

Call for Applications:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), within the framework of the project ***“Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a Viable and Equitable Africa with Italy (ACHIEVE-IT)”*** – nell’ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR), Missione 4 *“Istruzione e ricerca”* – Componente 1 *“Potenziamento dell’offerta dei servizi all’istruzione: dagli asili nido alle università”* – Investimento 3.4 *“Didattica e competenze universitarie avanzate”* – Sottomisura T4 *“Iniziativa Educative Transnazionali”* - finanziato dall’Unione europea – NextGenerationEU CUP: D91I23001030006, announces a call for applications for the selection of researchers and university lecturers to participate in the following **Winter School**:

“Sustainable Agrifood Systems and Plastic Pollution: A One Health Vision” on 20th November 2025 to 21st November 2025 at TH Roma Carpegna Palace Hotel, in Rome (Italy).

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The aim of the School is to provide PhD candidates and researchers with an integrated, evidence-based understanding of micro and nanoplastics in agrifood systems, connecting environment, food safety, and One Health. Through an interdisciplinary program that combines chemistry, ecotoxicology, toxicology, microbiology, modeling, and risk assessment, participants will follow the pathway from farm to fork, including sources, transport, and persistence in soils and crops, hazards from agroplastics for food safety, interactions with soil microbiota and earthworms, and the role of microplastics as vectors of pollutants.

The School delivers a program focused on advanced concepts and policy perspectives, supported by published case studies that bridge terrestrial and marine environments, the global policy landscape for plastic use in agriculture, and One Health risks for people, including fertility and noncommunicable diseases. Some of the best experts in the world will participate, ensuring state-of-the-art content and international perspectives.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to critically appraise evidence, quantify risks, and design monitoring and mitigation strategies across agrifood chains.



TARGET AUDIENCE

This call is specifically addressed to researchers and lecturers from the following universities:

- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya)
- University of Sousse (Tunisia)
- University of Monastir (Tunisia)

BENEFITS OF THE MOBILITY GRANT

Selected participants will benefit from:

- Opportunities to collaborate with international colleagues and participate in academic exchanges.
- Experience sharing and capacity-building through exposure to new teaching methodologies and academic environments.
- The potential to establish long-term research and teaching collaborations.

ACTIVITIES ALLOWED AT THE DESTINATION:

Participation in the course includes 2 days of attendance at the **TH Roma Carpegna Palace Hotel, in Rome (Italy)**.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

The Achieve-IT Project will cover the following costs related to international mobility:

- a) Travel expenses
- b) Accommodation
- c) Catering costs

The costs will be paid directly by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at different times and according to different procedures depending on the respective Host University, in compliance with Italian law and the internal regulations of each Host University.

It's expressly prohibited the double funding of the above-mentioned mobility costs.



II. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be members and/or researchers of the academic staff of one of the above-mentioned universities.
- Pursuing **research work** in fields relevant to the course.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must send the registration form (Allegato A) to the following email address project.Achieve-IT@unicatt.it within the deadline: **04/11/2025 at 10.00 A.M. CET**

The application **must** include:

- Passport copy (valid for at least six months after the expected end date of the mobility)
- Proof of affiliation with one of the listed institutions.
- Curriculum Vitae (including a list of publications).

Optional:

- Certificates of the language proficiency in English, released by the Home University or third entity

III. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Relevance of CV to the course objectives: Max. 40 points.

1. **Fully Relevant:** The item is directly and entirely aligned with the specified topic of the course
2. **Mostly Relevant:** The item is significantly aligned with specified topic of the course with only minor deviations.
3. **Partially Relevant:** The item is somewhat aligned with the specified topic of the course but with notable gaps or inconsistencies.
4. **Not Relevant:** The item has no discernible alignment with specified topic of the course

Teaching and leadership experience: Max. 10 points.



1. Teaching hours per year
2. Institutional assignments
3. Publications on international research journals

Gender will be taken into account during the selection process. In cases where two candidates have equal qualifications and scores, preference will be given to promote gender balance and to the younger applicants.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will consist of:

Three professors, one of whom is responsible for organizing the school.

The final ranking will be communicated to all applicants.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the submitted applications and compile a ranking list, which will be communicated to the participants in the competition by **(06/11/2025)**

IV. POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The selected candidate will receive the Admission Letter by email from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, together with the Mobility Agreement detailing the procedures for the disbursement of the grant. Any further documentation necessary for the mobility programme will be requested by email by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. The Mobility Agreement, and any additional documentation, must be countersigned for acceptance by the selected candidate in accordance with his/her Home University and sent no later than 6 days upon notification.

Withdrawal from the mobility grant may be made provided it occurs prior to the purchase of the ticket fly and the disbursement of the planned funding. Any withdrawal after these steps will necessitate full reimbursement of the funds already allocated.

GROUNDS FOR REJECTION:

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore reserves the right to refuse staff for the mobility grant on the basis of objective impediments that are inconsistent with its regulations. These may include:

- a) Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
- b) Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;



- c) Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
- d) Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
- e) Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.

V. POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Lectures will be required to comply with the disciplinary and safety regulations in force at the locations where the activities will be carried out.

If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation advises against travelling to the destination location or if the Italian Host Universities, after consulting the involved parties, consider it unsafe for Lectures to be sent/stay at the destination location, the mobility period may be suspended, modified, interrupted or cancelled. Lectures are invited to carefully assess the risks associated with the mobility period and to review the security measures adopted by the destination country.

VI. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

In accordance with current legislation on the protection of personal data and, in particular, with EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), the personal data provided by candidates will be collected by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore as Data Controller and processed for the purposes of managing the evaluation procedure and the possible programme admission process.

The information regarding the processing of personal data provided during the competitive selection procedure is available on the websites of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at the following addresses: <https://www.unicatt.it/en/privacy/information-notice-for-calls-for-applications-and-competitions-for-admission-.html>

VII. INFORMATION CONTACT ON THE CALL

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact: uff.ricerca-pc@unicatt.it

