Call for no. 1 Doctoral position on the

PhD Programme in

Materials, Mechatronics and Systems Engineering

Project H2020-RUR-2020-2 - Research and Innovation Action


36th Cycle

Academic Year 2020/2021

N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector’s Decree no. 202 of 09.03.2021 is legally binding; the English version is provided for information only
Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The University of Trento opens the call for 1 position for the 36th Cycle (Academic Year 2020/2021) of the PhD Programme in Materials, Mechatronics and Systems Engineering, as regards the project H2020-RUR-2020-2 - Research and Innovation Action “ONEforest” (A Multi-Criteria Decision Support System For A Common Forest Management to Strengthen Forest Resilience, Harmonise Stakeholder Interests and Ensure Sustainable Wood Flows) as follows:

Positions: no. 1  
Scholarships: no. 1

The scholarship is funded by the University of Trento in the framework of the project H2020-RUR-2020-2 - Research and Innovation Action “ONEforest” about the following topic:

ONEforest supports the deployment of regional forest management concepts that strengthen forest resilience and sustainable wood supply leveraging wood-based products. Within this project, an innovative top soil coating (TSC), based on a bio-degradable bio-composite, with water regulating properties will be developed. This layer should control precipitation uptake and evaporation rate of the soil, to reduce erosion and nutrient leaching. This TSC will allow new seeding methods to expand forests. It will contribute to planting young trees on unfavourable sites (e.g. in arid regions). The objective of this PhD work is thus to engineer a suitable TSC and describe its physical, mechanical, chemical characteristics and its impact on forest soil microbial communities. An LCA study that takes the TSC into consideration will be performed to assess its environmental impact.

Candidates must carefully check the research topic and the required skills on the selection webpage.

Deadline for application: April 15th, 2021, hrs. 04.00 PM (Italian time, GMT +2)

Duration: Three years

Start of the Academic Year: June 1st, 2021

Official language: English

➢ Selection website
➢ PhD School website (information on the programme, admission to subsequent years and to the final examination)
➢ Rights and duties of doctoral students
➢ Info about doctoral scholarships
➢ Scientific areas (with reference to the Italian Ministerial classification)

N.B.

a. The dates of the selection and all selection results (interim and final), the possible exclusion from the selection due to an incomplete application (art. 3), the exclusion for foreign qualification not recognized as suitable (art. 2), and any notices related to the call will be published only on the call webpage; the candidates will be identified through the application ID therefore it is recommended to keep it safe. The publication on the website is to all intents and purposes valid as official notification.

b. Without exception, all possible communication from the University of Trento to applicants will be managed via e-mail to the email address specified in the online application (section “email address for notification). Candidates are advised to check their mailbox regularly and keep the Doctorate Office S&T (phd.office-st@unitn.it) promptly informed of any changes in their email address.

c. Due to the unpredictable Covid-19 health emergency situation, in order not to stop teaching and research doctoral activities, the same could be given both in person and remotely.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications for doctoral positions are accepted from applicants, regardless of gender, age and nationality, who hold:
a. an Italian "Laurea Magistrale" or "Laurea Specialistica", according to the Ministerial Decree no. 509 of 03.11.1999, subsequently amended by Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22.10.2004; or alternatively

b. a university degree obtained at an Italian Institution belonging to the AFAM system (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale);

or alternatively

c. an equivalent foreign degree (Master's degree) obtained at an officially recognized academic institution, valid for admission to PhD studies in the Country it has been issued (except for substantial differences) and similar (duration and level) to the Italian degree, recognized as eligible\(^1\) by the Selection Committee for the sole purpose of accessing this specific PhD Programme\(^2\).

A university degree in disciplines relevant to the research topic of the scholarship (see art. 1) would be an asset.

2. Applications are also accepted from students expected to obtain the necessary degree by the deadline set to complete and send the application. Admission to the Doctoral Programme for successful applicants who have not yet graduated will be "conditional" and the applicant will have to submit to the Doctorate Office S&T (via email to: phd.office-st@unitn.it) by May 31\(^{st}\), 2021, on penalty of exclusion, the certificate awarded or a self-declaration (using Annex A).

3. Applicants with a foreign qualification that has not been officially recognised as equivalent\(^3\) to an Italian degree (Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica/vecchio ordinamento) will be considered as requesting equivalence in their application, by attaching the necessary supporting documents.

It is in the applicant's interest to provide all the elements useful for the assessment, especially if the education system of the country where the qualification was obtained is not comparable to the Italian one. The Selection Committee may require the applicant to provide additional documentation if deemed necessary for the purpose of assessing the eligibility.

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### Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. The application\(^4\) must be completed and submitted by hrs. 04.00 p.m. Italian time (GMT +2) of April 15\(^{th}\), 2021, exclusively through the online system: https://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott. Authentication to the service is possible through: a University of Trento account as @unitn.it (if already released), or a "guest" temporary account (@guest.unitn.it, procedure to register an account is available at: https://webapps.unitn.it/Registration/en/Home\(^5\)) or through the SPID (the Public Digital Identity System)\(^6\).

2. To finalize the application a non-refundable application fee of € 15 (fifteen) is required and it can only be paid by credit card\(^7\) according to the instructions given in the appropriate section of the online application.

The application online can be saved and modified several times until the final submission. Thereafter it can no longer be changed.

3. The online application is considered to be a self-declaration of personal data and qualifications with full legal effect. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to make sure that the online application has been successfully submitted and an email notification has been received. There will be no liability with the University in the event that an application is not submitted correctly.

4. **MANDATORY ATTACHMENTS** (failure to upload one or more mandatory attachments will result in automatic exclusion from the selection)

A. **Identifying document (ID):**

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\(^1\) The eligibility of foreign academic degrees is assessed by the Selection Committee, following the rules in force or the international treaties or recognition of academic qualifications.


\(^3\) For further information see at http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/it-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/qualifiche-del-sistema-universitario.aspx

\(^4\) The candidate can choose either Italian or English to fill in the application online.

\(^5\) Applicants are advised to register well in advance of the deadline. The issue of credentials (username and password) may require up to three working days. Those who already hold a Unitt account but forgot the password can request a new one at: https://icts.unitn.it/en/password

\(^6\) To access the online enrolment procedures, SPID (Public Digital Identity System) is suggested. It allows the personal identity authentication and personal data to be seen by the University of Trento in the online services of the University of Trento an account as @unitn.it. To request a SPID identity (useful to share your account with the online services of the public administration) visit the website: https://www.spid.gov.it/riciedi-spid?q=nome=991

\(^7\) The accepted payment circuits are: Visa (e.g. Nexi/Carfasi, Postepay), V-pay, Maestro, MasterCard, NexiPay, MasterPass Wallet.
A copy of the applicant's valid identity card (only EU citizens) or passport (non-EU citizens), in particular of the pages reporting his/her photograph, personal data, number, place and date of issue, expiry date and signature;

B. Academic degree for admission to PhD:
   a. Italian qualification:
      • already obtained/to be obtained: a self-declaration, in accordance with Presidential Decree art. 46 no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, declaring the possession of a degree (art. 2 of this Call), “Classe di Laurea”, award date and final grade / possible award date, issuing University, examinations taken, grades and credits obtained (by using Annex A you can find at the end of this call and on the call website); graduates from the University of Trento may only declare the place and the date of award / foreseen date of award as the other information can be collected ex officio;
   
   b. foreign qualification:
      • already obtained:
         - a certificate attesting to the possession of a second level university qualification (see art. 2 paragraph 1 letter c), issued by the institution that awarded it. The certificate must indicate the type of diploma, the date it was awarded and the relative grade;
         - a list of exams taken to obtain the qualification to access the Doctorate programme (academic transcript of records of the Master’s degree) with relative credits (if provided for in the university system of the country that awarded the qualification), marks, and rating scale. If the university studies carried out abroad are divided into first and second level, the Bachelor’s degree and the list of examinations taken to obtain that degree (academic transcript of records of the Bachelor's degree) should also be attached.
      
      • to be obtained:
         - a certificate of enrolment in a course of study that allows admission to Doctorate programmes (see art. 2 paragraph 1 letter c), with a list of the examinations successfully passed, marks, credits obtained in each examination (if provided for in the university system of the country that awarded the qualification), rating scale and the possible award date.
         If the university studies carried out abroad are divided into first and second level, the Bachelor’s degree and the list of examinations taken to obtain that degree (academic transcript of records of the Bachelor's degree) should also be attached.
   
If the aforementioned documents are not in English, they must be accompanied by a translation in Italian or in English made provisionally by the applicant who takes responsibility for the accuracy of the translation and its compliance with the original text.

C. curriculum vitae et studiorum in Italian or English, preferably according to the Europass model; all academic degrees held and any university enrolments in progress must be specified in detail (please specify also the High School diploma details); possible list of publications. Please do not attach the entire publications, the Selection Committee will evaluate only the list.

D. summary of the Master's degree thesis written in English explaining the reasons for the choice of the subject, the research methodology and the results obtained (max 4 pages);

E. statement of purpose in English (maximum 3000 characters including spaces), where you clearly specify: 1. Your scientific motivations (please avoid any general declarations); 2. Your personal motivations and your broader interest towards research; 3. Your reasons for choosing the topic of the project ONEforest.

5. OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:
   A. any certificate or international test (GRE or equivalent);
   B. copy of the first level academic degree (Bachelor's degree) and transcript;
   C. any certificate attesting the knowledge of the English language;

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8 It is in the interest of the applicant to provide all information relevant for the assessment, especially if the country where the qualification was obtained has an education system not comparable to the Italian one.
D. any additional qualifications useful for assessing the applicant’s attitude towards research (prizes, scholarships, post-graduate research and work activity, recommendation letters, etc.);

E. Applicants with a foreign qualification:

- academic diploma of the Master degree (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent), in its original language

and

- Diploma Supplement (DS) drafted according to the form developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPEs; Alternatively

- Declaration of value which certifies that the educational qualification is valid in the country of issuance for admission to a Doctoral programme (third level of higher education according to the Bologna Process - European Higher Education Area; EQF level 8);

Alternatively

- Statement of comparability of foreign university qualification issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the assessment of the qualification.

If the foreign academic qualification has already been recognized as equivalent to a second cycle Italian qualification by the competent academic bodies of Italian universities, the equivalence provision (Rector’s Decree) must be attached in the appropriate section of the online application.

6. The University will accept additional documents to be included in the application submitted if sent by email to ateneo@unitn.it (Subject: “H2020 ONEforest - Application ID number- candidate’s Surname and Name - PhD in Materials, Mechatronics and Systems Engineering – 36th cycle - Supplement to application”) by April 15th, 2021 at 4.00 p.m. Italian time. Additional documents submitted by other means will be disregarded.

7. Only documents (originals or copies) in English and Italian will be taken into consideration for the selection by the Selection Committee; for all other languages it is compulsory to attach a translation into English or Italian signed by the applicant. The mandatory attachments required at points 4.D and 4.E must be submitted in English by all applicants.

8. 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 28.12.2000. The University can at any time, even after enrolment and upon justified reasons, decide the exclusion of candidates lacking the requirements specified in the present call.

9. According to Italian Law no. 104/92, Art. 20 and to Italian Law no. 68/99, Art. 16 (1), applicants with special needs or with learning disabilities may explicitly request in their application special assistance or extra time during the examinations, in accordance with their disability. In this case personal data will be processed in compliance with the current law as indicated in the GDPR Privacy notice.

Art. 4 – EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. The evaluation is made by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector upon advice from the Doctoral Committee, in accordance with the University doctoral regulations. The Selection Committee sets the evaluation criteria during a preliminary meeting. The Selection Committee can meet in presence or remotely using an audio-video connection.

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9 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://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/diploma-supplement.aspx and http://ec.europa.eu/education/resources/diploma-supplement_en


2. The selection procedure is designed to rank, comparatively, the knowledge and aptitude of the applicants to carry out research in areas related to the PhD Programme and the project research topic.

   The selection is made on the basis of the assessment of:
   - All the mandatory applicant’s qualifications listed in previous art. 3 (degree, research project, English level, motivation letter), and
   - an interview designed to assess the candidates’ knowledge and aptitude towards research and their specific expertise about the project topic as in art. 1. The level of knowledge of English will also be assessed. In order to be admitted to the oral exam the candidate must provide a valid photo ID/passport.

3. The Admissions Committee will award a maximum of 120 points, of which:

   - 0-60 points: assessment of qualifications;
   - 0-60 points: oral exam to evaluate the candidates’ aptitude towards research and their specific expertise about the call specific topic.

4. Candidates obtaining a minimum score of 36/60 for the assessment of qualifications will be admitted to the oral exam which will be passed with a minimum score of 36/60; applicants who have passed the oral exam and obtained an overall score of 72/120, will thus be short-listed.

5. The start date set for the assessment of qualifications is: April 20th, 2021

   The start date set for the oral examination is: May 4th, 2021

   Any changes will be posted on the selection website

6. The interviews will be held online using audio-video connection tools, that allow:
   - the correct identification of the participants (through a webcam);
   - the conduction of the oral test in a public form.

   Further details will be posted on the call for selection website.

   The candidates not showing up at the oral exam will be considered as renouncing their participation to the selection procedure, whatever the reason.

   Possible changes in the date of the examinations will be posted on the selection web page.

   In order to be admitted to the oral exam the candidate must provide a valid photo ID/passport.

   To simplify the identification procedures, the ID should preferably be the same document attached when filling in the online application.

Art. 5 – RANKINGS

1. At the end of the selection procedure, the Selection Committee draws up one general ranking.

2. The scholarship is assigned to the applicant short-listed in the first position of the ranking; in case of equal score see following art. 6.

3. The actual granting of the scholarship is subject to the signing of the Grant Agreement no. 101000406 for the project H2020-RUR-2020-2 - Research and Innovation Action - ONEforest between the University of Trento and the European Commission. In the case of failure to sign this agreement, the place and scholarship will not be awarded.

Art. 6 – ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

1. The first short-listed applicant is admitted to the PhD Programme based on the final ranking

2. Should two candidates obtain the same score, regarding the award of the scholarship, the candidates’ economic situations shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the criteria established by the Italian Prime Minister’s Decree of 09.04.2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations.

3. Admitted applicant must enroll following the instructions at How to enrol in the Phd Programmes - First Year:

   within 8 days starting from the day following publication of the final ranking lists on the selection website

   N.B.! Admitted applicants with a qualification that has not been awarded in Italy must deliver (if they had not already done so during the application phase – “Application procedure”) the Doctorate Office S&T (email: phd.office-st@unitn.it) by June 4th, 2021, sending them in advance by email:
- **academic diploma of the Master degree** (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent) in the original or certified copy, **together with the academic transcript of records**, possible official translations\(^\text{13}\), legalized or with an apostille affixed\(^\text{14}\) (please carefully verify the fulfillment of the requirements set by the issuing country of the title).

In addition to the above-mentioned documents, admitted applicants must show:

- **Diploma Supplement** (if provided for by the university where the title was issued, it is commonly used within the member countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA))

alternatively

- **Declaration of Value**\(^\text{15}\) issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular representations country of origin of the institution that awarded the title

alternatively

- **Statement of comparability of foreign university qualifications** issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the assessment of the qualification.

In case the Diploma Supplement, or the Declaration of Value, or the Statement of comparability are not available by June 4th, 2021, admitted applicants must deliver a document showing that they asked the University/the Italian diplomatic or consular representations/the ENIC-NARIC center for the documents to be issued.

Admission to the Doctoral Programme for successful candidates who do not provide the required above-mentioned documents by June 4th, 2021 will be “conditional” and the applicants will be excluded from the Doctoral Programme if:
- they do not deliver the documents within 12 months from the starting date of the Programme;
- upon verification, their title is not in compliance with the requirements of this call for selection

4. Note that the enrolment on the PhD Programme must include the payment of stamp duty and the payment of the "provincial tax for the right to higher education" - TDS\(^\text{16}\) (except for exemption cases). At present, no fees are charged to doctoral students to access courses and attend them, with the exception of the aforementioned annual provincial tax for the right to study (TDS).

5. Admitted applicants who do not enroll by the above-mentioned deadlines will lose their right to enter the PhD Programme, and their places will be offered to the next applicants on the ranking.

6. If a successful applicant withdraws **before the beginning of the PhD Programme** (June 1, 2021), the next applicant on the ranking will be offered the position. The latter must enroll on the PhD Programme **within 4 days** starting from the day after the day on which the communication from the Doctorate Office S&T is sent.

7. If a successful applicant withdraws or is excluded after the beginning of the PhD Programme and **during the first quarter of the first year** (end of August 2021), the Doctoral Committee may decide to fill the vacancy with the next applicant on the ranking.

**Art. 7 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

1. Without prejudice to the Italian legislation on copyright (Legislative Decree no. 633/1941 and subsequent amendments), intellectual and industrial property rights on the results eventually achieved by the student, including, but not limited to, software, patentable industrial inventions, know-how, models, data and data collection, are regulated in accordance with applicable laws and University regulations and, if necessary, according to the provisions in the individual agreements with universities, companies or other institutions involved, and according to the provisions of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement (Section 3 – Actions and Obligations related to background and Results).

\(^{13}\) See: https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/servizi/italiani-all-estero/traduzione-e-legalizzazione-documenti.html

\(^{14}\) See: https://www.studiareinitalia.it/studying/info-13.html

\(^{15}\) Should the Declaration of Value not be available by the given deadline, the applicant has to produce evidence of the request to the Diplomatic mission. The applicant has to provide the original copy of the Declaration of Value as soon as it is available.

\(^{16}\) Note that the total amount of the TDS + stamp duty must be paid only by credit card following the instructions. Page https://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1931/education-tax-tds-and-stamp-duty provides information on exemption from the TDS.
Art. 8 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Pursuant to art. 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), applicants, acting as data subjects, are advised that the University will process their personal data in the public interest only for purposes related to the present PhD selection procedure and to comply with law obligations.

2. The data controller is the University of Trento, via Calepina 14, 38122 Trento (Italy), email: ateneo@pec.unitn.it; ateneo@unitn.it.

3. The controller processes personal data for reasons of substantial public interest (according to art. 6, comma 1, letter e) and art. 9, paragraph 2, letter G of the GDPR).

4. The provision of personal data is mandatory to participate in the selection procedures and failure to provide them results in the impossibility to take part in the call.

5. Personal data are processed wholly or partly in paper forms and/or by automated means by the controller’s personnel, who is authorized to data treatment according to their tasks and in respect of confidentiality obligations.

6. Personal data can be disclosed to third parties (public and private, e.g. MUR, ANVUR) in order to correctly fulfil the above-mentioned purposes, within academic relationships, in performance of law, regulations and contract obligations, or in compliance with a provision of the Authority of Public Security and/or the Judicial Authorities.

   Data can be disclosed also to public and private funding bodies, in relation to financed scholarships.

7. Personal data will be stored as long as necessary to fulfil the above-mentioned procedure and anyway for all the time required to comply with legal obligations and/or regulations on the matter.

8. At any time, the data subjects can ask the controller to exercise their rights in accordance with art. 15 and seq. of GDPR, and in particular the right of access to their personal data, right to rectification, right to erasure (‘right to be forgotten’), right to restriction of processing and the right to object to processing. This is without prejudice to the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority in accordance with art. 77 of GDPR.

9. The data subjects may contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO or RPD) to have information about processing of their personal data or to exercise their rights writing to: via Verdi 8, 38122 Trento (Italy), email: rpd@unitn.it.

10. The complete GDPR Privacy note is available at: GDPR Privacy note.

Art. 9 - REFERRAL RULES

1. For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present call, refer to Law no. 398 of 30.11.1989, art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 3.07.1998 as amended by art.19, par. 1, of the Law no. 240 of 30.12.2010, to Ministerial Decree no. 45 of 08.02.2013 and to the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes issued by Rector's Decree no. 742 of 28.10.2016, to the Code of Ethics of the University of Trento, to the Internal Regulations in force of the PhD Programme in Materials, Mechatronics and Systems Engineering, and to the other relevant provisions contained in the current legislation.

2. This call, accompanied by its translation into English, is published on the University website, on the website of the Italian Ministry of Education and on Euraxess website. Any changes or additions to the call will be made available only on the selection website specified in art. 1.

On behalf of
The Rector
The Head of Education and Student Services

dott. Paolo Zanei
Declaration substituting DEGREE CERTIFICATE:
(Article 46 - letters I, m, n - D.P.R. 28 December 2000, No. 445)

The undersigned _____________________________________________________________

place of birth (city, country) ______________________________ date of birth ______________________

official address (street, number, zip code, city, country) _______________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________

Mob. ____________________________ e – mail ______________________________________________

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

DECLARES

A) TO HAVE GRADUATED (degree for admission to PhD, click the corresponding box):

Type of degree
☐ Laurea magistrale/specialistica
☐ Italian University degree of the previous regulations in force (vecchio ordinamento)

in: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Specialization (Classe di laurea ID code): ____________________________________________________

on __dd__/__mm__/__yy__ from University of ___________________________ (town __________ - Italy) with mark __________ out of __________

AND TO HAVE PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMS (fill out the following Section C)

Alternately:

B) TO HAVE NOT YET GRADUATED and to be aware that admission to the Doctoral Programme is conditional upon submission of the degree diploma/certificate by the date cited in the announcement.

Graduating in: __________________________________________________________________________

Specialization (Classe di laurea ID code): ____________________________________________________

University of: ____________________________________________________________ in Italy.

Expected graduation date: __________________________

AND TO HAVE PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMS (fill out the following section C)

1 To be noted: self-declarations can be delivered only if concerning facts and information which can be verified by an Italian public administration. In case of non-European citizens this is possible only if they are in possession of a valid stay permit, which must be attached to the declaration.

- The self-declaration shall provide all the information required, and data related to the mark, date and place of obtainment of the degree are mandatory;
- The self-declaration shall be duly signed and dated.

2 Graduates of the University of Trento may only declare the date of awarding of the degree; other information will be collected automatically.

Translation of Attachment no. 1 to Rector’s Decree no. 202 of 09.03.2021
SECTION C: List of exams taken (titles, marks, credits – if available, and dates are mandatory):

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If the university course is divided into first and second level,

I also declare
to have graduated with an Italian University first level degree (Laurea/bachelor’s degree) in ____________________________ on __dd__/__mm__/__yy__ from University of ____________________________ town ____________________________ (Country)
______________________________ with mark ________________ out of __________

Date and place, ____________________________ Signature of the declarant

This declaration is exempt from stamp duty, pursuant to Article 37 of the Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28.12.2000.