



MOLECULAR MEDICINE	
CYCLE	XLII
COORDINATOR	Prof. Prisco MIRANDOLA email: prisco.mirandola@unipr.it Department of Medicine and Surgery
DURATION	3 years
START DATE	01/11/2026
POSITIONS AVAILABLE	4 (Modified with the Rector Decree no. 1001 of July 2, 2026)
ADMISSION PROCEDURES	Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS and Research Project Oral Exam in PRESENCE
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	Regardless of age and citizenship, applicants may apply if they hold at least one of the following qualifications: • 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	
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 PhDs 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.	
RESEARCH AREAS	
• Extracellular Vesicles in Pancreatic Cancer: From Liquid Biopsy to Targeted Therapy • Cell-ECM Interactions During Cancer Invasion and inflammation • Integrated Biological and Clinical Determinants of Craniofacial Growth, Airway Development and Bone Remodeling in Orthodontic Patients • Sport and health • The use of gene editing in the functional analysis of the organization and structure of hematopoietic tissue	

Position with Scholarship		
N°	Funding entity	Research Topic
2	University of Parma (Ministerial funds, University funds and Cariparma Foundation)	• Cell-ECM Interactions During Cancer Invasion and inflammation. • Sport and health. • The use of gene editing in the functional analysis of the organization and structure of hematopoietic tissue.
1	Fully funded by Cariparma Foundation	



Position with Scholarship LINKED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS (art. 6 of the Competition notice) (*Modified with the Rector Decree no. 1001 of July 2, 2026)		
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 Prof. Meleti)	Integrated Biological and Clinical Determinants of Craniofacial Growth, Airway Development and Bone Remodeling in Orthodontic Patients

ADMISSION ASSESSMENT
Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS: up to 60 points (a minimum score of 10 points shall be required to be admitted to the Oral Exam) ORAL EXAM: up to 60 points Minimum score for ELIGIBILITY: 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 http://unipr.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do in the days preceding the date of the Oral Exam. Publication on the website constitutes official notification. No individual communication will be sent to candidates by email.
ORAL EXAM	DATE	8 th September 2026
	TIME	10:30 am (Italian Time)
	PLACE	Department of Medicine and Surgery Via 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 exam. <u>The PhD research topic will be assigned by the Academic Board.</u>
		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)
Degree thesis	The full thesis in pdf format. Undergraduate applicants must submit the draft of the thesis approved by their supervisor.
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	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. <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> Failure to submit the research proposal will result in exclusion from the selection procedure.

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). 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 2026): - > 28/30: 5 points - > 27/30: 3 points - > 25/30: 1 point	Up to 15 points
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Graduation thesis	Consistency with the research themes of the PhD course and quality of the research methodology	Up to 7 points
Research Project	Points relating to the research project: ○ Scientific value and originality of the proposal: max 2.5 points ○ articulation of the proposal: max 2.5 points ○ proposal feasibility: max 2.5 points ○ consistency with the research themes of the PhD course: max 2.5 points	Up to 10 points
Statement of Research Interest	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	Up to 8 points
Scientific Publications	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.	Up to 5 points
Reference Letters	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	Up to 5 points
Other Academic qualifications	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	Up to 5 points
Other experiences (training, work, research, teaching, etc.)	– Research activity (basic, applied, translational, etc.) carried out in any capacity, including under research grants and as a member of research units. – Working activity – Professional and/or training internship – Language proficiency certificates – Periods of study abroad, outside the country of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility 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 EXAM 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	○ knowledge of the foreign language: max 4 points ○ ability to argue the project proposal: max 28 points ○ knowledge of chosen topic: max 28 points	Up to 60 points