

**PUBLIC COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADMISSION
TO THE PhD PROGRAM – 41st CYCLE
COGNITIVE DESIGN: INTEGRATED EVOLUTION OF HUMANS AND TECHNOLOGY
IN THE NEW PRODUCTIVE ERA**

code DOT249W3PP

administrative headquarters at **ISIA – Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche,**
Florence

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 22, 2025 – 12:00 P.M. (Italian time)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

ART. 1 – ESTABLISHMENT AND FEATURES OF THE PhD PROGRAM

1. This call regulates the admission procedures, pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 470 of February 21, 2024, to the PhD program in **“Cognitive Design: Integrated Evolution of Humans and Technology in the New Productive Era”**, with its administrative headquarters at the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche of Florence (hereinafter, “ISIA Florence”) and jointly conducted with the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche of Rome (hereinafter, “ISIA Rome”).

2. The PhD program has a duration of three years, starting on November 10, 2025.

, 2025, and provides for 2 funded positions, one financed by ISIA Florence and one by ISIA Rome.

3. The educational activities of the PhD program will take place at the headquarters of ISIA Florence, as well as at partner institutions and other venues jointly identified according to research needs.

4. Submission of the application for admission, in accordance with the procedures set out in Art. 3, entails the candidate’s acceptance of the rules contained in this call.

5. The use of the masculine gender in this call is not intended to be discriminatory but, as a neutral form, serves solely to facilitate communication.

ART. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications for participation in the competition may be submitted, regardless of age or citizenship, by those who, at the deadline of the call, hold one of the following academic qualifications:

- Master’s degree obtained in accordance with Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 270/2004;
- Specialist degree obtained in accordance with D.M. 509/1999;
- Degree obtained under the educational regulations preceding D.M. 509/1999, with a legal duration of at least four years;
- Second-level academic qualification awarded by Institutions of Higher Artistic, Musical and Choreutic Education (AFAM) or equivalent (Pre-existing Regulations combined with a secondary school diploma);

- Academic qualification obtained at foreign universities equivalent to the Italian qualification required for access.

Applications may also be submitted by those who will obtain one of the above-mentioned qualifications no later than October 25, 2025. In this case, the candidate will be admitted conditionally and it is their responsibility to send a self-certification of the newly obtained qualification to the PhD Office at: dottorati@isiadesign.fi.it within 5 days from the date of achievement. Failure to submit the aforementioned self-certification within the specified period will result in exclusion from the ranking.

ART. 3 – APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Applications for the PhD program must be submitted exclusively via certified email (PEC) to the address segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it by 12:00 PM (Italian time) on October 22, 2025.

2. The candidate must complete the application using only the “Application Form”, indicating, under penalty of exclusion:

- personal details;
- whether they intend to take the interview in Italian or English;
- whether or not they are an employee of Public Administration;
- that they have not previously received any PhD scholarships in Italy, even partially.

3. The following documents must be attached to the application:

3.1. Qualifications required for access, under penalty of exclusion:

a) FOR QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED IN ITALY

Self-certification of the degree (specialist/master’s or second-level AFAM diploma or single-cycle degree), including the final grade and, if applicable, the title of the thesis;

b) FOR QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED ABROAD

Candidates holding a foreign academic qualification (equivalent to a specialist/master’s degree, pre-Bologna degree, or second-level AFAM diploma) may submit an application by attaching their academic qualifications, accompanied by a translation into Italian or English. Such candidates are admitted to the competition conditionally and will be excluded from the competition, or, if they pass it, from the PhD program they enrolled in, if it is later verified that the qualification does not meet the requirements of this call and therefore does not allow enrollment in the PhD program.

Specifically, the foreign academic qualification must be comparable in duration, level, and disciplinary field to an Italian second-level academic qualification. The suitability of the foreign qualification, if not already recognized under current legislation, will be verified by the PhD Admission Committee solely for the purpose of access to the competition, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country where the qualification was awarded, as well as the Treaties or International Agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for further studies.

Before the start of courses, candidates must submit to the PhD Office, together with the enrollment application, the qualifications translated, legalized in Italian, and accompanied by a “Declaration of Value” issued locally by the competent Italian Representation in the country where the qualification was obtained. Alternatively,

candidates may submit certificates of comparability and verification of the foreign university qualification issued by the ENIC-NARIC center in Italy (CIMEA), containing all necessary information for evaluating the qualification. For qualifications obtained in a European Union country, the Diploma Supplement is sufficient.

For entry into Italy, non-EU citizens residing abroad must register on the University portal and request a type D post-graduate visa from the competent Italian Embassy or Consulate.

3.1.2 The following attachments are mandatory for the application, under penalty of exclusion:

a) Copy of a valid identity document or passport;

b) Curriculum vitae et studiorum (preferably in European format) in Italian or English, signed in accordance with Articles 46 and 47 of DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments;

c) Receipt of payment of the non-refundable fee of €30.00. The amount must be credited to the bank account of the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche di Firenze at Banco di Lucca e Tirreno S.p.A., IBAN: IT13T0324213799T20990000026, indicating the reason: "admission fee for PhD competition a.y. 25-26." The fee is non-refundable under any circumstances. The candidate will be considered officially registered and admitted to the competition only after the payment of the fee;

d) Research project, drafted in Italian or English, in PDF format, which must include:

- d1) Description of the project;
- d2) Contextualization of the topic;
- d3) Methodologies;
- d4) Expected results;
- d5) Brief bibliography.

The maximum length must be 5,000 characters (including spaces and notes) for all points under section D, excluding bibliography and images. The project will be evaluated solely for admission purposes and does not constitute a binding constraint for the doctoral research.

3.1.3 Additional qualifications and attachments that may be evaluated:

a) Other academic qualifications deemed useful for evaluation purposes, specifically:

- Specialist/master's degree or pre-Bologna degree;
- Second-level AFAM diplomas;
- Relevant first-level Master's programs;
- Relevant second-level Master's programs;
- Specialization or advanced training courses.
- Language certifications in languages other than Italian and English, for which certificates and self-certifications proving possession must be attached.

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

c) Summary of the thesis or diploma project, for those who have completed a thesis at the end of a master's degree or second-level diploma, in Italian or English, with a maximum of 4,000 characters including spaces, accompanied by a brief bibliography of the thesis with a maximum of 500 characters including spaces. In the case of a qualification not yet obtained, the summary of the thesis in progress must be attached and signed by the thesis supervisor, under penalty of non-evaluation of the qualification;

d) Scientific or artistic publications, for which the following must be indicated in the table attached to the application: year of publication, publisher, journal name, and ISSN, ISBN, or ISMN code.

Failure to declare this information and to submit the required documents during the application process cannot be remedied after the deadline. This also includes uploading empty files or files containing information different from what is required.

ISIA – Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche di Firenze may, even after enrollment and the start of the course, exclude candidates from the competition whose documentation does not meet the prescribed requirements or whose self-certifications are found to be false. In the event a candidate is excluded after admission, they are required to repay any scholarship installments received. Exclusion is enacted by decree of the Director.

All documentation must be complete with all elements necessary for evaluation; documents containing incomprehensible or illegible information will not be considered.

ART. 4 – ADMISSION EXAMINATION

1. Admission to the PhD program is subject to passing the admission examination, which assesses, through an appropriate comparative evaluation, the candidate's acquired foundational preparation, as well as their capability and aptitude for scientific/artistic research.

2. The admission examinations are conducted based on qualifications, research project, and oral examination. The oral selection interview will take place exclusively in person at the Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche di Firenze, on the date and time specified in Art. 5 of this call. No personal notifications will be sent to candidates. The Evaluation Committee has a total of 100 points.

The points are distributed as follows:

a. EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS: maximum score 20/100 (minimum score to access the oral exam: 12/20)

- A. Access qualification;
- B. Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum;
- C. Additional qualifications and attachments;

b. EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT: maximum score 30/100 (minimum score to access the oral exam: 18/30). The following will be evaluated: linguistic accuracy and clarity, originality, methodological framework, reference bibliography, and expected

results. The research project must be submitted following the guidelines specified in Art. 3, point 2, letter d of this call.

c. ORAL EXAMINATION: maximum score 50/100 (minimum score to pass the oral exam: 30/50). The oral examination will be conducted in Italian or English. The interview will focus on the research project submitted by the candidate, the candidate's educational background, and research topics related to the proposed project.

The following will be evaluated: research aptitude, competencies, and knowledge of the candidate. During the oral interview, the Committee will assess, at its sole discretion, the candidate's adequate knowledge of English and Italian. One of the two languages (English or Italian) must be at C1 level, and the other at B2 level. Knowledge of Italian and English below the levels required by the call will result in the candidate being deemed unfit by the Committee, leading to failure of the oral examination.

ART. 5 – GUIDELINES FOR THE EXAMINATION

1. Candidates deemed eligible must attend the oral examination on **November 3, 2025, at 2:00 P.M.** at the ISIA Firenze campus, via Pisana 79, Florence. Candidates must identify themselves before the interview begins by presenting a valid identity document. If necessary, the oral examination may continue on subsequent days.

Failure to attend, unavailability of the candidate on the scheduled day or time, or failure to present a valid identity document will result in exclusion from the selection process. The lists of candidates admitted to the oral examinations will be published on the PhD section of the ISIA Firenze website at <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/> at least five days before the oral exam date. Such publication serves as official notification of the convocation.

ART. 6 – THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

1. The Committee for admission to the PhD program is appointed by decree of the Director of ISIA Firenze, in accordance with current legislation. It is composed of the President of the PhD Board, or their delegate, serving as Chair, and other members, numbering between a minimum of two and a maximum of four, selected from ISIA Firenze or ISIA Roma faculty with expertise in the subject matter of the PhD. The Committee also appoints two alternate members in case of impediment or resignation of any members.

2. The composition of the Committee can be consulted on the institutional website at <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>. The Committee conducts preliminary sessions, which may be held remotely, to verify the absence of conflicts of interest between members and candidates, in accordance with Articles 51 and 52 of the Italian Code of Civil Procedure, and to evaluate the qualifications and research projects submitted by candidates, assigning scores that determine eligibility for the oral examination. At the conclusion of the oral exam, the Committee prepares the ranking list and submits the minutes of the sessions to the Director, who approves them by decree. The Examination Committee is fully responsible for the correct conduct of the selection procedures, with particular reference to the accurate assignment of scores and the proper drafting of the competition minutes.

ART. 7 – RANKING LIST

1. The Examination Committee issues a judgment of eligibility for each candidate for the purpose of assigning positions in the overall merit ranking list.

2. Research scholarships are awarded based on the overall merit ranking, selecting the winners from among the top-ranked candidates who have been deemed eligible.

3. Following the publication of the oral examination results, a decree approving the ranking list will be issued, which can be consulted on the dedicated page of the ISIA Firenze institutional website.

4. In the event of a tie, the following criteria will be applied:

a) Priority is given to the candidate with the less favorable economic situation, determined in accordance with DPCM December 5, 2013, n. 159, art. 8, paragraph 4; in case of further ties, the younger candidate prevails.

b) Winners of the competition must confirm acceptance of the position within 48 hours of the publication of the ranking list by sending a certified email (PEC) to segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it. The ranking list is adjusted in the event of express or implied renunciation of the position, until the vacancy is filled. In case of adjustment, the scholarship position will be offered to eligible candidates according to the ranking order.

ART. 8 – CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS (DSA)

1. Candidates recognized as having a disability under Art. 3, paragraphs 1 and 3, of Law February 5, 1992, n. 104, or holding a certificate of disability who require particular aids or additional time to complete the examination must submit a request along with documentation proving the recognition of the disability or the certificate of disability. This request must be sent together with the application, including the following documentation:

a. Diagnosis of Specific Learning Disorders (DSA) under Law n. 170/2010, issued by the National Health Service (SSN), an accredited private center, or a private specialist, accompanied by a conformity document issued by the SSN. The documentation must be no older than three years or issued after the candidate's 18th birthday;

b. Documentation issued by an SSN specialist certifying another type of specific developmental disorder affecting learning;

c. Certification of handicap pursuant to Law n. 104/92;

d. Civil disability certification;

e. Medical documentation, prepared by a specialist, certifying the presence of physical and/or mental health conditions that may result in temporary or permanent inability to study or take the examination. The overall documentation must be clear and provide sufficient information to understand the candidate's specific needs (Note: if the candidate possesses both certification under Law n. 104/92 and additional medical documentation, they may submit all relevant documents).

2. Candidates with disabilities or DSA residing in foreign countries who intend to request accommodations must submit a legalized certificate (or with apostille, if applicable) proving the disability or DSA, issued in their country of residence, accompanied by an official translation exclusively in Italian or English. The submitted certifications will be

examined by the competent bodies to verify that the documentation confirms a disability or specific learning disorder recognized under Italian law. The documentation will be reviewed to assess the consistency of the requested accommodations with the submitted evidence. In the case of incomplete or illegible documentation, the candidate will be asked to provide additional materials, which must be submitted within the strict deadlines specified in the communication. Candidates who fail to submit the request for accommodations within the deadlines indicated in the call or fail to provide any requested additional documentation within the specified deadlines will not be granted the requested accommodations.

ART. 9 – ENROLLMENT IN COURSES

1. Candidates who have accepted the scholarship will receive communication with the necessary information for enrollment. The enrollment procedure is considered complete upon payment of the regional tax due to ARDSU Toscana, the revenue stamp, and insurance, according to the instructions published on the ISIA Firenze website: <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>.

Public employees admitted to the PhD courses are subject to Art. 12, paragraph 5, of D.M. 226/2021 and other applicable regulations.

ART. 10 – REGIONAL TAX FOR ACCESS AND ATTENDANCE

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

The following students are exempt from the regional tax for the right to study:

- winners and eligible candidates in the scholarship ranking of the Regional Agency for the Right to University Education (ARDSU);
- students with disabilities, recognized handicaps (Art. 3, paragraph 1, of Law February 5, 1992, n. 104) or civil invalidity of 66% or higher;
- students who are children of holders of inability pensions (Art. 30 of Law March 30, 1971, n. 118).

Admission to years beyond the first and to the final examination is conditional upon verification of payment of the regional tax.

ART. 11 – SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Scholarships are awarded as specified in Art. 7. In the event of a tie, priority is given to the candidate with the more disadvantaged economic situation, in accordance with D.P.C.M. December 5, 2013, n. 159, based on the Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator (ISEE) valid for subsidized benefits for the right to university education. The annual amount of the scholarship is €16,243.00, excluding social security contributions, of which two-thirds are covered by the administration and one-third by the PhD student.

2. Admission to the PhD program requires the PhD student's full-time and exclusive commitment. Simultaneous enrollment in other academic programs is permitted under the conditions regulated by Law April 12, 2022, n. 33, Art. 2, paragraph 2, and Ministerial Decrees 930/2022 and 933/2022.

3. Cases of total or partial incompatibility for scholarship benefits are established by current regulations. In particular, scholarships cannot be combined with research grants or with other scholarships awarded for any reason.

4. Scholarships have a total duration of at least three years and are renewed annually, provided that the PhD student is admitted by the PhD Board to the following year, after verification of the regular and productive completion of the activities planned for the previous year.

5. In addition to the scholarship, and within the existing budgetary resources, each PhD student is guaranteed, starting from the first year, a research budget for activities in Italy and abroad, determined for each course at 10% of the annual gross scholarship amount.

6. Pursuant to D.M. 470/2024, Art. 11, paragraph 5:

"Public employees admitted to a PhD program benefit, for the normal duration of the course, from the leave provided by collective bargaining or, if employees under public law, from extraordinary leave for study purposes, compatible with the needs of the administration, pursuant to Art. 2 of Law August 13, 1984, n. 476, with or without allowances and subject to explicit renunciation, only if enrolling for the first time in a PhD program, regardless of the disciplinary field. The right to the research budget for activities carried out in Italy and abroad under Art. 9, paragraph 4, remains unchanged."

7. Candidates who have already benefited, even partially, from a scholarship for a PhD program cannot receive a second scholarship.

8. ISIA Firenze may be unable to award the scholarship to students from countries subject to restrictions ("embargo") until the residence permit is obtained.

ART. 12 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE

1. The PhD degree is awarded – in joint form with partner institutions – upon passing the final examination. The PhD student is required to submit the doctoral thesis in electronic format to the designated digital archive of ISIA – Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche Firenze, according to the procedures that will be communicated.

ART. 13 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. Intellectual and industrial property rights on results possibly achieved by the PhD student are governed in accordance with current legislation (Copyright Law – Legislative Decree 633/1941 and Industrial Property Code – Legislative Decree 30/2005 and subsequent amendments), as specified in the individual agreements with ISIA Firenze, companies, or other involved entities.

The inalienable moral right of the PhD student to be recognized as author or inventor remains guaranteed. The PhD student is required to sign a confidentiality agreement concerning any confidential information, data, and documents that they may become aware of during the course of their activities.

In any case, the PhD student is guaranteed the possibility to carry out ordinary publication activities provided by the training program, which must be scheduled in a manner compatible with the protection of any research results.

ART. 14 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Personal data related to this procedure are collected and processed for the institutional purposes of the University in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of EU Regulation 2016/679 – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
2. Candidates have the right to access their personal data, request its correction, deletion, or limitation of processing, and to object to its processing by sending requests to: segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it.
3. In addition to administrative and judicial protections, candidates may contact the Italian Data Protection Authority at <https://www.garanteprivacy.it> if they believe that data processing violates the EU Regulation.
4. The Data Controller is Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche di Firenze, with registered office at via Pisana 79, 50143 Florence, PEC: segreteria@pec.isiadesign.fi.it.
5. The Data Protection Officer is Sicurdata s.r.l., Via Ernesto Codignola, 10, 50018 Scandicci FI – contact by email: info@opendata.it; PEC: sicurdatasrl@pec.opendata.com.

ART. 15 – PUBLICITY

1. This call is published on the European Commission Euraxess website <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering/organisations/profile/isia-firenze>, on the MUR website, and on the ISIA Firenze institutional website <http://isiadesign.fi.it/dottorati-afam/>.

The call will also be disseminated through the websites of the partner institutions.

ART. 16 – OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCEDURE

1. For all purposes of this call, the competent organizational unit is the PhD Office of ISIA Firenze, via Pisana 79, 50143 Florence.
Questions and clarifications regarding the application process can be addressed to dottorati@isiadesign.fi.it. The officer responsible for the procedure is Dr. Francesco Paolo D'Elia, Administrative Director of ISIA Firenze.

ART. 17 – CONDITION OF EFFECTIVENESS – SAFEGUARD CLAUSE

1. This call is issued pending the funding of the PhD Program, pursuant to D.M. 470/2024. If the program is not funded, it will not be possible to activate it for the XLI cycle – academic year 2025/2026.
2. The PhD program is also activated “sub condizione” upon accreditation by ANVUR.

ART. 18 – FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The selection documents are public, and access is allowed in the manner established by Law August 7, 1990, n. 241.
2. For all matters not explicitly provided for in this call, reference is made to the Academic Regulations for Higher Education and D.M. 470 of February 21, 2024.
3. ISIA Firenze reserves the right to exclude candidates at any time who participate in the procedures provided in this call for failure to comply with the provisions or deadlines, or for lack of the required qualifications.

4. The call is also available in English; for legal purposes, the Italian version prevails.

The Director
Prof. Francesco Fumelli