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**Public Competition Announcement for PhD Courses  
 Y. 2017/2018 – XXXII course**

**Art. 1  
 Subject**

The University for Foreigners of Siena announces a selection procedure for admission to the 2017/2018 (course XXXIII) Ph D Programme in "Historical Linguistics, Educational Linguistics, and Italian Studies. The Italian Language, Other Languages and Cultures".

The scientific areas covered by the Programme are as follows:

L-LIN/01, L-LIN /02, L-FIL-LET/10, L-FIL-LET/11, L-FIL-LET/12, L-FIL-LET/13, M-STO/02

**Duration:** 3 years (1<sup>st</sup> November 2017-31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

**Specialization Curricula:**

Curriculum 1 – **Linguistics and Didactics of Italian as a Foreign Language.**

Research Areas covered by the curriculum: L-LIN/01, L-LIN/02

Curriculum 2 – **Italian Literature, Italian Linguistics, Philology of Italian Literature, Modern History**

Research Areas covered by the curriculum: L-FIL-LET/10, L-FIL-LET/11, L-FIL-LET/12, L-FIL-LET/13, M-STO/02

**Number of doctoral positions**

<b>Number of doctoral positions funded by MIUR:</b> 1 in Curriculum 1, 1 in Curriculum	<b>2</b>
<b>Number of doctoral positions not funded by MIUR (University scholarship):</b> 2 in Curriculum 1, 2 in Curriculum 2	<b>4</b>
<b>Number of doctoral positions funded by the Tuscan Region– FSE (Pegaso Project):</b> 2 in Curriculum 1, 2 in Curriculum 2  One of the two "Pegasus" grants (curriculum 1) has a specific research theme in collaboration with the University of Toronto (Canada); the winner is expected to spend a mobility period of at least 12 months at the partner university.	<b>4</b>

<b>Positions will be reserved to foreign students</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Position will not be covered by grants</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total positions available</b>	<b>13</b>

**In the event that there is no minimal number of candidates to cover all the positions in one of the two curricula, the number of positions available in the other curriculum will be consequently increased.**

Admission to the course is a prerequisite for grant-holders from foreign countries. The number of grants may be increased in the event that further funding is available from public or private subjects. An increased number of grants may cause a corresponding increase in the number of doctoral positions announced, both covered and not covered by grants.

In the event that the number of grants increases, the number of positions without grants may increase as long as it abides by the restriction of the financial coverage of at least 75% of the total available positions (guidelines for accreditation of PhD affiliates and courses, issued with MIUR note 0011677 on 14/04/2017).

According to the agreement between the Tuscan Region and Tuscan Universities, it will be possible to obtain a PhD Degree in the context of a Higher-Level Training and Research Apprenticeship Contract (art. 5 D.Lgs. 167/11): 2 of such positions are available.

## **Art. 2**

### **Admission requirements**

Application to the public selection for the aforementioned PhD Research Programme (see article 1) is open to all, regardless of age and citizenship, who, by the date this call expires, possess one of the qualifications listed hereunder:

- an Italian “laurea specialistica” obtained according to the Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999;
- an Italian “laurea magistrale” obtained according to the Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004;
- an Italian equivalent university degree obtained under Italian regulations previously in force and whose length is no less than 4 years;
- a foreign degree equivalent to those mentioned above.

Admission is also open to those who will obtain their degree **by October 31, 2017** (if such condition is not met, admission will be forfeited). These candidates will have to declare their expected graduation date; in all such cases, admission will be “conditional” and applicants will be required to send an e-mail to [postlaurea@unistrasi.it](mailto:postlaurea@unistrasi.it), pec ([unistrasi@pec.it](mailto:unistrasi@pec.it)) or hand in a self-declaration as proof of the relative degree (a certification in case of Non-EU students) to the “Ufficio Post Lauream”. Self-declarations should state the name of the awarding University, award date, grade and type of qualification (“Laurea vecchio ordinamento”, “Laurea Specialistica”/“Laurea magistrale”) and include a copy of a valid identity document.

The equivalence of a foreign degree is ascertained by the Evaluation Committee according to existent laws in Italy, existent laws in the country where the degree has been obtained, and international agreements in matter of international recognition of educational degrees.

Applicants who hold a foreign degree which has not previously been officially recognised as being equivalent to the Italian aforementioned degrees must send, by using the attached “Form B” and in ways according to those detailed in art. 3, the documents listed hereunder:

- the degree certificate inclusive of examinations passed and grades obtained complete with an Italian/English translation under the applicant's own liability,. EU-citizens may send a self-declaration according to DPR 445/2000 and Law n. 183 of November 12, 2011;
  - any other documentation that may help to evaluate the qualification (Diploma Supplement, European-format CV, an equivalence certification when already obtained, etc.)
- Applicants may at all times be asked to complement the documentation submitted, in order to ascertain their right to be admitted to the selection procedure.
- Applicants with a foreign degree will be excluded from the PhD Programme should upon verification their degree not result compliant with the requirements detailed in this call, thus impeding their enrolment in the PhD Programme.

### **Art. 3 Application**

To participate in the public competition, candidates must apply on-line within 30 days from the publication in the Italian Official Gazette, - Competitive Exam - by following the procedure hereunder:

- 1) open your web-browser and log in at the address <https://didattica.unistrasi.it>:
    - applicants not in possession of a username and password can obtain them by choosing the option "Registrazione" in the "Area riservata" section on the left sidebar, where they will be asked to fill in a registration form. Username and password must be preserved carefully. Once they have been obtained, the applicant may proceed to point 2)
    - applicants already in possession of a username and password, having been already registered as students of the The University for Foreigners of Siena, may use these. If an already registered applicant does no longer possess his/her username and password s/he may require them by clicking on the button "password dimenticata" (forgot your password?), or by sending an e-mail to [postlaurea@unistrasi.it](mailto:postlaurea@unistrasi.it);
  - 2) select "Login" in the left sidebar menu under the "Area Riservata" section, then insert username and password;
  - 3) in the left sidebar menu, click on the link "Segreteria" ,then "Test di ammissione", then "Iscrizione Concorsi" at the bottom of the page;
  - 4) select "Dottorato di ricerca" then fill in the form with the personal data required.
- When completing your application, please include the following attachments:
- scan of your identity document (valid passport or National ID);
  - European-format CV;
  - "Form A" "Qualifications, publications, language skills, other declarations" completely filled in and signed;
  - publications (optional);
  - the research project you intend to pursue as a PhD candidate (max 3 pages equivalent to a total of 6000 characters);
  - for applicants in possession of a foreign degree, "Form B" "Request for the Recognition of a foreign degree" completely filled in and signed.
  - Candidates who wish to be considered for places reserved for grant-holders from foreign countries must also submit a certification attesting grant ownership and "**Form C**" "Request for video-conference interview - for foreign candidates only"

Candidates who wish to compete for positions within the Pegaso scholarship will have to enclose Form D for unrestricted grants and Form D/1 for the restricted "Pegaso" grant.

In Form D and Form D / 1, the candidate must declare the possession of the additional requirements provided by the regional notice issued by executive order no. 618 on 16th January 2017:

- age below 35 at the time of application to the Doctoral Programme selection procedure;

- B2-level proficiency in spoken and written English, certified through appropriate documentation. In the absence of such documentation, the candidate's proficiency level in English will be assessed by the University;
- formal declaration of willingness to carry out research abroad for at least 6 months during the three years of the Programme; if such condition is not met, withdrawal of the whole grant will ensue.
- formal declaration of willingness to attend courses for the acquisition of soft skills to be activated within the three years of the PhD programme.

Applicants will also formally declare:

- to be willing to write their PhD thesis in Italian or English (when scientific literature in the discipline is mostly available in English or other foreign language); the thesis summary will need to be written both in Italian and in English;
- to be aware that the PhD thesis must be placed in e-repository in electronic version, according to the " CRUI Guidelines for the open archive of doctoral dissertations";
- to be willing to draw annual reports after each doctorate study year as well as a final report on all PhD activities (research activities and seminars) and the corresponding degree of satisfaction;
- to be aware that cases of suspension from the PhD programme are only those regulated by law and are to be reported and motivated in real time, writing to Scuola Superiore di Dottorato e di Specializzazione – SSDS -Università per Stranieri di Siena – P.zza Carlo Rosselli 27/28 – 53100 Siena, in order to allow for communication to the Tuscan Region within 5 days of their occurrence. Different suspension cases are generally not acceptable.

In **Form D / 1**, the candidate who intends to compete for the assignment of the restricted "Pegasus" grant must also declare:

- to be available to spend a mobility period at the University of Toronto (Canada) for at least 12 months during the three-year course;
- to be aware that the assignment of the restricted "Pegaso" grant entails the administration of specific written and oral tests for ascertaining the possession of competences in the field of acquisitional linguistics. The research project submitted by the candidate must include teaching applications also in e-learning contexts and with multimedia and technology support.

Once the procedure has been completed, the system will ask the applicant to print his/her application. Applications will have to be printed, signed and scanned to [postlaurea@unistrasi.it](mailto:postlaurea@unistrasi.it). It is the applicant's responsibility to verify the correct finalization of the procedure.

Attachments must be in PDF or jpg format, maximum size 5 MB each. File names must contain the candidate's name and the attachment's description.

Applications submitted under different formats and conditions will not be taken into account.

Students with a disability may request in the application form special equipment and extra time to complete the admission examinations, which will be arranged upon their providing a medical certification.

Personal data will be kept and processed according to the D.Lgs 196/03.

#### **Art. 4 Admission Test**

The selection procedure is based on a written and oral examination and on a comparative assessment of applicants' qualifications.

Regarding the positions reserved to foreign students, admission to the PhD programme takes place after the evaluation of qualifications and an interview by video conference (art. 7).

The examination aims at ascertaining both the applicants' aptitude for scientific research and their knowledge in the disciplinary fields required by the PhD Programme "**Historical Linguistics, Educational Linguistics, and Italian Studies. The Italian Language, Other Languages and Culture**".

The date, time and venue of the admission exams will be posted on the website <http://www.unistrasi.it/1/445/2683/Dottorati.htm> at least 20 days prior to the date of the written examination. The announcement on the website is to be considered as the official call to attend. Therefore, applicants will not receive any other call or notification regarding the tests.

Candidates must bring at the examination a valid form of identification.

The Evaluation Committee is appointed by Rectoral decree upon proposal by the competent authority of the PhD Programme. It comprises three members appointed among the Professors and Lecturers of the University. Since the PhD Programme includes 2 Curricula, the Evaluation Committee may additionally include another expert for each curriculum.

## **Art. 5 Evaluation Criteria**

The Evaluation Committee appointed by Rectoral decree may grant the applicants up to a maximum of 100 points distributed as follows:

- qualifications: up to 10 points
- written examination up to 45 points
- oral examination up to 45 points

### **Assessable Qualifications:**

- grade obtained in the "laurea magistrale" or equivalent 4-year "laurea di vecchio ordinamento":  
up to 4 points
  - 4 points: 110 con lode
  - 3 points: 110
  - 2 points: 109-100
  - 1 point: 99-96
- Master's degree / other 2-year specialization up to 2 points
- academic publications up to 2 points  
(the Committee will only evaluate volumes and articles already published or accepted for publication)
- documented research activity in the relevant disciplinary field up to 2 points

Only qualifications listed in "Form A" and held by the date this call expires will be evaluated.

In assessing the written and oral tests, the Committee will take into consideration the following criteria: breadth of knowledge in the subject, depth of analysis, originality, consistency.

During the oral examination, the Evaluation Committee may verify the candidate's knowledge of a foreign language chosen by the candidate in the application form among the following: English, French, Spanish, German.

Candidates who have successfully passed the written examination will be admitted to the oral examination. A pass in the written examination will be a mark of no less than 35 points.

A pass in the oral examination will be a mark of no less than 35 points.

The minimum score required for candidates to be considered suitable for a doctoral position is 72/100, which has to be obtained by passing both examinations (oral and written).

After admission examinations, the Evaluation Committee will draw up a rank list based on the total score awarded to candidates both for their qualifications and performance in the written and oral tests.

The rank list will specify the curriculum each candidate applies for.

The Evaluation Committee also draws up a ranking list for each curriculum, useful to the award of grants.

In case of equivalent scores:

- a. for the allocation of grants, students at a more disadvantaged economic situation shall be first considered; such situation will be evaluated based on students' ISEE 2016.

b. for the allocation of doctoral positions without a grant, the youngest candidate shall prevail. Applicants can check the evaluation of their qualifications, written test results, admission to the oral test, and final overall evaluation on the platform <https://didattica.unistrasi.it> logging in with their credentials and following the path: Segreteria > test di ammissione > Dottorato XXXIII ciclo.

The results will also be published on the website [www.unistrasi.it](http://www.unistrasi.it) (Ricerca > Scuola Superiore di Dottorato e di Specializzazione > Dottorati).

In the event where not enough suitable candidates fill the doctoral positions covered by the grants provided for one Curriculum, the available grants will be assigned according to the rank list of suitable candidates for the other Curriculum.

## **Art. 6**

### **Admission to the Doctoral Programme**

Candidates will be admitted to the PhD Programme according to their order on the rank list until all available places have been filled. If a successful candidate withdraws by November 30th, 2017, the next candidate on the rank list will be offered the position.

Pegasus grants will be assigned to candidates in the rank list who will have submitted the application through Annex D and/or D/1 and will be in possession of the necessary requirements.

## **Art.7**

### **Positions reserved to foreign students**

The selection process for candidates from foreign countries will evaluate qualifications and oral tests using the Skype video conferencing platform. The Evaluation Committee can assign a maximum of 10 points in the evaluation of candidates' qualifications and a maximum of 45 points in the evaluation of oral tests, to be attributed according to the criteria in art. 5. During the oral examination the Evaluation Committee will verify candidates' knowledge in the subject, research skills and aptitude for research, as well as candidates' knowledge of the Italian language and a foreign language chosen among English, French, Spanish, and German – other than their mother tongue. A pass in the oral exam will be a mark of no less than 35 points.

To be eligible for admission to the Programme, applicants must achieve an overall score of 37 out of 55 points. The Evaluation Committee will draw up a separate rank list of suitable candidates. In the event of absence of any suitable candidates, the vacant positions will not be assigned to other candidates.

Applicants applying to positions reserved for grant-holders from foreign countries must also submit: a certification attesting grant ownership – issued by the abovementioned foreign country – or a copy of the application submitted to the competent authorities for the assignment of the same; the “Request for video-conference interview” form, clearly indicating the account which will be used in videoconferencing (Form C).

The candidate must be available at the account indicated, on the day and at the time established by the Evaluation Committee, as posted on the University website <http://www.unistrasi.it> following the path: Ricerca / Scuola Superiore di Dottorato e di Specializzazione / Dottorati ([http://www.unistrasi.it/1/523/2676/Linguistica\\_Storica\\_Linguistica\\_Educativa\\_e\\_Italianistica\\_L-Italiano\\_le\\_altre\\_Lingue\\_e\\_Culture.htm](http://www.unistrasi.it/1/523/2676/Linguistica_Storica_Linguistica_Educativa_e_Italianistica_L-Italiano_le_altre_Lingue_e_Culture.htm)) at least 20 days before the date of the oral examination. Such notice shall prevail for all purposes of law as official summons.

For identification reasons, and under penalty of exclusion from the selection process, each candidate is required to provide identification before the interview begins, by exhibiting the same identity document submitted as an attachment to the application. Failure to communicate personal account, unavailability of the candidate on the day and at the time established by the Evaluation Committee, and failure to exhibit a valid identity document are reasons for exclusion from the selection process.

## **Art.8**

### **Enrolment Procedure**

Candidates admitted and listed in the rank list must submit their enrolment form by October 31, 2017, h 23.59 (11.59 p.m. local time), following the appropriate procedure on the University website at <https://didattica.unistrasi.it>. After logging in with the username and password obtained during the registration process, candidates must select the links “Segreteria” – “Immatricolazione” in the left sidebar.

Once the procedure has been completed, candidates will be required to print out the enrolment form, sign it and hand it in to Segreteria studenti (or send it by ordinary mail to Università per Stranieri di Siena - Area Management and URP - Piazza Carlo Rosselli, 27/28, 53100 Siena) together with the following documents:

- a) 1 passport-sized photograph;
- b) for holders of grants funded by Ministerial Decrees in accordance with art. 4, c.3, L. 210/98: receipt of payment of the regional tax for the right to study in accordance with regional law n. 4 3/01/2005 and statement of financial situation, social security and insurance placement;
- c) for holders of grants not funded by Ministerial Decrees in accordance with art. 4, c.3, L. 210/98 and candidates not in possession of grants: receipt of payment of the first instalment of doctoral fees and receipt of payment of the regional tax for the right to study in accordance with regional law n. 4 3/01/2005;
- d) 1 € 16,00 duty stamp ;

Documents and qualifications in a foreign language must be accompanied by an Italian translation certified by an Italian consulate, embassy or diplomatic representative, or by an official translator.

Candidates holding a foreign degree must also submit:

- their degree certificate accompanied by the following consulate documents: translation, authentication and declaration of value (“Dichiarazione di valore”) issued by an Italian consulate, embassy or diplomatic representative in the country where the degree was issued. The declaration of value will have to provide confirmation that the degree obtained by the candidate will be valid for applying to a similar Doctoral programme in the country in which the degree was issued.
- a valid residence permit (for Non-EU citizens only).

Public Administration (PA) employees admitted to the PhD Programme are entitled to apply for extraordinary unpaid study leave for the entire duration of the course. Study leave, with or without pay, shall be granted to employees who do not waive and are enrolling for the first time on a PhD programme irrespective of the research field in accordance with Public Administration requirements according to Art. 2 of Law n. 476 of August 13, 1984 and its subsequent amendments.

The provisions provided for by D.Lgs. of March 29, 2012, n. 68, apply to PhD Students.

The provision of maternity protection applies to doctoral students in accordance with the Decree by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of July 12, 2007, published in the «Gazzetta Ufficiale» n. 247, October 23, 2007.

## **Art.9**

### **Regional Tax and Doctoral Fees**

Taxes and fees to be paid by PhD students include:

**- for grant-holders from funds allocated by the Ministerial Decrees in accordance with art. 4, c.3 of Law 210/98:**

- a) Regional Tax for the right to study in higher education according to regional law n. 4, January 3, 2005 and its subsequent amendments and complements;
- b) Tax-exemption for access and attendance to doctoral courses

**-for grant-holders from funds not allocated by the Ministerial Decrees in accordance with art. 4, c.3 of Law 210/98, i.e. University or “Pegaso” grant-holders:**

- a) Regional Tax for the right to study in higher education according to regional law n. 4, January 3, 2005 and its subsequent amendments and complements;
- b) Doctoral fee amounting to € 1.800,00; the fee may be paid in two instalments. The first instalment, amounting to € 800,00, will have to be paid at the time of enrolment. The second instalment, which will vary according to the existent laws, will have to be paid by April 30.

PhD students that do not have a grant are exempted from paying taxes and university contributions, pursuant to paragraph 262 of Law no. 232 of December 11, 2016 (Budget Law for the year 2017).

### **Art. 10 Grants**

Grants have a yearly duration and are renewed on condition that the PhD student has fulfilled the programme of activities scheduled for the previous year and has passed an evaluation of his/her progress.

In accordance with art. 1, D.M. of June 18, 2008, the amount of the grant is € 13.638,47 per annum gross of the separate Italian social security contribution (INPS), which the grant holder must pay. Grants are paid in monthly instalments.

Grants will be awarded after comparative assessment of the candidates, as per art. 1 of the present call, and according to the rank list. In the event of a PhD candidate's withdrawal from the Programme, the University Administration will not request refund of the instalments issued during the months when the PhD student was attending the PhD Programme activities as established by the PhD Board.

Grant holders cannot integrate this grant with grants of any other kind, unless they have been awarded by national or international organisations in order to enable the PhD student to travel abroad as part of his/her research project. Applicants who have previously benefited from a PhD grant are not eligible for another.

### **Art. 11 Attendance to the Courses and Obligations of PhD students**

Except for the cases provided in c. 5, art. 8 and art. 11 of the D.M. of February 8, 2013, n. 45, PhD Courses commence at the beginning of the academic year.

Admission to the PhD Programme entails attendance to PhD courses and full-time and exclusive research activity, except for the cases provided in D.M. of February 8, 2013, n. 45.

The PhD grant is subject to a separate Italian social security contribution (INPS) in accordance with art. 2, c. 26, law n. 35, August 8, 1995 and subsequent provisions and amendments; the grant-holder must pay one third of the contribution, whereas the university administration will be covering the remaining two thirds. PhD students are granted all related protections and rights.

At the end of each year, PhD students must submit a detailed report on their research activity and progress to the PhD Board. The Board will admit students to the following year on the basis of an evaluation of their work. The Board may ask the Rector to exclude any student from the PhD Programme by reasoned order.

The PhD Board develops a programme of PhD teaching activities by November 1<sup>st</sup> according to the regulations and guidelines of the “Scuola Superiore di Dottorato e di Specializzazione – SSDS”.



**Art. 12**  
**Award of the Degree**

The Degree of “Dottore di ricerca” (abridged as “Dott. Ric.” or “PhD”) will be awarded after positive assessment of the PhD Student’s Doctoral Thesis, which has to contribute to the advancement of the knowledge or methods of the disciplinary field. Times and modes are ruled by art. 8, c. 6 of the D.M. of February 8, 2013, n. 45.

**Art. 13**  
**Data Protection Act**

In accordance with law n. 196, June 30, 2003, the University will use the applicants’ personal data only for the selection procedure and for institutional purposes, in accordance with existent laws and regulations.

**Art. 14**  
**Final Regulations**

For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present call, current laws shall apply.

Siena, 14/07/2017

The Rector  
Prof. Pietro Cataldi  
Fto. Pietro Cataldi