

**PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC  
DOCTORAL SCHOOL**

**CALL FOR APPLICATION TO THE PHD  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027**

In accordance with Articles 10-16 of the *Regolamento della Scuola di Dottorato del PIMS*, applications are now open for the selection of candidates to be admitted to the PHD starting in the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

Before submitting an application, all candidates are advised to review the *Regolamento della Scuola di Dottorato del PIMS*, published on the website of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.

**1. ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL**

Access to the Doctoral School is open to:

- Students of the PIMS who have obtained a *Licenza* degree with a global grade point average of no less than **27/30** (or equivalent).
- Students from other institutions holding a degree equivalent to the title mentioned above (Master's degree or equivalent, Master II, Ph.L), representing a period of no less than five years of higher education. The average grade obtained for these qualifications must not be lower than **27/30** (or equivalent).

**2. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

The Application for admission to the PhD 26-27 must be received at the PIMS Secretariat **no later than 19 June 2026**.

The Application must contain the following information:

- Personal data;
- Certification of the academic qualification held by the candidate that qualifies them for doctoral admission.
- *Curriculum vitae*, including a list of any publications;
- A Doctoral Thesis Proposal, prepared according to the format in Annex A of this Call.
  - The proposal must include: the candidate's chosen field of study; a description of the thesis topic highlighting the current state of knowledge and the originality of the proposed research; and a brief bibliography related to the thesis topic.
- Indication of the foreign language (English or French) to be verified during the oral test, or Italian for foreign language students.

**3. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

The selection process consists of an eligibility assessment, a written examination, and an oral examination.

The assessment of suitability admits to the written test and is expressed by the selection committee on the basis of the evaluation of the following elements:

- *curriculum*;
- any publications (with no limit on the number);
- any other scientific and/or artistic qualifications (e.g., additional degrees, masters, specialization/refinement courses, postgraduate training, documented participation in research projects);

- the research project (to be drafted according to the Annex A attached to the call and available on the PIMS website). The research project can be written in Italian, English or French.

The outcome of the eligibility judgments will be published at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music and communicated personally to each candidate, together with any convocation to the written test.

### **Written Examination**

- The written exam will last four hours and is graded on a scale of 30.
- Candidates must score at least **24/30** to be admitted to the oral examination.
- The exam consists of a written paper to be completed at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.
- The topic will concern a historical and/or systematic subject related to sacred music.
- The purpose is to verify the candidate's knowledge of the main historical developments of sacred music and the most relevant issues regarding the role of music in the liturgy and the life of the Church.
- Results and the list of candidates admitted to the oral exam will be published at the PIMS within two days of the written exam.

### **Oral Examination**

- The oral exam will be held in person and graded on a scale of 30.
- The exam is passed with a minimum score of **24/30**.
- The final merit ranking is determined by the sum of the scores from the written and oral exams.
- The interview will be conducted in **Italian** and will assess:
  - Knowledge of the themes from the written exam, with reference to primary Italian and foreign literature.
  - Fundamental musicological methodologies of the chosen curriculum.
  - Full mastery of the topics contained in the research project.
  - Proficiency in a foreign language (English, French, or German) chosen at the time of application. Non-Italian candidates must instead demonstrate adequate knowledge of the Italian language.

## **4. REFERENCES**

For each communication, please refer to the following addresses:

- Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music. Secretariat  
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