- j) a list of any publications, and, ideally, a PDF version of 1 (one) publication (scientific article or monograph);
- k) certification or self-certification of the candidate's language skills;
- l) certification or self-certification of any scientific qualifications, participations in national or international conferences, and post-graduate study or research periods in Italian or foreign universities or research entities;
- m) certification or self-certification of any research grants received.

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 2026 and duly transmitted to the Research 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). 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 doctorate course must also register on the University portal (www.university.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. 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.

Pursuant to 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 Research Office (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 the EU Reg. 2016/679, and specific provisions for the management of data relating to persons with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs). All the relevant documentation is available upon request by writing to privacy@lumsa.it.

ARTICLE 4 - EXAMINATIONS

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 research project plan may be written in Italian or in English, must be of a length between 1000 and 3000 characters and must have a bibliography of 10-20 references. For each research project the Selection Board will evaluate: a) the relevance to the central topics of the doctorate, and to one of the aforementioned curricula; b) the potential for innovative research; c) the methodology of the research design.

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 phase of the selection consists of an oral exam, aimed at: a) discussion of the presented research project; b) assessment of knowledge of the English language, and of any other foreign languages, among French, Portuguese and Spanish, and, for foreign candidates, knowledge of the Italian language, considering that all candidates must have knowledge of the Italian language and the English language equal to at least level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

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 a photograph and official stamp or equivalent issued by a State Administration.

The oral exam is conducted publicly.

Candidates of foreign nationality may request to sit the oral exam in English, by indicating their desire to do so in Annex 1 of this call.



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 and in any other foreign language declared by the candidate among French, Portuguese and Spanish.

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 how it will be carried out will be published on the LUMSA website at <https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>.

The oral exam 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.

The Selection Board will make the results public through publication on the LUMSA website at <https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione> (under the Rankings section). For the purposes of respecting privacy, the system used will generate a unique identification code (Application Code) which will be used to identify the candidates admitted to the selection exam(s) and in the merit rankings, as per the Guidelines for Call Applications.

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 - FINAL RANKING LIST & ADMISSION TO THE COURSE

Applicants who pass the admission tests and win one of the call places will be admitted to the doctorate courses according to the order of the general merit ranking, up to the number of places available.

Employees of organizations that have signed specific agreements with the university, who result as suitable candidates in the final ranking list, may be admitted as supernumerary candidates. The supernumerary admission depends the approval of the Academic Board and is in any case limited to no more than one-third



of the total positions established with a scholarship. Supernumerary admission will not determine any financial charges for LUMSA. For the Academic Board's evaluation, the agreement must specify how the research activities will be carried out within the organization/company and must guarantee that the work commitment does not compromise the doctoral training.

In cases of equal merit, the younger applicant will be selected, and, in the event of a further tie, the applicant with a Master's degree mark will be selected.

ARTICLE 7 - COURSE ENROLMENT

The enrolment procedure for the PhD course is online and must be carried out by 31/10/2026.

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

Doctoral students without a scholarship must additionally pay a second instalment (equal to € 1,100) and a third instalment (equal to € 1,100) by the deadlines set at the beginning of the academic year and published on the web page <https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione> (under the Information and Forms section).

Candidates admitted to the PhD course must send their formal acceptance via email (dottorati@lumsa.it) within 5 days of the publication of the final ranking. Beyond this deadline, the candidature will be considered withdrawn, and the corresponding doctoral places will be made available to the next suitable 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 et seq., of Law of 8 August 1995, No. 335, 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 doctoral student's period of study abroad, equal to at least one continuous month.

The granting of the scholarship categorically excludes the establishment of any subordinate employment



relationship with the University.

Note that any additional scholarships allocated for specific research projects will be disbursed only after the granting of the funding by the granting bodies. Doctoral students receiving a scholarship funded or co-funded by external bodies will be required to carry out the research project admitted for funding by the funding body, in compliance with the project's technical specifications.

When enrolling in the PhD course, PhD students receiving a scholarship funded or co-funded by external bodies will be asked to sign a letter of commitment to comply with the obligations set out in the respective agreements, under penalty of revocation of the scholarship and the return of the amounts already received at the time of withdrawal.

ARTICLE 9 - RIGHTS & DUTIES OF PHD 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. It is also under the discretion of the Academic Board to authorize any double enrolment of doctoral students in specialization schools, postgraduate courses, degree courses, etc.

To this end, a self-certification form concerning work activities and double enrolments will be provided to the candidates admitted to the oral exam.

The rights and duties of the doctoral students are governed by Article 15 of the Regulation on Research Doctorate Courses (<https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>).

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 "Regulation on Research Doctorate Courses".

ARTICLE 11 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Pursuant to 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 - FINAL PROVISIONS

For matters not provided for in this call, reference shall be made to the “Regulation 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 “Regulation 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 - Email address: 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.

This call for applications is published on the LUMSA website (<https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>), on the European website of Euraxess, and on the website of the Ministry of Education, Universities 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, May 5, 2026

THE RECTOR
Prof. Francesco Bonini



ANNEX 1

Self-certification for the call for applications to the PhD in Contemporary Humanism - Cycle XLII

The undersigned _____

TAX ID CODE _____

Place and date of birth _____

Complete residence address _____

Complete domicile address (if different from the residence
address) _____

Tel. (mobile) _____

Ordinary e-mail address _____

Certified e-mail address (PEC) _____

DECLARES

- to:

be

not be

in service at a public administration or other public body; specify which if applicable:

_____;

- to:

have

not have

previously received a scholarship (even for just one year) for a PhD course;

- to:

be

not be

enrolled in _____ (specify the degree course/master's
course/specialization school, etc.) at _____ from _____ for the
duration of _____;

- To be interested in competing for the following announced place(s) (*multiple choices
allowed*):



- LUMSA scholarship with mandatory study abroad for at least 3 months;
- Place without a scholarship with mandatory study abroad for at least 3 months.

For candidates of foreign nationality only:

- To want to take the oral exam:
 - in English

 - in Italian

- To have read the Regulation on Research Doctorate Courses published on the university website (<https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>).

- To have read the LUMSA Privacy Policy, as per Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679, published on the university website (<https://lumsa.it/it/dottorati/iscrizione>).

Date _____ (Signature) _____