

# Introduction to PhD Studies

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## Course Overview

This course provides a comprehensive orientation for doctoral students, bridging the gap between administrative requirements and high-level scientific research. It is designed to equip candidates with the essential tools to navigate University regulations, manage their international mobility, understand the global publishing ecosystem, and master the art of scientific writing.

## Learning Modules

1. **Institutional Framework & Regulations.** University PhD Regulations: An introduction to the legal and procedural framework governing doctoral studies at the University of Catania
2. **Didactic Regulations & Declaratories** Detailed analysis of the INF disciplinary sectors, defining the boundaries and expectations of each research area.
3. **Administrative Procedures & International Mobility** Logistics & Missions: the practicalities of "missions" (research trips). Research Periods Abroad: Guidelines on planning and executing mandatory or elective periods at foreign institutions, including funding and administrative compliance.
4. **The Scientific Publishing Ecosystem** Venues for Excellence: Understanding the distinction between Journals and Conferences. Rankings & Quality Metrics: Deep dive into the iCORE ranking and other evaluation criteria for Computer Science. Citation Databases: Practical use of Scopus, Google Scholar, and DBLP to track impact and literature. Research Ethics: Identifying "good" vs. "bad" papers, with a specific focus on identifying and avoiding predatory journals.
5. **Scientific Writing & Methodology** How to Write a Scientific Paper. A technical overview on structuring a Computer Science paper—from abstract and methodology to experimental results and conclusion. Critical Reviewing: Learning what reviewers look for and how to present results effectively.
6. **Research Funding & Sustainability.** An overview of how research is funded at national and international levels.