PhD Programme in Cognitive and Brain Sciences
2015-16: Call Summary for 18 Scholarships (3 years)

The following guide summarizes the application procedures in the Full Call Reference and is meant to give an overview of the application. It does not replace the full call, and in case of inconsistency, the full call takes precedence.

The PhD Program of the Center for Mind/Brain Sciences provides students with the solid knowledge base and applied skills necessary for careers in academia or related industries. It consists of two sub-tracks: Language, Interaction & Computation, and Cognitive Neuroscience. The program is in English. The scholarships are on the order of 1,100 Euro/month, 12 months a year. Students are expected to dedicate their time to study and research, reside on-site and not be employed elsewhere during their studies.

Scholarships (Art. 1)
This Call is for 18 PhD student scholarships, beginning Nov 1, 2015:

- **8 scholarships** funded by University of Trento. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Doctorate’s website and find out which faculty members are accepting students this year.

- **10 scholarships** funded by research grants:
  - “BRAIN-INFO”: computational approaches to study information processing in the brain
  - Inception and development of brain functional connectivity in newborns
  - Visual perception and attention
  - Computational models of Language and Vision
  - Temporal integration of multisensory and unisensory information
  - Transfer learning within and between brains (3)
  - Neural substrates of concepts, facts, and knowledge about other people (2)


PhD Programme: Coursework and Research Activity (Art. 2)
The PhD program requires full-time dedication of the students for the 3-year duration of the scholarship. There is a mandatory number of course hours to be completed. A core set of courses is compulsory, and the remaining courses are selected by each student according to their interests and needs. Admitted applicants may inquire into the possibility of ‘pre-doc’ funding that can allow a limited number of applicants to begin practical training prior to the commencement of studies.

Who can apply? (Art. 3) – Foreign Qualifications (Art. 4)
Italian applicants must hold a Laurea Magistrale/Master’s Degree in a related field. Foreign applicants must hold a degree from a foreign institution that is comparable to the Italian Laurea Magistrale in terms of duration, level, and content and follow the procedure detailed in the Full Call (Art. 3). A bachelor’s degree alone (3 or 4 year) is typically not sufficient for applying. Current M.A./M.Sc. students who expect to be awarded their degree by October 23, 2015 are eligible to apply and should follow the procedure in the Full Call (Art 2).

Online Application (Art. 5)
- We encourage applicants to finalize the application a few days prior to the deadline.
- **Register** using the link [http://www.unitn.it/en/account](http://www.unitn.it/en/account) to obtain a username and password for accessing the UniTN reserved area. Up to 2 working days may be necessary to obtain these credentials;
- **Apply** using the link [http://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott];
- The application process (along with uploading documents) can be saved at an intermediate stage before submitting the application.
**Documents for a complete application**

*Mandatory (1-5):*

1. **Passport** (page with photo, personal data, issuing information) or any EU national ID;
2. **Official certificates regarding academic career** (see Full Call Art. 5);
3. **CV** in English including a list of scientific papers, or related qualifications (e.g., training, presentations);
4. **a Research statement** in English, consisting of motivation and background information, statement of interest and research project proposal (see Full Call Art. 5);
5. **International certificate attesting knowledge of the English language at a B2¹ level or higher;**

In addition, the following documents may be submitted in the application:

6. Names of 2 referees with full contact details, who will be automatically contacted to provide a structured reference letter.

**Selection Process (Art. 6)**

The application involves a non-refundable €15.00 application cost, payable via Credit card.

The selection procedure consists in:

- an assessment and ranking of qualifications of all applicants based on an evaluation of the application;
- shortlisted candidates are invited for an interview in English that will address the research statement provided as well as English language ability and general aptitude. Candidates residing abroad at the time of the examinations may be able to interview via videoconference or phone (see Full Call Art. 6);
- a final ranking of shortlisted candidates that is based on both the assessment of their applications and performance during the interview.

**Key Dates:**

- Deadline for applications: 4 June 2015, 16:00 Italian time
- Assessment of qualifications: mid-June 2015
- Interview for shortlisted candidates: 2nd week of July 2015

**Admission to the PhD Programme (Art. 7)**

Successful candidates will be admitted to the PhD program according to their position on the list of the final ranking until all available positions are appointed. If a selected candidate declines, the next person on the list who qualifies may be admitted to the program.

Selected candidates are required to enrol within 8 days after being notified of their admission. The conditions for acceptance of the scholarship are in the enrolment form, available at: [http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/2696/enrolment-and-extension](http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/2696/enrolment-and-extension).

**Scholarships (Art. 9)**

PhD scholarships may not be combined with other scholarships of any nature, apart from those assigned by Italian or foreign institutions, which may support the PhD student’s research activities abroad.

**Rights and Duties of PhD Students (Art. 10)**

PhD students are considered as autonomous researchers and expected to actively participate in all activities. Advancement to the following year is based on a yearly evaluation of performance by the PhD Program Committee. PhD students can be involved in supplementary teaching activities; any other working activities are subject to authorization.

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¹ E.g.: IELTS minimum score 5.5; Cambridge First Certificate: grade A or B (o CAE o CPE) Cambridge BEC Vantage, Cambridge ILEC B2 (or higher); TOEFL IBT: minimum score 93.

This is an executive summary of the information and requirements that are detailed in the full Call for Application available at: [http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1942/announcement-of-selection](http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1942/announcement-of-selection)

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