



INNOVATION IN CARDIAC SURGERY: ADVANCES IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE THERAPEUTICS

Academic Year 2015/2016

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Article 1 - General Information

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy, according to the Scuola Statute art. 3, will be offering the 2nd level Master course "Innovation in Cardiac Surgery: Advances in Minimally Invasive Therapeutics", within the Academic Years 2015-2016, from September 2016 to February 2018. The Master will be offered by the Institute of Life Sciences of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in partnership with the Fondazione G. Monasterio Regione Toscana-CNR. The Master received the endorsement of the *International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery*. Language of instruction will be English.

Art. 2 - University Credits

In order to attain the Master degree, it is necessary to acquire at least 65 University Credits (ECTS). The Master requires the attendance of courses, according to what is stated by the plan of study of the Master. The acquisition of the university credits occurs after intermediate and final verification exams of proficiency and is subject to the respect of the minimum attendance requirements, i.e. 90% of the scheduled teaching activities including practical internships.

Art. 3 - Goals

The main objective of the Master consists in developing the scientific, technical and cultural background in the different areas involved in the management of patients with heart disease candidate to minimally invasive cardiac surgery, through an interdisciplinary approach. The surgeons attending the Master will receive the key elements in order to assure to their patients the best, less invasive, and up-to-date treatment.

In particular, the Master aims 1. To provide the diagnostic basis and criteria for selection of patients for any kind of minimally invasive and/or hybrid approaches; 2. To give a specific insight into the old and new imaging techniques finalized to their optimal use in the pre-, intra-, and post-operative phases; 3. To illustrate the theory and the practice of the different minimally invasive and hybrid techniques and to demonstrate the need of a coordinated cardiac team work; 4. To give a basis of understanding the health economics process related to innovation.

Art. 4 - Teaching Methods and Course Schedule

The Master Course has a duration of 18 months and is organized over periods with distinct training objectives:

- a) theoretical and methodological, through traditional lectures and WEB based lessons and discussion of clinical cases;
- b) practical, aimed at developing of technical skills, through residential surgical training programs in

qualified international Institutions identified by the Master Scientific Committee. For this edition the surgical sites are: 1. Cardiothoracic Department, Fondazione G. Monasterio Regione Toscana-CNR Massa , Italy, 2. Cardiac surgery Division, Clinica Sant’Ambrogio, Milan, Italy, 3. Leipzig Heart Center, University of Leipzig, Leipzig Germany, 4. Department of Heart Surgery, Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria, 5. Heart and Vascular Clinic, Bad Neustadt, Germany, 6. Division of Heart and Vascular Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland, 7. Klinikum Nürnberg Süd, Nurnberg, Germany. 8. Department of Cardiothoracic, Transplantation and Vascular Surgery, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany.

During the Master Course, all students will individually attend at least two different surgical sites, being obliged to spend at least two weeks in the Cardiothoracic Department of the Fondazione G. Monasterio in Massa Italy.

The Master Programme is structured in 5 main areas: Cardiology and Anaesthesiology (100 hours), Cardiac Surgery (235 hours); Imaging (50 hours); health management (15 hours). In addition, residential internships in cardiac surgery divisions for a minimum of 250 hours (i.e. 7 weeks) will be part of the Master course.

Detailed programme is available at <http://www.santannapisa.it/it/formazione/master-di-ii-livello-innovation-cardiac-surgery-advances-minimally-invasive-therapeutics>

The rights and duties of the students of the Master Program, as well as the use of Scuola facilities, are regulated by “General Rules and Regulations for University Master – 1st level degree and University Master – 2nd level degree of the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna” and by the Rules and Regulations of the Master “**Innovation in Cardiac Surgery: Advances in Minimally Invasive Therapeutics**”.

Art. 5 - Master Thesis

At the end of the Master Course, the students shall produce a written dissertation (Master thesis) about the project work carried out during the internships, which will be discussed and assessed by the Master Scientific Committee.

Art. 6 - Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Master Course shall be European and Non-European citizens who possess a University degree in Medicine (or an equivalent qualification) and a Specialization in Cardiac Surgery (or an equivalent qualification). Other University degree qualifications could be accepted under the Scientific Committee assessment.

Students who are enrolled in University programs and expect to gain the specialization degree in Cardiac Surgery within **July 15th, 2016** are also eligible.

The candidates shall have a good knowledge of English language (at least B2), preferably proved by a certificate (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge, Medium of Instruction or other certificates).

Art. 7 - Application Procedure

Applicants shall submit their application on-line at <http://www.santannapisa.it/it/formazione/master-di-ii-livello-innovation-cardiac-surgery-advances-minimally-invasive-therapeutics>, **no later than June 30th, 2016**.

The online application system comprises:

- registration and login procedure (create a “User ID” and “Password”);
- n 2 pages of questions, which will require the candidate to input personal data and qualifications;

- further pages allowing the candidate to upload supporting materials for his/her application;
- a declaration for the candidate to read and confirm regarding the information and documentation provided in his/her application.

If the candidate has technical difficulties or queries regarding the application, he/she should request support from Servizi Alta Formazione, email: altaformazione@sss.it.

Those who expect to gain specialization **within July 15th, 2016** are required to present a certificate or self-declaration of the qualification **within July 18th, 2016**.

Art. 8 – Selection process

The number of available positions is fifteen.

The selection process will be carried out by the Scientific Committee through the evaluation of the titles, the curriculum, and the motivation. If required, a telephonic or skype interview will complete the evaluation process. The Scientific Committee will select the applicants by awarding up to 100 points to their qualifications (curriculum and titles) according to the following criteria:

- Academic curriculum (average of marks received at exams, mark of the MD graduation exam, consistency of the curriculum and dissertation with the contents of the Master Course): up to 40 points;
- Relevant professional experience in cardiac surgery, research activity, and publications: up to 40 points;
- Motivation and two reference letters: up to 20 points.

At the end of the selection, those who have been awarded an overall score of at least 70/100 points will be eligible to attend the Master Course. A list of the eligible students will be published on the website of the Master Course, **no later than July 20th, 2016**.

The eligible applicants will be contacted via e-mail, requiring for confirmation to participate to the Master Course. Any communication to the applicants regarding this call shall be transmitted via e-mail.

The 15 best-ranked applicants who confirm the participation to the course will be admitted to attend the Master Course. In case of student withdrawal, the next eligible applicant who has confirmed the participation to the course will be admitted to the Master Course.

Art. 9 – Master tuition fee and acceptance procedure

Master tuition fee has been fixed to € 5.000,00 and warrants participation to all teaching activities including front lessons, practical internships, access to the e.learning platform for the entire duration of the Master Course, lunches during the lecture weeks at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. Tutoring and assistance for preparation of the project work will be assured to all participants. Travel and accommodation expenses during the lecture weeks at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa and during residential internships are not included in the tuition fee.

Admitted applicants must confirm their participation within 10 days, after which places may be offered to applicants on the reserve list. To confirm participation, admitted applicants must send by e.mail (altaformazione@sss.it) or fax (+39 050 882633) the following documents:

- a. copy of ID card or passport
- b. declaration of the intention to participate to the Master course
- c. copy of the receipt of payment of half of the tuition fee

Details of how to pay the tuition fee will be emailed to all admitted participants.

All admitted participants who are not EU citizen must provide also a copy of the degree in Medicine and of the Specialization in Cardiac Surgery (or an equivalent qualification).

Art. 11 - Student withdrawal

If a student will interrupt the Master Course, he/she will not have the right to refund of the tuition fee.

Art. 12 - Degree Awarded

At the end of the Master Course, those students who have attended at least 90% of the entire teaching program and have passed all the required examinations, attended at least 250 hours of internship and successfully discussed the Project Work will receive from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna a University Master – 2nd level degree, in accordance with art. 3 of D.M. 207/2004.

Art. 13 - Personal Data and measures of prevention of corruption

In accordance with Italian Legislative Decree n.196 30/06/2003 (Personal Data protection Code), please note that the personal details collected by Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, the holder of such data processing, will be used solely for the purposes pertaining to the management of this Master Programme, in accordance with the applicable regulations. The Scuola shall be responsible for such data processing. Anyone concerned can assert the rights under art. 7 of the Italian Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 with the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna operates in compliance with Law n.190/2012 concerning the prevention of corruption by implementing measures identified in the "Three-year plan for the prevention of corruption" published in the section "Transparent Administration" of the Scuola website at: www.santannapisa.it.

Art. 14 - Other information

The present call is published on the website of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna at <http://www.santannapisa.it/it/formazione/master-di-ii-livello-innovation-cardiac-surgery-advances-minimally-invasive-therapeutics>,

Other administrative information could be inquired at altaformazione@sssup.it

For detailed course schedule and further information please refer to the master website at <http://www.santannapisa.it/it/formazione/master-di-ii-livello-innovation-cardiac-surgery-advances-minimally-invasive-therapeutics>, or at www.ftgm.it.