

PhD Program Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn – The Open University, XXV cycle

Call for PhD students n. 3/2023

Duration of Ph.D. Thesis & Financial Support

Students are expected to complete their thesis within three years, with the possibility of a fourth year without salary, to write up the thesis (should this be necessary). The gross salary is € 16.000,00 per year for three years from which taxes (approximately 10%) will be subtracted. Students are liable to an annual registration fee to be paid to the Open University (not to the Stazione Zoologica). The Stazione Zoologica will cover the registration fee for three years.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold or be in the process of receiving (within October 30th 2023):

1. an advanced degree such as a **Master of Science (M.Sc.) or its equivalent** in a scientific area coherent with the project proposed;
and, where English is not the applicant's first language,

2. an **IELTS certificate** (dated within the last two years) with scores that meet the minimum requirements of 6.5 overall score, and no less than 6.0 in any of the four elements (reading, writing, listening and speaking).
Alternative language certificate accepted:

- a degree completed either in the UK or in one of the majority English speaking countries listed below is also considered a proof of English proficiency:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Malta
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

The PhD Program is in English. Where English is not the applicant's first language, he/she must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the English language to support successful study at research degree standard. Fluency in spoken English will be assessed during the interview and is a strict requirement.

Thesis Supervision

Each student is assigned a Supervision Team before the start of the internship, whose appointment is proposed by the direct supervisor (Director of Studies) and approved by the Open University. The Supervision Team is composed at least by:

- one direct supervisor (Director of Studies), who will guide the student during the whole thesis work and will supervise the student on a daily basis;
- one external supervisor, (not belonging to SZN staff), appointed at the beginning of the internship, who will offer an independent assessment of the student progress annually.

It is possible to appoint additional members of the supervision team, as Internal (SZN staff), External (non-SZN staff) Supervisors or Advisors.

Courses and Training

PhD-level training is offered annually (2-3 courses per year) on scientific topics and complementary skills, together with specialized seminars (12-14 per year) offered by scientists invited by the SZN on different topics. Attendance to courses, seminars and all PhD Program's events is mandatory. Students are required to follow all training events as well as the seminars and the tutorials before the seminars in order to qualify for the degree. All courses, seminars and tutorials are held in English.

Selection procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee on the basis of the candidate's Education grade, experience and skills in the project area, motivation, reference letters and English proficiency.

Candidates will be notified by email the results of the applications evaluations.

Selected candidates will be invited for interviews.

The interviews (remote internet video conference) will be conducted in English and candidates will be asked to present their previous scientific experience and to discuss the project to which they are applying to. Their proficiency in English will be also tested.

Candidates with disabilities should please detail any eventual facility they require to participate in the interview. Every effort will be made to ensure that they can participate on an equal basis with other candidates and all reasonable arrangements requested by disabled candidates will be adopted.

The final appointment of the successful candidates is subject to the approval of the Open University.

Final candidates are expected to start their internship on **December 1st**.

If you have any question regarding the application process, please, contact Gabriella Grossi at phdszn(at)szn.it.

Special needs

Candidates with disabilities should please detail in the application form, any eventual facility they require to participate in the interview. Every effort will be made to ensure that they can participate on an equal basis with other candidates and all reasonable arrangements requested by disabled candidates will be adopted.

Practical information

The SZN does not offer lodging or financial support for moving expenses, neither parental support. Students are offered practical support for their settling in Naples through the Higher Education & University Liaison Office that can be contacted at phdszn(at)szn.it.

Read [SZN PhD Program Body of Rules](#) and [Fellowship and tax info](#)

DEADLINE October 11th 2023 - h. 12.00

Interviews of selected candidates will be held in videoconference on October 17th 2023