

Minutes of the Academic Board of the SAAF PhD n. 19 (cycles XXXVIII-XXXIX-XL)

Meeting of 10 September 2025

Composition of the Academic Board:

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

The meeting is held in person in the Francesco S. Nesci lecture hall of the Department of Agriculture. The session is chaired by the Coordinator, Prof. Leonardo Schena. Prof. Manuel Scerra serves as recording secretary. A dedicated channel, "PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL) - MEETINGS," created by the Coordinator on the Microsoft Teams platform, is activated to enable the participation of members of the Board residing abroad (Dr. Abdelfattah, Prof. García-Ruíz, Dr. Lucas-Borja, Valentina C. Tassone). Prof. García-Ruíz and Dr. Lucas-Borja are considered excused, having previously submitted a request via e-mail to the Coordinator. Dr. Abdelfattah and Dr. Tassone are deemed absent, as they neither submitted a request nor joined the meeting on the platform.

The Coordinator, having ascertained that the Board was duly convened through an invitation sent via e-mail on 3 September 2025 and that the conditions for deliberation are met, declares the meeting open at 3:10 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Communications
2. Approval minutes of meeting no. 18 (16 July 2025)
3. Appointment of Co-supervisors
4. Authorization of the foreign period

1. Communications

The Coordinator informs the Council of the imminent approval of the new Doctoral Regulations, the result of extensive and thorough work coordinated by Prof. Fuschi, Director of the Doctoral School. Among the innovations introduced by the new regulations is the procedure for depositing doctoral theses in the institutional repository IRIS UniRC, which is now a mandatory requirement for admission to the final examination. This procedure replaces the submission of printed copies and fulfils the legal deposit obligation with the National Libraries of Rome and Florence. The Coordinator highlights that this procedure represents a major opportunity for visibility, enabling unrestricted global dissemination of doctoral theses. However, for this very reason, verification of the originality of the submitted work, in compliance with copyright regulations, constitutes an essential condition requiring full responsibility on the part of doctoral candidates, supervising professors, and the entire Board. To this end, the guidelines for the drafting of doctoral theses prepared by the Doctoral Quality Assurance Group and approved by the Council at Meeting n. 18 of 16 July 2025 for Cycles XXXVIII, XXXIX, and XL serve as a useful reference tool, although they cannot be considered exhaustive.

The college takes note of this

2. Approval minutes of meeting no. 18 (16 July 2025)

The Coordinator reminds those present that the draft minutes of Meeting no. 18 of 16 July 2025, prepared in both Italian and English, were sent on 10 July 2025 to all Council members along with the notice of the present meeting. The minutes, in both language versions, are approved unanimously.

3. Appointment of Co-supervisors

No requests have been received.

4. Authorization of Research foreign Period

The Coordinator reports having received a request from Doctoral Candidate Emanuele PORCU, currently enrolled in the second year of the PhD Programme (Cycle XXXIX), co-signed by his Supervisor, Prof. Orlando Campolo, to be authorized to conduct research in Greece at the "Hellenic Agricultural Organization (DIMITRA), Institute of Olive Tree, Subtropical Crops and Viticulture (Heraklion, Crete)" from 15 September 2025 to 15 November 2025. The request submitted by Mr. Porcu is accompanied by a formal cooperation agreement drafted according to the procedures established by the administrative offices. It is noted that Mr. PORCU has previously carried out research foreign period, having stayed in Spain at the "Institut Valencià d'Investigacions Agràries (IVIA)" from 4 October 2024 to 23 December 2024, and from 10 January 2025 to 14 February 2025, following regular authorizations issued by the PhD Coordinator (Prot. no. 0030272 of 30 September 2024 and Prot. no. 0042702 of 19 December 2024). Since, with this third request, the Candidate asks to undertake a total period abroad exceeding six months, in accordance with the current University Regulations on Doctoral Studies (Art. 6, para. 2, letter C; Art. 28, para. 3), authorization by the Council is required. After a brief discussion and some clarifications, and having verified the consistency of the proposed research activities abroad with the candidate's training pathway, the Council approves the request unanimously.

The Coordinator further reports having received a request from Doctoral Candidate Giuseppina PROCOPIO, currently enrolled in the second year of the PhD Programme (Cycle XXXIX), co-signed by her Supervisor, Prof. Leonardo Schena, to be authorized to conduct research in the United States at "The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology (University Park, PA 16802-4507)" from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026. The request submitted by Ms. Procopio is accompanied by a formal cooperation agreement drafted according to the procedures established by the administrative offices, as well as a letter of acceptance from the host institution. Since Ms. Procopio requests to undertake a total period abroad exceeding six months, in accordance with the University Regulations on Doctoral Studies (Art. 6, para. 2, letter C; Art. 28, para. 3), authorization by the Council is required. After

a brief discussion and some clarifications, and having verified the consistency of the proposed research activities abroad with the candidate's training pathway, the Council approves the request unanimously.

The item is read and approved during the session.

Since there are no other topics for discussion and having dealt with all the items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The Coordinator
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

The Secretary
Prof. Manuel Scerra
