

CLOE Doctoral Programme

MSCA COFUND

Guide for applicants 2021

1st Call for proposals - Call of September 2021

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I The Doctoral Programme

CLOE is an **interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral Doctoral Programme** developed and coordinated by the University of Genoa in collaboration with a network of academic and non-academic host organisations. CLOE is funded under the H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2020 scheme (G.A. n 101034449). UniGe will recruit 15 transnational Early Stage Researchers (ESRs, i.e. no PhD and less than 4 years FTE research experience), respecting MSCA mobility rules.

CLOE will support top-tier ESRs working on 4 closely interrelated topics:

- T1 - mountain and rural areas and heritagisation processes;
- T2 - mountain and rural conservation, cultural landscapes and conflicts;
- T3 - coming back to the mountains;
- T4 - mountain and rural areas and environmental risks.

The **15 ESRs** will be enrolled in 11 doctoral courses involved in CLOE through 2 calls for applications.

The **first cohort of 7 ESRs will start on November 1, 2021**, and the **second one of 8 ESRs on November 1, 2022**.

Present education and career paths are strongly disciplinary oriented and do not allow to build up the competencies and perspectives to recollect the links between the phenomena and the areas of knowledge around mountains and rural areas, to promote new locally-based approaches that is urgent to promote with the aim to stop their abandonment and guarantee a socially fair and sustainable development to their inhabitants as well as the conservation of our common cultural and natural heritage.

According to [EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#), CLOE will address this challenge through an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral Doctoral Programme developed and coordinated by the University of Genoa in collaboration with a network of **13 academic and 15 non-academic organisations**. UniGe, the university of Liguria, with campuses in the major cities of the Region and one of the most important of Northern Italy, participates as sole beneficiary.

A rich and diversified range of **training opportunities** will allow to broaden the **cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary skills** of a new generation of Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) and provide a common ground for their future careers and for new research paths with important implications for sustainable development and environmental and cultural conservation. The University of Genoa is particularly qualified to conduct CLOE Doctoral Programme due to the previous and on-going projects of the involved supervisors. The doctoral programme will make it possible to network existing doctoral schools dealing with subjects related to mountain areas from different perspectives, and will be the first step in the development of a new Strategic Centre on Mountain and Rural areas (MORA) that will deal with their new centrality.



A **first call for applications** has been published in order to recruit **7 Early Stage Researchers** which will begin their doctoral training on November 2021. The **duration** of the fellowship will be of **36 months**.

2 Eligibility criteria – Who can apply?

CLOE Call for Applications is open to candidates of **any nationality and age** that respect all the following eligibility rules **at the date of the Call deadline**.

- Candidates must hold a degree that would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in Italy (the suitability of the foreign qualification will be ascertained by the PhD board within the framework of existing rules in Italy and in the Country in which the qualification was attained and those laid down by relevant international treaties or agreements) **and** be **Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)**, i.e. at the recruitment date be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
- They must respect the **MSCA “mobility rule”**, i.e. not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and time spent under a procedure to obtain refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account for the calculation.
- Candidates’ **research proposals** must fit in with the research areas of the call for applications. Candidates are asked to submit with their applications a research proposal. Applicants whose proposal should be deemed off topic will be considered not eligible and will not be admitted to the interview of the Evaluation and Selection Procedure. Candidates must submit all the requested information and documentations through the application platform at the following link:

<https://servizionline.unige.it/studenti/post-laurea/dottorato/domanda>

3 The fellowship

UniGe will recruit the researchers under a 36 months Research Fellowship (*Assegno di Ricerca – AdR*, art. 22 L. 30/12/2010, n. 240) which will comprise:

- living allowance: corresponding to the gross salary (employer/employee) paid in monthly instalments to fellows, inclusive of all social security coverage, contribution to pension funds (*gestione separata INPS*) and unemployment indemnity;



- mobility allowance for fellows' expenses linked to their mobility (i.e. relocation, family and travel expenses); An insurance coverage is foreseen, according to Italian law provisions. The contract (AdR) will specify rights and obligations of the ESR and the arrangements relating to confidentiality and intellectual property rights.

The monthly gross salary, including living and mobility allowance, will be of 2.205,66 euro.

Moreover, each CLOE fellowship will include a contribution to costs needed to carry out research projects (e.g. consumables, contribution to travel expenses for secondments, short visits and conferences participation, publications, consumables and visas, if needed).

The fellowship cannot be held simultaneously to other fellowships of any kind.

4 Working conditions

The human resources policies of UniGe are guided by the general principles and requirements of the [European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#), which are endorsed by the Institution. Researchers will be recruited through a Research Fellowship (AdR) which is an employment contract including complete social security coverage, social benefits and contribution to pension funds. Moreover, researchers will be provided with an adequate working space, taking into account personal specific needs or disabilities. UniGe has an Equal Opportunities Committee and a Guarantee Committee for equal opportunities, the enhancement of the well-being of workers and against discrimination in order to guarantee a workplace free from unlawful discrimination and harassment and fair practices and behaviour at work. Research and Teaching activities at UniGe office and laboratories are of low health and safety risk. Researchers coming to the UniGe laboratories will receive safety and security training and the relevant regulation and policies applied by the appointed Responsible for the Prevention and Protection Service.

5 Deadline

The deadline for submitting the application is **28th September 2021, at 12:00 noon CET.**

We strongly encourage candidates to submit applications as soon as possible and to avoid registering to the platform and submitting the application close to the deadline.



6 Evaluation procedure and selection

The selection process will be based on openness, transparency, merit, impartiality and equality for the candidates according to the *Principles of the European Charter for Researchers* and the *Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers*. Each Doctoral Course will establish a Selection Committee (SC) composed by two UniGe members and two external experts. The composition of the Selection Committee will reflect the main discipline involved and gender balance as well as the equilibrium between internal and external experts, selected through an Open Call. The SC will be in charge of the **evaluation** of the eligible applications. Each SC will be composed by **one** member of the CLOE DP involved in the relevant PhD course Scientific Board, **one** member of the CLOE DP not belonging to the same Scientific board and specialising in a complementary disciplines of the possible thesis, and **two external experts**. External experts will be selected based through an Open Call, reserved to scholars and professionals.

The selection process will be articulated in four steps: Eligibility check, Individual remote evaluation, Interview with final ranking, Ethics screening.

1) Eligibility check: the eligibility of each application will be screened, verifying that the applications are complete, admissible and the candidates respect the eligibility criteria. There will be no gender, age, ethnic, or religious discrimination.

After the eligibility check, the evaluation process will be articulated in two main rounds, with a threshold: the evaluation of the documentation sent by the candidate and then, if positively evaluated, the interview. During these steps and following the format already existent for feedback of UniGe PhD candidates, for each project proposal, the expert committee will prepare a synthetic evaluation report about the proposal application.

2) Individual remote evaluation: eligible applications will be assessed by the Selection Committee (SC), against the criteria and scores made publicly available and listed below. After making their individual assessment, evaluators will join a consensus meeting to agree on a common position, and completing a Consensus Report (CR) with comments and scores for each award criterion. This consensus decision will draft a list of candidates who can access to the last step: the in-depth interview. The list of candidates admitted to the interview will be made publicly available on the Doctoral Programme's website. Consensus meetings will occur remotely and will be chaired by the internal expert of the Doctoral Course, who will also be in charge, as rapporteur, of drafting the consensus report. In the Remote evaluation phase, the experts compares the different consensus ratios in order to ensure consistency and equal treatment of the proposals. The results of the evaluations will be then formulated in a Consolidated Report and a provisional Ranking List will be completed. To be admitted to the interview it is necessary to reach the score of 40.



3) Interview and final ranking: the **interview** will consist in a short (5 minutes) presentation of the project idea and the session of questions and answers (15 minutes) devoted to assess the candidate background and how it will be used in the project proposal and her/his critical approach to the research question. The Project Coordinators will participate to the interview of the CLOE candidates and to the definition of the CLOE final ranking of each PhD course. After the in-depth interview, members of the Selection Committee will draft a **final ranked list** of candidates in order of scoring. The **final score** will be obtained by summing points obtained in round 1 and 2 (up to 100/100). In case of extreme differences in scores, an experts' meeting will take place to discuss the different points of view causing the divergent evaluations and to find consensual evaluation. In case of impossibility, the algebraic media of the individual scores will be adopted. In case of *ex aequo* in the final ranking, the quality of the project proposal, master thesis and mobility have been defined as criteria of priority. In case of further *ex aequo* priority will be given to the underrepresented gender and to the situation of refugee of the PhD candidate. A guideline for the evaluation process will be provided to the experts and will be made available on the CLOE website with the application guidelines, according to evaluation criteria.

4) Ethics screening. Selected applications raising potential ethical issues will undergo an ethical review by the Ethical Committee for the Research of UniGe.

7 Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

I st STEP - Evaluation criteria first step	Total score	Threshold	% Weight step I	Ex aequo priority
Diploma supplement & Master Thesis extended abstract (max. 10 pages) (quality & coherence with the topics addressed by CLOE)	5	3	25%	2
Additional: previous mobility, awards etc.	5	/		3
Publications/patents (last three years only)	5	/		
Project proposal: quality, impact & feasibility and interdisciplinarity of the application; match with CLOE objectives	40	4	67%	1
Motivation letter: career objective in relation to the project and the reasons for choosing the PhD Course	2	/	8%	4
Letter of reference (max 3)	3	/		
Total Ist STEP	60		100	



Candidates that score 50 points or more in the 1st step will be invited for the interview (accepted also via teleconference)				
2 nd STEP - Evaluation Criteria for the second step focused on the candidate and its critical approach	Total score	Threshold	% Weight step 2	Ex aequo priority
Discussion on previous researches and experience	17	3	43%	2
Capacity to critically discuss the PhD project and the selected CLOE topic & theme's problems	23	4	57%	1
Total 2nd STEP	40		100	
Total score	100			

8 Redress procedure

After each selection step, according to Italian laws about public application, candidates can first of all ask to read all the documentation about the concourse procedure (i.e. *accesso agli atti*) and coherently with the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. If applicants have clear evidence to support shortcomings in the evaluation process, applicants who intend to redress should send a written request to the Head of the PhD office, by email to dottorato@segreteria.unige.it. PhD's Office will review how the procedure has been handled, then, if serious shortcomings in the procedure would be noticed, and will request to the Selection committee to re-evaluate the proposal within 14 days from the conclusion of the selection process. Applicants could also appeal within against the measure of exclusion, pursuant to art. 3, paragraph IV, by law 241/1990, within 60 days upon receipt of this letter or alternatively, within 120 days you may extraordinarily appeal to the President of the Republic, if they feel that there were procedural errors, ethical issues, or instances of discrimination on the basis of gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin.



9 How to submit your application

How to complete the forms

In order to complete your application, please refer to guidance documents available at the following link:

<https://servizionline.unige.it/studenti/post-laurea/dottorato/help>

Documents to be provided

Applicants will have to submit their application by filling in the requested information and uploading the following documents in PDF format:

- a copy of a Valid Passport/ID;
- a translation of the academic qualifications duly notarized by the Italian diplomatic or consular office of the Country in which the qualifications were obtained and Declaration of Value of the qualifications prepared by the Italian diplomatic-consular Representatives, that is located in the Country where the qualifications were obtained. If the Italian diplomatic or consular office does not provide the documentation in time for the application, applicants should enclose all the documentation available (e.g. degree certificates, transcript of records);
- in case of qualifications issued by an EU country, previous documents may be replaced by the Diploma Supplement delivered by the University which has issued the title, according to the standards of the EU and UNESCO/CEPES;
- Master thesis extended abstract (max.10 pages);
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Letter of Motivation;
- a self-declaration to demonstrate that they respect the MSCA mobility rule, the ESR definition, and the English language proficiency (IELTS scores, TOEFL results, or proof of a degree awarded in English);
- Research project proposal;
- Ethics self-assessment - through the form available at the following link:
https://cloe.dp.unige.it/en/application_package
- up to three letters of reference;
- Publication(s)/Patent(s) (optional; max 5).

The research project

All candidates will be required to present a personal and well-structured research project choosing a possible theme among one of the 4 topics on which is articulated CLOE. In the project they should state opportunities

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of cross-fertilization training in different academic institutions, as well as in different EU countries, institutions and profit and non-profit organisations.

In accordance with the range of skills and interests across the Partner Organisations the potential topics include:

- management of commons in rural areas;
- how located life plans are conceptualized, negotiated and experienced,
- geographical distribution of opportunities, environmental risk with the objective to promote new approaches to locally-based sustainable development through historical perspectives;
- possible responses to depopulation;
- approaches and models to mitigate environmental risk.

All research proposals, as explicitly stated in the *application form* – which includes an ethics self-assessment, must comply with H2020 ethical rules and standards as well as relevant European and Italian legislations and declare any potential Ethical issue.

The **complete list of the research themes** related to the 5 open positions within CLOE Doctoral Programme for 2021 is available at the following link: <https://cloe.dp.unige.it/en/>



I0 Award of fellowship and enrolment

The final ranking list will be published on the [web site of the project](#).

Candidates who have been admitted to the doctoral courses shall submit their enrolment applications by means of the relevant online procedure (<https://servizionline.unige.it/studenti/post-laurea/confermaPL>), according to the following deadlines:

Within 20 October	publication of final lists
Thursday 21 October	opening of enrolments for candidates who have been assigned a place
Monday 25 October	last enrolment date for candidates who have been assigned a place
Tuesday 26 October	publication of the list of names for remaining places on the website https://unige.it/usg/it/dottorati-di-ricerca
Thursday 28 October	last date for the enrolment of candidates who have been assigned a place according to the publication of 26.10.2021
The timing of any other repechages will be published on the website page https://unige.it/usg/it/dottorati-di-ricerca	

The above mentioned dates are binding under penalty of expiration.

If applications are not sent in within those dates, it will be considered as a withdrawal from the PhD course, with or without a grant.

Even candidates who have not yet graduated must respect the aforementioned deadlines, besides having to send the required self-certification by the 31.10.2021.

Should one or more applicants do not accept the fellowship, the University of Genoa will consider offering the fellowship(s) to the next best-ranked applicant(s) in the final ranking list.

The University of Genoa reserves not to assign all of the positions available, should candidates not meet the expected excellence criteria.

II Communications

All informations and communications about CLOE Doctoral Programme will be regularly updated on the programme's website at the following link: <https://cloe.dp.unige.it/en/>



Inquiries about technical, administrative and procedural issues may be sent to the CLOE Management Team at the following address: cloe.dp@unige.it

