



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OPEN TO NON-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. **Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna** of Pisa, hereinafter referred to as the "School", announces **6 positions dedicated to citizens of NON - 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, rehabilitation 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.

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 four positions financed by Scuola Sant'Anna: 1 position per curriculum, or according to the general Ranking List (in case of positions not covered per curriculum). Then will be assigned the positions financed by partners of Scuola Sant'Anna and particularly related to one of the curricula: 2 positions related to Biorobotics.

2 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. 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.

5. 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.

Art. 2

(Participation Requirements)

1. Applicants must hold a **Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree** or equivalent title and they 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. The Examination Committee states the degree equivalence only for competition purposes.

3. The candidates whose native language is not English must hold an internationally acknowledged certificate specifying their intermediate-level of English knowledge. (Cambridge First Certificate in English

(FCE), TOEFL with at least 220 points computer-based or 500 points paper-based, or equivalent certificates subject to an evaluation of the Examination Committee).

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).

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

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);
- 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) their native and education language, the level of knowledge of the English Language.
- h) 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.
- i) **the E-Mail address required for competition purposes..**

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 their passport;
- b) two copies of their *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*;
- c) photocopy of Candidate's University Master Degree (to be translated in Italian or in English except those written in French, German, Spanish);
- d) a 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;
- e) one copy of their degree thesis or two abstracts in English and one copy of any other publication that they deem suitable;
- f) the certificates of knowledge of the English language (as per par. 3 of article 2);
- g) two copies of a 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:
 - a title;
 - the scientific premises and the relevant bibliography;
 - the aim and expectations of the research;
 - the experimental methods and data analysis methods which will be used, where required;
- h) at least two Reference Letters written by Faculty Members who have supervised the applicant's work during his/her university studies;
- i) a numbered list of documents attached.

2. 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 non-admission to the competition.

Art. 5
(*Selection of applicants*)

1. Selection of applicants will be based upon the assessment of all the submitted documents and publications. The assessment will be on a scale of 1 to 100. Applicants should obtain **at least 70/100 points** in order to be included in the ranking list.
2. The Examination Committee, appointed by the Director, will assign a score based on the submitted publications, including the CV, as well as the Research Project (both in terms of quality and relevance with the PhD programme).
3. The general pass lists will be published on the Web Site www.sssup.it not later than **October 15, 2011**.
4. The judgement of the Committee is final.
5. 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 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**. In the event of objective difficulties associated to the issue of the visa for study purposes, the School may postpone the starting date, but in any case no later than **December 16, 2011**.
2. To enter Italy, the awardees need to obtain a visa for study purposes, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate in the applicant's country of residence. The awardees should appear before the Police Office (Questura) of Pisa applying for the issue of a residence permit for study purposes within eight (8) days after they have entered Italy.
3. 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.

Art. 7
(*PhD Students' Obligations*)

1. PhD Students commit to attend the research and education activities suggested by the School within the Programme.
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 the publications sent to the School, at their own expenses, **within two (2) months** from the date of posting of publication of the relevant pass list on the Web Site (www.sssup.it). 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@sssup.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.