



<b>The Italian Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023</b>	
<b>Eligible Implementing Actors (Article 4)</b>	<p>The implementing actors are the legally recognized public and non-public universities, including the online universities and the university institutes having special regulations.</p> <p><b>The implementing actors identify partner business companies willing to co-finance at 50 per cent PhD scholarships</b> to meet the business companies' research and innovation goals.</p> <p><b>CHARACTERIZATION OF BUSINESS COMPANY</b> (Article 1 – Definition n. 19) “(…) The notion of business company <b>embraces any institution that carries out an economic activity</b>, regardless of its legal status and its financing methods. The <b>definition of a particular body as a business company therefore depends entirely on the nature of its activities.</b>”</p> <p><b>For the purposes of this Decree bodies such as local health authorities, S.C.A.R.L. - type of consortium companies, a combination of public and private entities having an independent legal personality (e.g., "Ecosystems of innovation", "Extended Partnerships", "National Centers" and "National Technology Clusters"), business networks, business and professional associations that may be subject to verification - where necessary - of the existence of their status.</b></p> <p>(See: Paragraph 2 “Definition of business company and of economic activity” from the Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)</p>
<b>Financial Endowment (Article 3)</b>	<p>The co-financing amount, equal to € 30.000.00 is assigned to the University when implementing Mission 4, component 2 "From Research to Business" - "Investment 3.3: Introduction of innovative PhD Programmes that respond to the innovation needs of business companies and promote their recruitment of researchers”.</p>
<b>Distribution of Resources (Article 5)</b>	<p>Moreover under Article 3, paragraph 4 and Table A – Centre Northern Italy <b>The budget</b> assigned to the University of Brescia equals to € 2.640,000.00 for <b>n. 88 PhD scholarships. Each scholarship is co-financed by this budget for a 50%</b> (€ 30.000.00) to attend the three-year PhD Programmes, starting from the Academic Year 2023/2024.</p>
<b>Eligible Expenses (Article 8)</b>	<p>The Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023 envisages the unit cost for a PhD scholarship to € 60.000.00 for the entire three-year period, out of which € 30.000,00 shall be borne by business companies.</p>
<b>Eligibility and evaluation criteria (Article 7)</b>	<p>Within the University autonomy and through one or more Calls for Admission to PhD Programmes <b>the University identifies the research topics of the PhD scholarships referred to in the Italian Ministerial Decree 117/2023</b>. The University will assess the consistency of business companies' expression of interests to participate in the co-financing of 50% of PhD scholarships.</p> <p><b>During the PhD Programmes phase of approval</b> the University communicates to the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research which are the business companies partners that intend to co-finance PhD scholarships.</p> <p><b>The research projects will be selected pursuant their consistency with the Italian NPRR topics:</b></p>

- MISSION 1: DIGITIZATION, INNOVATION, COMPETITIVENESS, CULTURE AND TOURISM
- MISSION 2: GREEN REVOLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION
- MISSION 3: INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
- MISSION 5: INCLUSION AND COHESION
- MISSION 6: HEALTH

As well as pursuant to the criteria set in the Italian Director's Decree of the Ministry of Research and Universities dated July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 n. 1540 that refer to implementing a public Call for innovative PhD Programmes having an industrial character. The criteria are as follows:

a. Having regard that the research projects develop within the disciplinary and thematic areas consistent with the needs of the Country, as well as the regional territories involved in the programme, in terms of highly qualified figures and oriented towards meeting the innovation needs of the companies referred to in the NPRR

b. Having regard to implement the entire PhD training, research and evaluation programme at the administrative and operational offices of the beneficiary University, with the exception of study and research periods at the business company and abroad, planned in line with the training and research activities at the proposing subject's premises

**c. Having regard to plan a period of study and research at the proposing subject's premises for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum of eighteen (18) months, even non-continuous, within the three-years PhD Programme**

**d. Having regard to plan a period of study and research outside Italy (international mobility), even non-continuous, for a minimum of six (6) months to a maximum period as envisaged within the Italian Ministerial Decree n. 226/2021 (Article n. 9, paragraph 3)**

e. Having regard to ensure that the PhD benefits of qualified and specific technical and scientific structures, in accordance with the law, for study and research activities including (if relevant to the type of the PhD Programme) scientific laboratories, libraries, databases, etc.

f. Having regard to implement academic activities aimed at language and IT improvement, research management and knowledge of European and international research systems, as well as at the enhancement of research results and intellectual property

g. Having regard to plan, through specific agreements, the involvement of business companies in the definition of the PhD training pathways also in the context of wider partnerships with the University and the co-financing of the 50% of the amount of the PhD scholarships required

h. Having regard to promote the enhancement of research results and ensure the protection of intellectual property, by guaranteeing open access of the results of research and of its data (e.g. publications of original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, sources, digital graphic and image representations and scientific multimedia materials) in the shortest time and with the least number of limitations as possible, consistent with the principles of "Open science" and "FAIR Data".

	<p><b>The abovementioned periods of study and research (letters c and d) are separate one from the other and must be carried out at different subjects.</b></p> <p><i>The selection procedure will envisage eligibility criteria to ensure that the selected projects comply with the technical guidelines on the application of the principle "do not cause significant harm" (2021/C58/01) through the use of an exclusion list and the compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation</i></p> <p><b>In order to assign the PhD scholarships to the eligible selected candidates</b> the University must complete a ministerial document providing the necessary information with respect to each scholarship assigned (e.g. number of scholarships awarded and/or being awarded) by 5 October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023</p> <p>By <b>October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023</b> the University must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approve the resolution of its competent academic body to acknowledge all the rankings</b> approved in the context of the individual PhD Programmes and to quantify the total amount devoted to funding the PhD scholarships</li> <li>• <b>Provide the Ministry of Universities and Research the data of the PhD assignees</b> and the unique project code (CUP code) of the projects identified for each PhD Programme</li> <li>• Sign the letters of intent / Agreements with the business companies.</li> </ul> <p>By <b>December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b> the University and its partners must sign the mandatory acts to be uploaded on a specific ministerial database.</p> <p>The activities of PhD Programmes must begin <b>by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023</b>.</p>
<p><b>News – Tax relief for the hiring of PhDs, research fellows, temporary researchers (PREAMBLE of the Italian Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023)</b></p>	<p><b>Article n. 26 of the Italian Legislative Decree February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, n. 13</b></p> <p>1. During the implementing period and with the aim to achieve the objectives envisaged by investment 3.3 of Mission 4, Component 2 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, <b>companies participating in the financing of innovative PhD scholarships may benefit an exemption from the payment of overall social security contributions payable by employers</b> up to a maximum amount of € 3.750,00 yearly, re-parameterized and applied on a monthly basis, for each permanent recruitment of personnel holding a PhD Degree or who is or has been the holder of contracts referred to in Articles 22 or 24 of the Italian Law dated December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010, n. 240. The calculation rate of pension benefits remains the same. Premiums and contributions due to the Italian National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL) are excluded from this benefit.</p> <p>2. <b>Each business company can apply for the benefit within the limit of two open-ended positions for each funded PhD doctoral scholarship</b>, and in any case within the limits established by (EU) regulations no. 1407/2013 and no. 1408/2013 of the Commission, of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 within the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union in respect to the «<i>de minimis</i>» aid principle. The exemption referred to in paragraph 1 applies for a maximum period of 24 months, starting from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and in any case no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, without prejudice to the maximum amount limit of € 7.500,00 for each unit of personnel hired on a permanent basis and in any case within the overall limits of the resources referred to in paragraph 4.</p>

## SPECIFIC CRITERIA DEFINED BY UniBS RECTOR'S DECREE n. 330/2023

<p><b>BUSINESS COMPANIES' CHARACTERISTICS</b></p>	<p>The partner business companies must have an organized structure aimed at the development of research activities, as well as laboratories and/or plants in which the future PhD student, beneficiary of the co-financed scholarship, will carry out the study and research period as envisaged by Article n. 7, paragraph 4, letter c) of the Italian Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023</p>
<p><b>ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS</b></p>	<p>The Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan, or NRRP (financed by the Programme Next Generation EU) Projects presented in line with the following development goals of the Italian PNRR are eligible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISSION 1: DIGITIZATION, INNOVATION, COMPETITIVENESS, CULTURE AND TOURISM</li> <li>• MISSION 2: GREEN REVOLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION</li> <li>• MISSION 3: INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</li> <li>• MISSION 5: INCLUSION AND COHESION</li> <li>• MISSION 6: HEALTH</li> </ul>
<p><b>PREFERENTIAL CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS</b></p>	<p>The business companies co-financing proposals will be evaluated if they are consistent with the following preferential criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Relevance of the proposed topic, to be evaluated in consultation with the Coordinators of the PhD Programmes</li> <li>2) Amount of the co-financing proposals, to choose from the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) Minimum amount of co-financing</b> of a PhD scholarship <b>equal to € 30,000.00</b>, as envisaged by the Italian Ministerial Decree n. 117/2023 for the three-year PhD Programme from the 1st A.Y. 2023/2024</li> <li><b>(b) Minimum amount of co-financing</b> of a PhD scholarship + <b>Amount envisaged as research budget</b> for the future PhD student <b>equal to € 34.984,98</b></li> <li><b>(c) Minimum amount of co-financing</b> of a PhD scholarship + <b>Amount envisaged as research budget</b> for the future PhD student + <b>Amount devoted to the 50% increase of the scholarship for study and research outside Italy (international mobility)</b> to be paid only upon completion of the actual periods spent abroad, <b>equal to € 45.003,66</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>3) The number of PhD scholarships that the business company intends to finance</li> </ol>