



Rectoral Decree No. _____ del _____ on a competition by way of comparative evaluation for places on the cycle XLII (a.y. 2026/2027) of research doctoral program in Data Science, as part of the research activities envisaged by the COLLAGE project (FIS-2023-03382 – CUP: I53C25000560001), funded by the MUR under the FIS 2 Call.

THE RECTOR

- Having regard to the Charter of Luiss Guido Carli.
- Having regard to article 4 of Law No. 210 of 3 July 1998 providing that universities may, by their own rules, regulate the establishment of doctoral program, including eligibility, the awarding of academic qualifications, educational goals, curricula, duration, fees, attendance, the criteria for awarding scholarships and the amount thereof, and agreements with public and private entities, in conformity with the general criteria and suitability requirements of the locations laid down by ministerial decree;
- Having regard to article 19 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, containing new provisions on research doctorates.
- Having regard to Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MUR) Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021 adopting regulations on the accreditation of doctoral program locations and program and the criteria for establishing doctoral program by accredited bodies.
- Having regard to the Research Doctorate Regulations of Luiss Guido Carli
- Having regard to the Ministerial Decree n. 247 of 23 February 2022 on the increase of doctoral scholarship.
- Having regard to the resolution of the Department of AI, Data and Decision Sciences of Luiss Guido Carli of 16 October 2025 proposing the establishment of the PhD program in Data Science.
- Having regard to the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Executive Committee respectively of 21 and 29 October 2025 approving the doctoral program for XLII cycle;
- Having regard to the resolutions of the Academic Senate of May 26 and of the Executive Committee of June 10, 2026, which approve the activation of two PhD research grants for the project "**COLLAGE Continual, Decentralized Compositionality for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence**" (FIS-2023-03382, CUP I53C25000560001), funded by the Ministry of University and Research under the Competitive Procedure for the development of fundamental research activities under the **Italian Science Fund 2022–2023 (FIS Call 2)**, as per the Directorial Decree No. 1236 of August 1, 2023, within the PhD program in Data Science.

DECREES AS FOLLOWS

ART.1 – ESTABLISHMENT

The establishment for the academic year 2026/2027 – 42nd cycle, of the PhD Programme in Data Science, the details of which are provided in the specific information sheet forming an integral part of this call, is hereby established, and the corresponding admission competition is announced.

The specific sheet for the program (see Annex 1) set out the educational goals, research themes, the methods, and criteria for selecting candidates for the purposes of establishing a ranking order for admission.

The sheet also indicates the number of places with a scholarship with a restricted topic for conducting specific research within the project "**COLLAGE – Continual, Decentralized Compositionality for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence**" (FIS-2023-03382, CUP I53C25000560001), which will be assigned according to the order of the admission ranking.



Any additions or changes to what is set out herein and, in the Annex, provided will be published on the University's website <http://www.luiss.it>.

Pursuant to MUR Decree No. 226 of 14 December 2021 the doctoral program will be commenced solely upon receipt of a positive opinion from the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) upon fulfillment of the requirements for ministerial accreditation. The places on offer and the scholarships will thus be awarded only in the event of a positive outcome to such an evaluation.

This call is published as part of the **COLLAGE – Continual, Decentralized Compositionality for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence** project (project code: FIS-2023-03382 – CUP: I53C25000560001), funded by the Ministry of University and Research as part of the Competitive Procedure for the Development of Fundamental Research Activities under the **Italian Fund for Science 2022–2023 (FIS 2 Call)**, as per Directorial Decree No. 1236 of August 1, 2023.

ART. 2 – ELIGIBILITY

Applications to participate in the competition for admission to the doctoral program referred to in article 1 may be submitted by individuals holding all the mandatory requirements cited in the relevant specific Annex hereto and a master's degree, a specialized degree or an Italian master's degree under the former university system or an analogous academic qualification awarded abroad that is officially recognized in advance by the academic authorities if not already deemed to be officially equivalent. In order to obtain such recognition, a candidate who holds an academic qualification awarded abroad which is not already deemed to be officially equivalent must accompany his or her application with whatever documents are necessary to enable the Admissions Commission – consistent with the rules in force in Italy and the country where the qualification was granted and the international treaties or agreements governing the recognition of qualifications for further education purposes – to assess the qualification solely for doctoral program eligibility purposes. The qualifications must therefore be accompanied by all the documentation specified in article 3 that is necessary for their assessment.

Applications may only be accepted from individuals who have been awarded the above-mentioned qualification by and no later than 15 September 2026. In the case that a candidate applies while awaiting graduation, their application for admission will be considered "pending" and the candidate will have to submit the relevant degree certification (or self-certification under Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28 December 2000) by the said date, failing which the candidate will be excluded.

In the case of admission, applicants holding foreign degrees are required to submit to the PhD & Education Funding Office either the Diploma Supplement (the "access to further studies" section must necessarily be complete) or an Attestation of Comparability of the foreign degree issued by CIMEA. The Certificate of Comparability can be found at the following link: <https://www.cimea.it/>.

It is further specified that all candidates who submit self-certification under Presidential Decree No. 445 of 2000 will be admitted participating in the competition subject to verification of the self-certified statements and that the University may at any time during the process, including after commencement of the doctoral program, check the veracity of the statements submitted.

In the event of a false statement, the University may order – by a reasoned decision of the Rector – that the candidate be removed from the competition or the doctoral program without prejudice to ensuing criminal implications for the candidate.



ART. 3 – ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

All applications for admission must be submitted exclusively online by the deadline set out in this call for application and cited in the relevant specific Annexe hereto.

Candidates are responsible for all information that is inserted into their online form and the validity of the certification/self-certification submitted. In that regard, candidates are obliged to consult the University's Code of Ethics, with particular regard for points C.1.1. and C.1.2.

The Code can be found at the link

https://www.luiss.it/sites/all/Codice_Etico_Luiss_CdA_21_aprile_2020_.pdf.

The University reserves the right to check the information and validity of the documents submitted. In the event of a discrepancy in what has been declared, it may exclude the candidate at any time, during or after the competition.

The online procedure should be completed by accessing the University's website at the address specified in the relevant specific Annex.

Once the procedure for submitting the application has been completed, the candidate will receive a print-out thereof as proof of successful completion of the procedure.

The application is to be considered for all statutory purposes a self-certification of the candidate's declared personal details and qualifications.

Each candidate may apply for admission to more than one doctoral program.

Candidates are expected to submit a proof of possession of a master's degree, a specialized degree or Italian master's degree under the former university system or an analogous academic qualification awarded abroad, along with all the documents required in the relevant specific Annex hereto. In this regard, it should be noted that:

Candidates with a qualification awarded in ITALY must submit:

- Certification/self-certification of the degree held, setting out the exams undertaken, the associated grade awarded and credits earned, the grade point average and the degree grade (for each degree, if more than one degree held);

Candidates with a qualification awarded in an EU country must submit the following:

1. Certification/self-certification of the of the degree held, setting out the exams undertaken, the associated grade awarded and credits earned (transcript of records), the grade point average and the degree grade (for each degree if more than one degree held);
2. degree parchment in its original language;
3. diploma supplement in its original language;
4. translation into Italian or English of the above-mentioned documents indicated in the preceding points 1, 2 and 3: translations are not required if the documents in question are issued by the institution directly in English.

Candidates with a qualification awarded in a non-EU country must submit the following:

- A. degree parchment in its original language;
- B. transcript of records in its original language;
- C. translation into Italian or English of the two documents indicated in the preceding points A and B: translations are not required if the documents in question are issued by the institution directly in English.
- D. CIMEA Attestation of Comparability, available at the following link <https://www.cimea.it/>

In any of the aforementioned cases, applicants holding foreign degrees (EU or Extra-EU) are required to submit to the PhD & Education Funding Office, in case of admission, either the Diploma Supplement (the



"access to further studies" section must necessarily be complete) **or** an Attestation of Comparability of the foreign degree issued by CIMEA. The Certificate of Comparability can be found at the following link: <https://www.cimea.it/>.

Luiss reserves the right to check all documentation submitted by candidates. Should the qualification exhibited not fulfill the requirements set forth in this call for applications and not permit enrolment in the doctoral program, candidates who have made false statements shall be excluded from the program with an obligation to refund any improperly received scholarship installments, without prejudice to any criminal implications that may arise.

The deadline for applications is **16:00 (CEST), UTC +2 on 24 July 2026**

ART. 4 – ADMISSION EXAM

Admission is based on what is indicated in the relevant specific Annex hereto.

Candidates will be summoned to the written or/and oral exams, by e-mail sent to the e-mail address specified in the application form for the competition filled out online. Notice of the exam will also be given (at least 7 days prior to the date that the exam is scheduled for) on Luiss Guido Carli's website at <http://www.luiss.it>.

In order to sit the exam, candidates will be identified through a valid ID.

ART. 5 – COMPARATIVE EVALUATION, THE ADMISSIONS COMMISSION AND ITS DUTIES

Comparative evaluation for admission to the doctoral program is based on what is set out in the relevant specific Annex hereto.

The Admissions Commission that comparatively evaluates the candidates for the doctoral program is appointed by decree of the Rector of Luiss Guido Carli, subject to consultation with the Academic Board (or the Department's Council) and consists of at least three members. Such members will either be professors or acknowledged experts in the subject and may be citizens of another country. In any event, the number of professors must exceed the number of experts on the Admissions Commission.

Once the competition exam has been completed, the Admissions Commission ranks the candidates based on the sum of the points awarded to each one.

In the event of a tie between candidates as regards their overall score, the following select criteria shall be used to establish the ranking order for admission and scholarship purposes:

- a) in the event of a tie, the points awarded to Phase One of the selective process (please consult the Annex 1 to the present Call for Applications)
- b) in the event of a further tie, the points awarded in connection with the oral exam (please consult the Annex 1 to the present Call for Applications)
- c) in the event of a further tie, the points awarded for the Research Proposal (please consult the Annex 1 to the present Call for Applications).

Notice of admission to the doctoral program will be given by e-mail (to the address stated in the application form) no later than the date specified in the relevant Annex hereto, by which date the ranking order and list of those admitted will also be published on the Luiss website at <http://www.luiss.it>. Individuals who have



declared that they will be awarded their qualification **by and no later than 15 September 2026** will be considered "pending".

Possession of the necessary degree for admission will be subject to verification as outlined by Article 2 this Call for Admissions.

ART. 6 – ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Candidates will be admitted to the doctoral program in ranking order until all places on offer are filled.

Should one of the successful candidates decline the place or not accept it in time, pursuant to art. n° 7 of this Call, that place will be awarded to the highest-ranking eligible candidate from among those not originally admitted.

ART. 7 – ENROLMENT APPLICATION

By the peremptory deadline of 7 days, counting from the day after publication of the ranking on the University's website (<http://www.luiss.it>) and the concurrent notice of admission sent to the candidate by email, admitted candidates must communicate by e-mail (dottorati@luiss.it) their intention to enroll in the doctoral program, failing which they will be excluded.

Moreover, by the deadline that will be communicated in the notice of admission, admitted candidates must also submit or send by post (the postmark will serve as proof) an application for enrolment in the doctoral program (using the form for such purposes that will be e-mailed to them) and associated attachments, to the PhD & Education Funding Office, Luiss Guido Carli, Via Tommaso Salvini 2, 00197 Rome, failing which they will be excluded.

Should any successful candidates expressly or impliedly forgo admission, their place shall be awarded to the highest-ranking eligible candidates.

With reference to what is stated in this article, during enrolment in the Doctoral Program timely notice must be given of any change in what was declared at the time of submission of the enrolment application.

ART. 8 – NUMBER OF PLACES ON OFFER AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The places on offer for the doctoral program are those indicated in the Annex hereto.

Details of any other scholarships will be communicated in a timely manner.

Scholarships shall be initially awarded for one year and will be yearly renewed on condition that the candidate has completed the schedule of activities envisaged for the previous year as checked in accordance with the procedures laid down for the Doctoral Program.

The amount of each **ordinary scholarship** (see Annex 1, letter b, point 1), to be disbursed in monthly installments, is determined in accordance with Ministerial Decree of 18 June 2008 and subsequent amendments. For 2026 the amount of each ordinary scholarship is set by Ministerial Decree No. 247 of 23 February 2022 and is worth **€ 16,243.00** subject to payment by recipients of their own share of the relevant social security contributions due.

The amount of the ordinary scholarship shall be increased by a maximum of 50% for a total period not exceeding 12 months (18 for cotutelle agreements) if the doctoral student is authorized by the Academic Board to conduct research abroad. An amount equal to 50% of a scholarship may also be used by those who do not hold a scholarship if authorized by the Academic Board to conduct research abroad for a total period not exceeding 18 months. That increase may not be used for periods shorter than one continuous month in the



doctoral student's country of birth, citizenship, residence or domicile, unless otherwise specified by the Academic Board.

Commencing from the first year, each doctoral student shall be guaranteed, in addition to the scholarship and within the context of the University's existing financial resources, a budget for research in Italy and abroad that is adequate for the type of program and that in any event is not less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship. Such an amount is guaranteed to doctoral students with or without scholarships.

All scholarship winners must join the 'INPS Gestione Separata' State-run pension fund and send an e-mail to Luiss (dottorati@luiss.it) providing evidence of their registration in that regard. Scholarships are subject to social security contributions payable to the said pension fund in accordance with applicable law, two thirds of which is borne by the University and one third by the scholarship holders.

Doctoral students enjoy the associated benefits and rights.

It is specified that scholarships granted for PhD program are not cumulative with other scholarships awarded for any reason, even if provided by other universities or institutions. Furthermore, they are not compatible with employment contracts or research and study grants awarded by the Departments of Luiss Guido Carli or provided by other institutions.

Candidates who have already benefited from a PhD scholarship in Italy are not eligible for another scholarship.

This call does not provide for the allocation of positions without a scholarship.

ART. 9 – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Admission to a Doctoral Program entails an exclusive and full-time commitment in line with what is specified in the syllabus for the Doctoral Program concerned, without prejudice to the dispositions referred to in the paragraph 10 of the Research Doctorate regulations of Luiss Guido Carli. Enrolled students must attend doctoral courses and activities and continuously undertake study and research within the context of the facilities intended for such purposes and in the manner established by the Academic Board.

The Academic Board may authorize a doctoral student to conduct remunerated activities which enable the achievement of competencies within the educational field of the doctoral program, upon evaluation of the compatibility of the said activity with the productive progress of the educational and research activities under the doctoral program. The annual maximal limit perceivable by the doctoral candidate compliant to the scholarship, cannot surpass the ministerial minimal amount of the scholarship thereto.

The doctoral students may undertake, as an integral part of their educational program, tutoring activities of those studying for the bachelor's and master's degrees, even remunerated, and also additional teaching activities up to forty hours per academic year, subject to the approval by the Academic Board, without such entailing an increase of their scholarship. For these activities the doctoral students receive cheques referred to in the art. 1, paragraph 1, letter b), of the decree law of 9 May 2003, n. 105, converted, with subsequent amendments, by the law n. 170 of 11 July 2003.

The income from other activities must not be superior to the Ministerial minimum of the doctoral scholarship. At the end of every year of study each student enrolled in the doctoral program must submit a detailed report to the Academic Board on the work and research done. The Academic Board will keep the report and, subject to a positive evaluation of the efforts and work of the doctoral student, will propose to the Rector that the student be allowed to continue his or her studies. In the event of a negative evaluation, the recommendation will be that the studies of the doctoral student should cease. Doctoral students may be suspended or expelled from the program further to a unanimous decision of the Academic Board stating the reasons for such a decision.



For well-founded reasons that prevent the submission of the doctoral thesis within the time limits established for the duration of the programme, the Academic Board may grant, upon request of the doctoral candidate, an extension of up to twelve months, without any additional financial burden.

An extension of the duration of the doctoral programme for a period not exceeding twelve months may also be decided by the Academic Board for justified scientific reasons, ensuring in this case the corresponding extension of the scholarship duration with funds charged to the university's budget. Should the Academic Board deem it necessary to extend the duration of the doctoral programme for justified scientific reasons, such a decision must be adopted unanimously by all members of the Board.

Doctoral candidates may request, for well-founded reasons provided for by law, the suspension of the programme for a maximum period of six months. During the suspension period, the scholarship or any equivalent funding shall not be paid.

The extension and suspension periods referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 may not exceed a total of eighteen months, without prejudice to specific cases provided for by law.

Doctoral candidates may be suspended or even excluded from the programme by a reasoned unanimous decision of the Academic Board.

The measures under Legislative Decree No. 68 of 29 March 2012 are extended to doctoral students in the manner provided for therein. Without prejudice to the norms and protection of parenthood rights referred to in the decree of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare Decree of 12 July 2007 published in Official Gazette No. 247 of 23 October 2007, the doctoral students in family leave maintain the right to the scholarship. After the suspension period, the scholarship will be paid upon the course attendance is resumed up to the completion of the overall duration of the scholarship period.

ART. 10 – AWARDING OF THE DOCTORATE

The qualification of research doctorate is attained at the end of the doctoral program and is awarded following positive assessment of a research thesis that contributes to the advancement of knowledge or methodology in the chosen field of inquiry after defense of a doctoral thesis. The research doctorate is conferred by the Rector in accordance with the Research Doctorate Regulations of Luiss Guido Carli and applicable law.

The examinations commission for the final exam will be established and appointed by decree of the Rector in accordance with the Research Doctorate Regulations of Luiss Guido Carli and applicable law.

The doctoral student must deliver the final version of the PhD thesis along with a detailed report of the activities performed during the Doctoral Program, as indicated in art. 8 of D.M. 226 of 14 February 2021.

The PhD certificate will be issued solely if within 30 days after defense of the thesis the doctoral student (with the assistance of the relevant staff) files a copy of the final version of the thesis in the University's open access institutional repository, which stores the work and affords public access thereto. The University will arrange for the thesis to be filed with a special purpose ministerial database and the national libraries in Rome and Florence as required by law.

For the award of the PhD degree, doctoral candidates are required to pay an administrative fee of €200; this amount includes the costs for the issuance of the doctoral diploma and two certificates.

ART. 11 – PRIVACY NOTICE

Luiss treats the personal data of candidates in full conformance of Reg. UE/2016/679 and D.Lgs. n. 196/2003, as modified by D.Lgs. n. 101/18 and subsequent integrations.



Luiss, as Controller, collects and processes the identifying data (name, surname, place and date of birth, personal tax number and citizenship), contact data (residential address, e-mail address and telephone number), data relating to academic record, data relating to knowledge of foreign languages, data relating to any certifications held by the data subject, in order to manage the application for participation in the doctoral competition and related obligations (the legal basis for processing lies the fulfillment of the pre-contractual obligations between the parties). Processing takes place in the European Economic Area, on paper and electronically, using the security measures required by law.

Data are processed by Luiss's administrative and teaching staff and by any third party who assists Luiss in management of the application.

Any data subjects wishing to exercise their statutory rights as per articles 15-22 of Reg. UE/2016/679 may do so by writing an email to the Controller, Luiss Guido Carli at Viale Pola 12, 00198 Rome, Italy, privacy@luiss.it setting out their request.

The contact details of the Data Protection Officer (DPO) are available at www.luiss.it/contatti.

ART. 12 – FINAL PROVISIONS

For all matters not specifically addressed herein, reference is to be made to the Research Doctorate Regulations of Luiss Guido Carli and the applicable law governing Doctoral Program.

Submission of the online application to participate in the selection process referred to in article 3 above implies the candidate's acceptance of the provisions hereof and the Research Doctorate Regulations in force.

The person in charge of the procedure is Dr Federica Capone.

This announcement will be published on the University's website (www.luiss.it) and the website of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (www.bandi.miur.it), which will also arrange for publication on the European Euraxess website and in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic – 4th special series.

This notice is produced with funding from the Ministry of University and Research under the FIS Notice 2 – Italian Science Fund 2022–2023, and will be published on the University's website www.luiss.it, on the website www.bandi.miur.it, on the European website Euraxess, and in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic – IV special series.

(Prof. Paolo BOCCARDELLI)