



**Doctoral Program in
DATA SCIENCE**

XLII cycle – a.a. 2026/2027

Administrative Headquarters: Department of AI, Data and Decision Sciences, Luiss Guido Carli University

Statutory Duration of the Program: 3 years

a) Educational Goals and Research Themes:

The PhD in Data Science is an international program for high-potential students who want to pursue a path of advanced education and research aimed at training high-profile researchers and professionals capable of contributing to the scientific advancement of the discipline and its application in complex fields, with particular reference to the fields of computer science, mathematics, and statistics, as well as in interdisciplinary contexts in which quantitative analysis plays a central role.

The Department of AI, Data and Decision Sciences boasts excellence in numerous research clusters, but is specifically interested in research projects in the fields of computer science, mathematics and statistics.

b) Places on offer:

- **Places on offer with binding research theme, within the terms of project FIS2 2023-03382 COLLAGE - CUP I53C25000560001: n. 2**
- **Total places on offer with scholarships: n. 2**

c) Selection Process:

The selection process for admission to the Doctoral Program consists of three phases:

1. First Phase: Evaluation of CV and qualifications

In this phase, in addition to the degrees, all relevant elements indicated in the candidate's CV will be examined. Any publications and other scientific products submitted by the candidate, including preprints, working papers, technical reports, software products, code repositories, and theses, will be evaluated taking into account the scientific or technical quality, relevance to the research areas of the Doctorate, the individual contribution of the candidate and, where applicable, the place of publication or dissemination. It should be noted that publications are not a requirement for admission.

Candidates who have earned at least 24 points in the first phase will be admitted to the second phase, i.e., the evaluation of the Research Project. For more details on the evaluation criteria, please refer to section d) of this document.

2. Second Phase - Evaluation of the Research Proposal

In this phase, the Research Project submitted by the candidate is evaluated.



The candidate is required to submit an initial proposal, or research statement, to be written in English, consistent with the restricted topic **“Continual, Decentralized Compositionality for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence”**. The PhD candidate will investigate the foundations of Sustainable Artificial Intelligence through the integration of continual learning, compositionality, and decentralization. The research will develop methods enabling AI systems to continuously acquire new knowledge, reuse and compose existing capabilities, and collaboratively evolve across decentralized networks. The ultimate goal is to move beyond isolated and resource-intensive AI models toward reusable, adaptive, and democratically developed intelligent systems that can scale efficiently while reducing computational and data requirements.

It is suggested that the research project be approximately three pages long.

Candidates who have obtained at least 12 points in the second phase will be admitted to the third phase, i.e. The Oral Exam.

3. Terza fase: Prova Orale in lingua inglese

The Oral Exam starts from the Research Project presented and covers themes and topics related to it (even if not directly the subject of the Research Project itself but related to the subjects covered by the Doctorate). It is aimed at assessing the candidate's level of in-depth knowledge regarding the project presented; the capacity for methodological reasoning; the quantitative/computational preparation; the research maturity; and the capacity for scientific communication.

The Exam will be conducted in English, given that the Doctoral Program will be taught entirely in English.

The interview may be held in presence or remotely. The Oral Exam will be deemed to have been passed by candidates who obtain at least 24 points.

d) Admissions Commission Scoring

The scoring system utilized by the Commission is as follows (minimum score for eligibility 60):

Competition Phase	Subject matter of evaluation	Maximum Score	Minimum score to pass to next phase
Phase 1	CV and qualifications	40	24
Phase 2	Research Project	20	12
Phase 3	Oral Exam	40	24
Total		100	60

The minimum score for eligibility (60 points) is to be understood as the sum of the points assigned from the three phases, with the candidate having attained at least the minimum score in all of the selection phases.

e) Method of Submission of Candidature:



The online application procedure is to be completed through accessing the University's website at:
<https://phd.luiss.it/datascience/open-calls/>

To submit an application to participate in the competition candidates must:

- go to the webpage: <https://phd.luiss.it/datascience/open-calls/>
- fill out the competition application in full, attaching the required documents, specifically:

Details of the mandatory documentation:

I) Application Form B (which can be found at the end of this document) completed, dated and signed

Note: the list of any publications in fields relevant to the PhD program and the full texts of the relevant publications must be attached to Form B.

If the candidate does not have any publications, they must declare this in the appropriate section of Form B attached to this call.

N.B. Applications may therefore be submitted even in the absence of publications.

II) Proof of possession of a master's degree

The required documentation to prove attainment of a master's degree varies according to where the degree was awarded, thus 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, and credits earned, the grade point average and the degree grade (for each degree if more than one degree is held);

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

1. certification/self-certification of the degree held, setting out the exams undertaken, the marks and credits earned, the grade point average and the degree grade (for each degree if more than one degree is held);
2. degree parchment in its original language;
3. diploma supplement in its original language;
4. translation into Italian or English of the documents indicated in the preceding points 1, 2, 3: the 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. academic 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: the 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/>.



III) Curriculum vitae -The candidate must indicate all qualifications held, such as, by way of example, Master's degrees, specialization courses, any other Doctorates or equivalent qualifications; the complete list of exams taken, with grades and dates, in Bachelor's and Master's programs; any research activity carried out; any scientific products; any study and professional experience, including abroad or otherwise of international relevance; as well as any certificates of English language proficiency;

IV) National ID card/passport;

V) Research Proposal, consistent with the educational goals and the themes of the Doctoral Program.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

I) Any other qualifications: for example, certification of knowledge of foreign languages other than English or certification of other qualifications held, indicating the marks obtained in the single exams if such marks were awarded. Such qualifications might include a master's degree in a subject pertinent to the Doctoral Program, relevant experience at institutions and public bodies, etc.;

II) A maximum of two letters of reference (to be provided exclusively by referees belonging to the academic teaching and/or research staff):

The reference letter should not be uploaded to the platform: the candidate should insert into the platform the names and email addresses of the referees, who will receive communication at the indicated email address containing a link through which they can personally write and send the letter to the PhD & Education Funding office.

The deadline for submission of reference letters is set for 31 July 2026.

It is recommended that files be uploaded in PDF format.

f) Deadlines:

- **Deadline for submission of applications: 24 July 2026 at 16:00 (CEST), UTC+2.**
- **Deadline for awarding of prerequisite qualification for the Doctoral Program:** 15 September, 2026.
- **Deadline for publication of the ranking for admission purposes:** by 15 September 2026, unless extended by a communication to that purpose on the Luiss website.
The ranking order and list of those admitted will be published on the Doctoral Program website at the following link: <https://phd.luiss.it/datascience/admission-and-ranking-list/> and communicated by e-mail to the successful candidates in accordance with article 5 of the call for applications.
- **Deadline for acceptance of admission by the successful candidates:** within 7 days, to commence from the day after publication of the ranking order and list of those admitted on the University's website (<http://www.luiss.it>) and the associated concurrent notice of admission.
- **Commencement of the Program:** october 2026.

PLEASE NOTE: The Form A for self-declaration can be found on pages 7 and 8 of this document.



PHD DATA SCIENCE - FORM A

PERSONAL SWORN DECLARATION (ART. 46, D.P.R. N. 445/00):

I, the undersigned, _____ born on _____

in _____ (_____) and resident in _____

_____ Address _____

Fully aware of the penal sanctions in the case of false declarations and the consequent forfeiture of the benefits obtained (pursuant to articles 75 and 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000) for which I take complete personal responsibility

DECLARE, UPON PRESENTATION OF THIS CANDIDACY:
subject to the admission requirements specified in the Call

1.

To have obtained my Master's degree (or equivalent) at the following University:
.....located in

OR

To have NOT yet obtained my Master's degree (or equivalent), with the full expectance that this degree will be awarded to me by 15 September 2026 at the following University:located in.....

5.

To have publications in subjects relevant to the PhD programme
(if this option is selected, the list of publications and the full texts of those deemed most relevant must be attached to this form)

OR

not to have any publications

The undersigned also declares, pursuant to art. 13 of Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, that I have been informed that the personal data contained in this declaration will be processed, also with IT tools, exclusively in the context of the procedure for which this declaration is made.

Finally, the undersigned declares to have read the information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 d.d. April 27, 2016 (GDPR).

Place and Date _____ Signature of Declarant _____

This declaration does not require signature authentication and effectively replaces the normal certifications required or intended for a Public Administration as well as for managers of public services and private individuals who allow it.