

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
“E. Majorana”  
University of Catania

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# VADEMECUM STUDENTS



Edited by the Department's  
Quality Commission

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A.A. 2025/2026

Dear student, welcome to the  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
“Ettore Majorana” of the University  
of Catania!

This handbook contains some  
information that may be useful to  
face your studies at best and fully  
experience our Department.

Happy reading, enjoy the DFA!

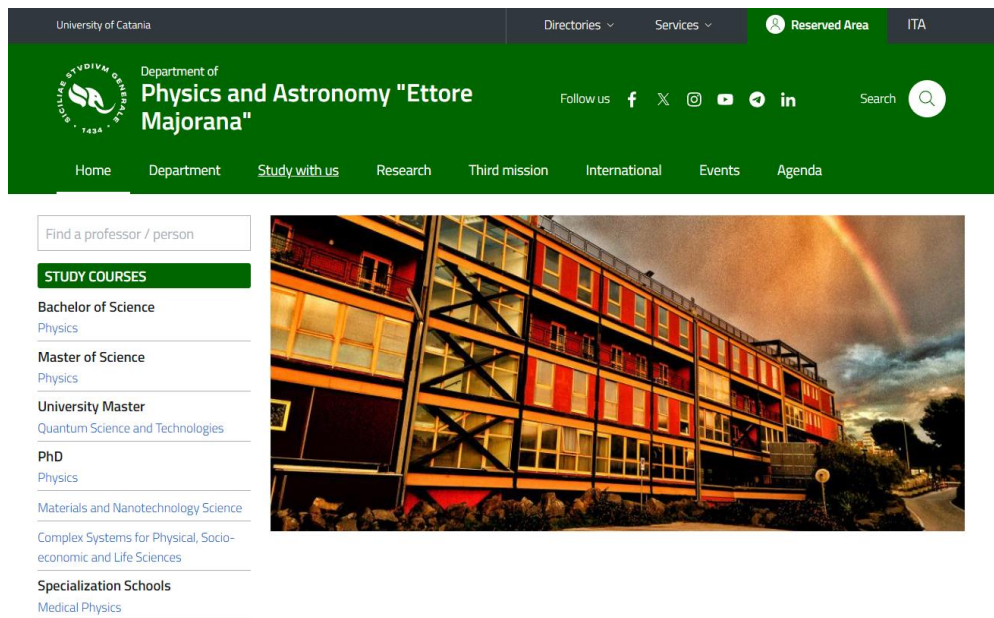
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# 1. WEBSITE

As a first step we invite you to browse our website:

<https://www.dfa.unict.it/en>



here you can find a lot of useful information about the DFA and teaching (Bachelor's Degree Courses, Master's Degrees, Research Doctorates, and Specialization Schools).

In the following paragraphs, we will give you some suggestions to identify the information of interest to you on the DFA website.

## 2. LOGISTICS

### 2.1 Find Us

The DFA is located in Building 6 of the University Campus, in via Santa Sofia 64, 95123 Catania ([Google Maps](#)). The Catania Astrophysical Observatory (OACT) is also part of the DFA, located in Via Santa Sofia 78 (piazzale Rodonò) - 95123 Catania.

More details on how to reach the DFA can be found on our website under the heading “[Find Us](#)” at the bottom of the homepage.



### 2.2 Parking at the University Campus

In addition to public transportation, it is possible to reach and access the University Campus by car, but keep in mind that parking spaces inside the Citadel are limited and mostly available with a payment fee (you will find some parking meters near the parking spaces).

### **2.3 Bar and cafeteria at the University Campus**

There are 2 bars at the University Campus, one at the Department of Engineering (Building 13) and the other at the CUS (University Sports Center). Also near the CUS is the university canteen. Access to the university canteen is regulated by the ERSU, you can find more information in Section 9.

### **2.4 Classrooms, laboratories, and library**

Most classrooms at DFA are located on the first floor and can be reached using the stairs (staircase B) that you find to the right of the main entrance of the building; the exceptions are classroom T, which is located on the ground floor to the left of the main entrance, in front of the coffee machines, and classroom A which is located on the second floor, also reachable by stairs (staircase B) to the right of the main entrance. The teaching laboratories of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year are located on the ground floor and can be accessed by going through the 2 fire doors that you find to the right of the main entrance. The Computer Science lab is located on the second floor (always use staircase B).

The library is on the first floor (use staircase C).

The Great Hall is accessible both from the ground floor (near the teaching laboratories) and from the first floor (staircase B).

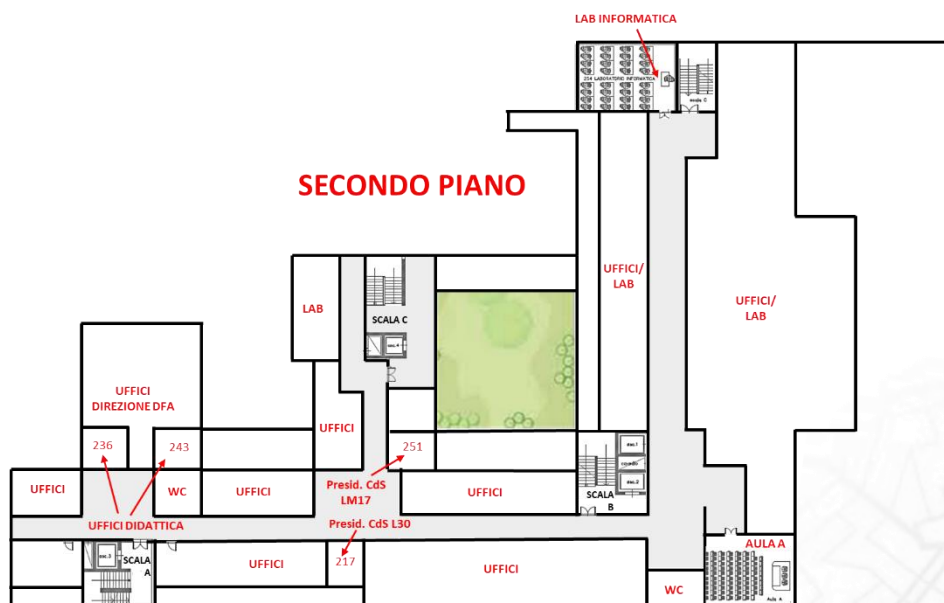
## **2.5 Secretary's Office**

On the second floor, you will find the Secretary's office (Dr. S. De Francisci room no. 236, Dr. R. Barbato room no. 243), it is advisable to use the stairs at the end of the hall, to the left of the main entrance (staircase A).

## **2.6 Studying areas**

The study areas are located on the ground floor (on your left as you enter from the main entrance), on the first floor in the glass corridor near the classrooms (use staircase C), on the outside terrace on the south side of the building (accessible from the library or from staircase A), in front of the library and inside the library itself.

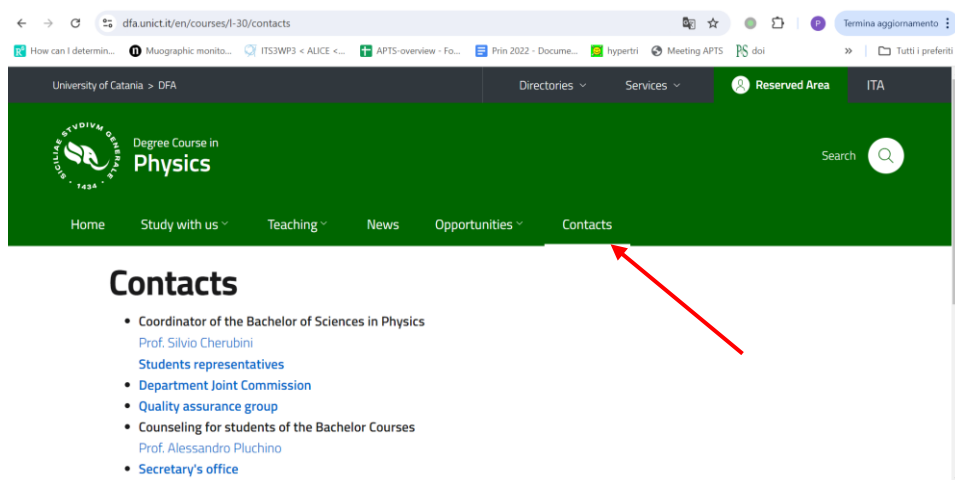




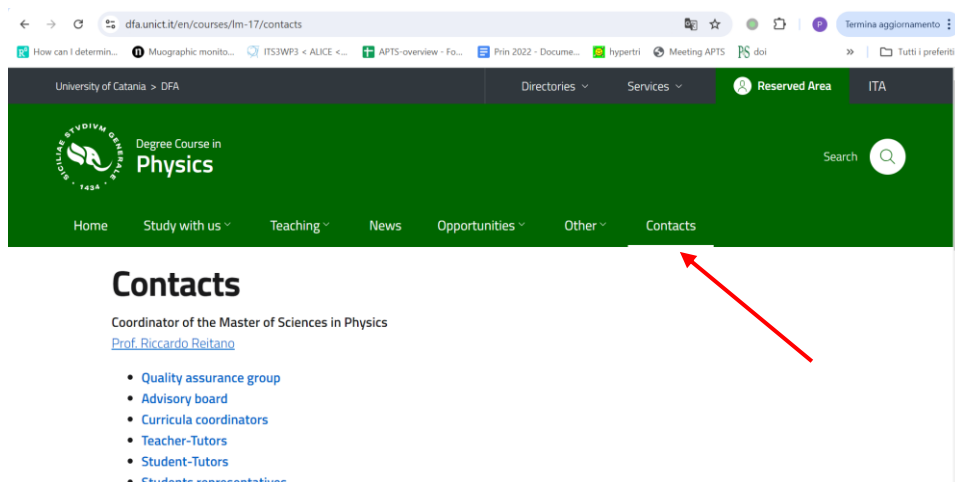
### 3. USEFUL CONTACTS

Useful contacts are available on the respective websites of the bachelor's and master's degree courses, in the menu on the right.

Bachelor of Science: <https://www.dfa.unict.it/courses/L-30>



Master of Science: <https://www.dfa.unict.it/courses/LM-17>





Secretary's office: dfa.didattica@unict.it, Dott.ssa Sara De Francisci (room n.236), Dott. Raffaele Barbato (room n. 243) on the second floor

Students representatives:

<https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/l-30/rappresentanti>

<https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/LM-17/rappresentanti>

Coordinators of Degree Courses:

Prof. Silvio Cherubini (silvio.cherubini@dfa.unict.it) for Bachelor of Sciences e Prof. Riccardo Reitano (riccardo.reitano@dfa.unict.it) for Master of Sciences

Students Ombudsman: Prof. G.G.N. Angilella (garante.studenti@dfa.unict.it)

Counselling for students of the Bachelor Course: Prof. Alessandro Pluchino (alessandro.pluchino@dfa.unict.it)

Helpdesk:

helpdesk@dfa.unict.it

[https://t.me/HelpDeskDFA\\_bot](https://t.me/HelpDeskDFA_bot) (bot telegram)

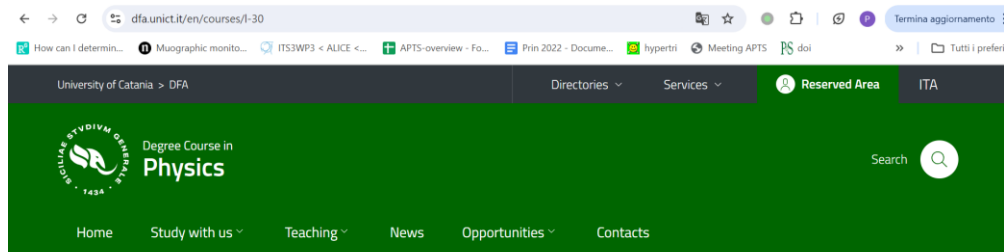


## 4. INFO ON LESSONS AND EXAMS

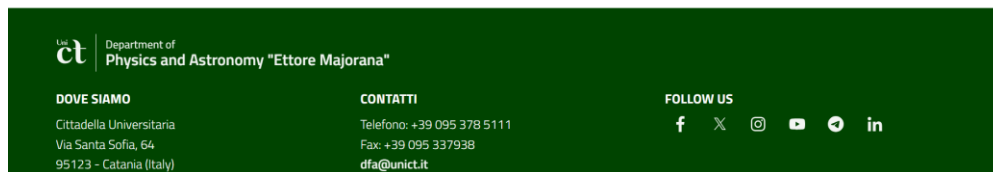
On the DFA website, you can find pages dedicated to general notices (concerning the Department, degree courses, events, etc.) and specific ones (from individual professors regarding lesson organization, exams, office hours, etc.), lesson timetables, professors affiliated with a degree course (and from which it is possible to trace the profile of the professor of interest and his/her contacts), teaching programs divided by degree course and year of the course, calendar of profit and degree exams, classroom and much more concerning the life of/in the Department. You will find this information both on the main page generally dedicated to the Department and on the specific pages dedicated to the two degree courses established in the Department (Bachelor's Degree in Physics and Master's Degree in Physics).



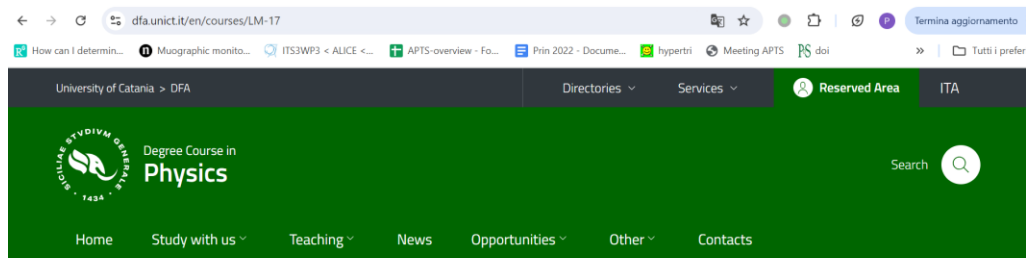
## Bachelor's Degree in Physics:



### Course Overview



## Master's Degree in Physics:



### Course Overview

The duration of the International Master of Science in Physics (MSc in Physics) at DFA is of two years. During the course of the MSc in Physics at DFA, students have the opportunity to extend and strengthen topics and know-how learnt during the BSc programme in Physics, in specific subfields of physics, both fundamental and specialistic. The MSc programme also offers courses in related subjects within selected subfields of mathematics and computer science.

Educational objectives of the programme include:

Under [Teaching Calendar](#) you will find all the dates of lessons and exams for each academic year.

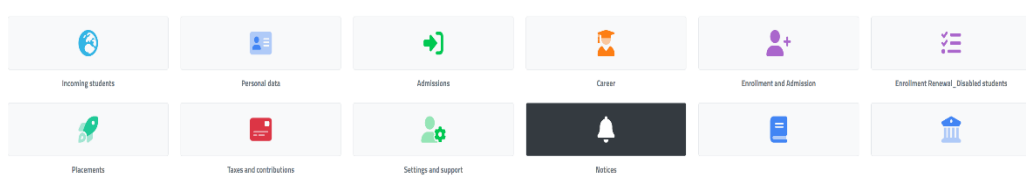


## 5. EXAM BOOKING PROCEDURE

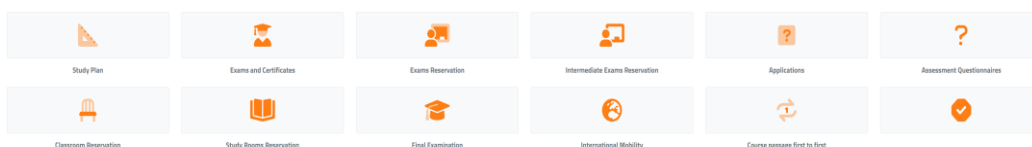
For everything concerning the student's career, the procedures take place through the student portal:

[studenti.smartedu.unict.it](http://studenti.smartedu.unict.it)

In particular, for booking exam sessions, the path to follow begins with accessing the student portal, obviously after having authenticated yourself. Once you have entered, select "Career, Study Plan, Exams":



Then select “Exams Reservation”:



Here you will see the list of sustainable subjects and the available sessions :

Available exams

Physics

| Teaching |                                                     | Credits | Results |                                                                                     |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st year |                                                     |         |         |                                                                                     |
| 1        | INTROD<br>QUANTUM MECHANICS                         | 6       | B       |  |
| 2        | INTROD<br>COMPUTING AND NUMERICAL METHODS           | 6       | C       |  |
| 3        | INTROD<br>BASIC NUCLEAR PHYSICS                     | 6       | B       |  |
| 4        | INTROD<br>BASIC EXPERIMENTAL AND APPLIED LABORATORY | 6       | B       |  |
| 5        | INTROD<br>ATOMIC AND PLASMA PHYSICS                 | 6       | B       |  |

Select the subject from the list by clicking on the icon 

The first time you press the icon for a given subject, you will be asked to fill out the OPIS form for that subject (see Section 6). Once filled out, you will see the list of exam sessions available for booking.



## 6. OPIS FEEDBACK

OPIS forms are a fundamental tool through which you can express your opinion completely anonymously on the teaching you have followed during the year. The questionnaires are processed and published online in aggregate form every year and are analyzed by the University and by various departmental commissions. The opinion of the students is important because through this tool the University builds a picture of the student's perception of the quality, in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, of the teaching provided and of the services supplied by the university, to identify possible improvement actions. Filling out the OPIS is mandatory before taking the exam for each course.

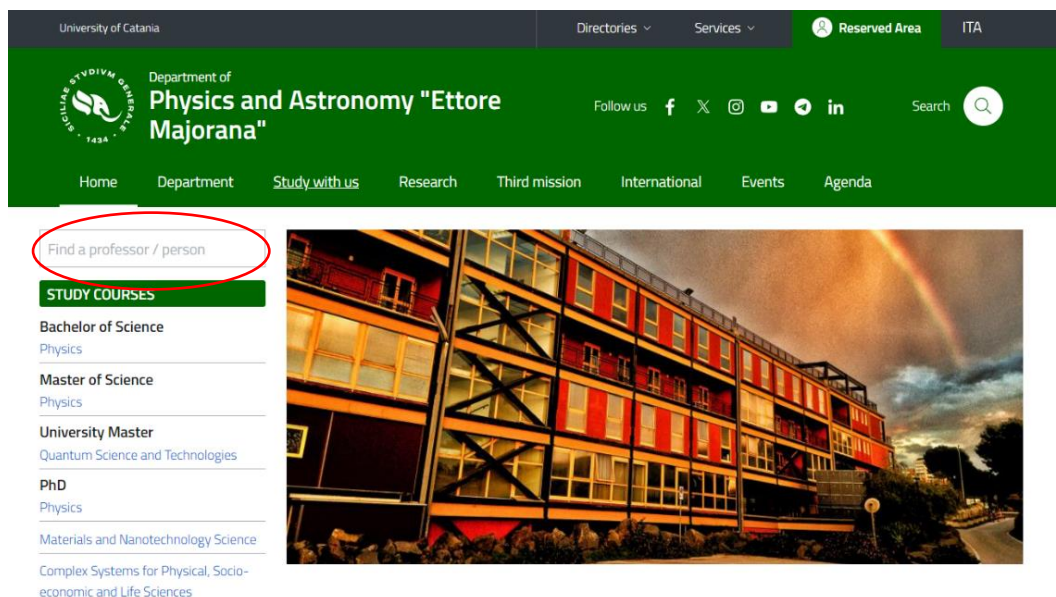
SUGGESTION: The University suggests filling out the OPIS forms at the end of each course, during specific time windows (at the end of the semesters). In this way, the data can be promptly analyzed by the University to provide an updated vision. Therefore, avoid filling out the OPIS a long time after the end of the courses, otherwise the data provided could be obsolete and unusable!





## 7. PROFESSORS AND TUTORS

Each professor affiliated with the Department of Physics and Astronomy is associated to a professor profile containing contacts and information on teaching and research activities. The profile of a specific professor can be consulted using the search box on the right of the homepage of the DFA website, typing the professor's surname.



The bachelor's and master's degree courses have identified some professors, who are available to support the students of these degree courses as "Tutors", guiding them in the formulation and optimization of their individual study plan, as well as providing support for the resolution of any problems that may arise during the study path.

Within the first few months of enrollment, each Student is required to communicate to the President of the Course of Studies and to the Student Secretariat the choice of their Tutor Teacher, through a specific form that will be made available to students at the beginning of the Academic Year.

Bachelor's Degree in Physics:

<https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/lm-17/elenchi/docenti-tutor-lm-17>

Master's Degree in Physics:

<https://www.dfa.unict.it/corsi/lm-17/elenchi/docenti-tutor-lm-17>



## 8. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

For more information on all administrative procedures concerning student careers, from access to courses of study to obtaining a degree, including student contributions (fees, deadlines, payment methods, exemptions and refunds), please refer to the "Student Guide" published by the University:

[https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/documenti\\_sito/guida\\_studenti\\_2023\\_24.pdf](https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/documenti_sito/guida_studenti_2023_24.pdf) (ITA)

or, for international students:

[https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/files/International\\_students\\_guide.pdf](https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/files/International_students_guide.pdf)

Other useful information, including the forms to be used when necessary, is provided at the following link:

<https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/immatricolazioni-e-iscrizioni> (ITA)

or, for international students:

<https://www.unict.it/en/education/international-students>



## 9. WORKPLACE SAFETY

UNICT students must receive appropriate information and training on health and safety in the workplace, as required by current regulations. Immediately after enrollment, and in order to be authorized to access the first-year teaching laboratories, they must complete the Information Course, delivered in e-learning mode and available on the Studium Archive platform (<https://studiumarchive.unict.it/sppr/>), which also includes a final test.

For subsequent training, they will receive instructions from the UNICT training service in the appropriate manner.



# 10 . UNICT SERVICES

As a UNICT student, you can access a series of services and benefits guaranteed by your university. The list of services is as follows:

- Student's card UNICT
- Study and work orienteering counseling
- Psychologic counseling
- Disabilities, Specific Learning Disorders (SLD), and Inclusion
- IT services
- Sports / Free membership at CUS Catania
- Transportation and mobility
- CLA | University Language Center
- ITALSTRA | Italian language and culture school

For more information on each service, please visit the following web pages:

<https://www.unict.it/it/servizi#Servizi> (ITA)

<https://www.unict.it/en/university/services-and-facilities>



# 11 . ACCOMMODATION , RESIDENCES AND CAFETERIA

There are 3 canteens available (Cittadella in Via Santa Sofia n. 107/109, Oberdan Centro in Via Oberdan n. 174, Vittorio Emanuele in Via Vittorio Emanuele n. 36/38). You can take advantage of the canteen services using the ERSU App.

Accommodation and residences are provided to university students by the Sicilian Region through the assignment of specific scholarships provided by the ERSU (Regional Agency for the right to University Education).

For more information:

<https://www.ersucatania.it/> (ITA)

<https://www.unict.it/en/international/accommodation-and-meals>



# 12 . AND MUCH MORE...

## WEBSITE NAVIGATION TIPS

The Department takes great care in training its students up to the highest level required by Italian legislation. In this sense, it offers three PhD courses: PhD in Physics, PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology, PhD in Complex Systems for Physical, Socio-economic, and Life Sciences. Thus, on the Departments website, you can find pages dedicated to each of these, which report essential information, always updated with notices, news (publication of specific admission notices, etc.), declination of the teaching courses cycle by cycle, and everything you need to know to undertake the path of scientific research at the highest levels.

## For the PhD in Physics:

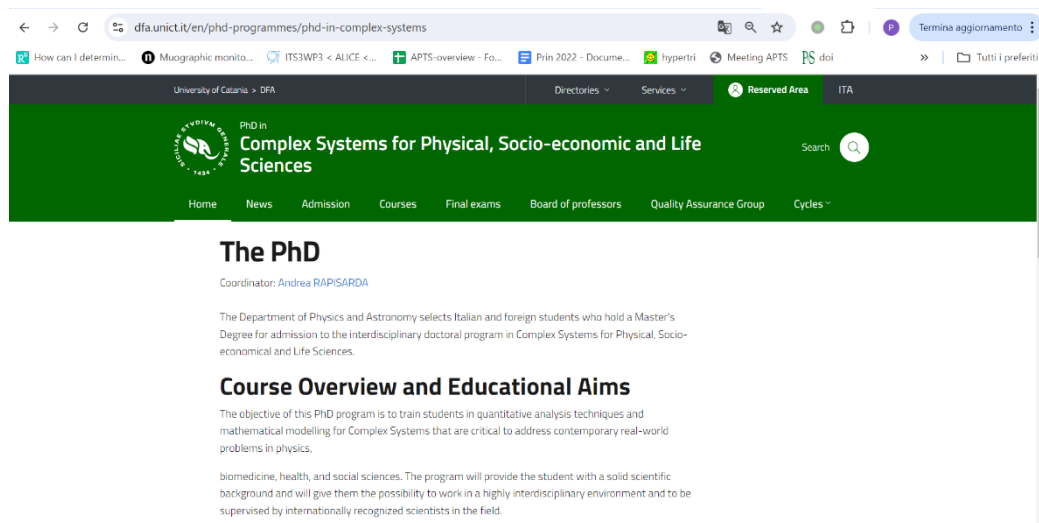
The screenshot shows the website for the PhD in Physics program at the University of Catania. The browser address bar displays [dfa.unict.it/en/phd-programmes/phd-in-physics](http://dfa.unict.it/en/phd-programmes/phd-in-physics). The website has a green header with the University of Catania logo and navigation links: Home, News, Admission, Courses, Final exams, Board of professors, Quality Assurance Group, and Cycles. Below the header, the page title is "The PhD". The coordinator is listed as [Livio LAMIA](#) and the deputy coordinator as [Alessandro RIDOLFO](#). The duration is 3 years. A paragraph describes the program: "The Department of Physics and Astronomy 'Ettore Majorana' selects Italian and foreign students with a Master's Degree for admission to the PhD course in Physics. The aim of the Ph.D. in Physics is to train young people, with a solid and extensive basic preparation and experts in advanced fields of Physics and its applications, to be included in cutting-edge research activities at Universities, Research Centers, Public Bodies, private entities and also in advanced production sectors." Below this, the section "Course Overview and Educational Aims" states: "The **primary objective** of the PhD course is therefore to develop and obtain a critical capacity that allows them to face and solve open problems (research in fundamental and applied physics, problems of interest to industry, etc.) with a correct scientific approach. To this end, various paths with specific profiles and

## For the PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology:

The screenshot shows the website for the PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology program at the University of Catania. The browser address bar displays [dfa.unict.it/en/phd-programmes/phd-in-materials-science-and-nanotechnology](http://dfa.unict.it/en/phd-programmes/phd-in-materials-science-and-nanotechnology). The website has a green header with the University of Catania logo and navigation links: Home, Training path, Admission, Final exams, Meetings of the Board of Professors, Quality Assurance Group, News, and Cycles. Below the header, the page title is "The PhD". The coordinator is listed as [Salvatore MIRABELLA](#) and the duration is 3 years. A paragraph describes the program: "Solid skills in Materials Science and Nanotechnology are essential to address many current **global challenges** such as energy transition, climate change, environmental and industrial sustainability, food and water security, personalized medicine, which represent vital junctures in sectors of **technological progress** that concern energy, health, communication, water and industry." Below this, the section "The University of Catania offers a PhD in Materials Science and Nanotechnology that is unique because it arises from the convergence of scientific interests of several key players operating in the Catania area, such as university departments ([DFA](#), [DSC](#), [DICAR](#)), national research institutions ([CNR](#), [INFN](#), [INAF](#)) and large international companies ([ST](#), [EGP](#), [ENI](#)). This valuable **synergy** allows PhD students of the course to acquire cutting-edge skills in the design, synthesis and characterization of innovative and nanostructured materials, with applications ranging from microelectronics to renewable energy, from aerospace to



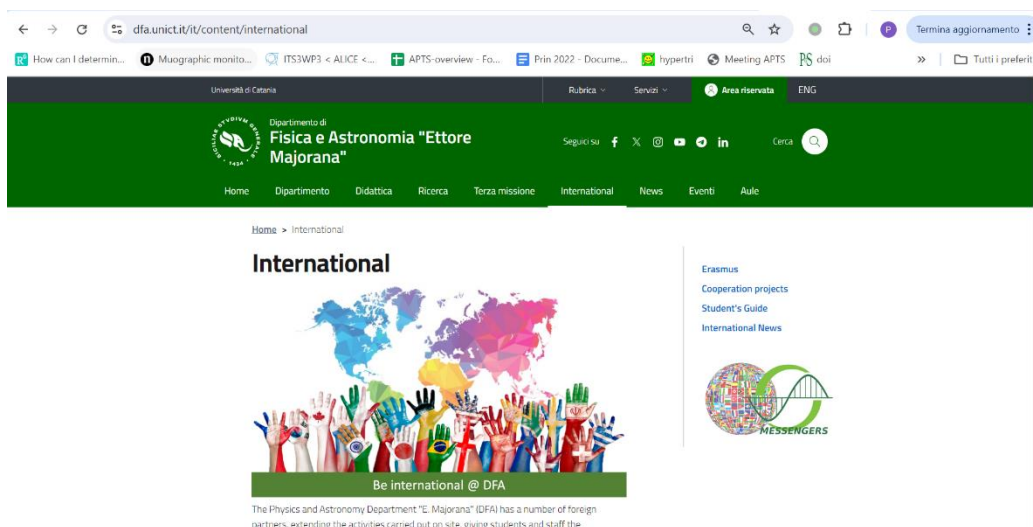
## For the PhD in Complex Systems for Physical, Socio-economic and Life Sciences:



The Department aims to specialize the training of its students by also establishing the School of Specialization in Medical Physics, for those students who want to specialize their knowledge in this field and aspire to a career opportunity in it. The Coordinator and the Vice-coordinator of the School are, in fact, teachers of the Department.



Finally, the Department aims to complete the training of its students at an international level by offering and encouraging international mobility within ERASMUS projects and, more generally, international cooperation projects, also thanks to the numerous international scientific collaborations upheld by its professors.



In addition to training, another objective pursued by the Department's professors is precisely that of scientific research at the highest national and international levels. You will find pages dedicated to the various areas of scientific research in which the Department's professors are involved, divided into the following sectors: Experimental Physics of Fundamental Interactions, Theoretical Physics of Fundamental Interactions, Experimental Physics of Matter, Theoretical Physics of Matter, Astrophysics, Applied Physics, Digital Methods and Technologies for Physics. You will also find information on the research laboratories within the Department as well as a page dedicated to scientific collaborations established with research institutions such as the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) - Catania Section, the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) - Southern National Laboratories, the Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems (IMM) of the National Research Council (CNR), the Astrophysical Observatory of Catania, and many others.

