**Call for Applications:**



1. **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 “Iniziative Educative Transnazionali” - finanziato dall’Unione europea – NextGenerationEU **CUP: D91I23001030006**, announces a **call for applications for the selection from one to three PhD student** **to carry out a 4-month mobility period at the** **Department of Food Science and Technology** (Piacenza Campus) at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MOBILITY ACTIVITY:**

The selected PhD students will be hosted for a period of **four months** to carry out collaborative academic activities in the context of **food safety and agricultural science**, aiming to contribute to the development of a more sustainable agri-food supply chain.

The selected PhD students will collaborate with the **Agrisystem Doctoral School** at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza campus. Agrisystem is a unique program, combining research and interdisciplinary training to prepare experts in the agro-food sector.

With a focus on biology, agriculture, economics, and law, the program equips students with the skills needed to address real-world challenges across the agri-food system. Students will work in close connection with academic and industry partners, gaining both scientific and practical experience. The specific activities will be defined in agreement with the host department based on the proposal submitted by the candidate. Therefore, **each applicant is required to submit a short document (maximum 2 pages)** outlining their proposed work plan for the 4-month mobility, which must fall within the general themes of **sustainable food systems, food quality and safety, or agricultural innovation.**

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

This call is specifically addressed to researchers 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**

The selected participants will benefit from:

* A **funded 4-month research period** at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC)
* Opportunities to **collaborate with researchers** in the field of food and agricultural sciences
* Participation in **academic and scientific activities** at the Department of Food Science and Technology
* **Networking** and possible initiation of **long-term research partnerships**

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

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

* Travel expenses
* Visa costs
* Subsistence and accommodation
* Health insurance\*

These costs will be either paid directly by the Italian host institution and/or reimbursed to the participant, in accordance with Italian law and university procedures. Full details will be specified in the Mobility Agreement, which the selected candidate must sign prior to the start of the exchange.

*Please note: double funding for any of the above-listed expenses is strictly prohibited.*

\* in accordance with University’s internal procedures regarding security purposes, once the selection process has been completed, a series of personal documents will be requested to ensure a safe access to the University.

1. **REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must:

1. Be enrolled as PhD students at one of the following universities:

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

1. Be conducting research in a field relevant to food safety, agricultural science, or sustainability in the food supply chain.

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must send the registration form (Allegato A) to the following email address [project.Achieve-IT@unicatt.it](mailto:project.Achieve-IT@unicatt.it) within the deadline: **24.07.2025**

The application (Allegato A) **must** include:

* Copy of passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond the planned end of mobility)
* Proof of current enrollment in the PhD program at one of the listed universities
* Curriculum Vitae (including publication list)
* Motivation letter
* Work plan (max 2 pages) outlining the proposed activity during the 4-month exchange

Optional:

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

1. **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

**Relevance of CV to the course objectives:** Max. 30 points.

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

**Proposed Work Plan (2-page activity proposal):** Max. 20 points

* Clear, realistic, and relevant to the themes of food safety, agricultural science, and sustainability
* Feasibility within the 4-month mobility
* Coherence with candidate’s background and potential for integration at the host department

**Teaching and leadership experience:** Max. 10 points.

* Teaching hours per year
* Institutional assignments
* Publications on international research journals

**Motivation letter:** Max. 10 points.

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:

* The PI of the Achieve-IT project, Prof. Edoardo Puglisi
* Two professors from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

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 (28.07.2025)

1. **POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS**

The selected candidate will receive the Admission Letter by email from the respective Italian Host University, 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 the respective Italian Host University. 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 to the Host University no later than 10 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:**

The host university 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:

1. Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
2. Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;
3. Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
4. Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
5. Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.
6. **POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS**

Students will need a health insurance for the whole duration of the mobility.

Students 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 students to be sent/stay at the destination location, the mobility period may be suspended, modified, interrupted or cancelled. Students are invited to carefully assess the risks associated with the mobility period and to review the security measures adopted by the destination country.

1. **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 each Host University 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 Host Universities at the following addresses: <https://www.unicatt.it/en/privacy/information-notice-for-calls-for-applications-and-competitions-for-admission-.html>

1. **INFORMATION CONTACT ON THE CALL**

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