

# CALL FOR PHD POSITIONS

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## Doctoral Programme in COGNITIVE AND BRAIN SCIENCES

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**Cycle 41**

**Academic Year 2025/2026**

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**N.B. The English translation of this document is provided as a courtesy to the student community and has no legal standing. The Italian version, issued by Rector's Decree n. 425 of 30 April 2025 constitutes the sole authentic text and will be referred to in any legal matters.**

## Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The University of Trento announces the 41<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Doctoral Programme in **Cognitive and Brain Sciences** for the 2025/2026 academic year.

**Application deadline:** June 5, 2025, 4:00PM (Italian time)

**Positions:** n. 15

**Scholarships:** n. 15

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

The grants (four years) are financed as follows:

- **n. 5 grants** financed by the **University of Trento**;
- **n. 6 grants** financed by **Fondazione Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia** on the following topics:
  - *Perturbational approaches to studying functional connectivity (n. 1 grant);*
  - *Functional ultrasound imaging in behaving mice (n. 1 grant);*
  - *Neuroimaging and electrophysiological biomarkers behind autisms distinguished by disability versus difference over development (n. 2 grants);*
  - *Dendritic basis of sensory-motor learning and computation (n. 1 grant);*
  - *Neural geometry of sensory behaviour (n. 1 grant);*
- **n. 1 grant** financed by **Fondazione Bruno Kessler** on the following topic:
  - *AI and Neuroscience;*
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC - Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** 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 following topic:
  - *Investigating predictive representations with MEG-based dynamic RSA;*
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC - Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** within the Project “ATCOM - An Attentional Code for Memory” – ERC Consolidator Grant n. 101125658 - CUP E73C24000210006, supported by the European Commission, on the following topic:
  - *Neurophysiological bases of human memory at the intersection of attention and hippocampal cognitive mapping;*
- **n. 1 grant** financed by the **CIMeC - Center for Mind/Brain Sciences** on the following topic:
  - *Neural mechanisms of social responses and their possible mirror-system in naive domestic chicks.*

Furthermore, candidates selected by dedicated committees are also eligible for the 41<sup>st</sup> cycle, as they are involved in specific international mobility programs in which the University of Trento participates.

Topic-specific grants are conditional to the execution of a particular research topic for which specific skills are required. Those interested in these grants should carefully check the topic and required skillset indicated on the web page <https://phd.unitn.it/drcimec/105/2025-topic-specific-grants-and-descriptions>.

The number of places covered by scholarships and/or by internship contracts and 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, 2025

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

**Doctorate website:** <https://phd.unitn.it/drcimec/>

**Selection website:** <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/cognitive-and-brain-sciences>

**Webpage about rights and duties of PhD students:** <https://www.unitn.it/en/study/register/information-phd-students/rights-and-duties-phd-students>

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

**Scientific areas:**

PSIC-01/A - General Psychology

PSIC-01/B - Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

PSIC-02/A - Developmental and Educational Psychology



**Information about the scholarship:** <https://www.unitn.it/en/study/fees-scholarships-accommodation/scholarships-and-awards/phd-scholarships>

### 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 notifications relating to the application will be emailed to the address linked to the account registered upon application. Candidates who are still enrolled or have recently graduated from the University of Trento are advised to check that their email address is valid at this link: [Profile data](#). Any changes to personal contact details after the application is closed should be communicated to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities ([phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)).

## Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications for admission to the selection process are accepted from candidates regardless of gender, age and nationality, who hold:
  - a) an Italian “Laurea Specialistica or Magistrale” (Master's Degree) according to Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22 October 2004, or a university degree awarded under the previous Italian regulations;
  - b) or a second level degree awarded by an Italian “AFAM” Institute (Artistic and Musical Higher Education);
  - c) or an equivalent degree qualification obtained abroad (Master's Degree) at a recognized academic Institution, which:
    - allows access to an equivalent PhD course in the country/higher education system of origin (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 admission to the PhD Programme.
2. Applications are also accepted from candidates who do not hold the required degree but expect to obtain it, **by 31 October 2025**. In this cases admission is "conditional" and applicants must submit the degree certificate or a self-declaration to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities (email: [phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)) **no later than November 7, 2025. Failure to provide the certificate will lead to exclusion.**
3. **It's in the applicant's best interest to provide all elements necessary for evaluation, especially in case the educational system of the country where the title was obtained is not comparable with the Italian one.**  
The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to ask applicants to provide additional documentation, if deemed necessary, in order to be considered for the selection.
4. Candidates who have already obtained a PhD degree can apply for a second PhD Programme only if its main research topics and scientific-disciplinary fields are different from those of the candidate's first Doctoral Programme. For applicants who have already benefited - even partially - from a doctoral scholarship in the past, the admission to the new PhD Programme can't be covered by a scholarship<sup>3</sup>.
5. The list of candidates' IDs whose academic degree has been considered not eligible for the admission selection by the Evaluation Committee will be available at the [selection's webpage](#).

## Art. 3 – THE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME

1. 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.

<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 eligibility of the foreign qualifications is assessed by the Admission Committee in accordance with the legislation in force and with international treaties or agreements concerning the recognition of qualifications for continuing the studies.

<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”.

2. 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.
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
  - Computational neuroscience and cognition
  - Conceptual representations
  - Decision making and reasoning
  - Development
  - Human-centric machine intelligence
  - Language
  - Motor control and action planning
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders
  - Neuroimaging and brain connectivity
  - Numerical cognition
  - Perception and attention
  - Systems and circuit neuroscience
  - Vision
5. Some research projects proposed for the 41<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Doctorate, along with related researchers, are listed at the following webpage: <http://phd.unitn.it/drcimec/research-topics>. The topics listed there can be used as reference for the research project in your application (see Art. 4).
6. The topic-specific grants that have been activated for the 41<sup>st</sup> cycle of the Doctorate can be found here at <https://phd.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).
7. **Lessons and all activities of the Doctorate are in English.** Further details regarding the Student Handbook and study plan, the internal regulation, admission to the following years and title conferral, can be found online at <http://phd.unitn.it/drcimec/>.

## Art. 4 – APPLICATION

1. The application must be completed and submitted by **June 5, 2025 - 4:00 p.m. (Italian time)**, exclusively through the online system: <https://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott> which will be available within three working days from the date of publication of the notice.
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 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" account**: 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 **€30.00 by pagoPa system**<sup>5</sup>, as indicated in the appropriate section of the application ('Selection participation fee').
4. **Administration highly recommends that candidates make sure to have received the notification email confirming that their application has been successfully completed and submitted.**

<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/study/fees-scholarships-accommodation/tuition-fees/how-pay-your-fees>

**UNiTrento refuses any responsibility 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 has the right 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. In this regard, the data will be processed in compliance with the regulations in force as indicated in the information on the processing of personal data (art. 10 of this call).
9. The application is to be considered for all purposes in law as a self-certification of personal data and declared qualifications.
10. **COMPULSORY ATTACHMENTS** (failure to upload one or more compulsory attachments results in expulsion from the selection)<sup>6</sup>:

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

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

**B. Documents related to the academic degree:**

- **Italian qualification**

**already obtained/to be obtained:** a **self-certification**, made by means of a **declaration in lieu of certification** pursuant to art. 46 of Presidential Decree 28.12.2000, n. 445 and subsequent amendments, certifying the list of exams taken, reporting the date of passing them, credits acquired and grade. A **fac-simile** is available for download on the [selection's webpage](#) but similar documents are also accepted as long as they report the information requested in the call. If the qualification was issued by the University of Trento, the information will be acquired automatically.

- **If the qualification has not yet been obtained**, a declaration must also be attached from the thesis supervisor, or other academic or administrative manager/staff, specifying that the academic qualification is expected to be acquired by the student by 31 October 2025.

- **Foreign qualification**

- **already obtained:**

- a **certificate attesting to the possession of a second level university qualification** (see art. 2 paragraph 1 letter c), issued by the institution that awarded it. The certificate must indicate the type of diploma, the date it was awarded and the relative grade;
- 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, 2025 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.

<sup>6</sup> The list of candidates (identified by their ID #) who are not deemed eligible due to an incomplete application, will be published at <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/cognitive-science>.

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



- a **letter signed by the thesis supervisor** or other academic/administrative supervisor/staff stating that the candidate is expected to obtain the academic title **by October 31, 2025**.

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 order to allow the Admission Committee to evaluate the eligibility of the certificate, for the sole purpose of participation participating in this admissions process.

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;
- *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.

**C. 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.

**D. Anonymous Research Statement** (available on the [selection's webpage](#)) in English that consists in:

- **Part A)** – Background and Motivation Letter;
- **Part B)** – Statement of Research Interest;
- **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 strongly advised to consult <http://phd.unitn.it/drcimec/research-topics>, which lists the research topics of the Doctorate and relative proponent (potential supervisor of the thesis), as well as <https://phd.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:

- 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 *Referees* section in the application, the system sends an email directly to the referees listed by the applicant with the attached form and instructions on how to fill it out and transmit it to the University. It is highly recommended that applicants verify that their referees send the *Academic Reference Form* no later than **June 12, 2025**;
- List of publications and presentations;
- 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).

<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>

<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](#). The statement of comparability of qualifications relating to the 55 countries of the Lisbon Convention can be downloaded directly and free of charge through [ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database Italia](#).

<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.



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). In this case, **the subject line should be:** *Application ID - Candidate's Last Name and Name – Doctoral Course in Cognitive and Brain Sciences 41<sup>th</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 will not be accepted.**

## **Art. 5 – APPLICANT EVALUATION**

1. Upon hearing the Doctoral Programme Committee the Rector appoints the Admissions Committee. It consists of at least three members chosen among Italian and foreign professors and researchers, who are experts in the scientific areas of the Doctorate. The Committee may also include up to two experts, even foreign, of public and private national and international research organizations.
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. In case of interest in competing also for the **topic-specific grants** indicated in art. 1 of this call, the candidates must specify it in the application, and must present a **project relevant to the topic**. Candidates who intend to obtain eligibility also for any **topic-specific grants added after the publication of the call**, must make an explicit request to the examining commission **before the interview** according to the methods that will be specified on the [selection's webpage](#). For the aforementioned candidates, the interview will include an assessment of the skills on the specific topic of the grant.
5. The request for the awarding of a topic-specific grant, made in the application or through a specific request submitted to the Commission, implies the candidate's preference for the awarding of that specific scholarship over all other scholarships.
6. 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 interview candidates must reach a minimum score of 36/60 in the assessment of qualifications and research project.

7. The results of the assessment of the qualifications and of the oral exam will be published at the [selection's webpage](#)<sup>14</sup>.
8. The candidate may choose to be interviewed in one of the following two ways:
  - a) in presence, at the University of Trento.  
In this case the candidate must show a valid ID document before the interview begins. Should the candidate fail to attend the interview for whatever reason this will be considered as renunciation of participation in the selection procedure;
  - b) by videoconference through the use of audio-video connection tools that allow the correct identification of the participants (through a webcam) and the carrying out of the interview in public.  
The starting time of the interviews is established by the Commission. The candidate must first show the same identity document attached to the application. Failure to connect or unavailability at the established date and time or failure to show 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 interview.

The indication of the date and time and of the place (seat of the University of Trento, if in presence) where the interview will be held will be provided at least 20 days prior to the date of the interview on the [selection's webpage](#).  
Any changes in the date of the examination will be published on this same web page.
9. The oral examination is considered passed with a minimum score of 36/60.

## **Art. 6 – RANKING**

1. The Committee draws up a merit-based ranking according to the scores obtained by the applicants from the qualification's 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 order;
  - 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.

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

<sup>14</sup> The chosen candidates will be listed using their application ID



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 webpage](#).
6. **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. In case of equally ranked candidates, the candidate's economic situation shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers (D.P.C.M.) of 9 April 2001 as amended.
3. If an eligible applicant **withdraws before the beginning of the Programme** (1<sup>st</sup> November 2025), 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. Admitted applicants must accept the offer **within 8 days** from the day following the day of publication of the final ranking list by submitting the online application available at <https://www.unitn.it/en/study/register/information-phd-students/enrolling-phd>.
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-csssh@unitn.it](mailto:PhD.office-csssh@unitn.it)) if they had not already done so during the application phase, the following documents **by November 7, 2025**:
  - 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>15</sup>, legalized<sup>16</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>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 7, 2025**, 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 November 7, 2025 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 for selection.

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

6. Short-listed applicants who do not submit their acceptance **within 8 days** from when the final ranking is published lose their right to enroll and their position will be offered to the next ranked eligible candidate.

## Art. 8 – SUPERNUMERARY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH POSITIONS

1. According to Art. 18, § 3 of the University Regulations for Doctorates of Research, the Admission Committee may admit **up to 1** supernumerary position without a scholarship of the University of Trento, if such candidates coincide with one of the following cases:
  - foreign nationality, eligible in the general ranking, who are granted scholarships by other entities;

<sup>15</sup> Details at: <https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/servizi/italiani-all-estero/traduzione-e-legalizzazione-documenti.html>

<sup>16</sup> Details at: <https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studying/info-13.html>

<sup>17</sup> The University of Trento has signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association for the evaluation and verification services of foreign qualifications through the use of the [Diplome platform](#). The statement of comparability of qualifications relating to the 55 countries of the Lisbon Convention can be downloaded directly and free of charge through <https://ardi.cimea.it/en>





- 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;
  - 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;
  - employees in the public sector or 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 revision<sup>18</sup>.
2. Candidates who wish to assert their requirements for supernumerary positions shall request, by submission of appropriate documentation proving their status, their acceptance of such admission to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities (email: [phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it)), also **within 8 days** starting from the day following publication of the ranking.
  3. Supernumerary admission acceptance is disposed of 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 an 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 2025-2026 a.y. has been completed.
2. In case of no conferrable accreditation, candidates who have accepted the position will receive a timely notification via email and the local education tax (TDS) will be refunded.
3. To complete 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), related to the academic path, already anticipated in a scanned form during admission to the selection or during the matriculation process, in order to allow the appropriate verification of the validity of the qualifications, also by means of the national information centers on the recognition of foreign titles as part of the ENIC-NARIC network. Until such time, candidates are admitted to the course *conditionally* and may be excluded if they do not meet these requirements.

## Art. 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS 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 doctoral 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 he / she is 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

<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.

<sup>19</sup> See <https://www.unitn.it/en/third-mission/research-value-research/intellectual-property>



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.

## **Art. 12 - REGULATIONS**

1. For matters not covered by this selection announcement refer to Law no. 398 of 30 November 1989, 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 MIUR websites.
3. The person in charge of the administrative procedure is the Head of the Didactics and Student Services Department of the University of Trento. The office of reference is the Division for the Support of Doctoral Courses and Higher Education Polo Città e Rovereto; email: [phd.office-cssh@unitn.it](mailto:phd.office-cssh@unitn.it). The Selection Committee is responsible for the selection procedure of the applications, from the evaluation of the qualifications to the interview, from the drawing up of the minutes to the formulation of the merit rankings.
4. Potential changes or improvements to the call will be published at <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/cognitive-and-brain-sciences>.