



TRASLATIONAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCES	
CYCLE	XLII
COORDINATOR	Prof. Gabriele MISSALE email: gabriele.missale@unipr.it Department of Medicine and Surgery
DURATION	3 years
START DATE	01/11/2026
POSITIONS AVAILABLE	9
ADMISSION PROCEDURES	Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS and Research Project Oral Test in PRESENCE
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	Regardless of age and citizenship, applicants may apply if they hold at least one of the following qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale or equivalent);• a degree awarded under the previous Italian system;• an equivalent academic qualification obtained abroad, recognized as suitable for admission to the PhD programme. Applicants who have not yet graduated may also apply, provided that they obtain their degree by 31 October 2026 .
TRAINING OBJECTIVES	
<p>The PhD Program in Translational Medical and Surgical Sciences is designed as a multidisciplinary doctorate, where the common denominator of the various research activities conducted by PhD students is the application of acquired knowledge to clinical practice. Indeed, the close link between preclinical and clinical research will enable the transfer of discoveries and methodological skills acquired through experimental studies into medical practice. This will allow PhD students to address real-world issues ranging from diagnosis to therapy, and from prevention to rehabilitation, which are nonetheless fundamentally linked to human pathology and patient care.</p> <p>The bidirectional exchange between laboratory and clinical research will feed the results of clinical and epidemiological observation back into the laboratory, while simultaneously anchoring experimental research to topics arising from inputs and verifications carried out directly on humans.</p> <p>Therefore, the ultimate goal of the PhD Program in Translational Medical and Surgical Sciences is to train highly qualified PhD graduates, offering them the opportunities, skills, and technological resources necessary to conduct high-level translational research within public or private, national or foreign entities, including—but not limited to—Universities, Research Institutes, and PharmaMed Industries.</p>	
RESEARCH AREAS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stem cells in the diagnosis and therapy of neoplasms, chronic and degenerative diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and musculoskeletal disorders;2. Translational medicine and immunological dysregulation in digestive, respiratory, infectious, hematological, oncological, endocrinological, nephrological, and dermatological diseases, as well as vasculitis;3. Plasticity, function, and diagnostic-therapeutic use of genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic, and metabolomic platforms of cells, organs, and tissues in the prevention or presence of neoplasms, infections, genetic, chronic, dysmetabolic, and degenerative diseases, obstetric-neonatal conditions, and in response to environmental factors, lifestyles, and drugs;4. Development and "theranostic" function of technologically advanced imaging and phenotyping platforms in the prevention or presence of neoplasms, infections, chronic, dysmetabolic, and degenerative diseases, obstetric-neonatal conditions, and in response to environmental factors, lifestyles, and drugs;5. Development and application of technologically advanced devices, including those of biological composition or origin, for measuring, supporting, or replacing the function of cells, tissues, and organs in medical and surgical diseases;	



6. Advanced and innovative strategies for functional recovery and rehabilitation in the prevention or presence of neoplasms, infections, chronic, dysmetabolic, and degenerative diseases, obstetric-neonatal conditions, and in response to environmental factors, lifestyles, and drugs;
7. The role of governance and organization of healthcare systems and services in the prevention and care of diseases of major social and economic relevance, including illnesses caused by environmental noxious agents and occupational diseases;
8. The role of the microbiota and microbiome in translational medicine and surgery;
9. Extraction and role of "big data" in translational medicine and surgery;
10. The role of advanced technologies, including robotics, in translational surgery;
11. The role of qualitative and quantitative imaging in the diagnosis of neoplasms, infections, and chronic-degenerative diseases.

Position with Scholarship		
N°	Funding entity	Research Topic, if any
2	University of Parma (Ministerial funds, University funds and Cariparma Foundation)	
Position with Scholarship LINKED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS (art. 6 of the Competition notice)		
N°	Funding entity	BOUND RESEARCH TOPIC
1	partially funded by University and Cariparma Foundation funds and co-funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds project CODICE FERR_C_23_PRIN_PNR R-P2022WEXP2_01 CUP D53D23016420001 Prof.ssa Boni)	Modulation of the immune response in patients undergoing treatment for chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis delta co-infection
1	partially funded by University and Cariparma Foundation funds and co-funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds project CODICE MASTER_II_2024-25_RICERCA_PRECLINICA-E-CLINICA Prof.ssa Esposito)	Multicenter study on pediatric tuberculosis in Italy: analyzing epidemiology, diagnosis, clinical phenotypes, treatments, safety, and outcomes to improve care pathways"
1	partially funded by University and Cariparma Foundation funds and co-funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds project CODICE TISEO_2020_CT_AOUPR_ASTRAZENECA_SAVANNAH Prof. Tiseo)	Clinical and preclinical project aimed at studying metabolic reprogramming as a potential mechanism of resistance to targeted therapy in lung cancer using an integrated multi-omics approach .
1	partially funded by University and Cariparma Foundation funds and co-funded by Soc. Cooperativa Sociale "Corallo" a.r.l	Implementation of a local hospital-community PDTA for diabetic foot complications.
1	funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds project CODICE ARALDI_2024_HORIZON-EUROPE_ERC-2024-STG CUP D93C24002190006)	Peptide Amidation in Human Endocrine Cells.
1	funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery (funds project CODICE ROTI_G_25_MUR_01CUP D53C25002530001)	Targeting the origin of chromosome fusion in childhood leukemia.
1	co-funded by the Department of Medicine and Surgery and co-funded by AIL Parma ODV – Associazione Italiana contro Leucemie, Linfomi, Mieloma	Spatial Characterization of the Interaction Between the Microenvironment and the Leukemic Stem Cell Compartment in High-Risk Acute Leukemias



ADMISSION ASSESSMENT

Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS: up to 43 points

ORAL TEST: up to 77 points

Minimum score for ELIGIBILITY: 70/120

ORAL TEST PROGRAM

THE ORAL TEST TAKES IN PRESENCE and with the possibility of carrying out the interview **REMOTELY** only for candidates unable to take the test in person for valid health reasons. To this end, candidates must submit **a motivated REQUEST** as per the model attached to the competition announcement)

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 themes of the doctoral course

Foreign Language

the fluency of which shall be assessed during the Oral Test

ENGLISH

The knowledge of the English language will be assessed orally and will consist in reading and translating a scientific text

SCHEDULE OF ADMISSION TEST

ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS		It is the candidate's responsibility to verify the outcome of the titles evaluation, which can be consulted in their reserved area by connecting to the page http://unipr.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do in the days preceding the date of the Oral Test. Publication on the website constitutes official notification. No individual communication will be sent to candidates by email.
ORAL EXAM	DATE	7 th September 2026 (with possible extension to the following day)
	TIME	09:00 am (Italian Time)
	PLACE	ROOM 1 - POLO GRAMSCI (ROOM 3 – POLO GRAMSCI for the possible extension to September, 8) Department of Medicine and Surgery Via A. Gramsci, 14 43126 PARMA - ITALY
FURTHER INFORMATION		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 test. The PhD research topic will be assigned by the Academic Board.
THE INTERVIEW MAY BE HELD ALSO IN ENGLISH		For foreign candidates, the admission test 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	Certificates and academic transcript of records for both Bachelor' and Master' degrees 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	<p>The research proposal must be written in Italian or English, in accordance with the format attached to the Call for Applications. It must focus on an original research topic. In accordance with the Guidelines for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in education and research, the candidates must explicitly state whether they have used Generative Artificial Intelligence systems in the production of the research proposal attached to their application form, specifying which tools were used and for which parts of the document. During the oral examination, the Admission Board will assess the candidate's full mastery of the content included in the document and their ability to justify the methodological and scientific choices made in the project.</p> <p><u>The research proposal does not constitute a binding commitment for the subsequent choice of the PhD research topic, which will be assigned by the Academic Board</u></p> <p>Failure to submit the research proposal will result in exclusion from the selection procedure.</p>	
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. The marks of the exams and the graduation mark will be the most relevant element of the evaluation.	Up to 9 points
Graduation mark	Score assignable for the final mark: - 110 with honours (magna cum laude): 5 points - 110: 3 points - From 106 to 109: 2 points - From 102 to 105: 1 point	Up to 8 points
Average of the exam marks (only for candidates enrolled under condition and graduating by 10/31/2026)	Score assignable for the average of the exam marks: - 30/30: 5 points - From 28/30 to 29/30: 3 points - From 26/30 to 27/30: 2 points - From 24/30 to 25/30: 1 point	Up to 8 points
Graduation thesis	Congruence with the research topics of the PhD course and quality of the research methodology	Up to 2 points
Research Project	Score assignable for the research project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific value and originality of the proposal: max 2 points ○ Description and structure of the proposal: max 1 point ○ Proposal feasibility: 2 points ○ Congruence with the training objectives of the PhD program: 1 point 	Up to 6 points



Statement of Research Interest	Short text – maximum 1 page – 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	Up to 1 point
Scientific Publications	Articles on national and international journals, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters etc.	Up to 9 points
Reference Letters	A maximum of 2 letters, written by Professors or Researchers from the applicant's University or from other Universities or from experts in the research field working in public or private research facilities. The reference letters must be sent directly by the signer to the address e-mail: paola.storti@unipr.it The candidate, therefore, must not uploading them through the procedure of the competition online registration.	Up to 1 points
Other Academic qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second level Master's degree and Specialization: 2 points • First level Master's degree and/or Advanced training and/or specialization and/or Higher Education course: 1 point 	Up to 2 points
Other experiences (training, work, research, teaching, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research activities (basic, applied, translational, etc.) carried out in any way, including those covered by research grant, and conducted as a staff member of research units • Working activity • Activities at accredited laboratories • Professional and/or training internship • Language proficiency certificates • Periods of study abroad, outside the country of origin (e.g. Erasmus or similar programmes) • Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, awards, etc.) 	Up to 5 points
EVALUATION ORAL EXAM		
Interview Program	Evaluation CRITERIA	POINTS
The ORAL TEST includes the presentation of the research project 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"> ○ Ability to argument the project proposal: up to 28 points ○ Discussion of the critical points of the project: up to 18 points ○ Ability to provide an adequate scientific context to the project proposal: up to 12 points ○ Ability to mitigate risks deriving from unexpected results: up to 12 points ○ Knowledge of the English language: up to 7 points 	Up to 77 points