



**SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA**  
**INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN AGROBIODIVERSITY**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS 2010-2012**

**ART. 1**  
**(Available positions)**

1. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (hereafter called "School"), announces a public competition for 6 positions for the Academic Year 2009-2010 supported by scholarships to participate in the three-year Doctoral Programme in Agrobiodiversity. Under special circumstances, the School's Academic Bodies may extend the Programme to four years.
2. The selection is opened to University graduates from any country, but, according to art. 17 of the Ministerial Decree of August 5, 2004 number 262, the selection will take place paying special attention to candidates from Developing Countries.
3. The positions will be assigned as per art. 6 par. 5 and 6 below.
4. The amount of the scholarship and contributions is defined in article 9.
5. Should further funding be provided by other institutions that will collaborate in the International Doctoral Programme, the School will increase the number of positions.
6. The School may also admit eligible candidates without grants up to a maximum number of 2 positions. They will take part in the Programme at their own expenses but they will not have to pay any tuition fee. The admission is decided by the Examination Committee appointed by the Director of the School.

**Art. 2**  
**(Aims of the International Doctoral Program in Agrobiodiversity)**

1. The course is aimed to the enhancement of human resource capacities in the utilisation and management of biodiversity in agricultural and natural systems, to improve the sustainability of agricultural systems and the conservation of genetic resources for the well-being of present and future generations.
2. The Programme is structured into two *curricula*:
  - Curriculum A - *Plant genetic resources*;
  - Curriculum B - *Functional biodiversity in agroecosystems*.
3. Research areas will include the analysis of:
  - (i) genetic variation in single genes and entire genomes of agricultural and forestry plants and their wild relatives;
  - (ii) mechanisms that control the variability in genes and/or groups of genes, as those involved in resistance to pathogens and/or pests and tolerance to environmental factors;
  - (iii) role of functional biodiversity in maintaining genetic diversity, including evolution and co-evolution of pests/pathogens and host plants;
  - (iv) role of functional diversity, including interactions between pests/pathogens/weeds and domesticated/volunteer/wild plants, in agroecosystem health;
  - (v) options for applying the acquired knowledge, as a prerequisite for crop improvement, crop protection, sustainable crop/agroforestry management and multifunctional land use.
  - (vi) Physiology of plant adaptation to the environment.

**ART. 3**  
**(Candidates requirements)**

1. Applicants, with no restriction on nationality, must hold a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree or equivalent title in Experimental Sciences, at an Italian or foreign university and must be younger than 35 years (date of birth after 1 October 1974).
2. Under specific circumstances, the Examination Committee may propose the enrolment of candidates older than 35 to the School governing Body.
3. The suitability of foreign degrees will be assessed by the Examination Committee solely for the purpose of the Competition, as indicated in Art. 6.

**ART. 4**  
**(Applications)**

1. Candidates are requested to apply online at: [www.sssup.it/phdapplicationonline](http://www.sssup.it/phdapplicationonline) by **15 July 2009**, 12.00 pm CET. In case of problems with the online application, candidates can contact the PhD Administration Office (tel. +39 050-883.383/335/220, e-mail: [agrobiodiversity@sssup.it](mailto:agrobiodiversity@sssup.it)). A hardcopy of the application (signed by the candidate) together with the enclosures as per art. 7, must reach the following address by **30 July 2009**:

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna  
Divisione Formazione Universitaria e alla Ricerca  
International Doctoral Programme in Agrobiodiversity  
Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33  
I - 56127 PISA, Italy

The envelope must show the indication "Application International Doctoral Programme in Agrobiodiversity".

2. Candidates' application must include:

- a) the curriculum of the Doctoral Programme (A or B) chosen for this Call (to be selected in the first step of online application);
- b) family name(s), first name(s), place and date of birth, and nationality;
- c) declaration that the candidate has never been convicted for a criminal offence or that she/he has no pending criminal proceedings;
- d) declaration that the candidate is in possession of an academic degree, as per Article 5 above. The application should also specify the degree title, its duration and the name of the University that awarded the degree. For degrees obtained outside 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 Selection Committee establish the equivalence only for the purposes of the current competition;
- e) the Academic Year in which the candidate has started his/her undergraduate studies;
- f) the date of graduation and the mark achieved, when applicable;
- g) the English Language Proficiency, IELTS, CPE or other documents certifying a good knowledge (written and spoken) of the English language;
- h) acceptance of all the conditions set by the present announcement;
- i) the permanent address and the mailing address (if different) where applicants wish to receive paper communications concerning the application. Applicants must immediately contact the School should these addresses change;
- j) the e-mail address, that is compulsory for the purposes of this application;

**ART. 5**  
**(Application enclosures)**

1. Applicants should attach to their hardcopy application:

- a. the copy of a valid identity document. Non Schengen area citizens will have to provide a photocopy of their passport;
- b. copy of their *curriculum vitae et studiorum*;

- c. photocopy of the candidate's university degree or equivalent. University degree and study certificates (except those written in English, French, German, Portuguese or Spanish) must be translated into Italian and legalized by an Italian Embassy or Consulate;
- d. the results of the English language proficiency test (TOEFL or IELTS or CPE) or other documents certifying the knowledge of the English language;
- e. copy of the proposed doctoral research project, including:
  - Title;
  - Rationale;
  - State of art with relevant literature (max 1 page);
  - General and specific research objectives (max 2 pages);
  - Materials and methods (max 2 pages);
  - Expected results (max 1 page);
  - Time schedule of activities;
- f. The indication of candidate's major skills (choose maximum three fields, using numbers (1, 2, 3) to indicate the primary, secondary and tertiary fields) among the following:
  - Agronomy/cropping systems
  - Biotechnology
  - Breeding
  - Crop/Plant Ecology
  - Crop/Plant Physiology
  - Entomology
  - Genetics
  - Genomics and/or Proteomics
  - Plant Molecular Biology
  - Plant Pathology
  - Weed Science
  - Other (specify)
- g. at least two letters of presentation from former supervisors;
- h. one passport-size photograph with the name printed on the back;
- i. any document and/or publication that the candidate deems worthy of consideration, including any association with research institutions;
- j. a numbered list of the documents attached.

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

**3.** The School's Administration does not take any responsibility for missed or late communication, resulting from wrong address information by the applicant or from late communication of the change of address specified in the application or for mailing delivery problems that cannot be ascribed to the School Administration's fault.

## **ART. 6** *(Selection of applicants)*

- 1.** Selection of applicants will be based upon the evaluation of all the submitted documents and publications.
- 2.** The Selection Committee, appointed by the Director of the School, with unanimous decision, could decide to move some of the applications from Curriculum A to B and vice-versa according to actual relevance of the research proposal to the themes included in the two Curricula.
- 3.** The Selection Committee will assign a score between 1 and 100 based on academic achievements, submitted scientific publications as well as on quality and relevance to the Doctoral Programme of the Research Project. Candidates who obtain a score lower than 70/100 in the evaluation procedure will be declared non eligible and excluded from the general publicised ranking list.
- 4.** The general list of the candidates with scores above 70/100 will be published on the website [www.sssup.it](http://www.sssup.it) no later than **18 December 2009**.
- 5.** The selection, according to art. 17 of the Ministerial Decree of August 5, 2004, must pay special attention to candidates from Developing Countries, to whom a minimum of four scholarships must be awarded.
- 6.** The scholarships will be assigned to the first 4 (four) eligible candidates of Curriculum A and the first 2 (two) eligible candidates of Curriculum B.

7. The awarded candidates will also be informed by e-mail of the results of the competition and will be asked to confirm acceptance of the scholarship by sending an e-mail to : [agrobiodiversity@sss.up.it](mailto:agrobiodiversity@sss.up.it) within 15 days. In case of lack of response by that date, the candidate will lose his/her position.
8. The judgement of the Committee cannot be appealed.

#### **Art. 7**

##### ***(Beginning of the Doctoral Programme)***

1. The Doctoral Programme will start on **20 January 2010**. Failure to show up by this date will imply loss of the scholarship, except for documented health reasons. In case of difficulties with the issue of the visa for non-EU students, the School may exceptionally postpone the entry date to no later than **28 February 2010**. Non-EU students are strongly advised to apply for a Visa immediately upon acceptance.
2. Should an awardee forfeit or relinquish his/her award, the School will assign the vacant position to the next eligible candidate of the same curriculum;
3. A one-year postponement may be allowed for students who have to fulfil their military obligations or to pregnant women and students on maternity leave as by the Italian Law No. 53/2000.
4. Admitted candidates who are doing their military service need to show a certificate issued by the military authority, indicating the expected date of completion of their service.
5. Admitted candidates who will be in the conditions considered by Law No. 53/2000 need to produce a suitable medical certificate.
6. To enter Italy, the non-EU admitted candidates need to obtain a visa for study purposes, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate in their country of residence. Within eight (8) days upon arrival, the admitted candidates must go to the Police Office (Questura) of Pisa to apply for a residence permit for study purposes .
8. The School also reserves the right to ask a judicial record certificate to the competent authority of the country of origin.

#### **Art. 8**

##### ***(Students' Obligations and Rights)***

1. The Doctoral Students commit to follow the research and training activities set forth by the School within the Programme and cannot accept any professional task which the School considers incompatible with their duties.
2. They also commit to comply with the rules set forth by the Statute and Regulations of the School.
3. The Doctoral Programme Advisory Board will appoint a supervisor to each PhD student. The task of the supervisor will be primarily to help and support the successful participation of the student to teaching and training activities, to follow her/his progress, to verify attendance to the School activities, and to monitor her/his progress in education and research.
4. In order to obtain the degree of ***Philosophy Doctor*** (PhD) students must pass a final examination. During the *examination* candidates will be asked to discuss and defend a written dissertation before a Commission of international experts in the field. The dissertation must offer original scientific findings of a standard adequate to publication on the best international peer-reviewed journals.
5. The students have all the rights to participate in the governance of the School according the School statutes.
6. The students may participate, upon authorization from the Doctoral Programme Faculty, to research activities and stages at other research institutions in Italy and abroad.

#### **Art. 9**

##### ***(Student Allowances and Benefits)***

1. Ph.D. students will receive a monthly grant subject to additional costs and to national health contributions (INPS Gestione separata) according to the norms regarding Doctoral Scholarships granted by Italian

Universities. Therefore the gross amount of the grant is 16.015,49 € per year, the net amount is €12,500.00; the scholarship is all inclusive (e.g.: return flight ticket and living allowance).

2. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna provides an accident insurance to all doctoral students during the three-year doctoral program.

**Art. 10**  
*(Return of Submitted Publications)*

1. All applicants, if interested, may recover the documents sent to the School, at their own expenses, **within two (2) months** from the date at which the results of the competition have been released. Once this two-month period has elapsed, the School's Administration cannot be held, in any way, responsible for keeping the above-mentioned publications.

**Art. 11**  
*(Person in charge of the Procedure)*

1. The person in charge of the competition procedure, as per this Announcement, is the Coordination Manager of the University and Research Training Department – Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Piazza Martiri della Libertà n.33 – 56127 Pisa – tel. +39 050 883273, fax +39 050 883250, e-mail: [agrobiodiversity@sssup.it](mailto:agrobiodiversity@sssup.it).

**Art. 12**  
*(Treatment of Personal Data)*

1. The personal data supplied by the applicants will be 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 interested person 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 - Divisione FUR - Piazza Martiri della Libertà, 33, Pisa (Italy).