

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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## Admission to the Doctoral Programme in

### Biomolecular Sciences

### 40th cycle

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

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**N.B. Please note that only the Italian version of the present call issued with Rector's Decree no. 524 of 10/05/2024 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 applications for the admission to the 40<sup>th</sup> Cycle (Academic Year 2024/2025) of the Doctoral Programme in “Biomolecular Sciences” as follows.

**Deadline for application: June, 17th 2024, hrs. 4.00 PM (Italian time, GMT +2, all the times indicated in this announcement are to be meant as Italian time)**

**Positions:** no. 21

**Scholarships:** no. 19 (of which nr. 14 on reserved topics)

**Positions without scholarship:** no. 2

**Supernumerary positions without scholarship:** no. 2 (see art. 8 of the present Call)

Positions are divided as follows:

Financer	No. of scholarships	ID scholarship	Possible reserved topic
University of Trento	5	<b>Please note:</b> The winner of each scholarship will choose the laboratory where he/she will carry out his/her research activity, after a short Lab Rotation, from the list available in the document called “Laboratories”.	
MUR-funded grants - Departments of Excellence. Funding allocated by the MUR under the intervention "Departments of Excellence 2024-2027 (Law 232/2016)," Department of Computational and Integrated Cell Biology CUP no. E63C22003870001	1	<b>A</b>	<b>Biomolecular Sciences Curriculum.</b> The winner will choose from the list available in the document called “Reserved scholarships A”, and following brief "Lab Rotation," the research project.
	1	<b>B</b>	<b>Bio-Industry Curriculum.</b> The winner will choose from the list available in the document called “Reserved scholarships B”, and following brief "Lab Rotation," the research project.
	1	<b>C</b>	<b>Quantitative Biology Curriculum.</b> The winner will choose from the list available in the document called “Reserved scholarships C”, and following brief "Lab Rotation," the research project.
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project AIRC IG 2022, CUP n. E63C22003090007	1	<b>D</b>	Turning protumoral mechanisms into lethal pathways (Scientific coordinator: Andrea Lunardi)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project UE HE Bio-HhOst, GA n°101130747 – CUP n. E63C23001530006 e AIRC IG 2022 – CUP n. E63C22003170007	1	<b>E</b>	Analysis of NGS data for cancer immunology, immunotherapy and artificial cells modifications (Scientific coordinator: Luca Tiberi)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project UE HE ERC MICROTOUCH – CUP E63C22001400006	1	<b>F</b>	High-resolution computational metagenomics for the study of the transmission of the human microbiome (Scientific coordinator: Nicola Segata)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project UE HE DOMINO – CUP E63C22003040006	1	<b>G</b>	Large-scale strain-level metagenomic analysis of food-associated microbial communities and their links with the human and animal microbiome (Scientific coordinator: Nicola Segata)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project AIRC IG 2023 – CUP E63C23001790007	1	<b>H</b>	Characterization of the molecular underpinning of PARPi resistance through computational approaches and multi-omics data from cell free DNA of prostate cancer patients enrolled in a multi-institutional clinical trial (Scientific coordinator: Francesca Demichelis)



Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project PAT APSS TOVEL – CUP C43C23000360003	1	I	Radiobiological studies in cardiac cells: unraveling the molecular mechanisms of proton radiosurgery of lethal arrhythmias (Scientific coordinator: Falvia Ravelli)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology - Project AIRC MFAG 2020 – CUP E65F20001560007	1	J	Analysis of multimodal single-cell and spatially resolved data in human diseases (Scientific coordinator: Toma Tebaldi)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology Project financed by GSK VACCINES Srl	1	K	Investigation of the whole genome diversity of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) clinically relevant bacterial species and identification/validation of AMR-associated genes (Scientific coordinators: Orietta Massidda, Nicola Segata)
Fondazione The Microsoft Research – University of Trento Centre for Computational and Systems Biology (COSBI)	1	L	Integrating systems biology and modeling to investigate risk factors in the development and progression of Parkinson's disease (Scientific coordinator: Enrico Domenici)
Fondazione The Microsoft Research – University of Trento Centre for Computational and Systems Biology (COSBI) & Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology – Project R3 Wleap Marchetti – CUP E65F21004070007	1	M	Applications of multi-scale mathematical modeling to the analysis of the immune response (Scientific coordinator: Luca Marchetti)
Department of Cellular Computational and Integrative Biology Project CHARTER (Bando a cascata PNRR – PE MNESYS – Spoke 1) PE00000006 – CUP D93C22000930002 & Project MONAD PRIN 2022 PNRR (D.D. 1409/22) P20229PKZC – CUP E53D23015190001	1	N	RNA Therapeutics for neurodevelopmental disorders (Scientific coordinator: Michela Alessandra Denti). Please check on page 4.
Positions without scholarship	2		
<b>Total open positions</b>	19		
<b>Supernumerary positions without scholarship (art. 7 / 8):</b>	2		



According to the Directorial Grant Decree 1365/2023 and the so called Atto d'obbligo signed between University of Parma and the University of Trento of the 10/04/2024, no. **1 position supported by a scholarship under PRIN 2022 NRPP Mission 4, Component 2 INV. 1.1 and on Cascade Funding CHARTER NRPP Mission 4, Component 2, INV. 1.3 is published.**

The research projects related to the individual scholarship referred to in the previous paragraph must comply with the following requirements set forth by the PNRR funding:

- be coherent with the EU Regulations 2021/241 goals and purposes, with the NRRP general strategy and the specific NRRP mission;
- be focused on achieving the results possibly set by the NRRP targets and milestones;
- be compliant with the principle of "do not significant harm" (DNSH) according to art. 17 of the EU Regulations 2020/852 and with the technical directions given by the European Commission (European Commission Notice 2021/C58/01);
- be suitable to deal with and to fill the gap of gender inequality;
- support the participation of women and young people in the management of the NRRP, also according to the Legislative Decree of May 31, 2021, no. 77 (so called Decreto Semplificazioni), as modified by Conversion Law of July 28, 2021, no. 108.

The selection and the assignment of the additional scholarship can be only on the specific reserved topic described in the attachment "Research subjects" available at the selection webpage and summarized as follows:

Project	N.	Possible reserved topic
CHARTER: "Chemistry and High-frequency oscillatory motion for the formulation in non-viral particles of Antisense RNA Therapeutics for neurodevelopmental disorders." (Bando a cascata PNRR – PE MNESYS – Spoke 1) PE00000006 – CUP D93C22000930002 & MONAD: Combining tailored in silico, in vitro and in vivo models to unveil new NKTR functions associated with rare neurodevelopmental disorders PRIN 2022 PNRR (D.D. 1409/22) P20229PKZC – CUP E53D23015190001	1	N - RNA Therapeutics for neurodevelopmental disorders (Scientific coordinator: Michela Alessandra Denti)

The applicants are aware that the scholarship will be revoked in case:

- there are differences in the realisation of the doctoral path compared to the financed project, in case there is no approval of the changes from the Ministry



The applicant may express interest in specific research topic fellowships, which are conditioned on the performance of a specific research topic for which particular skills are required.

Places covered by thematically bound fellowships may be awarded only to those who specifically apply for them.

Applicants interested in one or more reserved positions should check carefully what topics and skills are required and whether the positions are conditional on the acceptance of confidentiality and/or assignment of results specified in the reserved topic scholarship document.

Positions with scholarships or covered by any other forms of financial support may be increased due to funding that becomes available after the issuance of this call for applications and before the valuation of qualifications. All new available positions will be posted exclusively on the selection website.

**Additional positions: for the positions with reserved topic scholarships that will be available after the publication of this announcement (and published on the selection webpage), it will be possible to apply by indicating in the online application the identifying letter of the chosen scholarship as published on the selection webpage.**

Applicants who, at the time of the publication of the additional fellowships, had already closed the online application may give notice of their interest by sending an appropriate email of integration to the doctoral secretariat ([phd.bioscie@unitn.it](mailto:phd.bioscie@unitn.it)), possibly changing the order of preference previously indicated.

Applicants will still confirm their interest for the reserved topic scholarships, and the order of priority before the interview is held.

Moreover, applicants 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 40<sup>th</sup> Cycle in additional positions.

**Duration:** Three years

**Start of the Academic Year:** November 1st, 2024

**Official language:** English

**Selection webpage:** [Doctoral Programme in Biomolecular Sciences](#)

**Doctoral Programme website:** [Doctoral programme - Biomolecular Sciences](#) (information on the Programme, admission to subsequent years and to the final examination)

**Curricula activated:** the Doctoral Programme consists of three curricula including different scientific areas:

- 1) Curriculum in Biomolecular Sciences
- 2) Curriculum in Bio - Industry
- 3) Curriculum in Quantitative Biology

- [Rights and duties of doctoral students](#)
- [Info about doctoral scholarships](#)
- [Scientific areas](#) (with reference to the Italian Ministerial classification)

**Important:**

- 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 solely on the selection webpage; the applicants **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, and no personal communication will be sent.
- b. Possible communication related to the call for selection will be sent by e-mail to the applicant's personal email address connected to the account registered by the system when closing the application. Applicants with an active or just concluded career at the University of Trento are advised to check their personal email address at the link: [Profile data for the account](#). In case you need to change your personal email address after the application closure, please send a request to the Doctorate Office S&T ([phd.office-st@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it)).



## Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applications for doctoral positions are accepted from applicants, regardless of gender, age, and nationality, who hold:
  - 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
  - a university degree obtained at an Italian Institution belonging to the AFAM system (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale);  
or
  - an equivalent foreign degree (*Master’s degree*) obtained at an officially recognized academic institution, valid for admission to Doctoral studies in the Country it has been issued (except for substantial differences) and similar (duration and level) to the Italian degree, recognized as eligible<sup>1</sup> by the Selection Committee for the sole purpose of accessing this specific Doctoral Programme<sup>2</sup>.
- Applications are also accepted from students expected to obtain the necessary degree **by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. 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](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it)) **by November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on penalty of exclusion**, the certificate awarded or a self-declaration (using the [Declaration substituting Degree Certificate](#), also available within the application online).
- Applicants with a foreign qualification that has not been officially recognized as **equivalent**<sup>3</sup> to a second cycle 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.
- Applicants who have already obtained the Doctoral degree will be admitted to attend a second Doctoral Programme, after passing the selection procedure, provided that the prevailing subjects and scientific areas are different from those relating to the previous Doctoral degree. Applicants who have already benefited from a scholarship, even partially, cannot be assigned any scholarships in the new Doctoral Programme.

## Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- The application<sup>4</sup> must be completed and submitted **by hrs. 04.00 p.m. Italian time of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, exclusively through the online system: [Doctoral Programmes Applications](#)**  
Authentication to the registration procedure is possible through:
  - SPID**<sup>5</sup>; to access the registration procedure we advise to use SPID, the Italian Public Digital Identity System, which automatically certifies the applicant’s identity on the UniTrento systems and sets up an account as @unitn.it. To request a SPID identity (useful to access different online services of the Italian Public Administration) it is mandatory to hold an Italian identity document and a tax code: please visit the webpage [How to activate the SPID identity](#);
  - University of Trento account**: for those who do not have SPID identity but already have a University of Trento account can access the application procedure with their existing username ([name.surname@unitn.it](#)). Please check [Account@unitn.it](#) if you **forgot your password** and to have more information on UniTrento;
  - a UniTrento “guest” temporary account**: only those who do not have an Italian tax code or a University of Trento account can set up a temporary “guest” account. After the matriculation, this account will be converted into a final one as @unitn.it. Procedure at: [Account registration info](#).
- To finalize the application, a non-refundable **fee of € 15** (fifteen) is to be paid by **PagoPA payment system**<sup>6</sup> according to the instructions given in the appropriate section of the online application.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Details at: <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/qualifiche-del-sistema-universitario.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> For further information see at <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/procedure-di-riconoscimento-dei-titoli/procedure-di-riconoscimento-accademico-dei-titoli.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> The applicant can choose either Italian or English to fill in the application online.

<sup>5</sup> For more info visit the website: <https://www.spid.gov.it/en/what-is-spid/>

<sup>6</sup> Further information about PagoPA service at: <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd-pagopa>



3. **The online application is considered to be a self-declaration of personal data and qualifications with full legal effect.** It is the applicant's sole responsibility to ensure that the online application has been successfully submitted and an email notification has been received. **There will be no liability with the University if an application is not submitted correctly.**
4. When filling out the online application form, applicants are invited to express their preference for at least one of the three curricula that characterize the Doctoral Programme and to explain the reasons for the choice in the motivation letter (see point F in this article below).  
Those wishing to compete for one or more reserved topic scholarships should declare this when completing the online application. Up to 3 reserved scholarships may be selected from those proposed. Regarding additional reserved scholarships added after the publication of this Call (additional positions), applicants will be required to express or confirm their interest before the oral interview. During the interview, applicant eligibility for the additional reserved scholarship/s will be specifically evaluated.

**Important:** the candidate's choice to compete also for the reserved scholarships implies the priority of awarding the reserved scholarships over the unspecified theme scholarships (the five positions with Trento University as the sole sponsor).

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

**A. 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;

**B. Academic degree for admission to the Doctoral Programme:**

**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*", issuing University, award date and final grade/possible award date, examinations taken, dates of successful pass, grades and credits obtained (by using the form "[Declaration substituting](#)"); graduates from the University of Trento may declare the place and the date of award/foreseen date of award as the other information can be collected ex officio;

**b. foreign qualification<sup>7</sup>:**

• **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 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 country's university system 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 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.

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](#) containing:

1. all academic degrees held and any university enrolments in progress must be specified in detail (please also specify the High School diploma details);
2. details on research experience and period spent abroad
3. possible list of publications. Please only attach some of the publications, the Selection Committee will evaluate only the list.

<sup>7</sup> 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. **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 3,000 characters, spaces included);
- E. **English language certification establishing a minimum level of B1** according to CEFR<sup>8</sup>. The following exceptions are accepted:
- applicants who are native speakers of English must attach a declaration to this effect
  - applicants who attended a Bachelor's or Master's level course taught entirely in English must attach a self-declaration stating that the courses were held in English, mentioning the University webpage where the information about the official language is provided
  - if the applicant studied or carried out research abroad for 6 months minimum in a country where English proficiency is required, a certification by the institution where the applicant 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 applicant passed one or more English language examinations at level B1 during Bachelor's 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);
- F. **Motivation letter** written in English describing the applicant's reasons for pursuing the Doctoral Programme in Biomolecular Sciences at the University of Trento (max 3,000 characters spaces included). The letter must also include detailed reasons for the applicant's choice of the selected curriculum/a, and any experience acquired while conducting dissertation relevant to the chosen Curriculum, work or research related to Biomolecular Science topics.
- G. **Brief research project** written in English that will be used solely for evaluation purposes and will not be binding for the purposes of the possible research activities carried out by the applicant during the doctoral programme. The project may focus on a topic of interest of the applicant, possibly related to the core disciplines of the Doctoral Programme in Biomolecular Sciences. The project should not exceed two pages (about 4,000 characters, spaces included), divided into the following sections: "Background and Rationale" and "Objectives" and "Methodologies" of the project;
- H. **Referees: up to two (2) names of referees** working at universities or national and international research institutions, with details of their e-mail addresses. Once the relevant section of the application has been completed and saved by the applicant, the system automatically sends (within 24 hours) an e-mail with instructions and a forwarding method to the referee. Applicants are recommended to make sure that their referees submit the letter of presentation within **June 24<sup>th</sup> 2024**: although sending the letter is not a reason for exclusion, it will have a negative weight on the evaluation.

## 6. OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Any other title, as for example international certifications also about your linguistic competence (e.g. the certification of GRE test or similar);
- B. Other documents and qualifications deemed helpful for evaluation and to attest to the candidate's research aptitude (postgraduate study and research activities, language certifications, and scholarship certificates);
- C. Copy of bachelor's degree (undergraduate or bachelor's degree) and its transcript
- D. **Applicants with a foreign qualification** may attach
- **academic diploma of the Master's degree** (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent), in its original language and
  - **Diploma Supplement (DS)**<sup>9</sup> drafted according to the form developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPES;

alternatively

- **Declaration of value**<sup>10</sup>, 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

<sup>8</sup> Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, further information at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/>

<sup>9</sup> 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](http://ec.europa.eu/education/resources/diploma-supplement_en)

<sup>10</sup> Further information about DoV and equivalence: <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico-Point-3> Nostrification Procedure (equipollenza)



- **Statement of comparability of foreign university qualification<sup>11</sup>** issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary to assess the qualification. The University of Trento has signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association about evaluating and verifying foreign titles.

Suppose the foreign academic qualification has already been recognized as equivalent<sup>12</sup> to a second cycle Italian qualification by the competent academic bodies of Italian universities. In that case, the equivalence provision (**Rectoral Decree**) must be attached.

7. The University will accept additional documents to be included in the application submitted if sent by email to [ateneo@unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@unitn.it) (**Subject:** "Application ID number- applicant's Surname and Name – Doctoral Programme in Biomolecular Sciences – 40<sup>th</sup> cycle - Supplement to application") **by June 17th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Italian time.** Additional documents submitted by other means will be disregarded.
8. Only documents (originals or copies) in English and Italian will be considered 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 D, F, G must be submitted in English by all applicants.**

9. All applicants are admitted to the selection procedure **conditionally upon ascertainment that they fulfill the admission requirements (art. 2).** 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 applicants lacking the requirements specified in the present call.**
10. 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 Regulations for Doctoral Programmes. The Selection Committee sets the evaluation criteria during a preliminary meeting.
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 Doctoral Programme and the chosen research curricula.  
The selection is made on the basis of the assessment of:
  - All the mandatory applicant's qualifications listed in previous art. 3 (academic degree, research project, English knowledge, motivation letter, reference letters);
  - an interview, in English. The interview will assess the applicant's basic knowledge about the Doctorate scientific areas, the previous research and professional experience, and qualifications declared in the application. During the interview, candidate's eligibility for the reserved scholarships will be specifically evaluated.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the eligibility of the applicants for the position they showed their preference based on the documents (research project) they uploaded in the online application, or they sent lately as an integration.

**Important notice:** the applicant's choice to compete also for the reserved scholarships, implies the priority of awarding the reserved scholarships over the unspecified theme scholarships.

3. The Selection Committee will award a maximum of **100 points**, of which:
  - 0-60 points:** assessment of qualifications;
  - 0-40 points:** interview.

Applicants obtaining a minimum score of 40/60 for the assessment of qualifications will be admitted to the interview, which will be passed with a minimum score of 25/40. Applicants who have passed the interview and obtained an overall score of 65/100, will thus be short-listed.

4. The date of the assessment of qualifications will be announced at least 20 days in advance on the selection webpage.
5. The applicants can choose<sup>13</sup> to interview as follows:
  - a) **in person at the University of Trento;**

<sup>11</sup> The University of Trento has signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association about evaluating and verifying foreign titles through the online platform *Diplôme*. Further information at: <https://international.unitn.it/incoming/diploma-verification>

<sup>12</sup> Details at <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/procedure-di-riconoscimento-dei-titoli/procedure-di-riconoscimento-accademico-dei-titoli.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> The choice has to be made in the relevant section while applying online



- b) **online interview**: using audio-video connection tools that allow the correct identification of the participants (through a webcam), and the conduction of the oral test in a public form. The Selection Committee will decide the schedule of the interviews. The University is not responsible for any technical problems that could affect the correct ongoing of the interview. The interview date, time, and place will be posted on the call for selection website at least 20 days in advance: possible changes will be solely posted on the selection webpage.
- To simplify the identification procedures, the identification document shall be the one attached when filling in the online application. The applicant's not showing up or connecting for the interview, whatever the reason, or not being reachable on the day and at the time set for the examination, or not providing a valid identification document constitute grounds for exclusion.

#### Art. 5 – RANKINGS

1. At the end of the selection procedure, the Selection Committee draws up one general ranking list.
2. The available positions are assigned to short-listed applicants according to:
  - a) the position in the ranking list;
  - b) for reserved scholarships and positions reserved to applicants working for academic institutions or research centers, the applicant's eligibility for that specific position.
  - c) In case of equal score, see the following art. 6.
3. Non-allocated scholarships on reserved topics and positions without scholarships reserved to applicants working for academic institutions or research centers, will result in the reduction of the number of positions available.

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

1. Short-listed applicants are admitted to the Doctoral Programme based on the final ranking until all available positions have been filled. All applicants compete for the award of the scholarships funded by the University of Trento; however, applicants who have been awarded a scholarship on a specific reserved topic must accept it. Renunciation of the reserved scholarship implies the applicant's exclusion from the right to enroll in the Doctoral Programme.
2. Should two applicants obtain the same score, regarding the award of the scholarship, the applicants' 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. As for positions without scholarship, the younger of the two applicants will be selected.
3. Admitted applicants must send the acceptance of position following the instructions at "[Enrolment 1, 2, 3 year](#)":
  - **within 8 days** starting from the day following the publication of the final ranking lists on the selection website for **positions covered with scholarships or other form of financial support or position reserved to applicants working for academic institutions or research centres in Italy or abroad**;
  - **within 14 days** starting from the day following publication of the final ranking lists on the selection website for **other positions WITHOUT scholarships or any form of financial support**.

**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 (sending them in advance by email: [phd.office-st@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it)) by **November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**:

- **academic diploma of the Master's degree** (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent) in the original or certified copy, **together with the academic transcript of records**, possible official translations<sup>14</sup>, legalized or with an apostille affixed<sup>15</sup> (please carefully verify the fulfillment 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**<sup>16</sup> issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular representations country of origin of the institution that awarded the title

alternatively

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

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

<sup>16</sup> 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.



- **Statement of comparability of foreign university qualifications**<sup>17</sup> 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 November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 applicants who do not provide the required above-mentioned documents by November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 will be "conditional" and the applicants will lose their right to continue 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 for selection. In the case of loss of student status, the applicant must return the scholarship instalments eventually received.

4. Note that the acceptance of a position must include the payment of stamp duty and the payment of the "provincial tax for the right to higher education" - TDS<sup>18</sup> (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 accept the position by the above-mentioned deadlines will lose their right to registration, and their places will be offered to the next applicants on the relevant ranking.
6. If a successful applicant withdraws **before the beginning of the Doctoral Programme** (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024), the next applicant on the ranking will be offered the position, if entitled to it based on the eligibility assessment for reserved scholarships. The latter must submit his/her acceptance of the position **within 4 days** starting from the day after the communication from the Doctorate Office S&T is sent.
7. If a successful applicant withdraws or is excluded after the beginning of the Doctoral Programme and **during the first three months of the first year**, the Doctoral Committee may decide to fill the vacancy with the next applicant on the (relevant) ranking, considering the acquired eligibility for reserved scholarships.
8. At the end of the enrolment period, doctoral students must communicate via e-mail ([phd.bioscie@unitn.it](mailto:phd.bioscie@unitn.it)) to the Doctoral Programme Secretariat the exact date of their arrival in Trento. Doctoral students who cannot be, for justified reasons, in Trento at the beginning of the academic year, must submit adequate motivations and justifications by no later than **October 20th, 2024**. In the case of a lack of communication and failure to arrive in Trento by the abovementioned deadline Doctoral students will be considered excluded from the Doctoral Programme.

#### Art. 7 – ENROLMENT ON THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

1. Enrolment on the Doctoral Programme, only for admitted applicants who have accepted the position as mentioned above, will be automatically formalized as soon as the Ministry of University and Research has confirmed the accreditation for the academic year 2024/2025. If accreditation is not confirmed, applicants who have accepted a position will receive timely notification via email, and the fee for the Right to Education (TDS) will be refunded.
2. In order to complete the enrolment process, those applicants who have obtained their academic qualifications abroad must, upon their arrival in Italy, show the official documents (the original ones or certified copies of them) relative to their academic record that have already been submitted in scanned form during admission to the selection phase or upon acceptance of the position, thereby enabling the appropriate checks of the validity of the qualifications to be conducted, also through the national information centres on the recognition of foreign qualifications belonging to the ENIC-NARIC network. Only after that time will applicants be conditionally admitted to the course and may be excluded if they do not fulfill the requirements.

#### Art. 8 – SUPERNUMERARY POSITIONS

1. According to art. 18, par. 3 of the University Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, and up to the number of positions indicated in art. 1 (no more than 2), supernumerary applicants may be admitted without a scholarship paid by the University after passing the selection procedure, if they fall within one of the following categories:
  - a) shortlisted foreign applicants who are granted scholarships by other entities;
  - b) shortlisted applicants from countries with which a specific inter-governmental agreement has been signed 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;

<sup>17</sup> The University of Trento signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association about evaluating and verifying foreign titles through the online platform *Diplome*. Further information at: <https://international.unitn.it/incoming/diploma-verification>

<sup>18</sup> 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.



- c) research fellows whose contract lasts for a minimum of 24 months from the starting date of the Programme and researching a subject relevant to the Doctoral Programme; such relevance has to be determined by the Doctoral Programme Committee;
  - d) Italian civil servants or under the Italian public law regime. Admission is subject to 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 for such admission by submitting appropriate documentation proving their status via e-mail to [phd.office-st@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it), **within 8 days** from the next day of the publication of ranking lists. Supernumerary admission is determined by the number of supernumerary positions listed in art. 1 following the order in the relevant ranking.
  3. After verification of the documents referred to in paragraph 2 of this article, applicants admitted to supernumerary positions will receive an email notification from the Doctorate Office S&T ([phd.office-st@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it)) and must deliver their acceptance within the deadline specified in the email text itself.
  4. Any applicant 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 concerning the quota specified at point 1 of this article.

#### Art. 9 – 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 (in particular, the Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights issued with Rectoral Decree no. 540 of 22/07/2020 and subsequent amendments) and, if necessary, according to the provisions in the individual agreements with universities, companies or other institutions involved<sup>19</sup>.
2. Before the start of the research activity, the PhD 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. 10 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

In compliance to Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679, the University of Trento provides to the applicants (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). The Data Controller can be reached at the following email addresses: [ateneo@unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@unitn.it), [ateneo@pec.unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@pec.unitn.it)
2. Contact details of the Data Protection Officer  
The **Data Protection Officer (DPO)** can be contacted to request information on personal data at the following email address: [dpo@unitn.it](mailto:dpo@unitn.it).
3. Purpose of the processing and legal basis:  
The data controllers processes personal data for reasons of substantial public interest (according to art. 6, comma 1, letter e) and c); art. 9, paragraph 2, letter g) of the GDPR)
4. Nature of the provision of data  
The provision of personal data is necessary for applying to this call for selection and the failure to provide it will result in the impossibility of applying.  
The provision of particular data concerning disabilities is optional, but failure to provide such data will determine the impossibility of using the necessary support instruments.
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,

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.unitn.it/en/node/1767/protection-and-valorisation-of-intellectual-property>



accuracy, integrity and confidentiality, in a manner that is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed (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) in order to fulfil the abovementioned purposes, specifically to external bodies financing the scholarships. Personal data may also be disclosed to third parties in compliance with legal obligations and/or provisions of the Public Security/Judicial Authorities.

7. Transfer to non-EU countries

In case personal data are transferred outside the EEA, it will happen in compliance with limitations and provisions specified in Article 44 and following of GDPR;

8. Data retention period

Personal data will be stored as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they are collected, 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 joint 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.

#### **Art. 11 - REFERRAL RULES**

1. For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present announcement, please refer to Law no. 398 of 30 November 1989, to art. 4 of Law n. 210 of 3 July 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 December 2021, to the University Regulations on Doctorates of Research of the University of Trento issued with the Rector's Decree n. 250 of 11 March 2022, to the Students Honor Code issued with the Rector's Decree n. 416 of 13 June 2016 and to the [Internal Regulation](#) and to other relevant provisions contained in the existing regulations.
2. This call for applications, together with an English version, will be published on the University of Trento's website, the Euraxess website and the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research's website.
3. Any changes or additions to this Call will be published on the selection webpage.
4. The person responsible for the administrative procedure is the Head of the Didactics and Student Services Department of the University of Trento. The reference office is the PhD Office Science and Technology Area, email: [phd.office-st@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-st@unitn.it). The Selection Committee is responsible for the selection procedure of the applications: the evaluation of qualifications, the interviews, the minutes and the final ranking of applicants.

On behalf of  
The Rector  
The Head of Education and Student Services  
*Dr. Paolo Zanei*