



## DIRNANO CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE PHD PROGRAMME IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

CYCLE XXXVI, A.Y. 2020/2021

**CONSIDERED** the Statute of the University of Verona, published on the Official Gazette no. 191 of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020;

**CONSIDERED** the Ministerial Decree no. 45/2013;

**CONSIDERED** the “Regulations for PhD Studies”, issued by Rector’s Decree no. 1891 of 12/03/2018

**CONSIDERED** that in the framework of the European Union Horizon 2020 Programme, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Innovative Training Networks – ITN Action, the University of Verona – is entering the Grant Agreement no. 956544 (hereunder “G.A”) with the “Research Executive Agency” (hereunder “REA”) to develop the project called “DIRNANO – “Directing the Immune Response through designed NANOmaterials” (hereunder “DIRNANO”), for which the person in charge of scientific supervision is Professor Roberto Fiammengo, in the following scientific areas of interest: organic chemistry and bio-nano interactions.

### ART. 1 – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1.1 The University of Verona is accepting applications for the admission to the 36<sup>th</sup> cycle of PhD programme in Biotechnology (academic year 2020/2021) as Early Stage Researcher (PhD Student) position within the framework of the DIRNANO project to support the following research project: “Development of therapeutic cancer nanovaccine candidates”.

1.2 Applications will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> October until 15<sup>th</sup> November at 12:00 pm (Central Europe Time). This call for applications is for one position.

1.3 This call for applications is published on University of Verona’s PhD webpage (<https://www.univr.it/en/phds>). Any additions, modifications or updates concerning this call for applications will be published on the same webpage. For all intents and purposes, this call for applications constitutes an official notice.

### ART. 2 – DURATION OF PhD PROGRAMME

2.1 The Early Stage Researcher will be employed and enrolled in the Ph.D. in Biotechnology. The PhD study lasts for three years and the starting date is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The Ph.D. study ends with the defence of the doctoral thesis, which must take place by 2024.

2.2 PhD degrees are conferred by the Rector upon the recommendation of the Examination Panel after Ph.D. students have successfully completed the doctoral programme and passed the final examination (Ph.D. thesis defence).

2.3 In order to be awarded the qualification, Ph.D. students must have submitted their full doctoral thesis to the Verona University Open Archive (IRIS), where it shall be available for consultation by the public.

2.4 The Early Stage Researcher will benefit from joint supervision, ensuring the successful completion of their individual research projects according to a specific personal career development plan. In addition to their individual scientific project, they will benefit from further

education including internships and secondments within the DIRNANO consortium (academic and non-academic partners).

### ART. 3 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 The call is open to applicants of any age and nationality who meet the following requirements:

- a) **Must hold a Master's Degree** (e.g. Master of Science or Master of Arts) or a similar degree awarded in a country other than Italy, which would grant them access to doctoral level studies in the country where the degree was conferred.
- b) **Must not already hold a PhD and must have less than 4 years (full-time equivalent) of research experience.** Full-time-equivalent research experience is measured starting from the date the applicants obtained their Master's degree or equivalent qualification entitling them to embark on a doctorate, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.
- c) **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 before the recruitment date (1<sup>st</sup> February 2021).

Any time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol), compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays do not count towards the total.

3.2 If any of the aforementioned prerequisites are not satisfied, the University of Verona reserves the right to exclude applicants from the selection procedure at any time, even after the selection procedure has taken place.

### ART. 4 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Applications must be submitted exclusively electronically sending all the required documents to the following e-mail address: [dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it](mailto:dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it). The deadline is specified at Article 1.2. Applications submitted using any other method will not be considered.

4.2 The following documents must be provided:

- Application form (dated and signed);
- ID document;
- Detailed academic and professional curriculum vitae in Europass CV format;
- Copy of Bachelor's and Master's degree certificate and transcript of records;
- Motivation letter explaining research interests, main skills, career plans and the reasons for applying to the position;
- Declaration on place of activity/residence in the last three years;
- Diploma Supplement (if available) released by the Institution where the applicants obtained their degree;
- Qualifications and publications the applicants consider relevant for the position;
- Any other document considered useful for the evaluation process.

It would be desirable the sending of up to two reference letters by academic professors at the university where the applicants obtained their Master's degree or by any other legal entity from the academic or non-academic sector where the applicants studied or worked. The reference letters supporting the application must be sent only and personally by the professors to the e-mail address: [dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it](mailto:dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it) specifying in the subject "*Dirnano Reference letter – Candidate's name and surname*".

All documents must be submitted in English, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. For certificates and other official documents in any other language, a certified English translation of each one must be provided.

If the application is not signed and/or the identity document is not attached, applicants will be excluded from the selection.

- 4.5 Each e-mail must not exceed 20 MB, attachments included. Emails that are over the size limit will not be delivered. The system sends an automatic error message of error, which may be received by the sender up to several days after sending the email; therefore it is each applicant's responsibility to check for this type of message, which may be identified as spam by the system.

In case of necessity due to large files, candidates may split their application documents into more than one email. In this case, the subject should be the same in each e-mail: e.g. Application for DIRNANO PhD position, Candidate's name and surname – 1 sending  
Application for DIRNANO PhD position, Candidate's name and surname – 2 sending  
Etc...

- 4.6 Applicants are responsible for ensuring they have carried out and followed the full procedure correctly. The University of Verona is not responsible for any late applications due to technical issues or software malfunctions close to the deadline, the overloading of communications and/or application systems, nor for any loss of communication due to incorrect or missing addresses or late notification of a change of address, nor for any possible misunderstandings or problems caused by third parties, fortuitous cases or force majeure.

Applications with missing compulsory information and/or attachments shall not be considered. Additional material submitted after the deadline will not be accepted, with the exception of any further documents expressly requested by the PhD Office.

For technical issues and for further information or questions about this Call for Applications, please send an email to: [dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it](mailto:dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it).

Candidates have to notify the PhD Office of any changes to the contact details listed in the application form.

## **ART. 5 – SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA**

- 5.1 The selection procedure consists in a comparative evaluation of:
- academic and professional curriculum vitae;

- qualifications;
- publications.

The Candidate Evaluation Committee (appointed by the Rectoral Decree) will be composed by the host beneficiary leader and two network team leaders or permanent staff team members, chosen to avoid conflicts of interest and to grant scientific expertise in the project area, contribution by different sectors (public, private, academic, non-academic), and gender balance (at least one member for each gender). If such conditions are not at reach in the network, experts from other institutions will be invited.

The Candidate Evaluation Committee will nominate its own Chairperson and Secretary. The Rector's Decrees stating the members of the Evaluation Commissions will be published on the PhD in Biotechnology webpage <https://www.dbt.univr.it/?ent=iscrizionecs&cs=624&lang=en> once the selection procedures have been completed.

- 5.2 The Selection Committee has 100 points to evaluate the Marie Skłodowska-Curie candidates and they shall be awarded throughout the following procedure.

The evaluation of qualifications (stage 1-2-3) is preliminary to the oral examination. To gain access to the oral examination candidates must have attained a minimum score of 30/60 points.

To pass the oral examination (stage 4) candidates must have attained a minimum score of 20/40 points.

1. **Evaluation of Qualifications:** degree, specialist diploma, certificates of attendance of advanced professional courses (awarded in Italy or abroad) - maximum 20 points;
  2. **Evaluation of Academic and professional curriculum vitae:** performance of documented research activity at public and private organisations with contracts, grants or appointments (both in Italy and abroad) related to the research stated in this call - maximum 20 points.
  3. **Evaluation of Publications:** quantity and quality of publications, including Master's degree dissertations or theses - maximum 20 points.
  4. **Interview:** The interview and/or reference letters bibliometric indices will be balanced by motivation, ambition to develop knowledge, understanding of the research theme, critical analysis and result-reporting abilities. Teamwork, public awareness activities and mobility experiences, (e.g. previous changes of country stay, work/study setting, discipline and sector) will be considered valuable candidate features. English proficiency of applicants will be assessed during the selection interview.
- 5.3 Candidates can undergo the interview only in telematic mode (videoconferencing by Skype/Zoom).

The oral examination will be held on **25th and 26th november 2020**. The list of admitted candidates and the timetable will be published at the Phd in Biotechnology webpage <https://www.dbt.univr.it/?ent=iscrizionecs&cs=624&lang=en>

To this purpose, applicants will have to provide in the application their own Skype/Zoom contact and ensuring that the place in which they will undergo the interview is equipped with a webcam - necessary for the candidate's recognition – and it is equipped with a microphone and headphones/speakers.

At the beginning of the telematic interview, candidates will have to submit to the Commission the same ID document sent together with the application. Candidates must be available at the

personal address, previously communicated, on the day and time indicated for the interview; provided that the other candidates are able to assist. Missing/incorrect communication of the personal address, non-connection and/or unavailability of the candidate on the day and time set for the interview, or failure to display the identification document will be considered renunciation to participate. Candidates who have not been excluded from the selection are required to attend the interview on the indicated days and times. No further notice will be given. Should candidates not show up for the interview for whatever cause, this will be considered as withdrawal from the selection.

According to Law no. 104 dated 5 February 1992, Marie Skłodowska-Curie candidates with a recognized disability must specify in their application any special assistance or additional time they may need during the interview.

- 5.4 At the end of the evaluation, the Selection Committee shall draw up a provisional ranking list based on the total scores awarded for each evaluation. The minimum score to enter the ranking list is 50 points. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The evaluation outcome will be communicated to applicants within one month after the interview. Applicants have the chance to request further feedback and explanation on complaint procedures, be set up accordingly to local legislations.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process with an Evaluation Summary Report, that will be officially approved by a Rector's Decree and then published on the Verona University Register. The official rankings lists will be published on University of Verona's PhD webpage ([www.univr.it/phd](http://www.univr.it/phd)).

## **ART. 6 – ADMISSION TO THE PhD PROGRAMMES**

- 6.1 The successful applicant is admitted to the PhD programme following the order of the merit ranking list.
- 6.2 The selected candidate must submit an online enrolment form (available at [www.univr.it/enrolmentphd](http://www.univr.it/enrolmentphd)) **within 15 days after the publication of the final merit rankings** in order to register for the PhD programme.

Applicants who fail to meet this deadline will be replaced by the next applicant on the ranking list, who will be informed by email and must enrol within 5 days following the same procedure.

- 6.3 Applicants who provide false information or documents at any point during the application procedure will automatically lose their place on the ranking lists and sanctions will be imposed. The University of Verona will withdraw any benefits awarded to the applicant (e.g. scholarship or fee concessions) and will not reimburse any fees paid. False declarations may also lead to possible legal action by the interested parties.

## **ART. 7 - ENTERING INTO THE AGREEMENT**

- 7.1 Marie Skłodowska-Curie research grant is awarded with bespoke research activity agreements concluded with University of Verona. An individual agreement will establish the successful candidate's specific tasks, rights and duties, assigned tasks and research activities, payable salary and social security.

Should the agreement not be entered into by this date, the winners shall forfeit the right to the research grant.

The awarding of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie research grant does not constitute subordinate employment, nor does it entitle the Grant Holder to a permanent position at the University.

## **ART. 8 – EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS**

- 8.1 Marie Skłodowska-Curie researcher will be employed from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 under a 36-month research contract (*assegno di ricerca*) as defined by Art. 22 of Italian Law no. 240/2010. They will be enrolled in the PhD programme starting from the 2020/2021 academic year. The research grant shall be for a gross amount for the grant holder of 39,217.20 Euros per annum each (more details: total gross costs borne by the organisation, as set by the European Commission, are 48,166.56 Euros, whereas the above-mentioned annual gross perceiver amount is referred to the current year and it shall be changed by the University if social security contributions are modified by law) are issued in accordance with the current “Regulations Governing Research Grant Awards pursuant to Art. 22 of Law no. 240/2010”.
- 8.2 Salaries are paid on a monthly basis (at the end of the month) and are composed of the following elements (gross amounts):
- Living allowance: € 3.413,88/month for 36 months;
  - Mobility allowance: € 600,00/month for 36 months;
  - Family allowance: € 500,00/month for 36 months.
- 8.3 The family allowance is reserved for PhD students linked to another person by:
- a) Marriage, or
  - b) A relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised, by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised, or
  - c) Dependent children currently being maintained by the applicant.

Family obligations must be in place as of the deadline of the call for applications. Any change in family obligations after this date will not be considered.

The family status of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie researcher will be determined at the date of their (first) recruitment in the action and will not evolve during the action lifetime.

## **ART. 9 – RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND INCOMPATIBILITIES**

- 9.1 Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant Holder shall conduct their research personally and fully. The research is of a flexible nature, has no set working hours, and shall be conducted continually and not occasionally. The researcher’s duties will be established by a personal agreement. This agreement does not represent subordinate employment in any way.
- 9.2 It is not possible to be simultaneously enrolled in more than one study programme leading to the awarding of a degree (e.g. Bachelor, Masters, Postgraduate Specialisation, short/executive Masters or PhD). In the case of enrolment in one of the aforementioned programmes, successful applicants will be required to suspend or, if not possible, discontinue enrolment in

their other degree programme before the commencement of the PhD programme; otherwise the applicant shall be excluded from the PhD programme.

The grants within this announcement may not be combined with other grants or with scholarships of any other kind, unless they have been awarded by national or international organisations for periods abroad as part of a Grant Holder's research

## **Art. 10 – TAX, SOCIAL SECURITY, INSURANCE AND HEALTH INSURANCE FEE**

10.1 The grant within this call is regulated by the dispositions regulating the PhD student position.

The University shall provide insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability in accordance with the conditions stated in the policies taken out by the University. Marie Skłodowska-Curie researchers will have the same treatment of PhDs students.

A health insurance that entitles the Marie Skłodowska-Curie researchers to receive medical care in Italy will be guaranteed. The related costs will be charged to the project.

Should the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant Holders be sent on official university business, then the costs shall be sustained by the grant Holders from their research funds, or by the host Department in accordance with the University Regulations Governing Official University Business.

## **ART. 11 – INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

11.1 The intellectual and industrial property rights of any results achieved by Marie Skłodowska-Curie researchers – including software, industrial inventions that may or may not be patentable, know-how, models, data and data collections – are governed in accordance with current regulations and statutory laws, University regulations and, where applicable, in compliance with specific agreements signed with universities, enterprises/businesses or other parties involved.

11.2 PhD students must promptly notify their supervisor of any achievement of results and must agree not to disclose them or use them without the prior authorisation of the University. If collaborating with research groups, PhD students must sign a specific agreement (*Confidentiality & Non-Disclosure Agreement for PhD Students*) for the recognition of intellectual property rights, maintaining the utmost confidentiality concerning all reserved information, data, and documents they may come into the possession of while carrying out their activities at or on behalf of the University .

11.3 In all cases, PhD students are guaranteed the possibility of undertaking all the normal publication activities provided by the research and study programme, which shall be planned compatibly with the need to protect any possible results.

All information and data which the Marie Skłodowska-Curie researcher will acquire in the performance of the contract shall be considered confidential. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant Holder undertakes not to disclose such information and data to comply with the provisions pursuant to the University's Patent Regulations and especially with its provisions regarding information to University.

## **ART. 12 – CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 12.1 Pursuant to EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR no. 679 of 27.04.2016), regarding the protection of personal data, the University of Verona commits to using applicants' personal information for the implementation of the selection process and institutional purposes only.
- 12.2 In accordance with the aforementioned regulations, participation in the selection process implies the applicant's consent to the use of their personal data and application results by the University of Verona.

## **ART. 13 – FINAL REGULATIONS**

- 13.1 All matters not specified in this call for applications are governed by the University of Verona PhD Regulations and relevant national laws (available at the following link: <http://www.univr.it/main?ent=catdoc&id=742&idDest=2&sServ=68&serv=65&lang=en#1194>).
- 13.2 The following contacts are available for further help for: technical issues, administrative issues and information about the research areas, please email: [dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it](mailto:dottorati.ricerca@ateneo.univr.it)
- 13.3 The person responsible for the selection procedure is Maria Gabaldo, Head of Research Area.

The Rector  
Professor Pier Francesco Nocini





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**DIRNANO CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE PHD PROGRAMME IN  
BIOTECHNOLOGY  
CYCLE XXXVI, A.Y. 2020/2021**

**SUBSTITUTE DECLARATION**

In accordance with art 46 of Pres. Decree 28th December 2000, no. 445 - Consolidation Act for legal and regulatory dispositions for administrative materials - G.U. no.42 20 February 2001 and subsequent modifications

The undersigned  
Gender  
Place of birth  
Country  
Date of birth  
Citizenship

aware of sanctions detailed in art. 76 of Pres. Decree no. 445 December 2000, and subsequent modifications or integrations, in case should he/she make false claims, or declare to have false qualifications or use false documents and that art. 75 of the same Decree imposes that benefits awarded on the basis of these false declarations will be withdrawn;

**REQUESTS**

To be admitted to the public competition for the Ph.D. Program in Biotechnology - Academic Year 2020/2021 - to develop the EU H2020 Marie Skłodowska - Curie Innovative Training Network (MSCA-ITN) project "**DIRNANO** - Directing the immune response through designed nanomaterials" - position ESR09 - "**Development of therapeutic cancer nanovaccine candidates**"

**DECLARES**

To be resident in (Address, Town/City, County/State, ZIP/Postcode)  
Country

To choose to be contacted during the completion at:  
Country

Phone number  
Email address  
Skype ID

To have obtained or to be obtaining the following:

Type of Degree

Status	Obtained/Not yet obtained
Graduation date	
University	
Course of Study	
Class Grade	
Distinction	

University degree giving access to PhD  
Master Degree in  
University



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Date  
Country  
Grade

Do you also have a Bachelor Degree?

Bachelor Degree in  
University  
University Graduation Date  
Country  
Grade

Full-time research experience

Measured from the date when you have obtained the degree entitling you to embark on a doctorate  
Number of months

Place of activity/place of residence (previous 3 years)

Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting institution (Italy) hosting the ESR project for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date (Feb 01, 2021). Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.

*TO BE COMPLETED* List the period(s) and the county/countries in which you have legally resided and/or had your main activity (work, studies, etc.) **from January 2018 until December 31, 2020**. Fill the table in chronological order without gaps. Short stays (e.g. holidays, participation to conferences, etc.) shall not be listed. Add rows if needed.

Place of Activity/Residence				
Period from (DD/MM/YYYY)	Period to (DD/MM/YYYY)	Duration (Days)	Occupation (work; study)	Country

Additional notes

Refugee Status

Are you a refugee or an asylum seeker? *As defined under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol)*

Yes / No

Disability

Do you need any specific support for the interview, as a consequence of any disability or specific learning difficulties?

Yes / No

Family Status

Information about your family status must refer your situation at the call deadline

Are you married to another person?

Yes / No

Are you linked to another person by relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised?

Yes / No



# UNIVERSITÀ di VERONA

Do you have children you actually maintain?  
Yes - How many?      / No

Declarations according to articles 75 and 76 of the decree of the president of the Italian Republic dpr 445/2000, applicants found guilty of misrepresentation may be subject to penal sanctions under certain conditions. Being aware of the liability and the penal sanctions stated in art. 75 and 76 of the decree of the president of the Italian Republic dpr 445/2000, I declare that:

### Veracity

(Select all to proceed)

- the information contained in this application and its annexes is correct and complete
- the submitted documents are in conformity with the original

### Eligibility

(Select all to proceed)

- I do not already hold a PhD
- I have less than 4 years (full-time equivalent) of research experience
- I have not resided or carried out my main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the application deadline

### Current Fellowships

Please choose one of them

- I am not enrolled in another study programme leading to the awarding of a degree (e.g. bachelor, masters, postgraduate specialization, short/executive masters or PhD)
- .....

### Criminal convictions and proceedings

I declare:

- I have no reported criminal convictions nor pending criminal proceedings

### Personal data treatment

- I declare that I have read and understood the information notice on personal data treatment

- I authorize the university officers to treat my personal data according to what stated in the information notice

In accordance with what requested in the Call for Applications, I declare to have attached to the email the following documents:

[the file name should correspond to its content. For multiple files of the same type of document, please add a number at the end of the name (ex. Publications1.pdf, publication2.pdf, etc.)]

### General documentation:

- ID document/Passport ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_
- Passport photo ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_
- Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_

### University degree/s documentation:

- Diploma (both Bachelor and Master of Science) ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_
- Transcript of records (both Bachelor and Master of Science ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_
- Diploma Supplement (if available) ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional documentation:

- Reference letter/s ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_
- Motivational letter ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_



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- Qualification and Publications ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other certificates ..... no. of attachments \_\_\_\_\_

## Note

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The present statement substitutes totally the normal certifications requested or destined to a public administration as well as to the public service's supervisors and to the privates that consent this. The signature does not have neither to be notarized, nor necessarily take place with the presence of the employee of the authority that has required the certificate. In place of signature's authentication the applicant sends by email a digital copy of his/her valid identity document (art.38 paragraph 3 DPR no 445/2000).  
The present statement has validity for 6 months (art. 41 Pres. Decree no. 445/2000); if the documents that it substitutes have validity superior than it will have the same validity of them. The non-acceptance of the present statement constitutes violation of office's duties (art n. 74 paragraph 1 DPR no. 445/2000).  
Exempt from stamp duty in accordance with art.37 DPR no.445/2000.