

UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

**Ph.D. ANIMAL & FOOD SCIENCE**  
COURSE  
UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA



LERH  
Land Environment Resources and Health  
PhD program

Doctoral Course in  
Veterinary  
Science  
and  
Food Safety

## Going Global: the PhD Programs of the Agripolis Campus, University of Padua

26 February 2026

Sala Agricoltura, Corte benedettina, Legnaro

This workshop brings together the four doctoral programs of the Agripolis Campus of the University of Padua – Animal and Food Science, Crop Science, Land Environment Resources and Health, Veterinary Science and Food Safety - for a full day dedicated to the international dimension of doctoral education, research, and academic collaboration.

Conceived as a first pilot initiative, the event aims to establish a shared space for dialogue and exchange among the doctoral programs of the Agripolis Campus and a selection of invited international doctoral programs, with the long-term objective of developing stable and structured activities focused on internationalisation.

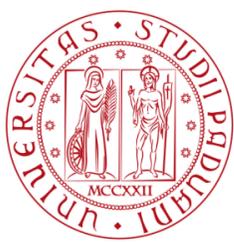
The workshop will open with a set of transversal keynote lectures to provide a common framework and to stimulate discussion across disciplines, fostering a shared vision of internationalisation in doctoral training.

Then, all the PhD programs will be given the opportunity to present their research focus, training structures, and international opportunities to promote both incoming and outgoing mobility, encouraging PhD candidates to undertake research periods abroad while attracting international doctoral students and early-stage researchers to the Agripolis Campus and the University of Padua.

The event aims to enhance the visibility and value of Italian PhD candidates by encouraging their active participation in international research environments. At the same time, it represents an opportunity to showcase the research activities carried out at the University of Padua to a broader audience, including external stakeholders, visiting scholars, and potential international collaborators.

**Link for registration:** <https://forms.gle/AVCQnS7r9YLJG3sw5>

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## PROGRAM

**9:30-10:00 Welcome and Institutional Greetings**

**10:00-11:00 Invited talks**

**10:00-10:20 - The story of the story of domestication**

**Greger Larson, Director, Palaeogenomics & Bio-Archaeology Research Network, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford**

**10:20-10:40 - Clade 2.3.4.4b highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus: an emerging public health threat**

**Alice Fusaro, European Union Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease SCS5 – Research and Innovation, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro, Padua**

**10:40-11:00 – Early detection across scale: Remote sensing for the early detection and mapping of the European spruce bark beetle outbreaks in the South-Eastern Alps"**

**Aurora Bozzini, Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment, University of Padua**

**11:00-12:00 Going global: Research areas and projects of the PhD programs in Animal and Food Science**

**11:30-11:40 PhD Program: Animal and Food Science**

**Angela Trocino, Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment, University of Padova**

**11:40-11:50 PhD Program: Ciencia y Tecnología de la Producción Animal**

**Juan Francisco Asturiano Nemesio, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain**

**11:50-12:00 PhD Programs: the University of Sydney**

**Sabrina Lomax, The University of Sydney, Australia**

**12:00–12:10 The omics revolution in dairy cow welfare**

**Alice Vanzin, PhD Animal and Food Science, University of Padova**

**12:10 – 12:20 Adaptations of agro-pastoral livestock systems to the management of multiple risks**

**Morgane Virapin, PhD Animal and Food Science, University of Padova**

**12:20-12:30 Ocean Warming and Emerging Contaminants: Physiological and Molecular Reproductive Impacts on Marine Species**

**Fátima Fernández García, Ph.D. Program Ciencia y Tecnología de la Producción Animal**



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**12:00-13:00 Going global: Research areas and projects of the PhD programs in Land, Environment, Health and Resources**

**12:00-12:10 The PhD Program Land, Environment, Resources and Health (LERH)**

**Marco Borga, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, University of Padova**

**12:10-12:20 The PhD Program Fundamental and System Biology**

**Jorge Castro, University of Granada, Spain**

**12:20-12:30 Future changes in extreme precipitation under a warming climate: added value of km-scale climate models**

**Rashid Akbary, PhD LERH. University of Padova**

**12:30-12:40 From machine learning to large language models to advance food systems**

**Aref Sepehr, PhD LERH. University of Padova**

**12:40-13:00 Discussion**

**13:00-14:30 Lunch**

**14:30-16:30 Going global: Research areas and projects of the PhD programs in Crop Science**

**14:30-14:40 PhD Program: Crop Science**

**Massimo Faccoli, Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment, University of Padova**

**14:40-14:50 PhD Program: Food chemistry, Biophysical chemistry**

**Stanislav Obruca, Institute of Food Science and Biotechnology, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic**

**14:50-15:00 PhD Program: Evolution, Ecosystems, Microbiology, Modelling (E2M2)**

**Mathias Choquer, Microbiology, Adaptation and Pathogeny (MAP), University of Lion 1, France**

**15:00-15:10 PhD Program in Agricultural Sciences**

**George Manganaris, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science, Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus**

**15:10-15:20 PhD Programs: Auburn University**

**Steven Hague, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, Auburn University, USA**



**15:20–15:30 Innovative Approaches to Industrial End-of-Life Bioplastics Management: an Italy–South Africa Biotechnological Journey**

**Daniele Vezzini, PhD Crop Science, University of Padova**

**15:30-15:40 Mity Research, Mighty Journey: An International PhD Story**

**Ahmad Dayoub, PhD Crop Science, University of Padova**

**15:40-15:50 Thermophilic Aneurinibacillus: A New Player in Polyhydroxyalkanoate Research**

**Veronika Řeháková, PhD Program Food chemistry, Biophysical chemistry**

**15:50-16:00 At the interface between a necrotrophic fungus and its host plant: the role of the fungal cell wall in adhesion and immune evasion mechanisms**

**Marion Fresse, PhD Crop Science, University of Lyon, France**

**16:00-16:20 Coffee break**

**16:20-17:10 Going global: Research areas and projects of the PhD programs in Veterinary Science and Food Safety**

**16:20-16:30 PhD Program: Veterinary Science and Food Safety**

**Massimo Milan, Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science, University of Padova**

**16:30-16:40 Doctoral Training Programme Ghent University: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

**Ilias Chantziaras, Department of Internal Medicine, Reproduction and Population Medicine. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium**

**16:40-16:50 - Molecular investigation of aMPV circulation in wild and domestic birds. A model virus to understand transmission pathways over different interfaces.**

**Baston Riccardo, PhD Veterinary Science and Food Safety, University of Padova**

**16:50–17:00 Reproduction in the queen revisited: insights into ovulation, hormonal control, reproductive behaviour and vaginal cytology**

**Maria Pereira, PhD Veterinary Science and Food Safety, University of Padova**

**17:00–17:10 My PhD journey: working with the next generation of biosecurity products**

**Julia Da Mata Goes Silva, Doctoral Training Programme Ghent University - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

**17:10-17:30 Discussion and conclusions**