



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

Coordinator professor *Andrea Addobbati*

Administrative headquarters: Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge
(<https://www.cfs.unipi.it/>)

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Total no. of positions with grant 5

STORIA01_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 Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge of University of Pisa, HORIZON ERC – MESOR - <i>Mesopotamian Orality and the Anthropology of Writing</i>	The role of Emesal in the Sumerian literature of the Early Babylonian period
	Project Description: The research that forms the focus of this PhD programme aims to explain the distribution of Emesal in Old Babylonian literary texts, and to consider what implications this may have for the relationship between the oral and the written. Work may be carried out on a limited corpus, to be defined according to the student’s background in consultation with the supervisor. The ideal candidate will have advanced proficiency in the Sumerian language, familiarity with the issues surrounding Emesal, proven experience in interpreting literary texts, excellent analytical skills, and a good understanding of the objectives of the MesOr project.		
STORIA02_B	Type of selection procedure Single ranking list for research project on the overarching theme:“Magic and fortune telling”		
	No. of available positions with grant 2 of which		
	No.	Funding organisation / Partner institution	Subject / Research project (if any)
	Positions with grant		
	1	Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge of University of Pisa, HORIZON	The role of writing in the activities of the Mesopotamian haruspices

	ERC – MESOR - <i>Mesopotamian Orality and the Anthropology of Writing</i>																						
	Project description: The research that forms the focus of this PhD programme aims to investigate which aspects of the activities of Mesopotamian haruspices were textualized (explained and documented in writing and/or supported by written sources), and which were not; and why. The contributions of written and oral sources to these professional activities will therefore be assessed. The variability of the phenomenon across different social, spatial and temporal contexts will also be investigated. The ideal candidate will have advanced proficiency in Akkadian, familiarity with the texts, themes and phenomena of Mesopotamian haruspicy, excellent analytical skills, and a good understanding of the objectives of the MesOr project.																						
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STORIA03_B	Type of selection procedure Subject-specific PhD grants with separate ranking lists: no. of ranking lists 2																						
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The research project aims to analyse the processes by which minors become involved in jihadist contexts, with particular reference to the dynamics of recruitment, socialisation and identity formation, as well as the conditions of vulnerability and the ideological and regulatory mechanisms that facilitate their participation. Research addressing the challenges of deradicalisation, return and social reintegration of minors born or raised in jihadist contexts will also be of interest, with specific attention to reintegration processes within educational and social contexts. The PhD candidate may adopt an interdisciplinary approach, integrating tools from historical research, Islamic studies, gender studies and discourse analysis, with the aim of contributing to the academic debate on the relationship between minors and jihadism.

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.**

Written test

The test is intended to assess the candidate’s academic background and may be taken, at the candidate’s choice, in either Italian or English.

For selections **STORIA01_B** and **STORIA02_B**, the written test can only be taken in person at the Department of the University of Pisa or at other associated institutions (e.g., other universities, consulates, embassies). Any examination venues that become available will be published on the following webpage: <https://www.unipi.it/didattica/corsi/dottorati/>.

For selections **STORIA03_B** the written test will only take position in presence at the Department of the University of Pisa.

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 will include an assessment of knowledge of the English language.

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.

	Minimum score	Maximum score
<i>CV</i>	14	20
Candidates who have obtained a score of at least 14 out of 20 points shall be admitted to the written test.		
<i>Written test</i>	28	40
Candidates who have obtained a score of at least 28 out of 40 points shall be admitted to the interview.		
<i>Interview</i>	28	40
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-umanistiche/storia/>

PhD programme website:

<https://www.cfs.unipi.it/orientamento-e-didattica/corsi-di-dottorato/storia/>

PhD programme regulations:

<https://www.unipi.it/wp-content/uploads/6dottstoria.pdf>