

GRAN SASSO SCIENCE INSTITUTE PhD PROGRAM

Call for applications 2013/2014

Deadline July 15, 2013 at 18:00 (Italian time)

The GSSI doctoral program is divided into 4 different degrees

Astroparticle Physics	The PhD degree in physics of the Gran Sasso Science Institute is focused on Astroparticle physics. The main objective of the curriculum is to provide students access keys with cultural and scientific instruments to participate in this research field, giving a particular attention to its phenomenological and experimental aspects. The Astroparticle PhD degree will be issued by the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste, with the mention of the course of study completed at GSSI.
Mathematics in Natural, Social and Life Sciences	The PhD degree in mathematics will guide graduate students to deal not only with the more traditional aspects of this discipline, such as Pure Mathematics, Partial Differential Equations and Mathematical Physics, but also with entirely new challenges, which require the development of the most appropriate tools to deal with the complexity, such as stochastic analysis and computational mathematics. The PhD degree will be issued by the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste, with the mention of the course of study completed at GSSI.
Computer Science	The PhD program in computer science of the GSSI aims to provide students with the main results, theories, techniques and methodologies regarding algorithms, models, languages, software and services to cope successfully with the challenges of the present and future Information and Communication Technology. The PhD degree will be issued by the Institutions Markets Technologies (IMT) in Lucca, with the mention of the course of study completed at GSSI.
Urban Studies	The Ph.D. in Urban Studies will focus on the study of the trajectories of long-term development of <i>local systems</i> and, in particular, the <i>urban systems</i> - cities, metropolitan areas and regions. The methodological perspective in research and teaching is trans-disciplinary: offering resources and an appropriate relational context. The PhD degree will be issued by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa, with the mention of the course of study completed at GSSI.

Duration: 3 years

Language: courses and seminars will be held in English

Classes start in November 2013

Scholarships

- Ph.D. in Astroparticle: 6 positions
- Ph.D. in Mathematics in Natural, Social and Life Sciences: 6 positions
- Ph.D. in Computer Science: 10 positions
- Ph.D. in Urban Studies: 10 positions

The GSSI board can increase the number of scholarships in case of particularly talented applicants.

The gross amount of a single scholarship is 16.159,91 €/year

Facilities

- All Ph.D. students will have tuition fees waived
- All Ph.D. students will have free accommodation
- All Ph.D. students will have free luncheon vouchers
- All Ph.D. students will be covered by insurance against any accident and/or injury that may occur while carrying out their Ph.D. activities.

For more information please visit the GSSI web page www.gssi.infn.it.

Requirements

Applications are opened to candidates who meet the below requirements without regard to nationality, age, gender or religion.

- English knowledge is compulsory
- The candidate must have completed and obtained **a degree equivalent to at least 4 years of university studies**

Italian Degree	Foreign Degree	Graduating Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Laurea Magistrale” (or “Specialistica”) according to DM n. 509, 3/11/1999 - four or five years degree according to the previous rules of the Italian higher education system 	<p>Foreign degrees are considered and their eligibility is assessed by the Selection Committee.</p> <p>For admissions, the minimum duration of university studies is equivalent to four years (full time).</p> <p>If admitted foreign degree holders are required to hand in a “Dichiarazione di valore”. This document is not required to apply (see below).</p>	<p>Applicants obtaining their degree by no later than October 31 2013 may apply (both Italian or foreign degree according to the previous description)</p> <p>They must hand in the copy of their degree certificate by the date of enrollment.</p>

Application

Applicants must fill out the **online application form** and attach the required documents by **July 15 2013 at 6:00 pm (Italian time)**.

All applicants are invited to read carefully the applications instructions available in the GSSI web page in the application procedure section.

Data and documents entered into the application form are the sole responsibility of the applicant. In the events of false declaration(s), the applicant will not be allowed to enroll in the GSSI Ph.D. program.

In order to submit the application form, applicants must insert all the mandatory data and attachments as listed below.

Information		
The curriculum to which the applicant is applying: - Astroparticle - Mathematics in Natural, Social and Life Sciences - Computer Science - Urban Studies	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	It is possible to apply for more than one curriculum, in this case the applicant should repeat the application procedure for each curriculum chosen.
Personal data	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	
Education history	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	Applicants should submit academic transcript and/or diploma supplement
Interview	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	Applicants must specify the mode they wish to be interviewed
Additional Information	Optional	Applicants can provide additional information about their university degree.
Reference Letters	Optional	Applicants can provide the names and contact information of no more than two referees. Referees should agree in submitting reference letters in English in respect of the applicant through our online application system by July 15 2013 .
English knowledge level	Optional	Applicants can submit IELTS certification.
Disability	Optional	

Special Arrangements	Optional	
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Attachments		
Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum (CV)	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	The CV must be written in English.
Identification Document	Compulsory (on pain of exclusion from the competition)	<p>For Italians and EU Citizens: National Identity card or passport Extra-EU applicants: Passport highly recommended.</p> <p>The copy has to be signed by the candidate, indicating the date and place of signature. In case that your document is not written in English or Italian, please upload also a translation into English or Italian (Please note that you can translate the document yourself- there is no need for an official/legal translation).</p> <p>In particular the pages containing the applicant's photograph, personal data, document number, place and date of issue. If some of this information is missing, the document will not be accepted.</p> <p>In the event that copies of documents are illegible, the Selection Committee may request to see the original prior to the date of the entrance interview.</p>
Academic Transcripts or Diploma supplement	Compulsory	<p>The applicant has to attach at least one of the documents listed below.</p> <p>Academic transcript: an official document detailing your course, classes taken or subjects studied and results, completion date, graduation date.</p> <p>Diploma Supplement: a detailed transcript of student attainment that is</p>

		appended to the certificate of attainment of the qualification.
Title certificate	Compulsory	<p>Degree Certificates (Bachelor/Master):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for applicants with a degree: a self-declaration or a certificate declaring the possession of a degree, conferral date, issuing University and final grade; - for applicants who expect to complete their degree by the 31st of October 2013: certificate or self-declaration indicating examinations taken and grades obtained. Please note that it is compulsory to hand in the degree certificate by the date of enrolment. Candidates can anticipate the document by email apply.gssi@lngs.infn.it. <p>If the certificate is not in Italian or in English, the applicant should also submit (under her/his responsibility) a translation into English or Italian.</p>

Submission

We strongly recommend applicants review the inserted information and uploaded attachments before submitting the application. **No changes are allowed to submitted data.** Erroneous data and/or attachments will be evaluated as they are submitted.

Please note that applicants are responsible for ensuring that their completed application **arrives on time**. We strongly suggest that applicants submit their application well in advance of the deadline in order to avoid last-minute congestion in the online application procedure.

Selection Committee

The GSSI board will appoint a selection committee for each Ph.D. curriculum, agreed with the partner institutions SISSA (Astroparticle and Mathematics in Natural, Social and Life Sciences), IMT (Computer Science) and SSSA (Urban Studies).

Selection Procedure

Applicants are evaluated by the selection committee of the program in which they intend to register on the basis of their prior performance and professional promise, as evidenced by their academic record and any other pertinent data they submit. While high academic achievement does not guarantee admission, GSSI expects such achievement or other persuasive evidence of professional promise.

Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of their academic background, skills and scientific value with reference to the subjects of the interdisciplinary program, and their general aptitudes to research. The selection committee will also assess the relevance of any publication, the suitability of the candidates CV, the reference letters and any additional special qualifications, educational activities and/or participation in research groups or projects.

The selection procedure will be carried out in two phases:

- **Assessment of all application admitted through the online procedure:** With the publication on the GSSI web site of the shortlist of the candidates admitted to the interview.
- **Interview:** Once short-listed, applicants will be required to participate in a comprehensive interview in English in order to assess their aptitude for research in the track/curricula for which they have applied, as well as their English proficiency.

Dates of the shortlist publication and interviews in the different Ph.D. degrees

	shortlist	Interview
Astroparticle Physics	31/07/2013	from 26/08 to 09/09/2013
Mathematics in Natural, Social and Life Sciences	22/07/2013	from 25/07 to 31/07/2013
Computer Science	31/07/2013	from 26/08 to 09/09/2013
Urban Studies	31/07/2013	from 26/08 to 09/09/2013

Candidates admitted to the interview must confirm their participation by email to apply.ggsi@lngs.infn.it within 48 hours of publication of the shortlist. According to the mode by which the Candidates wish to be interviewed, the interviews could be conducted as follows:

- At GSSI headquarters in L'Aquila. In this case, candidates will be provided with free accommodation, if available (travel expenses are not covered);
- Via videoconference or through any other procedure allowing visual contact with the candidates and viewing of their identity document (candidates must show identification before the interview begins);
- At an Italian Embassy/Consulate. In this case, the candidate must provide GSSI with the contact details of the relevant Italian Embassy/Consulate. Before the interview, the Embassy/consulate staff will proceed with an identification verification of the candidate.

Admission

General ranking list and evaluation results will be published on the GSSI and INFN web sites. The list will indicate the names of the applicants who have been admitted to the different Ph.D. programs.

Candidates who apply for more than one Curriculum are eligible to be admitted to the ranking of one Curriculum only. Moreover, the Selection Committee could consider a candidate suitable for a different Track selected by the candidate. In this case, the candidate will be admitted for the track decided by the Selection Committee.

In the event of forfeiture or exclusion of a candidate within 45 days from the date of beginning of the program, she/he shall be replaced by the next suitable candidate according to the ranking.

Enrollment

Once admitted to the Ph.D. program, candidates who wish to enroll must download the enrollment form from the GSSI website, fill it in, and submit it in person or by post to GSSI (viale F. Crispi n. 7, 67100 L'Aquila - Italy) within 30 days from the notification of the results on the GSSI website. All documents required for the enrolment have to be enclosed; otherwise, the request will be rejected.

Admitted applicants who do not send the enrollment form within the deadline will automatically forfeit their place in the program.

Please note that enrollment is effective ONLY starting from your arrival at GSSI (no later than the first day of official classes). Unauthorized absences may nullify the enrollment procedure.

In the event that any of the documents downloaded during the application procedure do not correspond those submitted during enrollment due to deliberate false declaration, the applicant will automatically forfeit his/her place in the program.

Dichiarazione di Valore

Prior to registration, admitted candidates with foreign degree will have to send the "Dichiarazione di valore" or a document that certifies that the procedure for obtaining such document has been initiated. The "Dichiarazione di Valore" is a translation and legal certification issued according to the relevant legislation by a qualified Italian diplomatic or consular representative in the country where the degree/qualification has been issued, listing all the exams taken and the grades received by the applicant.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please note that it may take quite some time to obtain the "Dichiarazione di Valore"; as such, we suggest contacting the Italian diplomatic representative in the country where the degree has been issued as soon as possible in the application process.

For further information please contact

apply.gssi@lngs.infn.it

info.gssi@lngs.infn.it