CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND HUMAN SCIENCES (Archeologia, Storia e Scienze dell’Uomo)
Coordinator: Prof. Raimondo Zuca E-mail: momoz1967@gmail.com raimondoz@virgilio.it

ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (Architettura e Ambiente)
Coordinator: Prof. Vincenzo Pascucci E-mail: pascucci@uniss.it

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (Scienze Agrarie)
Coordinator: Prof. Ignazio Floris E-mail: ifloris@uniss.it

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (Scienze Biomediche)
Coordinator: Prof. Andrea Piana E-mail: piana@uniss.it

CHEMICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Scienze e Tecnologie Chimiche)
Coordinator: Prof. Stefano Enzo E-mail: enzo@uniss.it

CULTURES, LITERATURES, TOURISM AND TERRITORY (Culture, Letterature, Turismo e Territorio)
Coordinator: Prof. Fiorenzo Toso E-mail: ftoso@uniss.it

ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS
Coordinator: Prof. Dimitri Paolini E-mail: dpaolini@uniss.it

JURIDICAL SCIENCES (Scienze Giuridiche)
Coordinator: Prof. Michele Maria Comenale Pinto E-mail: dottoratosg@uniss.it

LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGIES (Scienze della Vita e Biotecnologie)
Coordinator: Prof. Leonardo A. Sechi E-mail: sechila@uniss.it

VETERINARY SCIENCE (Scienze Veterinarie)
Coordinator: Prof. Fiammetta Berlinguer E-mail: berling@uniss.it

PhD SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASSARI (Sardinia, Italy) (Scuola di Dottorato di Ricerca dell’Università degli Studi di Sassari)
Director: Prof. Antonello Cannas Phone: +39 3292604278 E-mail: cannas@uniss.it
Office: Dr. Anna Paola Vargiu E-mail: apvargiu@uniss.it Dr. Riccardo Zallu E-mail: rzallu@uniss.it

Website: https://www.uniss.it/didattica/offerta-formativa/formazione-post-laurea/dottorati-di-ricerca

Brochure «PhD School of the University of Sassari»
Prepared by Scuola di Dottorato dell’Università degli Studi di Sassari
(Design and Technical Revision by Ana Helena Dias Francesconi, Elisa Campus and Riccardo Zallu)
January 2020 (updated July 9, 2020), Sassari, Italy

UNIVERSITY OF SASSARI, ITALY
The PhD School of the University of Sassari is composed of the following:

- 10 PhD Programmes
- 217 PhD students: about 24% are foreigners (15 different countries) and 53% are women
- 47 doctoral PhD positions in collaboration with companies
- 85 new doctoral PhD positions with scholarship in the year 2019/2020

Main Characteristics and Goals

- Centralized administrative services
- Common educational and training activities of the PhD School
- Specific teaching and training activities of each PhD Programme
- High interaction between different disciplinary areas, cultural exchange, stimulating and creative study and research environment
- International exchange: financial support for research training abroad, exchange of foreign students and visiting professors (including more than 90 foreign visiting professors per year), participation at international meetings
- Interactions and exchanges with the public and private work world
- Laboratory, field, study and library facilities

Educational and Research Activities

The PhD School and the PhD Programmes of the University of Sassari organize educational and research activities that include the following:

- Basic and applied research, including industrial research
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary training
- Specific training in planning and conducting research, exploiting research results and intellectual property, participating in calls for research projects (basic, applied and industrial), and gaining knowledge of research systems (national and international), innovation and technological transfer
- Specific training in communication skills (written and oral presentation, communication in advanced society, use of social networks)
- Employment orientation courses held by specialists (coaches, entrepreneurs, consultants, university professors) to improve the soft skills of PhD students, as required by the job market for highly qualified roles
- Mandatory and optional courses, seminars, workshops and meetings on various topics, many of which are in English
- Improvement of language skills: free Italian language courses for foreigners and English language courses are offered by the Linguistic Centre of the University of Sassari (CLA, Centro Linguistico di Ateneo)

The University of Sassari was founded in the year 1562. It is headquartered in the city of Sassari, having units also in Alghero, Olbia, Nuoro and Oristano (Sardinia, Italy).

The University of Sassari has 10 Departments, and approximately 550 professors, 400 technical and administrative staff, and 13,000 students (Italians and foreigners). It also has 11 libraries, with about 830,000 books and monographs and more than 44,000 paper and electronic journals. There are also 4 large studying rooms opened everyday, besides those present in the libraries.

The University has many Department and centralized laboratories, a human hospital, an animal hospital, 3 research farms, a business incubator and many other facilities that can be used by PhD students.

There is a University canteen where you can have a delicious meal (lunch and dinner) at an affordable price.

University housing includes rooms for about 570 students. Private rents in Sassari are not expensive at all. Graduate students normally find housing at walking distance from the Department where they work, but public transportation can also be used.

The city of Sassari is located in northern Sardinia, a beautiful island in the Mediterranean sea. Sassari is a typical medium-size Italian city (130,000 people) with a high-quality of life, which successfully combines the comfort and commodities of a big city with the low cost of living, affordable housing, high security and less stressful way of life and of small towns.

Sassari has many entertainment options (e.g. pubs, pizzerias, restaurants, multi-ethnic food, cinema, theaters, and discos) and a safe and beautiful central area (Piazza Italia, Piazza Castello and via Roma) for having fun and relaxing, when you need a break from your PhD study and research activities.

There are many paradisiac beaches and archeological sites to visit throughout the Island. Just to give you a few examples, in the area nearby Sassari you can find Alghero, with its amazing historical centre, beautiful beaches and fascinating cave, Grotta di Nettuno. The fabulous Pelosa beach, near Stintino, is only 50 km far, and the Nuraghe Santu Antine, a typical construction of the Nuragic culture (3,500 years old), is only 30 km far from Sassari.

There are many flights to come to Sardinia from several Italian cities (e.g. Rome, Milan, Bologna and Pisa) and from abroad. The closest airport to Sassari is the Airport of Alghero (AHO), which can be easily reached in 30 minutes by public transportation or car. Other Sardinia airports are Olbia (OIB) and Cagliari (CAG). There are also ferryboats to the Island from Genoa, Civitavecchia (near Rome), Livorno, Trapani, Naples, Barcelona (Spain), and Toulon and Corsica (France).
Scholarships
Scholarships are funded by various sources (international, national and regional, both public and private). By law the minimum net scholarship is around 1,150 Euro/month.

Research Abroad
The PhD School encourages and financially supports PhD students to conduct part of their research (typically at least 6 months) in foreign universities and research centres, and enterprises. During the period abroad, the scholarship is increased by 50% and the travel costs are often paid by the PhD programmes or other specific funding.

Outcome and Job Opportunities
The PhD students of the University of Sassari receive high-level training (theoretical and practical) within each PhD Programme, in order to become highly-qualified, with adequate competence and skills, such as ability to plan, conduct and publish their research following international standards, and decision-making ability to solve problems in complex systems. This allow PhDs of the University of Sassari to successfully enter the national and international research and professional job market.

Duration, Educational Level and Degree Achieved
The PhD Course normally lasts 3 years, except for special cases that receive an extended period (e.g. serious sickness and maternity). This tertiary or third-level of education (Dottorato di Ricerca) gives the title of PhD (Dottore di Ricerca), fully recognized by the EU and worldwide.

Application Requirements
To apply for our PhD Programme, students should have a Master’s degree or an equivalent university degree (at least 4 years of studies after high school). Candidates from all countries are eligible. Language requirements vary with PhD Programme but, in general, a B2-level of English (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR) is recommended. Knowledge of Italian language is not requested to access the PhD School but a minimum A2-level of Italian (CEFR) must be acquired before completing the programme.

Selection Process
After sending the application form within the established deadline, following the procedure published online, the competitive selection process consists of evaluating the curriculum of the candidate and a research project proposed by the candidate, followed by an oral exam, which can be done via Skype or equivalent systems. The participation of students from different universities and countries is encouraged.
PhD in Archaeology, History and Human Sciences

Department of History, Human Sciences and Education

This Programme provides high-level training in the following subject areas:
- Archaeology
- History
- Philology and Literature
- Human Sciences

The interdisciplinary and multifaceted nature of this PhD Programme adopts an integrated approach, which provides a stimulating environment for in-depth study and research activities in these fields.

This Programme aims to train highly qualified PhDs, who can also meet the scientific demand of the Italian Ministry of Education and the National Research Centre (NRC), and of internationals bodies in research and technology applied to cultural heritage, use and management of innovative technologies, such as Virtual Archaeology, and the development of interactive 3D software on cultural heritage, in the field of archaeology, at national and international level.

Another aim of this Programme is to give a high-level preparation also in humanities, including historical, geographical, philological-literary fields, and human sciences (e.g. philosophical, social, educational areas), to meet the needs of universities and research centres, and also in public and private sectors, where, for example, top managers in hard science fields are required to have a good knowledge of humanities.

Candidates with a PhD degree in Archaeology, History and Human Sciences have the competence and skills necessary to apply for a job in Italy and abroad in the following sectors:
- National and international university systems
- National, European and international institutions for the protection, valorisation and successful exploitation of cultural heritage
- Archaeological, historical, and historical-artistic museums and in archaeological and monumental parks
- Public and private sector, also as manager of culture

The Programme in Archaeology, History and Human Sciences pursues internationalisation through agreements with foreign universities and promotes the acquisition of qualifications recognized at European and international levels. Many research activities are conducted, locally or abroad, in collaboration with other national and international research centers.

PhD in Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods

Department of Economics and Management

The Department of Economics and Management (DiSea) of the University of Sassari is among leading research institutions in Italy for economics, management science, and quantitative methods. In fact, in 2018 DiSea was funded with 5.2 million euro by the Italian Ministry of University and Research under the Programme “Departments of Excellence”. Based on the long tradition of quality and success of its Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programmes, from 2020-2021 DiSea will offer an International Ph.D. Programme in Economics and Management.

The PhD in Economics and Management is a full-time, three-year advanced Ph.D. Programme for students who want to achieve an outstanding training in this field.

The PhD Programme in Economics and Management consists of the following three curricula:
- Economics
- Management
- Quantitative Methods

Research topics include:
- Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Human Capital & Educational Economics, Financial Economics, and Applied Game Theory (Economics)
- Accounting, Public Administration, Business Administration, Marketing, Business Organization, Corporate Finance, and Banking (Management)
- Economic Statistics, Demography, and Mathematical Methods For Economics (Quantitative Methods)

This PhD Programme aims to train qualified researchers in the disciplines of DiSea, through a multidisciplinary scientific and cultural training that includes highly qualified and specialized courses.

The Programme offers an advanced learning plan, with mandatory research-oriented courses on research methods and key topics in economics, management and quantitative studies.

Specific teaching activities take place during the first year, whereas students are expected to work on their thesis in the second and third years. Part of these periods (at least 3 months) are also expected to be abroad. PhD students will be followed and guided by one or more supervisors.

PhDs in Economics and Management can find employment at Italian and foreign universities, research centers, institutions, and companies, in the public and private sector.
This PhD Programme aims at training qualified researchers in Veterinary Science through a multidisciplinary scientific and cultural training, which is also based on highly qualified specialization.

The PhD Programme in Veterinary Sciences is divided into the following two curricula:
- Reproduction, Pathology, Animal breeding and Welfare
- Production, Quality and Food Safety

The specific learning objectives are:
- understanding the mechanisms underlying productive and reproductive biology and animal welfare, to improve reproductive performance and profitability of livestock farms
- acquiring technical knowledge and experience in animal production, to improve its quality through the appropriate management of resources and production processes
- studying animal diseases and parasitosis, to develop control measures that can improve the amount and quality of production, by reducing pharmacological interventions
- investigating the latest surgical, obstetrics and internal medicine techniques, to improve veterinary clinical practices
- developing specific expertise in the fields of pharmacology and toxicology, food microbiology, control of abiotic contaminants, methods required to attain the corporate quality system certification and quality marks recognized within the EU, in order to enhance the animal products and develop innovative processing techniques

PhD carry out their activities in laboratories, clinics and other facilities of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, in processing industries of food of animal origin, and in research institutions affiliated to the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Sassari.

PhDs in Veterinary Science are trained to work in university and industrial research sector, thus finding a job in national and foreign organizations and companies involved in research and innovation in the field of livestock and pet animals, especially on reproduction techniques, prevention and treatment of diseases, animal welfare, and animal and food production techniques.

Their competence and skills can be applied in the different phases of the supply chain of food of animal origin, by improving livestock productive and reproductive management as well as food quality and security.

Professionals can be involved in the processing and transformation of food of animal origin, by providing consulting activities for the management of process and product safety, traceability, study and characterization of products, and development of new products. They can also work on the management and enhancement of the finished product, by providing product certification consultancy services.

Environmental issues require to rethink, in a sustainable manner, ways of inhabiting our towns, the organisation of public spaces and territories, the management of biotic and abiotic resources and ecosystems, including energy, water and soil, sustainable planning, architectural philosophy, project development, urban recovery, and regeneration and design of objects and communication.

This PhD Programme is open to students from different disciplinary fields who wish to understand and analyse the relationships between the built environment and the ecosystems, in order to design, plan and manage transformations. This requires a multidisciplinary approach to the system, because the boundaries of disciplines and their theories do not address the issue of sustainability in an integrated manner.

The goal of this three-year Programme is to allow graduate students to gain comprehensive and deep knowledge on how to achieve sustainability, by dealing with tangible and intangible objects in connection with ecosystem functions and structures, by learning to redevelop, recover, restore, rethink and reuse them, by rethinking and recapitulation history, and by redesigning the city, the territory, the landscape and the environment, including shape and objects.
The Programme in Agricultural Sciences aims to train highly qualified PhDs able to conduct research and development and professional activity in the following fields: agrometeorology and plant ecophysiology; productivity of agricultural crops; management and protection of agricultural and forest production systems; conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources; biotechnology focusing on regional, national and international production needs; breeding and reproduction; feeding and nutrition; applied genetics and selection of livestock, including the use of molecular biology techniques; and quality and safety of food products of animal origin.

The wide range of research areas of this Programme is structured in the following five Curricula:
- Agrometeorology and Ecophysiology of Agricultural and Forest Systems
- Agricultural and Food Microbial Biotechnology
- Monitoring and Control of Agriculture and Forestry Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Environments
- Productivity of Cultivated Plants
- Livestock Sciences and Technologies

These curricula have a common teaching plan in Agricultural Sciences as well as specific educational and research activities within each curriculum, in order to better organize the personalized study and research experience of each PhD student.

The common teaching plan of the PhD in Agricultural Sciences includes several courses in the following topics:
- Scientific Communication
- Statistics
- Experimental Design
- Modelling and System Dynamics
- Research Policy and Planning
- Ethics in Science

All these courses, together with other educational activities, aim to ensure that PhD students gain the scientific knowledge and skills necessary to plan and conduct research in Agricultural Sciences, perform statistical analysis, describe and interpret experimental data, and disseminate and publish research findings, according to international standards.

PhDs in Agricultural Sciences get prepared to find a high-qualification job at national and international universities, enterprises and other institutions, in the public and private sector, to deal with important agricultural and environmental issues.

This PhD Programme in Juridical Sciences offers high-level training in the field of law, with specific attention to transport, navigation, production systems and culture, focusing on local issues, but also topics of national and international interest.

The course also focuses on the interrelation between law and the economic world, and the collaboration between researchers, thus overcoming the individualistic approach that tends to characterize research in the field of law.

The PhD Programme in Juridical Sciences has the general objective of training highly qualified researchers in the following curricula:
- Transport and Navigation, Enterprise and Productive Systems Law
- Law and Culture

This PhD Programme aims to provide the necessary tools for learning suitable research methods through the organization of courses, in-depth seminars, conferences and external collaboration activities.

During the PhD Programme, graduate students work mainly on writing an original monographic study that should provide an appropriate scientific contribution to research in law within the curriculum chosen.

PhDs in Juridical Sciences are trained to find a job in Italy and abroad, as follows:
- within the national and international university systems
- in European institutions, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly in the field of the unification of law and environmental and cultural law
- in the public and private sector
PhD in Cultures, Literatures, Tourism and Territory

Department of DUMAS - Human and Social Sciences

The PhD Programme in Cultures, Literatures, Tourism and Territory combines the adoption of an interdisciplinary perspective, based on international comparisons, with a search for harmonization between local and global dimensions.

This three-year Programme aims to teach PhD students how to:
- develop theoretical and critical tools adapted to the complex cultural and social scenario generated by globalization, by going back to its social, cultural and linguistic roots
- critically examine the transnational dynamics of the current society of knowledge and, at the same time, counteract the uncritical homologation of contemporary reality, by drawing on the cultural richness of the territory and the memory of the past, also in collaboration with enterprises, local institutions and communities
- increase linguistic, anthropological, sociological and literary knowledge and skills in view of an expansion of research horizons and international mobility
- address the linguistic, literary, artistic, historical-geographical and socio-cultural fields using a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, from an international and transmedial perspective
- extend the knowledge of the territory, considering its local specificities compared to other geographical, national and international contexts

In this Programme, the linguistic, literary, arts and visual aspects are linked with the study of the territory and the landscape, from an anthropic and historical-geographical perspective. In this way, it is also possible to acquire research knowledge, skills and methodologies related to tourism and landscape science.

Graduates in this Programme get prepared for jobs in Italy and abroad, as follows:
- at the university system
- at European level, in institutions responsible for managing neighborhood policies regarding the meeting and comparison of different cultures, and promoting research in that field
- in bodies and institutions, foundations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dedicated to research on and enhancement of cultural heritage
- in public and private bodies, as cultural managers, able to attract and manage funding for regional, national and international projects
- as organizers and curators of cultural events (festivals, exhibitions, and meetings)
- as qualified experts in museums and other cultural places (planning and conducting activities)
- as communication professionals in publishing, radio and television

PhD in Biomedical Sciences

Departments involved:
Biomedical Science (Head Office) - Clinical and Experimental Medicine
Department of Medical, Surgical and Experimental Sciences

The Ph.D. Programme in Biomedical Sciences has the general goal of training highly qualified researchers in scientific and methodological areas crucial for basic and applied research in the field of biomedical sciences, using a multidisciplinary approach.

This goal is pursued in collaboration with other Italian and foreign universities or with public and private entities that meet high standards of cultural, technical and scientific qualification, as well as adequate facilities and equipment.

This Ph.D. Programme is structured into the following curricula:
- Medical Physiopathology
- Medical Genetics
- Medicine of Human Gender, Woman and Child
- Neuroscience
- Molecular Oncology
- Public Health

The specific education objectives are:
- Training and research activity on extended scientific and methodological areas fundamental for basic and applied research in the field of biomedical sciences
- Conduction of the research project of the doctorate of the curriculum chosen using an interdisciplinary approach
- Performing specific aspects of the training in other research institutions (public and private, Italian and foreign)

The PhD program establishes a joint teaching commission that organizes and coordinates the educational activity of each graduate student.

The PhDs in Biomedical Sciences have the competence to work in public or private facilities, with research (basic and applied, clinical and laboratory), training and assistance purposes, in order to plan and carry out national and international research projects on various topics, such as neuroscience; genetics; molecular, cellular and medical physiopathology; public health; aesthetic adhesive treatments in odontostomatology; gender medicine; and biostatistics.

The PhDs acquire thorough biomedical and technological knowledge and skills for biotechnological applications that can contribute to basic knowledge and to practical uses in human health, especially to the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases.

The training and research activities offered by the PhD Programme in Biomedical Sciences give the tools to face emerging problems and issues that receive increasing interest and funding by national and international organizations. Therefore, PhDs in Biomedical Sciences can find employment at Italian and foreign universities, public and private research centers, public institutions, and companies.
PhD in Life Sciences and Biotechnologies

Department of Biomedical Sciences – Medical, Surgical and Experimental Sciences

The PhD Program in Life Sciences and Biotechnologies has the general objective of training highly qualified researchers in extensive scientific and methodological areas of great importance for basic and applied research in the field of biomedical sciences.

This PhD Programme is structured in the following subject areas:
- Biochemistry, Physiology and Molecular Biology
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Proteomics
- Evolutionary Biology
- Animal Biology
- Molecular basis of physiological and pathological processes
- Human and Animal medicine
- Microbial Pathogenicity
- Infection and Autoimmunity
- Food technology and pharmaceutical production
- Agriculture and farming development environmental protection
- Bioarchaeology

The three-year Ph.D. Programme is characterized by a theoretical and experimental approach, with teaching activities and widely interdisciplinary research projects (national and international), to develop and exchange knowledge and expertise in rapidly growing sectors such as modern biological and biomedical sciences.

The main topics studied are the following:
- Animal Biology
- Molecular basis of physiological and pathological processes
- Human and Animal medicine
- Microbial Pathogenicity
- Infection and Autoimmunity
- Food technology and pharmaceutical production
- Agriculture and farming development environmental protection
- Bioarchaeology

The aim of this PhD Programme is to provide PhD students with high-quality and specialized training in advanced topics of Chemical Science and Technology, through a personalized educational and research activity, with the opportunity to collaborate with national and international highly-qualified research institutions.

This PhD Programme will allow PhDs to obtain a profound scientific specialization combined with the necessary cultural preparation that will enable them to contribute positively to the progress of the chemical sciences in the industrial world and academic environment, in a context of national and international competition.

PhDs in Chemical Sciences and Technology achieve knowledge and skills to work in the industry, occupying highly professional positions, and at the university, in national and international contexts.

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