

Milan, 5/9/2025

Doctoral Programme in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM* - Cycle XLI - Academic Year 2025/2026

Call for applications to the Doctoral Programme

Deadline for applications:

7/10/2025

Call for applications, based on qualifications, research project and interview, for admission to the PhD Course in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM*, 41st cycle - A.Y. 2025/2026, with administrative headquarters at the Conservatorio di Musica G. Verdi of Milan.

THE DIRECTOR

- Given Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998, and in particular article 4, as amended by article 19, paragraph 1, of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010
- Having regard to Law no. 508 of 21 December 1999, concerning the “Reform of the Academies of Fine Arts, the National Academy of Dance, the National Academy of Dramatic Art, the Higher Institutes for Artistic Industries, the Music Conservatories and the Istituti musicali pareggiati”;
- Having regard to the Decree of the President of the Republic No. 132 of 28 February 2003 “Regulation containing criteria for the statutory, regulatory and organisational autonomy of art and music institutions, according to Law No. 508 of 21 December 1999”;
- Having regard to Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14 December 2021, “Regulation on the modalities for the accreditation of doctoral seats and courses and criteria for the establishment of doctoral courses by accredited institutions”;
- Having regard to the Decree of the Ministry of University and Research no. 470 of 21 February 2024, “Accreditation of doctoral courses proposed by AFAM Institutions”;
- Given the Decree of the Ministry of Universities and Research no. 544 of 27 March 2024 “Decree for the determination of the annual amount of the scholarship for attendance at PhD courses offered by the Institutions of Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance (AFAM)”;

- Having regard to the Decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 778 of 12 June 2024;
- Given the MUR Note Prot. no. 9166 of 13 May 2024 “Ministerial Decree no. 470 of 21/02/2024 - AFAM Research Doctorates - Amendments to the teaching regulations of the Institutions”;
- Having regard to the MUR Note Prot. no. 11649 of 18 June 2024 “Operational Instructions for AFAM Institutions supplementing the Note Prot. no. 8614 of 02/05/2024”;
- Having regard to the Guidelines for the accreditation of Research Doctorates of AFAM Institutions approved by Ministerial Decree no. 778 of 12 June 2024
- Having regard to the Agreement for the establishment, activation and operation of the Doctoral Course in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM* between the Conservatory of Music of Milan and the Conservatory of Music of Florence;
- Having regard to the decisions of the Academic Council (n. 34, 21/7/2025) and of the Administration Board (n. 115, 21/7/2025);

DECREES

1. Activation, aims and characteristics of the PhD course in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM*

The Conservatorio di Musica G. Verdi of Milan and the Conservatorio di Musica L. Cherubini of Florence jointly announce the call for applications for admission to the PhD Programme in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM (MUSART)*, with administrative headquarters at the Conservatorio di Musica G. Verdi of Milan.

The course lasts three years and provides 6 places, 4 of which with scholarship plus 2 places without scholarship.

The places and scholarships may vary should further funding become available, without prejudice to the application deadlines indicated in the call for applications.

The PhD aims at an innovative dialogue between practice and research in music and performing arts, implementing theoretical, methodological and critical training also in an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective. The PhD MUSART fosters research in the fields of creation, performance and theoretical reflection on music and around music and the performing arts; moreover, it aims to relate them in a transversal and interdisciplinary way to the STEM disciplines. Transversality contributes to the emergence of innovative lines of thought and practices, thus producing new epistemological and artistic perspectives.

The research results must be presented in one of the following two formats:

- (a) The realisation of performative events, the production of works, objects or artistic devices, in conjunction with the writing of a thesis (in Italian or English) providing new knowledge drawing on a variety of theoretical and scientific fields.
- (b) A written thesis (in Italian or English), possibly accompanied by multimedia support.

The Doctoral Course is activated “sub condicione” of the verification of maintenance of requirements by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR).

The PhD Course will start ideally by 1 December 2025.

2. Teaching venues

Teaching activities related to the PhD Course in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM* will be carried out in Milan at the Conservatorio di Musica G. Verdi and in Florence at the Conservatorio di Musica L. Cherubini. Seminars and research activities will also be carried out in Italian and foreign institutions active in the field of higher education.

The MUSART Doctoral Programme includes periods of study and research abroad, even if not continuous, up to a maximum of twelve months over the three years (D.M. 470/2024 art. 1 c. 3 and art. 11 c. 2).

3. Admission requirements

Those who, by the deadline of the present call, hold one of the following qualifications may apply for admission to the Doctorate Course referred to in the preceding articles, without any gender, age or citizenship limits

- a) Second-level academic diploma issued by institutions belonging to the Higher Education in Arts and Music (AFAM);
- b) Old-system degree or old-system AFAM diploma, together with secondary school diploma;
- c) Master's degree;
- d) An academic qualification obtained abroad at an officially recognised academic institution (Master's degree or equivalent), assessed as suitable by the Selection Committee for the sole purpose of admission to the Doctorate Course. This qualification must be comparable to the Master's degree by level and must be valid for enrolment in an academic course similar to the PhD in the country of origin.

Those who will obtain the degree referred to in points a), b), c) or d) by 31 October 2025 at the latest may also participate in the selection. In this case, admission to the PhD Course is conditional upon the actual achievement of the degree. The self-certification or documentation proving the achievement of the qualification must be sent to the PhD Service (by e-mail to dottorato@consmilano.it) by the aforementioned deadline, under penalty of forfeiture.

Applicants with a foreign qualification must attach the documents as specified below:

a) Degree obtained abroad and recognised as equivalent to an Italian second-level degree by the competent academic bodies of Italian universities and AFAM institutions: it is necessary to indicate the name of the Italian university or AFAM institution, the date and details of the measure by which equivalence was declared, as well as to attach the documentation attesting to the declaration of equivalence itself.

b) Qualifications obtained abroad and not yet recognised as equivalent: candidates are admitted to the selection procedure with reservation and must request, in their online application, the evaluation of their qualifications. Candidates are required to enclose with their application a copy of their academic qualification required for admission to the PhD Programme, accompanied by the list of examinations taken with the relative credits and marks (Transcript of Records) and, if available, the Diploma Supplement and/or the Declaration of value of the title issued by the Italian diplomatic-consular representation in the country in which the qualification was obtained, or a certificate of compatibility issued by the CIMEA (Centre for Information on Mobility and Academic Equivalences).

c) Foreign qualification yet to be obtained: for the Commission to be able to assess the suitability of the qualification being obtained for admission to the selection procedure, it is necessary to enclose the certificate of enrolment in the course of study, the final qualification of which is a prerequisite for admission to the PhD Programme, with the list of examinations planned and examinations taken with the relative credits and marks, also containing the indication of the expected date of achievement of the qualification.

d) Foreign qualification obtained or to be obtained, with a university course divided into Bachelor's and Master's degrees: the application must also be accompanied by the Bachelor's degree and the list of examinations taken to obtain the relative degree (Academic Transcript of Records of Bachelor's degree).

The above-mentioned required certificates, if drawn up in a language other than Italian or English, must be accompanied by an official translation into one of these languages (Italian/English) and certified as conforming to the original either by the University or AFAM Institution that issued them or by the competent Italian representations or by the CIMEA, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure.

Those who have already benefited, even partially, from a scholarship for the attendance of PhD courses or equivalent courses at other universities in Italy may not benefit from another PhD scholarship.

4. Application for admission

The application for admission must be submitted no later than 23.59 CET on 7/10/2025, by filling in the Jotform at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/252382083803354>

It must include the following information:

a) Generalities

b) Choice of type a) or b) (see art. 1)

c) Choice of the language in which you intend to be interviewed, whether Italian or English

- d) Declaration of being or not being an employee of an Italian public administration
- e) Declaration of having or not having already received doctoral scholarships in Italy, even partial ones.

Documents to be attached to the application

Mandatory documents:

- a) Copy of a valid identity document or passport, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure;
- b) Documentation certifying that the qualification constituting a requisite for admission to the competition has been obtained or the certificate of examinations taken as indicated in art. 3 paragraph c in the case of a qualification to be taken no later than 31 October 2025, or self-certification in the form required by law;
- c) Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum (preferably in European or Europass format) in Italian or English, signed according to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- d) Research Project, drafted in Italian or English; it must be no longer than 7000 characters, including spaces, abstracts and notes, and excluding bibliography.

The Project must include:

- abstract,
- state of the art and contextualisation of the topic,
- methodologies,
- expected results,
- summary bibliography.

The project will only be assessed for admission purposes and does not constitute a constraint for doctoral research.

e) For research projects in composition, published or unpublished audio and/or video and published or unpublished scores, preferably having received a public and documented performance:

- a maximum of 2 scores in PDF format;
- a maximum of 2 audio/video recordings (URL of a platform such as Vimeo, YouTube, Google Drive or other similar platforms).

f) For research projects in performance, published or unpublished video where the performer is recognisable:

- a maximum of 2 video recordings (URL of a platform such as Vimeo, YouTube, Google Drive or other similar platforms).

Additional documents:

- a) A maximum of 2 scientific publications, in electronic format (pdf), indicating the author, the year of publication, the publisher, the name of the journal, the ISSN or ISBN or ISMN code, or in the case of online publications, the URL must be indicated.
- b) Summary of the dissertation, for those who have completed a dissertation at the end of their Master's degree or second level degree, in Italian or English, of no more than 4,000 characters including spaces, accompanied by a summary bibliography of the dissertation of no more than 500 characters including spaces; in the case of a degree not yet obtained, the summary of the dissertation nearing completion must be attached, countersigned obligatorily by the dissertation supervisor, under penalty of non-assessment of the degree.
- c) Other qualifications considered useful for evaluation, specifically: relevant 1st level Master's degree; relevant 2nd level Master's degree; relevant postgraduate courses; language certifications relating to languages other than Italian and English, of which certificates or self-certifications relating to possession must be attached.

A compulsory contribution of € 50 non-refundable is to be paid by the deadline for the submission of applications for admission to the selection, to be made by bank transfer to the following coordinates:

IBAN IT79D0569601613000013000X92

Banca Popolare di Sondrio Agenzia 14 di Milano, via Cesare Battisti 1, 20122 Milano, MI

Made out to Conservatorio di Musica di Milano.

Description: Admission to the PhD in *Music, Performing Arts and STEM*

Failure to upload the compulsory information and documents when filling in the application form cannot be remedied after the deadline. It is considered a case of failure to upload empty files or files containing information of a different nature from that required.

The Conservatory of Milan may order, even after enrolment and the beginning of the course, the exclusion from the competition of candidates whose documentation contains defects in the prescribed requirements or whose self-certifications are false. If the candidate is excluded after admission to the course, he/she shall also be required to reimburse any scholarship payments that may have been received. Exclusion in this case will be ordered by decree of the Director.

5. Selection procedure

The admission examinations will be based on qualifications, research project and oral interview. The selection board has a total of 100 points. The points are distributed as follows:

- a) **Evaluation of qualifications:** maximum score 30/100 (minimum score for admission to the oral test: 20). Regarding artistic and scientific qualifications, academic age, intensity, and temporal proximity of the artistic and scientific activity will be taken into account.
- b) **Evaluation of the research project:** maximum score 30/100 (minimum score for admission to the oral test: 20). The following will be assessed: quality, coherence and originality of the project, linguistic clarity, methodological approach, reference bibliography and expected results. The research project must be submitted following the indications given in Article 4 of this Call for Applications.

c) **Interview:** maximum score 40/100 (minimum score for passing the oral test: 30). The oral test will be held in Italian or English. The interview will focus on the research project presented by the candidate, on the candidate's educational background and on the research themes inherent to the proposed project. The candidate's research aptitude, skills and knowledge will be assessed. During the oral interview, the Commission will ascertain, at its sole discretion, the candidate's adequate knowledge of English and Italian.

The names of the candidates admitted to the interview will be published on the website of the Milan Conservatory of Music at: <https://www.consmi.it/it/2822/xli-ciclo-a a -2025-2026>

Candidates may apply for the remote interview (video-conference) for substantiated reasons via the Admission Jotform.

The publication of the list of candidates admitted to the interview on the Conservatory of Milan's website will serve as notification. No communication will be sent to candidates.

6. Ranking list

The Examination Committee will express a judgment of suitability on each candidate to assign positions in the general merit ranking list. The research grants are awarded on the basis of the general merit ranking, based on the score obtained by each examined candidate.

Following the publication of the results of the admission tests, the decrees approving the acts containing the final rankings will be drawn up and will be available on the website of the Conservatory G. Verdi of Milan at <https://www.consmi.it/it/2822/xli-ciclo-a a -2025-2026>

In case of equal merit, the following criteria will be applied:

- a) if the post is covered by a scholarship, the less favourable economic situation, determined according to the Prime Ministerial Decree of 5 December 2013, no. 159, art. 8, par. 4, shall prevail;
- b) in the event of a further equal merit, the youngest candidate shall prevail.

The winners of the competition must confirm their acceptance of the post within 48 hours of the publication of the ranking list by sending an email to dottorato@consmilano.it. Scrolling of the ranking list occurs following express or tacit renouncement of the position, until it is forfeited (Ministerial Decree 629/2024, art. 11, par. 8; Ministerial Decree 630/2024, art. 8, par. 8). In the event of scrolling of the ranking, the position covered by the scholarship will be offered to the eligible candidates according to the order of the ranking.

7. Candidates with disabilities

In order to guarantee equal opportunities in the performance of the tests, candidates with a certificate of civil disability and/or recognition of handicap status according to Law 104/1992, who require specific aids, must contact the e-mail address dottorato@consmilano.it at least 15 days before the interviews, attaching the certification issued by the competent public health facility. In the event of out-of-date certification, students are advised to take steps to update their documentation, which will be requested after enrolment, to take advantage of the measures provided for in the university course.

8. Candidates with Specific Learning Disorders

In order to guarantee equal opportunities in the performance of the tests, candidates in possession of appropriate certification of Specific Learning Disorders (SLD) by Law 170/2010, drawn up by the National Health Service, by a private centre with special agreements or by a private specialist accompanied by a document of compliance from the competent Health Authority, must contact the Services Office for Students with DSA – at the following e-mail address dottorato@consmilano.it at least 15 days before the interviews, attaching the certification. In the event of a diagnosis dating back to developmental age that is more than three years old, students are advised to take steps to update their documentation, which will be requested after enrolment to take advantage of the measures provided for in the university course.

9. Scholarships

The scholarships for the attendance of the PhD course, the annual amount of which, as of the date of issue of the present measure, is €16,243.00 gross of the INPS social security contributions under separate management – two-thirds to be paid by the Conservatory and one-third by the scholarship holder – are awarded to the winners, according to and by the procedures established by the regulations in force, according to the order of the ranking. Scholarships are paid on a deferred monthly basis.

The amount of the scholarship is exempt from income tax (Irpef), according to art. 4 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, and subject, in social security matters, to the provisions of art. 2, paragraphs 26 et seq. of Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995 and subsequent amendments.

Admission to the doctoral course entails an exclusive and full-time commitment on the part of the doctoral student. Simultaneous enrolment in other academic courses is permitted under the conditions governed by Law no. 33, art. 2, par. 2 of 12 April 2022 and DDMM 930/2022 and 933/2022.

Cases of total or partial incompatibility for the use of the scholarship are established by the regulations in force. In particular, scholarships may not be combined with research grants or with other scholarships awarded for any reason whatsoever. In the event of incompatibility, the scholarship instalments relating to the period for which they were unduly received must be returned.

Scholarships have an overall duration of at least three years and are renewed annually on condition that the doctoral student has been admitted by the Academic Board to the following year, subject to verification of the regular and profitable performance of the programme of activities planned for the previous year.

The scholarship increase is set at 50% for a total period not exceeding twelve months, for research activities abroad authorised by the doctoral programme's Academic Board. This period may be extended up to a maximum total of eighteen months for doctoral programmes jointly supervised with foreign institutions.

In addition to the scholarship and within the framework of the existing financial resources in the budget of the Conservatories promoting the doctoral course, each doctoral student is guaranteed, starting from the first year, a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad determined for each course at the rate of 10% of the gross annual amount of the scholarship.

According to Ministerial Decree 470/2024, art. 11, par. 5, “Civil servants admitted to a doctorate course shall benefit, for the period of the normal duration of the course, from the leave of absence provided for by collective bargaining or, if they are employees under public law, from extraordinary leave for study purposes, compatibly with the needs of the administration, according to art. 2 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, with or without allowance and unless explicitly renounced, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a doctorate course, regardless of the disciplinary field. 476 of 13 August 1984, with or without allowance and unless explicitly waived, only if they are enrolled for the first time in a doctoral course, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the budget for research activities carried out in Italy and abroad, as per Article 9, paragraph 4, remains unaffected”.

10. Examination Board

The Examination Board is appointed by Decree of the Director of the Conservatory of Milan following the regulations in force, after hearing the opinion of the Doctoral Academic Board. The composition of the Examination Board will be published on the websites of the Milan and Florence Conservatories on the page “Doctorates”. Before the beginning of the selection tests, the members of the Commission, having viewed the list of participants, shall sign the declaration that no situations of incompatibility exist between them and the candidates, according to articles 51 and 52 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The Examination Board is fully responsible for the proper conduct of the selection procedures, with particular reference to the correct assignment of marks as well as the correct drawing up of the selection minutes.

In the event of withdrawal, the grant is awarded to the next candidate in the order of the respective ranking list. The same occurs in the event of forfeiture or exclusion, provided that one month has not elapsed since the start of the course. In the event of equal candidates, the economic situation, determined by the regulations in force, shall prevail for the awarding of scholarships. In the event of equal merit, interested candidates will be invited to produce the aforementioned certification by the date indicated in the Decree of the Director of the Conservatory of Music of Milan.

11. Enrolment

Those admitted to the PhD Programme must finalise their enrolment, following the procedures and deadline indicated on the website of the Conservatory of Milan at https://www.consmi.it/it/2822/xli-ciclo-a_a_-2025-2026. The Student Office will proceed with the enrolment of the successful candidates who have expressed their acceptance, also following the scrolling of the ranking where available, subject to payment by the winner, through the PagoPA system, of the fees provided. In the event of renunciation or non-enrolment by the deadline, the candidates next in the ranking list will take over.

Candidates are admitted to the course with reservations and may be excluded from the course if they do not meet the requirements. Those who do not have Italian citizenship and at the time of enrolment do not have the specific documentation required will be enrolled with a reservation. In order to lift the reservation and authorise payment of the PhD scholarship, interested candidates are requested to send a copy of their application form to dottorato@consmilano.it as soon as they arrive in Italy:

- a) tax code issued by the Italian Revenue Agency;

b) (for citizens of non-European countries) valid residence permit. Those who do not have it must request it within 8 days of their arrival in Italy.

12. Enrolment fees

Doctoral students are required to pay tuition fees for each academic year. The amount of fees for attending doctoral courses payable by doctoral students consists of the regional fee for the right to study and stamp duty. As an indication, the amount is € 170.00 (Right to Study Fee of € 140.00 - cost of stamp duty of € 16.00 - cost of insurance € 14.00) and may be subject to change by the competent bodies. Withdrawal or exclusion from the doctoral course does not entitle the doctoral student to a refund of fees already paid.

13. Processing of personal data

According to Legislative Decree 196/2003, as amended by Legislative Decree 101/2018, as well as to EU Regulation 679/2016 (General Data Protection Regulation or, more briefly, RGDP), the Conservatory undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by candidates: all data provided will be processed only for purposes connected and instrumental to the competition and to the possible management of the relationship with the Conservatory, in compliance with the provisions in force. The application for admission to the PhD Course in Music, Performing Arts and STEM, cycle XLI - A.Y. 2025/2026, with administrative headquarters at the Conservatory G. Verdi of Milan, implies the acceptance of all the rules of the present Application Requirements and Regulations. The Court of Milan shall have jurisdiction in the event of any dispute.



Massimiliano Baggio, Director

