



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OPEN TO EU CITIZENS FOR ADMISSION TO THE

**PhD PROGRAMME IN  
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES OF INFORMATION &  
COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING  
AND ROBOTICS**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012

Art. 1

(Available Positions)

1. The **Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna** of Pisa, hereinafter referred to as the "School", announces **12 positions** dedicated to citizens of EU countries for admission to the three-year **Ph.D. Programme in Innovative Technologies of Information & Communication Engineering and Robotics** for the Academic Year 2011–2012.

2. The Ph.D. in **Innovative Technologies** is a three-year residential program with highly interdisciplinary connotation, where students can specialize in one of the following curricula:

- **Embedded Systems**, with emphasis on real-time systems and resource management.
- **Telecommunications**, especially referring to networks and photonic technologies.
- **Biorobotics**, including micro-engineering, biomedical engineering, biomimetic robotics, re-abilitation technologies and computer assisted surgery.
- **Perceptual Robotics**, with emphasis on telerobotics, cognitive robotics and virtual environments.

For further information on the specific programmes and activities, applicants can visit the web site [www.sssup.it/techschool](http://www.sssup.it/techschool).

3. After the publication of the Ranking List of eligible candidates, the positions announced in this call will be assigned as follows. First will be assigned the 8 (eight) positions financed by Scuola Sant'Anna: 2 positions per curriculum. Then will be assigned the positions financed by partners of Scuola Sant'Anna and particularly related to one of the curricula: 4 positions to Biorobotics.

**4 positions announced in this Call are dedicated to candidates with Research Projects in the field of Micro-Biorobotics**, since the scholarships assigned are supported within the Agreement that Scuola Sant'Anna subscribed with Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT) of Genova with the aim of promoting fundamental and applied research and creating a Research Center in Micro-BioRobotics at Scuola Sant'Anna.

4. If additional funds should be available before the beginning of the Programme, further positions related to one or more curricula may be assigned by the School.

5. The Examination Committee appointed by the Director of the School The School may also admit **eligible candidates without grants**: they will take part in the Programme at their own expenses but they will not have to pay any tuition fee. In any case, the candidates admitted without grants for each curriculum will not exceed in number the candidates admitted with grants.

Art. 2

(Participation Requirements)

1. Applicants must hold a **Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree** or equivalent title. Applicants should not be older than 35 years on **June 30, 2011**, older than 35 may be exceptionally admitted by the Examination Committee considering their *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*.

2. Current undergraduate students, who will obtain M.Sc. degree before **October 30, 2011**, may also apply. In this case, a successful application will be conditional to the subsequent completion of the degree and the transmission to the School of adequate documentation no later than **November 3, 2011**.

Art. 3  
(Applications)

1. Candidates are requested to apply on-line **by June 30, 2011**. In case of difficulties with the on-line application, please contact the PhD Administration Office (telephone +39.050.883.336/383, e-mail [techschool@sssup.it](mailto:techschool@sssup.it)).

2. **An hardcopy of the application (signed by the candidate)** together with the **enclosures as per art. 4** must be sent to "Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Servizi di Supporto alla Formazione , Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33 - 56127 Pisa" with the notice "Application PhD in Innovative Technologies" on the envelope and must be received within **July 4, 2011**, regardless of delivery date.

3. Candidates' application must include:

- a) family name, first name, place and date of birth, and nationality;
- b) declaration that the candidate has never been convicted for a criminal offence or that she/he has no pending criminal proceedings;
- c) declaration that the candidate is in possession of an academic degree, as per Article 2 above. The application should also specify the degree title, its duration and the name of the University or University Institute which awarded the degree; regarding degrees obtained out of Italy, candidates are asked to declare that the degree is equivalent to a degree awarded by Italian Universities, providing details about such an equivalence; the Examination Committee decides on Degree equivalence only for competition purposes;
- d) the Academic Year, in which the candidate has started his/her Master Degree studies;
- e) the date of graduation and the score;
- f) the curriculum selected among the four available;
- g) the permanent address and the reply address where applicants wish to receive communications and documents. Applicants should immediately contact the School if these addresses change.

**h) the E-Mail address required for competition purposes.**

4. Applicants, as per Art. 2 paragraph 2 above, should specify, in their application, the date, in which they will be awarded the degree.

5. Applicants with disabilities are requested to attach a note specifying the type of aid required to take the examination, in order to set a suitable prior arrangement. They should also specify if they need any additional time.

6. The School will not accept incomplete applications: the paper documents required must be received within the terms and according to the procedure set out in paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article.

7. The School's Administration does not assume any responsibility either for missed or late communication resulting from wrong address information by the applicant or from a late communication of the change of address specified in the application, nor for any mailing delivery problem that cannot be ascribed to the School Administration's fault.

Art. 4  
(Application Enclosures)

1. Applicants should attach to their applications:

- a) the copy of a valid identity document;
- b) two copies of their *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*;
- c) detailed list of academic courses taken. This list should contain information regarding credits, units (or equivalent) received, the grades received for each class taken, and the date when the final (or semester) examination was taken;
- d) a copy of their degree thesis *or two abstracts in English* and a copy of any other publication that they deem suitable;
- e) two copies of a detailed Research Project, of no more than 3,000 words, which will describe the research activities that applicants would like to perform during the PhD course. The Research Project will include:
  1. a title;
  2. the scientific premises and the relevant bibliography;
  3. the aim and expectations of the research;
  4. the experimental methods and data analysis methods which will be used, where required;
- f) at least two Reference Letters written by Faculty Members who have supervised the applicant's work during his/her university studies;
- g) a numbered list of documents attached.

2. Applicants, as per Art. 2 paragraph 2, should specify in their application the subject of their degree thesis and should submit to the School two abstracts or one copy of their degree thesis , at least in the form of final draft, before **July 4, 2011**.
3. Failure to submit the above-listed documents within the deadline of **July 4, 2011**, as specified in Art. 3, paragraph 2 above, will result in a candidate's exclusion from competition.

Art. 5  
(*Selection of applicants*)

1. Selection of applicants will be based upon the **assessment of all the submitted documents** and publications and an **interview**.
2. The Examination Committee, appointed by the Director, will evaluate the submitted publications, including the CV, as well as the Research Project (both in terms of quality and relevance with the PhD programme) and assign a score between 1 and 70. Only applicants who achieve a cumulative score of at least 49/70 will be admitted to the interview.
3. The School **will inform by E-Mail** (using the address indicated in the application form) **applicants who have been admitted to the interview**, about the score received, as well as the time and date of the interview.
4. The interview will assign the remaining 30 points, and it will deal with the submitted documents and publications and the proposed Research Project, and a test for assessing the level of knowledge of the English language. Applicants should obtain at least 21/30 points in order to be included in the final ranking. A final minimum score of 70/100 is therefore necessary to successfully pass the examination.
5. In the event that two or more applicants obtain the same score in the final ranking, the School will ask them to produce all the documents necessary to prove the possession of any priority or preferential qualification according to Article 5 of D.P.R. No. 3 of 10.1.1957.
6. The general pass lists will be published on the Web Site [www.sssup.it](http://www.sssup.it) not later than **October 15, 2011**.
7. The judgement of the Committee is final.
8. The admitted candidates will be informed by E-Mail of the results of the competition and **will be asked to confirm acceptance of the scholarship to [techschool@sssup.it](mailto:techschool@sssup.it) within 15 days**. In case of lack of response by that date, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking list.

Art. 6  
(*Beginning of the PhD Programme*)

1. The PhD programme will start on **November 3, 2011**.
2. A late starting will be possible for students who can prove that they have to fulfil their military obligations or for pregnant women and students on maternity leave as by Italian Law No. 53/2000.
3. Awardees who are doing their military service need to show a certificate issued by the military authority, with the expected date of completion of their service.
4. Awardees who will be in the conditions provided for by Law No. 53/2000, need to produce a suitable medical certificate, where the presumed period of absence provided for by the above-mentioned Law is specified.
5. In both the aforementioned cases, the participation to the course activities will start within ten (10) days after their discharge or from the end of the maternity leave period.
6. Should an awardee forfeit or fail to accept his/her award, the School will have the possibility to assign the vacant position to the next suitable candidate according to the ranking standings.
7. The School reserves the right to verify the data submitted and to ask the competent authority of the country, where the awardee resides, a judicial record certificate.

Art. 7  
(*PhD Students' Obligations*)

1. PhD Students commit themselves to attending the research and highly qualifying education activities proposed by the School and to write periodical reports in accordance with the Regulations of the School and the Partners agreements.
2. They also commit to comply with the rules of the Statute and in the Regulations of the School.
3. The Advisory Board of the Course will appoint a Tutor to each PhD student. The task of the Tutor will be to verify student's attendance to the training, cultural and scientific activities of the School, and to support and verify the progress of his/her research.
4. At the end of the three year Course, PhD students will advance to a final examination in order to obtain the PhD Degree. During the PhD Degree examination students will be asked to defend a written dissertation before a Board of Experts appointed by the Director.

Art. 8  
*(PhD Student Status)*

1. The School provides **PhD students with grants** free access to the Canteen and facilities of the School, according to the rules specified in its Regulations.
2. PhD students will also receive a monthly scholarship for educational allowance and external lodging amounting to a total of **€ 14,500.00** per year.
3. The PhD Programme Advisory Board may allow PhD students to participate to study and research activities outside the School's premises.
4. The allowances, as per this Article, are subject, for fiscal purposes, to the laws in force in matters of fellowships allocated by Universities and Regions. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna provides the three-year course PhD Students accident and civil liability full insurance coverage. The Scuola's Partners (Tuscany Region among others) shall not be liable for any indirect or consequential damages arising from failure in insurance contractual agreements. The School is entirely liable for safety and security measures implementation also including PhD courses equipments and workplace; Tuscany Region shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever.
5. **PhD student without a grant** will take part in the Programme at their own expenses but they will not have to pay any tuition fee and they will be allowed to use the library and laboratories.

Art. 9  
*(Collection of Submitted Publications)*

1. All applicants may recover at their own expenses, **within two (2) months** from the publication of the relevant pass list on the web site of the School. Once this two-month period has elapsed, the School's Administration cannot be held, in any way, responsible for the above-mentioned publications.

Art. 10  
*(Person in charge of the Procedure)*

1. The person in charge of the competition procedure, as per this Announcement, is the Head of Student Affairs – Servizi di Supporto alla Formazione – Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Piazza Martiri della Libertà n.33 – 56127 Pisa – tel. 050/883273, fax 050/883250, e-mail: [techschool@sss.it](mailto:techschool@sss.it).

Art. 11  
*(Treatment of Personal Data)*

1. The personal data supplied by the applicants will be mainly processed by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in an automated manner and in accordance with Art. 11 of the Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 ("Code concerning the Protection of Personal Data"), for the management of competition procedures. The data - made anonymous - may also be used for statistical processing purposes. To participate in the Competition, the data have to be disclosed to the School.
2. Any people interested can, at any time, exercise the rights provided for by Art. 7 of the above-mentioned Legislative Decree, in writing to the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna - Servizi di Supporto alla Formazione Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33 Pisa.