



Student Handbook – cycle 41

PhD Program in Civil, Chemical and Environmental Engineering

October 31st, 2025

Organization of the PhD program

The PhD program is run by the PhD committee, whose members are listed on the web page of the PhD program, and is supervised by the coordinator (PC), Prof. Roberta Massabò (roberta.massabo@unige.it).

The program is organized in the following four curricula, each of which has a curriculum coordinator (CC) and a curriculum committee.

- Curriculum in “Chemical, Materials and Process Engineering” (ICMP). Coordinator: Prof. Attilio Converti (converti@unige.it).
- Curriculum in “Fluid Dynamics and Environmental Engineering” (FIA). Coordinator: Prof. Bianca Federici (bianca.federici@unige.it).
- Curriculum in “Structural and Geotechnical Engineering, Mechanics and Materials” (SMG). Coordinator: Prof. Federica Tubino (federica.tubino@unige.it).
- Curriculum in “Wind Science and Engineering” (SIV). Coordinator: Prof. Giuseppe Piccardo (giuseppe.piccardo@unige.it).

The PhD program consists of courses and other learning activities, research training and the completion of a final research dissertation, for a total of 180 credits (1 credit corresponds to 25/30 hours of personal commitment). The program lasts three years and may include national and international mobility within universities, research institutions and companies. The official language of the program is English.

Further information on university regulations and ministerial decree concerning Italian PhD programs, are available on the website of the university of Genova:

<http://www.studenti.unige.it/postlaurea/dottorati/#normativa>

Further information on the PhD program is available at the web page:

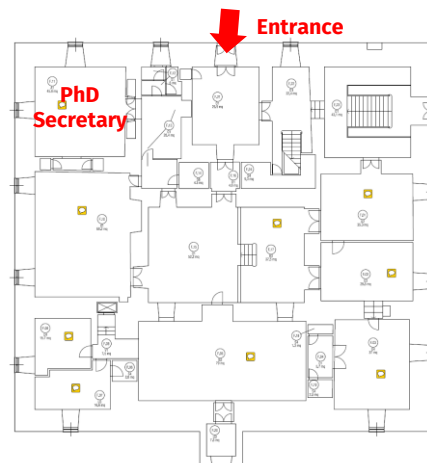
<https://dicca.dottorato.unige.it/>

The code of the Team of the PhD Program in Microsoft Teams is: **00v22mq**



How to reach our Secretary

The PhD Secretary is located in Villa Cambiaso, Via Montallegro 1, Dott. Carola Montaldo, Tel: +39 010 335 2959. E-mail address: dottorato.dicca@unige.it.



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Starting the program: formalities

During the first month of the program the new students must:

1. Register on the UNIGE Website:
https://registrazioneunigepass.unige.it/signup?_language=en
2. Register on LoginMiur:
<https://loginmiur.cineca.it/front.php/login.html>
The registration procedure is in Italian, Foreign students may refer to his/her supervisor for help.
3. Attend and pass the online course “Formazione generale sulla sicurezza e salute sul lavoro” “General training on health and safety at work” (art.37 del D.Lgs 81/08). The course is offered in Aulaweb in Italian and in English.
<https://unige.it/lavoro/studenti/tirocini/corso-sicurezza>.
4. Make an appointment with the DICCA information technology department to obtain access to the DICCA intranet (Marco.Rinzivillo@unige.it).

Once completed the four steps the new students should inform their curriculum coordinator. The certificate of the Training on health and safety at work must be sent to the PhD secretary at dottorato.dicca@unige.it by the end of the first month of the Program.

Starting the program: choice of supervisor, preliminary research project and course plan

At the beginning of the PhD course (by three weeks of starting) the student will make an appointment with the CC, in order to discuss the choice of supervisor, which will be based on the scientific interests of the student.

The choice of supervisor is submitted to the PhD committee for approval, by the end of the first month of the program.

By the end of the first month the student also chooses his/her research topic and submits a brief description by e-mail to the CC. The PhD committee will examine the proposal and grant approval.

By the 15th of the second month of the Program the student submits to the CC a preliminary Plan of the PhD Courses he/she is planning to attend during the year. The student will submit similar plans also at the beginning of the second and third year.

By the 15th of the second month of the Program the student submits to the CC a preliminary research project (template in the Section Files of the PhD Team on Microsoft Teams).

Midterm meetings and admission to the following year

Each student will meet the curriculum committee at least twice a year, for an informal presentation of the activities (usually in the spring semester) and at the end of the year.

At the end of each year (during the 11th/12th months of the program), students are expected to:

1. write a report on the scientific activity of the year (template in the Section Files of the PhD Team on Microsoft Teams);
2. compile (or update) the “Personal Page” describing the completed activities (the template of the Personal Page, as well as an example, are sent by the Coordinator at the beginning of the PhD Course and can also be downloaded from Section Files of the PhD Team on Microsoft Teams);
3. Upload of yearly published material on the UniGe Repository of Research Publications (IRIS), <https://iris.unige.it/>.
4. Give a presentation to the curriculum committee concerning the research activities carried out during the year.
5. Fill up the Student Booklet (Libretto) with the Learning and Research Activities, and related credits, approved at the annual meeting. The libretto is at <https://servizionline.unige.it/web-studenti2/it/#/v2/libretto/5001>

The Personal Page must be filled up fully, providing detailed information on: external stayings (dates, location); conference attendances and/or participation as speaker; publications (conference proceedings, journal papers, with DOI and/or Scopus IDs).

On the basis of the above points the curriculum committee will approve or deny admission to the following year or to the external evaluation and assign a mark (excellent, very good, good, fair, fail). The above documents must be sent to the CC by e-mail, before the deadline, which will be fixed each year (during the 11th/12th months of the program).

PhD Booklet (Libretto)

At the end of each year, once the student has been admitted to the following year and within 3 days since admission, he/she must complete the Libretto with all activities approved by the curriculum committee and the final report approved by the committee. The activities that provide credits (base credits or bonus credits) are listed in the following. The student will indicate the activities and credits approved by the committee. No other activities should be listed in the libretto.

The Student Booklet will be approved by: the CC, the supervisor and the PC.

Graduates Satisfaction Survey

Each student must complete, at the end of each year, the Satisfaction Questionnaire for Doctoral Students organized by UniGe. Participation in the survey is mandatory for admission to the following academic year or to the final examination.

The questionnaire is at:

<https://valutazione.servizionline.unige.it/insegnamenti/publics/info/index.jsp>

Yearly meeting with Program Coordinator and Quality Assurance Board

The PhD students will meet with the Program Coordinator and the Quality Assurance Board to discuss all relevant matters and the results and outcomes of the Graduates Satisfaction Surveys, at least once per year. The meeting will take place in the summer.

10% Research funds

Each student of the PhD Program will be awarded some discretionary research funds, approximately 1500 Euros per year, for research related expenses. The funds may be used to cover expenses for: participation to conferences, summer schools, mobility to other research institutions in Italy and abroad; personal computers, laptops, consumables; language courses; publications and bibliographical material.

Each expenditure must be approved by the supervisor and the Program Coordinator. Expenditures will be approved during the three years of the Program (within 36 months since the starting date).

Detailed guidelines on the use of the 10% funds and all required forms can be found in the Section Files of the Team of the PhD Program on Microsoft TEAMS.

PhD dissertation and final examination

The final thesis is written in English.

At the end of the 3rd year, the students admitted to the external evaluation will be assigned two external referees, who will write a report on the thesis and support the admission to the final exam or suggest, if necessary, a delay of maximum 6 months for the final defence. The student must submit the thesis to the referees by the deadline, which will be fixed at the beginning of 3rd year. The deadlines for the external evaluation and final examination are in the [Timetable for the Final Examination](#).

Upon request, to be made to the CC and to the PC during the course of the 3rd year, the student may apply for the Doctor Europaeus or International PhD Label (see documentation in the Section Files of the PhD Team in Microsoft Teams).



PhD Credits

During the PhD Program the students must earn a minimum number of credits.

Minimum number of annual and three-year credits:

- 60 annual credits
- 180 three-year credits

subdivided as specified below (for Executive students see list below):

- I year: 22 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 38 credits minimum in Research Work
- II year: 16 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 44 credits minimum in Research Work
- III year: 4 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 40 credits minimum in Research Work + 16 credits for the PhD thesis

For the Executive PhD students, the subdivision of the credits is the following:

- I year: 16 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 44 credits minimum in Research Work
- II year: 10 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 50 credits minimum in Research Work
- III year: 4 credits minimum in Learning Activities + 40 credits minimum in Research Work + 16 credits for the PhD thesis

Credits are accumulated through the following activities.

Learning activities:

PhD courses, other selected courses, attending research seminars, PhD training schools, presentations at international conferences (with requirements).

Details on how to acquire these credits are given below.

Research Activity:

During the PhD program the student must earn 122-Credits credits performing PhD research under the guidance of the PhD supervisor: 38 by the end of the first year, 44 by the end of the second year and 40 by the end of the third year.

PhD Thesis and Final exam

Upon approval of the PhD thesis by the PhD Committee and the external evaluators and admission to the PhD exam, the student will earn 16 credits for the PhD thesis.

Learning Activities

During the first and second years students attend courses, selected with the aim of completing their education in the research area of interest. The list of courses is chosen by each student in agreement and with the approval of the supervisor. The list of courses the student wishes to attend will be submitted for approval to the CC within 1.5 months of the starting of the year (nov. 1st or March 1st).



All courses have mandatory attendance registration (remind the teacher in case he/she forgets).

During the PhD program students must earn 42 credits: 22 by the end of the first year, 16 by the end of the second year and 4 by the end of the third year. These are necessary for admittance to the following year (II and III) and to the external evaluation. If, for serious and proven causes, the student is unable to obtain the required credits and intends to continue the PhD program, he/she must inform the CC and the PC before the annual meeting. A written report must be submitted to the CC and PC, detailing reasons for his/her failure to obtain the credits and a proposal for obtaining the missing credits in a timely manner.

L1. PhD Courses

Information on the courses organized within the PhD program and related credits is available on the PhD program web-page at <https://dicca.dottorato.unige.it/>. The corresponding credits will be assigned at the annual meeting if the student passes the final exam and sends the relative certificate to the CC.

Other PhD courses may be chosen freely, with the approval of the supervisor, by the student among those offered by other PhD programs at UniGe or at other institutions. In this case, the number of credits will be assigned by the curriculum committee at the annual meeting. The student must submit the program of the course, the detailed schedule of the course and a passing certification for the final examination.

(A preliminary calculation of the credits a student may expect when taking a PhD course offered by another Doctoral Program at UniGe or by other Universities is as follow: 1 credit roughly corresponds to 25-30 hours of work and for scientific PhD courses, to five 1-hour Lectures)

Among the PhD Courses, the student may select PhD Courses on the Soft Skills listed below (maximum 9 credits):

- Management of Research and Knowledge of European and International Research Systems;
- Valorization, communication/dissemination (or advanced linguistic in-depth knowledge) of research results, intellectual property and access to research data and products;
- Ethics in Research;
- Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship.

(A preliminary calculation of the credits a student may expect when taking a PhD course on Soft Skills offered by another Doctoral Program at UniGe or by other Universities is as follow: 1 credit roughly corresponds to 25-30 hours of work)

The student may also attend courses (maximum three courses or 18 credits) offered to Master degree students (*Laurea Magistrale*). These courses may be attended in order to improve the fundamental knowledge required to perform the PhD research program. They are typically offered in Italian. The credits obtained, after having passed the exam, are those



assigned to master students (see the *Manifesto degli Studi*). In the student Booklet, these courses must be listed under “Other Training Courses”.

For the students of the curriculum SMG the following two courses are mandatory:

- Continuum Mechanics (Prof. Angelo Morro);
- Numerical methods for the solution of partial differential equations (Prof. Patrizia Bagnerini); this course is offered every other year.

L2. Summer and training schools

A number of credits can also be assigned by the PhD committee for attendance of summer/winter and training schools for postgraduate education (up to a maximum of 6 credits corresponding roughly to a 2 week intensive summer school). In order to obtain credits for a summer school, it is necessary to send by e-mail the certificate of attendance to the CC and a detailed program of the activities.

L3. Research Seminars

Research seminars are organized by the PhD program and the DICCA Department. The seminars are held by experts in the field. The attendance to three seminars, either organized by the PhD program or by other PhD programs at UNIGE or at other Italian and foreign universities (only seminars for PhD students and if approved by the supervisor), followed by brief written reports (to be sent to the CC), will allow to obtain 1 credit. Research seminars offered by other institutions may be used to accumulate credits upon approval of the CC. Credits may be earned through seminars up to a maximum of 6 credits.

For all students, participating to the seminars offered by the PhD program or by the DICCA department is mandatory.

L4. Presentations at congresses

Credits can also be earned with oral presentations at international and national conferences (with a maximum of 8 credits).

Requirements:

- 4 credits maximum for each oral presentation at international conferences, first author;
- 2 credits maximum for each oral presentation at Italian conferences or poster at international conferences, first author;
- 1 credit maximum for each oral presentation at national or international conferences if not first author

Bonus Credits

In addition to the 180 credits, students may earn bonus credits as PhD courses, Mobility for Research, Journal publications, Awards, Doctor Europaeus and International PhD, Outreach and Third Mission activities (with requirements).

Details on how to acquire these credits are given below.

B1. International and National Mobility

Students may earn bonus credits through international and national mobility.

Mobility for research periods in Italy – 5 Bonus Credits maximum (with requirements)

Mobility for research periods abroad – 10 (+ 10) Bonus Credits maximum (with requirements)

Requirements:

- 5 bonus credits maximum for more than 3 month mobility in Italy,
- 1 bonus credits maximum for less than 3 month mobility in Italy;
- 10 bonus credits maximum for more than 3 month mobility abroad;
- 2 bonus credits maximum for less than 3 month mobility abroad;
- 10 bonus credits additional for Doctor Europeus or International PhD

B2. Journal Publications and Awards

A maximum of 25 bonus credits may be earned through the publication of Journal papers and awards.

Publications – 5 bonus credits maximum for each Journal Publication (with requirements)

Requirements: publications on ISI journals, first author (credits assigned by the curriculum committee based on each specific publication). Publications must be on IRIS.

Awards – 5 bonus credits maximum

B3. Teaching Activities

A maximum of 11 bonus credits may be earned through teaching activities.

Tutoring/teaching assistantship (with requirements):

- 3 bonus credits maximum for each activity of more than 20h;
- 2 bonus credits maximum for each activity of less than 20h;
- Bachelor and MS thesis co-supervision: 1 bonus credit maximum for each bachelor thesis; 2 bonus credits maximum for each MS thesis

Requirements: all activities must be formalized.



B4. Other Activities

Credits may be earned through other Outreach and third mission activities (with requirements), with a maximum of 4 bonus credits.

- 4 bonus credits maximum for Outreach and Third Mission Activities;
- 0.5 bonus credits maximum for chairing 1 session at an International Conference

Requirements: all activities must be formalized. Invitation letter and Conference Program must be submitted for the session chairing activity.

Timetable and deadlines for all students

Activity	Who	By/Within:	With/To whom
Make an appointment with CC (choice of supervisor)	I year students	Within three weeks of starting	CC
Submit brief description of Research project (topic)	I year students	By the end of 1 st month	CC
Register on the UNIGE Website	I year students	By the end of 1 st month	-
Register on LoginMiur	I year students	By the end of 1 st month	-
Attend and pass course on safety and health in the workplace. Send certificate	I year students	By the end of 1 st month	PhD secretary
Make appointment with the Information Technology Department	I year students	By the end of 1 st month	Marco Rinzivillo
Submit a Preliminary Research Project (use template)	I year students	Within 1.5 months of starting	CC
Submit the planned list of PhD courses for the year	All students	Within 1.5 months of starting	CC
Meet with CC and committee for informal presentation of activities	All students	Mid-year	CC and curriculum committee
Yearly Meeting with PC and Quality Assurance Board	All Students	Summer	PC and QAB
Submit Yearly Report & Personal Page (templates)	I and II year students	By the end of 11 th (I year) and 23 th months (II year)	CC



Presentation of yearly research activity	I and II year students	At meeting during 12 th (I year) and 24 th (II year) months	CC
Upload publication data on IRIS	All students	By the end of 11 th (I year), 23 th (II year) and 35 th (III year) months	-
Fill up the Student Booklet (Libretto)	I and II year students	Within 3 days since approval of yearly credits by the committee	-
Fill up UniGe Questionnaire on Satisfaction	All students	Once per year, when requested by UniGe (usually in October). Mandatory to be admitted to the following year or the final exam.	-
Enrollment to the following year (and taxes)	II and III year students	1 day before starting of following year: Oct. 31 st (start Nov. 1), Feb 28 th (start March 1)	UniGe
Submit final Report and Personal Page (templates)	III year students	15 days before date of resolution on admission to external reviews (see Timetable for Final Exam)	CC
Final presentation of research activity	III year students	15 days before date of resolution on admission to external reviews (see Timetable for Final Exam)	CC
Fill up the Student Booklet (Libretto)	III year students	Within 3 days since approval of yearly credits	-
Submission of Thesis to external reviewers	III year students	See Timetable for the Final Examination	reviewers
Review of the thesis	III year students	See Timetable for the Final Examination	CC and reviewers
Submission of PhD thesis to examination committee	III year students	See Timetable for the Final Examination	Final exam committee
Complete the Student Booklet (Libretto)	III year students	Within 3 days since submission of the PhD thesis to the examination committee.	-
Enrollment to Final exam and upload of Thesis	III year students	See timetable defined by UniGe (typically 15 days before final examination)	-
Final exam	III year students	See Timetable for the Final Examination	-

Timetable for the final examination



Timetable of activities related to the Final Exam

In red: who is responsible CC: curriculum coordinator	I session (special) For students with starting date on November 1st.	II session (each curriculum will select just one session) For students with starting date on November 1st.		III session (reserved to students with starting dates in March)	IV session (special) for students with extension requested by the external reviewers
Final Exam(student)	February 1-28	April 1-30	May 1-31 *	July 1-31 *	October 15 – Nov. 15
Submission PhD thesis to committee (student)	Within 1 month from the final exam (date to be defined, between December 28 and January 28) ^^	Within 1 month from the final exam (date to be defined, between March 1 and 30) ^^	Within 1 month from the final exam (date to be defined, between April 1 and 30) ^^	Within 1 month from the final exam (date to be defined, between June 1 and 30) ^^	Within 1 month from the final exam (date to be defined, between Sept. 15 and Oct.15) ^^
Curriculum resolution on the admissions to final exam, appointment of the committee, exam dates (CC)	5 weeks before the date of the final exam (date to be defined, between December 23 and January 21)	5 weeks before the date of the final exam (date to be defined, between February 23 and March 23)	5 weeks before the date of the final exam (date to be defined, between March 23 and April 23)	5 weeks before the date of the final exam (date to be defined, between May 23 and June 23)	5 weeks before the date of the final exam (date to be defined, between September 7 and October 7)
Review of the thesis (minor) (student)	10 days after reception of judgments	10 days after reception of judgments	10 days after reception of judgments	10 days after reception of judgments	10 days after reception of judgments
Reception of the judgments (reviewers) (CC)	Within December 7 (ultimate admissible date: December 15)	Within February 7 (ultimate admissible date: February 15)	Within March 7 (ultimate admissible date: March 15)	Within May 7 (ultimate admissible date: May 15)	Within September 5 (ultimate admissible date: September 10)
Submission of the PhD thesis to the external reviewers (student)	Within November 7 ^^	Within December 31 ^^	Within January 31* ^^	Within March 31* ^^ (or date fixed by UniGe)	Within July 15* ^^ (or date fixed by UniGe)
Curriculum resolution (CC) on the admissions to the external reviews	Within October 31	Within December 23*	Within December 23*	Within February 23* (o data fissata da UniGe)	Within June 15* (o data fissata da UniGe)

*: UniGe deadlines

^^: if the reviewers request printed copies, deadlines will be anticipated of at least 7 days