

PhD PROGRAMME IN "SOCIETY IN CHANGE: POLICIES, RIGHTS AND SECURITY"			
Coordinator	Prof. Alessandro Sterpa		
Department	Department of Economics, Engineering, Society and Business Organization		
Program duration	3 years: 1 st November 2026 - 31 st October 2029 Thesis Defence: during July 2030		
Program objectives	The doctoral program "Society in Change: Policies, Rights, Security", has as its main objective the study and interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in socio-political, legal, institutional and linguistic areas that can contribute to the training of professionals able to read the complexity of the processes of social changes affecting 21st century societies. The systemic shock caused by the spread of the pandemic, in terms of policies, rights and social insecurity, must be read within a broader perspective of analysis, which is able to link the raising perception of risks and uncertainties to long term trajectories. These were already taking shape in the middle of the last century as an effect of the acceleration of social changes and of the relative unpredictability, in the short term, of new features of social contexts and individual conditions. This late modernity rupture of the social balances laboriously constructed in the first part of the twentieth century has opened systemic crises which have affected institutions, organizations and the intermediate social structure in the macro-social dimension. It has also affected the meso- and micro-social daily spaces, forcing individuals to a constant and costly activity of redefining their identity and their role in social interactions.		
Number of positions	Total positions	8	of which:
	(A) positions with scholarships	3	
	(B) Industrial PhD position with a company	1	Reserved for employees of EUI HUB S.r.l., acting on behalf of École Universitaire Internationale
	(C) position reserved for employees of partner public bodies	4	Italian Revenue Agency (2) Roma Capitale (2)
Period abroad	PhD students with a scholarship are required to spend a period of study and research abroad at international universities, companies, or research institutions. The planned total duration of each doctoral student's stay abroad is normally between 3 and 6 months, even if not continuous. PhD students, with and without scholarship - with the exception of the positions mentioned in Article 9, paragraph 6 of Ministerial Decree 226/2021 - are entitled to an additional budget of at least 50% of the scholarship amount. This is for periods abroad that don't exceed the duration above mentioned, subject to any further available funds. In any case, the scholarship increase is only granted for continuous periods of no less than thirty days		



(A) No. 3 Positions with scholarship funded by the University of Tuscia	No. 3 scholarships aimed at carrying out the following research projects, with specific themes: a. “European Integration and Regulatory and Institutional Transformation” Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Alessandro Sterpa b. “Preventive Archaeology and Digital Technologies” Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Salvatore De Vincenzo c. “Archaeology, Figurative Culture, and Digital Technologies for the Study and Valorization of Roman-Era Wall Paintings: Iconographic Aspects and Chronological Issues Regarding the Second Style in the Vesuvian Area and Italy” Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Salvatore De Vincenzo Note: the research projects proposed by the candidates must be consistent with the above-mentioned research themes, otherwise they will be excluded from the selection process
(B) No. 1 position allocated to the Industrial PhD Program	1 position reserved for a staff member of EUI HUB S.r.l., representing École Universitaire Internationale, dedicated to conducting research on the following topic: “Cognitive Domain: research and innovation aimed at enhancing cognitive capabilities and achieving cognitive superiority as tools to counter the threat of Cognitive Warfare and protect against cognitive attacks” Scientific Supervisors: Prof. Alessandro Sterpa and Prof. Sabrina Magris Note: the research projects proposed by the candidates must be consistent with the above-mentioned research themes, otherwise they will be excluded from the selection process
(C) No. 4 positions reserved for public institution employees	No. 2 positions reserved for employees of Roma Capitale, aimed at conducting the following research projects, with specific themes: a. “Administrative Procedure and Artificial Intelligence”. Examination of the administrative procedures and acts of Roma Capitale to identify one or more case studies enabling an analysis of AI applicability across the various stages of administrative action. Simulation of models for integrating AI into administrative activities, and examination of the legal effects on third parties and the municipal organization itself—with particular regard to the deployment of human and financial resources. Assessment of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability regarding AI usage, as well as the



legal issues involved, in light of both European and national regulations. Research projects may address areas where the national legislature has already envisaged the use of AI (e.g., concessions, public procurement, and contracts) as well as sectors not yet regulated at the national level, with the aim of proposing appropriate legislative interventions by the competent authorities where necessary.

Scientific Coordinators: Prof. Andrea Patroni Griffi and Dr. Luca Di Maio

b. "Administrative decentralization and reform of the Municipi of Roma Capitale"

The research shall examine current regulations regarding municipal decentralization, with particular reference to the relevant municipal regulations and the Statute of Roma Capitale. In light of applicable state laws, the research shall propose innovative regulatory solutions—including updates to the existing regulatory framework—grounded in the constitutional and legislative principles governing public administration activities.

Scientific Coordinators: Prof. Alessandro Sterpa - Dr. Luca Di Maio

Note: In accordance with Article 10 of Decree No. 226/2021, the organization commits to regularly pay the salary to employees admitted to the PhD program for all three years of the legal duration. This excludes Roma Capitale employees from the possibility of taking leave of absence under Article 2 of Law No. 476/1984, as it is incompatible with the needs of the Administration and the objectives of the research projects (Article 4 of the Agreement between UNITUS and Roma Capitale).

The research projects proposed by the candidates must be consistent with the above-mentioned research themes, otherwise they will be excluded from the selection process.

no. 2 positions reserved for employees of the Italian Revenue Agency to undertake research in:

a. "The digitalization of the economy and the emergence of new taxation models regarding tax-paying capacity, equity, and tax competition: the new global minimum corporate tax"

Scientific Coordinators: Prof. Andrea Genovese, Prof. Gianfranco Liace - Dr. Francesca Vitale



	b. “Accounting and tax treatment of cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets in Italy: practical implications and critical issues, including in light of regulations in force in other EU countries” Scientific Coordinators: Prof. Andrea Genovese, Prof. Dario Buzzelli - Dr. Francesca Vitale Note: Participation in the program excludes employees of the Agenzia delle Entrate (Revenue Agency) from taking a leave of absence. The research projects proposed by the candidates must be consistent with the above-mentioned research themes, otherwise they will be excluded from the selection process.
Admission requirements	Admission is open to candidates of any nationality and age possessing one of the following requirements by the deadline of the call for application: - Italian degree “Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento” (4-year-university degree) - Italian degree “Laurea Specialistica” or “Magistrale” (2nd-level two-year Italian university degree/Master program) - International academic qualification (degree) awarded in a foreign University or in the context of inter-university cooperation and mobility agreements. Admission is also open to students who will obtain their degree by 31 October 2026.
Evaluation of candidates (Maximum score: 80/80)	The candidates will be selected on the basis of their qualifications and an oral interview. The maximum score assigned is 80/80.
Evaluation of the qualifications (Maximum score: 15/80)	On the basis of the University Regulations for Ph.D. programs (art. 14), the following qualifications are evaluated: - Degree thesis with an abstract in English; - University career (exam record and graduation marks); - Publications; - Participation in research projects; - Professional experience and other qualifications held by the candidate in the <i>curriculum vitae et studiorum</i>, including letters of reference from university professors. - Research project proposal. The maximum score is 15/80. The 15 points are distributed as follows: Up to a maximum of 7: - Degree thesis accompanied by and abstract in English; - University Career (exam record and graduation marks); - Publications; - Participation in research projects; - Professional experience and other qualifications held by the candidate in the <i>curriculum vitae et studiorum</i>, including letters of reference from university professors;



	Up to a maximum of 8: Proposed research project. To access the oral exam, a minimum score of 7/15 is required. Before the interview, the scores assigned to candidates' CV and application documents will be published on the PhD Programs page of the University website.
Evaluation of the oral interview (Maximum score: 65/80)	The interview is aimed at ascertaining the preparation and aptitudes of candidates for scientific research and will include the assessment of the knowledge of the English language. 15 points are reserved for the assessment of knowledge of the English language, while 50 points are reserved for the assessment of preparation and aptitude for research. The oral exam is passed only if a minimum overall score of 40/80 is obtained, provided that the English test has obtained a minimum score of 8 points. The minimum oral score is 40/65 and the maximum is 65/80.
Topics of the interview	The interview will focus on the research project proposed by each candidate and attached to the application. Said project, composed in a maximum of 5 pages, may be written in Italian or English. The knowledge of the English language will be tested through a reading comprehension and translation test using an academic text or extract from a scientific journal. After the interview, the scores will be published
Timetable and interview location	The exams will be held by September 11, 2026. The complete examinations schedule will be published on the PhD Programs page of the University website by the deadline of the application call.
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