



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA “FORO ITALICO”

N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector’s Decree is legally binding; the English version is provided for information only

Call for Applications to the PhD Program in “Human Movement and Sport Sciences” University of Rome “Foro Italico” 33rd Cycle – Academic year 2017-2018

Art. 1 Institution

1. Coherent with current Italian laws, as well as with resolution n°8 April the 12nd of 2017 approved by the Department of Movement, Human and Health Sciences, resolution n°8 of May the 22nd of 2017 approved by the Academic Senate of the University of Rome “Foro Italico”, resolution n. 15 of April the 28th, n. 24 of June the 8th and n.31st of June the 15th 2017 approved by the University Administration Board, the University of Rome “Foro Italico” publishes the call for application to the 33rd cycle of the PhD program.
2. The research areas of the PhD program 33rd Cycle are described in Annex A enclosed at the bottom of this document.
3. The PhD program is open to 12 doctoral student positions (10 with financial scholarships, 2 without financial scholarships).
4. The beginning date of the PhD program – 33rd cycle is November the 1st of 2017; the duration of the program is three consecutive academic years.

Art. 2 Admission and Selection Criteria

To be admitted and selected for the PhD program, applications will be considered and evaluated according to the requirements and criteria described in the following art. 4, 10, 12, and in Annex A enclosed at the bottom of the document.

Art. 3 Pre-admission requirements

Italian or foreign citizens who have earned a Bachelor Level Degree and a Graduate Level Degree abroad must comply with the following pre-admission requirements in order for their applications to the PhD program to be considered:

1. Must have earned their university degrees by the time the application is presented. Alternatively, those who are in the process of earning the Graduate Level Degree at the time the application is presented may also apply to the present call only in case the Graduate Level Degree is earned by and no later than October, the 31st of the current solar year.
2. Must fill out and provide the information reported in Annex B. The Faculty of the PhD program will evaluate the information provided in Annex B and the applicants’ admissibility to the admission and selection protocols. If necessary, the Faculty may require additional information from the applicants to clarify their position in the admission and selection protocol.

Art. 4 Admission requirements

In order to be considered for the selection in the PhD program, all applications must comply with the following admission requirements by providing:



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1. Information about Graduate Studies including the title, grades and university credits for each teaching course followed during the Graduate University Program; the title of the thesis and the name of the thesis supervisor; the final mark of the Graduate studies Degree (if any); the applicant provides this information in Annex B;
2. A Curriculum vitae (the EU format is suggested)
3. Two letters of reference written by two university scholars or non-university experts in the field. The authors of the reference letters cannot be members of the Faculty of the PhD program the candidate is applying to. Furthermore, the letters of reference, which need to be written in English or in Italian, must be signed by their authors and e-mailed to the following electronic address: ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it by and no later than the call deadline (see Annex "Instruction for preparing and sending the letters of reference"). The applicants provide the two names of the reference letters' authors in Annex C.
4. A research project, consistent with one of the general topics listed in Annex A. This research project must be prepared and written closely following the instructions and formats included in the Research Project Format.

Art. 5 Additional non-mandatory qualifications

All applicants may discretionarily provide the following non-mandatory information in their applications:

1. Additional university credentials, such as master university degrees, post-graduate or advanced teaching courses, other PhD program degrees, research fellowships, positions, or appointments held within university or non-university research institutions; (this information is provided by the applicants through a self-certification statement in Annex C)
2. Copy of any scientific publication or book chapter, already published or in press. In this latter case, applicants must provide a statement by the Journal or book Editor to confirm the in-press status of the publication; (publications and statements should be uploaded in electronic format except for cases specified in the following art. 9)

Art. 6 Additional information about the admission and selection procedures

1. All applicants must have earned their university degrees by the time the application is presented and no later than the closing deadline of the call. Alternatively, those who are in the process of earning the Graduate Level Degree at the time the application is presented may also apply to the present call only in case the Graduate Level Degree is earned by and no later than October, the 31st of the current solar year.
2. All applicants must provide the admission requirements and any additional non-mandatory qualifications listed in the above art. 4 and 5 by the time the application is presented and no later than the closing deadline of the call.
3. Those applicants who are in the process of earning the Graduate Level Degree at the time the application is presented must, by and no later than the 31st of October 2017, provide – only in case they are admitted as doctoral students to the PhD program - a self-certification that they have earned their university degree. This self-certification must be presented under penalty of losing the right to participate to the PhD program) by November the 9th 2017 to the 'Ufficio Dottorati; University of Rome "Foro Italico", Piazza Lauro De Bosis 15, 00135, Roma.
4. Those Italian or foreign citizens who have earned the University Bachelor and Graduate Degrees abroad and who are admitted as doctoral students to the PhD program must provide additional



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documentations of their University Degrees. In particular, they must provide, during and no later than the four consecutive months following the date of registration to the PhD program, the following documentation:

- a) Certificate of the University Bachelor and Graduate Level Degrees issued by the home university;
- b) Certificate of the Examinations and corresponding grades issued by the home University;
- c) The certificates described in the above points a. and b. must be translated and authorized by an office of the Italian Consulate or Embassy in the country where the University Degrees have been earned.
- d) The office of the Italian Consulate or Embassy in the country where the University Degrees have been earned also must issue a declaration conforming to the "Declaration of value of the qualification in situ." In this declaration, the aforementioned office must state that the University Degrees earned by the candidate are valid credentials or qualifications for being admitted or entering a PhD program in the country where the University Degrees have been earned.

In the eventuality of non compliance with the above request, the newly accepted PhD student will lose the right to participate to the PhD program and his or her participation will be terminated. Furthermore, the newly PhD student must return any financial stipend that was offered during his or her participation to the PhD program.

5. All applicants who are admitted as doctoral students to the PhD programs will be subject to a "verification protocol" by the University Administration designed to verify that all documentation that has been presented by the applicants is truthful and conform to the requirements set forward in this binding document. Once this verification protocol has been completed, the University Administration may - at any time - deliberate the exclusion of any applicant who has been considered unfit to be part of the PhD program.

Art. 7 Non-eligibility for financial fellowships

1. The financial fellowships provided by the PhD program cannot be assigned to those applicants who have been doctoral students in other PhD programs or in prior editions of this PhD program.
2. Students with a yearly income of € 16.000,00 or higher cannot benefit from receiving the PhD fellowship.

Art. 8 Instructions for presenting the Application to the PhD program

All documentation provided by the applicants should be uploaded online by and no later than **August the 31th 2017, at 13,00 am** (Italian time) by entering the University webpage www.uniroma4.it ; click on "Utilità"; select "Accesso studenti e docenti"

1. Applicants will first register providing mandatory personal data (selecting **Registrazione** in **Area Riservata**. After obtaining username and password, will then login, go to **Segreteria, Test di Ammissione** following the instructions. The documents should be uploaded using the "Sfoggia" instruction.

2. Disable applicants and applicants with learning disabilities can have assistance (as indicated by current Italian laws). They must make a request – by **August the 31st 2017** - of the specific



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assistance they require or wish to allow them to properly participate and complete the selection procedures. This request must be submitted to tutorato.specializzato@uniroma4.it It is mandatory that the request includes: certification attesting one's own handicap condition or status, corroborated by complete documented proof of the relative diagnosis (this will be necessary for establishing the congruence of the request) or, in alternative, the diagnostic certification. Furthermore, such documentation will have to include the candidate's declaration, in conformity to Italian Law, that all copies of certificates being provided comply with and are copies of their corresponding original documents. This University will evaluate all requests taking into close consideration legal norms and feedback from the Rector Delegate for Disability, with the possibility of additional documentation being requested on a case-to-case basis.

Art. 9 Other instructions to send the application's documentation

1. All the documents requested for the application to the PhD program (except the letters of references, see point 3) must be sent by online upload following the instructions in the above art. 8. The uploading procedure must be completed by the call deadline of **August the 31st** at 1 p.m. (Italian time). Applicants may remove or substitute any uploaded document only prior to this deadline.
2. The letters of reference must be sent by e-mail by and no later than the call deadline to the address: ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it (see Annex "Instruction for preparing and sending the letters of reference" for details).
3. All application documents submitted electronically must be written in Italian or in English. Documents in other languages must be translated into Italian or into English under the applicants' responsibility.

Art. 10 Colloquia with selected applicants

1. In line with evaluation criteria detailed in the following art. 12, applicants will eventually be selected for colloquia after the evaluation of their documentation by an Evaluation Committee. In particular, applicants who receive a score of at least 17/25 will be admitted for participating to colloquia which will complete the selection procedure. The list of applicants who will be admitted to the colloquia will be published by **September the 12nd** in the web site of University of Rome "Foro Italico" www.uniroma4.it at "Accesso rapido >Dottorato".
2. The characteristics of the colloquia are described in Annex A enclosed at the bottom of this document. The colloquia will be held starting on **September the 19th 2017**.
3. Applicants who reside abroad and who – in case of being selected - would like to participate to the colloquia via Skype must send by **August the 31st 2017** an electronic email to ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it in which they request to be interviewed via SKYPE and provide a Skype address.

Art. 11 Composition of the Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee that will be responsible for the selection of the PhD students will be nominated by the University Rector in accordance with the Faculty of the PhD program and will include a minimum of three university scholars belonging to the Faculty of the PhD program.



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Art. 12 Evaluation Criteria, Ranking and Selection of PhD candidates

1. The evaluation of both admission requirements and non-mandatory qualifications will rely on a scoring system based on a maximum of 25 points, according to the following general criteria and a set of additional specific criteria that are reported in Annex A:

- a) Admission requirements, with the exception of the Research Project (for a maximum of 4 points);
- b) Research Project (for a maximum of 18 points)
- c) Additional non-mandatory qualifications (for a maximum of 3 points)

Any further criteria for the evaluation might be formulated by the Evaluation Committee in its preliminary meeting.

A minimum total score of 17/25 is necessary for applicants to be selected for the following phase of colloquia.

2. The colloquia will be evaluated by utilizing an additional scoring system based on a maximum of 25 points. The colloquia will also be conducted to verify applicants' proficiency of English language.

3. PhD applicants will only be included in a final ranking of eligible students in case their admission requirements and colloquia are evaluated with a minimum score of 30/50.

4. The Evaluation Committee will predispose the final ranking of the applicants. The ranking has 10 positions with scholarship, and 2 positions without scholarship.

5. In case of applicants with identical final scores, the Evaluation Committee will apply a criterion by which candidates are ranked in a descendent order from the youngest to the oldest.

6. PhD fellowships will be assigned to those applicants who are in the first ranking positions regardless of their nationality.

7. The applicants admitted to the PhD program must register to the program by and not later than the terms specified when the ranking is published. Those who did not register by this time are considered as withdrawals, and their ranking positions will be taken by the first eligible candidates in the ranking. Applicants admitted to the PhD program that want to withdrawal must provide immediately written communication to allow reassignment of the position.

8. In case of PhD applicants who are in the first ranking positions and who are non-eligible for receiving the PhD fellowship or waive their right to receive the fellowship, the PhD fellowship will be assigned to the first eligible candidate in the ranking.

10. The outcome of the Committee' evaluation work will be published on the following University website www.uniroma4.it selecting "Accesso rapido >Dottorato".

Art. 13 Public Service employees

A State employee who has been admitted to the PhD program and who requests to be assigned to the condition of unpaid "leave of absence" will be granted his or her request by the Employer, in full compliance with norms, regulations and work demands of the Employer.



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Art. 14 Enrolment and registration procedure

After the selection of the PhD candidates who are admitted to be part of the PhD program, these doctoral students must register to the program by following and complying with the procedure described on the webpage: www.uniroma4.it selecting "Accesso rapido >Dottorato".

Art. 15 Tuition and Fees

1. Doctoral students must pay a university tax of €16,00 For the academic year 2017/18.

Art. 16 Fellowships and budget for research activities

1. The gross yearly amount of the doctoral fellowship is € 13.638,47; a portion of this amount covers tax contributions complying with state and retirement funds regulating student income.
2. The PhD fellowship is offered to students who receive monthly payments at the end of each month. The first monthly payment is issued after verifying the regular attendance by the doctoral students to the program activities.
3. The PhD fellowships must be the only type of scholarship that the PhD students can have during their participation to the PhD program, with the exception of scholarships that are issued by national or international agencies for research or study activities the PhD students complete abroad.
4. The amount of the PhD fellowship will increase of 50% during research periods the doctoral students will spend abroad. This rule applies only in case of a research period abroad lasting from a minimum of one month to a maximum of eighteen months.
5. Each doctoral student may receive, starting with the second year of the program, a research budget corresponding to 10% of the PhD scholarship amount described in the above point 1 to pursue his or her research activities.
6. PhD students who are not assigned with a PhD fellowship may also benefit from additional financial support through professional appointments stipulated with university or other institutions on topics of interest to the Doctoral program.
7. Each PhD student who has been assigned to receiving the PhD scholarship will be yearly reviewed, and his or her fellowship will be yearly renewed only in case of complying with the activities that are expected from PhD students during the program.
8. PhD students who should decide to withdraw from the program or to interrupt the financial fellowship they have been assigned must return any funding they have received by the university during the current year.

Art. 17 Duties and Rights of PhD students

1. Doctoral students must attend the PhD program and carry out its planned study and research activities on a full-time basis. Once the PhD program has begun, its PhD students cannot be enrolled or participate to other PhD programs, academic courses, specialization schools, or Bachelor's and Master's programs, either in Italy or abroad, with the only exception being special authorizations issued by the Italian University Ministry.
2. Ph.D students enrolled in the PhD program cannot have any professional or work commitments in other institutions in case these commitments interfere or do not allow the PhD student to comply with all the requirements and activities of the program. In any case, any other commitment will require a formal approval and authorization by the Faculty of the Doctoral program.



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3. All PhD students enrolled in the program will be yearly evaluated as to their compliance with the program’s requirements and activities. In case of a negative evaluation, the PhD Faculty is authorized to exclude – upon explicit motivations - the PhD students from the program.
4. Students of the PhD program can provide tutoring or teaching assistance (for a maximum of twenty hours per PhD year) to Bachelor or Graduate students of the University. These activities must be authorized by the PhD Faculty and will not be a source of additional income.
5. All PhD students may be the beneficiary of additional financial aid according to specific norms that are regulated by Italian laws.
6. Female PhD students may be beneficiary of particular support and assistance in case of maternity, as regulated by Italian norms or laws.
6. PhD students may request a “leave of absence” to the PhD faculty in case of maternity, paternity, illness, or study or work opportunities. The PhD faculty will deliberate upon this request. If the request is approved, the PhD students will be allowed to complete the PhD program according to specific regulations and timeframe put forward by the faculty of the PhD program.
7. The PhD faculty will include a student representative of the PhD students who will be integral part of the faculty’s activities concerning educational or organizational issues.

Art. 18 Earning of the PhD Degree

1. The PhD Degree is earned upon a positive evaluation of a final PhD thesis significantly contributing to scientific progress of a specific field.
2. The PhD thesis must include an abstract, written both in Italian and English language. The body of the PhD thesis document may be written in either Italian or English language. Upon filing their PhD thesis, PhD students must also prepare and file a report summarizing all the research activities they carried out during the entire PhD program, including scientific publications or conference presentations.
3. The PhD thesis is reviewed and evaluated by at least two university scholars, from either Italian or non-Italian institutions. These two scholars cannot be chosen from the scholars who have been involved in the selection of the PhD students who participated in the program
4. The two scholars of the above point 3 must prepare and write a formal evaluation of the PhD thesis, by which the PhD students are eventually admitted to a formal PhD thesis discussion. In case the admission to a PhD thesis discussion is not issued, the two scholars must clarify the necessary additional work they require for improving the PhD thesis and set a timeframe that cannot exceed six months for this additional work. At the end of the timeframe set by the two scholars, the PhD students are in any case admitted to the PhD thesis discussion, and the two scholars must provide an updated report on the PhD thesis.
5. The PhD thesis discussion is a public session coordinated by a Thesis Committee nominated by the Rector of this University upon a suggested list proposed by the PhD faculty. The Thesis Committee includes by at least three university scholars from either Italian or non-Italian university institutions who are experts in the thesis field.
6. At the end of the thesis discussion, the PhD student is awarded with the title of “Doctorate” in case his or her thesis has been evaluated positively by the Thesis Committee, which must in any case provide a written evaluation of the PhD thesis.
7. The PhD Degree is formally earned by a statement issued by the Rector of this University. The PhD doctorate may request a formal copy of the Rector’s statement to the university administration.



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8. The PhD degree might be accompanied by the additional certification of “Doctor Europaeus” issued by the university administration, in respect of Italian laws and regulations pertaining this matter.

Art. 19 Processing of personal data

1. The University of Rome “Foro Italico” may utilize the personal data provided by the PhD candidates at the time of participating to the program call in full respect and compliance with privacy regulations and, in any case, only for administrative or procedural needs.
2. As part of the administrative protocols and of the procedures regulating the process of the PhD candidates’ documentation, it is assumed a passive consent by the PhD candidates as to the use of their personal data by this University (e.g., the publication of the PhD candidates’ family name or PhD program selection outcomes on the webpage of the University).

Final notes

Any other detail concerning the matters summarized in this document may be acquired by referring to current Italian laws and this University’s Regulations concerning the activation of PhD programs.

The administrative personnel who is responsible and manager for the matters summarized in this document is: Sig. Marco Di Giustino – Area servizi agli studenti – email: ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it



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Annex A

PhD Graduate Program	Human Movement and Sport Sciences
Chair	Prof. Donatella Spinelli
Application Deadline	August, the 31 st 2017 (1 p.m.)
Deadline for the selection of candidates for the colloquia	September, the 12 nd 2017
Beginning day of the colloquia	September, the 19 th 2017 (10 a. m.)

The general topics of the PhD. are listed below. Details for each area about research methodologies and about its main faculty scholars also are indicated. In the Research Project Form, the applicant a) must clearly indicate the number / area which he/she envisions the research project belongs to and b) must prepare a new, personally thought out, research project on a specific topic selected from and coherent with one of the numerous research themes reported within the chosen area. The research project will be used to evaluate the applicant’s scientific competencies. Should the candidate be selected to be part of the PhD. program, the research project he or she had prepared will not necessarily be supported by the selected research area’s laboratory.

1. Physical Exercise for Health (prof. Guidetti)

Evaluation methods of the performance components for wellness. Physical exercise for (primary, or secondary, or tertiary) disease prevention. Adapted physical activity. Postural disharmony and physical activity.

Methods: Laboratory testing with ergometers (treadmill, cycle ergometer) and metabolic systems (Fitmate, K4b2) and field testing for functional evaluation. Analysis of body posture with raster-stereography (Formetric 4D).

2. Functional Evaluation and Analysis of Sport Performance (prof. Tessitore)

The research focuses on theoretical and applied aspects of sport, exercise and ergonomics in the life course, with particular reference to their determinants, performance models, training methodology, and promulgation. Research themes include: 1) biological, motor, cognitive, technical and tactical aspects for the analysis to optimize performance and avoid overtraining; 2) training methods for health maintenance and improvement of athletes and the general population in relation to age, gender and activity level of the individual; 3) the evaluation of the sport development and principles. These research topics will identify the key factors for the performance and functional evaluations of different populations (athletes, women, old individuals, and children). Specific research themes in both controlled (laboratory) and ecological (field) conditions.

Methods. Laboratory and field multi-disciplinary research approaches, including individual, inter-individual, and environmental variables. Analysis of motor and technical-tactical performance models of official and simulated competitions, with particular reference to the physical/sport levels, as well as the gender and age of the individuals.



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3. Exercise Physiology (prof. Felici, prof. Sacchetti)

Neuromuscular control and adaptation to exercise.. Modelling of neuromuscular control. Neuromechanics in sedentary subjects and top level athletes. Neuromuscular changes and overload in humans. Non-invasive assessment of muscle damage and repair. Exercise and diabetes. Exercise protocols and lipid metabolism. Physiology of cycling. Exercise and sports nutrition. Physiology of exercise training.

Methods: dynamometry, surface and needle electromyography, percutaneous nerve stimulation, calorimetry, motion analysis, posturography, physical activity monitoring, body composition, muscle biopsies.

4. Genetic Biology and Biochemistry of Movement (prof. Paronetto)

Cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying control, response and adaptation to movement, and their involvement in aging and neuromuscular diseases, such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Research methodologies involve both "in vivo" protocols on humans and animal models and "in vitro" neuronal and muscular cellular models. Specific competences are: a) "omics" of movement and movement-related diseases; b) co- and post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression, with specific attention to its modulation by signal transduction pathways; c) role of the redox homeostasis (antioxidant systems, redox signaling, oxidative stress response proteins) in the skeletal muscle biology and in the systemic and specific adaptation to exercise.

Methods: Primary and established cell cultures; DNA, RNA and protein extraction, purification and analysis (SDS PAGE, western blot analysis, quantitative RT-PCR); Cytofluorimetry; Conventional and Confocal microscopy (cytogenetic, immunohistochemistry; comet assay); Cloning; Expression and purification of recombinant proteins.

5. Endocrinology (prof. Crescioli, prof. Migliaccio)

Evaluation and characterization onto *in vitro* systems of cellular/molecular mechanisms and biomediators, potentially therapeutic targets, controlled by endocrine/immune system and involved in physical exercise- or diet-induced adaptation of specific target tissues (e.g., musculoskeletal and adipose tissues), with particular focus on wellbeing-health maintenance and prevention of chronic metabolic diseases (e.g., obesity and osteoporosis) and (auto)immune diseases (such as myositis). Translational research development for further understanding the role/benefit of physical exercise on the regulation of hormonal (endocrine and/or paracrine), mechanical, immune and inflammatory mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of chronic metabolic diseases, e.g., obesity and osteoporosis, and autoimmune diseases associated with musculoskeletal function impairment, such as rheumatic disease.

Methods: cell cultures assessment and maintenance, nucleic acid and protein analysis, body composition analysis (PCR/qPCR, western blot, ELISA, Luminex multiplatform-based assays, immunofluorescence, agarose gel electrophoresis, immunoprecipitation, cloning, DEXA, BIA).

6. Sports Medicine (prof. Pigozzi)

Physiological mechanisms of adaptation to exercise, both hormonal and cellular, with particular regard to the maintenance of health and wellbeing. The promotion of health, individual well-being



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as well as improving the quality of life through an healthy lifestyle. Health issues related to the practice of sports activities, with particular reference to the prevention and therapy of pathological or parapsychological conditions related to sport activities or a wrong lifestyle. The prevention of doping as well as behaviors potentially dangerous to health in sports. Next generation anti-doping research. The application of physical activity in primary and secondary prevention of chronic disorders. Quantitative assessment of neuromuscular strength, speed and power curve and electromyographic parameters.

Methods: Electrocardiography (basal, stress test, Holter), Echocardiography, Spirometry, Impedance monitoring, Telematic monitoring, Hematology, Application of growth factors, Isometric Dynamometry, , Electrogoniometry, Surface electromyography.

7. Didactics, Special Pedagogy and Educational Research (prof. Moliterni)

The pedagogical culture within the sport and exercise sciences in multidisciplinary perspective. The interaction between sport and educational sciences as core of experimental teaching and methodological research toward an inclusive implementation. The educational and pedagogical research in various institutional settings in synergy with the European and international research.

The training of school professionals (teachers, head teachers, technicians, educators) and the promotion of motor and sport-related activities in education and mediation processes.

The special educational needs and enhancing contexts. The playful and motor activities in relation to perception, recognition and acceptance of persons in situation of disability and marginality, in education processes. The corporeity and movement in the dimension of lifelong learning.

Creative processes and corporeal interactions as experimental variables inherent the development of inclusive dynamics in an educational project.

Methods: Methodologies of quantitative and qualitative educational research: Action research, structured observation, interviews, questionnaires, case study, life history, content analysis, didactics implementation of educational tools related to the expressive bodily activities and to the sport as integrated formative environment.

8. General Pedagogy (prof. Isidori)

Qualitative research methods in sport education; sport pedagogy; sport values; physical education teachers and sport coaches training; sport and cultural studies; tourism, sport and leisure education; Olympic studies; philosophy, epistemology and ethics of sport; physical activity and lifelong learning; analysis of developmental tasks and educational objectives that can be pursued through different physical activities (in particular the artistic and playful ones) in the various life cycles.

Methods: grounded theory; action research; case studies; observation; personal constructs; interviews; questionnaires; graphic-pictorial and/or narrative elaborations of the movement experience.

9. Bioengineering and Neuromechanics of Human Movement (prof. Camomilla, prof. Macaluso)

Advanced movement analysis methodologies and protocols, based on stereophotogrammetry or on wearable inertial sensors, to provide an accurate description of human movement and of the



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underlying mechanisms of motor activity in healthy and pathological conditions, during daily life activities, manual work, and in sports.

Motion capture. Soft computing techniques and modeling for high resolution movement analysis.

Monitoring systems for health and wellbeing. Musculoskeletal modeling of human body in motion to assess motor function.

Gait analysis and motor capacity assessment in special populations. Assessment of motor competence in typically developing children and in movement disorders. Sport biomechanics for performance analysis and injury prevention. Ergonomics.

Neuromuscular control and adaptation to exercise in special populations (elderly, orthopedic and neurological patients). Neuromechanics applied to sport and rehabilitation. Motor control and postural adjustments in health and disease. Kinematics, kinetics and metabolic cost of human locomotion.

Methods: Stereophotogrammetry, dynamometry, electromyography, wearable inertial sensors, calorimetry, neuromuscular electrical stimulation.

10. Health and Sport Psychology (prof. Zelli)

Motivational, cognitive and emotional processes contributing to the scientific account of individual differences in sport experiences and performance according to well-grounded theoretical models in personality, social and sport psychology and to relevant contextual characteristics of the phenomena (e.g., individual and team sport disciplines). Motivational and cognitive processes implicated in sport “cheating”. Psychological models and mechanisms characterizing one’s initiation and adherence to programs of physical exercise.

Methods: Longitudinal research designs and assessment instruments ranging from “explicit” to “implicit” psychological measures to study the relations among attitudes, cognitive processes and behavioral outcomes.

11. Neuroscience of Human Movement and Sport (prof. Di Russo, prof. Spinelli)

Neural bases of human interaction with the environment (perceiving to act). Brain correlates of cognitive and motor processes (preparation, anticipation, perception, attention, execution, sensory feedback, error handling. Cognitive and behavioral benefits of physical exercise and brain markers of the effects of physical exercise in the life cycle and pathological conditions. Effects of sport on the athletes’ brain.

Methods: Electrophysiological brain measures: electroencephalogram (EEG) cortical event-related potentials (ERPs), brain rhythms, brain stimulation (TMS, tDCS). Psychophysical measures: thresholds, accuracy, response time. Brain imaging: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI, fMRI).

12. Public health - Epidemiology and biotechnologies (Prof. V. Romano Spica)

Physical activity and preventive strategies within different health systems. Global health issues related to sedentary life styles. Physical activity and health promotion: the role of the national health service. Microflora studies: environmental microbiology and human microbiota in sport. Communicable diseases and Legionellosis. Sport and vaccines. Safety and quality issues related to facilities for physical activity: sport events management, gyms, swimming pools and SPA. Hygiene



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in recreational waters: guidelines and innovation in surveillance, treatments, disinfection.

Methods: epidemiology and meta-analysis; classical microbiology: culture, serotyping; molecular microbiology: genotyping by Real-Time PCR, ARDRA, MLST; mfdNA analysis by Next Generation Sequencing and bioinformatics tools.

The following documents must be provided in order to be considered for the admission and selection in the PhD program (Requirements)

1. Information about Graduate Studies (including title of the Graduate degree, main fields of study; grades and credits for each teaching course followed during the Graduate University Program; title of the thesis; final mark of the Graduate Studies Degree - if any- etc.) Applicants who earned/are earning their university degree abroad must fill in Annex B to provide this information
2. Curriculum Vitae;
3. Two letters of reference that are written by university scholars or non-university experts in the field. The authors of the reference letters cannot be members of the Faculty of the PhD program the candidate is applying to. The letters of reference (written in English or Italian) must be signed and e-mailed to the following address: ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it by and no later than the call deadline. The Annex “Instructions for preparing and sending the letters of reference” provides further instructions. The applicant indicates the names of the authors of the reference letters in Annex C.
4. A new, personally thought out, research project on a specific topic selected from and coherent with one of the research themes reported above, written in English (or Italian) using the Research Project Form.

Additional non-mandatory qualifications

1. Additional university credentials, such as master university degrees, post-graduate or advanced, teaching courses, other PhD program degrees, research fellowships, positions, or appointments held within university or non-university research institutions (Annex C);
2. Copy of any scientific publication or book chapter, already published or in press. In this latter case, applicants must provide a statement by the Journal or book Editor to confirm the in-press status of the publication; (please upload publications and statements in pdf format)

Evaluation of requirements and Research Project

Each candidate will be evaluated with a system of a maximum score of 25 points. This system is divided in the following evaluation items:

- The evaluation of the Graduate Degree’ final grade (average of the examinations’ grades in the case of undergraduates) up to 2 points; curriculum vitae, up to 2 points;
- The evaluation of the research project for a maximum of 18 points, based on the candidate’s



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<p>knowledge of the state of art of research, clarity, originality, significance of goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The evaluation of any non-mandatory additional qualifications for a maximum of 3 points: up to 2 points for publications; up to 1 point for additional university credentials. <p>A minimum total score of 17/25 is necessary for applicants to be selected for the following phase of the evaluation process (i.e., colloquia).</p>	
<p>Date, time, location of colloquia</p>	<p>The colloquia will start in September the 19th 2017, at 10 a.m., at the University of Rome, “Foro Italico”, largo Lauro de Bosis n.15. If the number of candidates does not allow to complete the colloquia in a single day, the schedule of colloquia will continue in consecutive days. The schedule of colloquia will be published at http://www.uniroma4.it/ selecting “Accesso rapido >Dottorato”.</p> <p>The final outcomes of the entire evaluation process in all its phases will be web published at the same address.</p> <p>This communication will be the only one, and the candidates may not expect any notice or communication via regular mail prior to or after this web publication of the outcomes.</p> <p>Foreign candidates who are interested to eventually participate, should they be selected, to the colloquia via SKYPE must file a request by August the 31th 2017 to ufficio.dottorati@uniroma4.it In this request, they must also indicate their Skype address. The dates and times of the SKYPE interview, with further indications about the place where the Committee will meet for the interview, will be available at the same web address. The candidates who will not attend the SKYPE interview at the date and time that has been arranged will no longer have the opportunity to re-schedule such an interview.</p>
<p>Description of the colloquia</p>	<p>The colloquia with the candidates will focus on the oral presentation and discussion (in English or in Italian) of the research project that has been prepared by the candidates and be evaluated by the Committee (maximum score 14 points for presentation and discussion). The colloquia will also focus on the candidates’ past professional and university experiences (maximum score 2 points), as well as their motivations and goals for selecting this PhD program (maximum score 4 points). Finally, the colloquia will also serve to evaluate the candidates’ proficiency in English language (maximum score 5 points).</p> <p>As for the research project, during the colloquia, the committee will specifically evaluate the candidates’ knowledge of the relevant research background and the specific research techniques being called upon, his or her capacity to orally describe the rationale and motivations of the study, to justify the research methodology being suggested, and to elaborate on the research project’s expected findings and research and applied implications.</p> <p>The colloquia are open to public.</p>



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Scoring of the Colloquia At the colloquia, each candidate will be assigned a maximum score of 25 points.	
Final Ranking of the candidates	PhD candidates will only be included in the final ranking in case the evaluation process of their admission requirements and research project, as well as of their colloquia will yield a minimum score of 30/50.

Positions	with scholarship	10
	without scholarship	2
	Total	12