



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OPEN TO EU CITIZENS FOR ADMISSION TO THE**

**PH.D. PROGRAMME IN**

**INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012**

Art. 1  
(Available Positions)

1. The "Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna" (Sant'Anna School for Advanced Studies)" of Pisa, hereinafter referred to as the "School", announces **6 positions** assigned to citizens of EU countries for admission to the three-year Ph.D. Programme in Innovative Strategies in Biomedical Research for the Academic Year 2011–2012. Within the curriculum a) "System Physiology. Experimental and Clinical" **2 positions are offered**, based on an agreement between the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and the Italian Institute of Technology – IIT ([www.iit.it](http://www.iit.it)), **for candidates presenting a Research Project in the field of "Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine"**
2. The School reserves the possibility of accepting a **maximum of 4 further students without grants** or other forms of financial support that will take part in the Programme at his/her own expenses but without having to pay any tuition fee. The admission is decided by a Selection Committee appointed by the Director of the School.
3. The PhD Programme in "**Innovative Strategies in Biomedical Research**" is characterized by a significant multidisciplinary connotation, where the experimental approach focusing on cellular and subcellular mechanisms combines with the physiological and physiopathological analysis of the organism as a whole, and is also relevant to medical issues. A special emphasis will be placed on molecular biology both in its basic approach and in its clinical application approach.  
The Programme consists of the following curricula:
  - a) System Physiology, Experimental and Clinical.
  - b) Physiological Genomics and Molecular Medicine
4. The positions will be awarded according to the ranking list; the two positions financed by the Italian Institute of Technology – IIT will be assigned to candidates presenting a research project in the field of "Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine".
5. In the event of additional funds becoming available before the start of the course, the number of positions will be increased by the School.

Art. 2  
(Participation Requirements)

1. Eligible applicants must hold a **Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree or equivalent title**. Applicants need to be below 35 years of age on **October 25, 2011**.
- 2 Undergraduate students, expecting to obtain a M.Sc. degree **before December 22, 2011**, may also apply. In this case, the application will be considered valid only with award of the degree and transmission of supporting documentation to the School no later than December 29, 2011.

Art. 3  
(Applications)

1. Candidates are requested to apply on-line **by October 25, 2011, 12 p.m. GMT**. In case of difficulties with the on-line application, the PhD Administration Office may be contacted directly (telephone +39-050-883.358, e-mail [infophd@sssup.it](mailto:infophd@sssup.it)).

2. **A hardcopy of the application**, together with the **attachments as per art. 4**, must reach the “Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Servizi di Supporto alla Formazione, Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33 – 56127 Pisa” **no later than October 27, 2011**. The envelope must bear the note “Application in Innovative Strategies in Biomedical Research”.

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; with degrees received outside Italy, candidates are asked to declare that there is equivalence with a degree awarded by Italian Universities, providing details on such equivalence; the Examination Committee may make a final decision on Degree equivalence only for competition purposes;
- d) the Academic Year, in which the candidate has started his/her Master Degree course;
- e) the date of graduation and the final mark;
- f) the curriculum selected among the two available;
- g) the permanent address and the mailing address for receipt of communications and documents. Applicants should immediately contact the School in case of change of address.
- h) **the E-Mail address required for the proceedings of the competition.**

4. Applicants with disabilities are requested to attach a note specifying the type of aid being required for the examination, so that arrangements may be made. They should also specify any requirement for additional time.

5. The School will not accept incomplete applications: the hardcopy documentation must be received within the due date and according to the procedure set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

6. The School’s Administration does not take any responsibility for missed or late communication resulting from wrong information on the address or from a late communication on any change of address, nor will it be held responsible for any mailing problem not dependent on the School Administration.

#### Art. 4

##### *(Supporting Documentation)*

1. Applicants should attach to their application:

- a) the copy of a valid document of identification;
- b) two copies of *Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum*;
- c) detailed list of academic courses taken. This list should contain information regarding credits, units (or equivalent) received, the marks received for each course, and the date when the final (or semester) examination was taken;
- d) one copy of Master Degree thesis and one copy of any document and/or publication that the candidate deems suitable;
- e) two copies of a Research Project, no more than 3,000 words in length, which will describe the study that applicants plan to perform during the PhD course. **Candidates presenting a Research Project in the field of “Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine” are asked to point it out in the Title.** The Research Project should include:
  - title;
  - scientific premises and relevant bibliography;
  - aim and expectations of the research;
  - methodology and data analysis to be applied;
- f) at least two Reference Letters written by Faculty Members who have supervised the applicant’s work during his/her university studies;
- g) listing of the documents being submitted.

2. Applicants not yet in possession of a degree, as per Art. 2 paragraph 2, should specify in their application the subject of their degree thesis and should also submit a copy of the actual thesis to the School, at least in the form of a final draft, prior to **October 27, 2011**.

4. Failure to submit the above-listed documents before the deadline of **October 27, 2010**, as specified in Art. 3, paragraph 2 above, will result in exclusion from the competition.

#### Art. 5

##### *(Selection of applicants)*

1. Selection will be based on **the assessment of the submitted documentation and any publication**, with a score ranging between 1 and 70, and an **oral examination**, receiving a maximum of 30 points. The final score will be on a scale from 1 to 100.

2. The Examination Committee, appointed by the Director, will evaluate the submitted documentation, including the CV, as well as the Research Project (evaluation based on quality and relevance to the Ph.D. programme). For admission to the oral examination, applicants need to attain a minimum score of 49/70 in the foregoing assessment.
3. Applicants admitted to the oral examination will be informed by E-Mail (to the address indicated in the application form) on the score received and the time and date.
4. The oral examination will assign the remaining 30 points. It will cover the submitted documentation and the proposed Research Project, and will also include a test of proficiency in the English language, **both written and spoken**. Applicants should obtain at least 21/30 points for inclusion in the final ranking. A minimum total 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 review the documentation for any priority or preferential qualification set forth by the Italian law (Article 5 of D.P.R. No. 3 of 10.1.1957).
6. The ranking list will be published on the Web Site [www.sssup.it](http://www.sssup.it) no later than **December 22, 2011**.
7. The decision of the Committee is final.
8. Positions will be awarded as specified in art. 1, comma 5. Successful candidates will be informed by E-Mail on the results of the competition and **will be asked to confirm acceptance at [infophd@sssup.it](mailto:infophd@sssup.it) within 15 days**. In the absence of a response, the scholarship will be given to the next eligible candidate in the ranking list.

Art. 6  
(Start of the Programme)

1. The PhD programme will start on **January 19, 2012**. No compliance will result in loss of the scholarship, unless extenuating circumstances apply that are listed below.
2. A late start may be allowed to students with outstanding obligations for military service or to pregnant women and students on maternity leave (Italian Law No. 53/2000).
3. Awardees with military service in progress must present certification from military authority, indicating the expected date of completion of their obligation.
4. Awardees on maternity leave must present a medical certificate, indicating the expected period of absence due to this condition.
5. In both the aforementioned cases, the participation in course activities will start within ten (10) days after the period of exemption in question.
6. In case of loss of the position or lack of acceptance, the School will have the option of assigning the vacant position to the next suitable candidate in the ranking list.
7. The School reserves the right to verify the submitted documentation and to seek a judicial record from the authority of the country of origin.

Art. 7  
(Obligations)

1. PhD Students commit themselves to attending the research and highly qualifying education activities set forth by the School and to write reports at stated intervals in accordance with the Regulations of the School and the agreement with partner institutions (especially with Tuscany Region and Italian Institute of Technology IIT).
2. Students will also comply with the rules of the Statute and 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, enriching and scientific activities of the School, and will also support and verify the progress of his/her research. Students admitted to the stream financed by IIT in the field of "Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine" will have a second tutor appointed by IIT.
4. At the end of the three-year Course, PhD students will sustain a final examination to obtain the PhD Degree. In this session, students will be asked to defend their thesis before a Panel of Experts appointed by the Director of the School.

Art. 8  
(Student Status)

1. The School provides **awardees with the grant** free access to the canteen and facilities of the School, as specified in the Regulations of the Course.
2. PhD students will also receive a monthly scholarship amounting to a total of **€14,500.00 per year**.
3. The Programme Advisory Board may allow the participation of students in research and relevant activities outside the School's premises.
4. **PhD student without a grant** will take part in the Programme at their own expenses but they will not pay any tuition fee and will also have access to the library and laboratories.

5. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna provides full insurance coverage for accident and civil liability through the whole period of the course.

Art. 9  
*(Retrieval of Documents)*

1. Applicants may retrieve the documents submitted to the School, at their own expenses, **within two (2) months** from the date of publication of the results of the competition. Past this period, the School's Administration cannot be held responsible for the documents in question.

Art. 10  
*(Administrative Contact)*

1. The competition procedure, as per this Announcement, is under the responsibility of the Head of Student Affairs– Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Piazza Martiri della Libertà n.33 – 56127 Pisa – tel. 050/883273, fax 050/883250, e-mail: [infophd@sssup.it](mailto:infophd@sssup.it).

2. This announcement will be published in the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna's website and will be properly advertised in accordance with EU Publicity Policy

Art. 11  
*(Treatment of Personal Data)*

1. 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 execution of competition procedures. The data – once rendered anonymous - may also be used for statistical purposes. Disclosure of these data is conditional for participation in the competition.

2. Candidates may, at any time, exercise the rights being provided in matter of privacy by the above-mentioned Legislative Decree, by writing to the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna - Servizi di Supporto alla Formazione - Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33 Pisa.