



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION
TO THE HONORS PROGRAM OF THE
IMT SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
LUCCA
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
PROJECT
EDUCATING FUTURE CITIZENS (EFC)**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE HONORS PROGRAM OF THE IMT SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES LUCCA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT EDUCATING FUTURE CITIZENS (EFC)

Disclaimer: in the Italian version of this document, written in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, the use of masculine pronouns (he/his) is used solely for simplicity and is intended to be gender-neutral, referring to individuals of all genders. IMT School applies the principle of equal opportunity and rejects all forms of discrimination based on personal status or characteristics such as sex, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, health status, or any other status or characteristic irrelevant to the procedures covered by this call.

ARTICLE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE HONORS PROGRAM AND AVAILABLE POSITIONS

The IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca (hereinafter referred to as the “IMT School” or the “School”) invites applications for admission to the Honors Program (hereinafter the “Program”), through a selection process based on qualifications and interview. The Program is a competitive training and research-oriented initiative designed for high-potential students with strong academic interests in the Multidisciplinary Scientific Areas (MSAs) of the IMT School:

- economics, management, and statistics;
- neuroscience and philosophy;
- systems science;
- cultural systems.

The Program offers a unique opportunity to explore multi- and inter-disciplinary research methodologies and topics within a highly qualified academic environment.

- **Duration:** 9 months
- **Start date:** September 15, 2025
- **End date:** June 14, 2026
- **Mode of participation:** blended (in-person and online)
- **Official language:** English
- **Available positions:** up to 16
- **Total amount of each scholarship:** €10,000 (see Article 8)

Additional benefits:

- reimbursement¹ of round-trip travel expenses to/from Lucca, up to a maximum of €3,000 total;
- free accommodation and meals during the two residential periods in Lucca;
- full exemption from enrollment and tuition fees.

The “**IMT Honors**” certificate will be awarded during the **Graduation Ceremony 2027**, expected to take place in early July 2027.

Funding source: the Program is funded by the project *Educating Future Citizens (EFC)*, CUP D67G24000600007.

ARTICOLO 2 - REQUISITI DI AMMISSIONE ALLA SELEZIONE

Applications may be submitted by students who, as of the application deadline, meet the following requirements (for the necessary documentation, see Article 4):

¹ The reimbursement will be made on the basis of actual expenses, upon submission of original supporting documents, including, where applicable, boarding passes and travel tickets.

- **Degree status:** be enrolled full-time in the first year of a Master's degree program or in the penultimate year of a single-cycle degree program at a recognized Italian or foreign university, and not have already obtained another Master's degree.
- **Credits earned:** have earned at least 75% of the ECTS credits available in the current academic year and, if applicable, 100% of the ECTS credits available in previous years (for single-cycle degrees), with a weighted average grade of no less than 27/30 (with 30 cum laude considered as 31);
- **Undergraduate average grade and final mark:** for applicants enrolled in a Master's degree program, have obtained their Bachelor's degree with a weighted average grade of no less than 27/30 (with 30 cum laude considered as 31) and a final grade of no less than 108/110;
- **English language proficiency:** candidates must have a knowledge of the English language at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and declare this in the application form;
- **For candidates enrolled at foreign universities,** the Selection Committee (Article 5) will assess the equivalence of the indicated academic requirements on a case-by-case basis, based on the documentation provided, taking into account the relevant national higher education systems, any official grade conversion tables, and, if available, international tools for transparency and comparability of qualifications (e.g., ECTS, Diploma Supplement, EQF).

ARTICLE 3 - PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Honors Program is structured as follows:

- **in-person training:** two intensive residential training sessions are scheduled at the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, focusing on multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary topics relevant to the School's four Multidisciplinary Scientific Areas, as well as on transversal skills useful for research. Each module will last a minimum of one week and will tentatively take place during the periods of January 18–31, 2026, and May 17–30, 2026, for a total of at least 80 hours of training.
- **remote training and scientific tutoring:** throughout the program, continuous remote support will be provided to assist participants in developing their own research projects and deepening their knowledge of multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary scientific topics and transversal research skills, for a total of 120 hours of training.

Attendance at all Program activities is mandatory.

Each participant will be assigned, at the start of the Program, a **scientific tutor** and a **mentor** who will support them throughout the entire duration of the Program. The **tutor** will be selected from among the members of the IMT School's academic community, ranging from Assistant Professor to Full Professor, according to the disciplinary area relevant to the participant's research project. The tutor will provide methodological and scientific guidance, with particular attention to multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary approaches, and will support the student in developing a research project and in consolidating a critical and structured vision of their research-oriented learning path. Interaction with the tutor will primarily take place remotely, with periodic meetings agreed upon in advance and targeted supervisory activities. The **mentor** will be selected from the School's PhD students and will assist the participant in integrating into the academic life and scientific community of the School. The mentor will provide informal support in time management, organization of study and research projects, orientation regarding available resources, and participation in complementary activities. The mentor will serve as a point of reference for practical questions and useful suggestions to fully enhance the Honors experience, helping to bridge the gap between advanced research and the participant's educational journey.

ARTICLE 4 - APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The application must be completed in English and submitted exclusively via the online form provided by the IMT School, no later than **1:00 PM (CEST) on July 3, 2025**.

All required attachments must also be uploaded solely through the dedicated online form at: <https://forms.gle/SgFjq9VSh8wPXHLAA>.

The Selection Committee (hereinafter "Committee") will only consider documents submitted in **Italian and/or English** for evaluation purposes.

Information		
Personal information	Mandatory	In this section, applicants must provide their personal details (name, address, contact information, etc.).
Selection of Multidisciplinary Scientific Area – MSA	Mandatory	Applicants submit their application for the Honors Program by indicating their order of preference among the School's four Multidisciplinary Scientific Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics, Management and Statistics - Cultural Systems - Systems Sciences - Neuroscience, Philosophy and Psychology
Level of English language proficiency	Mandatory	Applicants must self-certify their English language proficiency by selecting one of the levels provided in the designated section of the online application form.
Additional information / Any disabilities requiring assistance during the interview	Optional	Candidates with disabilities who require assistance during the interview must submit a request for such support.
Additional information / Source of information about the IMT School Honors Program	Mandatory	Applicants must indicate the source of information through which they learned about the Honors Program.
Academic qualifications	Mandatory	I candidati devono attestare i titoli di studio, indicati come requisito per l'ammissione alla selezione all'art. 2 del presente bando.
Additional qualifications	Optional	Applicants may specify any other qualifications they consider relevant to their application.
Additional documentation	Optional	Applicants may include their project works, published articles, books, or other materials that may be considered relevant for the selection.
Referee	Optional	Applicants may provide the name and contact details (role, affiliation, email) of a reference person.

Attachments			
1	Copy of an identification document	mandatory	<p>Applicants must attach a copy of a valid identification document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for Italian and EU citizens: identity card or passport - for non-EU citizens: identity card or passport (passport is strongly preferred) <p>If the document is not in Italian or English, a translation into one of these languages, prepared by the applicant, is required for proper identification.</p>
2	Curriculum vitae (CV)	mandatory	<p>Applicants must attach their CV, written in Italian or English (the latter is highly preferred), indicating their academic degrees, most significant educational experiences, and any scientific publications (such as abstracts or conference presentations, journal articles, monographs).</p>
3	Academic qualifications (required for application)	mandatory	<p>Applicants must attach one of the following documents in Italian or English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for degrees obtained in Italy and/or France, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, and Germany: a self-certification attesting possession of the academic qualifications indicated in Article 2 of this call, including the date of completion, the issuing institution, and the final grade if applicable; - for degrees obtained in all other EU and non-EU countries: a certification attesting possession of the academic qualifications referred to in Article 2 of this call, including the date of completion, the issuing institution, and the final grade if applicable. <p>If the documents mentioned above are not issued in Italian or English, a translation into one of these languages, prepared by the applicant, is required.</p>
4	Academic transcript/Diploma supplement	mandatory	<p>For each academic qualification submitted for admission to the selection (Article 2), applicants must attach one of the following documents, issued in Italian or English (the latter is highly preferred):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a certificate, academic transcript, or a self-certification listing the exams taken and the corresponding grades obtained, <u>or, alternatively,</u> - the Diploma Supplement, a certification issued by the university together with the degree, containing all the information required by European regulations (https://ec.europa.eu/education/diploma-supplement_en). <p>If the above documents are not issued in Italian or English, a translation into one of these languages, prepared by the applicant, is required.</p>
5	Motivation letter	mandatory	<p>Applicants must attach a motivation letter, written in English or Italian, with a maximum length of 5,000 characters, including spaces. The motivation letter should include a summary of the applicant's academic background, scientific interests, any research experience, ideas for future research projects, and reasons for applying to the Honors Program at the IMT School.</p>

6	Bachelor's thesis	optional	Applicants may attach their bachelor's thesis.
7	Reference letter	optional	Applicants may attach a letter of reference signed by the referee indicated in the Information section. The School may contact the referee at the provided email address for confirmation.

If the application is missing any information or attachment defined as "mandatory," the Selection Committee may decide to admit the candidate for evaluation with reservations. The application will be considered valid only if the candidate submits the required documents by the date set for the interview.

Successful completion of the procedure is confirmed by an automatic email sent to the address provided by the candidate in the application, certifying receipt of the application.

The application for admission to the selection can be modified up until the application deadline.

ARTICLE 5 – SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee is appointed by the Rector of the IMT School through an official decree, in consultation with the Coordinator of the EFC – Educating Future Citizens Project and the heads of the Multidisciplinary Scientific Areas (MSA). The Committee is composed of at least one representative from each Area.

ARTICLE 6 – EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Evaluation criteria

Before evaluating qualifications, the Selection Committee will define the criteria related to the qualifications and, more generally, to the entire evaluation procedure.

Preselection

The selection process begins with a preselection based on applicants' qualifications. This evaluation is done only to decide who can move on to the examination phase and is based on the Honors Program requirements.

During preselection, the Committee (as described in Article 5) will review the application declarations and attached documents (according to the guidelines in Article 4). Based on this review, the Committee will create a shortlist of candidates eligible for the next stage (the exam), without ranking them.

The **shortlist of candidates admitted to the exam** will be published on the official IMT School website and online notice board. This publication will be considered official notification.

Examination

The exam will take place online in English on **July 21 and 22, 2025**. It will consist of an in-depth interview focused on the candidates' qualifications. The Committee will score the exam out of 100 points. Candidates must achieve a minimum score of 70 to be considered eligible.

Final Rankings

After the exam, the Committee will prepare four rankings—one for each Multidisciplinary Scientific Area—based on exam scores. In case of tied scores, younger candidates will be given priority. The rankings, once approved by the Rector, will be published on the official IMT School website and will be considered official notification. Candidates admitted to the Program must accept their position within five days of notification. If a candidate declines, the ranking will move down to the next eligible candidate until all positions are filled. This process will end before the start of the in-person phase of the Program.

ARTICOLO 7 - ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is completed once the appointment letter is signed by the Rector and accepted by the candidate.

ARTICLE 8 - SCHOLARSHIPS

Each candidate admitted to the Program will receive a scholarship of €10,000, paid in a single installment by June 2026, provided that:

- the participant submits a report on the research project carried out during the Program by 31 May 2026;
- the tutor confirms the candidate's active participation in the scheduled activities.

If the report is not submitted within the specified timeframe or if active participation is not confirmed, the scholarship will not be awarded.

The total number of scholarships awarded may be fewer than 16—or none at all—should some or all of the candidates be deemed ineligible.

Scholarship type according to academic qualification

- **Bachelor's degree holders:** the scholarship is awarded as a **postgraduate research grant**, in accordance with Law no. 210 of July 31, 1998, Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010, the IMT School Regulation on Research Grants, and applicable legislation. It cannot be combined with other scholarships/grants, research fellowships, or employment contracts, unless the beneficiary is on formal leave from the other engagement. This type of grant is exempt from personal income tax (IRPEF) pursuant to Law no. 476/1984 and Circular no. 109/E of April 6, 1995, and it is not subject to IRAP under Legislative Decree no. 446/1997. It is also exempt from INPS social security contributions under Law no. 335/1995. Therefore, the grant is tax-free and free of social security contributions.
- **High school diploma holders:** the scholarship is awarded as a **study grant**, subject to taxation as income comparable to employment. It may only be combined with grants supporting mobility abroad or DSU (regional) scholarships for the right to university study, pursuant to D.P.C.M. of April 9, 2001, Legislative Decree no. 68/2012, and related provisions. In the event of receiving another non-compatible grant, the recipient must renounce the other in order to accept this scholarship. The IRAP due by the School is calculated at a rate of 8.5%.

In both cases, recipients must submit a self-declaration of absence of incompatibility at the time of acceptance and immediately report any changes in status. The School reserves the right to verify self-declarations, including through random checks, and to revoke the scholarship in the event of withdrawal or disciplinary sanctions.

The School provides scholarship holders with accident and third-party liability insurance coverage.

ARTICLE 9 - AWARDING OF THE "IMT HONORS" CERTIFICATE

The "IMT Honors" certificate will be awarded to participants who have successfully completed the Program, provided they obtain a Master's degree with a final grade of 110/110 cum laude (or an equivalent grade, in the case of a foreign degree).

The certificate will be awarded during the 2027 Graduation Ceremony of the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, which is typically held at the beginning of July, together with the PhD diploma conferral ceremony.

In exceptional cases, if a participant has completed all Program activities but does not reach the minimum final grade of 110/110, the awarding of the certificate may be evaluated by a specially appointed Committee, which will deliberate based on the participant's overall performance in the Honors Program at the School.

ARTICLE 10 - PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

The processing of personal data is carried out by IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca in compliance with and pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter also "GDPR"), with particular reference to the provisions of Article 5, as well as Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 ("Personal Data Protection Code") and subsequent amendments and additions.

The Data Controller is IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, represented by the Rector, Prof. Lorenzo Casini, with registered office at Piazza San Ponziano, 6 - 55100 Lucca. The contact email address for the Data Controller is: imtlucca@postecert.it.

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of IMT School is Mr. Giulio Bolzonetti. The DPO can be contacted via email at dpo@imtlucca.it or by certified email (PEC) at imtlucca@postecert.it.

The personal data provided by candidates will be processed solely for purposes strictly related to the institutional activities of IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, in particular to enable the execution of selection procedures, pursuant to Article 6(1)(c) and (e) of the GDPR.

Providing personal data is necessary to achieve the aforementioned purposes. Without such data, candidates will not be admitted to the selection process.

Access to personal data will be limited to authorized personnel who have been duly trained, including with regard to compliance with security measures and confidentiality obligations. The Data Controller may also use external parties authorized to process data as Data Processors pursuant to Article 28 of the GDPR.

Personal data may be disclosed to third parties (public and/or private) within the framework of institutional relationships, or to fulfil legal, regulatory, or contractual obligations.

Personal data will be stored in the electronic and/or paper archives of IMT School for the period necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they were collected, and in accordance with applicable retention periods under current legislation.

Data subjects have the right to exercise their rights as provided in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Chapter III of EU Regulation 2016/679, where applicable.

Furthermore, data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority if they believe the processing of their personal data violates EU Regulation 2016/679, pursuant to and in accordance with Article 77 of the Regulation.

Participation in the selection process implies consent to the publication of candidates' names and information regarding the outcome of the selection on the School's official institutional web channels.

ARTICLE 11- OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

For all purposes related to this call, Dr. Giulio Bolzonetti, General Director of the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca, Piazza S. Ponziano, 6 - 55100 Lucca, is identified as the responsible officer of the procedure.

For information and support, the Careers Service can be contacted at the following: phone +39 0583-4326730 – email: career.service@imtlucca.it.

Further information about the Honors Program and, more generally, about IMT School is available on the website www.imtlucca.it and on the EFC – Educating Future Citizens project website <https://educatingfuturecitizens.com/>.

ARTICLE 12 – REFERENCE TO OTHER PROVISIONS AND FINAL RULES

For anything not covered by this call, reference is made to the applicable laws and regulations, as well as to the documentation related to the EFC Project, with particular attention to the Guidelines.