

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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**The Pezcoller Foundation awards the Scholarship for  
SISSA Master course in Science Communication “Franco  
Prattico”**

**Chiara De Santi was ranked first by the admissions committee for the  
SISSA specialisation programme**



Trieste, 29 November 2024

Chiara De Santi has been awarded the [Pezcoller Foundation](#) scholarship, granted to the top candidate in the selection process for SISSA's [Master's in Science Communication 'Franco Prattico'](#) for the 2024-25 academic year.

Hailing from Verona, De Santi graduated in Chemistry from the University of Padua in 2016 and has spent several years working in pharmaceutical research. Recently accepted into the Master's programme, De Santi has long been passionate about science outreach and has actively volunteered in various science engagement initiatives.

Recognised as the most outstanding candidate by the admissions committee, De Santi demonstrated both a strong commitment to science communication and the motivation needed to succeed in the programme. The selection process prioritised candidates with a clear drive for science outreach, and De Santi was seen as best embodying the enthusiasm and determination needed for the Master's



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programme. In recognition of her achievements, the Pezcoller Foundation has awarded her a generous grant to cover the full tuition fees for the Master's.

The scholarship is part of a collaboration established three years ago between the Pezcoller Foundation in Trento and SISSA – Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati in Trieste. Among its goals, this partnership seeks to 'support and communicate scientific knowledge, the potential and implications of contemporary science,' 'create opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration' involving diverse social actors, and 'promote initiatives fostering participation and mentorship.'

As a non-profit organisation, the Pezcoller Foundation's mission is to promote and support efforts to combat diseases affecting humanity, especially cancer, by funding scientific research and cultural activities that raise awareness and understanding of these diseases.

Established in 1993, SISSA's Master's in Science Communication 'Franco Prattico' is a one-year programme designed to train professionals across various sectors of science communication, including journalism, publishing, museum work, and event organisation.

Nico Pitrelli, Director of the Master's in Science Communication 'Franco Prattico,' commented, "Our longstanding collaboration with the Pezcoller Foundation allows us to continually expand our activities and educational offerings for our Master's students. We're especially pleased to work on concrete projects, such as the seminar on cancer research and communication that we conducted last academic year with support from researchers affiliated with the Foundation. This is just one example of how we're jointly enhancing the quality of science communication, a shared priority for both institutions. We're deeply grateful to the Foundation not only for their generous support, reaffirmed again this year, but also for their commitment to collaborative projects, such as internship opportunities for our students and support for cultural events like *Scienza e Virgola*. Thanks to this collaboration, we're able to reach a wider and more diverse audience with scientifically accurate yet accessible information."

Dr. Enzo Galligioni, President of the Pezcoller Foundation, stated, "Our partnership with SISSA holds significant value, especially with this new 2024-25 scholarship for the Master's in Science Communication 'Franco Prattico.' We are grateful to SISSA for providing this and other opportunities to engage with the world of effective science communication, which is increasingly essential as we navigate the flood of misinformation and myths, even concerning cancer causes and treatments. Congratulations to Chiara De Santi, and we wish her success in her studies."



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For more information about the Pezcoller Foundation and its commitment to supporting scientific research, please visit [www.pezcoller.it](http://www.pezcoller.it). Additional details on SISSA's programmes and activities, including the Master's in Science Communication 'Franco Pratico', are available at [www.sissa.it](http://www.sissa.it).

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**IMMAGINE**

Crediti: Chiara De Santi

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