

# The Polytechnic of the Mediterranean



*International training  
based in Sicily*

## **What is the Polytechnic of the Mediterranean**

The Polytechnic of the Mediterranean is a new university center of excellence established in Sicily in order to provide higher training to students of the Mediterranean basin, thanks to courses funded with grants, classes delivered in English and French, subjects of an international scope, lodging, close contacts with the labour market. This 'networked' facility, has been promoted by the Region of Sicily and is made up of the four Universities of Palermo, Catania, Messina, and Enna. It has the goal of training scholars and professionals who can support the economic growth of the territories facing the Mare nostrum.

## **The educational offer**

The Polytechnic of the Mediterranean offers research doctorates, masters, second-level degree courses, specialty courses aimed at effectively meeting the growing international demand for higher training. The first to start, in academic year 2008-2009, are going to be 98 research doctorate courses, each lasting two years and to be entered upon competitive examination. They are all going to be funded by grants from the University and from the Region. A second-level degree or an equivalent title is required to enrol. Then, annual or bi-annual, and two-year second-level degree courses will be started. From engineering to architecture, agricultural, biological, and earth sciences, tourism, economics and law, biotechnology, international relations information techniques, the four Universities have a long-standing tradition of training and research activities linked to the interests of the Euro Mediterranean area.

## **Who are the beneficiaries**

The courses of the Polytechnic of the Mediterranean are addressed to young people, both from Italy and from the Mediterranean macro-region, i.e. from Maghreb, Mashreq, and Southern European countries, and from the European Union as a whole. In the coming years, at least 3.5 million people coming from that region are expected to move away from their Country in search of higher training opportunities. The Polytechnic of the Mediterranean, thanks to its geographical position, to the quality of the offer, to its vocation for cross-cultural dialogue, to its original curricula, is the answer to this demand. It is also an opportunity for Sicilian students living away from the local faculties who, because of a lacking satisfactory international offer, have so far enrolled in Italian or foreign Universities.

## **Facilities and services**

The Polytechnic, with its new facilities for teaching and research, excellent quality of residential services, green areas, parking lots, classes of an international scope delivered in English and French, researchers coming from various areas in the Mediterranean, privileged relationships with Universities and national and foreign public and private entities, will open its doors to 2,500 Italian and foreign students in its start up phase. They will have a total of 50 faculties and departments available to carry out learning and

research activities, 62 laboratories, and 45 libraries. And other facilities and lodgings are being finalized to host activities and students.

### **Why in Sicily**

Sicily is a natural bridge between the North and the South, between the East and the West of Europe, where for centuries peaceful coexistence among peoples has been experienced. It's the meeting place of different cultures and movements. That is why it is the ideal place to become an international point of reference for university training and research. No longer a land where young people migrate from, but an appealing place, capable of attracting students, researchers, scientists. Therefore, Sicily aims at being the seat of a university system that can carve out a prestigious role in collaboration with European scientific institutions.

### **Who are the founders**

The Region of Sicily, the autonomous governing body of the Island, has financed the start-up phase with over 6 million euro. Thanks to that, the building project is being completed, together with the technical and management aspects, and the start up of the educational offer. The Polytechnic is composed of the four scientific-technological centers set up by the four Sicilian universities. Such centers seamlessly aggregate training, research and service facilities.

### **Deadlines and references**

The announcements of the competitive exams for the 98 research doctorates and for the relevant training grants will be published in July 2008, with October 2008 deadline. To take part, please contact the University promoting the educational activity.

#### **Figures**

- 3 teaching languages (Italian, English, and French)
- 98 research doctorate courses with grants
- 50 sites for didactic and research
- 62 laboratories
- 45 libraries

**[www.politecnicoedelmediterraneo.com](http://www.politecnicoedelmediterraneo.com)**