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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS N. 1/2026 FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF 6 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE ENROLMENT IN THE JOINT MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERINTELLIGENCE – a.y. 2026/2027

In the framework of the initiatives of the Cyberactioning project aiming to boost and support the academic career of worthy candidates enrolling in the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence (MICAC), the Cyberactioning Steering Committee designed a specific programme of scholarships.

Art. 1 – Number of scholarships

As decided by the Cyberactioning Steering Committee at its meeting on December 18th, 2025, the project offers 5 (five) scholarships to highly talented prospective students enrolling in the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence, as follows:

- **2 (two) scholarships** for non-EU students, each amounting to EUR 12,000 (gross amount);
- **3 (three) scholarships** for EU students, each amounting to EUR 8,800 (gross amount).

In addition to the aforementioned scholarships, the Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita" of the University of Padua offers:

- **1 (one) scholarship** for EU students, amounting to EUR 8,800 (gross amount).

The amounts indicated are gross amounts. Any applicable taxes or charges required under Italian law and/or University of Padua regulations will be deducted, where applicable.

The scholarships are intended to support tuition fee costs for the MICAC programme for the full duration of the programme (two academic years).

Reimbursement of travel, insurance, accommodation or other expenses is not included and will not be covered by the scholarship.

Art. 2 – Requirements for the participation in the Call

Art. 2.1. – Scholarships for non-EU students

Candidates must have the following requirements:

- hold a non-EU Bachelor's degree or equivalent allowing admission to the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence;
- hold a non-EU citizenship;
- apply for the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence according to the procedures and within the deadlines set at https://apply.arqus-alliance.eu/courses/course/11-micac-master-international-cybersecurity-and-cyberintelligence

Art. 2.2. – Scholarships for EU students

Candidates must have the following requirements:

- hold an EU Bachelor's degree or equivalent allowing admission to the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence;
- hold an EU citizenship;
- apply for the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence according to the procedures and within the deadlines set at https://apply.arqus-alliance.eu/courses/course/11-micac-master-international-cybersecurity-and-cyberintelligence

Applicants who fail to meet one or more of the aforementioned requirements are not eligible for the selection for the scholarships.

All students fulfilling said requirements are automatically admitted to the selection procedure.
Neither a separate application form nor additional documents are required for the purpose of the scholarship selection, beyond those requested for the application to the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence.

Students who have previously received sanctions following the submission of false declarations aimed at obtaining benefits for the right to study are not allowed to apply.

Art. 2.3. – Candidates who have not yet gotten the academic qualification

Candidates who do not hold the required Bachelor's Degree or equivalent when they apply for the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence may submit a signed statement, committing to provide the diploma before the registration deadline.

This possibility applies exclusively to candidates whose degree falls under the European Higher Education Area (Bologna system). Candidates applying as non-EU students must hold their final Bachelor's Degree at the time of application, in order to allow for degree authentication and verification procedures.

Art. 3 – Selection procedure

Within the framework and limits established by the Cyberactioning Steering Committee, the MICAC Selection Panel, composed of representatives from the four Universities forming the Joint Master's

Degree Consortium, shall evaluate the eligible candidates and award the scholarships to the most deserving applicants.

Only candidates who have been formally admitted to the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence through https://apply.arqus-alliance.eu/ platform are eligible for the award of a scholarship.

The Joint Master's Degree foresees two application calls:

- a first application call open to all candidates;
- a second application call open exclusively to EU candidates and to candidates holding citizenships eligible for simplified visa procedures, in accordance with the admission rules of the programme.

The selection shall be based on academic excellence, assessed on the basis of the candidate's academic records, prior learning achievements and overall merit. In the event of a tie, priority shall be given to the youngest candidate.

Scholarships are primarily intended for candidates applying within the first application call. Eligible candidates admitted through the second application call may be considered on an exceptional basis, subject to the availability of funds.

The results of the selection procedure will be communicated to the candidates through the https://apply.arqus-alliance.eu/ platform and published on the official website of the Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita".

Art. 4 – Acceptance

Candidates selected for a scholarship will receive a formal admission and scholarship offer, including the procedures and deadlines for acceptance.

In order to be granted the scholarship, selected candidates shall:

- formally accept both the admission to the Joint Master's Degree and the scholarship offer within the deadlines indicated in the offer;
- pay the tuition fees to the University of Granada within the prescribed deadline;
- complete enrolment in the Joint Master's Degree, subject to verification of the authenticity of the submitted documents and of the fulfilment of all admission requirements.

The scholarship is granted for the full duration of the programme and is conditional upon the recipient's enrolment in the Joint Master's Degree in International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence.

If scholarship recipients fail to meet any of the requirements mentioned above, they must notify the Programme Coordination (infocybermaster@arqus-alliance.eu) and the Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita" (didattica@math.unipd.it) and they will not be granted the scholarship.

Should scholarship recipients not accept the admission and/or the scholarship offer received or not fulfil one or more of the aforementioned requirements, the scholarship may be awarded to the next eligible candidate selected by the Selection Committee, within the deadlines indicated in the offer.

Art. 5 – Payment method

The scholarships will be paid via bank transfer in two instalments per academic year.

Recipients will be credited with the first instalment of the scholarship for the academic year 2026/2027 upon arrival in Padua by 15 December 2026 at the latest and only after:

- completing enrolment at the University of Padua;
- opening a bank account – including an online bank account or a prepaid card with an IBAN at any Italian bank or any other bank in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), of which the student is the holder or joint holder;
- signing the Student Agreement of the Joint Master's Degree, through which students undertake to comply with the academic and administrative requirements of the programme and of the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients who arrive in Padua after 15 December 2026 will not receive the first instalment of the academic year 2026/2027.

Students will be credited with the second instalment of the academic year 2026/2027 only if they have been admitted to the second year of the Joint Master's Degree (having obtained 48ECTS by September 2027) and have renewed their enrolment for the second academic year of the programme (academic year 2027/2028), in accordance with the provisions of the Student Agreement.

Therefore, the payment of the scholarship for the academic year 2027/2028 shall be subject to the student's enrolment in the second year of the programme and to the continued fulfilment of the academic requirements established in the Student Agreement.

Art. 5 – Revocation

If the requirements set out in this Call are not met within the prescribed deadlines, the payment of the scholarship shall be suspended or revoked.

The Cyberactioning Steering Committee is entitled to revoke the scholarship in the following cases:

- failure to fulfil the academic requirements necessary to progress within the Joint Master's Degree, as established in the Student Agreement;
- failure to enrol or to renew enrolment in the Joint Master's Degree for the subsequent academic year;
- transfer to another university or withdrawal from the Joint Master's Degree.

Specific individual situations may be examined by the Steering Committee on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of revocation, scholarship recipients shall reimburse the amounts already received, in accordance with the procedures and conditions established by the University of Padua.

Art. 6 – Administrative procedure manager

According to art. 4 of Law n. 241/1990 (New provisions on administrative procedure and access rights to administrative documents), the Administrative procedure manager is the Secretary of the Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita" of the University of Padua, Dr. Cinzia Clemente.

Art. 7 – Personal data

The processing of personal data provided by candidates takes place in compliance with the provisions of EU Regulation 27.04.2016 n. 679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) and for the sole purposes of competition procedure.

The Administration reserves the right to check the truthfulness of the admission requirements.

Without prejudice to the criminal sanctions provided for in art. 76 of Italian Presidential Decree DPR no. 445/2000, should checks prove statements to be false, the scholarship recipient shall lose the benefit eligibility.

Art. 8 – General information

This Call is issued within the framework of the Cyberactioning project, funded under the Digital Europe Programme of the European Union, and is implemented in accordance with the Grant Agreement and its Annexes.

The scholarships awarded under this Call constitute Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) and are subject to the applicable provisions of the Grant Agreement, as well as to the internal regulations of the University of Padua and to Italian and European Union law.

For matters not expressly regulated in this Call, reference shall be made to the provisions of the Cyberactioning Grant Agreement, to the MICAC Consortium Agreement and to the Student Agreements of the Joint Master's Degree, and to the relevant regulations of the University of Padua.

The Call is available on the website of the Department of Mathematics "Tullio Levi-Civita" at the link https://www.math.unipd.it/news/premi-di-studio/.

Padova, date of the digital signature

Firmato digitalmente da Bruno Chiarellotto
Data: 23.01.2026 17:38:33 CET

The Head of the Department
Prof. Bruno Chiarellotto