



UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO - Italy

Call for Doctoral positions at the

PhD Programme in

Biomolecular Sciences

32nd Cycle

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector's Decree no. 385 of 27.05.2016 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 position for the 32nd Cycle (Academic Year 2016/2017) of the PhD Programme in Biomolecular Sciences.

Positions: no. 12

Scholarships: no. 10

Positions without scholarship: no. 2

Supernumerary positions: no. 2 (see art. 7)

Deadline for applications: August 23, 2016, hrs. 04:00 PM (Italian time, GMT +2)

Scholarships are funded by:

no. 5 scholarships funded by the University of Trento, on research topics to be carried out at the laboratories of CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology (<http://www.cibio.unitn.it>);

no. 5 scholarships on reserved topics that require specific competence assessed during the oral examination and **funded as follows:**

Scholarship A, “microRNA–mediated cardiac regeneration” funded by International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

Scholarship B “New computational metagenomic approaches for strain-level cystic-fibrosis pathogens characterization and microbiome profiling” funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology

Scholarship C “Impact of RNA modifications on translation in physiology and disease” funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology

Scholarship D “Understanding of epigenetic regulation of tumorigenesis and tumor progression through computational quantitative analyses” funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology

Scholarship E “Construction of Vaccinobacter and manipulation of Vaccinobacter derived-OMVs” funded by CIBIO – Centre for Integrative Biology

For further details on research topics see at: <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs/40764/scholarships>

Any candidates selected by special committees for admission related to specific international mobility programmes in which the University of Trento participates, may also be admitted to the 32nd Cycle on additional positions, as described on the website of the call.

Duration: three years

Start of the Academic Year: November 1st, 2016

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

PhD Programme website (information on the programme, admission to subsequent years and to final examination): <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs>

Transdisciplinary Program in Computational Biology website:

<http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs/35286/transdisciplinary-program-in-computational-biology>

Rights and Duties of Doctoral students: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/52919/rights-and-duties-of-doctoral-students>

Doctoral Scholarships: <http://www.unitn.it/en/servizi/1937/doctoral-scholarships>

Official Language: English

Settori scientifico–disciplinari: <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1905/doctoral-programme-in-biomolecular-sciences>

The positions with scholarships or other forms of financial support may be increased after the publication of this call till the day before the assessment of qualifications. All the new available positions will be posted solely on the selection website.

Important notice:

- a. All selection results (interim and final), as well as the possible exclusion from the selection for incomplete application and/or exclusion for foreign qualification title not recognized as suitable, will be published only on the selection webpage; the candidates will be identified through **the**

application ID. The publication on the website is to all intents and purposes valid as official notification and applicants will not receive any personal communication.

- b. All possible communication from the University of Trento to applicants will be managed via e-mail to the email address specified in the application online in the section "Email address for notification". Candidates are advised to check their mail box regularly and keep the Doctorate Office - Science and Technology (phd.office-st@unitn.it) timely informed of any change of their email account.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications for doctoral positions are accepted from Italian as well as foreign applicants, regardless of gender and age, provided their eligibility by possessing:
 - a. an Italian "Laurea Magistrale", according to the Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22.10.2004 and subsequent amendments, or
 - b. an equivalent Italian university degree (previous regulations in force, "Laurea specialistica", AFAM), or
 - c. an equivalent foreign degree (*Master's degree*) obtained at an officially acknowledged academic institution, valid for admission to PhD studies in the Country of issue and similar (duration and level) to the Italian degree, recognized as equivalent¹ by the Admissions Committee for the sole purpose of access to the Phd Programme.

Any degree in a scientific and technological area will be given preferential status.

2. Applications are also accepted from students expecting to obtain the required degree **by October 31st, 2016**. 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 November 4th, 2016**, on penalty of exclusion, a certificate or self-declaration of the degree awarded.
3. Applicants with a foreign qualification who do not have a legally recognized title equivalent to an Italian degree (*Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica/vecchio ordinamento*) will be considered on hold in requesting the equivalence in their application. In this case the applicant is requested to attach the necessary supporting documents. The Admissions Committee may require the applicants to provide additional documentation in order to assess their eligibility. The ID list of applications whose foreign academic qualifications have been considered not eligible for admission to the selection will be available at the webpage of the admission procedure.

Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. The application² must be **completed and submitted by August 23rd, 2016 at 4:00 PM Italian time (GMT +2), exclusively through the online system:** <http://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott>. Candidates who do not have an account at the University of Trento must register³ in advance at: <http://www.unitn.it/account>.

2. For the application a non-refundable payment of € 15 is required which can be paid by credit card 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. However, after the final submission it can no longer be modified.

3. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to verify the final submission of the application through receipt notification received by e-mail. The University refuses any liability for all applications not properly submitted by candidates.

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

¹ For further information visit <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=134>

² The candidate can choose either Italian or English to fill in the application online.

³ Candidates are advised to register well in advance of the deadline because the issue of the username and password (sent via email), necessary to enter UNITN's online services, may require up to 2 working days.

5. MANDATORY ATTACHMENTS (failure to upload one or more mandatory attachments results in automatic exclusion from the selection⁴)

1) Identifying document (ID):

- 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;

2) Academic certificate:

- **Italian qualification:**

already 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 with examinations taken, grades and credits obtained, by using Annex A (graduates from the University of Trento may only declare the place and the date of award as the other information will be collected ex officio);

to be obtained: a self-declaration, in accordance with Presidential Decree art. 46 no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, declaring examinations taken, grades, credits obtained and the possible awarding date, by using Annex A (future graduate of the University of Trento may only declare the place and the foreseen date of awarding as the other information will be collected ex officio);

- **foreign qualification⁵:**

already obtained: copy of the academic certificate (necessary for access to doctoral studies) accompanied by a list of exams with their credits and grades and, if available, the Diploma Supplement⁶/Transcript of Records or Declaration of value⁷ or Rector's Decree of Equivalence⁸;

to be obtained:

- a certificate of enrolment with a list of the examinations successfully passed and marks and credits obtained in each examination;
- a statement declaring that the student will complete his/her degree by October 31, 2016 including the Institution and the official duration of the course.

3) Curriculum vitae et studiorum (in Italian or English languages) 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's Degree or Laurea Magistrale, e.g. Bachelor Degree 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) Applicants who already obtained the title must attach **copy of the thesis frontispiece that includes title and name of the supervisor. Applicant who haven't obtained the title yet must submit a declaration that includes contact details of the thesis supervisor.**

6) 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);

7) English language certification establishing a minimum level of B1 according to CEFR⁹. 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.

⁴ The list of candidates excluded because of incomplete application and identified by the application ID will be published on the selection website.

⁵ 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 with the Italian one. EU candidates who have obtained or will obtain the qualification abroad can submit a self-declaration (see facsimile in Annex A)

⁶ 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

⁷ Further information about DV at <http://www.cimea.it/default.aspx?IDC=176>. Delivery of the Declaration of value will be mandatory for the winners at the time of the enrolment.

⁸ http://www.miur.it/0002Univer/0052Cooper/0069Titoli/0359II_ric/0361Docume/1482Equipo_cf2.htm

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

- 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 citizens 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 citizens 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).

8) A brief research project in English (maximum 3 pages, 1000 words) relative to the research areas of the PhD Program in Biomolecular Sciences;

9) Only for those interested in the admission to the Transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology (see the Programme on: <http://web.unitn.it/en/drbs/35286/transdisciplinary-program-in-computational-biology>): an **additional letter of motivation** in English where the reasons for undertaking the secondary programme in Computational Biology are specified. 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.

6. OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

- 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;
- Up to two names of referees working at universities or national and international research institutions, with details of their e-mail addresses. They will be asked to upload a reference letter for the candidate¹⁰.

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 – 32° cycle - Supplement to application") **by August 23rd, 2016 at 04:00 p.m. Italian time**. Additional documents submitted by other means will be disregarded.

Only documents in English and Italian will be taken into consideration for the selection by the Admissions Committee; for all other languages it is compulsory to attach a translation into English signed by the candidate. The attachments required at points 4, 6, 8 (and 9) must be submitted in English by all applicants.

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.

Art. 4 – EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. The evaluations for enrolment to the PhD Programme is made by an Admissions Committee appointed by the Rector upon advice of the Doctoral Committee, in accordance with the University doctoral regulations. The Admissions Committee sets the evaluation criteria during meetings preliminary to the selection.
2. The selection procedure is designed to ensure, comparatively, the knowledge and aptitude of the candidates to carry out research in areas related to the PhD Programme and the chosen research areas. The selection is made on the basis of the assessment of:
 - the applicant's qualifications (listed in previous art. 3), and

¹⁰ A lack of reference letters is not a cause for exclusion from the selection procedure.

- an interview, in English. The interview will assess the candidate's basic knowledge about the Doctorate scientific areas, the previous research and professional experiences, and qualifications declared in the application.

In order to be allowed to oral examination the candidate must provide a valid ID/passport with photo.

Applicants residing or domiciled abroad, or otherwise unable to proven reasons to take the interview in person, may be authorized – upon request – to conduct the oral examination in another seat by video-conference. The Admissions Committee will guarantee that all the regularity requirements are fulfilled during the examination (verifying the candidate's identity and the accuracy of the interview).

3. Applicants interested in the reserved scholarships must make an explicit request to the Admissions Committee when filling in the Application on-line and they will be required to confirm their interest within two days after publication of the evaluation results. During the interview the suitability of the candidates for the reserved scholarship will be specifically evaluated..

Regarding additional reserved scholarships published after the Announcement of selection, candidates will be required to confirm their interest within two days before the oral interview. During the interview the suitability of the candidates for the additional reserved scholarship will be specifically evaluated **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** the candidate's selection to compete also for the reserved scholarships implies a preference on his/her part for the allocation of that specific scholarship with respect to the others.

4. For applicants who indicate an interest in applying for the transdisciplinary programme in Computational Biology, the oral examination will include an assessment of their competences on the specific subject of that programme.
5. The Admissions Committee can assign each candidate a total score of 200 as follows:
0 – 110 points: assessment of qualification;
0 – 90 points: oral examination
6. Candidates obtaining a minimum score of 75/110 for the assessment of qualifications will be admitted to the oral examination. The interview is successfully passed with a minimum score of 50/90; applicants obtaining an overall score of 125/200 will be short-listed.
7. At least 20 days before the date of the oral examinations, time and location of the examinations will be published on the selection website.

Art. 5 – RANKING

1. At the end of the selection procedure the Admissions Committee draws up one ranking.
2. Scholarships are assigned to short-listed applicants according to:
 - a) the position in the ranking list;
 - b) for reserved scholarships, applicant's suitability for that specific scholarship.
3. The non-allocation of scholarships on reserved topics will result in the reduction of the available positions.

Art. 6 – ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE POSITION

1. Short-listed applicants are admitted to the PhD Programme according to their place in the final ranking until all available places have been filled. The applicant who has been awarded a scholarship on a specific reserved topic must accept it. The renunciation of the reserved scholarship implies the applicant's exclusion from enrolment in the PhD Programme.
2. 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 Italian Prime Minister's Decree of 09.04.2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations.
3. Admitted applicants must send their acceptance of the position following the instructions at <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1928/enrollment-1-2-3-year>:

- **within 8 days** starting from the day following publication of the final rankings on the Selections website for **positions with scholarships**;

- **within 14 days** starting from the day following publication of the final rankings on the Selections website for **positions without scholarships**.

Important notice! Admitted applicants with a foreign qualification must deliver the Diploma Supplement (qualifications obtained in countries of the European Research Area) or the Declaration of value together with the copy of the final Diploma with a complete transcript of exams, grades and credit obtained, translated and authenticated by the Italian diplomatic representatives in the Country of issue; if these documents are not available at the time of the acceptance of the position, they must be delivered **by November 9th, 2016**. The lack of documents delivery by the deadline may result in the exclusion from the Doctorate.

4. Note that the enrolment must include the payment of stamp duty and, where applicable, the payment of the "provincial tax for the right to higher education" - TDS¹¹. 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 enrol by the above-mentioned deadlines will lose their right to enrol, and their position will be offered to the next applicants on the relevant ranking list.
6. If a successful applicant withdraws before the beginning of the PhD Programme (November 1, 2016), the next applicant on the reference ranking list will be offered the place. The latter must submit his/her enrolment **within 4 days** starting from the day after the day in which the communication from the Doctorate Office S&T is sent.
7. If a successful applicant withdraws or is excluded during the first quarter of the first year (three months), the Doctoral Committee may decide to fill the vacancy with the next applicant on the reference list.

Art. 7 – SUPERNUMERARY POSITIONS

1. According to art. 20, par. 3 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, no more than **2** supernumerary applicants may be admitted without scholarships paid by the University, after passing the selection procedure, if they fall within one of the following categories:
 - 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) research fellows (*Assegnista di ricerca*) at the date of the beginning of the PhD programme according to Italian Law 240/2010 and researching a subject relevant to the PhD Programme; such relevance to be determined by the Doctoral Committee;
 - d) Italian civil servants or under Italian public law regime. Admission is subject to passing the selection procedure and placement on leave under Art. 2 of the Law of 13.08.1984 no. 476 and subsequent amendments.
2. Short-listed applicants who wish to assert their requirements for supernumerary positions shall request to do so by submission of appropriate documentation proving their status via e-mail to phd.office-st@unitn.it, such admission **within 8 days** from the day following publication of the ranking lists. Supernumerary admission is disposed within the limit of the number of supernumerary positions listed in par. 1.
3. After verification of the documents referred to in par. 2, applicants admitted to supernumerary positions will receive an email notification from the Doctorate Office S&T (phd.office-st@unitn.it) and must deliver their acceptance within the deadline specified in the email text itself.
4. Any candidates selected by special committees for admission related to specific international mobility programmes in which the University of Trento participates, may also be admitted to positions additional with respect to the quota specified in par. 1.

¹¹ Note that the total amount of the TDS + stamp duty must be paid only by credit card following the instructions. Page <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1931/education-tax-tds-and-revenue-stamp> provides information on exemption from the TDS.

Art. 8 – ENROLMENT ON THE PHD PROGRAMME

According to Ministerial Decree no. 45 of 08.02.2013, the PhD programme can only be activated upon accreditation or its confirmation by the Ministry of Education. Therefore enrolment on the PhD Programme, only for admitted candidates who have accepted the position as mentioned above, will be automatically formalized as soon as the aforementioned accreditation has been received or its confirmation has been approved. If accreditation is not confirmed, candidates who have accepted a place will receive timely notification via email, and the fee for the Right to Education (TDS) will be refunded.

Art. 9 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Without prejudice to the Italian law on copyright (Legislative decree no. 633/1941 and subsequent amendments), use of results derived from doctorate research conducted with scholarships of other financial support financed by external bodies may be subject to restrictions imposed by specific funding agreements of which doctoral support-holders will be informed at the moment of acceptance of the position or enrolment.

Art. 10 – PERSONAL DATA

The University of Trento, abiding by Legislative Decree 196/2003 and subsequent amendments, shall use the personal data of the applicants 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. 11 – 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 with the Rector's Decree no. 383 of 04.07.2013 and subsequent amendments, to the Code of Ethics of the University of Trento, to the Internal Regulations in force of the Doctoral School in Information and Communication Technology, 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. 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

ANNEX A

Declaration substituting **DEGREE CERTIFICATE¹**

(Article 46 - letters l, m, n - D.P.R. 28 December 2000, No. 445)

The undersigned _____

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

Official postal 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 (click the corresponding box):

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

Degree title: _____

on ____/____/____ University of² _____

Country _____

with mark _____ out of _____

AND TO HAVE PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMS (fill out the following section C, **obligatory in either case A) or B)**

Alternately:

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

Type of degree Master's degree
 Laurea specialistica/magistrale
 Italian University degree of the previous regulations in force

¹ (*) **To be noted:**

- Extra-EU students can provide self-declarations only concerning facts and information which can be verified by an Italian public administration and only if they are in possession of a valid residence permit, to be attached to the declaration;

- The self-declaration shall provide all the information required, in particular the admission requirements and those related to the mark, date and place of award of the degree and/or English certificate;

- The self-declaration shall be duly signed and dated.

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

ANNEX A

Other (specify) _____

Degree in: _____

University of: _____ Country: _____

Expected graduation date: _____

AND TO HAVE PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMS (fill out the following section C, **obligatory in either case A) or B)**

SECTION C: List of exams taken

Course Title	Mark/Out of	Number of credits	Date

Date and place, _____

Signature of the declarant
(full and readable)

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