**PhD Training Plan**

The doctoral student will establish the training plan in agreement with the supervising professor. The training plan (180 credits) consists of:

a) Carrying out, under the guidance of a supervisor, an individual research program approved by the PhD board and related to a disciplinary field within those provided by the PhD Course. The research activities carried out by the PhD student must be presented at the end of the three years in at least 3 scientific publications submitted to international indexed journals (ISI-SCOPUS journals), of which at least one already accepted for publication. At least in one paper the PhD student has to be the first author or corresponding author (10 ECTS credits for each article published in a scientific journal in which the PhD student appears as the first name or corresponding author). Any other publication with the name of the PhD student will allow the acquisition of 5 ECTS credits. The research program must include a period abroad at a certified University/research institution lasting at least six months (even non-continuous) (5 ECTS credits for each month of research/training conducted abroad).

b) Engaging in complementary educational and training activities useful to carry out the research activity, in which the PhD student must earn at least 25 credits. These activities include:

1. Attendance (and passing of final exams) of courses such as language and computer skills improvement, training in research management and intellectual property, knowledge of European and international research systems, also in reference to the professional opportunities of doctoral research. It is preferable that these courses be mainly taken in the first year of the doctoral program. The number of ECTS credits that can be acquired is indicated next to each course on the calendar.
2. Attendance (and passing of any final exams) of specific courses on topics related to the two curricula of the PhD organized within the framework of the PhD in Biological and Naturalistic Sciences (see table at the end of this file). The number of ECTS credits that can be acquired is indicated next to each course on the calendar. PhD students, after approval by the supervisors, can request the replacement of some courses with equivalent courses organized by other doctoral programs, including those abroad. Such replacements must be motivated and approved by the PhD board.
3. Participation in seminars (0.25 ECTS credits) given by members of the PhD board of the PhD topics or by national and international experts on topics related to the two curricula of the PhD course.
4. Participation to the Summer School organized by the PhD board or in any other national or international schools related to the themes of the two curricula of the PhD (1 ECTS credit).
5. Participation in national or international conferences on topics related to the two curricula of the PhD (0.5 ECTS credits per day). 2 ECTS credits for each scientific oral presentation personally given by the doctoral student, 0.25 ECTS credits for each scientific poster presentation personally given by the doctoral student.
6. Attendance (and passing of final exams) of courses/seminars/conferences organized by the University or by other Italian or foreign research institutions. The PhD Board and/or the Supervisor/Co-supervisor assess the suitability of such activities with respect to the student's training and research aims and determine the number of credits to be awarded.
7. Scientific dissemination activities, 0.5 ECTS credits for each scientific oral presentation personally given by the doctoral student, 0.25 ECTS credits for each active participation of the PhD student in orientation activities.
8. The doctoral student can engage in supplementary teaching activities (1 ECTS credit for every 6 hours of teaching), tutoring activities (1 ECTS credit for every 25 hours of activity).
9. At the end of the PhD program, the PhD student must have obtained an English language certificate at level C1. Phd students have the opportunity to participate in foreign language courses at the University's Language Center (CLA) and obtain certified assessment in individual language skills. These activities involve the acquisition of a maximum of 1 credit.

All training activities organized and/or suggested by the PhD program will be scheduled on the PhD website and communicated to students and PhD board via email. At the beginning of the PhD course (within the first 4 months), each PhD student presents its **Individual training plan** containing the research activities he intends to pursue and the educational activities he intends to follow. Before the 10 October of each academic year, the PhD student must submit to the coordinator the **Annual Report** (first/second) report concerning all the training and research activities carried out; the report, shared with the tutor, consists of a file containing the research results achieved within the framework of the PhD project and a brief report on other training and supplementary teaching/tutoring activities carried out during the same period, along with the report related to the credits obtained in the training activities (**Annex 1**). The reports will be evaluated by the PhD board, which, after consulting with the PhD student and the tutor regarding progress in thesis development, will, in case of a positive evaluation, allocate the respective credits (up to 30-40 ECTS credits for the annual report on research activities and/or thesis writing). Concurrently with the submission of the scientific-didactic report, the PhD student may update its individual training plan for re-submission to the PhD board for approval. The individual Phd course and research program concludes with the writing of the thesis. The thesis, written in English, must contribute to advancing knowledge or methodologies in the chosen field of study. PhD students have a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad, with an amount not less than 10% of the scholarship. This amount is managed directly by the Department to which the doctoral program belongs. The research budget can be used for reimbursement of expenses incurred for missions or conference registrations, seminars, schools, expenses for thesis preparation, expenses for organizing seminars and conferences with external lecturers, purchase of consumables, services, and maintenance of equipment and instruments. In this context, 600 euros per doctoral student are used for organizing the annual Summer School of the PhD in Biological and Natural Sciences (held every year) and other activities aimed at implementing the individual training plan of the PhD students.

**Specific courses on topics related to the two curricula of the PhD organized within the Doctorate program**

It is mandatory for the doctoral student to acquire at least 3 credits (at least one per year) in the courses offered by the PhD Board. In particular, the courses proposed for the three years of the program are:

