

**ISIA***Firenze*

Call for admission – PhD in Cognitive Design (XLII cycle) - English translation -

Oct 9, 2026 ·

Decree no. 600 of 9 October 2026

Prot. no. 4727/A14 – Florence, 9 October 2026

THE DIRECTOR

- **Having regard to** Law no. 508 of 21 December 1999 – Reform of the Academies of Fine Arts, the National Academy of Dance, the National Academy of Dramatic Art, the Higher Institutes for Artistic Industries, the Conservatories of Music and the officially recognised music institutes (*Istituti musicali pareggiati*);
- **Having regard to** Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) no. 132 of 28 February 2003 – Regulation laying down criteria for the statutory, regulatory and organisational autonomy of artistic and musical institutions, pursuant to Law no. 508 of 21 December 1999;
- **Having regard to** the Statute of the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, approved by Director's Decree (D.D.) no. 97 of 4 February 2025;
- **Having regard to** Ministerial Decree (D.M.) no. 914 of 29 October 2025 appointing the Director of the Institute;
- **Having regard to** Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990 – New rules on administrative procedure and on the right of access to administrative documents;
- **Having regard to** Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992 – Framework law on assistance, social integration and the rights of persons with disabilities;
- **Having regard to** Prime Ministerial Decree (D.P.C.M.) no. 159 of 5 December 2013;
- **Having regard to** D.M. no. 470 of 21 February 2024 – Procedures for the accreditation of AFAM research doctorate programmes;
- **Having regard to** the General Teaching Regulations of the Institute, issued by presidential decree no. 358, prot. no. 2251 of 21/5/2024, in particular Arts. 46 ff.;
- **Having regard to** MUR note prot. no. 3148 of 17/6/2026 – Opening of the computerised procedure for the accreditation of research doctorate programmes for AFAM Institutions – XLII cycle;
- **Having regard to** the agreement with ISIA Rome, prot. no. 3745 of 28/7/2026, concerning the delivery, in associated form, of the doctorate programme "Cognitive Design: integrated evolution of humans and technology in the new productive era", XLII cycle;
- **Having regard to** Academic Council resolution no. 675 of 27/7/2026;
- **Having regard to** Legislative Decree no. 33 of 14 March 2013, on the reorganisation of the rules concerning obligations of publicity, transparency and dissemination of information by public administrations;

**ISIA***Firenze*

- **Having regard to** D.P.R. no. 445 of 28 December 2000, on administrative documentation and substitute declarations;
- **Having regard to** Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 and Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, on the protection of personal data,

HEREBY DECREES

the issuing of the call for admission to the doctorate programme "Cognitive Design: integrated evolution of humans and technology in the new productive era", XLII cycle, in associated form with ISIA Rome, as per the text attached to this decree, of which it forms an integral and substantial part.

THE DIRECTOR Prof. Simone Paternich

Public call for admission to the research doctorate programme, XLII cycle**COGNITIVE DESIGN: INTEGRATED EVOLUTION OF HUMANS AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEW PRODUCTIVE ERA**

Code DOT249W3PP – administrative seat: ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 9 November 2026 – 12:00 noon (Italian time)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

Art. 1 – Activation and characteristics of the research doctorate

1. This call regulates the conditions of access, pursuant to D.M. no. 470 of 21/2/2024, to the research doctorate programme in "Cognitive Design: integrated evolution of humans and technology in the new productive era", whose administrative seat is at the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence (hereinafter "ISIA Florence"), delivered in associated form with the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Rome (hereinafter "ISIA Rome").
2. The programme lasts three years, with the start foreseen for 1 December 2026, and provides **2 places** with scholarship, of which one funded by ISIA Florence and one by ISIA Rome.
3. The teaching activities of the programme will take place at the premises of the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, as well as at the partner institutions and at any other venues identified by mutual agreement according to research needs. Candidates are in any case required to carry out research activity abroad for a minimum period of three months and up to a maximum of eighteen months, the latter pursuant to Art. 8, para. 3, D.M. no. 470 of 21/2/2024.
4. Submission of the application, according to the procedures set out in Art. 3, implies the candidate's acceptance of the rules contained in this call.
5. The use of the masculine gender in this call has no discriminatory intent; it is intended as a neutral gender and serves only for ease of communication.

**ISIA***Firenze*

Art. 2 – Admission requirements

Applications may be submitted, without limits of age or citizenship, by those who, at the deadline of this call, hold one of the following academic qualifications:

- master's degree (*laurea magistrale*) obtained under D.M. 270/2004;
- specialist degree (*laurea specialistica*) obtained under D.M. 509/1999;
- degree obtained under the degree systems in force before D.M. 509/1999, with a legal course duration of at least four years;
- second-level academic qualification awarded by Higher Education Institutions in Art, Music and Dance (AFAM) or equivalent (former system qualification, held together with an upper secondary school diploma);
- academic qualification obtained at foreign universities and comparable to the Italian qualification required for access.

Applications may also be submitted by those who will obtain one of the above qualifications no later than 20 November 2026. In this case the candidate will be admitted conditionally (*con riserva*) and is required to send a self-certification of the qualification subsequently obtained to the Doctorate Office (dottorati@isiadesign.fi.it) within 5 days of the date on which it is obtained. Failure to submit the self-certification within the stated deadline results in exclusion from the ranking list.

Art. 3 – Application

1. The application for the doctorate programme must be submitted exclusively by certified email (PEC) to segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it by **12:00 (Italian time) on 9 November 2026**.
2. Candidates must complete the application using exclusively the "Application form" template, stating, on pain of exclusion:
 - o personal details;
 - o whether they intend to take the interview in Italian or in English;
 - o whether or not they are employees of public administrations;
 - o that they have not already received doctoral scholarships in Italy, even partial ones.
3. The following must be attached to the application:

3.1 Admission qualifications, on pain of exclusion

a) For qualifications obtained in Italy: self-certification (specialist/master's degree or second-level AFAM diploma, or single-cycle degree), final degree/diploma grade and, where applicable, the title of the thesis.

b) For qualifications obtained abroad: candidates holding a foreign academic qualification (equivalent to a specialist/master's degree, a former-system degree or a second-level AFAM diploma) may apply by attaching the qualifications obtained, accompanied by a translation into Italian or English. These candidates are admitted to the competition conditionally and will be excluded from the competition – or, if they pass it,

**ISIA***Firenze*

from the doctorate programme in which they are enrolled – if verification shows that the qualification does not meet the requirements of this call and therefore does not allow enrolment in the doctorate.

In particular, a qualification obtained abroad must be comparable in length, level and subject area to an Italian second-level academic qualification. The eligibility of the foreign qualification, where not already recognised under current legislation, is ascertained by the Doctorate Admission Committee, for the sole purpose of access to the competition, in compliance with the legislation in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as with international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the continuation of studies.

By the start of the courses, together with the enrolment application, the following must in any case be submitted to the Doctorate Office: the qualifications, translated and legalised into Italian and accompanied by a "Declaration of Value *in loco*" issued by the competent Italian diplomatic representations of the country in which the qualification was obtained; alternatively, the statements of comparability and verification of the foreign university qualification issued by the ENIC-NARIC centre in Italy (CIMEA), containing all the information necessary to assess the qualification. For a qualification obtained in a European Union country, the *diploma supplement* is sufficient. For entry into Italy, citizens of non-EU states residing abroad must register on the University portal and apply for an entry visa (post-graduate visa, type D) at the competent Italian Embassy or Consulate.

3.1.2 The following attachments are mandatory for the application, on pain of exclusion:

- a) a copy of a valid identity document or passport;
- b) a *curriculum vitae et studiorum* (preferably in European format) in Italian or English, signed pursuant to Arts. 46 and 47 of D.P.R. 445/2000 as amended;
- c) the receipt for payment of a non-refundable contribution of €30.00. The amount must be credited to the bank account held by the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche di Firenze at Banco di Lucca e Tirreno S.p.A., IBAN IT13T0324213799T20990000026, stating the payment reason "contributo di ammissione procedura concorsuale dottorato a.a. 26/27". The payment reason must be written in Italian exactly as shown (it means: admission contribution, doctorate competition procedure, a.y. 26/27). The contribution cannot be refunded in any case. The candidate will be considered duly registered, and therefore admitted to the competition, only after paying the contribution;
- d) a research project, written in Italian or English, in PDF format, comprising:
 - d1) description of the project;
 - d2) contextualisation of the topic;
 - d3) methodologies;
 - d4) expected results;
 - d5) concise bibliography.

**ISIA***Firenze*

The maximum length is 5,000 characters (including spaces and notes) for all points indicated under d, excluding bibliography and images. The project will be assessed solely for admission purposes and is not binding for doctoral research.

3.1.3 Further qualifications and attachments that may be assessed:

a) other qualifications deemed useful for assessment purposes, namely:

- specialist/master's degree/former-system degree;
- second-level AFAM diplomas;
- relevant first-level Master's;
- relevant second-level Master's;
- specialisation or advanced-training courses;
- language certifications relating to languages other than Italian and English, for which certificates and self-certifications of possession must be attached;

b) audio/video/images (URLs on a platform such as Vimeo, YouTube, Google Drive or similar platforms, maximum 5 URLs) and design works (maximum 2 design works in PDF format);

c) a summary of the degree or diploma thesis, for those who completed a thesis at the end of the master's degree or second-level diploma, in Italian or English, of no more than 4,000 characters including spaces, accompanied by a concise bibliography of the thesis of no more than 500 characters including spaces; if the qualification has not yet been obtained, the summary of the degree thesis in preparation must necessarily be attached countersigned by the thesis supervisor, on pain of the qualification not being assessed;

d) scientific or artistic publications, for which the table attached to the application form must state the year of publication, the publisher, the name of the journal and the ISSN, ISBN or ISMN code.

Omitted declaration of the information and failure to submit the mandatory documents when completing the competition application cannot be remedied after the call's deadline. Omitted declaration and omitted submission of mandatory documents include the uploading of empty files or files containing information of a kind different from that requested. ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence may order the exclusion from the competition, even after enrolment and after the start of the course, of candidates whose documentation shows a lack of the prescribed requirements or whose self-certifications prove to be false. If the candidate is excluded after admission to the programme, he or she is required to repay any scholarship instalments received. Exclusion is ordered by decree of the Director. The documentation must contain all the elements necessary for assessment; documents with incomprehensible or illegible information will not be taken into consideration.

Art. 4 – Admission examination

1. Access to the doctorate programme is subject to passing an admission examination which ascertains, by comparative assessment, the candidate's basic preparation, capacity and aptitude for scientific/artistic research.

**ISIA***Firenze*

2. The admission examinations consist of an assessment of qualifications, the research project and an oral test. The selection oral test will be held exclusively in person at the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, on the date and at the time given in Art. 5 of this call. No personal communications will be sent to candidates. The Examining Committee has a total of 100 points available.

The score is distributed as follows:

a. **ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:** maximum 20/100 points (minimum score to access the oral test: 12/20):

- A. Admission qualification;
- B. *Curriculum vitae et studiorum*;
- C. Further qualifications and attachments.

b. **ASSESSMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT:** maximum 30/100 points (minimum score to access the oral test: 18/30). The following will be assessed: linguistic accuracy and clarity, originality, methodological approach, reference bibliography and expected results. The research project must follow the indications of Art. 3, no. 2, letter d, of this call.

c. **ORAL TEST:** maximum 50/100 points (minimum score to pass the oral test: 30/50). The oral test will be held in Italian or English. The interview will focus on the research project presented by the candidate, on the candidate's educational background and on the research topics related to the proposed project. The following will be assessed: aptitude for research, skills and knowledge of the candidate. During the interview, the Committee will ascertain, at its final discretion, adequate knowledge of English and Italian. One of the two languages (English or Italian) must be held at level C1 and the other at level B2. Knowledge of Italian or English ascertained at a level lower than that required by the call is grounds for the Committee to declare the candidate not eligible and therefore results in failure of the oral test.

Art. 5 – Information on the examination

1. For the oral test, candidates found eligible must appear on **26 November 2026 at 9:30** at the ISIA Florence premises, via Pisana 79, Florence. Candidates must identify themselves before the interview begins by showing a valid identity document. If necessary, the oral test may continue on the following days.

Failure to appear, untraceability of the candidate on the day or at the time established, or failure to show a valid identity document are grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure.

The lists of candidates admitted to the oral tests will be published on the page dedicated to the doctorates at <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/> at least five days before the date of the oral test. This publication has the value of formal notice of convocation for all purposes.

**ISIA***Firenze*

Art. 6 – The Examining Committee

1. The Examining Committee is appointed by decree of the Director and is composed of the Chair of the doctoral board (*collegio di dottorato*), or a delegate, acting as Chair, and of other members, no fewer than two and no more than four, chosen among persons with adequate scientific and professional qualifications consistent with the educational objectives and topics of the doctorate programme. The same decree also appoints two substitutes in case of impediment or renunciation of the committee members.
2. The composition of the Committee is published on the institutional website before the tests begin. Before starting their activities, each member declares the absence of grounds of incompatibility, abstention or recusal under the legislation in force.
3. The composition of the Committee can be consulted on the institutional website at <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>. The Committee holds preliminary meetings, including remotely, to rule out incompatibility between its members and the candidates, pursuant to Arts. 51 and 52 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to assess the qualifications and the research project submitted by the candidates, assigning them a score that allows admission, or not, to the oral test.
4. At the end of the oral test the Committee draws up the ranking list and sends the minutes of the meetings to the Director, who approves it by decree. The Examining Committee is fully responsible for the correct conduct of the selection procedures, with particular reference to the correct assignment of scores and the correct drafting of the competition minutes.

Art. 7 – Ranking list

1. The Examining Committee expresses a judgment of eligibility on each candidate for the purpose of assigning positions in the general merit ranking list.
2. The research scholarships are awarded on the basis of the general merit ranking list, selecting the winners among the top-ranked of those who obtained the judgment of eligibility.
3. Following publication of the results of the oral test, the decree approving the ranking list will be drawn up and made available on the dedicated page of the ISIA Florence institutional website.
4. In case of equal scores, the following criteria apply:
 - a) the candidate with the less favourable economic situation prevails, ascertained on the basis of the ISEE for subsidised services for the right to university/doctoral study, determined pursuant to D.P.C.M. no. 159 of 5 December 2013;
 - b) in case of further tie, the younger candidate prevails.
5. The winners of the competition must confirm acceptance of the place within 48 hours of publication of the ranking list by sending a certified email (PEC) to segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it. The ranking list is drawn down in order (*scorrimento*) following express renunciation or failure to respond to the request to confirm acceptance, until its validity expires. In the event of such a drawdown, the position covered by a scholarship will be offered to the eligible candidates in ranking order.

**ISIA***Firenze***Art. 8 – Candidates with disabilities and specific learning disorders (SLD)**

1. Candidates with recognised disability under Art. 3, paras. 1 and 3, of Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992, or with an invalidity certificate, who need particular aids or additional time for the test, must submit a request, sending the documentation attesting the recognition of disability or the invalidity certificate. The request must be sent together with the application, along with the following documentation:

- a. diagnosis of Specific Learning Disorders (SLD), under Law no. 170/2010, drawn up by the National Health Service, by an accredited private centre, or by a private specialist, accompanied by a certificate of conformity issued by the National Health Service. The documentation must be no more than three years old or drawn up after the candidate's 18th birthday;
- b. documentation, issued by a National Health Service specialist, attesting another type of specific developmental disorder affecting learning;
- c. certification of disability under Law no. 104/92;
- d. certification of civil invalidity;
- e. medical documentation, drawn up by a specialist, attesting health conditions (physical and/or psychological) that may result in an incapacity, even temporary, for study and for taking the test. The overall documentation produced must be clear and contain information useful for understanding the candidate's specific needs (N.B.: if the candidate holds both certification under Law no. 104/92 and further medical documentation, he or she may submit everything deemed useful).

2. Candidates with disabilities or SLD residing in foreign countries who intend to benefit from accommodations must submit the legalised certification (or with apostille, where required) attesting the state of disability or SLD, issued in the country of residence, accompanied by an official translation drawn up exclusively in Italian or English. The certifications are examined by the competent structures to ascertain that the documentation attests a condition of disability or specific learning disorder recognised by Italian legislation. The documentation is examined to assess the consistency of the requested accommodations with the documentation submitted. In case of incomplete or barely legible documentation, a supplement will be requested, to be sent within the mandatory deadlines set in the communication. Candidates who do not submit the request for accommodations within the deadlines set by the call, or who fail to send any supplementary documents requested within the deadlines indicated, cannot be granted the requested accommodations.

Art. 9 – Enrolment

1. Those who have accepted the scholarship will receive a communication with the information necessary for enrolment. The enrolment procedure is completed upon payment of the regional fee due to ARDSU Toscana, of the stamp duty and of the insurance, according to the instructions

**ISIA***Firenze*

published on the website of ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence at <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>.

Art. 12, para. 5, of D.M. 226/2021 and the other provisions in force apply to public employees admitted to doctorate programmes.

Art. 10 – Regional fee for access to and attendance of the programmes

1. Doctoral students are required to pay the stamp duty (€16.00) and the regional fee for the right to study, the amount of which, unless otherwise determined by the Tuscany Region, is set at €140.00.

The following are not required to pay the regional fee for the right to study:

- winners and eligible candidates in the scholarship ranking list of the Regional Agency for the Right to University Study;
- students with disabilities, with recognised handicap (Art. 3, para. 1, of Law no. 104 of 5 February 1992) or with an invalidity equal to or greater than 66%;
- students who are children of holders of an invalidity pension (Art. 30 of Law no. 118 of 30 March 1971).

Admission to the years following the first, and to the final examination, is subject to verification of payment of the regional fee.

Art. 11 – Scholarships

1. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of the results of the ranking list referred to in Art. 7. The annual amount of the scholarship is €16,243.00, plus social security charges, of which $\frac{2}{3}$ are borne by the administration and $\frac{1}{3}$ by the doctoral student.
2. Admission to the doctorate programme entails an exclusive, full-time commitment on the part of the doctoral student. Simultaneous enrolment in other academic courses is permitted under the conditions set out in Law no. 33 of 12 April 2022, Art. 2, para. 2, and in Ministerial Decrees 930/2022 and 933/2022.
3. Cases of total or partial incompatibility for the enjoyment of the scholarship are set by the legislation in force. In particular, scholarships cannot be combined with research grants or with other scholarships awarded under any title.
4. The scholarships last at least three years in total and are renewed annually, provided that the doctoral student has been admitted to the following year by the Doctoral Board, after verification of the regular and productive performance of the programme of activities planned for the previous year.
5. In addition to the scholarship, and within the financial resources available in the budget, each doctoral student is guaranteed, from the first year, a budget for research activity in Italy and abroad, set for each programme at 10% of the gross annual amount of the scholarship.

**ISIA***Firenze*

6. Under D.M. 470/2024, Art. 11, para. 5: "Public employees admitted to a doctorate programme benefit, for the normal duration of the programme, from the leave provided for by collective bargaining or, if employed under public law, from extraordinary leave for study reasons, compatibly with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Art. 2 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, with or without pay and unless expressly waived, only if they are enrolled in a doctorate programme for the first time, regardless of the subject area. The right to the research activity budget in Italy and abroad referred to in Art. 9, para. 4, remains unaffected."
7. Anyone who has already benefited, even partially, from a scholarship to attend a doctorate programme cannot benefit from one a second time.

Art. 12 – Award of the title

1. The title of Doctor of Research (PhD) is awarded – jointly with the partner institutions – upon passing the final examination. The doctoral student is required to deposit the doctoral thesis, in electronic form, in the dedicated digital archive of ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, according to the procedures that will be communicated.

Art. 13 – Intellectual property of research results and publications

1. Intellectual and industrial property rights over any results achieved by the doctoral student are regulated in accordance with the legislation in force (Copyright Law – Legislative Decree 633/1941 – and Industrial Property Code – Legislative Decree 30/2005 as amended), on the basis of what is established in the individual agreements with ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence and the companies or bodies involved.

The doctoral student's inalienable moral right to be recognised as author or inventor remains unaffected.

The doctoral student is required to sign a specific confidentiality undertaking regarding the confidential information, data and documents of which he or she may become aware in the course of his or her activity.

In any case, the doctoral student is guaranteed the possibility of carrying out the ordinary publication activities envisaged by the training programme, which must be planned in a way compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 14 – Processing of personal data

1. The personal data relating to this procedure are collected and processed for the institutional purposes of the University, in accordance with Arts. 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
2. Candidates have the right to access their personal data, to request their rectification, erasure or restriction of processing, and to object to their processing, by addressing their requests to: segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it

**ISIA***Firenze*

3. In addition to administrative and judicial remedies, recourse may be had to the Data Protection Authority (*Garante per la protezione dei dati personali*), <https://www.garanteprivacy.it>, if it is believed that the processing takes place in violation of the EU Regulation.
4. The data controller is the Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, with registered office at via Pisana 79, 50143 Florence – PEC mailbox: segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it
5. The Data Protection Officer is Sicurdata s.r.l., Via Ernesto Codignola 10, 50018 Scandicci (FI) – by email: info@opendata.it; PEC: sicurdatasrl@pec.pec-opendata.com.

Art. 15 – Publicity

1. This call is published on the European Community website Euraxess (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering/organisations/profile/isia-firenze>), on the MUR website and on the institutional website of ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence (<http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>).

The call will also be disseminated through publication on the websites of the partner institutions and on the dedicated ministerial portals.

Art. 16 – Person in charge of the procedure

1. For all purposes of this call, the competent Organisational Unit is the Doctorate Office of ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence, via Pisana 79, 50143 Florence.

Information and clarifications on the submission of the application may be requested at dottorati@isiadesign.fi.it. The person in charge of the procedure (*Responsabile del procedimento*) is Dr. Francesco Paolo D'Elia, Administrative Director of ISIA Florence.

Art. 17 – Condition of effectiveness – safeguard clause

1. This call is issued pending the funding of the doctorate programme in question, pursuant to D.M. 470/2024. If the programme is not funded, it will not be possible to proceed with its activation for the XLII cycle – a.y. 2026/2027.
2. The doctorate programme is activated "subject to condition" (*sub condizione*) of accreditation by ANVUR.

Art. 18 – Final provisions

1. The competition records are public; access to them is permitted in the manner established by Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990.
2. For anything not expressly provided for in this call, reference is made to the General Teaching Regulations of ISIA Florence, to D.M. 470 of 21/2/2024 and to the other legislative and regulatory provisions in force.
3. ISIA – Higher Institute for Artistic Industries of Florence reserves the right to exclude at any time candidates who take part in the tests provided for by this call for failure to comply with the



ISIA

Firenze

provisions given herein or with the stated deadlines, or for lack of the requirements requested of candidates.

4. The call is also available in English; by law, the Italian version prevails.

The Director Prof. Simone Paternich

