
PUBLIC COMPETITION FOR ADMISSION TO THE INTERUNIVERSITY DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE HUMAN MIND AND ITS EXPLANATIONS: LANGUAGE, BRAIN AND REASONING A.Y. 2022/2023

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Doctoral Programme in The Human Mind and Its Explanations: language, brain and reasoning

Annex A

Form 1

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THE RECTOR

− having regard to Italian Ministerial Decree No. 270, dated 22 October 2004, entitled “Amendments to Regulation No. 509 containing rules governing the educational autonomy of Universities, approved by the Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research on 3 November 1999”;
− having regard to article 4 of Italian Law No. 210 dated 3 July 1998, as amended by art. 19, paragraph 1, of Italian Law No. 240 dated 30 December 2010;
− having regard to Italian Regional Law No. 33, dated 13 December 2004, entitled “Rules governing Regional measures to ensure the right to study at university,” which makes provisions for services in favour of students enrolled on PhD programmes;
− having regard to Italian Ministerial Decree No. 226 dated 14 December 2021, entitled “Regulations concerning the accreditation methods and of the locations and PhD programmes and the criteria for the institution of PhD programmes by accredited bodies;
− Pursuant to the Convention on the Implementation and Management of a PhD programme in The Human Mind and Its Explanations: language, brain and reasoning, between the University of Milan, I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia [Pavia Institute for Higher Education] and the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa [Pisa Institute of Higher Education], with administrative headquarters at the University of Milan, signed on 17 May 2022;
− having regard to Italian Ministerial Decree protocol no. 555 of 28 August 2020 whereby the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), pursuant to the aforementioned Ministerial Decree 45/2013, grants five-year accreditation, equivalent to three consecutive cycles, of doctoral research programme, subject to compliance with the prescribed requirements;
− having regard to the fact that for the 2022/2023 academic year the University intends to institute a new cycle of doctoral programmes;
− having regard to the note of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) of 26 April 2022;
− having regard to the decisions of the Academic Senate and of the Board of Directors in the sessions of 12 and 28 April 2022, concerning the institution of the 38th doctoral cycle.
HEREBY DECREES

Art. 1 - Institution

The PhD in The Human Mind and Its Explanations is instituted at the universities of Milan, the I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia [Pavia Institute of Higher Education] and the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa [Pisa Institute of Higher Education], for the 2022/2023 academic year (XXXVIII Cycle - beginning 3 October 2022); subject to accreditation by the MUR, and ongoing compliance with accreditation requirements.

A public competition for admission to the aforementioned PhD programme will be held at the University of Milan; selection will be based on qualifications and exams. The table annexed to this decree, which is an integral part thereof, contains a brief description of the programme, as well as the examination window, and a link to the University’s website. The latter provides information on the research topics identified by the Academic Board, in line with the course objectives and the relevant research and advanced training programme, that will be offered to candidates admitted to the PhD programme. The deadlines and methods for candidates to choose research topics are set out in art. 21 of the University Regulations on doctoral programmes at the University of Milan (administrative centre).

The number of scholarships may be increased should external funding become available before the start date for the doctoral programme.

Foreign candidates who are in receipt of scholarships issued by their country of origin may be admitted to the doctoral programmes over and above the prescribed number, provided that they have passed the admission exams set out in this decree.

Art. 2 - Admission requirements

Candidates in possession of a second cycle degree (Laurea magistrale), an equivalent qualification or a qualification equivalent to the level of studies (Master’s Degree) awarded by a foreign university, may apply to take part in the competition for admission to the doctoral research programme, as per the article above.

The suitability of the foreign academic qualifications in terms of content is evaluated by the Examining Committee set up for admission to the PhD programme, in compliance with the regulations in force in Italy and in the country in which the academic qualification was issued, and with the international treaties or agreements on the recognition of qualifications for the purpose of continuing studies.

Candidates who have not yet completed their second cycle (magistrale) degree may also apply. In this case, candidates who are admitted onto the PhD course must obtain the required qualification by their enrolment date, on penalty of not being admitted.
Art. 3 - Application for Admission

Applications for admission must be submitted by no later than 2pm on 2 September 2022, following the procedures described below:

1. Register on the University portal. This operation is not required of those already registered on the portal or in possession of university login details (final year students or those who graduated from the University of Milan less than a year ago);

2. Login and submit an application for admission to the Doctoral programme admission services;

3. Pay the non-refundable fee of € 50.00 by the application deadline.

The following documents (no larger than 10 MB) must be uploaded (in pdf, .rtf or .jpg format) to complete the online admissions procedure:

A. Diploma Supplement or Bachelor's/Master's diploma (or equivalent qualification obtained in Italy or abroad), with transcript of records. Upcoming graduates are required to submit a certificate of enrolment in lieu of the diploma. The documents must be in Italian, English, French, German or Spanish. For University of Milan graduates / upcoming graduates, the documentation will be pulled from their file; no separate submission is required.

B. CV, describing any professional experience and other qualifications held by the applicant;

C. Research project (using Form 1 attached hereto);

D. Copy of passport (foreign applicants only);

E. List of publications (if any);

F. Annex A.

Non-EU candidates residing abroad are also required to submit an online application for pre-enrolment through Universitaly, in order to obtain a student visa.

The online application cannot be modified or supplemented with further documentation once it has been confirmed.

Self-drafted affidavits are accepted as and where provided for by the laws in force.

Please note that the failure to provide even just one of the documents from A to C above, will result in the candidate being excluded from the competition.

Qualifications and scientific publications may be submitted in either Italian or English.

In addition to the above listed documentation, at the request of the Academic Board, as specified in the table, applicants must ask qualified referees who have been involved in their training to provide one letter of reference drafted according to Form 2 attached hereto, which the referees must email as a .pdf document to the address indicated in the PhD programme description by the competition deadline. The reference letters will be looked at in conjunction with the candidate’s CV but will not be awarded any points.
Art. 4 - Candidates with disabilities

In order to ensure equal treatment of candidates, those holding a certificate of invalidity and/or of disability pursuant to Law 104/1992 may apply for accommodations to the COSP Disability Office (ausili.ammissioni@unimi.it) attaching the certificate issued by the competent public health office. Candidates holding outdated certificates are required to apply for an updated certificate, to be submitted after enrolment for the purposes of using disability accommodations as offered by the study programme.

Art. 5 - Candidates with SLD

In order to ensure equal treatment of candidates, those holding a Specific Learning Disorder (SLD) certificate issued by the National Health Service, a private affiliated centre, or a private specialist (with a compliance certificate from the competent health authority), pursuant to Law 170/2010, may apply for accommodations to the COSP SLD Office (ausili.ammissioni@unimi.it) attaching the certificate. If the SLD was diagnosed in childhood, and the certificate is over three years old, students should apply for an updated certificate, to be submitted after enrolment for the purposes of using SLD accommodations as offered by the study programme.

Art. 6 - Admission exam

Admission to the PhD programme is through a public selection procedure involving the evaluation of qualifications and tests for the comparative assessment of candidates. An Examining Committee set up and appointed in compliance with current regulations will carry out the procedure.

The selection procedure aims to assess the applicant’s training, capabilities and aptitude for scientific research, as well as his/her personal motivations. It involves assessment of the CV and a research project, possibly based on his/her second cycle degree dissertation, as well as an online interview. The research project, which must be prepared according to a standard format (Form 1 attached hereto), is relevant for the sole purposes of selection and does not constitute any obligation regarding the candidate’s subsequent choice of doctoral thesis in the event that they are admitted.

The candidate’s CV and research project will be evaluated prior to interview, and candidates will be able to see the result of the evaluation on the University portal on the programme’s webpage.

Evaluation of the CV will take into account the candidate’s entire university career, any publications, any professional experience and other qualifications held. The Examining Committee can give a maximum of 20 points for the CV, taking into consideration the conditions and the amount of time taken by the candidate to obtain their qualifications.

A maximum of 10 points can be awarded for the research project.

Candidates who obtain a score of at least 50% of the maximum points obtainable for the CV and the research project can be called for interview.
The interview is public; the date will be posted to the University portal following the assessment of qualifications. The aim is to verify the candidate’s knowledge of the field of the doctorate. The interview includes a seminar-style presentation of the research project, followed by general discussion to verify the candidate’s expertise, scientific qualities and motivations. A maximum of 70 points may be assigned to the interview.

The interview will be held in English.

To be allowed to sit for the test, candidates must present one of the following forms of ID:

a) Identity card;

b) Passport;

c) (Italian) driving licence.

The outcome of the tests will be communicated by the Committee at the end of the interview.

At the end of the tests, the Committee draws up a general ranking list according to the total score assigned to the candidates for their CV, research project and interview. **Candidates must obtain a minimum score of 70/100 to pass the admission exam.**

Candidates must obtain a minimum score of 70/100 to pass the admission exam.

The **general ranking** is published on the page [Postgraduate admission rankings page](#) in the days following the examinations.

It is incumbent on the Committee to complete procedures no later than **21 September 2022**.

**Art. 7 - Admission to the PhD programmes**

Applicants are admitted to the programmes according to their position in the ranking list until the number of places available has been filled. Where applicants achieve the same score, preference will be given to the younger applicant, with the exception of the right of priority criterion for doctoral grants set forth in art. 9 of this call for applications. The rankings of eligible applicants will be published in the days following the interviews on the University website [Postgraduate admission rankings page](#).

The ranking published on the University website constitutes notification to the interested parties since they will not receive written communication

Applicants admitted to the programmes lose their entitlement if they fail to enrol by the deadline. Their place is then given to the next applicant in the ranking list. This also applies if an admitted applicant withdraws within three months of the beginning of the programme. If the withdrawing student has already received any monthly scholarship payments, he/she is required to return them. Takeover applicants will be contacted personally by email by the Doctoral Students Administration Office (Segreteria Dottorati), which will provide instructions and deadlines for enrolment.
A student’s offer of admission will be rescinded if they fail to demonstrate English-language proficiency at a B2 level or higher under the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages), as required under this call for applications. Therefore, students must submit (at the enrolment stage, as described in Art. 8, below) a language-proficiency certification from an entity approved by the University. In order for a student’s language-proficiency certification to be approved for purposes of programme admission and enrolment, it must have been issued within three years prior to submission (two for the TOEFL), and must, without exception, certify proficiency across all four areas: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

For purposes of admission and enrolment, students must submit, without exception, one of the following certifications recognised by the University certifying proficiency at a B2 Level under the CEFR:

CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

- FCE First Certificate in English B2
- CAE Certificate in Advanced English C1
- CPE Certificate in Proficiency in English C2
- CELTA Certificate in Teaching English for Speakers of Others Languages C2
- DELTA Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults C2
- BEC Business English Certificates
  - Vantage B2
  - Higher C1
- IELTS International English Language Testing System (both Academic and General)
  - 5.5 - 6.5 B2
  - 7.0 - 8.0 C1
  - 8.5 - 9.0 C2

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

- Cambridge IGCSE First Language English Grade D or above B2
- Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language Grade C or above B2
- Cambridge O Level: English Language Grade C or above B2
- Cambridge A/AS Level: English Language Grade E or above B2

CERTILINGUA

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
B2 Level under the CEFR: anyone failing to demonstrate, upon submitting an application for enrolment, that they meet the minimum requirements will have their admission rescinded, and will not be permitted to matriculate into the PhD programme. This rule will be applied, without exception, under the following circumstances:

(i) failure to submit, or late submission (in respect of the deadline appearing in the posted enrolment procedure) of a language-proficiency certification from one of the institutions listed above (certifications from any other entity will be rejected);
(ii) certifications which do not list all of the required competencies (i.e. Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking);
(iii) certifications issued more than three years before the student submits their application for enrolment (two years for the TOEFL).

The following category of students will be the sole exception to the rules on language-proficiency certification:

- those who, by the date of their enrolment, have earned a Master’s degree featuring an English-language specialisation in one of the following Master’s Degree programme classes: LM-37 Modern European and American Languages and Literature, LM-38 Modern Languages for International Communication and Cooperation, LM-39 Linguistics, LM-94 Specialised Translation and Interpreting, or equivalent Master’s Degree;
- those who, by the date of their enrolment, have earned a Master’s degree in a programme taught entirely in English;
- those who, in their prior study programme, earned a B2 Level English-language proficiency certification issued by a SLAM Language Centre of the University within the four years prior to their matriculation into the PhD programme.


No other exceptions will be granted.

Art. 8 - Enrolment

The enrolment period for the PhD programmes runs from 2 p.m. on 26 September 2022 to 2p.m. on 30 September 2022 on the SIFA Portal. Instructions are available on the University website.

Candidates are admitted conditionally and may be excluded from the programme if they do not meet the requirements.

Candidates holding a qualification obtained abroad are required to upload the following documents when completing the online enrolment process:

- Original diploma (Master of Science or equivalent) with a translation into Italian, French, English, German or Spanish;
- Statement of Validity (Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco) issued by the Italian Embassy, or Diploma Supplement, or certificate of comparability issued by CIMEA, or other declaration of validity issued by ENIC_NARIC centres;
- Italian Tax Id;
- Valid residence permit (only for non-EU citizens).

To finalise one’s enrolment, one must also upload the following documents to the Supplemental Enrolment Documents Portal no later than 2 November:

- Pre-enrolment application receipt from Universitaly;
- student visa (only for non-EU non-Italian-resident students).
Verification of the validity of foreign qualifications is made on submission of the official documents. Until then, candidates are admitted to the programme conditionally, and may drop off the ranking if they are found not to meet the requirements.

Art. 9 - Scholarships

The scholarships awarded by the University of Milan amount to € 16,350.00 gross, those awarded by the I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia [Pavia Institute of Higher Education] amount to € 16,243.00 gross and those awarded by the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa [Pisa Institute of Higher Education] amount to € 16,243.00 gross. The beneficiaries will receive the scholarship amount directly from the University that made it available.

The amount of the scholarship is exempt from IRPEF income tax in accordance with art. 4 of Italian Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984 but subject to social security contributions pursuant to article 2, paragraph 26 et seq., of Italian Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995 and subsequent amendments.

Regional University Education Incentive Programme fees, and applicable taxes, will be deducted from the scholarship amount.

Scholarships are awarded in accordance with the Convention on PhD Programme Implementation and Management for the PhD programme in The Human Mind and Its Explanations: language, brain and reasoning, art. 5: “The Academic Board will assign the doctoral candidates to the research groups of the Parties, and award the scholarships based on the research topics chosen by the students (among those proposed by the Board), using their ranking as a criterion for meeting their preferences, up to the number of scholarships available for either campus. Each doctoral student shall work on their research topic at the University that proposed it. Scholarships will be disbursed directly by the university awarding the scholarship”.

In the event of candidates ranked equally, scholarships are awarded by assessing the candidates’ economic situation according to the ISEE (Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator).

Scholarships have a yearly duration and can be renewed on condition that the PhD student has been accepted by the Academic Board for the following year, after it is ascertained that he/she has correctly and successfully completed the programme of activities in the previous year.

Starting from the first year, each PhD student is given, in addition to the scholarship and depending on the financial resources existing in the University budget, a budget for research activity in Italy and abroad appropriate for the type of course and in any case for an amount no less than 10% of the amount of the scholarship itself.

Art. 10 - Obligations of PhD Students

The doctoral research programme entails 1,500 hours of training-education and research activities per year. The rights and obligations of the PhD students are regulated by art. 22 of the Regulations of the University of Milan concerning doctoral research programmes (administrative centre).
Art. 11 - Conseguimento del titolo

The qualification of Doctor of Philosophy, abbreviated to Dott. Ric. or Ph.D., is awarded jointly by the Rectors of the Universities partnered in compliance with Ministerial Decree no. 226 dated 14 December 2021.

Art. 12 - Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree no. 101 of 10 August 2018, as well as EU Regulation no. 679/2016 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR), the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by applicants. All data provided will be processed solely for purposes related and instrumental to the competition and to manage the applicant’s relationship with the University, where necessary, in compliance with current laws.

Art. 13 - Relevant regulations

Any items for which no specific provision has been made in this call for applications shall be regulated in accordance with the Italian legislation and regulations governing PhDs.

Art. 14 - Person in Charge of the Procedure

Pursuant to law No. 241 of 7 August 1990 the manager of the procedure related to this announcement is Ms Monica Delù (Head of Postgraduate Admissions and Student Public Relations Office).

For further information please use the Informastudenti service, selecting the category: Postgraduates/Doctoral research students.

Milan, 19 July 2022

THE RECTOR
(Elio Franzini)
Doctoral Programme in The Human Mind and Its Explanations: language, brain and reasoning

Learning objectives

Over the past decade, the University of Milan, Pisa’s Scuola Normale and the IUSS of Pavia have become centres of academic excellence, and have produced top-notch international research in areas the three institutions have in common, ranging from philosophy of the mind, to theories of thinking, to cognitive science. Today more than ever, cutting-edge research requires the ability to take these kinds of competencies even further. Hence a PhD programme that requires candidates to have a strong analytical and epistemological background, and one that challenges students to harmonise theoretical reflections with practical experimentation. The goal is to attract young researchers wishing to dive deeper into human cognition, taking a multi-disciplinary approach to their studies. This is currently a one-of-a-kind PhD within Italy, on a trajectory to become a flagship programme for Europe as a whole.

Our PhD students’ training works along two vectors: fine-tuning the skills they acquired in their underlying studies, whilst providing them the tools they need (in both theory and practice) to explore philosophy, pure and experimental sciences, cognitive neuroscience, and linguistics. The programme offers a multi-disciplinary approach that will allow students to devise original and innovative paths within their niche area of research.

Thanks to the is network of partner campuses, PhD candidates will have access not only to a wide range of coursework in both theory and methodology, but also to a treasure trove of expertise amongst the faculty as they seek answers to the central hypotheses of their research. The programme opens candidates’ intellectual horizons internationally, to Europe and beyond. Study abroad and exchange programmes with international universities, participation in international conferences, and international networks of scientific partnerships (including working with international research centres) are all offered either directly within the programme, or through the Faculty’s independent research. In keeping with this focus on internationalisation, all instruction and training is in English.

The PhD programme is taught entirely in English.

Academic disciplines

11/C (Philosophy)
11/E (Psychology)
13/A (Economics)
05/D (Physiology)
06/E (Specialist Clinical Surgery)
Partner Universities

University of Milan (administrative centre)

I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia

Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa

Research topics

Research topics are available on the University portal

Duration

3 years

Places available

6

Scholarships

3 University of Milan

1 I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia, funded under Ministerial Decree no. 351 of 9 April 2022 using Italy's Resilience and Recovery Plan funds - Measure M4 Component C1 Investment/Sub-investment 4.1 “Expansion of traditional and innovative PhD offerings in public administration and cultural heritage”

1 I.U.S.S. - Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Pavia, funded under Ministerial Decree no. 351 of 9 April 2022 using Italy's Resilience and Recovery Plan funds - Measure M4 Component C1 Investment/Sub-investment 4.1 “Expansion of traditional and innovative PhD offerings in public administration and cultural heritage”

1 Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa

1 funded by the Michail Garzanti Foundation for the “Acting together” programme

3 funded by the L. Sacco Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences for the following programmes:

- Developing better measures of recovery of consciousness after brain injury;
- Exploring the electrophysiological mechanisms of network and behavioural impairment after brain injury;
- Exploring cortical circuits by direct perturbations in physiological and pathological conditions.

Doctoral programme coordinator

professor Francesco Gualia, full professor of University of Milan, SECS-P/01 scientific-disciplinary sector.
francesco.guala@unimi.it

Admission requirements
All classes of Master’s degrees

Reference letters
The academic board requires that one reference letter, drawn up according to Form 2 attached hereto, be sent by email to the doctoral programme coordinator, to be sent to the e-mail address phd.hume@unimi.it

Doctoral programme selection phases - The Human Mind and Its Explanations: language, brain and reasoning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification assessment date</th>
<th>The assessment will take place on 8 September 2022. The assessment outcome will be posted to the University website, on the programme’s webpage, by the interview start date.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Online interviews will be held beginning at 9 a.m. on 19 September 2022. The interview schedule, showing each candidate’s interview slot (name, date, time, and project presented), will be posted to the University’s website, on the programme’s webpage. The interview will be in English. This posting is equivalent to a notice to the persons concerned.</td>
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Annex A

DICHIARAZIONE SOSTITUTIVA DI ATTO NOTORIO/ DECLARATION IN LIEU OF AN AFFIDAVIT

Self drafted affidavit
(art. 47 del DPR n° 445/2000)
(art. 47 Presidential Decree n. 445/2000)

Il sottoscritto/the undersigned
cognome/surname_______________________________nome/name____________________________
nato a/born in____________________________________ il/on________________________________

consapevole delle sanzioni penali richiamate dall’articolo 76 del Dpr 445/2000 in caso di
dichiarazioni non veritiere e falsità in atti
aware that providing false data and using fake documents are crimes punishable by law (art. 75
and 76 of the Presidential Decree n. 445/2000)

dichiara sotto la propria personale responsabilità
declares under his/her own responsibility

che le pubblicazioni/ i titoli sotto elencati, prodotti in copia, sono conformi all’originale:
that the publications and the qualifications listed below, produced as copies, comply with the
originals:

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Milan, ______________________

Data/date

_____________________________

Firma/Signature __________________________

Ai sensi dell’art. 3 del DPR 445/2000 l’autocertificazione può essere utilizzata solo dai cittadini appartenenti all’Unione Europea. I
cittadini non europei devono produrre documenti originali o in copia autenticata secondo la normativa vigente.

According to the art. 3 of the Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, only Eu citizens are entitled to use this form. No Eu citizens must
submit the original documentation or photocopies authenticated in compliance with the law in force.
## PROGETTO DI RICERCA / PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognome e nome del candidato</th>
<th>Applicant’s Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corso di dottorato</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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1) **Titolo del progetto / Project title**

2) **Sommario / Abstract**

3) **Obiettivi e rilevanza dei risultati ottenibili nel contesto dello stato dell’arte / Project aims and their relevance in the context of the state of the art**

4) **Descrizione del progetto / Project description**

5) **Bibliografia / References**

Il progetto dovrà avere almeno 2.000 e non più di 4.000 parole, bibliografia esclusa. The project should have at least 2,000 and not more than 4,000 words, excluding references.
REFEREE FORM

Applicant’s Name

PhD

To be completed in all areas

Referee’s name

Position/Title

Institution/Comp

Address

City

Zip code

Country

Phone contact

Email

Date

On the following scale, please rank the applicant against other students in comparable fields and indicate the comparison group used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottom 50%</th>
<th>Top 50%</th>
<th>Top 25%</th>
<th>Top 10%</th>
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Please rate this applicant in overall promise for the doctorate (check one)

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<tr>
<th>Unable to evaluate</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
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Give your comments here
(Your personal evaluation about the candidate)

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