PhD PROGRAMME IN BIOLOGY
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027 (42ND CYCLE)

Coordinator professor *Arianna Tavanti*

Administrative headquarters: Department of Biology
(http://www.biologia.unipi.it)

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Total no. of positions with grant 10

<table>
<tr><td>BIO01_B</td><td>Type of selection procedure
Single ranking list for research project</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>No. of available positions with grant 1
of which
<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>Funding organisation / Partner institution</th><th>Subject / Research project (if any)</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Positions with grant</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>University of Pisa</td><td>Integrating emerging sensing technologies and causal inference to unravel the contributions of temperate rocky reef biodiversity to nature and people</td></tr>
</table>
For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof. Lisandro Benedetti Cecchi - lisandro.benedetti.cecchi@unipi.it</td></tr>
<tr><td>BIO02_B</td><td>Type of selection procedure
Single ranking list for research project</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>No. of available positions with grant 1
of which
<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>Funding organisation / Partner institution</th><th>Subject / Research project (if any)</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Positions with grant</td></tr>
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	1	Department of Biology of University of Pisa, Department of Excellence 2023/2027	Plasticità morfologico-funzionale, tassonomia integrata, comportamento e simbiosi in protisti ciliati
	For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof.ssa Letizia Modeo - letizia.modeo@unipi.it		
BIO03_B	**Type of selection procedure** Single ranking list for research project		
	No. of available positions with grant 1 of which		
	No.	**Funding organisation / Partner institution**	**Subject / Research project** (if any)
	Positions with grant		
	1	Department of Biology	Coastal habitat restoration and conservation: innovative ecological approaches
	For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof.ssa Elena Balestri – elena.balestri@unipi.it		
BIO04_B	**Type of selection procedure** Single ranking list for research project		
	No. of available positions with grant 1 of which		
	No.	**Funding organisation / Partner institution**	**Subject / Research project** (if any)
	Positions with grant		
	1	Department of Biology	Structure and functioning of subtidal rocky reefs under changing climate scenarios
	For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof. Fabio Bulleri – fabio.bulleri@unipi.it		
BIO05_B	**Type of selection procedure** Single ranking list for research project		
	No. of available positions with grant 1 of which		
	No.	**Funding organisation / Partner institution**	**Subject / Research project** (if any)
	Positions with grant		
	1	Department of Biology	Are dead foundation species really dead? Advancing the ecological role of dead coastal vegetation on sandy and rocky shores in the Anthropocene
	For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof.ssa Elena Maggi - elena.maggi@unipi.it		
BIO06_B	**Type of selection procedure** Single ranking list for research project		

No. of available positions with grant 1
of which

No.	Funding organisation / Partner institution	**Subject** / **Research project** (if any)
Positions with grant		
1	Department of Biology, José Fernando Maya-Vetencourt, FIS-2023-02508 - CUP: I53C25001890001	Heart-brain stochastic dynamics in cognitive functions

For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof. *José* Fernando *Maya-Vetencourt* - maya.vetencourt@unipi.it

BIO07_B

Type of selection procedure
Single ranking list for research project

No. of available positions with grant 1
of which

No.	Funding organisation / Partner institution	**Subject** / **Research project** (if any)
Positions with grant		
1	Department of Biology, Vittoria Raffa FIS-2023-00504 CUP I53C24003130001	Functional validation of nanoswitches for axonal regeneration in zebrafish models of spinal cord injury

For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: prof.ssa Vittoria Raffa – vittoria.raffa@unipi.it

BIO08_B

Type of selection procedure
Single ranking list for research project

No. of available positions with grant 1
of which

No.	Funding organisation / Partner institution	**Subject** / **Research project** (if any)
Positions with grant		
1	Fondazione Stella *Maris*	Experimental models and molecular genetics approaches for the study of rare early-onset neurogenetic diseases

For information regarding the research topic, candidates are invited to contact: dott. Filippo Maria Santorelli – filippo.santorelli@fsm.unipi.it

NB: **For the above-mentioned selection procedures**, **candidates who, on the closing date of the Call for applications, are employed under a subordinate employment contract with a public body, for a duration at least equal to that of the PhD programme,** may choose whether to:
1. participate in the selection as a public employee, thereby automatically waiving the doctoral grant;
2. participate in the selection for a position with grant, without declaring their status as a public employee at the application stage.

Applicants who are public employees, in the case referred to under point 1, must declare their status during the above-mentioned online application procedure by selecting the corresponding option in the dedicated field available on the "Alice" platform https://www.studenti.unipi.it. Such candidates must also submit a self-declaration certifying their employment with the relevant public body, in accordance with Annex 1 to the Call for applications. Any applicant who, when submitting the online application, declares that they wish to participate as a public employee shall automatically waive the grant, and the provisions governing the ranking list set out in Article 5 of the Call shall apply. This choice is irrevocable and may not be changed at a later stage.

The information below applies to all the selection procedures indicated above

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS *(Article 3 of the Call for applications)*

Master's Degree (LM) /Second Degree (Specialistica-LS) (or Old system University Degree): **ALL**
or
equivalent academic qualification in accordance with *Ministerial Decree of 9 July 2009* **to be obtained by 31 October 2026. In the event that the degree has not yet been awarded by the deadline of the Call for applications, the candidate must attach a list of the examinations taken, including the corresponding marks.**

Important: In this regard, during the online application procedure for the selection, the candidate must attach a self-declaration concerning the degree already obtained, or to be obtained, drawn up in accordance with Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, as per Annex 2 to the Call for applications.

SELECTION METHODS AND CRITERIA *(Article 4 of the Call for applications)*

Curriculum vitae
The CV, duly signed and accompanied by a photocopy of a valid identity document, must be uploaded exclusively during the online application procedure for the selection, and must outline the candidate's educational background, as well as their professional and research experience. **Candidates are advised to submit any documentation deemed useful for the purposes of assessing the CV, in particular:**
list of exams passed during the university career with grades;
degree grade;
copies of any publications;
other titles (language certificates, abstracts of conference participations, indicating whether poster or oral presentations, teaching support contracts, etc.).

Interview
The interview shall assess the candidate's knowledge, aptitude for research, willingness to undertake training pathways in Italy and abroad, and interest in further scientific study.
The interview can be conducted in Italian or English; if conducted in Italian, the candidate's knowledge of English will be assessed. It will also include an assessment of English language proficiency through the reading and translation of a passage from a scientific publication.

SELECTION PROCEDURES: BIO01, BIO02, BIO4, BIO5, BIO6
Videoconferencing YES
Candidates wishing to take the interview by videoconference must upload the VIDEO Annex to the Call for applications exclusively during the online application procedure for the selection. Requests received after the deadline of the Call for applications (10 August 2026) shall be submitted to the Selection Committee, which will assess whether to accept them in light of the technical time required to organise the interview by videoconference.

SELECTION PROCEDURES: BIO03, BIO07, BIO08
Videoconferencing NO **Interviews will only take position in presence**

	Minimum score	**Maximum score**
CV	***30***	***40***
Candidates who have obtained a score of at least 30 out of 40 points shall be admitted to the interview.		
Interview	***40***	***60***
Eligibility is achieved with a minimum score of 70 out of 100 points		

SCHEDULE OF THE TESTS

The tests may take place in the period **between 14 and 30 September 2026.**

The schedule of the tests, for each of the selections below, will be published **by 24 July 2026** at https://www.unipi.it/bando-dottorato, including the indication of the venue where they will be held.

RANKING LIST AND ENROLMENT

Article 5 of the Call for applications sets out:

- the procedures for drawing up the ranking list
- the date of publication of the ranking list
- the procedures and deadlines for enrolment
- the procedures and deadlines for subsequent admissions from the ranking list.

Important: Subsequent admissions from the ranking lists, after 6 October and until 31 December 2026, are permitted only for "open" grants (i.e. those without a specific research topic).

In the other selection procedures, as they involve subject-based grants, any unassigned positions at the end of the third round of admissions from the ranking list will be made available by means of a specific notice, to be issued by Rector's Decree in November. Such notice will be reserved for eligible candidates suitably placed in the ranking lists of the selection procedures already completed and will be published at https://www.unipi.it/didattica/corsi/dottorati/.

With regard to the publication of the notice and the procedures for the reallocation of the grants, **no individual email communication will be sent to eligible candidates**, as all relevant information will be provided upon publication of the ranking lists.

INFORMATION ON THE TEACHING ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

Educational project and objectives of the programme:
https://www.unipi.it/didattica/corsi/dottorati/scienze-fisiche-chimiche-matematiche-e-biologiche/biologia/

PhD programme website:
https://www.biologia.unipi.it/dottorato-ph-d.html

PhD programme regulations:
https://www.unipi.it/wp-content/uploads/regbio.pdf