CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

TO THE AFAM PhD PROGRAM IN

MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

40TH CYCLE – 2024/2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 September 2024, 11.59 PM (CEST)

Any changes or additions to the Call for Applications will be published on the website of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music, Venice (Italy).

Given:

- The Decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 470 of 21 February 2024, "Accreditation of PhD programs proposed by AFAM Institutions" pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3, which states that "AFAM Institutions may request the accreditation of courses and their respective locations even in an associated form through the signing of agreements or the establishment of consortia, which may be the administrative headquarters of the courses, with one or more of the following entities: other Italian AFAM Institutions possessing the requirements of the preceding paragraphs or similar foreign institutions, with the possibility of issuing a multiple or joint final degree [...]";
- The Decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 544 of 27 March 2024, which starting from the academic year 2024/2025 has re-determined the annual amount of the scholarship for attending PhD Courses at €16,243.00, excluding social security charges payable by the recipient;
- The Decrees of the Ministry of University and Research No. 629 and No. 630 of 24 April 2024, which allocate funds to institutions for the implementation of PhD programs respectively on NRRP M4C1 - Inv. 4.1 "Extension of the number of PhD programs and innovative doctoral programs for public administration and cultural heritage," and on NRRP M4C2 - Inv. 3.3 “Introduction of innovative doctorates that meet the innovation needs of businesses and promote the hiring of researchers by businesses;”
- The Decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 778 of 12 June 2024, "Implementation of ANVUR [Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems] Guidelines for the accreditation of PhD programs of AFAM [Higher Education Institutions for Arts and Music in Italy] Institutions;"

and taking into account the Decision of the Board of Directors of 25 July 2024,
THE PRESIDENT DECREES

Art. 1 – ANNOUNCEMENT

This article announces a competition for the admission to the 40th cycle AFAM PhD Program in MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, which will be a three-year-long course. The PhD Program Sheet, which is considered an integral part of this Call for Applications, indicates the number of positions available, the topic, and the type of tests. The Sheet also indicates the website where information on the PhD Program and the criteria for evaluating admission applications are published. The number of positions with scholarships may be increased following additional funding from external public or private bodies, obtained both through calls for application and agreements. In the cases in which the scholarship is funded for a specific topic and on specific projects, the Conservatory reserves the right to resort to new selection procedures.

1.1 Activation and Accreditation
Pursuant to Article 3 of Ministerial Decree No. 470 of 21 February 2024, selection procedures and PhD programs can be activated pending the successful completion of the initial ANVUR evaluation and ministerial accreditation. In the event that the initial evaluation and/or accreditation procedures are not successful, the PhD Program in Music, Performance, and Technological Innovation cannot be activated, and any identified beneficiaries will lose the possibility of enrolling, without having any claim against the Conservatory for activation. Communication will be sent to the email addresses provided with the application form.

1.2 PhD Program Sheet
The available positions and scholarships, research topics, admission requirements, methods, and criteria for forming the ranking lists for the PhD Program in Music, Performance, and Technological Innovation are indicated in the PhD Program Sheet, which is an integral part of this Call for Applications and published on the website of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music, Venice (https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/dottorati-afam/). The number of positions and scholarships may be increased if additional funding becomes available, without prejudice to the deadlines for submitting the application indicated in Article 3 of the Call for Applications. Changes, updates, or additions to the PhD Program Sheet will be published on the Conservatory's website, even after the application deadline but no less than ten days before the oral exam. In the event of failure to finalize agreements with external entities for the funding of scholarships by 25 September 2024, the Conservatory reserves the right to revoke the assignment of positions to aspiring PhD students.

1.3 Type of Positions Open to the Competition
The positions covered by this Call for Applications are positions with thematically-bound scholarships tied to specific projects funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), i.e. positions that bind the recipients to carrying out PhD activities on a specific research topic indicated in the PhD Program Sheet, which is an integral part of this Call for Applications and published on the Conservatory's website. The projects related
to the individual scholarships are implemented thanks to NRRP European funds and any co-financing. These positions are subject to accounting rules and specific obligations directly connected to the projects funding them.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Italian and foreign applicants of any nationality and citizenship, regardless of age, may participate in the selection process for the PhD Program in Music, Performance, and Technological Innovation. However, they must possess at least one of the following qualifications by the application deadline:

a) A second-level academic diploma issued by institutions belonging to the AFAM sector (Higher Education Institution for Arts and Music);

b) An AFAM diploma under the previous system (before Ministerial Decree 509/99, known as the "old system"), if held together with a high school diploma;

c) A master's degree (under Ministerial Decree 509/99 or Ministerial Decree 270/2004);

d) An undergraduate degree under the previous system (old system);

e) An equivalent qualification obtained abroad and recognized as equivalent to the aforementioned second-level academic qualifications solely for the purpose of participating in the competition for admission to the PhD Program.

Students who are still enrolled in second-level AFAM diploma programs or a master's degree programs and who only need to complete their final thesis or final exam may also participate in the competition for admission. Please refer to Article 7.2 of this Call for Applications.

The suitability of foreign qualifications will be assessed by the evaluation committee solely for the purpose of conducting the examinations, notwithstanding subsequent administrative verifications in compliance with the current legislation in Italy and the country where the qualification was issued, as well as any international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies.

When submitting the Application for admission to the PhD Program, candidates must self-certify that they possess the required qualifications as specified in this article, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Law 445/2000.

The Conservatory may carry out specific inspections, at any stage of the procedure, on the veracity of the affidavits made by the candidate. If the inspection reveals the falsity of the content of the declarations, the candidate will be excluded from taking the competitive examinations or, if already enrolled as a winner of the competition, will be declared ineligible, without prejudice to the criminal penalties provided for by Article 76 of Law No. 445/2000.

Those who have already benefited, even partially, from a scholarship to attend PhD programs or equivalent courses at other university institutions in Italy cannot benefit from another PhD scholarship.
Art. 3 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE SELECTION

3.1 Application Procedure

The Application Form for admission to the selection must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM (CEST) on 5 September 2024.

A mandatory non-refundable contribution of €60.00 (sixty/00) must be paid for admission to the selection via PagoPA (https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/pagopa/) by the deadline for submitting applications.

The application to participate in the PhD Program must be submitted exclusively via PEC (Certified E-mail) to the address: conservatorio.venezia@pcert.postecert.it

To apply for admission to the selection, it is necessary to:

1. Access the PhD page of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music website: https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/dottorati-afam/
2. Download the Application Form from the “Moduli”/”Forms” section of the website: https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/dottorati-afam/
3. Pay the admission fee of €60.00 (sixty/00) using the PagoPA system at the link: https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/pagopa/
4. Attach the documents, as specified below, in PDF format. It will not be possible to add documentation to the application after the deadline
5. Applications that have not been submitted by the deadline or for which the admission fee has not been paid by the deadline will not be admitted to the competition.

No email communication will be sent to candidates regarding the successful submission of the application.

3.2 Required documents and attachments

Candidates must produce and attach the following documents in PDF format:

(a) A valid photo ID (identity card or passport), front and back scan;
(b) A dated and signed curriculum vitae (no specific format required);
(c) Certification for the attainment of each academic/university degree, first and second level, which must indicate:
   1. The AFAM institution, Italian University or similar foreign institution that issued the degree;
   2. The type of Academic Diploma or University Degree (first level, second level, master's, single-cycle master's, old system, etc.);
   3. The name of the Academic Diploma or University Degree course;
   4. The class of the degree (only if attained in Italy);
   5. The date of degree attainment;
   6. The final grade.
Here below is a list of types of certifications to be attached for each kind of institution/university that has issued the applicant’s degree:

(1) **Italian AFAM institutions or Universities**: Self-certification, dated and signed, of the attainment of the first and second level degree (First-level Academic Diploma and Second-level Academic Diploma, or old system AFAM Diploma with High School Diploma, or Bachelor's and Master's Degree, or old system Degree) and the Diploma Supplement;

(2) **Academic institutions of EU/non-EU countries**: Certification, transcript of records of the first and second level degree, and the Diploma Supplement. If available, any document useful for the declaration of authenticity and equivalence of the degree (e.g. Declaration of Equivalent Value issued by the Italian Diplomatic Authorities in the country where the degree was obtained, or attestation of authenticity and comparability issued by centers such as ENIC-NARIC). Candidates who do not have such documents at the time of application and who are successful in obtaining a PhD position must still produce the document at the time of enrollment, and in any case by the start date of the PhD Program.

(3) **Private Italian academic institutions**: Alternatively to the certificate, it is possible to attach a self-certification complete with all the information requested above, along with the Diploma Supplement (if available).

A transcript of applicants’ student records, listing the exams they have taken and grades, is required for those who, on the date of submission of the application, do not yet possess the second-level degree. Academic diploma holders and undergraduate students in Italian AFAM institutions and Universities must also include the weighted average of the exam grades at the bottom.

(d) Other assessable or useful documents are indicated in the PhD Program Sheet.

The documents that all candidates are required to attach must be submitted in either **Italian or English language**. Identity documents and degrees issued in a language other than Italian require an official translation into Italian or English carried out by the institution that issued the degree or by an authorized body. This translation must also be attached. Pursuant to current regulations, the Conservatory cannot accept certifications issued by other Italian public administrations. Degrees issued by Italian academic institutions must be self-certified by the candidates.

For provisional enrollments, please refer to Article 7.2 of this Call for Application.

**Art. 4 – ADMISSION TESTS**

The admission exam for the PhD Program is designed to ensure a suitable comparative evaluation of candidates. **The dates, verification methods, and evaluation criteria for the admission tests are indicated in the PhD Program Sheet**, which is an integral part of this Call for Applications, and
An oral examination will be scheduled. The oral examinations are public. The results of the admission tests will be published on the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music website:
https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/dottorati-afam/

Publication on the website constitutes notification. No email communication will be sent to candidates. The absence of candidates on the scheduled day or time for the tests is considered a waiver of participation in the selection process. During the tests, candidates must present a valid identification document (identity card or passport) in original form, under penalty of exclusion from the competition.

4.1 Services for people with disabilities and with Specific Learning Disorders (SLD)
Candidates in the conditions protected under Law 104/92 and Law 170/10 who require assistance or additional time for the completion of the scheduled in-person oral examination, which is accessible to candidates who make the ranking list following the evaluation of their application, must send a specific request to this effect detailing their specific needs via PEC to the address: conservatorio.venezia@pcert.postecert.it by 20 August 2024.

Art. 5 – EXAMINATION BOARD
The examination board for admission to the PhD in Music, Performance and Technological Innovation is appointed by the Director of the Conservatory.
The composition of the examination board can be consulted on the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music https://www.conservatoriovenezia.eu/dottorati-afam/
The meetings of the examination board, which is composed of 5 members from the PhD faculty board, are held primarily in person, although remote connection of one or more members is possible. The Board defines, in preliminary meetings, the methods of applying the evaluation criteria indicated in the PhD Program Sheet, which will be reported in the competition minutes.
Ultimately, the Director publishes the final outcome document indicating the successful candidates and eligible non-winning ones, as well as the overall obtained score and the eligibility for each specific scholarship.
In the case of scholarships funded by an external body or reserved positions, the Commission may be supplemented by experts representing the external body for the sole purpose of expressing a judgment on the suitability of candidates competing for the assignment of the scholarship subject to external funding or the reserved position. Any integration of the Commission will be indicated on the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music website before the date of the oral examination.

Art. 6 – RANKING LIST
The Examination Board, possibly supplemented by the expert members referred to in the previous Article 5, will provide an assessment of suitability for each candidate for the assignment of the thematically bound positions, considering the candidates' specific skills, experiences, and aptitudes, as well as the profile sought and indicated in the PhD Program Sheet.
Employees or representatives of a company cannot express interest in (nor be assigned to) a position funded or co-funded by the same company.

The **thematically bound positions and the reserved positions** are assigned based on the general merit ranking, identifying the top-ranked candidates among those who have obtained an assessment of suitability for the project theme of each position (thematically bound positions) or who possess specific requirements (reserved positions).

Following the publication of the results of the oral examination, the decrees approving the acts containing the **final ranking lists** will be drawn up and can be consulted on the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music website.

Candidates who have passed the admission tests and have been **awarded one of the positions** advertised are admitted to the PhD Program according to the ranking order, without prejudice to the specific regulations regarding thematically-bound or reserved positions contained in this article.

**In case of a tie, the following criteria will be applied:**
- if the position is covered by a scholarship, priority will be given to the less favorable economic situation, which is determined pursuant to Prime Ministerial Decree of 5 December 2013, no. 159, article 8, paragraph 4;
- in case of further parity, the younger candidate will prevail.

The **ranking list will be scrolled** following any express or tacit withdrawals from the aspired position until such position becomes vacant (Ministerial Decree 630/2024, article 8, paragraph 8). In this case, the position covered by a scholarship will be offered to the eligible candidates according to the ranking order, without prejudice to the constraints described above for reserved or thematically-bound positions.

**Art. 7 - ENROLLMENT**

7.1 **Enrollment Procedure**
Candidates who successfully make the ranking list will be admitted to the PhD Program following the formalization of the enrollment, which must take place, under penalty of exclusion, within 5 working days (fifth day included) from the publication of the ranking list and according to the procedures that will be communicated to them by the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music administrative offices and upon **payment of the prescribed Regional ESU Fee**, the amount of which will be communicated by the time of enrollment. In case of failure to formalize the enrollment, or if it is incomplete or late, the following candidate in the same ranking list will take their place.

Holders of a degree obtained abroad who are admitted to the PhD Program will be required to present a “certificate of equivalence of qualification” (“Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco”) of the declared degree. If this certificate is not submitted by the deadline indicated by the responsible office, it will not be possible to formalize enrollment in the PhD Program.

Following successful enrollment, an institutional email will be created ([surname.name.phd@conservatoriovenezia.eu](mailto:surname.name.phd@conservatoriovenezia.eu)) to which all subsequent communications addressed to the PhD student will be sent.

7.2 **Provisional Enrollments**
Those who are waiting to obtain their degree by 31 October 2024 and are therefore temporarily unable to enroll must communicate their willingness to accept the position and to enroll in the PhD Program as soon as they have obtained the required degree, by sending a communication to the institutional PEC address. The aforementioned communication must be accompanied, under penalty of exclusion, by a scan of your valid identification document (identity card or passport). Failure to make this communication by the deadline indicated in the ranking list will be equivalent to the candidate's waiver of the position.

Those who do not hold Italian citizenship and do not have the specific documentation required above at the time of enrollment will be enrolled provisionally. In order to waive the provisional condition and authorize the payment of the PhD scholarship, these candidates are required to promptly send the following documents to the institutional PEC address upon arrival in Italy:

a) their tax code (codice fiscale), issued by the Italian Revenue Agency
b) (for non-EU citizens) a valid residence permit (permesso di soggiorno). Those who do not have one must request it within 8 days of arriving in Italy and send a copy of the certified receipt issued by the Police Headquarters to the Conservatory.

The “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music reserves the right to request PhD students to declare the authenticity and equivalence of degrees obtained even in EU countries, and to present the original documentation. The suitability of the foreign degree is verified by the Conservatory in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the degree was issued, and with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of degrees for the continuation of studies. Candidates holding a foreign degree who fail to present the required documentation (either because they fail to present such documentation or their degree does not meet the requirements of Article 2), will subsequently be excluded from the PhD Program, with the obligation to return any scholarship installments that have been paid. The Conservatory reserves the right to carry out checks on the documentation relating to the degrees declared by the PhD student at any time and, if the documentation provided does not conform to what was declared by him/her, the PhD student will be excluded and will have to return any scholarship installments that have been paid.

7.3 Scroll of the Ranking List and Enrollment of Substitute Candidates
Following the possible scroll of the ranking list, a communication will be sent to eligible substitute candidates indicating the new deadlines for enrollment. Enrollment will take place according to the procedure described in the previous paragraph. Eligible substitute candidates who do not enroll by the indicated deadline will be considered to have tacitly waived their right to the position.

Art. 8 – ENROLLMENT FEES
PhD students are required to pay enrollment fees for each academic year. The amount of these fees consists of the regional tax for the right to university study and the stamp duty, which will be communicated at the time of enrollment.

The total amount of the academic contributions, applied for each academic year, is determined by the Board of Directors of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music, Venice. No total annual contribution is required for attending PhD programs. Renunciation or exclusion from the PhD
Program does not entitle the PhD student to a refund of the fees that have already been paid.

Art. 9 – POSITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

9.1 Assignment
The PhD Program Sheet, which is an integral part of this Call for Applications, indicates all the available positions and scholarships. Candidates who are awarded a PhD position are required to begin their training and research activities within the timeframes and in the manner established for them by the Faculty Board. **Failure to do so may result in their exclusion by part of the Faculty Board.**

Those who have already benefited (in whole or in part) from a scholarship to attend a PhD program in Italy cannot receive the scholarship.

9.2 Payment
Scholarships are **paid monthly, at the end of the month** (payment is made no earlier than the 25th day of the month). The PhD scholarship has a gross annual amount of €16,243.00 and is subject to the payment of INPS (social security) welfare contributions, two-thirds of which are borne by the Conservatory and one-third by the scholarship holder. PhD students have the related legal protections and rights. Scholarship holders must register for the Separately Managed Italian Social Security Fund ("Gestione Separata INPS").

Payment of the PhD scholarship can only take place after the PhD student has provided the Conservatory with their **bank details (IBAN)** that will be used for the payment of the scholarship. To make this payment, the bank account (which must be Italian) must be held in the name of the scholarship holder, or the scholarship holder must be one of the joint account holders.

The **prohibitions and restrictions on cumulative PhD scholarships** are governed by the relevant national legislation and the current Regulations on PhD Programs, to which reference is made for further details.

9.3 Compatibility and Incompatibility
Admission to the PhD Program entails an exclusive and full-time commitment on the part of the PhD student. Concurrent enrollment in other academic courses is permitted under the conditions established by Law No. 33 of 12 April 2022, Article 2, paragraph 2, and by Joint Ministerial Decrees 930/2022 and 933/2022.

Cases of total or partial incompatibility for scholarships are established by current legislation. In particular, scholarships cannot be combined with research grants or other scholarships of any kind. In the event of incompatibility, the installments of the scholarship relating to the period for which they were unduly received must be returned.

Those who have already benefited from a PhD scholarship in Italy cannot benefit from a second one. Those who have forfeited scholarships under the NRRP within the 38th and 39th cycles cannot be awarded PhD scholarships (Ministerial Decree 629/2022, Article 14, paragraph 1, letter dd) and Ministerial Decree 630/2024, Article 11, paragraph 1, letter dd).
9.4 Revocations and Forfeitures
Enrollment in the PhD Program, with the simultaneous assignment of the PhD scholarship, is subject to the outcome of the verifications regarding the coherence and compliance of the relevant research project with the thematically bound areas of the NRRP projects. It is also subject to ministerial accreditation following the initial ANVUR evaluation, as indicated in Article 1.1 of this Call for Application.

Art. 10 – COPYRIGHT OF RESULTS
Intellectual and industrial property rights to any results obtained by the PhD student, including, but not limited to, software, patentable or non-patentable industrial inventions, know-how, models, data, and data collections, are governed in accordance with current legislation and, if applicable, based on the provisions of individual agreements with third parties.

The PhD student is obliged to promptly inform the Supervisor and the PhD Coordinator of the achievement of results, pledging not to disclose them and not to use them without the prior authorization of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music.

The PhD student is also required to sign a specific confidentiality agreement and acknowledgment of intellectual property rights in relation to any confidential information, data, and documents that they may come across in the course of their activities within and/or on behalf of the Conservatory.
In any case, the PhD student is guaranteed the possibility of carrying out the ordinary publication activities provided for in the training course (dissemination of results), which must be planned in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

ART. 11 – PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING
Pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679, the processing of personal data provided by candidates when participating in the PhD competition or otherwise acquired for this purpose by the Conservatory is aimed at carrying out the competitive activities and managing the related operations and connected activities.

Personal data will be processed by the persons in charge of the competitive procedure, including the Examination Board, in the manner and to the extent necessary to pursue the aforementioned purposes, which may also include communication to third parties.

The legal basis for the processing is to be found in Articles 6, paragraph 1, letters (c) (processing for legal obligations) and (e) (processing for reasons of public interest), and 9, paragraph 2, letter (g) (processing for reasons of public interest) of EU Regulation 2016/679.

The provision of personal data is essential to allow enrollment, and any refusal to provide it makes it impossible to proceed with any admission to the PhD Program.

The Conservatory will retain and use the personal data and contacts provided by the enrolled students in the PhD Program even after the completion of the competitive procedures, for operational, administrative, accounting and/or other purposes connected with the management of institutional activities and for compliance with legal obligations, as well as for the dissemination of any future opportunities (scholarships, prizes, etc.).

Candidates have the right to access their personal data, to request rectification, removal, restriction of processing, and to object to their processing by sending requests to the institutional PEC address.
In addition to administrative and judicial remedies, it is possible to appeal to the Data Protection Authority: [https://www.garanteprivacy.it](https://www.garanteprivacy.it) in the event that the processing is considered in violation of the EU Regulation.

The data controller is the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music with registered office in 30124 VENICE - San Marco 2810.

The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dpo@veronicadeirossi.com.

**Art. 12 – TERMS OF EFFECTIVENESS**

This Call for Applications is issued pending the ministerial accreditation of the PhD Program in *Music, Performance and Technological Innovation*, pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 470 of 21 February 2024. In the event that the Program is not accredited, it will not be possible to proceed with activation for the 40th cycle - 2024/2025.

In the case of scholarships funded or co-funded by third parties, the assignment of scholarships will be pending until confirmation of funding.

**Art. 13 – REFERENCE STANDARDS**


The submission of the application for participation in the selection process, through the procedure referred to in Article 3, implies the acceptance by the candidate of the rules contained in this Call for Applications and in the PhD Program Regulations, and of the reporting rules specific to the various research projects on which the scholarship is funded.

*Administrative Procedure Manager*

Dr. Carmelo Sorgon

Administrative Director of the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music, Venice

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Venice, 6 August 2024

The Director

M° Roberto Gottipavero