



Annex A to Rectoral Decree No. 330 of 2.12.2025

**PhD Program in POLITICS
Cycle XLII - A.Y. 2026/2027**

Administrative headquarters: Department of Political Science, Luiss University
Statutory Duration of the Program: 3 years

a) Educational Goals and Research Themes:

The Department of Political Science at Luiss University invites applications for 7 fully funded PhD scholarships to commence PhD studies in the academic year 2025/2026.

The PhD program is entirely in English and has a duration of three years. Supervision will be mainly provided by Professors, members of the Academic Board. The program also facilitates exchanges with partner universities abroad and provides additional financial support to enable such study periods and field work.

The Department of Political Science boasts established excellence across several research clusters – European Integration and Public Policies; Elections and Political Systems; Global and International Studies; Communication, Sustainability and Social Innovation – as well as within its dedicated research centers (Research Center for European Analysis and Policy; Research Center for International and Strategic Studies; Research Center on Democracy).

The Department therefore welcomes the submission of research projects focusing on these topics, approached from a political science, sociological, historical, philosophical, or legal perspective.

b) Places on offer:

- **Number of places with ordinary scholarship: n. 5**
- **Number of places with scholarship with increased funding, reserved for international candidates who satisfy all of the requisites listed immediately below: n. 1**

- ❖ not in possession of Italian Citizenship;
- ❖ not having had residency or domicile in Italy, or having carried out their main activity in Italy, for more than 6 months, even non-consecutively, in the three years preceding this Call for Applications;

- ❖ qualification for access to a Doctoral Program obtained in a foreign university.

Should a suitable candidate not be found, this place will be added, without additional funding, to the 5 ordinary University scholarship places and will be attributed in accordance with the same merit system as for those places.

Total places on offer on the PhD Program: n. 6

c) Selection Process:

The selection process for admission to the doctoral program consists of two phases:

1. First Phase: Evaluation of the Research Proposal, CV and the qualifications contained therein.

In this phase the Research Proposal, CV and qualifications contained therein will be examined.

- (a) The **Research Proposal (to be mandatory submitted)** will be evaluated taking into account its academic and societal relevance, its quality, rigor and promise in terms of delivering original research findings and its relation to the expertise available in the various research clusters of the Political Science Department. It must be written in English and has to include a clear statement of the research question or issues to be addressed, the state of the art on the topic complete with references to the literature, the analytical framework and methodology proposed, an indication of the sources for data collection and a brief bibliography.
- (b) **CV and qualifications (to be mandatory submitted)** will be evaluated taking into account the prior qualifications and any other relevant elements indicated in a candidate's **curriculum vitae**.

2. Second Phase: Interview with the Selection Committee

The **interview** will focus on the research proposal submitted and will concern topics and subjects pertinent thereto (even if not directly covered by the Research Proposal itself but which relate to the areas under study in the Doctoral Program).

It is designed to assess not only the applicant's depth of knowledge regarding the proposal submitted but also the candidate's ability to engage in critical thinking and scientific enquiry, and to assess the candidate's motivations and objectives in entering the PhD program.

Interviews will be conducted in English, this being the working language of the PhD Program. The interview be held in presence or remotely.

d) Assessment of PhD Applications

Selection Phase	Subject matter of evaluation	Maximum Score	Minimum score to pass to next phase
Phase 1	Research Proposal	60	36
	CV and Qualifications		
Phase 2	Interview	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 both 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/politics/activities/open-calls/>

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

- go to the webpage:
<https://phd.luiss.it/politics/activities/open-calls/>
and log into the designated online platform;
- select the "Politics XLII" Doctoral Program within the platform;
- fill out the competition application in full, attaching the required documents, specifically:

MANDATORY DOCUMENTATION:

- **“PhD Politics - Application Form B” (which can be found at the end of this document) completed, dated and signed**
- **Research proposal**, consistent with the educational goals and the themes of the Doctoral Program;
- **Curriculum vitae**, indicating all qualifications held (for example, master’s degree, advanced courses, other PhDs, etc.), research undertaken, any publications, study and work periods either abroad or of international relevance, and certified knowledge of English and of any additional foreign languages other than English;
- **National ID card/passport;**
- **Two reference letters;**
The letters should not be uploaded onto the platform (transmitted exclusively by Teaching/Academic Staff): the candidate must insert within the platform the names and email addresses of their 2 referents, who will receive a link at the indicated email addresses through which they can compile and send a reference letter to the PhD & Education Funding Office.

The deadline for submitting reference letters is set for 30 January 2026.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FILES BE UPLOADED IN .PDF FORMAT;

f) Deadlines:

- **Deadline for submission of applications: 16:00 (CET), UTC+1 on 23 January 2026.**
- **Deadline for the award of any prerequisite qualification for the doctoral program:** 15 September 2026.
- **Deadline for publication of the ranking for admission purposes:** within 31 July 2026, unless extended with a specific communication on Luiss website.

The ranking order and list of those admitted will be published on the Doctoral Program website (link: <https://phd.luiss.it/politics/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 sending notice of the ranking for admission purposes to successful candidates:** within 7 days, start counting 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.
- **Program start:** October 2026.

PLEASE NOTE: The "PhD Politics - Application Form B" for the self-declaration can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this document.

PhD POLITICS - FORM B

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

to apply for a position in the following categories

(it is possible to select one or more of the categories below, provided that the mandatory eligibility requirements specified for each category in Annex A of the Call for Applications are met)

1.

- ☐ that I wish to candidate myself for an ordinary University scholarship place¹
- ☐ that I wish to candidate myself for a scholarship place with increased funding, reserved for international candidates with residency abroad and with qualification for the Doctoral Program obtained abroad
- ☐ that I wish to candidate myself for **both** positions listed above

At the time of transmitting this application

2.

- ☐ To be a resident in Italy
- OR***
- ☐ to be a resident abroad, specifically in

¹ **Both applicants of Italian nationality and international candidates residing in Italy or abroad** may apply for ordinary University scholarships

3.

- ☐ **to have NOT had residency or domicile in Italy** or to have carried out my main activity in Italy, for more than 6 months, even non-consecutively, in the three years preceding this Call for Applications
OR
☐ to **have had residency or domicile in Italy** or to carried out my main activity in Italy, for more than 6 months, even non-consecutively, in the three years preceding this Call for Applications

4.

- ☐ 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.....

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.