

# Sara Rainieri

University of Parma

RECTOR CANDIDATE  
OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF PARMA FOR THE  
ACADEMIC SIX YEARS  
2023/24-2028/29





# The Synthetic Program



## “To build TOGETHER the University of Parma of TOMORROW”

We are a large academic community, full of skills, strengths, projection towards the future. We know how to gather around the **founding principles** that come from our great history, and which make up our **identity**:

- safeguarding, building and sharing **knowledge**, promoting a **high-quality education**, through which we welcome and accompany the **younger generations** with an inclusive approach;
- vitalize **research** and support the development of our territory with increasingly **international** prospects and with a view to **sustainability**.

It's **time to go further** and today we can seize the opportunity: we have the vision and the energy for a great **team effort** that increasingly points towards innovation, growth, the development of cutting-edge solutions, with transparency and the willingness to listen to all internal and external stakeholders in a constructive and open dialogue. Our fundamental objective is the **well-being of individuals**, and our constant commitment is to help our **beloved University** grow.

# Why am I standing?

The desire to stand for the role of Rector of the University of Parma for the six-year period 2023/2024-2028/2029 was born and draws inspiration from my **personal experience** in the management of the University, to which I collaborated and that is illustrated in detail at the [link](#). This experience began at the end of 2013 and continues to this day, since during the present rectoral mandate I had the opportunity to act as Vice Rector for Education and Student Affairs, thanks to the trust placed in me by the current Rector Paolo Andrei, with whom I collaborated with commitment and grateful loyalty. It was an **important mandate**, which allowed the University to achieve **significant results**, even if we cannot fail to recognize that our University today and in the near future has and will need to take **further steps forward**, in order to transform itself from a university which, in some respects, appears as „intermediate“ and „halfway“ in the growth path already underway, into a University capable of adapting to the **challenging** and rapidly changing national and international context.

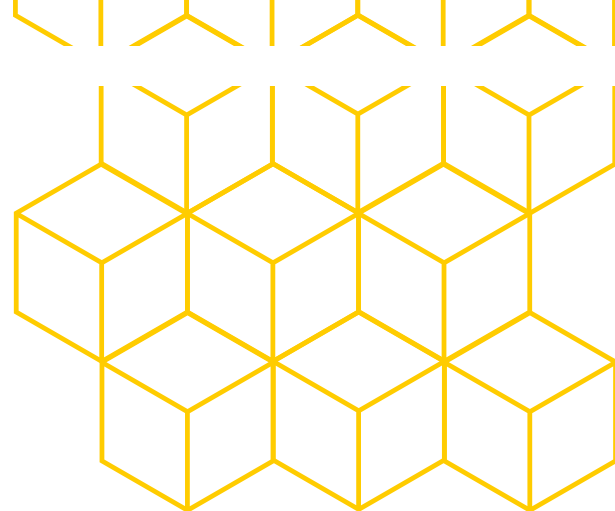
The **starting point** remains my experience of active collaboration in the design of the University of Parma today, which has allowed me to:

- develop the awareness of having a **solid University** behind us, full of ideas and scientific, educational and professional skills; a University to which we are all **proud to belong**, for its long and rich history and also for the important recent results achieved;
- know the **potentials** present within the University and the aspects from which it is **urgent to start**, with a proactive spirit, and renewed energy: a path of optimization and improvement, being also aware of the challenges to be faced which stand out against a **very**

**dynamic horizon** of the university system. It is with the latter that, in recent years, I have had the opportunity to relate, at different levels and in different roles, and that is going through real processes of evolution, also driven by **technological innovation and international projection**.

The desired **point of arrival** (to be understood not as a „final point“, but as the goal of the next six-years, along a path that has and must have a much broader horizon) is the consolidation and further growth of the University with reference to the various Institutional action plans:

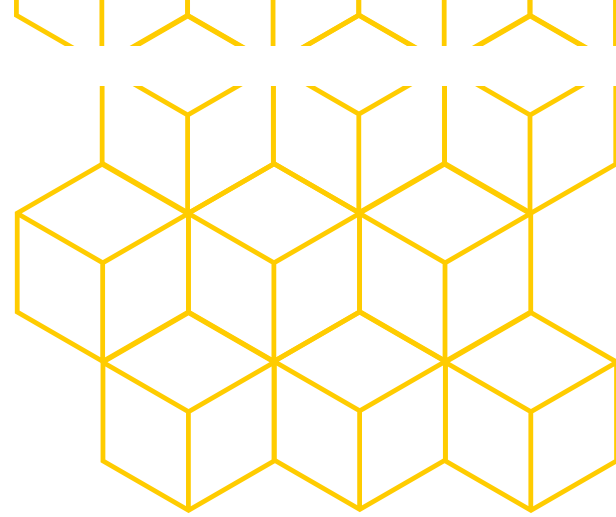
- **High-quality education, consolidating the first level study programs** while concentrating and targeting further efforts on **the second and third level**, bearing in mind the growing differentiation and specificity of the type of educational demand, and paying particular attention to **internationalization** so as to encourage student mobility and attract well-trained and motivated students;
- **Advanced research**, cultivating and supporting internal talents and stimulating the growth of all disciplinary fields to make the University of Parma attractive for the **best researchers** in a virtuous relationship with the **socio-economic context and with the productive and entrepreneurial system**;
- **Third Mission**, promoting University actions that become **concrete levers for the growth** of the territory, opening not only at the local level, but also maintaining a strong focus on the **social and cultural impact, innovation, international dimension and sustainability**.



**These actions** will require targeted efforts over the six-year period to address several important challenges – including the management of the **PNRR** projects (to be completed within 31/12/2025), the next Research Quality Assessment procedure, **VQR** (which will probably start in 2025 to cover the period 2020-2024), the periodic evaluation and accreditation procedure of the university and of the study courses with the **AVA3** model, (scheduled for the first semester 2026) and the development of the activities of the **EU GREEN** Alliance. They will be developed by placing the **new generations of students** at the centre, in particular in relation to the **educational** and not only **training** responsibility that the University has, and this, not in an abstract way, but by enhancing the construction of an **authentic reality** of the **person's promotion**, paying attention to the dimension of the **right to education, services** and the values of **inclusion** and **sustainability**.

In my opinion, the **tools and levers** to achieve these objectives are:

- build quickly a **positive and constructive work environment**, characterized by **effective services** and **adequate, safe and functional infrastructures**, in which the efficiency of the „**administrative machine**“ - understood as a necessary tool to achieve the expected results in the various lines of institutional action - is an objective to be achieved concretely, supporting and enhancing the human capital, competencies and skills present in the University;
- act with incisive actions and with a **change of gear** in the **structuring and simplification of management processes, with a unified and integrated vision**, in order to free the energies that today are partly unexpressed due to a widespread feeling of discouragement, both among lecturers, researchers and administrative staff, often due to an **excessive and/or not well distributed workload**;
- implement the **recognition of merit** at all levels and the **allocation of resources** according to shared and transparent criteria and procedures, finalizing investments in a manner consistent with the overall strategy;
- promote an incisive policy, consistent with the strategic objectives, to be focused on during the first six months of the mandate, in the **strategic planning document** which will have to cover the **entire six-year period** and on which the departmental strategic plans and everything connected to the Integrated Plan will be grafted in terms of activities and organization, with an approach that favours the effective involvement of all the “actors”: **the Departments of the University, possibly to be redesigned, the Centres, the Academic Bodies and Organizations**, in constant dialogue also with the student population;
- promote **effective and coordinated internal and external communication**, which takes into account the dynamics of the changes taking place in society and in the new generations, in order to enhance the educational offer and the University's ability to do research, stimulating a **renewed sense of membership** and a **solid reputational image** of the University of Parma;
- generate a constructive and effective relationship with the Municipality of Parma and the local area, also in the context of the „Parma University City“ strategy, giving priority to the issues of accommodation for off-site students, study spaces and transport, in order to contribute to the design of a student-friendly city in which the quality of student life represents a goal to be achieved and in which to invest.



If I had the honor of gaining your trust, I assure you that I would continue with **determination** and **resolution**, combined with a **sense of responsibility** and also with an **unprecedented sensitivity** - characteristics that have always supported me in all the stages of my life - with the aim to do **the best** for our **beloved University**, also thanks to the „boost“ we received from the President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the A.Y. 2019/2020 at our University, that enlightened us with these words:

**the tension between retro-topia and utopia „can only make us opt for ... utopia“, not in the sense of an “escape from reality”, but in the sense of trust and “fascination of the future, the fascination of what humanity can do from season to season, against the temptation and the expectation that young people are caged in the formulas, tools and solutions of the past, of the old ones who preceded them” – a utopia, returning to President Mattarella’s speech, strongly correlated to “moral obligation”.**

The details of the strategy planned for the various action levels of the University are reported in the complete document of the Program, also available on the website accessible at the following [link](#).

Parma, April 26<sup>th</sup>

*Sara Rainieri*

