

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PhD candidates and Specialisation School trainees

Academic year 2026-2027



Collegio Ca' della Paglia

Ca' della Paglia is a **merit-based university Collegio of secular inspiration and culture based in Pavia**; it is a member of the Conferenza dei Collegi Universitari di Merito. It belongs to the Fondazione Collegio Ghislieri, which runs the historic Collegio Ghislieri of Pavia, a cultural institution under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic.

It hosts mainly students enrolled in **PhD programmes and Specialisation Schools** as well as international students **selected exclusively by competitive examination**, offering a path of academic and personal growth in a stimulating and inclusive academic environment, **geared towards intellectual and scientific research**, with accommodation, financial benefits and a wide cultural and educational offering.

Further information on the history, activities and life of Collegio Ca' della Paglia is available at www.cadellapaglia.it and www.ghislieri.it.

1. Places available and Admission requirements

11 places

For the academic year 2026-2027 the College offers **11 places at Collegio Ca' della Paglia**, open to students of any nationality who are enrolled, at least until 31 August 2027, in:

- Doctoral (PhD) Schools
- Specialisation Schools

Candidates awaiting the outcome of the selection for a PhD programme or a Specialisation School **are admitted conditionally** to the competition for Collegio Ca' della Paglia. The definitive award of the place is subject to the submission, by 31 December 2026, of documentation certifying enrolment in a Doctoral School or a Specialisation School.

Candidates who have already won a place in a Doctoral School or a Specialisation School but **have not yet graduated are admitted conditionally** to the competition for Collegio Ca' della Paglia provided that they have passed all the examinations required by their study plan. The definitive award of the place is subject to the submission, by 31 December 2026, of documentation certifying the award of a Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale) or a single-cycle degree (Laurea a Ciclo Unico).

2. Services and Benefits

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- Furnished studio flats with kitchenette and bathroom
- Weekly cleaning and change of linen
- Laundry (for a fee)
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the College
- Car and bicycle parking
- Garden

STUDY AND LEISURE

- Access to the Library of Collegio Ghislieri
- Study rooms accessible at all times

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- In-house courses reserved for College members, designed to complement, strengthen and broaden university studies
- French, English, Spanish and German language courses at Collegio Ghislieri
- Participation in the cultural events held at Collegio Ghislieri

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES AND GRANTS

- Grants for activities abroad, attendance at international conferences and international mobility
- Reimbursement of the costs of obtaining language certifications

3. Obligations and Duties

Collegio members are assigned a studio flat and may use the common areas and services of the Collegio in compliance with the *Hospitality Agreement*, signed upon acceptance of the place.

All Collegio members sign a *Personalised Training Plan*. For each academic year it requires attendance at **25 hours of educational activities** organised by Ca' della Paglia or Collegio Ghislieri: in-house and language courses, seminars, guidance meetings, *tutorship*, *coaching*, *workshops* and laboratories.

IMPORTANT

Failure to comply with the *Hospitality Agreement* and with the educational obligations entails forfeiture of the place and of all the rights connected with it.

4. Fees, Reductions and Free places

Places are awarded against a monthly reimbursement of maintenance costs (hereinafter the “fee”) of **€ 625**, inclusive of utilities: electricity, water, heating, Wi-Fi, waste tax and TV licence.

FREE PLACES

By taking part in the competition for Ca' della Paglia, **PhD candidates and specialisation trainees in biomedical disciplines** may compete for an annual grant of € 625 per month from the Fondazione Ghislieri Centro per la Ricerca e la Didattica Universitaria (CRDU), which covers the full cost of the place and is renewable for the whole period of residence in the Collegio. **For the academic year 2026-2027, 11 new CRDU grants are available.**

OTHER REDUCTIONS

A reduction of € 1,875 is provided, covering the fee for June, July and August. It is intended for Collegio members not receiving the CRDU grant who, by 31 May of each academic year, have fulfilled the educational obligations set out in article 3 above.

COSTS	Amount
Monthly fee (utilities included)	€ 625
Annual fee	€ 7,500
CRDU grant (PhD candidates and specialisation trainees in biomedical fields)	covers the entire cost
Reduction on completion of educational activities (no CRDU grant, June-August)	€ 1,875

IMPORTANT

Failure to comply with the *Hospitality Agreement* and with the Training Plan entails immediate forfeiture of all financial benefits.

5. Application for admission

REGISTRATION FOR THE COMPETITION

When: by **12.00 noon on Monday 12 October 2026** (Pavia time and date)

How: applications are submitted online at ghislieri.it/ammissioni-phd-e-specializzandi

Language: documents in Italian or in English

Confirmation: to confirm that registration has been completed, write to cadellapaglia@ghislieri.it

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- **Degree certificate** with the final mark and the marks of the individual examinations (both Bachelor's and Master's, if both are part of the study path).
- ***Curriculum vitae et studiorum***, dated and signed, listing any scientific publications
- **Certificate** attesting enrolment in a specialisation school or in a PhD programme. In its absence, the application is accepted conditionally
- **Copy of any scientific publications**, up to a maximum of three
- **Copy of the degree thesis**
- **Identity card or passport**

IMPORTANT

-For degrees obtained abroad: attach a table converting the examination marks into thirtieths and the final degree mark into one hundred and ten; failing this, the Committee applies the table

of the Ministry of University and Research, available at the following link:

<https://www.ghislieri.it/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Tabella-conversione.pdf>

-For candidates who have already been awarded a PhD or specialisation place and who will obtain their degree by 31 December 2026 only: in place of the degree certificate, submit documentation certifying the mark of admission to the thesis defence and, in place of the final degree thesis, a draft of it

6. Assessment of qualifications, Oral examination and Award of places

An Examining Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione Ghislieri will assess candidates on the basis of their **qualifications** and through an **oral examination**.

QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications taken into account by the Committee will be the following:

- Final degree mark *or* the mark of admission to the thesis defence for those defending their thesis by 31 December 2026
- Arithmetic mean of the examination marks
- *Curriculum studiorum* (in assessing the *curriculum studiorum* the Committee takes into account other forms of funding received and attendance at merit-based institutions, in particular Collegio Ghislieri)
- Any publications
- Award of a CRDU residential grant

ORAL EXAMINATION

When: between **Monday 19 October 2026 and Friday 23 October 2026**

Where: online, remotely via the Zoom platform (schedule and arrangements will be communicated to candidates by e-mail)

How: the oral examination is held in Italian or in English

During the oral examination, the Committee assesses the motivation and the aptitudes of the candidate, the international orientation of their course of study and research, and their research or training interests.

Places are awarded on the basis of the general ranking list of eligible candidates. In the event of an *ex aequo*, the younger candidate prevails.

The final ranking corresponds to the sum of the scores awarded for qualifications and for the oral examination.

Assessment	Maximum score
Qualifications	100 points
Oral examination	30 points
Total	130 points
Eligibility threshold	80/130 points

The College may use the ranking list to assign further places; it may also announce other competitions during the same academic year.

IMPORTANT

The ranking lists of eligible candidates will be published on the website of Collegio Ca' della Paglia by 31 October 2026.

Successful candidates will be contacted by the Collegio.

The definitive award of the places will be resolved by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione Collegio Ghislieri.

7. Acceptance of the place, Admission to the College and Renewal of places

ACCEPTANCE

Successful candidates must declare their acceptance of the place by writing to cadellapaglia@ghislieri.it **within 5 days** of the notification received from the Collegio.

Those who do not receive a CRDU grant must also attach to their declaration proof of payment of the fee for the first month of residence.

ADMISSION

The Management of the Collegio will then communicate the date from which the Collegio member may use the residential services. **Places are available until 31 August 2027.**

RENEWAL

The place may be renewed until the end of the PhD programme or the specialisation school. The **request for renewal must be submitted in writing to the Management of the College by 30 June** of each year.

Renewal is decided by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione Ghislieri and is subject to the following conditions:

- compliance with all the obligations laid down in this call
- compliance with the terms signed in the *Personalised Training Plan* and in the *Hospitality Agreement*
- enrolment in a subsequent year of the PhD programme/specialisation school

IMPORTANT

- Renewal may be granted conditionally until all the documentation has been submitted
- If the renewal requested is for less than 12 months, or if the course of study, training or specialisation ends before 31 August, the Board of Directors may reject the application and offer the place again in a new call

Pavia, July 2026

The President of the Fondazione Ghislieri
prof. Gian Arturo Ferrari

The Director
prof. Alessandro Maranesi

The Secretary General
dott. Francesco Andreoni

