



## DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

Director prof. Duccio Cavalieri

XLII cycle – academic year 2026/2027

| SCIENTIFIC AREA                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE                                                                                                                 | Department of Biology (BIO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARTNERS INSTITUTIONS                                                                                                                 | University of Parma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| WEB                                                                                                                                   | <a href="http://www.dottoratobee.unifi.it">www.dottoratobee.unifi.it</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CURRICULA                                                                                                                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Plant Biology and Biotechnology</li><li>2. Ecology and Ethology</li><li>3. Genetics and Evolution</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 10</b><br>Positions with Scholarship: 9<br>Positions without Scholarship: 1*<br><i>*standard ranking only</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| RANKING LIST FOR STANDARD POSITIONS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: 5                                                                         | <b>3</b> - University of Florence<br><b>2</b> - University of Parma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| RANKING LIST FOR POSITIONS WITH SPECIFIC RESEARCH TOPICS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: 2                                                    | <b>1</b> - University of Parma<br><b>Thematic:</b> “An Agent-Based Model for Assessing the Economic and Environmental Impacts of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Measures through a Positive Mathematical Programming (PMP) Approach Applied to Farm-Level Data from the New Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN)”<br><br><b>1</b> - Fondazione Edmund Mach – Centro Ricerca e Innovazione<br><b>Thematic:</b> “Environmental DNA analysis to investigate the Biodiversity of the Alpine Aerobiome” |
| RANKING LIST FOR SPECIFIC RESEARCH TOPICS SCHOLARSHIPS POSITION AVAILABLE: 2<br><br><i>(subject to the grant of funding)</i>          | Agenzia Spaziale Italiana – ASI<br><b>Call for funding of 45 scholarships on topics of interest to ASI</b><br><br><b>Thematic 1:</b> “Production of Spirulina on a Spaceship Using Urine and Other Human Waste Products as Culture medium”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | <p><b>Thematic 2:</b> “Modulating role of prebiotic-rich young chicory taproot in the gut-brain axis and inflammaging responses to long duration space missions”</p> <p><b>Please note: scholarships will be awarded ONLY if the respective funding will be granted</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>STUDY/RESEARCH PERIODS ABROAD</b>         | <p>at least 3 months<br/>at least 6 months for Fondazione Edmund Mach scholarship and for ASI - Agenzia Spaziale Italiana scholarship</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE ADMISSION</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the Identification Document</li> <li>• <b>Self-certification</b> for qualifications obtained in Italy (laurea triennale, specialistica o magistrale o ciclo unico) with list of exams taken, credits and related grade, title of the thesis and graduation mark (using this <a href="#">template</a> or similar forms containing the required information)</li> <li>• Qualifications obtained abroad (Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees or combined cycle Degree) with a list of all exams taken, credits and related grade, rating scale, title of the thesis and graduation mark</li> </ul> <p><i>The same documentation except for the final mark must be submitted by those who will graduate within the 31/10/2026</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE EVALUATION</b> | <p><b>MANDATORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum vitae et studiorum</li> <li>• Abstract of the second cycle master’s degree thesis. Undergraduate applicants may submit the draft of the thesis approved by their supervisor (abstract/draft of the thesis: 10.000 characters including spaces)</li> <li>• Statement of Research interest: a short text – maximum 2 pages – in Italian or English, aimed to explain the candidate's motivations for enrolling in the PhD and to describe the specific research interests and their coherence with the PhD formative objectives</li> <li>• Research Project</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Publications: papers published in national and international journals with peer reviewing, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters, abstracts of papers or posters presented at congress, workshops</li> </ul> |
| <b>RESEARCH PROJECT</b>                      | <p>The research project shall consist of a maximum of 10.000 characters including spaces, notes and references and shall be written in Italian or in English. It is mandatory that the project focuses on one of the research topics described in the call:<br/> <a href="https://www.dottorabee.unifi.it/upload/sub/progetti_ricerca/progetti_ricerca_42ciclo_IT_EN.pdf">https://www.dottorabee.unifi.it/upload/sub/progetti_ricerca/progetti_ricerca_42ciclo_IT_EN.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                                                         | <p>The project must be structured as follows: introduction of the topic in the international scientific context, significance of the topic, experimental design and methodologies to be used, expected results. The candidate should be aware that the Judging Commission may use web-based tools to assess the originality of the submitted project. The research project does not constitute a constraint on the subsequent choice of the PhD research topic, which will be agreed with the Supervisor and approved by the Academic Board.</p> <p>The candidate may apply for more than one ranking by attaching a separate project for each one and clearly indicating the reference to the chosen scholarship</p> |               |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
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| INTERVIEW MODE                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>In person</b></p> <p>In the application form candidates may ask to conduct the interview remotely</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |               |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT INTERVIEW                                                                                                                     | <p>The interview can be conducted in Italian or English language.</p> <p>The interview will involve the discussion of the research project proposed and of other professional titles and publications presented by the candidate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |               |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| EVALUATION MARKS                                                                                                                                        | <table><tr><th>parameter</th><th>minimum score</th><th>maximum score</th></tr><tr><td>Curriculum vitae, academic career, research project, publications, other scientific qualification documents, research periods abroad, scientific awards</td><td>45/120</td><td>60/120</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3"><b>Applicants who obtain a mark of at least 45/120 in the evaluation of the above parameters will be admitted to the interview</b></td></tr><tr><td>Interview</td><td>35/120</td><td>60/120</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3"><b>Eligibility is achieved with a minimum score of 80/120</b></td></tr></table>                                                                                                     |               |  | parameter | minimum score | maximum score | Curriculum vitae, academic career, research project, publications, other scientific qualification documents, research periods abroad, scientific awards | 45/120 | 60/120 | <b>Applicants who obtain a mark of at least 45/120 in the evaluation of the above parameters will be admitted to the interview</b> |  |  | Interview | 35/120 | 60/120 | <b>Eligibility is achieved with a minimum score of 80/120</b> |  |  |
| parameter                                                                                                                                               | minimum score                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | maximum score |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| Curriculum vitae, academic career, research project, publications, other scientific qualification documents, research periods abroad, scientific awards | 45/120                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 60/120        |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| <b>Applicants who obtain a mark of at least 45/120 in the evaluation of the above parameters will be admitted to the interview</b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| Interview                                                                                                                                               | 35/120                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 60/120        |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |
| <b>Eligibility is achieved with a minimum score of 80/120</b>                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |  |           |               |               |                                                                                                                                                         |        |        |                                                                                                                                    |  |  |           |        |        |                                                               |  |  |

| <b>EXAMINATION SCHEDULE</b>                                                                                                 |                            |             |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                             | <b>DATE</b>                | <b>TIME</b> | <b>PLACE</b>                                                  |
| <b>INTERVIEW</b>                                                                                                            | July 16 <sup>th</sup> 2026 | 10:00 a.m.  | Dipartimento di Biologia<br>Via del Proconsolo, 12<br>Firenze |
| The list of the candidates admitted to the interview and the final ranking will be published at the page <b>PhD courses</b> |                            |             |                                                               |

| <b>ENROLLMENT ROUNDS</b>                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>Enrollment must be completed within the specified mandatory deadlines, under penalty of exclusion</b><br>(as per Art. 12 of the Call for Applications - Annex 1) |

|                                       | Opening Date                                     | Deadline for Enrollment                                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Enrollment<br>(successful candidates) | Ranking's publication date<br>(by July 31, 2026) | by <b>11.59 pm</b> (CEST) on <b>August 25<sup>th</sup> 2026</b> *  |
| 1st round<br>(eligible candidates)    | from <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>          | by <b>11.59 pm</b> (CEST) on <b>September 7<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>  |
| 2nd round<br>(eligible candidates)    | from <b>10<sup>th</sup> September 2026</b>       | by <b>11.59 pm</b> (CEST) on <b>September 17<sup>th</sup> 2026</b> |

\* Please note that the University will be closed from August 8<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

#### **Subsequent reassignment of vacant positions:**

The reassignment of any residual positions after the first two rounds will be activated on **every Tuesday until October 27<sup>th</sup>**, with a mandatory enrollment deadline set for the following Friday (11:59 PM CEST). It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to check their personal reserved area

**No personal communications will be sent to candidates.**

Technical instructions for enrollment can be found [here](#)