




<b>MOLECULAR MEDICINE</b>	
<b>CYCLE</b>	<b>XLI</b>
<b>COORDINATOR</b>	Prof. Prisco MIRANDOLA email: <a href="mailto:prisco.mirandola@unipr.it">prisco.mirandola@unipr.it</a> Department of Medicine and Surgery
<b>DURATION</b>	3 years
<b>STARTING DATE OF THE PHD PROGRAM</b>	01/11/2025
<b>POSITIONS PUT OUT TO COMPETITION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ADMISSION PROCEDURES</b>	Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS and Research Project Oral Exam in PRESENCE
<b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b>	Regardless of age and citizenship, applicants holding at least one of the following academic qualifications can apply for admission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Laurea specialistica or Laurea magistrale (second cycle master's degree)</li> <li>– Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento (degree obtained under the previous Italian regulations);</li> <li>– Second cycle Master's degree obtained abroad, equivalent to the above mentioned Italian degrees and recognized as suitable for the admission to doctoral program</li> </ul> Undergraduates can also apply for admission to the selection, with the obligation to obtain the degree <b>by 31.10.2025</b>
<b>TRAINING OBJECTIVES</b>	
The Research Doctorate Course in Molecular Medicine aims to provide PhD students with the cultural and methodological skills necessary to carry out high-profile research in different scientific disciplines in the biomedical field, integrated in an interdisciplinary perspective. The acquired training will allow PhD students in Molecular Medicine to employ themselves in high level research and development activities in Universities, research centres and industries engaged in the medical, biological and biotechnological sectors.	
<b>RESEARCH AREAS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In vitro study of the role of inflammatory cytokines in the phenotypic transition of epithelial and vascular cells.</li> <li>• Risk stratification in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) based on new salivary biomarkers (miRNA)</li> <li>• Role of the DDIT4 Protein in Chemoresistance Mechanisms</li> <li>• Salivary diagnostics and oral toxicity in patients affected by infiltrating ductal breast carcinoma undergoing immunotherapy and/or with targeted molecular therapies.</li> <li>• Study and design of bioactive materials for the repair of bone and mucosal defects in the oral cavity and jaw bones</li> <li>• Study and design of novel score systems for the late PMI estimation.</li> <li>• The impact of plant-based diets on the increasing incidence of orthorexia nervosa in Emilia-Romagna: sustainable eating but unsustainable.</li> </ul>	

<b>Position with Scholarship</b>		
<b>N°</b>	<b>Funding entity</b>	<b>Research Topic</b>
<b>1</b>	Scholarship funded by University of Parma (Ministerial funds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In vitro study of the role of inflammatory cytokines in the phenotypic transition of epithelial and vascular cells.</li> <li>• Risk stratification in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) based on new salivary biomarkers (miRNA)</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	Scholarship co-funded by Fondazione Cariparma	



Position with Scholarship LINKED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS (art. 6 of the Competition notice)		
N°	Funding entity	BOUND RESEARCH TOPIC
1	Scholarship funded by Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds AIRC Project Start-up 2024 ID 30579)	Role of the DDIT4 Protein in Chemoresistance Mechanisms
1	Scholarship funded by Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds Prof. Meleti)	Salivary diagnostics and oral toxicity in patients affected by infiltrating ductal breast carcinoma undergoing immunotherapy and/or with targeted molecular therapies
1	Scholarship partly financed with UNIVERSITY funds and co-financed by the Department of Medicina and Sugery (funds Prof.ssa Bugelli)	Study and design of novel score systems for the late PMI estimation
1	Scholarship funded by The Italian National Research Council C.N.R. - ISSMC	Study and design of bioactive materials for the repair of bone and mucosal defects in the oral cavity and jaw bones
1	Scholarship funded by EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION (PR.FSE + 2021/2027 – DGR n. 344 del 10/03/2025) CUP D92J25000110002 	The impact of plant-based diets on the increasing incidence of orthorexia nervosa in Emilia-Romagna: sustainable eating but unsustainable.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES
<b>Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS:</b> up to 60 points (a minimum score of 10 points shall be required to be admitted to the Oral Exam) <b>ORAL EXAM:</b> up to 60 points <b>Minimum score for ELIGIBILITY:</b> 70/120

ORAL EXAM PROGRAM		
THE ORAL EXAM TAKES PLACE IN THE PRESENCE.		
The ORAL test involves the presentation and discussion of the research project by the candidate and is aimed at verifying the candidate's aptitude for scientific research and his general preparation on topics related to the research topics of the doctoral course		
Foreign Language the fluency of which shall be assessed during the Oral Exam	ENGLISH	The evaluation of the knowledge of this language will be by an oral examination and will consist in translating of a scientific text.

SCHEDULE OF THE ADMISSION EXAMS	
ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS	It is the candidate's responsibility to verify the outcome of the evaluation of qualifications, which can be consulted in their reserved area by connecting to the page <a href="http://unipr.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do">http://unipr.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do</a> in the days preceding the date of the Oral Exam



ORAL EXAM	DATE	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	
	TIME	10:30 am (Italian Time)	
	PLACE	Department of Medicine and Surgery Via Gramsci, 14 43126 PARMA - ITALY	
FURTHER INFORMATION		<b>The choice of the Research Topic to be expressed in Annex A is not binding on the assignment of the research project, and it is intended to assess candidates skills during the admission exam. <u>The PhD research topic will be assigned by the Academic Board.</u></b>	
		THE INTERVIEW MAY BE HELD ALSO IN ENGLISH	For foreign candidates, the admission examinations may be held in English at the candidate's choice.

LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED AND THEIR ASSESSMENT		
MANDATORY DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE ON-LINE APPLICATION		
ANNEX A	(art. 3.2 of the Competition notice)	
Identification Document	Scanned Copy of a valid identity document with photo (i.e. identity card, passport)	
Curriculum Vitae et studiorum	No specific CV format is required (see art. 3.2 of the Competition notice)	
Abstract of degree thesis	Abstract of the second cycle master’s degree thesis. Undergraduate applicants must submit the draft of the thesis approved by their supervisor (abstract/draft of the thesis: 10.000 characters including spaces)	
Academic Qualifications	<b>Certificates and academic transcript of records for both Bachelor’ and Master’ degrees</b> containing the following details for each degree held: (art. 3.2 of the Competition notice): University that granted the degree - Type of degree (first cycle/second cycle/single cycle) Name of the degree program - Date of graduation - Final mark - List of exams and corresponding scores (academic transcript of records) - Translation into Italian or English (only for degrees issued in languages other than Italian or English).	
Research Project	Written in Italian or in English, according to the format attached to the competition notice It will have to focus on an original research topic ( <b>unpublished, developed personally by the candidate, PENALTY NOT EVALUATION. It should be noted that the Examination Board can use of IT tools useful for verifying the originality of the submitted Project</b> ) <u>It does not represent a constraint with respect to the following choice of the doctoral thesis,</u> which will be assigned by the Academic Board	
LIST OF EVALUABLE QUALIFICATIONS		
(only qualifications attested by a document drawn up in Italian or in English)		
Curriculum Vitae et studiorum	Including academic career and postgraduate experience, accompanied by a statutory declaration in lieu of the certification of the exams passed with the relevant marks, as well as the final graduation mark (up to 10 points).	Up to 15 points
	It will also be evaluated the exam marks and the graduation mark (up to 5 points). Score related to the final mark: - 110 with honours (magna cum laude): 5 points; - 110: 3 points; - From 100 to 109: 0.2 point for each mark unit	



	Score related to the average of the exam marks (only for the candidate will attain the degree no later than 31 October 2023): - > 28/30: 5 points - > 27/30: 3 points - > 25/30: 1 point	
<b>Graduation thesis</b>	Consistency with the research themes of the PhD course and quality of the research methodology	<b>Up to 7 points</b>
<b>Research Project</b>	Points relating to the research project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific value and originality of the proposal: max 2.5 points</li> <li>articulation of the proposal: max 2.5 points</li> <li>proposal feasibility: max 2.5 points</li> <li>consistency with the research themes of the PhD course: max 2.5 points</li> </ul>	<b>Up to 10 points</b>
<b>Statement of Research Interest</b>	Short text – maximum 2 pages – in Italian or in English, aimed at explaining the candidate's reasons to attend the PhD program and at describing her/his specific research interests	<b>Up to 8 points</b>
<b>Scientific Publications</b>	Articles on national and international journals, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters etc. Evaluation of the candidate's contribution and of the scientific relevance of the editorial product.	<b>Up to 7 points</b>
<b>Reference Letters</b>	A maximum of 3 written by professors or researchers at the University of origin of the candidate or from other universities or from experts in the research areas working in public or private research facilities. The candidate must upload them through the procedure of the competition online registration	<b>Up to 3 points</b>
<b>Other Academic qualifications</b>	First or second level Master's degree obtained in Italy and/or specialization degree in subjects consistent with the research topics of this PhD program	<b>Up to 5 points</b>
<b>Other experiences (training, work, research, teaching, etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research activity (basic, applied, translational, etc.) carried out in any capacity, including under research grants and as a member of research units.</li> <li>Working activity</li> <li>Professional and/or training internship</li> <li>Language proficiency certificates</li> <li>Periods of study abroad, outside the country of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes)</li> <li>Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, awards, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>Up to 5 points</b>
<b>EVALUATION ORAL EXAM</b>		
<b>Interview Program</b>	<b>Evaluation CRITERIA</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>The ORAL EXAM includes the presentation of the research project</b> and is intended to assess the suitability of the applicant to pursue scientific research as well as the general knowledge of issues connected to the PhD course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knowledge of the foreign language: max 4 points</li> <li>ability to argue the project proposal: max 28 points</li> <li>knowledge of chosen topic: max 28 points</li> </ul>	<b>Up to 60 points</b>