The University of Nice Sophia Antipolis is a young and dynamic French University with a complete cursus of possibilities: medicine, science, law, art and litterature. Nice is equipped with the second international French airport after Paris and the city is situated on the head of Mediterranean sea. This will facilitate the connection with other Institutions. The University is part of the recent French government PRES (Pole de Recherche et d’Enseignement Superieur), called euro-Mediterranean PRES for the specific relations with Italy and the countries in the border of the Mediterranean sea. The University will benefit from the dynamism of the local region PACA which has invested a lot in new technology and space science. The technopol of Sophia Antipolis and Thales Alenia are examples. The University hosts the academic base of the present doctorate. It benefits from the presence of the astrophysics research institute of Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur involved in relativistic and non-photonic astrophysics: gravitational waves experiment, spatial mission like GAIA, best measurement of the earth-moon distance at Calern site, experiments in Antarctic and for the European Very Large Telescope in Chile. With Nice University, the first European doctorate in Relativistic Astrophysics was born in 2002: the IRAP PhD program. Since 2002, 18 doctorates were formed inside the international collaboration with Roma, Ferrara, Zurich, Berlin and Chambery.

The Doctoral School "Sciences Fondamentales et Appliquees" (ED.SFA: Fundamental and Applied Sciences), ED364, has had a wide experience in co-supervision of Ph.D. thesis since its beginning in 2000. Since then, a total of 38 Ph.D. thesis under co-direction, based either in the Partner Institution or directly in-house, have been started. Of these, 21 are active, sign that the international engagement in alive and growing steadily. Because of the ED.SFA’s geographical location, Italy has always been a strong partner with 11 Ph.D. theses already defended and 9 underway. As part of the French requirements for a Ph.D., a variety of courses are offered divided in three different groups: general background, specialty courses and professional courses. The former are aimed at broadening the knowledge of our students and are directly organized by the ED.SFA, while for the specialty courses we participate in supporting Summer Schools and similar initiatives. For the professional courses, the "College des Etudes Doctorales" (Federation of the Doctoral Schools of the Universite de Nice-Sophia Antipolis) has developed a very strong offer with the help of professionals who typically intervene in the private sector with a similar offer.