



Lucca, li 01/08/2024

Prot. 2880/2024

PUBLIC COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADMISSION TO THE PHD PROGRAMME

MUSIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: THE STUDY OF PERFORMANCE AND MUSICAL PERCEPTION THROUGH NEUROSCIENCE AND BIOENGINEERING

THE DIRECTOR OF THE "L. BOCCHERINI" CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC IN LUCCA

- Considering Law no. 210 of July 3, 1998, particularly Article 4 as amended in Article 19, paragraph 1 of Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010, regarding "Regulations on the organisation of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to promote quality and efficiency in the university system";
- Considering Law no. 508 of December 21, 1999, regarding "Reform of the Academies of Fine Arts, the National Dance Academy, the National Academy of Dramatic Arts, Higher Institutes for Artistic Industries, Music Conservatories, and Parity Music Institutes";
- Considering the Presidential Decree no. 132 of February 28, 2003, regarding "Regulation laying down criteria for statutory, regulatory, and organizational autonomy of artistic and musical institutions pursuant to Law no. 508 of December 21, 1999";
- Considering the Ministerial Decree of December 14, 2021, no. 226, regarding "Regulation laying down accreditation procedures for locations and PhD programmes and criteria for the establishment of PhD programmes by accredited entities," which in Article 15 establishes that "within twelve months from the entry into force of this regulation, a ministerial decree will define the accreditation procedures for PhD programmes in institutions of higher artistic, musical, and choreutic education, in compliance with Article 2, paragraph 5, of Law no. 508 of December 21, 1999";
- Considering the Ministerial Decree no. 470 of February 21, 2024, which governs the PhD in Higher Artistic, Musical, and Choreutic Education, and provides the necessary skills to engage in high-level research activities at the aforementioned AFAM institutions, universities, public entities, or private entities, including for the purpose

of accessing careers in public administration and integrating highly innovative professional pathways;

- Considering the Ministerial Decree of March 27, 2024, no. 544, regarding "Determination of the annual amount of the scholarship for attending PhD courses in institutions of Higher Artistic, Musical, and Choreutic Education," establishing that from the academic year 2024-2025, the annual amount of the scholarship for attending PhD courses in these institutions shall be €16,243.00 gross of social security charges payable by the recipient;
- Considering Ministerial Decrees no. 629 and no. 630 of April 24, 2024, which allocate "resources aimed at supporting PhD programmes within PNRR doctoral research programmes" of three-year duration, for which the Parties have been awarded scholarships;
- Considering the Ministerial Decree no. 778 of June 12, 2024, regarding the "Guidelines for accrediting PhD programmes in institutions of Higher Artistic, Musical, and Choreutic Education (AFAM)";
- Considering the note from the General Secretariat, Directorate General for Higher Education and the Right to Study, of June 18, 2024, regarding "Operational instructions for AFAM institutions in addition to note prot. 8614 of May 2, 2024" ("further operational instructions regarding the accreditation procedure for PhD programmes");
- Considering the resolution of the Board of Directors no. 27 of July 22, 2024, of the State Conservatory of Music of Lucca, which approved the "PhD programme announcement" in question;
- Considering the Agreement for the establishment, activation, and operation of the PhD programme "Music, Science, and Technology: The Study of Performance and Musical Perception through Neuroscience and Bioengineering" established between the Conservatory of Lucca (lead institution) and the Conservatories of Siena and Livorno, which have instituted, activated, and guaranteed the operation of the aforementioned PhD programme jointly from the academic year 2024/2025 for three cycles (40th, 41st, and 42nd cycles), with administrative headquarters at the "L. Boccherini" Conservatory of Lucca;

DECREES

Art. 1 - Establishment of the Joint PhD Programme in "MUSIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: THE STUDY OF PERFORMANCE AND MUSICAL PERCEPTION THROUGH NEUROSCIENCE AND BIOENGINEERING"

1. The "L. Boccherini" Conservatory of Lucca, together with the "R. Franci" Conservatory of Siena and the "P. Mascagni" Conservatory of Livorno, hereby establishes for the academic year 2024-2025 (40th cycle) the joint PhD programme in "Music, Science, and Technology: The Study of Performance and Musical Perception through Neuroscience and Bioengineering."
2. The programme is hosted across the three associated conservatories, with administrative headquarters at the "L. Boccherini" Conservatory of Lucca, and will span three years starting December 13, 2024.

Art. 2 - Announcement of Selection Procedures.

1. A public competition by qualifications and examinations is announced for admission to the joint PhD programme in "Music, Science and Technology: The Study of Performance

and Musical Perception through Neuroscience and Bioengineering," as detailed in Article 1 of this announcement.

Art. 3 – Description and Objectives of the PhD Programme

1. The PhD programme focuses on the comprehensive study of performance, encompassing musical execution, composition, improvisation practices, educational use of new technologies, and related sensory and perceptual aspects through neuroscience and bioengineering.
2. The programme offers a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective, structured around thematic areas derived from authoritative international scientific studies in neuroscience and bioengineering. These areas include:
 - Music perception, multisensory integration, emotional performance, and musical communication;
 - Music, movement, and synchronization;
 - Sensorimotor disorders, music, and clinical practice.

These themes will be integrated with research and training methods in artistic-musical and social sciences, such as:

- Logical-mathematical codes of musical composition;
- Practices of conscious listening, integrating research with experiences of renowned composers/performers;
- Composition and electronic music related to performance experimentation;
- Interdisciplinary performance composition laboratories;
- Application of innovative technologies in immersive performances;
- Sociology of musical perception;
- Legal profiles related to these themes, with specific reference to regulatory frameworks and their comparative development.

The AFAM PhD course in associated form between the Conservatories of Lucca, Siena and Livorno collaborate with prestigious university institutions and research bodies in the Tuscan territory: University of Pisa, University of Siena, IMT School of Advanced Studies Lucca, Scuola Superiore Sant 'Anna of Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa. Teachers and Researchers from these institutions are participating as members of the PhD faculty and in the training and research activities of the doctorates. Furthermore, the Doctorate course will benefit from the support of the Siena University Hospital and the Casa Cardinale Maffi Foundation of Livorno.

Art. 4 – Available Positions and Scholarships

1. Six scholarships, co-financed through PNRR funds, are available under the "From Research to Business" initiative, aimed at promoting innovative doctoral programmes that meet the needs of businesses and facilitate the employment of researchers. Each scholarship amounts to €16,243.00 annually, before applicable deductions.

Art. 5 – Safeguard Clauses

1. The activation of the programme described in Article 1 is contingent upon successful accreditation by the MUR, as required by Ministerial Decree no. 470/2024. The availability of funded positions through PNRR funds is contingent upon the actual allocation of resources by the MUR and the finalization of agreements with co-financing companies. In the event of a negative accreditation outcome, resulting in the non-activation of the programme and the assigned scholarships, candidates will be

promptly notified and cannot claim any compensation from the lead conservatory or the other implementers.

Art. 6 – Admission Requirements

1. Applications are open to candidates of any age and nationality who hold a second-level academic diploma (as per Law no. 508 of December 21, 1999, DM 14/2018) or an old system AFAM diploma, along with a high school diploma (DM no. 331 of April 10, 2019), or a University master's degree (Laurea Magistrale) or equivalent qualification obtained abroad. Candidates with foreign qualifications must provide documentation verifying equivalence:
 - For qualifications obtained in EU countries: "Diploma supplement," or a certificate of equivalence issued by a recognized Italian higher education institution, or a comparability certificate issued by CIMEA;
 - For qualifications obtained in non-EU countries: "Declaration of value" issued by the competent Italian diplomatic-consular representation, or a certificate of equivalence issued by a recognized Italian higher education institution, or a comparability certificate issued by CIMEA.

2. If the required documents are not available by the application deadline, candidates must include a description of the degree with a list of completed exams. The eligibility of foreign academic qualifications will be evaluated by the examination committee in compliance with current regulations.

3. Candidates who have not yet obtained the required academic qualification by the application deadline can also apply, provided that this qualification is obtained by the date of completion of enrollment and in any case no later than 31/10/2024. These candidates will be admitted "conditionally" and must submit a self-certification indicating the institution awarding the degree and the expected date of graduation.

Art. 7 – Application Procedure

1. Applications must be submitted exclusively via PEC, using the application form attached to this announcement, by the strict deadline of September 2, 2024, at 12:00 CET, to the following address: info@pec.boccherini.it. The subject of the PEC must be: "<surname name> - dottorato AFAM in forma associata."

2. The application and all accompanying documentation must be sent as a single PDF file not exceeding 10 MB, named "<surname name>."

3. The application fee is set at €30.00 for administrative services. The payment must be made by the application deadline according to the following instructions:
 - Access the "Transparent Administration" section of the Lucca Conservatory website https://cloud.urbi.it/urbi/progs/urp/solhome.sto?DB_NAME=n1201152&areaAttiva=3
 - Select "PAGAMENTI ONLINE" and "ACCEDI AL SERVIZIO";
 - Select the button "CREA PAGAMENTO SPONTANEO";
 - Enter NAME, SURNAME, and TAX CODE;
 - From the "SERVIZIO" menu, select "CONTRIBUTO DI AMMISSIONE DOTTORATI";

- Proceed with the payment via PagoPA and download the receipt to attach to the application.
4. The application fee is non-refundable, except in the case where the course is not activated, as per Article 5.
5. The following documents must be attached to the application, under penalty of exclusion, and drafted in Italian or English:
- Receipt of payment of the application fee, completed via PagoPA by the application deadline;
 - Valid identity document (copy of valid ID card or passport);
 - Application form, including the following information (Application Form as per Annex A):
- I) Personal details (name and surname, place and date of birth, tax code, citizenship, residence, domicile if different from residence, contact details for the competition with postal code, telephone number, PEC and PEO email addresses);
 - II) Academic qualifications, including date and institution where obtained; I
 - III) Declaration of adequate knowledge of the Italian language (for foreign candidates only);
 - IV) Declaration of a good level of knowledge of the English language;
 - V) Declaration of having/having not previously benefited from another scholarship (even for one year) for a PhD programme;
 - VI) Declaration of being/not being a holder of a research grant;
 - VII) Declaration of being/not being an employee of Public Administrations;
 - VIII) Declaration of commitment to full-time attendance of the PhD programme, according to the modalities indicated by the PhD faculty;
 - IX) Declaration of awareness that acceptance of a PNRR scholarship as per Ministerial Decree no. 630/2024 entails the obligation of study and research periods abroad (Article 4 of this announcement) and that failure to comply with this obligation will result in the revocation of the scholarship and exclusion from the PhD programme;
 - X) Declaration of commitment to promptly communicate any changes in residence or contact details for the competition;
 - XI) Declaration of having read this competition announcement.
6. In addition, the following documents must be attached to the application, under penalty of exclusion:
- A research project to be carried out during the programme. The research project must describe the topic to be analyzed, the methodologies to be used, and the objectives of the project;
 - Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum, listing and briefly describing the candidate's qualifications (academic, artistic, professional, etc.).
7. Failure to submit any of the required documents will result in exclusion from the competition.

8. All candidates are admitted to the competition conditionally, pending verification of the self-certified declarations, in accordance with Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments.

9. The committee may, at any time, issue a reasoned decision excluding a candidate from the competition for not meeting the prescribed requirements. Exclusion decisions will be published on the Lucca Conservatory website, constituting official notification to candidates. No personal communications will be sent.

Art. 8 – Candidates with Disabilities, Specific Learning Disorders (DSA), and Other Protected Situations

1. Candidates who, due to specific conditions of disability (Article 20 of Law no. 104/1992), specific learning disorders (Law no. 170/2010), or other protected situations, require auxiliary tools and/or additional time or organizational measures for the exams must explicitly request these in their application and contact Prof. Raffaele Talassi (raffaele.talassi@boccherini.it).

Art. 9 – Evaluation Committee

1. The committee responsible for evaluating the candidates will be appointed by decree from the Director of the Lucca Conservatory and will be announced on the conservatory's website in the Transparent Administration section.
2. The committee will include at least one representative from each associated conservatory, selected from the members of the PhD faculty.
3. The role of recording secretary will be performed by a teaching or administrative staff member from one of the three associated conservatories.

Art. 10 – Admission Examination and Candidate Selection

1. Admission to the PhD programme is based on a selection process evaluating qualifications and examinations, ensuring a comparative assessment of candidates' preparation, knowledge, research aptitude, and personal motivations. It consists of the evaluation of the research project and the CV, as well as an oral interview (which can take place electronically). The outcome of the evaluation will be available on the web portal of the Conservatory of Lucca, in the Transparent Administration section. The research project is relevant only for selection purposes and does not bind the choice of doctoral thesis in the case of admission.
2. The candidates' selection will take place in two phases:
 - Evaluation of the quality and coherence of the research project and qualifications;
 - Oral interview: candidates who pass the first phase will be called for an oral interview, during which they will present their research project and answer questions relating to their skills, interests and motivations.
3. The evaluation committee will assess the candidates' qualifications according to the following criteria:
 - Quality and coherence of the research project: up to 50 points;
 - Candidate's curriculum vitae: up to 20 points;
 - Oral interview: up to 30 points.

4. The curriculum evaluation will consider the candidate's educational background, additional training and professional experience, scientific publications, and artistic activities.
5. Candidates will be admitted to the oral interview only if they score at least 30 points on the research project and at least 12 points on the curriculum evaluation.
6. The oral interview is public and will be held no earlier than September 9, 2024, via teleconference. The detailed schedule of the exams, including the date, time, and link for the teleconference, will be published at least three days in advance on the Lucca Conservatory website.
7. Upon completion of the exams, the evaluation committee will prepare a report indicating the evaluation criteria used, the scores assigned to each candidate, and the overall merit ranking. Scholarships will be awarded based on the overall ranking. In the case of a tie, the younger candidate will prevail, as per Article 2, paragraph 9, of Law no. 191/1998.
8. The evaluation results will be published on the Lucca Conservatory website in the Transparent Administration section. No personal notifications will be sent to candidates regarding the exam procedures; all information will be available exclusively through the mentioned publication method.
9. The final ranking will be published on the Lucca Conservatory website in the Transparent Administration section. The publication on the website constitutes an official notification for all purposes.
10. All successful candidates must proceed with enrollment according to the procedures outlined in Article 11 of this announcement. Withdrawal of the awarded scholarship results in definitive exclusion from the ranking and any subsequent shifts. For further effects of scholarship withdrawals by successful candidates, please refer to what will be provided in PhD programme regulations.

Art. 11 – Final Ranking and Enrollment

1. Pending ministerial communications regarding the accreditation of the joint AFAM PhD programme, the final ranking will be published by **September 20, 2024**, on the Lucca Conservatory website in the Transparent Administration section.
2. Subsequently, candidates must enroll in the first year of the PhD programme according to the procedures that will be published on the Lucca Conservatory website.
3. The ranking will continue to shift until all available positions are filled with enrolled candidates.
4. The PhD programme will commence on **December 13, 2024**.

Art. 12 – Scholarships

1. The annual scholarship amounts to **€16,243.00** gross of social security charges payable by the recipient. Scholarships are paid in monthly installments. The amount increases by 50% for periods spent abroad.
2. PhD scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships or subsidies funded by the Institutions or the State, except for those provided to support research activities abroad.
3. Scholarships are confirmed annually based on the PhD candidates' progression to the next year, unless otherwise decided by the PhD faculty board.

Art. 13 – Enrollment and Attendance Fee

1. All PhD candidates must pay an annual enrollment and attendance fee of **€200.00**, covering administrative services and insurance, plus a regional study tax of €140.00.

Art. 14 – Obligations and Rights of Doctoral Candidates

1. The obligations and rights of doctoral candidates will be specified in the PhD programme regulations.
2. To be admitted to the subsequent year and retain the scholarship, the PhD candidate must complete the planned activities and pass the required assessments conducted by the PhD faculty and curriculum coordinator. In cases of non-compliance or prolonged absence, the candidate may be excluded from the programme and the scholarship revoked, requiring the return of the amounts received in the last academic year of enrollment.
3. The PhD programme requires full-time commitment. The PhD faculty board may authorize the candidate to engage in paid activities that align with the PhD training, subject to evaluation of their compatibility with the programme's educational, teaching, and research activities. Doctoral candidates may undertake tutoring and/or integrative teaching activities as part of their training, subject to approval from the PhD faculty board, without increasing the scholarship amount.
4. Public employees admitted to the PhD programme benefit from the facilitations provided by collective bargaining agreements or, if employed under public law, from Article 2 of Law no. 476 of August 13, 1984.
5. Periods of suspension, not exceeding a total of six months, may be authorized in accordance with the programme regulations.

Art. 15 – Awarding the PhD Title

1. The PhD title is awarded upon successful completion of a final examination, consisting of the public defense of the candidate's research thesis evaluated by a commission established by decree of the associated institutions.

Art. 16 – Processing of Personal Data

1. Pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation No. 2016/679 (hereinafter "GDPR 2016/679"), the "Luigi Boccherini" Higher Institute of Musical Studies Conservatory informs that the personal data provided will be processed in compliance with the aforementioned regulation as well as Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of August 10, 2018.
2. The processing of personal data provided by candidates during the application process, or otherwise acquired for this purpose by the Institute, is solely for the fulfillment of administrative procedures related to the selection process. This processing will be carried out by the authorized personnel, including the examination committee, using both computerized and manual methods, within the necessary limits for achieving the specified purposes, including potential communication to third parties. The provision of such data is necessary to verify participation requirements and qualifications, and failure to provide such data may preclude this verification.
3. The "L. Boccherini" Conservatory of Lucca guarantees the exercise of the rights of access as per Article 15 of GDPR 2016/679, and where applicable, the rights to rectification (Article 16 of GDPR 2016/679), erasure (Article 17 of GDPR 2016/679), restriction of processing (Article 18 of GDPR 2016/679), data portability (Article 20 of GDPR 2016/679), objection to processing (Article 21 of GDPR 2016/679), and withdrawal of consent.
4. Without prejudice to any other administrative or judicial remedy, should individuals believe that the processing of their data is carried out in violation of GDPR 2016/679 or Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2006, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of August 10, 2018, they have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data

- Protection Authority following the procedures and guidelines published on the official website of the Authority at <https://www.garanteprivacy.it>.
5. Requests related to the exercise of the aforementioned rights must be sent in writing by registered mail to the headquarters of the Conservatory of Lucca, Piazza del Suffragio 6, or via Certified Electronic Mail (PEC) to the address info@pec.boccherini.it
 6. In accordance with Article 37 of GDPR 2016/679, the Conservatory has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO), Mr. Stefano Serafini (serafiniing@gmail.com).

Art. 17 – Publication

1. The announcement for admission to the PhD programme is published for at least thirty days on the websites of the associated AFAM institutions and the website of the Ministry of University and Research.

Art. 18 – Reference Norms and Procedure Coordinator

1. Pursuant to Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990, the Coordinator of the associated PhD programme, Prof. Alberto Bologni (alberto.bologni@boccherini.it), is the responsible officer for the selection procedure.

Il Direttore
M° GianPaolo Mazzoli

