

Call for PhD Applications – Spring 2024

The PhD Steering Committee of the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori announces that admission interviews for the PhD Programme of the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, run at the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, will take place on:

March 22, 2024, in the Library Room, Via Amadeo 42, starting at 9:30 AM.

8 fellowships are currently available. The positions announced are associated with the following research topics/areas:

1. Micro-physio/pathological systems as preclinical models to predict chemo-radiation outcomes in pancreatic cancer: tumor-on-chip platforms
2. Preclinical development of novel therapeutic strategies for desmoplastic small round cell tumor
3. Epigenetics in SCLC to early detect treatment resistance and discovery of new druggable pathways
4. Dysbiosis and Inflammation: Impact on Breast Cancer
5. Methylation classifier in pediatric brain tumors: from tissue to liquid biopsies
6. Role of innervation in thyroid cancer and modulation by therapy-induced senescence
7. Study of tumor- and immune-related features contributing to resistance to CAR T therapies in hematological malignancies
8. Development of bioinformatics tools for digital spatial transcriptomics and proteomics

Applications should include:

- CV with detailed information on the master's thesis.
- University certificate (M.Sc., M.D. or equivalent) with the list of exams taken. A grade of 106/110 or higher is recommended for admission to the PhD program. Students with graduation marks of less than 106 need to present a statement concerning the motivations and skills that make them suited to the PhD programme.
- Candidates should have an English language proficiency corresponding to the C1 level of CEFR – 6.5 IELTS score. The programme offers the possibility to assess the candidate's English level via a Linguaskill – Cambridge English test.
- Short outline (max 2 A4 pages) of the applicant's research project for the PhD (in English).

Registration for a research degree is subject to the Open University approval, upon reception of the definitive application forms. This complete application will also have to include a valid English degree certifying the required language proficiency (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, Linguaskill).

Deadline for applications:
Monday March 18, at 12:00 (noon)

Please, **send your applications by email** at the following addresses:
giovanni.scoazec@istitutotumori.mi.it ; daniele.palmerini@istitutotumori.mi.it

For more information on the research areas, please refer to:

- **Research area 1**
Dr. Tiziana Rancati, Data Science Unit
Email: tiziana.rancati@istitutotumori.mi.it; Tel +39 2 2390 3787
- **Research area 2**
Dr. Nadia Zaffaroni, Molecular Pharmacology Unit
Email: nadia.zaffaroni@istitutotumori.mi.it; Tel +39 2 2390 3260
- **Research area 3**
Dr. Sabina Sangaletti, Molecular Immunology Unit
Email: sabina.sangaletti@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel +39 2 2390 2212
- **Research area 4**
Dr. Sabina Sieri, Epidemiology and Prevention Unit
Email: sabina.sieri@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel +39 2 2390 3516
- **Research area 5**
Dr. Loris De Cecco, Integrated Biology of Rare Tumors Unit
Email: loris.dececco@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel +39 2 2390 5130
- **Research area 6**
Dr. Angela Greco, Integrated Biology of Rare Tumors Unit
Email: angela.greco@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel +39 2 2390 3222
- **Research area 7**
Prof. Paolo Corradini, Division of Hematology
Email: paolo.corradini@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel + 39 2 2390 2950
- **Research area 8**
Dr. Luca Agnelli, Department of Diagnostic Innovation
Email: luca.agnelli@istitutotumori.mi.it ; Tel + 39 2 2390 3581

For further general information, please refer to the PhD Programme Manager:
Giovanni Scoazec - Tel: +39 2 2390 3225, e-mail: giovanni.scoazec@istitutotumori.mi.it

Selection Procedure

In accordance with the selection procedures, applicants will be required to:

- Give a short oral presentation of their project (max 15 min; 6 slides)
- Discuss a scientific paper that will be provided ahead of the interview (3-4 slides may be prepared)
- Demonstrate advanced English language proficiency.

The interview will be conducted in English. The evaluation committee will assess the quality of the presentation, the candidates' scientific preparation and potential for research, as well as their English speaking and writing skills.