

# CALL FOR PHD POSITIONS

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## Doctoral Programme in Cognitive and Brain Sciences

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**Cycle 40**

**Academic Year 2024/2025**

### Summary

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL .....  | 2  |
| Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS .....   | 3  |
| Art. 3 – THE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME .....  | 3  |
| Art. 4 – APPLICATION .....  | 4  |
| Art. 5 – APPLICANT EVALUATION .....   | 6  |
| Art. 6 – RANKING .....  | 7  |
| Art. 7 – ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFER .....    | 7  |
| Art. 8 – SUPERNUMERARY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH POSITIONS .....                      | 8  |
| Art. 9 – ENROLMENT .....  | 8  |
| Art. 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS ..... | 9  |
| Art. 11 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA.....  | 9  |
| Art. 12 - REGULATIONS.....  | 10 |

**N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector's Decree n. 577 of May 23, 2024 is legally binding, the English version is provided for information only.**

## Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The University of Trento announces the 40<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Doctoral Programme in Cognitive and Brain Sciences for the 2024/2025 academic year.

**Application deadline:** 24 June, 2024, 4:00PM (Italian time)

**Positions:** n.15

**Scholarships:** n. 15

**Supernumerary postgraduate research positions:** n. 1 (*available for candidates who fulfil the requirements set out in art. 8*).

The grants (four years) are financed as follows:

- **n. 3 grants** financed by the **University of Trento**;
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** of the University of Trento, on the following topic: *Cognition in archer fish*;
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** of the University of Trento within the project “ATCOM - An Attentional Code for Memory” – ERC Consolidator Grant n. 101125658 - CUP E73C24000210006”, financed by the European Research Council on the topic: *Structuring knowledge in brains and machines: The interplay between memory, attention and consciousness*;
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** of the University of Trento within the project “Dynamo: Dynamic Brain Modeling of the Dynamic World” – Fondo Italiano della Ricerca (MUR\_FIS\_Fondo Italiano per la Scienza 2021) – CUP E53C23001890001, on the topic: *Investigating predictive representations with MEG-based dynamic RSA*;
- **n. 1 grant** financed on the following topic: “*Behavior, cognition and welfare in Apis Mellifera*” by;
  - **Fondazione Cassa Rurale di Trento**
  - **Fondazione Cassa Rurale di Trento e Rovereto – CARITRO**,
  - **University of Trento's IBC 5 x mille**
  - **CIMeC – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** of the University of Trento,
- **n. 1 grant** financed for 36 months by **EURAC Research** and for 12 months by the **CIMeC – Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** of the University of Trento, on the following topic: *Exploring the Impact of Environmental Factors on Human Perception and Cognitive Processes*,
- **n. 7 grants** financed by the **IIT - Italian Institute of Technology** on the following topics:
  - *Synaptic and transcriptomic architecture of cortical circuits* (1 grant)
  - *Novel paradigms for mapping brain network activity in the mouse* (1 grant)
  - *Computational Approaches for Mapping Brain Network Activity in the Mouse* (1 grant)
  - *Neuromodulatory control of brain functional activity in the mouse* (1 grant)
  - *The neurophysiology of appetitive behavior* (1 grant)
  - *Neuroimaging and electrophysiological biomarkers behind autisms distinguished by disability versus difference over development* (2 grants)

Topic-specific grants are conditional to the execution of a particular research topic for which specific skills are required. Those interested in one or more topic-specific grant should carefully check the topic and required skillset indicated on the web page <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec/topic-specific-grants>.

The number of places covered by scholarships and/or by internship contracts or by other potential financial support may be increased by funds from other universities, public research bodies or prestigious private companies, that become available after the publication of this announcement and before the oral examination. Such occurrence will be communicated online, and nowhere else, at this [selection's webpage](#).

**Duration:** 4 years

**Beginning of the academic year:** November 1, 2024

**Programme Director:** Prof. Massimo Turatto – Tel. + 39 0464 808617 – Email: [phd.cimec@unitn.it](mailto:phd.cimec@unitn.it)

**Doctorate website:** <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec>

**Selection website:** <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1942/>

**Webpage about rights and duties of PhD students:** <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/52919>

**Official language of the PhD Programme:** English

**Scientific areas:** M-PSI/01 General Psychology  
M-PSI/02 Psychobiology and Physiological Psychology  
BIO/05 Zoology

BIO/09 Physiology  
ING-INF/05 Information Processing Systems  
MED/26 Neurology  
MED/27 Neurosurgery  
FIS/07 Applied Physics  
L-LIN/01 Linguistics  
INF/01 Informatics

Information about the scholarship: <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1937>

### IMPORTANT

The results of the selection (qualifications assessment and interview) will be published at the [selection's webpage](#), together with the list of applicants (using their application ID) that are not admitted to the selection after a formal check or after the evaluation of the foreign qualification.

No personal correspondence will be sent to excluded candidates, the online ranking list will be the only official information.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the following articles 5 co. 8 and 6 co. 5 of this selection announcement, any notices relative to the selection will be transmitted to applicants via email, to the address associated with the account used to register at the time in which the application is submitted. Applicants with an open and active account with the University (currently enrolled or recently finished student career), please verify personal email address at the following link: [data account management](#). If personal contact information must be changed after the application is submitted, applicants are advised to email the Humanities and Cognitive Sciences Area - PhD Office ([phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)).

## Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applications for admission to the selection process are accepted from candidates (regardless of gender, age or nationality) who hold:
  - an Italian “Laurea Specialistica” or “Laurea Magistrale” (Master’s Degree) according to Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22 October 2004, or a university degree awarded under the previous Italian regulations;
  - or a second level degree awarded by an Italian “AFAM” Institute (Artistic and Musical Higher Education);
  - or an equivalent degree qualification obtained abroad (Master’s Degree), at an officially recognised academic Institution, which:
    - gives access to an academic course equivalent to the PhD course in the country/higher education system where the degree was issued (unless substantial differences are encountered);
    - is equivalent to the Italian Laurea Magistrale (Master’s Degree), in terms of duration, level and subject area<sup>1</sup>;
    - is considered suitable<sup>2</sup> by the Admission Committee for the sole purpose of the admission to the PhD Programme.
- Applications are also accepted from candidates who do not hold the required academic qualification but expect to obtain it **by 31 October 2024**.  
In this case admission is "conditional" and applicants must submit the degree certificate (or a self-declaration, see <https://www.unitn.it/en/dott/fac-simile-dichiarazione-sostitutiva-titolo>) to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities (email: [phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)) **no later than 8 November 2024. Failure to provide the certificate by this date will lead to exclusion.**
- It's in the applicant's best interest to provide all elements useful to the evaluation, especially in case the educational system of the country where the title was obtained is incomparable with the Italian one.**  
The Admission Committee reserves the right to ask applicants to provide additional documentation, if deemed necessary, in order to be considered for the selection.
- Applicants who have already obtained a PhD degree can apply for a second PhD Programme only if its main research topics and scientific-disciplinary fields differ from those of the candidate's first Doctorate programme. For applicants who have already benefited - even partially - from a doctoral scholarship, the admission to the new PhD Programme can't be covered by a scholarship<sup>3</sup>.
- The list of candidates' IDs whose academic degree has been considered not eligible for the admission selection by the Admission Committee will be available at the [selection's web page](#).

## Art. 3 – THE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME

- The educational programme takes advantage of the strengths of the Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), namely the multi-disciplinary nature of the Center and of its faculty and the availability of cutting-edge research Laboratories.
- The doctorate programme offers a multidisciplinary education that allows doctoral students to acquire skills in specific areas of fundamental and applied research. The programme encourages professional development in innovative and experimental fields that span different scientific areas.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Italian University system visit the webpage: <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/study/new-degrees.html>

<sup>2</sup> The suitability of foreign qualifications will be ascertained by the Admissions Committee in line with current legislation and international accords for further education.

<sup>3</sup> [Opinion from the National University Council \(CUN\)](#) of 20 March 2008; Note from the Ministry of Education University and Research (MIUR) of 14 September 2010 n. 1746; art.6 par.2 of Law n.398 of 1989 “Regulations about university scholarships”.

3. Doctoral students are expected to play an active role in their education by taking part in seminars, workshops and training courses. An integral part of this training is the research-based thesis.
4. The areas and relative research topics activated are as follows:
  - Animal cognition
  - Conceptual representations
  - Dementia and cognitive decline
  - Language
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders
  - Neuroimaging and brain connectivity
  - Numerical cognition
  - Perception and attention
  - Vision
5. Some research projects proposed for the 40<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Doctorate, along with related researchers, are listed at the following webpage: [www.unitn.it/drcimec/research-topics](http://www.unitn.it/drcimec/research-topics). The topics listed there can be used as reference for the research project in your application (see Art. 4).  
The topic-specific grants that have been activated for the 40<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Doctorate can be found here at <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec/topic-specific-grants> along with their relative descriptions. These may be used as a reference for the research project in your application (see Art. 4).
6. **Lessons and all activities of the Doctorate are in English.**
7. Further details regarding the Student Handbook and study plan, the internal regulation, admission to the following years and title conferral, can be found on-line at <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec>.

## Art. 4 – APPLICATION

1. The application must be completed and submitted by **June 24, 2024 - 4:00 p.m. (Italian time)**, exclusively through the online system: <https://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott>.
2. Applicants can access the online registration procedure in one of the following ways<sup>4</sup>:
  - **with a SPID account or CIE** (Electronic Identity Card): those who have an Italian Tax Code (codice fiscale) and an Italian identity document must access the registration with CIE (more information are available at <https://www.cartaidentita.interno.gov.it/en/home/>) or with SPID, the Italian Public Digital Identity System, which automatically certifies the identity of the person on the UniTrento systems and sets up an @unitn.it account.  
To request the SPID identity (useful for accessing various online services of the Italian Public Administration), please consult the website <https://www.spid.gov.it/en/what-is-spid/how-to-activate-spid/>
  - **with a UniTrento account**: those who already have an account issued by the University can access the registration procedure with the username they already have (name.surname@unitn.it).  
If you do not remember your password or for further information on UniTrento username and password: [Account@unitn.it](mailto:Account@unitn.it)
  - **registration of UniTrento "guest" accounts**: anyone who does not have an Italian Tax Code can register a temporary account as a "guest". After enrollment, this account will be converted into a definitive @unitn.it account.  
To register a guest account: <https://webapps.unitn.it/Registration/en/Home>.
3. Participation in the selection process is subject to the payment of a non-reimbursable application fee of **€15.00 (fifteen) by pagoPa system<sup>5</sup>**, as indicated in the appropriate section of the application ('Selection participation fee').
4. **Applicants are highly recommended to check that they have received the notification email confirming that their application has been successfully completed and submitted.**  
**UniTrento Administration is not responsible for all those applications not properly closed by candidates.**
5. Candidates will be considered totally responsible of their applications. Incomplete or irregular applications, missing attachments, non-payment of the participation fee, or applications transmitted in ways other than those set out in this article, shall not be considered valid and candidates will consequently be excluded from the selection process.
6. All applicants are admitted to the selection **conditionally upon ascertaining that they fulfil the admission requirements**.  
The University of Trento is entitled to verify the documents delivered pursuant to articles 71 et seq. of the Presidential Decree n. 445 of the 28.12.2000.
7. **A candidate whose submitted degree does not satisfy the requirements specified in art. 2 or if the information provided in the application is not true, may be excluded at any time from the selection process or even after enrolment and the beginning of the PhD course.**
8. According to Italian Law n. 104/92, Art. 20 and to Italian Law n. 68/99, Art. 16 (1), applicants with special needs or with learning disabilities, according to their particular disability may explicitly request special assistance or extra time during the examinations in their online application. All personal data will be processed in compliance with the regulations in force as indicated in the information on the processing of personal data (art. 11 of this call).
9. The application is to be considered for all purposes of the law as a self-certification of personal data and declared qualifications.

<sup>4</sup> To those who need a guest account we suggest to register well in advance of the deadline. It can take up to three working days for credentials to be issued.

<sup>5</sup> More information at <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd-pagopa>.

10. **COMPULSORY ATTACHMENTS** (failure to upload one or more compulsory attachments results in exclusion from the selection)<sup>6</sup>:

1) **Identity document (ID):**

copy of the **identity card** (for EU citizens) **or passport** (pages with photo, personal data, signature, place and time of issue of the document, expiration date of the document);

2) Documents related to the **academic degree**:

a. **Italian qualification**

▪ **already obtained/to be obtained**: a **self-declaration** (by using [Form A](#), “Declaration substituting Degree Certificate”), according to the Presidential Decree Article 46 n. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, stating:

- the possession / not possession of the degree (see Art. 2),
- type of degree / degree to be obtained,
- “Classe di laurea”,
- award date and final grade / possible award date,
- issuing University,
- list of exams, date taken, credits and grades obtained. (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),

***Italian degree applicants who have not yet obtained their degree, who expect to complete it by October 31, 2024 and therefore “conditionally” admitted to the selection, need also to provide a statement from the thesis supervisor or other academic/administrative supervisor/staff declaring that conferral of the University degree will occur by October 31, 2024.***

b. **Foreign qualification**

▪ **already obtained/to be 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;
- the **list of examinations** taken to obtain the qualification to access a Doctoral 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.

If the foreign academic qualification has already been recognized as equivalent<sup>7</sup> to a second cycle Italian qualification **by the competent academic bodies of Italian universities**, the equivalence provision (Rectoral Decree) must be attached in the appropriate section of the online application.

▪ **to be obtained** (the following two points refer to foreign degree applicants who have not yet obtained their degree, who expect to complete it by October 31, 2024 and are therefore “conditionally” admitted to the selection):

- a **certificate of enrolment in a course of study that allows admission to a Doctoral Programme** (see art. 2 paragraph 1 letter c), with a **list of the examinations** successfully passed, credits obtained in each examination (if provided for in the university system of the country that awarded the qualification), marks, rating scale (academic transcript of records) 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.
- a letter signed by the thesis supervisor or other academic/administrative supervisor/staff stating that the candidate will obtain the academic title **by October 31, 2024**.

If the aforementioned documents are different from Italian or 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.

In addition, if available, also the following documents:

- Academic degree (diploma) of the required title (Master of Science/Art or equivalent) in the original language;
- *Diploma Supplement*<sup>8</sup>(according to the model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPES), or:

<sup>6</sup> The list of candidates (identified by their ID #) who are not deemed eligible due to an incomplete application, will be published on the University's web address <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1942>.

<sup>7</sup> Details at <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico>

<sup>8</sup> The Diploma Supplement is a document attached to the final qualification, intended to improve international “transparency” and to facilitate academic and professional qualification recognition (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). The Diploma Supplement must be issued by the same institution which has given the diploma. <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/diploma-supplement.aspx>

- *Declaration of value*<sup>9</sup> which certifies that the educational qualification is valid in the country of achievement for being admitted to Doctoral programme (third level of higher education according to the Bologna Process - European Higher Education Area; EQF level 8), or:
  - the *Statement of comparability - university qualification*<sup>10</sup> awarded by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification.
- 3) **Curriculum vitae** in English, up-to-date and dated (preferably based on the [Europass model](#)), including any other academic titles or qualifications obtained (such as II level Masters degrees, Doctorates, specializations, high level specialty courses, etc.). Further declarations from the candidate pertaining to previous experiences are filled out by the candidates in the online application "Curriculum Statement" section.
- 4) **Anonymous Research Statement** ([downloadable here](#)) in English that consists in **Part A** – Background and Motivation Letter; **Part B** – Statement of Research Interest, and **Part C** – Research Project Proposal. The aim of the research project proposal is such that the applicant may demonstrate his/her ability to express and evaluate hypotheses. **Only one Research Statement is allowed per candidate**. Candidates are advised to consult <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec/research-topics>, which lists the research topics of the Doctorate and relative proponent (potential supervisor of the thesis), as well as <http://www.unitn.it/drcimec/topic-specific-grants> which lists topic-specific grants, their descriptions and supervisors. With the exception of topic-specific grants, the candidate should be aware that pointing out potential supervisor/s in the application is in no way binding to the actual final appointment of the supervisor on behalf of the Doctoral Programme Committee.
11. In a specific section of the online application you will be also required to declare that your knowledge of the **English language** is equal to or above CEFR B2 level. Advanced knowledge of the English language is a **fundamental prerequisite** in order to participate in the PhD programme. In this section it will also be possible to upload, if available, a certificate<sup>11</sup> proving your level of English knowledge or a document proving that you attended a High School, Bachelor's or Master's level course entirely in English. If no English certificate is provided then the candidate's English knowledge will be tested during the interview.
12. **OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:**
- other titles, such as international tests (i.e. GRE or equivalent);
  - other documentation useful to attest the candidate's research skills and abilities (documentation pertaining to awards, academic activity and post-degree research, etc).
  - Up to **two Academic Reference Forms**<sup>12</sup> filled out by experts structured as University staff or in national or international research organizations. Within 24 hours of completing and saving the online *Referees* section, the online application system sends an email directly to *Referees* chosen by the applicant with the attached form and instructions on filling it out and transmitting it to the University. It is highly recommended that applicants verify that their *Referees* send the *Academic Reference Forms* no later than **June 28, 2024**.
13. Should candidates wish to add and/or change further documentation to the application after having already submitted the application, they may do so **by the deadline of the selection announcement** emailing [ateneo@unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@unitn.it). **The subject line should be:** *Application ID - Candidate's Last Name and Name – Doctoral Course in Cognitive and Brain Sciences 40<sup>h</sup> cycle - "integrazione domanda"*; and the body of the email should contain a note explaining the purpose of the additional or changed attached documentation<sup>13</sup>.
- Documentation sent by other means** (e.g.: email to [phd.cimec@unitn.it](mailto:phd.cimec@unitn.it)) **will not be accepted**.

## Art. 5 – APPLICANT EVALUATION

1. The evaluation of the applications is carried out by an Admissions Committee, appointed by the Rector. It consists of at least three members chosen among Italian and foreign professors and researchers, qualified in the scientific fields related to the Doctorate. The Committee may also include up to two experts, even foreign, selected from either public or private national and international research institutes.
2. The selection exams are intended to assess the applicant's preparation and aptitude towards scientific research with specific reference to the chosen research topic.
3. The selection takes place as follows:
  - evaluation of the qualifications and the Research Statement presented by the candidate in the application (described above in Art. 4.10) on the basis of criteria established at the beginning of the selection process by the Admissions Committee;
  - an oral examination in English intended to assess the basic knowledge, the aptitude of the candidate and the Research Statement submitted.
 Active and passive English language skills of the candidate will also be verified.
4. Candidates who intend to compete also for a topic-specific grant, indicated in article n.1 of this call, must express their interest in the online application, by choosing a topic and by proposing a project relative to that topic.

<sup>9</sup> See: <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/procedure-di-riconoscimento-dei-titoli/glossario.aspx>; <http://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studying/info-07.html>

<sup>10</sup> The University of Trento signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association for the evaluation and verification services of foreign qualifications through the use of the Diplome platform. For the issue of ENIC-NARIC certificates, the University of Trento activated a collaboration with CIMEA. Further information is available at: <https://international.unitn.it/incoming/diploma-verification>.

<sup>11</sup> List of [international certifications](#) recognized by the University of Trento.

<sup>12</sup> In case the two reference forms are not available the candidate will not be excluded by the selection procedure.

<sup>13</sup> Please verify that the file name is suitable and accurate.



5. Candidates may also opt for a topic-specific grant made available after the deadline of this call. In order to be considered for the additional topic-specific grant/s, the candidates must express their intention to the Committee following the instructions on the [selection's webpage](#).  
Candidates who compete also for a topic-specific grant will be evaluated on the knowledge of the specific subject matter(s) of that grant.
6. The option for a topic-specific grant expressed by a candidate implies the preference of the candidate for the award of that specific scholarship with respect to all others.
7. The Admissions Committee has an overall score of 120 points available, partitioned in the following way:
  - 60 points for the qualification's assessment;
  - 60 points for the oral examination.
 In order to be admitted to the oral examination candidates must obtain a minimum score of 36/60 from the qualifications assessment.
8. The results of the qualifications assessment will be published at <http://www.unitn.it/en/ateneo/1942/announcement-of-selection>.
9. The oral exam is aimed at verifying the level of knowledge held in the scientific discipline of the research project presented; Candidates who do not upload to the online application English language certification equal to or above CEFR B2 level will be evaluated for their knowledge of active and passive English by the committee during the oral examination.
10. The candidate may choose to be interviewed in one of the following two ways:
  - a) in presence, at the University of Trento, CIMEC, Palazzo Fedrigotti, Rovereto (TN).  
In this case the candidate must show a suitable identification document. The candidate's absence at the interview will be considered as renunciation of participation in the selection, whatever the cause;
  - b) by videoconference through the use of audio-video connection tools that allow the correct identification of the participants (through a webcam) in a public setting. The starting time of the interviews are established by the Commission. Candidates must first provide the same identity document attached to the application. Failure to connect or unavailability at the established date and time, or not providing the identification document, will result in exclusion from the selection. The University assumes no responsibility in the event of technical problems that do not guarantee the proper conduct of the oral exam.
11. The indication of the date and time and of the place (seat of the University of Trento, if chosen to in presence) where the oral exam will be held, will be made known at least 20 days before with a notice published on the [selection's website](#). Any changes in the date of the examination will be published on this same web page.
12. The oral examination is considered passed with a minimum score of 36/60.

## Art. 6 – RANKING

1. The Admissions Committee draws up a merit-based ranking according to the scores obtained by the applicants from the qualifications assessment, the project (anonymous research statement, **Part C** – Research Project Proposal) and the interview.
2. Scholarships are assigned to eligible candidates based on:
  - a) ranking;
  - b) candidate eligibility for topic-specific grants. Please note that topic-specific grants are assigned following the ranking and until their maximum number is filled. Where possible, scholarships will be assigned according to the preference expressed by the candidate in the application.
3. The candidate who has been awarded a topic-specific grant, must accept it since the choice for a topic-specific grant he/she expressed implies the candidate's preference for the award of that specific scholarship with respect to the others. Renouncing the topic-specific grant implies the exclusion of the candidate from the right to enroll in the PhD Programme.
4. Unassigned topic-specific grants will result in the reduction of positions available.
5. The ranked list (using candidates' application IDs) will be published on the [selection's website](#).  
**By publishing the ranking, notification concerning the selection results is considered fulfilled.**  
**Admitted candidates will not receive any personal messages.**

## Art. 7 – ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFER

1. Applicants will be admitted to the Doctorate according to their rank in the final score list and until all available and eligible positions have been filled.
2. Should two candidates obtain the same score, the candidates' economic situations shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the criteria established by the D.P.C.M. of 9 April 2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations.
3. If an eligible applicant withdraws before the beginning of the Programme (*1 November 2024*), the next applicant in the ranking list will be offered the place.  
This candidate is expected to accept the offer **within 8 days** from the day after having received the notice from the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities.  
If an eligible applicant withdraws or is excluded in the first three-month term of the first year, the Doctoral Programme Committee may decide to fill the vacancy with another candidate next in rank in the final score list.
4. Successful candidates must confirm that they accept the PhD place offered **within 8 days** of publication of the shortlist. Offers are accepted online and instructions can be found at: <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1928>. Successful candidates who fail to submit their acceptance according to the terms and procedures set out in this paragraph, lose their right to enrol. Their places will be made available to other eligible candidates, in order of their position on the shortlist.

5. Admitted applicants with a qualification that has not been awarded in Italy must deliver to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities, in advance by email ([phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)) if they had not already done so during the application phase, the following documents **by 8 November 2024**:
  - original or certified copy of the **academic diploma of the Master degree** (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent) **together with the academic transcript of records**, possible official translations<sup>14</sup>, legalised<sup>15</sup> or with an apostille affixed (verify the fulfilment of the requirements set by the issuing country of the title);
  - **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** issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular representations country of origin of the institution that issued the title;
 alternatively
  - **Statement of comparability of foreign university qualifications**<sup>16</sup> issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA<sup>17</sup>) 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 8 November 2024, 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 8 November 2024** will be “conditional” and the applicants will be excluded from the Doctoral Programme if:

- they do not deliver the documents within 6 months from the starting date of the Programme;
- upon verification, their title is not in compliance with the requirements of this call's selection.

Forfeiture from the course will result in the obligation to return any monthly scholarship money received.

## Art. 8 – SUPERNUMERARY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH POSITIONS

1. According to Art. 18, § 3 of the University Regulations for Doctorates of Research, the Admissions Committee may admit up to 1 **supernumerary** position without a scholarship of the University of Trento, if such candidate coincides with one of the following cases:
  - a) foreign nationality, eligible in the general ranking, 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 (*Assegnisti di ricerca*) whose contract lasts for a minimum of 24 months as from the starting date of the Programme and researching a subject relevant to the PhD Programme; such relevance has to be determined by the Doctoral Programme Committee;
  - d) employees in the public sector or in the state legal system. Admission is dependent on candidates being given leave of absence or exceptional leave, in accordance with article 2 of the Law of 13 August 1984, n. 476 and subsequent revisions<sup>18</sup>.
2. Candidates who wish to assert their requirements for supernumerary positions shall request, by submission of appropriate documentation proving their status to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities (email: [phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)), their acceptance of such admission also **within 8 days** starting from the day following publication of the ranking.
3. Supernumerary admission acceptance is disposed within the limit of the positions specified in art. 1 following the order of the final ranking.
4. After verifying the documents referred to in paragraph 2, the candidates who will be admitted supernumerary will receive email confirmation from the Humanities and Cognitive Sciences Area - PhD Office and must declare acceptance of the position, by using the appropriate procedure online (see art. 7, 4), within 8 days from the day following the day of receipt of such notice.

## Art. 9 – ENROLMENT

1. The official registration in the doctorate, limited to short-listed candidates who have accepted the position according to the procedures in the preceding article, will automatically be made official as soon as the PhD Programmes' requirements verification by the Ministry of Education, University and Research for the a.y. 2024-2025 has been completed.

<sup>14</sup> Details at: <https://www.esteri.it/it/servizi-consolari-e-visti/italiani-all-estero/traduzione-e-legalizzazione-documenti/>

<sup>15</sup> Details at: <https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studying/info-13.html>

<sup>16</sup> For the countries that are signatories to the Lisbon Recognition Convention listed in the *Automatic Recognition Database* <https://ardi.cimea.it/it>, developed by CIMEA experts, it is possible to download a *Statement of Correspondence* by type of qualification of the country whose education system the qualification refers to. The document produced by this ARDI platform does not provide statements of comparability for individual qualifications but describes the main types of academic and final upper secondary school qualifications from the countries that have signed the Lisbon Convention and provides a comparative opinion on their correspondence with Italian qualifications. The aforementioned statement of correspondence produced by the ARDI platform does not in any case constitute proof that the individual qualification is effectively comparable to the “corresponding” qualification referred to in Article 3 of this call; therefore, the University reserves the right to request any further documentation useful for meeting the qualification requirement for access to the PhD programme.

<sup>17</sup> For evaluation services and for the purpose of evaluating foreign degrees through the use of the *Diplome* platform, see: <https://international.unitn.it/incoming/diploma-verification>.

<sup>18</sup> Neither public employees who have already been awarded PhDs, nor those who have been enrolled on a PhD Programme for at least one academic year (having been granted exceptional leave), are entitled to exceptional leave, either with or without research grants, whatever their subject area.



2. In case of no conferrable accreditation, candidates who have accepted the position will receive a timely notification via email and the fee for the Right to Education (TDS) will be refunded.
3. To complete the enrolment, the candidate who has obtained the qualification abroad, upon arrival in Italy, will have to show the official documents (in original or copy conforming to the original), relating to the academic path, already anticipated in a scanned form in phase of admission to the competition or during the matriculation process, to allow the appropriate verification of the validity of the qualifications, also through the national information centers on the recognition of foreign securities belonging to the ENIC-NARIC network. Until such time candidates are admitted to the course with reserve and may be excluded if they do not meet the requirements.

## **Art. 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

1. Without prejudice to the Italian law on copyright (legislative decree 633/1941 and subsequent amendments), intellectual and industrial property rights on the results eventually achieved by the PhD student, including (but not limited to) software, industrial inventions patentable or not, 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 entities involved<sup>19</sup>.
2. Before the start of the research activity, the doctoral student is required to sign a specific declaration of commitment to confidentiality in relation to the information, data and documents of a confidential nature that he / she may become aware of in carrying out his / her activity at and / or on behalf of the University. At the same time, each PhD student is required to sign a specific declaration of transfer of intellectual property rights to the University, so that they are aware of the application of the relevant legislation and the University Regulations on intellectual property and possibly a confidentiality agreement with the funding body, if required, if the position is funded by an entity external to the University.

## **Art. 11 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

In compliance to Article 13 of the “General Data Protection Regulation” (hereinafter, GDPR), the University of Trento provides to persons who want to participate in the selection procedures to be admitted to Doctoral Programmes (hereinafter “Data subjects”) with the following information.

### **1. Data Controller**

The Data Controller is the **University of Trento**, via Calepina n. 14, 38122 Trento (TN); email: [ateneo@pec.unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@pec.unitn.it); [ateneo@unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@unitn.it).

### **2. Contact details of the Data Protection Officer**

The data subjects may contact the Data Protection Officer (**DPO or RPD**) to have information about processing of their personal data by writing to: [rpd@unitn.it](mailto:rpd@unitn.it).

### **3. Purpose of the processing and legal basis**

The University of Trento processes personal data as part of the performance of its public interest tasks and, in particular, for the purposes of carrying out this selection procedure and complying with a legal obligation (Art. 6, par. 1, lett. e) and c); Art. 9, par. 2, lett. g) of the GDPR).

### **4. Nature of the provision of data**

The provision of personal data is necessary for participation in this procedure and failure to provide such data will result in the impossibility of taking part. The provision of special health-related data (for candidates with disabilities) is optional, but failure to provide it will result in the impossibility of accessing the requested support tools.

### **5. Data processing methods**

The processing of personal data shall be carried out manually, by automated means and/or by telematic means by authorised staff according to their tasks and in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, correctness, transparency, adequacy, relevance, accuracy, integrity and confidentiality (GDPR, art. 5, par.1.). No automated decision-making processes, including profiling, are carried out.

### **6. Categories of recipients**

In addition to all the University personnel acting for the above-mentioned purposes, personal data may be disclosed to third parties, public and private entities (es. MUR, ANVUR) in order to fulfil the abovementioned purposes, including any financing subject in relation to the funded scholarships. Personal data may also be disclosed to third parties in compliance with a legal obligations and/or provisions of the Public Security/Judicial Authorities.

### **7. Transfer to non-EU countries**

If, within the abovementioned purposes, personal data are transferred to non-EU countries, this transfer will be performed within the limits and under the terms as per art. 44 and seq. of the GDPR.

### **8. Data retention period**

Personal data will be stored as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes of this procedure, and anyway, as long as it is necessary by law. In any case data will be stored for the time indicated by the current law and/or by the University regulations on managing and storage of documents issued by the University within its institutional activities.

### **9. Rights of the Data subjects**

Data subjects may exercise the rights referred to in Articles 15 et seq. of the GDPR at any time.

In particular, data subjects have the right to obtain from the Data Controller the access, the rectification or the integration of personal data and, if the legal requirements are met, the erasure, the limitation or the opposition to the data processing operation.

In case there is an infringement of the GDPR on the processing of personal data, Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority by virtue of article 77 of the GDPR or to engage in legal proceedings

<sup>19</sup> See [Protection and valorisation of intellectual property](#)

## **Art. 12 - REGULATIONS**

1. For matters not explicitly mentioned in this selection announcement, refer to art. 4 of Law n. 210 of 03.07.1998 as amended in Art. 19, paragraph 1, of the Law of 30 December 2010, n. 240, to the Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 14.12.2021, to the University Regulations on Doctorates of Research of the University of Trento issued with the Rector's Decree n. 250 of 11.03.2022 subsequently amended, to the Students Honour Code issued with the Rector's Decree n. 416 of 13 June 2016 and to the Internal Regulations of the Doctorate in Cognitive and Brain Sciences approved by the CIMEC's Board.
2. The call will be published on the University of Trento, Euraxess and Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research's websites.
3. The person responsible for the administrative procedure is the Head of the Education and Student Services Management of the University of Trento. The reference office is the PhD Office Humanities and Cognitive Science Area ([phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)). The Selection Committee is responsible for the applications selection procedure, from the evaluation of the qualifications to the interview, from the drafting of the minutes to the formulation of the merit rankings.
4. Potential changes or improvements to the call will be published at <http://www.unitn.it/en/node/1942>.