



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am writing together with Prof. Sergei Fokin to inform you that Pisa University just opened a call for **two PhD positions on the following topics:**

- 1) **“Integrative taxonomy of ciliates and their symbionts” (Supervisor: Sergei Fokin) (call BIO04)**
- 2) **“Barcoding and metabarcoding as tools for studying and evaluating biodiversity” (Supervisor: Giulio Petroni) (call BIO07)**

I am kindly asking you to spread this information to colleagues and former students that, in your opinion, could be interested in. **We are actively looking for competitive candidates from any country!**

Please also note that scholars who already get a PhD outside Italy or students who will defend their diploma/master within 31/10/2020 are as well eligible for the application.

Application submission is now open, the deadline for submission is 10th July 2020 before 1.00 pm UTC+2 (Italian time).

Interested candidates should submit the application following instruction available at the following links:

<http://dottorato.unipi.it/index.php/it/concorsi-d-ammissione-a-a-2020-2021.html> (Italian)

<http://dottorato.unipi.it/index.php/en/application-process-for-the-academic-year-2020-2021.html>

(English)

Application details follows.

Thanking you in advance for spreading this information,

Best regards,

Giulio and Sergei

How to apply:

**register your personal data** on [www.studenti.unipi.it](http://www.studenti.unipi.it) . Please note that if you have previously registered on Unipi website, you should skip directly to the next step;

**Submit your online application on [www.studenti.unipi.it](http://www.studenti.unipi.it) . Please edit your personal data to start the application procedure.**

**The following documents should be uploaded:**

- **your curriculum vitae and any other relevant documentation** The curriculum, signed and accompanied by a copy of a valid identification document, must be uploaded only during the application process. The curriculum must provide information about the candidate’s academic education as well as his/her professional and research experience. University certificates with marks are welcome

- **your qualification with the relevant documents referred to in Article 3 of the call (only for candidates with a foreign qualification)**
- The candidate must upload any document useful for the assessment of his/her curriculum such as: publications, copy of the thesis, name and contact information of possible referees, a motivational letter, a letter in which they declare their willing/availability to spend research training periods abroad in case it is required by supervisors, etc
- During the online application process, the candidate is also required to indicate, the names and contacts (email address and phone number) of at least 1 professor or scholar/researcher available to provide and upload references by 15 July 2020, following the instructions directly provided via e-mail to the professor or scholar/researcher
- **Fee payment of 30,00 euro by 10 July 2020 h 23.59 (Italy Time)** on Pago PA system which is accessible at the end of the online procedure. If a PhD Programme has more than one call, only one fee is due and will be valid for all the calls the same PhD programme. No payment will be accepted after the deadline (10 July) and the candidate will be excluded from the selection. If the application fee payment has been made but not completed yet within the deadline, the candidate will be tentatively admitted pending payment verification.
- Submission final receipt should be printed and kept to certify the correct online registration along with the fee payment receipt (within the deadline).

The assessments of the candidates will be made on the basis of the curriculum vitae and an interview. The calendar of interviews, with the indication of the location, will be published on **July 1, 2020 at the address <http://dottorato.unipi.it/>** - "Admission and registration".

**Oral examination can be performed also via Skype.** Applicants willing to use this facility will have to upload a specific document ("Allegato C") duly filled and signed.

Details about PhD positions:

PhD fellowship is about 1040 euro/month net for 3 years starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

In case of secondments abroad for long period, PhD fellowship is increased by 50%

Concerning PhD position in

**1) "Integrative taxonomy of ciliates and their symbionts" (Supervisor: Sergei Fokin)**

**Candidates having any combination of the following expertise are especially welcome:**

Ciliate biology, Protistology, ciliate or protist cell culturing, bacterial symbiont biology, traditional morphology and morphometric, taxonomy, systematics, silver nitrate and protargol cell staining, scientific hand drawing for taxonomic purposes, Scanning Electron Microscopy, Transmission Electron Microscopy, ecology, *in vivo* experiments with protists, advanced statistics, microbial ecology, molecular biology, molecular systematic.

The PhD students will work in team with other Italian and foreign researchers, PhD and postdoc students, in the framework of H2020 project "Next Generation Taxonomy: Ciliophora and their bacterial symbionts as a proof of concept" (Acronym NGTax, n°872767). Our Unit has a long tradition of studies on morphology, ultrastructure, molecular phylogeny, and genomics of ciliated protist and their bacterial symbionts, as demonstrated by numerous papers published by our research group. The PhD student will be supposed to actively participate to the EU funded project taking advantages of offered training possibility abroad (extra funding for secondments abroad available within the project).

For any kind of information, please send email to ALL listed contact person:

Sergei Fokin, email: [sergey.fokin@unipi.it](mailto:sergey.fokin@unipi.it); Letizia Modeo, email: [letizia.modeo@unipi.it](mailto:letizia.modeo@unipi.it); Valentina Serra, email: [valentinasrr@gmail.com](mailto:valentinasrr@gmail.com)

All interested scholars are invited to contact each of us for any information, advice, or also for an “informal” pre evaluation of their own Curriculum Vitae

Concerning PhD position in

**2) “Barcoding and metabarcoding as tools for studying and evaluating biodiversity” (Supervisor: Giulio Petroni).**

**Candidates having any combination of the following expertise are especially welcome:**

Field monitoring according to defined procedure and protocols (expertise on any taxa could be of interest, please specify your expertise in the cv), basics in molecular biology, Next Generation Sequencing, bioinformatics, Linux, animal barcoding using different markers (e.g. 18S rDNA, ITS, COI), metabarcoding analysis.

The PhD students will work in team mainly with Italian researchers from Pisa and other Italian universities such as Florence and Milan. The PhD student will be part of a larger research group working also on other topics spanning from ciliates, symbiosis, bioremediation, wastewater, etc including students and researchers from other nationality.

For any kind of information, please send email to ALL listed contact person:

Giulio Petroni, email: [giulio.petroni@unipi.it](mailto:giulio.petroni@unipi.it); Valentina Serra, email: [valentinasrr@gmail.com](mailto:valentinasrr@gmail.com) .

All interested scholars are invited to contact each of us for any information, advice, or also for an “informal” pre evaluation of their own Curriculum Vitae

For information on the research expertise present in our research group, please visit Research Gate pages of:

Giulio Petroni: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Giulio\\_Petroni](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Giulio_Petroni)

Sergei Fokin: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sergei\\_Fokin2](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sergei_Fokin2)and

Letizia Modeo: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Letizia\\_Modeo](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Letizia_Modeo)

Best regards

Giulio and Sergei