

**Announcement for admission competition to the
International Research Doctorate in:**

**"TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
FOR HEALTH
(MED-TECH)"**

A.Y. 2025/2026 – XLI Cycle

D.P. n. 290/25

D.R. n. 1034/25

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD to Ministerial Decree No. 226 of December 14, 2021, published in the Italian Official Gazette No. 308 of December 29, 2021;

HAVING REGARD to Ministerial Decree of February 23, 2022, which redefined the amount of the doctoral scholarship;

HAVING REGARD to the "University Regulations on Research Doctorates," Issued by Presidential Decree No. 177/22 of May 13, 2022, pursuant to the provisions of Ministerial Decree No. 226 of December 14, 2021;

HAVING REGARD to protocol note no. 8936 of 29.04.2025 concerning the start of the accreditation procedure of doctoral courses for the XLI cycle, a.y. 2025/2026 and in line with Ministerial Decree No. 226/2021, the provisions of the "Guidelines" approved by Ministerial Decree No. 301 of March 22, 2022, remain valid even for the XLI cycle;

HAVING REGARD to the proposal for the activation of the International PhD Program in "Translational Medicine and Engineering: Advanced Technologies for Health (MED-TECH)" – XLI cycle, A.Y. 2025/2026, with the **main administrative seat at LUM GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO University**, Casamassima (BA), as received from the PhD Academic Board;

BECAUSE of the urgent nature of the adoption of the measure;

IN ANTICIPATION of the discussion and ratification of the measure in the first available sessions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of LUM University;

HAVING REGARD to the favourable opinion expressed by ANVUR, as published on the Doctoral Programs website;

SUBJECT TO the still pending publication by the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) of the Ministerial Decree concerning accreditation;

DECREES



Art. 1 - PUBLIC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN "TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTH (MED-TECH)", 41ST CYCLE - ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026 - 'SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE M.U.R.'

The information on this PhD course can be found on the web site of the University at the following address: <https://www.lum.it/medicina-traslazionale-ed-ingegneria-tecnologie-avanzate-per-la-salute-med-tech/>

Deadline for the presentation of the application form: September 30th, 2025 within 12:00

Main Office: LUM University GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO - Casamassima (BA) - Italy

PhD program duration: 3 years

Number of Available Places: 5

A. No. 4 scholarships (funded by LUM University).

B. No. 1 without a scholarship

Coordinator: Prof. Licia IACOVIELLO - LUM UNIVERSITY GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO - Casamassima (Bari)

Admittance procedures: evaluation of the qualifications, oral exam, and research project.

Language of the admittance procedures: English

Web address: <https://www.lum.it/medicina-traslazionale-ed-ingegneria-tecnologie-avanzate-per-la-salute-med-tech/>

Research fields:

- Artificial intelligence models for analysis big health data
- Precision medicine and bioinformatics
- Climate and environment mapping for health
- System engineering applied to telemedicine and healthcare
- Bioengineering
- Medical signal and image processing

Art. 2 -Admission requirements

1. Any candidate may apply for the selection process, regardless of age or citizenship. Candidates must hold a second cycle university degree (level 7 EQF) (or a four-year degree under the previous Italian system), obtained before the application deadline, in accordance with Italian Law no. 341/90. Eligible fields include Medicine and Surgery, Medical, Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Dentistry and Dental Prosthetics, Computer Science, Data Science, Biomedical Engineering, Automation Engineering, Management

Engineering, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Materials Engineering, Business and Economics, or equivalent academic qualifications from Italian universities or comparable foreign institutions.

2. Italian and non-Italian candidates holding a degree from a foreign university, which has not yet been recognized as equivalent to one of the above-mentioned Italian degrees, must apply for a declaration of equivalence for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD competition. Candidates must also submit any relevant documentation that enables the Academic Board to properly assess the foreign degree (Annex 1).
3. Candidates with a foreign university degree who are unable to submit the required documentation by the time of the competition may be admitted conditionally. In such cases, the necessary documents must be submitted before enrollment.
4. Applications may also be submitted by candidates who expect to obtain the required qualification by the enrollment date, under penalty of exclusion from the PhD program. Enrollment must be completed by October 31st, 2025, otherwise they will be excluded from the merit-based ranking list.

Failure to comply with these terms will result in exclusion from the merit ranking.

Art. 3 -Presentation of the Admission Application

Applications for admission to the doctoral program must be submitted by 12:00 a.m. on September 30, 2025, in accordance with the procedure outlined on the portal www.lum.it.

- A. The online application procedure for the admission test includes the following steps:
 1. Online registration on the www.lum.it portal - LUMESSE3-: the candidate must register on the web portal by obtaining a username and password used to access the restricted area of the web portal;
 2. Registration for the admission tests: using the above credentials, the candidate must register for the tests by the above date by clicking the "admission tests" item on the LUMESSE3 navigation menu, attaching the documents required (under B);
 3. Admission test registration fee payment: having completed the required steps on LUMESSE3, the candidate must make the payment of the admission test registration fee of 55.00 euros (fifty-five/00) exclusively through the PAGOPA system, a procedure available online that must be done at the same time as the application submission.

Registration is deemed completed if steps 1, 2, and 3 are completed.

B) In the application, the applicant, under penalty of non-admission, shall declare and attach under his/her own responsibility:

- a) His/her surname and name, date and place of birth, tax code, citizenship, place of residence, and contact address chosen at the aims of the selection process, including postcode, telephone number and e-mail address;
- b) his/her curriculum duly signed;
- c) his/her degree, specifying when (date) and where (University) it was awarded, or equivalent degree obtained abroad. Those who hold a degree, obtained in a foreign University, which has not been recognized as equivalent to one of the above-mentioned degrees awarded by Italian Universities, must ask for the declaration of equivalence with the sole end of admittance to the competition for the Research Doctorate. To this end, it is necessary to enclose the translated and legalized degree certification containing certified transcripts of records of all examinations taken by the candidates and their study plans. Furthermore, candidates should enclose any other documents, translated and legalized, that they consider helpful for the above-mentioned declaration of equivalence (Annex 1) (see also art. 2).
- d) list of titles deemed eligible for evaluation and publications duly signed in accordance with the provisions of D.P.R. 445/2000
- e) The research project (see annex 2)
- f) a commitment to attend the Doctoral course full-time in accordance with the procedures set out by LUM University and the Teaching Staff Council.
- g) their level of knowledge of the English language and of any other foreign language (satisfactory, good, excellent).
- h) a commitment to communicate information about any change of residence or contact address chosen for the selection process
- i) a copy of your document duly signed.

Payment of the registration fee alone or submission of the application alone does not constitute trial registration.

The test registration fee is not refundable for any reasons.

Moreover, at least two letters of reference should be delivered by the deadline of this call, **through email as .pdf files, and sent by the teachers or experts who are providing the letter** at the above-indicated email address (dottorati@lum.it).

People who have disabilities should specify in the application form, according to current regulations, any aid they require and/or any request for additional time to complete the selection examination.

The University administration will accept no liability for communication problems due to candidates providing inaccurate details of their residence or contact address, or to any delay in their notifying the Administration of any changes to said details, or to failings of the postal or telegraphic services beyond the Administration's control.

Art. 4 -Exclusions

The University Administration may exclude candidates from the selection process at any time, up to the Issuance of the official decree of appointment of the successful applicants, in the event that the admission requirements are not met.

Any such exclusion, duly justified, will be formalized by Presidential Decree.

Candidates who provide false or misleading information in their application form will lose the right to participate in the admission process.

Art. 5 –Admission Process

The entrance examination for the PhD program consists of the **evaluation of qualifications**, an **oral examination**, and the **assessment of the research project**.

The purpose of the examination is to evaluate the candidate's aptitude for scientific research.

All parts of the admission process will be conducted **in English**.

To be admitted to the examination, candidates must provide a **valid identification document** attached to their application.

Candidates who are **absent on the day of the examination**, regardless of the reason, will be considered as having **withdrawn** from the competition.

Candidates **residing abroad** or without a permanent address in Italy may **request to take the oral exam online** via video conferencing platforms. This request must be submitted by email **no later than the deadline of this call**, to the following email address: **dottorati@lum.it**.

The oral exam is scheduled to take place from October 1 to October 17, at the Rectorate of LUM University – Doctoral Office – S.S. 100 Km. 18, 70010 Casamassima (BA), Italy.

The official date, time, and instructions for the examination—as well as any possible changes—will be published exclusively on the Doctorate website: <https://www.lum.it/medicina-traslazionale-ed-ingegneria-tecnologie-avanzate-per-la-salute-med-tech/>

No other form of notification will be provided.

Art. 6 -Evaluation of the Admission Examination

The Evaluation Committee has a total of **100 points** to allocate.

1. Evaluation of Qualifications

Maximum: 20 points

Points will be distributed as follows:

- **Bachelor's degree grade: max 3 points**
- **Master's/Specialist degree grade: max 7 points**
- **Single-cycle or Old System (V.O.) degree grade: max 10 points**

- **Full-text publications** (already published or accepted for publication) / **conference presentations** (from the past two years): max 4 points
- **Participation in postgraduate programs, advanced training or specialization courses, second degree (if applicable):** max 2 points
- **Documented research and study collaborations:** max 2 points
- **Documented study and/or research periods abroad lasting 2 months or longer:** max 2 points

Note: Periods shorter than 2 months may be considered if early return was due to a documented force majeure event (e.g., COVID-19).

For candidates who have not yet obtained their degree, the grade-related score (points 2 or 3) will be replaced by the evaluation of their **exam grade average**.

2. Evaluation of the Research Project

Maximum: 30 points

The evaluation of qualifications and the research project is carried out **before** the oral examination by the Selection Committee.

The research project must relate to one of the research fields indicated in **Art. 1** of this call, clearly stating the **corresponding area** (Art. 1, Letters A. or B). It must be written **in English**, following the guidelines provided in **Annex 2 included in the Application Form**.

*Note: The project may be revised and/or developed during the three-year PhD program upon admission. The submitted proposal is **not binding** for the assignment of the final thesis topic.*

3. Oral Examination

Maximum: 50 points

The oral examination consists of an interview intended to assess the candidate's preparation, skills, motivation, and aptitude for scientific research. It will cover topics relevant to the **educational and scientific scope of the PhD program**, and include the **formal presentation and discussion** of the proposed research project.

The oral exam is considered passed with a **minimum score of 40 out of 50**.

Admission Requirements

- The candidate's total score is the **sum of the points** obtained from:
 1. The evaluation of qualifications (max 20),
 2. The research project (max 30),
 3. The oral examination (max 50).
- To be admitted to the PhD program, a candidate must achieve a **minimum total score of 50 out of 100**.

Art. 7 -Examining Board

The Examining Board is composed of **five members**, selected from among full professors, associate professors, and assistant professors at **LUM University GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO**.

Additionally, **two substitute members** are appointed from the same faculty pool to replace one or more regular members in the event of an impediment.

The Board may also include up to **two external advisers** affiliated with public or private research institutions, including international ones.

Before the admission examination, the Examining Board will define and publish the **criteria for the evaluation** of qualifications and submitted documents. These criteria will be made available on the PhD program's official website.

The results of the **qualification evaluation** will be published on the PhD program's website prior to the oral examination.

Following the oral exam, the **final results** of the admission process, including the **merit-based ranking list**, will be published on the same website.

The **general merit ranking** will be approved by **Presidential Decree** and made public via:

- The official notice board at **LUM University GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO – S.S. 100 Km. 18, 70010 Casamassima (Bari), Italy,**
- and
- The official **university website**.

Candidates admitted to the program will be notified through a means that ensures receipt (email or PEC).

Art. 8 – Admission

The University will publish the merit ranking list on the University's website <https://www.lum.it/medicina-traslazionale-ed-ingegneria-tecnologie-avanzate-per-la-salute-med-tech/> by Presidential Decree.

Applicants can view their position and score by accessing the MYLUM restricted area on the "admission tests" item.

Candidates are admitted to the doctoral program according to the order of the ranking list and up to the number of places advertised. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates, the candidate with the youngest age will take precedence in the ranking.

Candidates admitted to the course will be excluded if they do not express their acceptance within 10 days of the announcement on <https://www.lum.it/medicina-traslazionale-ed-ingegneria-tecnologie-avanzate-per-la-salute-med-tech/#admission-and-Information-2> of the outcome of the competition.

In case of any renunciation of eligible candidates before the start of the course, as many candidates will take over according to the order of the ranking list.

Art. 9 – Enrolment to the PhD program

The candidates, in a useful position in the ranking list, must proceed to the enrolment, through the personal page (secretary-registration-management attachments), by **31.10.2025**:

- a) completing the online registration procedure available on the website at the same section that must contain, in addition to their personal data, the following statements:
- self-certification regarding citizenship;
 - self-certification of graduation degree with the relevant grade, date and institution that issued the degree;
 - declaration that he/she is not enrolled in Graduate Schools or, if so, that he/she undertakes to suspend or discontinue attendance before the beginning of the doctoral course;
 - statement that he/she has not previously benefited from other doctoral scholarships;
 - declaration of being/not being an employee of Public Administrations;
 - self-certification (only for scholarship winners) of taxable income for the calendar year 2024.

Acts and documents drawn up in a foreign language must be translated and legalized by the competent Italian diplomatic or consular representations abroad and must comply with the provisions in force in the State itself.

- b) pay by PAGO-PA, using the procedure available on the University website www.lum.it section "MYLUM", following the instructions published on the same page:

- the annual insurance contribution in the amount of €50.00;
- the revenue stamp in the amount of €16.00 (secretary-payments);
- the payment of the Regional Fee for the Right to University Study and upload the file in the personal page (secretary-registration-management attachments);
- **only for the doctoral student without a scholarship, the contribution of € 6,000.00.**

The Enrolment is considered completed if both steps in (a) and (b) have been completed; otherwise, he/she will be automatically considered as a dropout.

The candidate who may take over, will be informed by the doctoral office secretary by pec.dottoratilum@pec.it, to his or her email address indicated in the application form for the admission test.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ascertain in good time the receipt of communications from the University.

Art. 10 – Joint Attendance with a Medical Specialization School

Joint attendance of a PhD program is permitted for students enrolled in the **final year of a medical specialization program**.

Following the year of joint attendance, the candidate must dedicate themselves **exclusively** to the PhD program. The total legal duration of the PhD program—including the joint attendance year—remains unchanged.

Specialization students admitted to the PhD program may submit a **request for joint attendance** to the University Administration, including the following documents:

- a) **Authorization** from the Council of the Medical Specialization School confirming the compatibility of joint attendance, taking into account geographical distance, time commitments, and required activities of both programs;
- b) A **curriculum vitae** and a **self-certification** detailing research activities conducted during the specialization program;
- c) An **optional request for a reduction in PhD activities**, based on the relevance of previously conducted research to the intended PhD project.

The University Administration will forward the request to the **PhD Academic Board**, which will assess:

- The **consistency** between the prior research and the objectives of the PhD program;
- The **logistical and scheduling compatibility** of both programs.

If the request is approved, the Board will issue a favorable opinion, and the administration will proceed with enrollment.

If the request is **denied**, enrollment in the PhD program will only be permitted **after formal withdrawal** from the medical specialization school.

Note: During the period of joint attendance, **PhD scholarships are incompatible with any financial compensation** received in connection with the specialization school, regardless of its nature or designation.

Art. 11 – Scholarships

Candidates admitted to the PhD program in accordance with the merit ranking will be awarded scholarships **up to the number of scholarships available**.

- The **gross annual amount** of each scholarship is **€20,083.00**, which includes:
 - **€3,839.73** in charges borne by the University,
 - and excludes social security contributions payable by the student.

For **research periods abroad**, the scholarship amount will be increased by **50%**, in accordance with applicable Italian law. Scholarships are disbursed **monthly in arrears**.

- **Income Limit**

The scholarship will **not be awarded** if the recipient had a **taxable income exceeding €25,000.00** (twenty-five thousand euros) in the calendar year preceding the start of the doctoral program.

- **Confirmation of the Scholarship**

Scholarships are renewed **annually** on condition that:

- The **Academic Board** validates the PhD student's academic progress, and
- The student submits a **self-declaration of income** for the relevant year.

- **Non-Cumulative Nature**

Scholarships **may not be combined** with any other scholarships awarded for the same purpose.

Candidates who have **already benefited from a PhD scholarship**, even for only one year, **are not eligible** for another scholarship.

- **Incompatibilities**

Scholarships are **incompatible** with:

- Subordinate employment (either fixed-term or permanent) in public or private organizations, unless the employer grants **unpaid leave without contributions**;
- Activities in **commerce or industry**, except for participation in **university spin-offs**, as regulated by LUM University;
- Employment contracts with public authorities as per **Article 7(6)** of Legislative Decree no. 165, dated **March 30, 2001**;
- Collaboration contracts pursuant to **Article 61(1)** of Legislative Decree no. 276, dated **September 10, 2003**.

Any scholarship recipient found to fall under one of the above categories will **forfeit** the scholarship.

Art. 12 – PhD Students' Duties

Enrolled PhD students are required to attend the doctoral courses held at the University in accordance with the procedures established by the **PhD Academic Board**. They must carry out their research activities regularly, within the designated research facilities, and in compliance with the guidelines established by the PhD Academic Board.

Admission to the PhD program implies an **exclusive, full-time commitment of 1,500 hours per year**.

PhD students must be present at the University facilities for at least **four days per week** and must complete and sign a **daily activity log** ("PhD Student's Register of Activities"), specifying the hours worked and the activities performed. Attendance is not required during building closures and official university holiday periods. This rule is applied in accordance with:

- The specific regulations governing **joint attendance** with medical specialization schools;
- Any agreements with **partner companies**, in the case of **industrial-track PhD programs**.

The Register is **periodically reviewed by the PhD Supervisor** and must be submitted to the PhD Office to be available for the PhD Academic Board and Coordinator.

PhD students may, as part of their training and **upon prior approval of the PhD Academic Board** and the relevant academic departments, engage in:

- **Tutoring activities** for Bachelor's and Master's students, and
- **Supplementary teaching activities**, without any increase in their scholarship.

- **Public Employees**

Public employees admitted to the PhD program may take a **leave of absence** for the entire duration of the program as provided by their employment contracts. For public-sector employees, a **special educational leave** (with or without pay) may be granted pursuant to **Art. 2 of Law No. 476 of August 13, 1984**, and subsequent amendments. This leave is granted provided it is compatible with the needs of the employing public office and only if the individual is **enrolling in a PhD program for the first time**, regardless of the type of program.

- **Other Rights and Protections**

PhD students are entitled to the benefits provided under **Legislative Decree No. 68 of March 29, 2012**.

Pregnant students are granted protection under the **Ministerial Decree of July 12, 2007**, published in the Official Journal No. 247 of October 23, 2007.

- **Suspension of Attendance**

PhD program attendance may be **suspended**, subject to PhD Academic Board approval, **for a maximum of one year** while retaining the right to the scholarship (though its **payment is paused** and resumes upon re-entry into the program). Valid grounds for suspension include:

- **Pregnancy**
- **Military or Civil Service**

- **Serious, documented illness**

Simultaneous enrollment in another **degree program** or **specialization school** is **not permitted**. Admitted candidates must withdraw from or suspend any such program **prior to beginning the PhD**.

PhD students enrolled in **TFA (Active Traineeship Programs)**, **Master's degrees**, or non medical **Specialization Courses** may request to **postpone the start** of their PhD program **for up to 3 months**. This period must be recovered within the legal duration of the PhD, with PhD Academic Board approval. If the deferral **exceeds 3 months and is no longer than 1 year**, the PhD start date and program activities will be officially postponed.

- **Grounds for Suspension or Exclusion**

The PhD Academic Board may decide to **suspend** or **exclude** a student from the PhD program—after hearing the student and providing justification—in the following cases:

- **Negative assessment** of academic progress or research results;
- **Exceeding the maximum allowed absences** as defined by the PhD regulations;
- **Unjustified and prolonged absences**;
- **Conduct incompatible with program rules** or obligations.

In these cases:

- The scholarship will be **suspended**;
- The student may be required to **repay all scholarship funds** received during the relevant academic year.

Art. 13 – Evaluation of Research Activities

Students will attend common courses to acquire foundational knowledge of both macro-areas and their points of integration. Afterwards, they will be able to personalize their path by selecting the courses most relevant to their specific research project, until reaching the required number. Each course concludes with a **exam**. At the end of each year, students must also take a **exam** covering all topics addressed during that period of the program.

Starting from the first year, PhD students must engage in **research and tutoring activities** for a maximum of **1,500 hours/year**.

At the end of the **second semester**, students will present and defend their **PhD thesis proposal** in front of the PhD Committee appointed according to the procedures established by the PhD Academic Board.

Failure to pass any of the above assessments may result in a **recommendation by the PhD Academic Board to the Rector for exclusion** from the program.

The PhD program concludes with the **defense of the doctoral thesis** before a specially appointed Examining Board.

Art. 14 – Doctorate Degree

The **Doctorate Degree** is conferred by the **President and Rector of LUM University GIUSEPPE DEGENNARO** upon successful completion of the final thesis defense.

The final examination may be **retaken only once**, in accordance with **Art. 8** of the *University Regulations on Research Doctorates*.

The Examining Board for the final defense is appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the PhD Academic Board and consists of:

- **Three full members** and
- **Three alternate members**,

chosen from professors with expertise in the doctoral program's research areas, as per **Art. 8 of the University Regulations**.

Art. 15 – Person Responsible for the Procedure

The person responsible for the administrative procedure is **dr. Angela De Leo** (Tel: **0039-080.6978255**; e-mail: dottorati@lum.it).

Art. 16 – Processing of Personal Data

Please note that the data collected will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation No. 679/2016 for the protection of personal data, so called GDPR, D. Lgs 101/2018 and ss.mm and ii. The data controller is the LUM G. Degennaro University, which can be contacted via Tel. Switchboard Seg. Didactics: 080.6978213 Tel. Switchboard Rectorate: 080.6978111.

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) may be contacted at the following PEC address: vincenzo.tarantini@pec.it.

The processing of personal data is necessary for the management of the competition procedure pursuant to Article 6(1)(b), (c) and (f) of EU Regulation 2016/679.

Data may be processed by private and public entities for activities instrumental to the stated purposes, which the University will use as data processors, where applicable.

The data will be kept for the time necessary to pursue the indicated purposes and in compliance with related legal obligations.

You will be able to assert, at any time, your rights as provided for in Articles 15-22 of the GDPR, in particular with reference to the right of access to your personal data, as well as the right to obtain its rectification or restriction, updating and deletion, as well as with reference to the right of data portability and the right to object to processing, unless there is a legitimate reason of the Data Controller that overrides the interests of the data subject, or for the establishment, exercise or defense of a right in court.

In order to exercise your rights, you must contact the Data Controller or the Data Protection Officer (DPO), who can be reached at the contacts listed above. The candidate

has the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority if he/she deems it necessary under Article 77 of the GDPR.

The Data Controller does not adopt any automated decision-making process, including profiling, as referred to in Article 22(1) and (4) of EU Regulation No. 679/2016.

Art. 17 – Referral Regulations

For any matters not considered in the present announcement, reference will be made to the law 30 December 2010 n. 240, art. 19 "Provisions on the PhD courses", the D.M. n. 226 of 14.12.2021, published on Official Gazette nr. 308 of 29.12.2021 and the "University Regulations on Research Doctorates" and the PhD internal regulation ("Regulation Statement of the PhD Program").

This announcement will be published on the LUM University website, on Euroaxes and on Italian University Ministry websites as foreseen by the regulations in force.

Casamassima, 08.28.2025

THE RECTOR
Prof. Antonello Garzoni



THE PRESIDENT
Prof. Emanuele Degennaro

