

**Call for doctoral positions at
the Doctoral Programme in “Biomolecular Sciences”
31st cycle**

N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector’s Decree n. 311 of May 18, 2015, is legally binding; the English version is provided for information only

THE RECTOR

Given the Law no. 210 of the 3rd of July, 1998, and in particular, art. 4, as amended by article 19, section 1, of law no. 240 of 30th December 2010;

Given the Ministerial Decree no. 45 of the 8th of February 2013, regarding the rules and procedures for the accreditation of doctoral programmes and the criteria for their institution by accredited bodies, in particular art. 3;

Given the Decree by the Prime Minister of the 9th of April, 2001, and subsequent amendments, on the general criteria for uniform treatment regarding the right to higher education;

Given the Statute of the University of Trento issued with Rector’s Decree no. 167 of the 23rd of April, 2012, in particular art. 28;

Given the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, issued with Rector’s Decree no. 383 of the 4th of July 2013 and subsequent amendments;

Given the proposal made by the Centre for Integrative Biology (CIBIO);

Given the report of the internal Assessment Committee of 12 December 2013 concerning the requisites of appropriateness proposed by the Doctoral Programmes;

Considering that, with Decree protocol n. 687 of 20 August 2014, the Ministry granted, with effect from the cycle activated in A.Y. 2014-2015, the accreditation of the Doctoral Programme in Biomolecular Sciences;

Given the decision by the Academic Senate of 26 November 2014 concerning the availability of scholarships for each PhD programme of the University of Trento;

Given the decision by the Academic Senate of 25 February 2015 regarding the setting of the final rankings and the definition of the procedure to assign scholarships reserved to specific topics and the introduction of a new type of subjects for which additional seats may be reserved;

Considering the operative instructions on the A.Y. 2015-2016 PhD Programmes’ accreditation process, announced with Ministry Note on March 13, 2015;

In consideration of the resolution of the Academic Senate on March 25, 2015, according to which the University of Trento, taking into account the time required for international recruitment, has decided not to delay issuing the calls and their relative selection procedures;

DECREES

Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

This call establishes the procedure for the admission to the 31st cycle (Academic Year 2015/2016) of the Doctoral Programme in “Biomolecular Sciences” at the University of Trento.

Positions: No. 11

Scholarships: No 10

Positions without scholarship: No 1

Supernumerary positions without scholarship: No 2 (see Art. 9)

Deadline for application: August 27, 2015, at 04:00 p.m. (Italian local time, GMT+2)

Director: Prof. Paolo Macchi - Tel. + 39 0461 285302 - email: phd.bioscie@unitn.it

Website of the Programme: <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs>

Website of the admission procedure: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>

Duration: three years

Official language: English

Start of the Academic Year: November 1, 2015

Scientific Areas:

BIO/06	Comparative Anatomy and Cytology
BIO/07	Ecology
BIO/09	Physiology
BIO/10	Biochemistry
BIO/11	Molecular Biology
BIO/12	Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology
BIO/13	Applied Biology
BIO/14	Pharmacology
BIO/18	Genetics
BIO/19	Microbiology
CHIM/01	Analytical Chemistry
CHIM/03	General and Inorganic Chemistry
CHIM/06	Organic Chemistry
CHIM/10	Food Chemistry
FIS/07	Applied Physics
INF/01	Informatics
ING-INF/05	Data Processing Systems
MED/07	Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology

Research areas:

1. Biochemistry
2. Bioinformatics
3. Computational Biology
4. Systems Biology
5. Developmental Biology
6. Molecular and Cellular Biology
7. Synthetic Biology
8. Structural Biology
9. Organic Chemistry
10. Genetics
11. Cancer Genomics
12. Microbial Genomics
13. Lipidomics and Biomembranes
14. Metabolomics and Metabolic Imaging
15. Nanobiotechnology
16. Neurobiology
17. Molecular Vaccinology
18. Molecular Virology

The scholarships are funded as follows:

n. **6 scholarships** funded by the University of Trento on research topics to be carried out at the laboratories of CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology (<http://web.unitn.it/en/cibio>);

n. **1 scholarship** funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology to be carried out at the Armenise-Harvard laboratory of Cancer Biology and Genetics and directed to the topic: "*In vitro and in vivo characterization of prostate cancer secretome and its roles in tumour progression and androgen deprivation resistance*".

Principal investigator: dr. Andrea Lunardi <http://web.unitn.it/en/cibio/38106/armenise-harvard-laboratory-of-cancer-biology-genetics>

n. **1 scholarship** funded by The Microsoft Research – University of Trento Centre for Computational and Systems Biology (COSBI), that requires specific competence assessed during the oral examination and **reserved for the topic**: “*Modeling of human neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases from multi-source data types*”.

In this project the candidate is expected to build algorithmic and network based model of molecular events associated with neurodegenerative/metabolic diseases relying on experimental data and public domain data. This study will help in understanding the molecular pathways altered in the disease and generate biological hypotheses on disease development and progression.

The design and realization of the study will be done at COSBI (see <http://www.cosbi.eu>).

Preferred skills: a master in Bioinformatics, Systems Biology or closely related disciplines with knowledge in data manipulation procedures is preferred. Some experience in neuroscience/metabolism will be a plus.

Principal investigator: Prof. Corrado Priami

n. **1 scholarship** funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology, that requires specific competence assessed during the oral examination and which project will be carried out at the Neurodegenerative Diseases and Transcriptional Neurobiology laboratories. Scholarship is **reserved for the topic**: “*The impact of chloride signaling dysregulation in neurodegeneration*”.

Neurodegenerative diseases, are characterized by accumulation of toxic proteins into aggregates. Proteins acquire their biologically active and thermodynamically stable native conformation through a sequence of structural rearrangements and are sensitive to micro-environment. Changes in the pH and ion composition of intracellular space may result in aggregation. Altered chloride homeostasis has been observed in neurological disorders and genetic mutations impairing Cl transport are responsible for epilepsy, neuropathic pain, and Alzheimer’s disease. Small changes in chloride concentration can have big impact on the transmembrane gradients, membrane currents and potential.

In this project, we will test the hypothesis that altered [Cl] causes neurodegeneration through altered protein folding. To test our hypothesis, we will pursue these specific aims:

- ✓ To characterize the effect of unbalanced Cl concentration on protein misfolding and aggregation in neurodegenerative diseases.
- ✓ To determine the impact of altered Cl metabolism on neurotoxicity.
- ✓ To establish alterations of Cl homeostasis in living animals.

Expertise in molecular and cellular biology along with skills in gel electrophoresis and protein immunoprecipitation are requested, along with an excellent knowledge of neurodegenerative diseases. The ability to use the fluorescent and confocal microscope is a plus. The optimal candidate should be proficient in English.

Principal investigators:

dr. Maria Pennuto <http://web.unitn.it/en/cibio/31509/laboratory-of-neurodegenerative-diseases>

dr. Manuela Basso <http://web.unitn.it/en/cibio/32974/laboratory-of-transcriptional-neurobiology>

n. **1 scholarship** that requires specific competence assessed during the oral examination, funded by Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK), and **reserved for the topic**: “Cloud computing bioinformatics solutions for predictive analytics of big omics data in pharmacogenomics”. The research activity will take place at the Predictive Models for Biomedicine & Environment Lab (FBK/MPBA <http://mpba.fbk.eu/en/home>), Complex Data Analytics Research Line of FBK, possibly in collaboration with international pharmacogenomics companies. Skills requested: machine learning for biomolecular profiling, bioinformatics for functional genomics (microarray or NGS) and solutions for developing bioinformatics pipelines in HPC or cloud infrastructures. Previous experience of collaboration with international research labs will be positively considered.

Principal investigator: dr. Cesare Furlanello

The positions with scholarship or other forms of financial support, including apprenticeship contracts and research grants, may be increased after the publication of this call and before the assessment of qualifications through additional funds from universities, public research institutions and/or qualified private organizations. For this reason, the increase in scholarships may change in parallel with the total number of the available positions. Any extra available positions will be made available solely on the website:

<http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>

Applications for doctoral positions are accepted from candidates, regardless of gender, age and nationality, who hold an Italian “Laurea Magistrale”, according to the Ministerial Decree no. 270 of the 22nd of October 2004 and subsequent amendments, a university degree of the previous regulations in force, or “Diploma accademico di secondo livello” issued by Italian Higher Education Institutions of Music, Arts and Performance, or an equivalent degree obtained abroad (Master’s degree) recognized as equivalent by the Admissions Committee for the sole purpose of access to the selection for the PhD program in Biomolecular Sciences.

Applications are also accepted from students expecting to complete their degree **by October 31, 2015**; in such case applicants must attach the following documents:

- a certificate of enrolment with a list of the exams successfully passed and marks obtained in each examination;
- a statement released by their thesis supervisor declaring that the student will obtain the degree **by October 31, 2015**.

For EU citizens the two above-mentioned documents may be substituted (for qualifications awarded at an institution of a country of the European Higher Education Area) by a self-certification, as required by art. 46 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, with exams taken, the corresponding grade and the expected date for the graduation examination, prepared **using the Annex A**.

Admission to the Doctoral Programme for successful candidates who have not graduated yet will be “conditional” and the applicant will have to submit to the Science & Technology PhD Office (via email to: phd.office-st@unitn.it) **by no later than November 6, 2015**, on penalty of exclusion, the degree certificate (according to Presidential Decree no. 445 of the 28th of December 2000 and subsequent amendments. EU citizens may deliver a self-declaration using Annex A only for titles that will be achieved at a public institution of the member countries of the European Union).

Art. 3 – UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATION AWARDED ABROAD

Foreign Academic Degrees (Master’s degree) must be comparable to the “Laurea Magistrale” in terms of duration and level¹. Pursuant to this principle, the Admissions Committee will deliberate on their eligibility.

Applicants who have a foreign academic degree that has not been officially recognized as equivalent² to an Italian degree (Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica/vecchio ordinamento) will be considered as requesting for equivalence in their application. In this case, it is mandatory to submit the following documents:

- the degree certificate complete with examinations taken and corresponding grades (transcripts). EU citizens (for qualifications awarded at an institution of a country of the European Higher Education Area) may deliver a self-declaration, according to Article 46 of the Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, **by using Annex A**;
- the English translation of the degree certificate, if in a different language, with examinations taken and the corresponding grades, signed under the applicant’s own responsibility. The purpose of the English translation is solely that of allowing the Admissions Committee to evaluate the applicant’s eligibility for the selection process;
- any other documentation considered useful for evaluating the eligibility of the degree provided, in order to participate in the selection process (i.e. Diploma Supplement³ or Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco⁴).

The eligibility of foreign academic degrees is assessed by the Admissions Committee, following the rules in force or the international treaties on academic degrees’ recognition. The ID candidates list whose academic degree has been considered **not** eligible for admission to the selection by the Admissions Committee will be made available at: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>. It is therefore

1 For further information see: <http://www.study-in-italy.it/study/new-degrees.html>

2 Further information on the equivalence at webpages <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=113> and <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=134>

3 The Diploma Supplement accompanies a higher education diploma, providing an improvement in international “transparency” and a promotion of the academic and professional qualifications obtained (diploma, degrees, certificates, etc.). The Diploma Supplement must be issued by the same institution that issued the qualification. Further information at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/diploma-supplement_en.htm

4 Further information about Declaration of Value at <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=176>

recommended that candidates keep the ID of the application provided by the system at the end of the procedure for the application online.

The publication of the list on the website is to be considered as official notification.

Important notice: admitted candidates holding an academic degree obtained outside Italy must submit to the Science & Technology PhD Office (email phd.office-st@unitn.it) **by no later than January 11, 2016:**

- the Diploma Supplement in English (for qualifications awarded at an institution of a country of the European Higher Education Area) according to the model developed by the European Commission, by the European Council and by the UNESCO/CEPES.
- the “Dichiarazione di Valore in loco” (for qualifications that have been acquired in other countries) along with their degree certificate with its corresponding examinations and grades, all these translated and legally certified by the Italian diplomatic delegations in the country where the degree was issued. The Dichiarazione di Valore should certify that the university degree is valid and enables candidates to enrol in a PhD program in the country where it was obtained (third level of higher education according to the Bologna Process);
- or, if the above mentioned Dichiarazione di Valore is not ready within the deadline, a document proving that the request of release has already been submitted to the diplomatic representative; in such case the candidate must submit the Dichiarazione di Valore at the earliest convenience.

Lack of such documents may result in the exclusion from the Doctoral Programme.

Art. 4 – THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The PhD in Biomolecular Sciences is characterized by a programme that enables students to acquire high-level skills in different research areas, encouraging the development of scientific and technological progress in innovative areas that require interdisciplinary approaches.

The teaching and research programmes of the Doctorate aim at promoting cooperation with other Italian and foreign universities.

For more details regarding teaching, admission to the second and third year, final thesis and exam, please check the website and the Executive Regulations at: <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs/10825/presentation-and-educational-goals>.

Art. 5 – TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMME IN COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

The teaching offer of the PhD in Biomolecular Sciences also includes the new transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology with the aim of providing PhD students not only skills in Biomolecular Sciences but also complementary skills in Computational Biology. The Programme offers specialized courses in multiple areas of bioinformatics and computational biology to enhance interactions and communication across disciplines. Bioinformatics and/or computational biology skills are mandatory for enrollment in the Transdisciplinary Program in Computational Biology. For further details on the programme as well as on the admission procedure see: <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs/35286/transdisciplinary-program-in-computational-biology>

Art. 6 – APPLICATION

The application must be submitted online, following these two steps:

1) Registration on the University’s website at <http://www.unitn.it/en/account> by entering the information requested. If the registration has been correctly submitted, within a maximum of 2 working days the applicant will receive a username and password by email, necessary to enter UNITN’s online services;

2) Filling out the application⁵, complete with the requested attachments in electronic format, available at <http://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott>

The application shall be subject to the payment of an application fee - non-refundable - amounting to € 15 to be paid by credit card, according to the instructions given in the appropriate section of the Application online.

⁵ The candidate can choose either Italian or English to fill in the application.

The application must be **completed and submitted by 04:00 p.m. Italian time of August 27, 2015. Please, make sure you have received the email notifying the correct closure of the Application online. The University refuses any liability for all those applications online not properly completed, closed and submitted by candidates.**

Candidates are strongly recommended not to wait until the last days before the deadline for submitting their application; the University assumes no liability for any malfunctions due to technical problems or the overloading of the communication line and/or systems application or for the loss of documents due to incorrect addressing by the candidate or late notification of change to the address indicated in the application, nor for any errors attributable to acts of third parties, to unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.

The online application is considered to be a self- declaration of personal data and qualifications declared with full legal effect.

It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to submit a correct and complete application. Applications not submitted using the online procedure specified in this article, incomplete applications and applications lacking the mandatory attachments, including the payment receipt, will not be considered valid.

The ID candidates list whose applications are found incomplete, and are consequently excluded from the selection, will be published at <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>. The publication on the website is to all intents and purposes valid as notification of exclusion from this selection.

All applicants are admitted to the selection procedure conditionally upon ascertainment that they fulfill the admission requirements.

The University of Trento has the right to verify the documents delivered pursuant to articles 71 et seq. of the Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000. The University can at any time, even after enrolment and upon justified reasons, decide for the exclusion of candidates lacking the requirements specified in the present call.

According to Italian Law No. 104/92, Article 20 and to Italian Law No. 68/99, Article 16 (1), applicants with special needs or affected by learning disabilities are expected to indicate explicitly in their application whether they require special assistance or extra time during the selection. Under Legislative Decree 196/03, all information in this respect will be kept confidential.

MANDATORY ATTACHMENTS (failure to upload one or more mandatory attachments results in automatic exclusion from the selection):

- 1) **identity document:** a photocopy of the applicant's passport or, only for EU citizens, the ID document, specifically the pages with photo, personal data, number of the ID document, place and date of issue, and expiry date.
- 2) **Copy of the degree certificate:**
 - **Applicants with an Italian degree:**
a self-declaration (**by using Annex A**), according to Article 46 of the Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, stating the possession of a degree (see Article 2 of this call), the "*Classe di Laurea*"⁶, the awarding date, the issuing University, the final grade, the examinations taken and grades obtained;
 - **Applicants with a foreign qualification:**
copy of the degree certificate with examinations taken and grades obtained or equivalent certification, under art. 3 of this Call. If the qualification has not been officially recognised as equivalent⁷ to an Italian degree (Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica/Vecchio ordinamento) the applicant must also submit a translation into English (if in a different language other than Italian or English) of the academic certificate with the examinations taken and grades obtained. Such translation must be undersigned by the applicant, under his/her own responsibility, in order to enable the Admissions Committee to declare the degree's equivalence for the sole purpose of admission to the selection procedure. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the equivalence, it is highly recommended that students with foreign qualifications submit a Diploma Supplement⁸ or the Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco, if available.

6 See at <http://hubmiur.pubblica.istruzione.it/web/universita/offerta-formativa/classi-di-laurea-magistrale>

7 Further information at <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=113> - <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=134>

8 The Diploma Supplement accompanies a higher education diploma, providing an improvement in international "transparency" and a promotion of the academic and professional qualifications obtained (diploma, degrees, certificates, etc.). The Diploma Supplement must be issued by the same institution that issued the qualification. Further information at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/ds_en.htm

- **Applicants who expect to be awarded their degree by October 31, 2015 and are therefore “conditionally” admitted to the selection:**

- a certificate of enrolment with a list of the exams successfully passed and marks obtained in each examination;
- a statement by their thesis supervisor stating that the student will obtain the degree **by October 31, 2015**.

For EU citizens the two above-mentioned documents may be substituted (for qualifications awarded at an institution of a country of the European Higher Education Area) by a self-declaration, according to art. 46 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, with exams taken, the corresponding grade and the expected date for the graduation examination, prepared using the Annex A.

3) **Curriculum vitae et studiorum** preferably on the basis of the Europass template: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>

Candidates are requested to indicate on the CV their education experience before the Master Degree or Laurea Magistrale, e.g Bachelor or Laurea Triennale.

4) **Summary of the degree thesis** written in English explaining the reasons for the choice of the subject, the research methodology and the results obtained (max 3000 characters excluding spaces);

5) **A letter of motivation** written in English describing the applicant’s motivations for pursuing the PhD programme in Biomolecular Sciences at the University of Trento (max 3000 characters excluding spaces);

6) **English language certification establishing a minimum level of B1** according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)⁹. The following exceptions are accepted:

- If the candidate is a native English speaker or attended a Bachelor’s or Master’s level course taught entirely in English, a self-declaration is sufficient.
- If the candidate studied or carried out research abroad for 6-months minimum in a country where the knowledge of English is required, a certification by the institution where the candidate carried out the activity, stating the level of English obtained, is sufficient (EU may deliver a self-declaration, according to art. 46 of Presidential Decree n. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, only for activities that have been carried out at a public institution of the member countries of the European Union);
- If the candidate passed one or more English language exams at level B1 during Bachelor or Master’s degree, a certificate by the university stating the level of English obtained is sufficient (EU may deliver a self-declaration, according to art. 46 of Presidential Decree n. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, only for activities that have been carried out at a public institution of the member countries of the European Union).

7) **Only for those interested in the admission to the Transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology** (see art. 5): an additional **letter of motivation** in English in which are specified the reasons for undertaking the secondary programme in Computational Biology. The letter should also list the informatics skills with specific reference to scripting/coding abilities. Provision of relevant documentations is recommended.

In the application the candidate **must** also indicate **two choices** among the 18 proposed research areas and specify the order of preference; this choice is not binding.

The candidates interested in one or more of the reserved scholarships must express an interest in the Application online or before the oral examination. The suitability of the candidates for these scholarships will be evaluated during the oral examination.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

⁹ CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Info at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_European_Framework_of_Reference_for_Languages#Selfevaluated_equivalences_to_CEFR_levels

- List of publications;
- Any additional qualifications, such as international examinations (GRE or equivalent);
- Any additional qualifications useful for assessing the applicant's attitude towards research;
- A brief research project in English (maximum 3 pages, 1000 words) within the areas of research of the PhD Program in Biomolecular Sciences;
- Up to two reference letters¹⁰, in English or Italian, by experts in the fields of the PhD Programme working at universities or national and international research institutions;

Reference letters has not to be sent by candidates. Once the section of the application relative to the referees has been completed and saved by the candidate, the system automatically sends, within 24 hours, a notification email to the referees containing the instructions and modalities of transmission. Letters have to be issued on the base of a model sent directly to referees, and have to be uploaded on the website from them.

It is strongly recommended that applicants verify with their referees that they have uploaded the Reference Letters **no later than September 3, 2015**.

Note that only documents in English or Italian language will be taken into consideration for the selection by the Admissions Committee.

The University will accept any additional documents to the submitted application if sent by email to ateneo@unitn.it (**Subject:** "Application ID number- candidate's Surname and Name - Doctorate in Biomolecular Sciences – 31° cycle - Supplement to application") **within August 27, 2015 at 04:00 p.m. Italian time.** Additional documents submitted by different means will be disregarded.

Art. 7 – SELECTION

The selection process for admission to the PhD Program in Biomolecular Sciences consists of:

- an evaluation of titles assessing the qualifications of the candidate according to Art. 6 of this announcement, on the basis of parameters established previously by the Admissions Committee;
- an oral examination in English.

The Admissions Committee can assign each candidate a total score of 200 as follows:

- 0 – 110 points for the assessment of qualification;
- 0 – 90 points for the oral examination.

The assessment of qualifications will take place at the Centre for Integrative Biology (CIBIO), Via Sommarive 9 – Trento.

Candidates obtaining a **minimum score of 75/110 for the assessment of qualifications** will be admitted to the oral examination.

At least 20 days before the oral examination, the date, time and location of the oral examination will be published on the following webpage: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>; in the same webpage the list of candidates admitted for oral examination will be published as soon as possible.

In order to be allowed to take the oral examination the candidate must provide a valid ID/passport with photo. The oral examination, which is conducted in English, is intended to ascertain the candidate's knowledge and her/his aptitude for research. The interview will focus on the research carried out by the candidate during the thesis, the contribution to any scientific publications and on general questions designed to determine the candidate's knowledge.

For candidates interested in obtaining the suitability for one or more reserved scholarships the oral examination will include an assessment of the competences on the specific subjects.

For applicants who indicate an interest in applying for the transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology, the oral examination will include an assessment of the competences on the specific subject of the programme.

The **oral examination** is successfully passed with a minimum of **50/90** point score.

The selection is considered passed with a minimum **total score** of **125/200**.

¹⁰ The letters of reference are strongly recommended. However, the omission of these letters will not exclude the candidate from the selection procedure.

Notice: The results of the selection - interim and final - will be posted on the website with the ID of the application. It is therefore recommended that candidates keep their ID so to check their results.

Applicants **residing or domiciled abroad, or otherwise unable to participate to the interview in person due to justifiable reasons**, may ask the Admissions Committee at the time of filling the application online, to conduct the oral examination by video -conference.

In the case of admission to the oral examination, the candidate must send an e-mail to phd.bioscie@unitn.it, within **5 days** from the date of publication of the outcome of the assessment of qualifications, specifying the address of a Research Institute, University, Italian Embassy or Italian Consulate where the interview will take place together with the name of an officer who can identify him/her before the interview. To do this the applicant will have to use the form available at: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>.

The possibility of using this procedure is subject to the approval of the Admissions Committee after verification of technical feasibility: interested candidates will be contacted by the Secretariat of the Doctoral Programme in order to ensure the proper functioning. In order to deal with the above mentioned technical check interested candidates are invited to check their email boxes after the deadline of the present announcement.

The Committee shall verify that all the regularity requirements are fulfilled during the examination (verifying the candidate's identity and the accuracy of the interview).

Art. 8 - ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE AND RANKING

The Admissions Committee is appointed by the Rector upon advice of the Doctoral Committee.

It will consist of three members chosen among Italian and foreign professors and researchers, who are experts in the scientific areas of the Doctorate. The Committee may also include up to two experts, who may be Italian or foreign, chosen from public and private research institutes.

In the case of candidates for the transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology, the Committee will include an expert in that field.

At the end of the selection procedure the Admissions Committee will draw up the ranking of candidates based on the scores obtained both in the assessment of qualification and in the oral examination.

The selection is considered passed with a minimum **total score of 125/200**.

Positions with or without scholarships or other forms of financial support will be assigned following the order of the ranking.

Scholarships will be assigned following:

1. the order in the ranking;
2. the suitability of the candidate for reserved scholarships.

Please note that reserved scholarships are assigned to the discretion of the Admissions Committee and, where possible, according to the preference expressed by the candidate. The non-allocation of scholarships on reserved topics will result in the reduction of the positions listed in art. 1.

The final ranking of the candidates will be solely posted on the website:

<http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection>

Notification is considered as delivered through the announcement of the short-list.

Successful applicants will not receive personal communications of their results.

Art. 9 - ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE POSITION

Applicants will be admitted to the Doctoral Programme according to their final ranking until all available positions have been filled.

Should two candidates obtain the same score: as regards the awarding of the scholarship, the candidates' economic situations shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the criteria established by the Law of 9 April 2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations; as regards the awarding of positions without scholarship, the younger of the two candidates will be admitted.

If a successful applicant withdraws before the beginning of the course (November 1, 2015), the next applicant on the ranking will be offered the place. The latter must submit his/her enrolment **within 4 days** starting from the next day after the communication from the Science & Technology PhD Office is sent. This communication will only be sent via email to the address indicated in the application online, so candidates are advised to check their email in order to see the possible takeover.

If a successful applicant withdraws or is excluded during the first three months of the first year of the course, the Doctoral Committee may decide to fill the vacant place with the next available candidate on the ranking. **Please note** that it is not possible to remain in the Programme in case of renouncement of a reserved scholarship.

According to art. 20, paragraph 3 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, no more than **2** supernumerary candidates may be admitted without scholarship from the University, after passing the selection procedure, if they fall under one of the following types:

- a) shortlisted non-EU candidates who are granted scholarships by other entities;
- b) shortlisted candidates from countries which have specific inter-governmental agreements with Italy, and with which an ad-hoc agreement with the University is then made, without the University of Trento being required to assume any financial obligations;
- c) be a research fellow at the date of the beginning of the PhD programme according to Italian Law 240/2010 and be researching a subject relevant to the PhD Research Programme; such relevance to be determined by the PhD Programme Committee;
- d) Italian civil servants or under Italian public law regime. Admission is subject to passing the selection procedure and placement on leave under Article 2 of the Law of 13 August 1984 no. 476 and subsequent amendments.

Public employees who have already obtained the title of Doctor of Philosophy, or civil servants who have been enrolled on the doctorate for at least one academic year, benefitting from leave regardless of the research scientific area, are not entitled to special leave with or without a scholarship.

Admitted applicants must send the acceptance of the position using the form downloadable at <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1928/enrollment-1-2-3-year> to:

Università degli Studi di Trento
PhD Office – Science and Technology
Via Sommarive 14, 38123 Povo-Trento (ITALY)
Email: phd.office-st@unitn.it

- **within 5 days** starting from the next day of the publication of the final ranking on the website <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection> for **positions with scholarships, with the exception of the supernumerary candidates.**
- **within 10 days** starting from the next day of the publication of the final rankings on the website <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1961/announcement-of-selection> for **positions without scholarships.**

Applicants admitted without scholarship are granted a longer period of time in order to wait for the possible award of PhD scholarship in case of rejection of the place or renunciation of the scholarship by highest-ranking applicants.

Please note that the acceptance must include the payment of stamp duty and the payment of the "Provincial tax for the right to higher education" – TDS¹¹, except for exempted student.

Admitted applicants **who do not accept the position within the above mentioned deadlines** will lose their right to enrol and their places will be offered to the next candidates on the relevant ranking.

Applicants who wish to assert their requirements for supernumerary positions must request, by submission of appropriate documentation proving their status via e-mail to phd.office-st@unitn.it, such admission **within 8 days** starting from the next day of the publication of the ranking list. Supernumerary admission is disposed within the limit of the number of supernumerary positions listed in art. 1.

Art. 10 – ENROLMENT IN THE PHD PROGRAMME

The official registration in the PhD Programme, limited to short-listed candidates who have accepted the place with the procedures set out in the preceding article, will automatically be formalized as soon as the PhD Programmes' requirements check set up by the Ministry of Education, University and Research for the AY 2015-2016 has been completed. In case of accreditation not confirmed, candidates who have accepted the place will receive a timely notification via email and the fee for the Right to Education (TDS) will be refunded.

Art. 11 – SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are assigned on the basis of the ranking of applicants drawn up by the Admissions Committee, on request of the applicant.

The candidate who has been awarded a scholarship on a specific reserved topic must accept it as the request for suitability for reserved scholarships he/she made in the application online implies the preference of the candidate for the award of that specific scholarship with respect to the general ones. The renunciation of the reserved scholarship implies the exclusion of the candidate from the right to enrol in the PhD Programme.

In case the candidate refuses the scholarship, it will be offered to the next candidate in the ranking; in the case of a scholarship on a specific topic, it will be offered to the next successful candidate on the ranking having obtained the suitability for that specific subject.

The gross amount of the Ministerial Scholarship is Euro 13,638.47 per year ¹¹. Scholarships are normally paid bi-monthly in advance, with the exception of undue payments in case the student is expelled or suspended and the first installment of the calendar year (January-February), which is paid at the end of January.

The scholarships cannot be combined with other grants, except those awarded by national or foreign scientific institutes for periods spent abroad that are deemed useful for the research activities of the student. The scholarship will be increased by 50% for research periods spent abroad that are authorized by the Director of the Doctoral Programme or by the Doctoral Committee, for periods lasting minimum 1 month and maximum 18 months.

From the second year of the course each student is provided with a budget for research activity not less than 10% of the ministerial scholarship.

The scholarship is conferred for the entire duration of the Doctoral Programme, conditional upon a positive evaluation of the Doctoral Committee at the end of each study year.

Failure to attend the Programme for over **thirty days** will result in suspension of the scholarship.

If during the year a student decides not to continue his/her studies, he or she forfeits the right to use the scholarship.

Those who have already benefitted, even partly, of an Italian doctoral scholarship cannot be granted another one.

Art. 12 - RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The admission to the Doctoral Programme implies the full-time exclusive engagement of the PhD student. Students enrolled in the Doctoral Programme must attend the courses, seminars, lessons and teaching units, carry out research and study activities on a full time basis in the structures designated for these purposes and submit a report on the research work done to the Doctoral Programme Committee at the end of each year of study.

Students participating in a co-tutorship programme are obliged to carry out study and research activities in compliance with the agreement established with the foreign university.

The Doctoral Programme Committee may decide to exclude PhD students from the Doctoral Programme with the resulting forfeiture of the study fellowship in the following cases:

- a) insufficient marks in the possible evaluation exams in itinere during the 3 years of the Programme;
- b) negative opinion given by the Doctoral Programme Committee regarding admission to the successive year of study; in this case, the Doctoral Programme Committee will verify achievement of the results required for the current year as well as the assiduousness and commitment demonstrated by the student in the research work done;
- c) the student accepts employment contracts without authorization by the Doctoral Programme Committee;
- d) unexcused and extended absences.
- e) fraudulent manipulation of research data and documents.

Doctoral students awarded a scholarship financed by external bodies and related to a specific research activity must carry out that specific activity.

¹¹ At the date of publication of the present call, Italian law (art. 2, par.26 of Law 335/95 and subsequent modifications) states that scholarships are subject to pension fund contributions (INPS) starting from 01/01/2014, of 22% or 28,72%, of which 1/3 will be charged to the candidate.

For the entire duration of the Doctoral Programme, doctoral students are insured by the University against accidents and civil liability that may occur in circumstances pertaining to the Doctoral Programme.

According to art. 2, paragraph 1 of the Law 476 issued on the 13th of August 1984 and subsequent amendments, a public service employee admitted to the Doctoral Programme may request unpaid leave for reasons of study for the whole duration of the doctoral course and may benefit from the scholarship, if the required conditions are met. In the case of admission to a doctoral course without a scholarship, or if the candidate has declined the scholarship, the employee on leave may benefit from the economic remuneration and social insurance and retirement benefits enjoyed by the public administration where he/she is employed. If an employee on study leave is admitted to the PhD Programme without a scholarship, or if they give up a scholarship, they are entitled to receive their normal pay and benefits. If, after obtaining their PhD, an employee subsequently resigns from public service within two years of the end of the PhD Programme, the employee must fully reimburse their employer for the pay received during the entire course.¹².

Art. 13 – DOCTORAL DEGREE AWARD

The doctoral degree, or Ph.D., conferred by the Rector, is awarded when students pass the final examination at the end of the Doctoral Programme.

The Examination Committee will be nominated by the Rector, upon advice of the Doctoral Committee and in accordance with the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes.

The issue of the degree certificate is conditional upon the candidate uploading the University open access archive with a copy of his/her final thesis. The University archives will ensure public accessibility and the proper conservation of the thesis. The University will provide the National Libraries in Rome and Florence with a copy of the thesis, as required by Italian law.

Art. 14 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Referring to copyright protection (D.lgs. 633/1941 and subsequent amendments) the use of results obtained during the research activities in the Doctoral Programme, carried out with scholarships supported by an external authority may receive restrictions due to financial agreements of which the Doctoral Students will be informed at the moment of the assignment of the scholarship.

Art. 15 – PERSONAL DATA

The University of Trento, abiding by Legislative Decree 196/2003 and subsequent amendments, shall use the personal data of the candidates only for the purpose of the selection procedures and for institutional reasons. Participation in the present selection entails, in observance of the above-mentioned law, that the applicant allows the University of Trento to publish his/her personal data concerning the results of the selection procedure on the University website.

Data are treated by the University of Trento, via Calepina, 14 – 38122 Trento (Italy).

Art. 16 – REFERRAL RULE

For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present announcement, please refer to art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 3.07.1998 as amended by Article 19, paragraph 1, of the Law of 30.12.2010, n. 240, to Ministerial Decree no. 45 of 08.02.2013 and to the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes issued with the Rector's Decree no. 383 of 04.07.2013 and subsequent amendments.

On behalf of
The Rector

The Head of Education and Student Services
Dott. Paolo Zanei

¹² For further information refer to the mentioned law.



ANNEX A

Declaration substituting

DEGREE CERTIFICATE

(Art. 46 - lettera l, m, n - D.P.R. 28 dicembre 2000, n. 445)

The undersigned _____

Place of birth (*city+country*) _____ date of birth , _____

Official residence (*street, number, zip code, city, country*) _____

Mobile _____ e – mail _____

aware of the penal sanctions pursuant to Art. 76 of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28.12.2000 for falsifying documents and making mendacious declarations

DECLARES

A) To have graduated in: _____

Graduation Date: _____ with mark _____ out of _____

- Type of degree:
- Master's degree
 - Laurea specialistica/magistrale
 - Italian University degree of the previous regulations in force
 - Other (specify) _____

University of: _____

City and Country: _____

and to have passed the following exams (fill in the subsequent Part C, mandatory)

OR ALTERNATIVELY

B) To have not graduated yet, and to be aware that admission to the PhD Programme is conditional upon the presentation of the degree certificate by the scheduled date in the call.

Currently studying (subject) _____

- Type of degree: Master's degree; Laurea specialistica/magistrale; Italian University degree of the previous regulations in force; Other (specify)

At the University of: _____ Country: _____

Expected date for final degree defense: _____



UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO - Italy

*The present declaration does not require authentication of the signature nor the signature should be affixed in the presence of the person assigned to receive the document. If sent, the signatory should add a copy of his own identification document to the present certificate.