



**Teaching Board of PhD Course in Agricultural,  
Food and Forestry Sciences (SAAF) - Cycle XXXVIII**

**Minutes no. 1 - Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Composition of the Teaching Board:

			P	AG	A
1.	Abenavoli	Maria Rosa	x		
2.	Agosteo	Giovanni			x
3.	Barreca	Francesco			x
4.	Bernardi	Bruno	x		
5.	Bombino	Giuseppe	x		
6.	Campolo	Orlando	x		
7.	De Luca	Anna Irene	x		
8.	Di Fazio	Salvatore	x		
9.	Giuffrè	Angelo Maria	x		
10.	Gulisano	Giovanni	x		
11.	Li Destri	Giulia			x
12.	Lombardi	Fabio	x		
13.	Lupini	Antonio	x		
14.	Marcianò	Claudio	x		
15.	Marziliano	Pasquale	x		
16.	Modica	Giuseppe	x		
17.	Monti	Michele	x		
18.	Muscolo	Adele Maria	x		
19.	Nicolosi	Agata	x		
20.	Palmeri	Vincenzo	x		
21.	Piscopo	Amalia Rosa Maria	x		
22.	Poiana	Marco	x		
23.	Porto	Paolo		x	
24.	Proto	Andrea Rosario	x		
25.	Schena	Leonardo	x		
26.	Sicari	Vincenzo	x		
27.	Sorgonà	Agostino	x		
28.	Spampinato	Giovanni	x		
29.	Strano	Alfio	x		
30.	Sunseri	Francesco		x	
31.	Zema	Demetrio Antonio	x		
32.	Zimbalatti	Giuseppe			x
33.	Abdelfattah	Ahmed	x		
34.	Garcia-Ruiz	Roberto	x		
35.	Lucas-Borja	Manuel Esteban	x		
36.	Tassone	Valentina C.	x		

The meeting takes place live at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Agriculture. The meeting is chaired by the Coordinator, prof. Leonardo Schena. Prof. Anna Irene De Luca acts as verbalizing secretary. The members of the board residing abroad (Abdelfattah A., García-Ruíz R., Lucas-Borja M.E., Tassone V.C.) participate in the meeting electronically through the Microsoft Teams platform using the appropriate channel “PhD SAAF (Cycle XXXVIII)” created by the Coordinator. The Coordinator, noting that the Board has been regularly convened by invitation sent by e-mail on 07<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and that it is in a position to deliberate, declares the meeting open at 15:15. The agenda is as follows:

1. Communications;
2. Appointment of Vicar (Art. 6, paragraph 3 of the University Regulations on PhDs);
3. Criteria for co-financing of doctoral scholarships;
4. Designation of the Selection Board for the admission competition to the PhD Course XXXVIII cycle.

### **1. Communications.**

- 1.1. The Coordinator greets the Teaching Board of the PhD in Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences (SAAF) XXXVIII Cycle, recalling that today’s meeting represents the first official opportunity for the members of the new Board to meet, following the recent approval, which took place last July by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR). The PhD Course project was presented in May 2022 and drawn up taking into account the complexity and richness of scientific contents that characterized the Scientific Disciplinary Sectors (SSD) involved, as well as the main aspects of research in the disciplines of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences. The composition of the Teaching Board, resulting from the definition of the project, appears convincing and consistent both from a qualitative point of view, for the wide representativeness of the SSDs involved, as well as from the quantitative point of view, for the large number of researchers involved equal to 36, of which 32 belong to the Department of Agriculture and 4 to foreign Universities and Research Centers. In particular, the Coordinator proceeds by welcoming foreign teachers connected through the Microsoft Teams platform, namely: Abdelfattah Ahmed of the *Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy* (Germany), Roberto García-Ruíz of the Department of *Agroforestry of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology* of the University of Jaén (Spain), Manuel Esteban Lucas-Borja of the Department of *Agroforestry Science and Technology and Genetics*, of the University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain) and Valentina Tassone of the Department of *Social Science*, Wageningen University (Netherlands). The Coordinator invites foreign colleagues to a brief self-presentation to the Italian colleagues to specify their disciplinary affiliations and skills.
- 1.2. The Coordinator informs those present that the call for participation in the XXXVIII Cycle is closed. It was published on 29 July 2022 and provides 26 places for the whole University of Reggio Calabria, of which 21 with scholarships. In the specific field of the SAAF PhD Course, 5 places have been banned, 4 of which with scholarships. The Coordinator recalls that the approved project provides for co-financing by the Department and that the Department Council, at its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Council no. 122), approved the co-financing of € 24,000.00 (€ 6,000.00 per grant) distributed over the three years of the doctorate, specifying that this co-financing must fall on the components of the scientific-disciplinary sectors (SSD). As a result of this resolution, by email of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 sent to all the professors belonging to the Department of Agriculture, the Director invited the SSDs concerned to communicate their intention to contribute to the co-financing of the Cycle XXXVIII of the SAAF doctorate, indicating the amount and the relative fund. He also recalled that co-financing may result from project savings in the availability of individual teachers or from external financial sources such as companies or other bodies interested in co-financing one or more doctoral grants. The Coordinator informs the Board that as a result of the availability received and the subsequent administrative checks by the competent offices,

the availability of five co-financing quotas by four SSDs has been ascertained: two shares from the sector AGR13 (Agricultural Chemistry) and one share from the sectors AGR11 (General and Applied Entomology), AGR12 (Plant Pathology) and AGR15 (Food Science and Technology).

## **2. Appointment vicar (Art. 6, paragraph 3 of the University Regulations on PhD).**

According to Art. 6, paragraph 3 of the University Regulations on Doctoral Studies, the Coordinator, for the performance of his duties, may avail himself of the collaboration of a Vicar, appointed by himself, chosen from among the professors of the Board of Professors. To this end, the Coordinator informs the Board that he has requested and received the availability of Prof. Anna Irene De Luca, who has also carried out support activities for the drafting of the PhD Course project for Cycle XXXVIII, and who is therefore officially appointed Vicar of the Coordinator and also assumes the functions of secretary.

The Board shall approve unanimously.

## **3. Criteria for co-financing of doctoral fellowships.**

As already communicated in the first point of the agenda, the Coordinator reiterates the availability of five co-financing quotas or by four SSDs: two shares from the AGR13 sector (Agricultural Chemistry) and one share from the sectors AGR11 (General and Applied Entomology), AGR12 (Plant Pathology) and AGR15 (Food Science and Technology). The Coordinator recalls that the previous Doctoral Boards have identified the shared criteria for the co-financing of scholarships by the SSDs, underlining that in his opinion these criteria are to a large extent shareable and, therefore, re-proposable. This is followed by an in-depth and articulated discussion at the end of which the following criteria are identified, in order of relevance:

- In each PhD cycle, each SSD will preferentially have to co-finance no more than one scholarship;
- In each PhD cycle, it will be necessary to take into account the previous cycles in order to favour the rotation between SSDs;
- The evaluations of the Board will have to take into account the scientific performance of the PhD students of previous cycles and the researchers of each SSD, using internationally accepted and used bibliometric parameters: number of publications; the number of citations; *impact factor*, *CiteScore* and journal *quartile*.

The Board shall approve unanimously.

## **4. Appointment of the Selection Board for the admission competition to the PhD Course XXXVIII Cycle.**

The Selection Committee of the PhD competition (XXXVIII Cycle) is designated. The Coordinator informs that according to art. 25 of the Regulations on Doctoral Studies, the commission must guarantee the following requirements:

- it must include at least three full members including tenured university professors and researchers while respecting, where possible, gender balance;
- it must include at least one first-level professor and at least one member of the Teaching Board of the Doctoral Course;
- foreign university professors of the same disciplines or similar disciplines, belonging to roles corresponding to the bands of teachers and researchers of Italian universities, may also be part of the Commission, provided that the Departments belonging to the Doctoral Course bear the reimbursement costs;

- if the Doctoral Course is divided into several curricula, the Selection Board consists of some teachers equal to the number of curricula so that there is at least one professor or researcher qualified in the disciplines characterizing each curriculum. The Selection Board in any case is composed of an odd number of teachers or researchers. The number of researchers may not exceed half of the teachers;
- to remedy the hypothesis of impediment of one of the effective members, for each Selection Board several substitute members must be provided in compliance with what is indicated in the previous points;
- for each Selection Board, Teachers who were part of it the previous year cannot be proposed. In this regard, the Coordinator recalls the names that were part of the previous Commission: Prof. Vincenzo Palmeri, Prof. Giovanni Spampinato; Prof. Marco Poiana (full members); Prof. Giovanni Gulisano, Prof. Francesco Sunseri, Prof. Amalia Piscopo (alternative members);
- the Selection Boards, including the alternate members, are appointed by the Rector's decree on the initial designation of the Teachers' Boards and the favourable opinion of the Councils of the Departments.

After extensive discussion during which reference is also made to the Scientific Disciplinary Sectors (SSD) that have expressed their willingness to co-finance the doctoral scholarships (see communications from the Coordinator) the following commission is designated:

Actual components:

- Prof. Adele Maria Muscolo (AGR/13 - Agricultural Chemistry)
- Prof. Amalia Rosa Maria Piscopo (AGR/15 - Food Science and Technology)
- Dr Maria Giulia Li Destri Nicosia (AGR/12 - Plant pathology).

Substitute members:

- Prof. Salvatore Di Fazio (AGR/10 - Rural constructions and agroforestry territory)
- Prof. Bruno Bernardi (AGR/09 - Agricultural mechanics)
- Dr Orlando Campolo (AGR/11 - General and applied entomology).

This point shall be read and adopted unanimously at the same time.

Since there are no other items for discussion and having dealt with all the items on the agenda, the meeting is closed at 4.10 p.m.

The Coordinator  
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

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The Secretary  
Prof. Anna Irene  
DE LUCA

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