



CALL FOR APPLICANTS

PhD Programme in

COMPARATIVE AND EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES

Cycle 42

Academic Year 2026-2027

Summary

Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL.....	2
Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	4
Art. 3 – THE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME.....	5
Art. 4 – APPLICATION.....	5
Art. 5 – SELECTION PROCEDURE.....	8
Art. 6 – RANKING.....	9
Art. 7 – ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE POSITION.....	10
Art. 8 - ENROLMENT ON THE PHD PROGRAMME.....	11
Art. 9 - EUROPEAN DOCTORAL PROGRAMME.....	11
Art. 10 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS.....	11
Art. 11 – REGULATIONS.....	11

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. 377 of 28 April 2026 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 42nd cycle of the Doctoral Programme in “Comparative and European Legal Studies” for the academic year 2026/2027.

The Doctoral Programme operates in collaboration with numerous foreign institutions, institutes and universities. The updated list is available on the web page <https://phd.unitn.it/drsqce/28/soggetti-partecipanti>

Deadline for application: June 4th, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Italian time

Places: n. 6

Scholarships: n. 5 financed by the University of Trento

n. 1 financed by the by the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento on the topic “*Deviance and new forms of addiction of minors in the digital society: criminological and legal aspects*”.

The topic-specific grant is conditional to the execution of a particular research topic for which specific skills are required. Those interested in the topic-specific grant should carefully check the topic and required skillset indicated on the web page <https://phd.unitn.it/drsqce/en/642/deviance-and-new-forms-addiction-minors-digital-society-criminological-and-legal-aspects> and, in case of interest, indicate their choice in the online application.

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 evaluation of research proposal. Such occurrence will be communicated online, and nowhere else, on the announcement webpage.

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

Scholarship amount: The annual gross amount of the scholarship is Euro 18.345,00 (Tier I)

Duration: 3 years

Beginning of the academic year: November 1, 2026

Head of School: prof. Federico Puppo
(Ph. +39 0461 283511; e mail: federico.puppo@unitn.it)

Doctorate website: <https://phd.unitn.it/drsqce/en>

Information on the call: <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/comparative-and-european-legal-studies>

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

Official languages of the PhD Programme: Italian

By way of indication only, and therefore without excluding the possibility of research in other areas not expressly listed, the PhD Course is divided into four main Research Areas:

“Pluralism, method and juridical traditions”:

Researches in this area relate to the studies on the identification and taxonomy of legal systems, institutions and rules that can be traced back to private or public law, and that would include, for instance, the critical analysis of structuralist and functionalist approaches, legal change, the relationship between different sources of the law, the role of non-State-originated rules, also in the light of roman and historical foundation of European law, and the use of comparative law in production and interpretation processes. At the same time, those analyses are intended to investigate the ontologic and axiomatic nature of the law, as they concern the juridical phenomenon besides national borders, both in a diachronic and in a synchronic perspective. A special degree of attention is paid to



some crucial features of the jurist's work, as interpretation, argumentation, comprehension and problem-solving techniques. Besides, an interdisciplinary approach to methodological and substantive issues is appreciated, with a particular attention, when possible, to the dialogue with non-strictly-juridical disciplines, thanks to which it becomes possible to identify concepts and theories coming from different fields, thus developing epistemic abilities that would enable scholars to integrate different contributions relating, inter alia, to the anthropological and epistemological dimensions of the law.

“Market law, welfare and taxation”:

This field of research focuses on the analysis of the regulatory framework of the activities of private and public authorities at all levels, namely of the different and various forms of state intervention in markets and society to regulate, address, correct or favour the choices of actors operating at both national and European market levels. In this regard, attention is given to both the relevant public, private and criminal law aspects, as well as to the plural and multilevel framework, as well as the regulation of business activities and acts, also with reference to the agri-food supply chains.

Special attention is also paid to the analyses concerning, from a European and transnational perspective, regulated markets, corporate crises, the regulation of the individual and collective employment relationships, trade union law, social security and welfare law and equal opportunities regulations, as well as the analysis of the effects of political choices in the field of tax law and the taxation structure, without losing sight of forms and techniques for the employment protection in the labour market and in the individual employment relationship through private and public welfare measures.

“Fundamental freedoms, social transitions, and institutional settings”:

The topics pertaining to this area refer to public law subjects but also international and supranational ones, particularly in relation to the protection of fundamental rights, whose conceptualization is challenged by the current technological, social and institutional transitions and requires that the legal scholar pays particular attention to the preservation of (but at the same time adapts to new situations) the protection of the rights of the individual, even deprived of liberty, with a focus on the relationship between law, ethics, science, technology and with a focus on the instruments of protection such as the EU and the international jurisdiction, international criminal courts, administrative justice, civil and criminal justice. This area particularly includes research on the constitutional principles in all branches of law, the rights of the EU and third Countries' citizens, in relation to instruments for the protection of individual rights, including international ones. This area also covers research on the rights of peoples and of (ethnic, linguistic, and religious) minorities, as well as the protection of human rights in armed conflicts, without neglecting the relationship between the protection of economic and social rights, the protection of the environment and international trade obligations, the global supply chains, and investment law.

“Autonomy, guarantee of rights and protections”:

The research strands that can be ascribed to this area are those pertaining to the new instruments for exercising the autonomy of individuals, organisations, and institutions, be they of a public or private nature, as redefined in the context of the ongoing technological innovation processes and the pursuit of environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives, as well as in compliance with the fundamental rights recognised at the national and supranational level.

They are also linked to the study of the various liability systems in the private, criminal and administrative spheres and of the various forms of rights and interests protection, both public and private, individual and collective in nature, as they are affected by the profound transformations brought about by the processes of European Union harmonisation and by the dialogue between national and supranational courts, also oriented towards ensuring systems of protection marked by effectiveness and efficiency. The research topics in this field are developed with reference to the general doctrines of civil, criminal and administrative law and studies on their procedural dimension, as well as on the punitive power of the state, also in the light of the methodological tools offered by comparative law, covering the various phenomena in a European and transnational perspective, both from a national and international perspective, with reference also to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, to the aspects disclosed by conciliatory justice and mediation and assisted negotiation practices.

Scientific Areas:

GIUR-01/A PRIVATE LAW
GIUR-02/A COMMERCIAL LAW
GIUR-02/B NAVIGATION AND TRANSPORT LAW
GIUR-03/A ECONOMIC LAW
GIUR-04/A LABOUR LAW
GIUR-05/A CONSTITUTIONAL AND PUBLIC LAW
GIUR-06/A ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW
GIUR-07/A – LAW AND RELIGION
GIUR-08/A TAX LAW



GIUR-09/A INTERNATIONAL LAW
GIUR-11/A COMPARATIVE PRIVATE LAW
GIUR-11/B COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
GIUR-12/A CIVIL PROCEDURAL LAW
GIUR-13/A CRIMINAL PROCEDURAL LAW
GIUR-14/A CRIMINAL LAW
GIUR-15/A ROMAN LAW AND FOUNDATIONS OF EUROPEAN LAW
GIUR-16/A HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LAW
GIUR-17/A PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
GSPS-03/A HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

IMPORTANT

- a) The dates of the selection process and all selection results (interim and final), the possible exclusion from the selection due to incomplete applications, the exclusion for foreign qualification not recognized as eligible (see Art. 2 below) and any notices related to the call, will be published 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 an official notification, and no personal communication will be sent.
- b) Without prejudice to the provisions of this article and the following art. 5 co. 7 and 6 co. 5, 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 - Humanities and Cognitive Science Area (phd.office-cssh@unitn.it).

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications for admission to the selection process are accepted from candidates regardless of nationality, who hold:
 - a) an Italian “Laurea Specialistica o 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:
 - allow access to PhD programs within the reference system of the issuing country;
 - is equivalent to the Italian Laurea magistrale (Master’s Degree), in terms of duration, level and subject area¹;
 - is considered suitable² by the Admission Committee for the sole purpose of the admission to the PhD Programme.
2. Applications are also accepted from candidates who don’t hold the required degree but expect to **obtain their degree**/equivalent qualification **by 15 July 2026**. In this case admission is "conditional" and applicants must submit the degree certificate (or a self-declaration – A fac-simile is available for download on the selection webpage) to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities (email: phd.office-cssh@unitn.it) **no later than 20 July 2026**. 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 if the higher education 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 to be considered for the selection.
4. Applicants who have already obtained a doctoral degree can be admitted to the Doctoral Programme upon successful participation to the selection process and only if both subjects and the research area of the Doctoral Programme are different from the previous PhD Programme. If a PhD student has already been awarded a PhD scholarship in the past (even for one month only) for a Doctoral Programme in Italy, he/she cannot receive a Doctoral scholarship again³.
5. The list of candidates (identified by ID number) whose academic degree awarded abroad has been considered **not** eligible for the admission selection by the Admission Committee will be published on the selection’s webpage.

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

² 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.

³ [Parere del CUN dd 20/03/2008](#) (Sessione n.19 del 18/03/2008); Nota MIUR dd 14/09/2010 n. 1746; art. 6 co. 2 della legge n. 398 del 1989 “Norme in materia di borse di studio universitarie”.



Art. 3 – THE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME

1. Without prejudice to Article 25 of the University Regulations, for the first year of the PhD Programme, each of the main research areas into which the PhD program is divided organizes 12-hour courses, shared across all scientific areas, covering fundamental and interdisciplinary training topics. These are complemented by a common course on “Methods, practices, and skills,” for a total of 60 hours (30 ECTS credits). For the second and third years, the PhD program organizes seminars and scientific meetings shared across all research areas, for a total of 40 hours (20 ECTS credits) and 20 hours (10 ECTS credits), respectively. Classes are held in person, and attendance is mandatory.
2. Further teaching initiatives, of an optional nature, on specific research domains may be organized. The calendar of seminars and lectures is published on the PhD course portal.
3. Under specific agreements and subject to the approval of the Committee, PhD students may be given the opportunity to participate, on-site or online, in seminars and lectures organized by other Doctoral Courses and Schools. Such seminars and lectures shall be treated as equivalent to those offered by this PhD Programme for the purpose of calculating the total number of hours required under articles 14 and 15 of the Internal Regulations of the Doctoral Course in Comparative and European Legal Studies.
4. The teaching, which shall mainly take place in seminar form, may also be offered in English.
5. From the second year onwards, PhD students are also required to spend one or more research periods at foreign institutions. The overall period of study abroad must be of at least six months, not necessarily continuous, but in any case, not less than one month, unless exemption is expressly granted by the Coordinator of the Doctoral Course. The Academic Board may provide exceptions to this obligation for PhD students without scholarship or for other specific reasons.
6. The PhD Program also provides and recognizes the carrying out of research, teaching, tutoring, internship, and third mission activities, as detailed in the internal regulations (Art. 14), available at the page: <https://phd.unitn.it/drsgce/33/norme-e-regolamenti-del-corso-di-dottorato>.
7. More information on the learning program is detailed on the webpage <https://phd.unitn.it/drsgce/en/509/programme-details>

Art. 4 – APPLICATION

1. Applications must be definitely and positively submitted by **4:00 p.m. (Italian time) of June 4th, 2026**, exclusively through the online system <https://www.unitn.it/en/apply/dott> that will be available within 3 working days after the release of the announcement.

The online enrolment procedure can be accessed in the following ways⁴:

- with **SPID or CIE** (Electronica Identity Card): those who have an Italian Tax Code (codice fiscale) and an Italian identity document must access the enrolment procedure with CIE (more information are available at <https://www.cartaidentita.interno.gov.it/en/home/>) or with SPID, the Italian Public Digital Identification 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 see 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). For details on UniTrento account and password: Account@unitn.it;
 - registering a UniTrento **"guest"account**⁵: those who do not have an Italian Tax Code can register a temporary account as "guest". After enrollment, the guest account will be converted into a definitive @unitn.it account. To register a guest account: <https://webapps.unitn.it/Registration/en/Home>.
2. Participation in the selection process is subject to the payment of a non-reimbursable application fee of **€30.00**, by **PagoPA**⁶ **system**, as indicated in the appropriate section of the application ('Selection participation fee').
 3. **Candidates will be considered totally responsible for the successful submission of their application online.** Administration highly recommends candidates to make sure to have received the notification email confirming that their application has been successfully completed and submitted.

⁴ Applicants requiring a guest account are advised to register well in advance of the deadline. It may take up to three working days for credentials to be issued.

⁵ 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.

⁶ More information at: <https://www.unitn.it/en/study/fees-scholarships-accommodation/tuition-fees/how-pay-your-fees>



UniTrento refuses any responsibility for any online applications not properly closed by candidates.

4. Incomplete or irregular applications, 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 selection process.
5. All applicants are admitted to the selection **conditionally** upon ascertaining that they **fulfill the admission requirements**. The University of Trento has the right to verify the documents delivered pursuant to articles 71 et seq. of the Presidential Decree n. 445 of the 28 December 2000.
6. A candidate whose degree submitted does not satisfy the requirements specified in the art. 2 or the information provided in the application is not true, may be excluded at any time - from the selective procedure or even after enrolment and the beginning of the PhD course.
7. 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, may explicitly request in their online application special assistance or extra time during the examinations. In this case personal data will be processed in compliance with the current law as indicated in the GDPR Privacy notice (see art. 11).
8. In the "Degree" section, you will be asked to provide information about the degree used to apply for the PhD, specifically the degree class, the university that awards it, the date it was obtained and the final grade (if already completed), or the expected date of completion (if still in progress)
9. For all purposes in law, the application is a self-declaration of personal details and information provided.
10. **MANDATORY ATTACHMENTS** (candidates will be excluded from the selection process if one or more of the mandatory attachments are missing)⁷:
 - a) **Identity document (ID)**: a copy of the **identity card** (for EU citizens) **or** of the **passport** (limited to the pages that include the photo, personal details, signature, number, date and place of issue, expiry date).
 - b) Copy of the **university degree**:
 - **applicants with an ITALIAN DEGREE**:
 - a **self-declaration**, according to the Presidential Decree Article 46 n. 445 of 28 December 2000 and later amendments, stating the possession of the degree (see Art. 2), type of degree, conferral date, issuing University, final grade, list of exams, date taken, credits (if available) and grades obtained. A fac-simile is available for download on the selection webpage, but similar documents are also accepted as long as they contain the information required in the call. If the degree was issued by the University of Trento, the information will be collected ex officio.
 - The following two points refer to Italian degree applicants who have **not yet obtained their degree**, who expect to complete it by July 15th, 2026 and therefore "conditionally" admitted to the selection:
 - a **certificate of enrolment**, list of exams, date taken, credits and grades obtained with the expected degree conferral date. A fac-simile is available for download on the selection webpage, but similar documents are also accepted as long as they contain the information required in the call. Applicants from the University of Trento must only declare the degree expected date as the other information can be collected ex officio.
 - a **letter signed by the thesis supervisor** or other academic responsible, stating that the degree is expected to be acquired by the candidate by **July 15th, 2026**.
 - **applicants with a FOREIGN DEGREE**:
 - a **degree's certificate**, stating the 2nd level degree obtainment (see art. 2 co.1 lett. c.), provided by the University which issued the degree, specifying the type of degree, the graduation date and the related score;
 - **list of exams** (*Academic Transcript of records of Master's degree*) with credits (if provided) and mark with the related Rating Scale; if the university course is divided into first and second levels, then also the first level degree certificate (*Bachelor's degree*) and the transcript of records of Bachelor's degree should preferably be attached.

If the language of the above-mentioned documents is different from English, the applicant will have to submit a translation in Italian or in English, which can be done by the candidate under her/his own responsibility, in order to allow the Admission Committee to evaluate the eligibility of the certificate, for the sole purpose of participating in this admissions process.

⁷ At web page <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/comparative-and-european-legal-studies> will be published the ID candidates list not admitted to the selection because of incomplete applications.



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*⁸ (according to the model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES), or;
- *Declaration of value* which certifies that the educational qualification is valid in the country of issuance for admission to a Doctoral programme (third-cycle degree according to the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area QF EHEA, EQF level 8 according to European Qualifications Framework EQF), or;
- the *Statement of comparability - university qualification*⁹ awarded by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the evaluation of the qualification.

If the foreign academic qualification has already been recognized as **equivalent**¹⁰ 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.

The following two points refer to foreign degree applicants who have **not yet obtained their degree**, who expect to complete it by July 15th, 2026, and are therefore "conditionally" admitted to the selection:

- a **certificate of enrolment** of the *Master's Programme* (see Article 2 paragraph 1 letter c), with the list of the exams taken, the related credits (if provided) the corresponding mark and the Rating Scale (*Academic Transcript of Records*); if the university course is divided into first and second levels, then also the first level degree certificate (*Bachelor's degree*) and the transcript of records of Bachelor's degree should preferably be attached.
- a **letter signed by the thesis supervisor** or other academic responsible, stating that the degree is expected to be acquired by the candidate **by July 15th, 2026**.

If the language of the above-mentioned documents is different from English, the applicant will have to submit a translation in Italian or in English, which can be done by the candidate under her/his own responsibility, in order to allow the Admission Committee to evaluate the eligibility of the certificate, for the sole purpose of participating in this admissions process.

- c) a **certificate** attesting the candidate's **knowledge of one foreign language among English, French, German, or Spanish** at minimum B2 level (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR)¹¹.

The candidate must attach:

- a certificate issued by an internationally recognized institute¹²;
- alternatively, a certificate attesting to the required language level issued by a certifying institute or a university;
- alternatively, a statement issued by the university that awarded the degree (*Bachelor's and/or Master's Degree*) certifying that the official language of instruction of the attended and completed course of study is either English, or French, or German, or Spanish.

If you are a citizen of a country in which the official language is one of the above-mentioned, or if you are a native English, French, German, or Spanish speaker, you must declare your status in the "*Language knowledge*" section of the online application.

- d) Applicants **have to submit only one research project proposal**, filling in the "*Research proposal*" section of the online application, taking care of organizing the project proposal according to the following points:

- Research proposal title (max 500 characters, including spaces);
- abstract (max 1.500 characters, including spaces);
- aims of the project (max 5.000 characters, including spaces);

⁸ 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. See: <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/il-sistema-italiano-di-istruzione-superiore/diploma-supplement.aspx>.

⁹ The University of Trento has signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association for the evaluation and verification services of foreign qualifications using 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](#).

¹⁰ Details at <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico>

¹¹ <https://europa.eu/europass/it/common-european-framework-referenc>

¹² <https://www.cla.unitn.it/en/780/certificates-do-you-have-a-certificate>



- originality of the candidate's project compared to the current status of the research in the chosen field (max 8.000 characters, including spaces);
- methodology and timing of the research (max 3.000 characters, including spaces);
- essential and annotated bibliography (max 5.000 characters, including spaces).

In the case of the use of generative artificial intelligence systems, it is mandatory—under penalty of exclusion from the procedure—to: a) declare their use; b) specify the platform used; c) specify the purpose of using the generative artificial intelligence system; d) ensure human oversight of the project by the candidate; e) declare their final responsibility as the author of the submitted project.

11. **OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. certificates proving the applicant's knowledge of other foreign languages, other than the ones required in the mandatory annexes (art. 4, paragraph 10, letter C).
- B. **up to two reference letters in English or Italian.**
Candidates may nominate two people as referees. Within 24 hours of the candidate completing and saving the relevant section, the system will automatically email each referee instructions on completing and returning the form. Candidates are advised to check with their referees to ensure their references are uploaded onto the website by **11 June 2026**.

If candidates have to upload further documents after the complete closing of their online application procedure, they are required to deliver additional documents **until the deadline of the Call** to the following email address: ateneo@unitn.it (please state in the email subject: "Application ID – Candidate's Surname and Name – PhD Programme in Comparative and European legal studies – 42nd cycle – supplement to application").

Additional materials which are not delivered using the specified method shall not be accepted.

Art. 5 – SELECTION PROCEDURE

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 process is designed to assess the candidate's basic knowledge and aptitude towards research in the chosen specific scientific area.
3. The selection procedure shall be based on:
 - an evaluation of the research proposal according to art. 4 co.10. The Commission will take into consideration, in particular, the analytical and methodological skills of the candidate, the clarity and coherence of the project with the objective pursued, the rigour of the presentation and the language, the ability of the candidate to articulate a critical reasoning, the correct methodological approach of the project, the identification of the main bibliographical references, attention to the profiles of legal comparison;
 - knowledge of any additional foreign languages as per the optional documentation attached according to art. 4, paragraph 10;
 - an interview to assess the knowledge, previous research experience and motivation of the candidate(s). It may concern both the research project presented and the concepts, legal institutes and branches of legal knowledge connected and relevant to it. The graduation Thesis, the methodology followed, and the results obtained will also be discussed and assessed. The interview will take place, at the candidate's discretion, in Italian or in English. The PhD course will be mainly in Italian; candidates whose mother tongue is not Italian are required to have a knowledge of Italian, which will be verified during the oral test.
4. Candidates who intend to compete also for the topic-specific scholarship, indicated in article n.1 of this call, must express their interest in the online application, by choosing the topic and by proposing a project related to that topic.
5. Candidates who intend to compete also for potential topic-specific scholarships, made available after this call's publication, must express their intention to the Admissions Committee before the qualifications are assessed. Those candidates will be evaluated on their knowledge of the specific subject matter(s) of that scholarship.
A candidate's request to allocate an eventual topic-specific scholarship implies that candidate's preference for the specific scholarship above all others.



6. The Admissions Committee shall award up to 120 points, partitioned in the following way:

- 35 points for the evaluation of the research project;
- 5 points for the evaluation of any additional linguistic knowledge (with respect to what is required in art. 4, paragraph 10);
- 80 points for the interview.

With regard to the research project, the available score (from 0 to 35 points) will be allocated as follows:

- A. from 0 to 9 points for analytical and methodological skills, including the identification of the main bibliographic references and, where required, attention to aspects of legal comparison;
- B. from 0 to 9 points for the clarity and coherence of the project with the intended objective, also with reference to the correct methodological framework;
- C. from 0 to 8 points for the rigor of presentation and language;
- D. from 0 to 9 points for the ability to develop critical reasoning demonstrating aptitude for research.

The score available for the assessment of any language skills (from 0 to 5 points) will be allocated as follows:

- A. from 0 to 3 points for knowledge of one additional language;
- B. from 4 to 5 points for knowledge of at least two additional languages.

The score available for the interview (from 0 to 80 points) will be allocated as follows:

- A. from 0 to 30 points for clarity in presenting the submitted project;
- B. from 0 to 30 points for the level of knowledge of the subject under examination;
- C. from 0 to 20 points for the candidates' motivation and previous research experience, including reference to their work and degree thesis, the methodology followed, and the results obtained.

To be admitted to the interview, candidates are expected to reach the minimum threshold of 25/40 in the assessment of the research project and of any additional linguistic knowledge (with respect to what is required in art. 4, paragraph 10).

The oral exam will be passed if the candidate scores at least 45 out of 80 points.

7. The outcomes of the assessment of the research project and of any additional linguistic knowledge (with respect to what is required in art. 4, paragraph 9, letter c) and of the oral exam will be available on the selection web site¹³.
8. The interview may take place in one of two modalities (at the candidate's choice):
 - a) at the University of Trento. Applicants are requested to 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 by using audio-video connection devices that allow the correct identification of the participants (by webcam) and the carrying out of the interview in public. The starting time of the interviews will be scheduled by the Commission. Candidates must provide the same identification document attached to the application form. Failure to participate on the day or at the appointed time or not providing ID documents will result in exclusion from the competition. The University accepts no responsibility in the case of technical problems that do not guarantee the proper conduct of the interview.

Information regarding the date, time and place (University of Trento, if in presence) at which the interview will be held will be provided at least 20 days prior to the date of the interview on the competition website. Any changes to the date of the interviews will be published on the same website.

Art. 6 – RANKING

1. The Committee draws up a merit-based ranking according to the scores obtained by the applicants from the research project assessment and the evaluation of any additional linguistic knowledge (with respect to what is required in art. 4, paragraph 10, letter c) and the oral examination.
2. Scholarships are assigned to eligible candidates based on:
 - a) Ranking order;

¹³ The chosen candidates will be listed using their Application ID.



- 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.
3. The candidate who has been awarded a topic-specific scholarship must accept it since the choice for a topic-specific scholarship he/she expressed implies the candidate's preference for the award of that specific scholarship with respect to the others. **Renouncing the topic-specific scholarship 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 offered in the Call.
5. The ranked list (using candidates' application IDs) will be published on the selection website.
6. By publishing the ranking, notification concerning the selection results is considered fulfilled. Successful candidates will not receive any personal notification.

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

1. Candidates will be admitted to the PhD Programme according to their position in the ranking, until all the available places are filled.
2. Should two candidates obtain the same score, as regards the awarding of the scholarship, the candidates' economic situations shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the criteria established by the D.P.C.M. of 9 April 2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations.
3. If a successful candidate withdraws **before the beginning of the Programme** (November 1st, 2026), the next candidate 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.

Successful candidates must confirm that they accept the PhD place offered **within 8 days** of publication of the shortlist. Offers are accepted online, and instructions can be found at: <https://www.unitn.it/en/study/register/information-phd-students/enrolling-phd>. Successful candidates who fail to submit their acceptance according to the terms and procedures set out in this paragraph lose their right to enrol. Their places will be made available to other eligible candidates, in order of their position on the shortlist.

4. Admitted applicants with a qualification that has not been awarded in Italy must deliver to the PhD Office - Cognitive, Social Sciences and Humanities, in advance by email (phd.office-cssh@unitn.it) if they had not already done so during the application phase – “Application procedure”, the following documents **by 6 November 2026**:
 - original or certified copy of the academic diploma of the *Master's degree* (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent) together with the academic *Transcript of Records*, possible official translations¹⁴, legalized¹⁵ or with an *apostille* affixed (*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* 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 issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA¹⁶) 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 6, 2026, 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 6, 2026**, 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;

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

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

¹⁶ 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 [ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database Italia](#)



- 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.

Art. 8 - ENROLMENT ON THE PHD PROGRAMME

1. The official registration in the doctorate, limited to short-listed candidates who have accepted the position according to the procedures in the preceding article, will automatically be made official as soon as the PhD Programmes requirements verification by the Ministry of Education, University and Research for the a.y. 2026-2027 has been completed.

In case of no conferrable accreditation, candidates who have accepted the position will receive a timely notification via email and the fee for the Right to Education (TDS) will be refunded.

2. To complete the enrolment, the candidate who has obtained the qualification abroad, upon arrival in Italy, will have to show the official documents (in original or copy conforming to the original), relating to the academic path, already anticipated in a scanned form in phase of admission to the competition or during the matriculation process, to allow the appropriate verification of the validity of the qualifications, also through the national information centers on the recognition of foreign securities belonging to the ENIC-NARIC network. Until such time candidates are admitted to the course with reserve and may be excluded if they do not meet the requirements.

Art. 9 - EUROPEAN DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The Doctorate will be recognised on a European level if the requirements specified by the declaration of the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, concurred at the Salamanca Convention in 1991, are satisfied.

In particular:

- a) the Doctoral thesis defence will be accorded if at least two professors belonging to two different institutions of higher education placed in two different European countries, other than the one where the thesis will be defended, have given their judgement concerning the manuscript;
- b) at least one of the members of the Examination Committee should be a professor coming from one of the two European Countries. The Country cannot be the one where the Doctoral thesis will be defended;
- c) a part of the defence must be held in one of the official languages different from the one(s) of the country, where the Doctoral thesis will be defended;
- d) a part of the time devoted to the completion of the thesis will be the result of a period of research spent in a European universities or research centres collaborating with the Doctoral Programme for at least one trimester.

Art. 10 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. Without prejudice to the Italian law on copyright (legislative decree 633/1941 and subsequent amendments), intellectual and industrial property rights on the results eventually achieved by the PhD student, including (but not limited to) softwares, 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 involved¹⁷.
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. 11 – REGULATIONS

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 University's Code of Ethics and to the Internal Regulations for the Doctoral Programme in Comparative and European Legal Studies approved by the Board of the Faculty of Law on 18th May 2022 and subsequent amendments and to other relevant provisions contained in the existing regulations.

¹⁷ See [Protection and valorisation of intellectual property](#)



2. The call will be published on the University of Trento, Euraxess and MIUR websites. Potential changes or improvements to the call will be published on the webpage to art. 1 of this call.
3. The person responsible for the administrative procedure is the Head of the Education and Student Services Management of the University of Trento. The reference office is the PhD Office Humanities and Cognitive Science Area, email: phd.office-cssh@unitn.it. The Selection Committee is responsible for the applications selection procedure, from the evaluation of the qualifications to the interview, from the drafting of the minutes to the formulation of the merit rankings.
4. Any changes or additions to this Call will be published on the announcement webpage listed in art.1.
5. The processing of personal data provided for the purpose of participation in this competition will be carried out in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR") and Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, as subsequently amended. Information on the processing of personal data is provided to interested parties upon registration for the competition and is available on the competition webpage.