



**Call for one Marie Curie MSCA Doctoral Networks fellows funded in the framework of the European NESTOR project at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy.
Call for applications for admission to Ph.D. programmes 40th cycle**

ACADEMIC YEAR – 2024/25

Art. 1

(Available Positions)

The Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies announces 1 DC (Doctoral Candidate) fellowship within the European Marie Curie MSCA Doctoral Networks European NESTOR project titled “*Next generation high-speed optical networks for metro access*” GA n. 101119983 for n. 1 Ph.D. position in the three-year Ph.D. Programme in Emerging Digital Technologies. The position refers to the following topic: DC10 – Control of disaggregated networks.

Article 2

(Application requirements)

Candidates with the academic qualifications set forth below may apply for the above Ph.D. positions:

- Master of Science (MSc) degree or equivalent,
- Similar academic qualification obtained abroad, comparable with the Italian qualification in terms of level, duration and contents and deemed eligible for application.

Candidates should have good interpersonal skills with the ability to work effectively and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment and to define and implement solutions in line with team objectives. In addition, candidates should have excellent organizational, reporting and communication skills, as well as a proactive attitude towards solving problems and an interest in optical communications and networking, and machine learning / artificial intelligence. Proficiency English level is essential. Team working and availability to travel are essential.

In order to fulfill the eligibility criteria of the Marie Curie MSCA Doctoral Networks at the date of recruitment, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account. Italian candidates can apply if they have resided in another country for more than 2 years of the last 3 years.

At the time of recruitment by the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, the applicant has not yet been awarded a doctorate degree. Applicants who will obtain their academic qualification within the 30th September 2024 may also be admitted to the selection process.

The official starting date of the Ph.D. courses for the School is set to 1st October 2024. In special and justified cases related to the procedures for obtaining a visa to enter Italy, the arrival of the students may be postponed, normally no later than 30 days from the official start of the Ph.D. Programme.

Article 3

(Application submission)

The application for participation in the selection must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, by **12:00 p.m.** (noon, **Italian local time**) on the **21st of May 2024**, through the online system available at <https://sssup.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do>.



Prior to submitting the application, candidates must:

1. Register, by entering the requested data;
2. Save the login and password provided, which must be changed after the first log-in;
3. Re-enter the system with the new password, select the PhD Programme and complete the application following the instructions indicated in each page of the online procedure

Candidates are required to fill in the application and state under their own responsibility:

- a) surname, forename, place and date of birth, citizenship;
- b) type of secondary school diploma, graduation date, and issuing School or Institute;
- c) to hold the academic qualification set forth in article 2 above, specifying the degree programme, its duration and the University or Institution of Higher Education having issued it;
- d) the final mark obtained in the MSc degree(s), specifying the maximum possible mark and the degree award date;
- e) the expected MSc degree award date, for those not yet graduated;
- f) the curriculum: Photonic Technologies;
- g) e-mail address, which is mandatory for competition-related communications.

Applicants must also complete the 'Additional Information' section as part of their application.

Applicants with a disability or specific learning disorders must attach the medical documentation attesting to their disability or specific learning disorders along with a note requesting any assistance needed for the selection procedure and any additional time required for the application. If the disability does not permit the use of the online application system, the applicant may request to use an alternative method.

The following documents, in 'PDF' format, must be attached to the application:

- 1 Copy of a valid **identity document** (copy of passport is preferable for non-EU applicants);
- 2 A copy of the **degree thesis** or an abstract of the thesis in English. Candidates who have not yet received their degree must attach a final draft copy of the thesis or an abstract to their application.

3 Academic qualification:

Obtained in Italy: certificate or self-certification of the degree and the graduation mark, including a list of all completed courses indicating the CFU (ECTS or equivalent) and the grade achieved for each course;

Obtained abroad: (for EU countries) the Diploma Supplement issued by the University of origin, or (for non-EU countries) a Statement of Comparability of the foreign university degree issued by the ENIC-NARIC centre in Italy (CIMEA) together with a transcript including a list of all completed courses indicating the ECTS (or equivalent) and the grade achieved for each course (with a translation if the transcript is in a language other than English/French/Spanish/German); Please note: If CIMEA's Credential Information Service (CIS) is not available by the application deadline, applicants may attach a copy of the diploma and a transcript including a list of all completed courses indicating the ECTS (or equivalent) and the grade achieved for each course (with a translation if both documents are in a language other than English/French/Spanish/German).

The eligibility of the foreign qualification will be assessed by the Selection Committee according to the laws and regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was awarded. The Commission will assess the equivalence in terms of level, nature, content, and academic rights to the Italian academic degree required for access to a Ph.D. Programme.

If the required qualification has not yet been obtained: transcripts or certification of all completed courses taken in the MSc degree course (or equivalent), indicating the ECTS (or equivalent) and the grade achieved for each course;

- 4 **Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum**, in English;



- 5 **Optional reference letter(s)**, in English. Should applicants wish to send recommendation letters (maximum three) written and signed by academic scholars or other experts who had the opportunity to assess the applicant's work during his/her university studies, they are required to add name, surname and institutional e-mail address of these experts in the application process. These experts will receive a link where they can directly upload the reference letters. Letters can be uploaded until three days after the deadline.

Applications without the required documentation will be excluded.

Please note that **it will not be possible** to supplement the documents attached to the application after the deadline for submission.

The School may perform checks on the truthfulness of the declarations and documents submitted, at any time during the procedure, including after the start of the Programmes, and may request that the original documents be produced. In the event of false declarations, the School may order the exclusion of candidates from the selection procedure or from the Programme at any time, by the substantiated decision of the Rector, without prejudice to the criminal liability deriving from the same.

Article 4

(Selection Board and test examinations)

The Selection Board for admission to the Ph.D. Programme is appointed by decree of the Rector and their composition is available for consultation on the School website. The relevant activities of the Committees may be also carried out remotely, while guaranteeing the security and traceability of communications, according to current legislation.

Selection consists in the assessment of the qualifications submitted and an interview.

The Board will award a score out of one hundred, from 1 to 100.

Assessment of qualifications – maximum score possible: 40

The Selection Board will assess the CV and any scientific qualifications submitted.

Candidates are not required to be present during the assessment of qualifications.

Candidates obtaining a score below 25/40 in the qualifications will be excluded from the interview.

The list of those admitted to the interview and the interview schedules will be published on the School's website at: <https://www.santannapisa.it/it/marie-curie-fellowship-nestor-project>.

Applicants must be available for the entire day set for the interview.

Interview – maximum score possible: 60

The interview will consist in a discussion about the qualifications submitted, in particular the CV, as well as verification of the level of knowledge of the English language.

Candidates obtaining a score below 35/60 in the interview will be excluded from the merit ranking list.

In the case of online interviews, it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the availability of the required hardware (PC, webcam) and software and a reliable internet connection. At the beginning of the online interview, applicants must show the identity document that was submitted with their application for identification purposes.

All information concerning the selection will be published on the School's website. This publication will have the value of a final notification for all purposes. **No personal communications will be sent to the individual**



candidates, except for the communication sent to the successful candidates admitted to the Programme at the e-mail address provided at the time of application.

Article 5

(Ph.D. Programme Admission and Enrolment)

Successful candidates will be admitted to the Ph.D. Programme according to the ranking list order and up to the number of available positions.

The general merit ranking list, approved by decree of the Rector, is published on the School website. Publication constitutes an official communication.

In case of equal ranking in the assessment phase, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The School reserves the right to assign any positions which become available as a result of candidates renouncing or dropping out, to suitable candidates on the ranking list.

The effectiveness of the selection is subject to confirmation by the competent Ministry of University and Research (MUR) of the accreditation of the Ph.D. Programme in Emerging Digital Technologies, 40th doctoral cycle, starting in the Academic Year 2024/2025, as provided for by art. 3 of Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021.

Successful candidates must confirm their acceptance within 7 days from the date of receipt of the notification, otherwise, they will be excluded, and the position will be assigned to the first eligible candidate on the ranking list. In the event of renunciation of the position or the scholarship, these will be re-assigned to the first eligible candidate on the ranking list, subject to compliance with the specific provisions of agreements with public or private organisations financing the scholarships conditioned on meeting certain requirements or aimed at specific research topics.

To enter Italy, students who are citizens of non-EU countries must apply for a visa for study purposes, issued by the Italian embassies or consulates with jurisdiction over the country of origin. Upon arrival in Italy, students are required to apply for a residence permit for study purposes within eight (8) days. More information can be found at: <http://www.santannapisa.it/it/internazionale/welcome-and-support>

To finalise their enrolment, students must provide the following documents:

- **valid identity document;**
- (only for those who obtain their degree after the deadline for application) **copy of the degree** as specified in Article 3;
- **Regional Tax for the Right to University Study payment receipt** (under Art. 18, par. 8, of Legislative Decree no. 68 of 29 March 2012) the amount of which, for the academic year 2024/2025, is set at € 140.00.

The following individuals are not required to pay the regional tax for the Right to University Study:

- ✓ Those who have applied for a grant for the 2024/2025 academic year to the Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario (Tuscany Regional Agency for the Right to University Study). Students who are subsequently not awarded or are only eligible for this grant ranking list must pay the regional tax after the publication of the final ranking list by the Tuscany Regional Agency for the Right to University Study;
- ✓ Students with disabilities, with a recognised disability (Article 3(1) of Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992) or with a disability of 66% or more;
- ✓ Students with parents who are disability pension holders (Art. 30 of Law No. 118 of 30 March 1971).

For more information on the regional tax for the Right to University Study, please visit:

<http://www.dsu.toscana.it>

Article 6

(Obligations of Ph.D. student)

Ph.D. students are required to attend the courses and research activities offered by the School for the Ph.D. Programmes, to fulfill the obligations provided for in the Training Activities Regulations (Book III), including



the submission of the annual report on the educational and research activities carried out, and to comply with the policies included in the School's Statute, internal Regulations, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Ph.D. students must:

- Complete the training evaluation questionnaires required by the School;
- Complete any periodic reports required by the type of scholarship funding awarded;
- Comply with the requirements of the type of scholarship awarded;
- Timely notify the supervisor, the Ph.D. Office, and the Tecip Institute Research Office of any requests to use the research budget and to spend a term abroad.

For health and safety protection, Ph.D. students must also:

- Fill in the Employment Destination form;
- Undergo health checks as part of the health surveillance carried out by the School's Medical Officer;
- Participate in the planned training and instruction courses.

Failure to comply with these obligations will result in sanctions up to a ban on access to the School premises

Article 7
(PhD Student Status)

1. The DC Ph.D. student will receive a yearly gross salary:
 - ❖ Living allowance of € 39.739,20(including income tax and retirement pension contributions);
 - ❖ Mobility allowance of € 7.200,00;
 - ❖ Family allowance (If the DC Ph.D student has or acquires family obligations during the research programme) € 5.940,00.
2. The DC Ph.D. student will undertake a secondment at a beneficiary's or an associated partner's premises other than those of the beneficiary which has appointed the researcher under the project.
3. The DC Ph.D. student will be requested to sign a full-time employment contract with SSSA (Host Organisation).
4. DC Ph.D. student can use the canteen and the other services of SSSA, according to its internal regulations.
5. The Supervisor may allow the Ph.D. student to participate in study and research activities outside SSSA's premises.
6. SSSA will cover tuition fees, access to the library and laboratories.



Person in charge of the competition procedure, processing of personal data, and corruption prevention measures.

Under the provisions of art. 5 of Law 241/90 and ss.mm.ii, the person in charge of the competition procedure referred to in this notice is Dr. Chiara Magini, Head of the U.O. Ph.D., Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Via Santa Cecilia, 3, 56127 Pisa - e-mail: phdoffice@santannapisa.it. Under the "European Personal Data Protection Regulation" Reg. UE/679/2016, the Data Controller of the personal data provided in the context of the competition procedure in question is the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, in the person of the Rector, Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33 Pisa. The Internal Data Processor is designated in the person of Dr Giovanna Bottai, Head of the Postgraduate Training Area, e-mail: giovanna.bottai@santannapisa.it.

Other subjects authorised to process data are the staff working at the U.O. Ph.D. and the Coordinators of the Ph.D. Programmes and the relative Commissions and eventual sub-Commissions, through the use of computerised procedures, in any case in the manner and within the limits necessary to pursue the purposes indicated below. The data, rendered anonymous, will be used for statistical processing.

The provision of personal data (including name, surname, contact details, and all other data provided in the form above) is necessary for participating in this competition.

The processing of data is aimed at carrying out the following institutional activities:

- Completion of competition proceedings;
- Creation of the career file.

The data acquired will be processed, stored, and communicated in compliance with the relevant European and national legislation (Reg. 679/2016 and Legislative Decree 196/2003) for an indefinite time, as set out in the School's Maximum Storage Schedule and by the principles of publicity and transparency for the proper functioning of the Public Administration. The involved subjects may, at any time, assert their rights in front of the School, to access their personal data, to ask for them to be corrected, updated, and deleted if these are incomplete, erroneous, or collected in breach of the law, the subjects may also to oppose their processing for reasons recognised by law, as well as to request the deletion, transformation into anonymous form or blocking of data processed in violation of the law, including data whose storage is not necessary with the purposes for which the data were collected or subsequently processed, by making a request to the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, U.O. Ph.D., Via Santa Cecilia, 3, Pisa, e-mail: phdoffice@santannapisa.it. It is the right of the data subject to lodge a complaint with the personal data protection authority.

For further clarifications and information, please contact the Data Protection Officer of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna at the following e-mail address: dpo@santannapisa.it.

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna operates in compliance with the regulations on the prevention of corruption (L.190/2012) by applying the measures identified in the "Three-year Corruption Prevention Plan" published in the "Transparent Administration" section of the institutional website at: www.santannapisa.it

Normative references:

Equivalence and recognition of foreign degrees: Law no. 148/2002; Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004, Presidential Decree no. 189/2009

Self-certifications: Presidential Decree No. 445/2000 as amended.

Assistance, integration, and rights of the disabled: Law No 104/1992

Single text for safety at work: Legislative Decree No 81/2008