

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Admission to the National PhD Programme in

SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

42nd Cycle

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

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N.B. The English translation of this document is provided as a support to the candidates and has no legal effects. The Italian version, issued by Rector's Decree n. 566 of 19th June 2026, constitutes the sole authentic text and will be referred to for any legal matters.

Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The University of Trento opens the call for positions for the 42nd Cycle (Academic Year 2026/2027) of the National PhD Programme in “Space Science and Technology”.

Deadline for application: July 20, 2026, hrs. 4 pm CEST (Italian time, GMT +1, all the times indicated in this Call are to be meant as Italian time)

Positions: no. 41

Scholarships: n. 30 (30 on reserved topics)

Position reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries: no. 5 (with reference to Art. 7)

Positions reserved for candidates with Kenyan citizenship: no. 5 (with reference to Art. 8)

Positions reserved for candidates collaborating with academic institutions or research centres in Italy or abroad: no. 1 (with reference to Art. 9)

The number of positions available for selection is distributed as follows:

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE POSITIONS			
CURRICULUM 1 – OBSERVATION OF THE UNIVERSE			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
University School for Advanced Studies IUSS of Pavia	1	University School for Advanced Studies IUSS of Pavia	1A - Multi-wavelength observations of Galactic and extragalactic compact objects and transients
National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF	1	National Institute for Astrophysics – INAF, Astronomical Observatory of Trieste	1B - Support for Data Reduction and Analysis of the Euclid Mission
University of Turin - UNITO	1	University of Turin - UNITO	1C - Study of charged particle fluxes with the HEPD02 detector of the Limadou/CSES-02 experiment
University of Brescia - UNIBS	1	University of Brescia - UNIBS	1D Study of the fundamental properties of antimatter in the ALPHA experiment at CERN
University School for Advanced Studies IUSS of Pavia & National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF	1	University School for Advanced Studies IUSS of Pavia	1E - Gamma-ray astronomy with the next-generation observatories ASTRI and CTAO
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			5
NO. OF POSITIONS			5



POSITIONS RESERVED FOR FOREIGN STATE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS (Art. 7) (Operational site to be determined during the candidate evaluation phase)			1
CURRICULUM 2 – EARTH AND THE SUN-EARTH SYSTEM			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Fondazione Bruno Kessler - FBK	1	Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK Trento	2A - Foundation models for anomaly detection of ionospheric phenomena and correlation with seismo-induced events
National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology - INGV	1	National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology - INGV, Rome Section	2B - Development of space weather tools using the CSES1/2 Constellation
National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF	1	National Institute for Astrophysics – INAF, Astronomical Observatory of Trieste	2C - Characterisation of Solar Energetic Events through the Analysis of Multiband Time Series and Images from Ground-based and Space Observations (CUP C53C23001330005)
University of Siena - UNISI	1	University of Siena - UNISI	2D - Study of lithospheric deformations using imaging and non-imaging satellite data (CUP I53D24000060005)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Florence - UNIFI	2E - Study on the use of new observation technologies from space for spatially explicit estimation of forest variables (CUP F63C25000370005)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Calabria - UNICAL	2F - Solar Storm Tracking Models for the Moon and Mars (METEOLEM) (CUP F63C26000380001)
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			6
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES WITH KENYAN CITIZENSHIP (Art. 8)			
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK	2KA - Generative AI for Space Weather Nowcasting (CUP F63C26000230005)
NO. OF POSITIONS			7
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR FOREIGN STATE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS (Art. 7) (Operational site to be determined during the candidate evaluation phase)			1
CURRICULUM 3 – PLANETARY SCIENCES			



FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF	1	National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF, Capodimonte Astronomical Observatory	3A - Integrated Laboratory Characterization of Lunar Analogues and Development of Simulation Systems for Lunar Resource Exploration Sensors (CUP C53C24001850005)
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			1
NO. OF POSITIONS			1
POSITION RESERVED FOR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES (Art. 7) (Operational site to be defined to be defined during the evaluation of applications)			1
CURRICULUM 4 – ASTROBIOLOGY, LIFE SCIENCES AND SPACE MEDICINE			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
University of Rome Tor Vergata - UNITOV	1	University of Rome Tor Vergata - UNITOV	4A - Bioengineering approaches to neurophysiology in the space environment (CUP E84I19001220005)
University of Rome Tor Vergata - UNITOV	1	University of Rome Tor Vergata - UNITOV	4B - Bioengineering approaches to neurophysiology in the space environment (CUP E84I19001220005 e E53C23002510002)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Trieste - UNITS	4C - Space Nutrition: Optimizing Protein and Energy Intake to Preserve Skeletal Muscle and Cardiovascular Health (CUP F63C26000380001)
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			3
NO. OF POSITIONS			3
CURRICULUM 5 – SPACE SENSING AND INSTRUMENTATION			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
National Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications - CNIT	1	CNIT - National Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications - PNTLAB-PISA	5A - Detection of space debris by networks of distributed radars



National Institute for Nuclear Physics - INFN	1	National Institute for Nuclear Physics - INFN, Bari or Rome - Tor Vergata section	5B - Design and prototype characterization of innovative high energy particle detectors for space application
Fondazione Bruno Kessler - FBK	1	Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK	5C - Development of 3D-Integrated Trench-Isolated LGADs For Detecting Low-Energy X-Rays In Space Experiments (CUP C63C23001090006)
National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF	1	National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF, Padua Astronomical Observatory	5D - Integration and calibration of the hyperspectral stereo camera (SHY-4D) for a lunar rover (CUP C53C24001850005)
University of Palermo - UNIPA	1	University of Palermo - UNIPA	5E - Multimessenger observation of UHE neutral messengers
University of Ferrara - UNIFE	1	University of Ferrara - UNIFE	5F - Development of Bent-Crystal Optics for X-ray Spectrometry and Imaging
University of Trento - Department of Physics - UNITN	1	University of Trento - UNITN	5G - Experimental Astroparticle Physics for Space Applications (CUP E53D23002110006)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF, Trieste Astronomical Observatory	5H - A Multidisciplinary Approach to X-Ray and Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy of Planetary Surfaces: Simulations, Laboratory Tests, Artificial Intelligence (CUP F63C26000380001)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	European Centre for Theoretical Studies in Nuclear Physics and Related Areas (ECT*, Fondazione Bruno Kessler)	5I - High-Entropy Alloys per applicazioni spaziali: progettazione ab initio di materiali avanzati resistenti a radiazione per ambienti estremi (CUP F63C26000380001)
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			9
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES WITH KENYAN CITIZENSHIP (Art. 8)			
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK	5KA - Design, Fabrication and Characterization of Plasmonic Antennas for Infrared Detection in Space Applications (CUP F63C26000230005)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Trento - UNITN	5KB - Artificial intelligence for the analysis of space remote sensing data (CUP F63C26000230005)
NO. OF POSITIONS			11
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR FOREIGN STATE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS (Art. 7) (Operational site to be determined during the candidate evaluation phase)			1
CURRICULUM 6 – SATELLITE PLATFORMS: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGIES			



FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Autonomous Province of Trento-PAT - Atto di indirizzo 2026-2028 & Thales Alenia Space S.p.A.	1	University of Trento - UNITN	6A - AI-Driven Decision Support System for Smart Satellite Manufacturing and Supply Chain Optimization
OHB Italia Srl & Department of Physics, University of Trento - UNITN	1	University of Trento - UNITN	6B - Mechatronic systems for the LISA Gravitational Reference System (Accordo n.2024-36-HH.0, CUP F63C24000390001 "Attività per la fase B2/C della missione LISA")
Provincia Autonoma di Trento-Atto di indirizzo 2026-2028 & Trentino Sviluppo - Prom Facility	1	Trentino Sviluppo - Prom Facility Università di Trento - UNITN	6C - Metallic additive manufacturing advancements for aerospace innovation in microsatellites
Thales Alenia Space S.p.A. & Department of Physics, University of Trento - UNITN	1	University of Trento - UNITN & Thales Alenia Space S.p.A.	6D - Cybersecure Data Sharing Framework for Distributed Smart Satellite Manufacturing Systems (CUP E53D23002100006, E53D23004090006)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Pisa - UNIPI	6E - Hardware Architectures and Post-Quantum Protocols for Secure Communications and Operations in Advanced Space Systems (CUP F63C26000380001)
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			5
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES WITH KENYAN CITIZENSHIP (Art. 8)			
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK	6KA - Formal Methods for Automated Reasoning and Reliability Analysis of Autonomous Space Systems (CUP F63C26000230005)
Italian Space Agency - ASI	1	University of Trento - UNITN	6KB - Mechatronics systems and instruments for space applications (CUP F63C26000230005)
NO. OF POSITIONS			7
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR FOREIGN STATE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS (Art. 7) (Operational site to be determined during the candidate evaluation phase)			1
CURRICULUM 7 – ECONOMICS, LAW AND SPACE DIPLOMACY			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES COLLABORATING WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS OR RESEARCH CENTRES IN ITALY OR ABROAD (Art. 9)			1



CURRICULUM 8 – GRAVITATION			
FUNDING INSTITUTION	N. OF POSITIONS	OPERATIONAL SITE	RESERVED TOPIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Provincia Autonoma di Trento- Atto di indirizzo 2026-2028 & Department of Physics, University of Trento - UNITN	1	University of Trento - UNITN	8A - Experimental consolidation of design and free-fall performance for the LISA gravitational reference system (Accordo n.2024-36-HH.0, CUP F63C24000390001 "Attività per la fase B2/C della missione LISA")
POSITIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS			1
NO. OF POSITIONS			1

The study program is structured into 8 Curricula. Candidates may express interest in reserved topics scholarships, which are contingent upon the execution of a specific research topic conducted at the operational site indicated in the previous table, for which certain skills are required. Positions covered by reserved topics scholarships, places reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries and the positions reserved for candidates with Kenyan citizenship may only be allocated to those who specifically request them.

Those interested in one or more of the aforementioned positions must carefully verify the research topics and the required skills, as well as whether the positions are subject to the acceptance of confidentiality agreements and/or the assignment of results. Detailed information is available via the specific links for each Curriculum provided on the call for applications webpage: <https://www.unitn.it/it/dottorati/space-science-and-technology>.

The number of positions with scholarships or covered by other forms of financial support may be increased should further funding become available after the publication of this call for applications and before the start of the evaluation of qualifications. Any such increase will be notified exclusively on the call for applications webpage.

Additional positions: for positions with reserved topics scholarships that become available after the publication of this call (and published on the Call for Applications webpage), it will be possible to apply by selecting "Other" from the list provided in the online application and by filling in the descriptive field with the chosen scholarship, modifying if necessary the order of preference previously indicated. Those who, at the time of publication of the additional scholarships, had already closed their online application may express their interest and, if necessary, change their order of preference in accordance with the procedures and deadline that will be announced on the call for applications webpage.

Candidates involved in specific international mobility programmes in which the Universities and research institutions serving as operational sites for the PhD participate may also be admitted to the 42nd cycle, subject to selection by dedicated committees.

Scholarship amount: the gross annual amount of the scholarship is Euro 18,345.00.

Information on PhD scholarships:

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

Duration: three years

Start of the academic Year: November 1st, 2026

Official language: English

Call for applications webpage: <https://www.unitn.it/en/phd/space-science-and-technology>



PhD SST Website: <https://phd.unitn.it/phd-sst/> (programme and requirements for advancement to following years and for the final thesis defence)

Important:

- a) The **selection dates** and all **results** (intermediate and final), any **automatic exclusion from the selection** due to incomplete application (see subsequent Art. 3), and exclusion due to unrecognized foreign qualifications (see subsequent Art. 2), will be published on the Call for applications webpage referencing only the **ID of the application, which is recommended to be kept in memory**. This publication serves as **official notification for all legal purposes, and no personal communications will be sent**.
- b) Any notices regarding the competition will be transmitted via email to the personal email address associated with the account registered by the system at the time of application closure. For candidates who have an active or recently concluded career at the University of Trento, please verify the correctness of this personal email address at the following link: [Profile data for account @unitn.it](#). If it becomes necessary to modify the personal contact after the application closure, it is advisable to also send a communication to the Division for Support of PhD and Higher Education Courses - Polo Collina (phd.office-st@unitn.it).

1.1 Description and objectives of the PhD Programme

Italy has a long tradition in space science and technology and has developed a complete chain of activities linking university education, academic and private research and industrial activities, with important national and international spin-offs. Italian public investment in Space has increased in recent years and Space is an area where the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) invests significant resources: in this context MUR and ASI have launched a national call for an Extended Partnership dedicated to the development of basic Space Science and Technology.

Space is a multidisciplinary field that requires specific education and training. A National PhD Programme dedicated to Space Science and Technology (DIN-SST) is therefore timely, strategic, and well-justified, bringing together the scientific and technological expertise of Universities, Polytechnics, Research Institutions, Academia, and Industry.

The training themes related to space activities cover different sectors, making the National PhD Programme approach particularly effective, as it enables the sharing of educational content from the numerous Universities and Research Institutions involved, thus ensuring quality and excellence in content while providing a wide variety of training profiles for PhD students.

The Course is divided into the following eight curricula, the description of which (with the relevant GSDs - Scientific Disciplinary Groups) can be found in the PhD Programme website.

- 1 - Observation of the Universe
- 2 - Earth and the Sun-Earth system
- 3 - Planetary Sciences
- 4 - Astrobiology, Life Sciences and Space Medicine
- 5 - Space Sensing and Instrumentation
- 6 - Satellite Platforms: Engineering and Technologies
- 7 - Space Economy, law and diplomacy
- 8 - Gravitation

1.2 Participating Universities and Research Institutions

For the activation of the National PhD Programme, the University of Trento has formalized agreements with the following Universities/Higher Education Institutions, Research Institutions, and Companies, which serve as the programme's operational sites:

Universities / Higher Education Institutions

1. Institute of Advanced University Education - IUSS Pavia
2. University of Brescia - UNIBS
3. University of Ferrara – UNIFE
4. University of Palermo - UNIPA
5. University of Rome “Tor Vergata” - UNITOV
6. University of Siena - UNISI
7. University of Turin - UNITO

Research Institutions

1. Italian Space Agency – ASI
2. National Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications – CNIT
3. Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK
4. National Institute for Astrophysics - INAF
5. National Institute for Nuclear Physics – INFN
6. National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology - INGV

Companies and other funding subjects:

1. OHB-Italia S.p.A.
2. Provincia Autonoma di Trento - PAT
3. TAS-I S.p.A.
4. Trentino Sviluppo S.p.A. - PROM Facility

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications are open to all candidates, regardless of citizenship, who hold one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a *Laurea Specialistica* or *Magistrale* (Master's degree), or a degree awarded under the Italian regulations prior to Ministerial Decree no. 509 of 3 November 1999, as amended by Ministerial Decree no. 270 of 22 October 2004;
 - or
 - b) a university degree awarded by Institutions belonging to the AFAM system (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale);
 - or
 - c) an equivalent academic qualification obtained abroad (Master's degree) at an officially recognized academic institution, which grants access to PhD programmes in the reference system / issuing country (provided that there are no substantial differences), and which is comparable in terms of duration, level¹, nature (academic/research elements), and disciplinary

¹ The foreign reference degree must be a second-level degree according to the Bologna Process (EQF level 7 / QF-EHEA second cycle).



field to the required Italian degree, and is assessed as eligible by the Selection Committee for the sole purpose of admission to the PhD Programme.

2. Applicants who will obtain their degree **by 31 October 2026** are also eligible to apply. In this case, admission to the PhD Programme will be granted **“provisionally”** (*con riserva*). **By and no later than 6 November 2026**, candidates must submit their degree certificate or a self-certification (as per Art. 46 of D.P.R. n. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments) to the Scientific-Technological Area - PhD Office (via email to phd.office-st@unitn.it), **under penalty of exclusion**.
3. Applicants with a foreign qualification that has not been officially recognised **as equivalent** to a second cycle Italian degree (*Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica/vecchio ordinamento*) will be considered **as requesting equivalence in their application**, by attaching the necessary supporting documents. It is in the applicant's interest to provide all the elements useful for the assessment, especially if the education system of the country where the qualification was obtained is not similar to the Italian one. The Selection Committee may require the applicant to provide additional documentation if deemed necessary for the purpose of assessing the eligibility.
4. Candidates who already hold a PhD degree may be admitted to a second PhD Programme, provided they pass the selection process and that the prevailing research themes and scientific-disciplinary sectors (SSD) differ from those of the previously completed PhD. Those who have already benefited, even partially, from a PhD scholarship are not eligible for a scholarship for the new PhD Programme.

Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. The application must be completed and **submitted by July 20, 2026 - 4:00 p.m. (Italian time)**, exclusively through [Application Corsi di Dottorato](#), which will be available within three working days from the date of publication of the Call. The online enrollment procedure can be accessed in one of the following ways (candidates are invited not to wait until the last few days before the deadline to submit their application. It may take up to three working days to receive your login credentials and gain access to the online application portal):
 - **with SPID or CIE (Electronic Identity Card)**: candidates holding an Italian tax code (*codice fiscale*) and an Italian identity document must authenticate via CIE (Electronic Identity Card) or SPID (Public Digital Identity System). These systems automatically certify the user's identity within the UniTrento systems and assign them an @unitn.it account.
 - **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 (such as name.surname@guest.unitn.it or name.surname@unitn.it). If you already have a UniTrento account but have forgotten your password, please follow this procedure: [Reset password via email](#)
For details on UniTrento account and password: Account@unitn.it
 - **registering a UniTrento “guest” account**: Those who do not hold an Italian tax code (*codice fiscale*) nor a UniTrento account can register for a temporary “guest” account. After enrolment, this account will be converted into a permanent @unitn.it account. To register a guest account: <https://webapps.unitn.it/Registration/en/Home>
2. The application is subject to a non-refundable **participation fee** (*Application fee*) of **€ 30.00**, to be paid via the **PagoPA service**, following the instructions provided in the relevant section of the online application (“*Application Fee*”). The application can be saved and modified several times until final confirmation; after final confirmation, it can no longer be modified.
3. **The application is to be considered for all purposes of the law as a self-declaration of personal data and qualifications.** It is the sole responsibility of the candidates to verify that the procedure has been completed correctly, ensuring that they have received the email notification confirming the submission of the application. UniTrento refuses any responsibility for all applications not closed properly by candidates.
4. During the online application process, it is mandatory to indicate a preference for **only one of the activated Curricula** (Art. 1.1 of the call). For the chosen Curriculum, candidates must prepare a **Statement of Purpose** (as per point 5.E below) to explain in detail the reasons for their choice, and a **Research Proposal** (as per point 5.F below). Furthermore, for the **selected Curriculum**, candidates must indicate, in a **binding order of priority**, the topic-specific scholarships (up to a maximum of 3)



they intend to apply for. The oral examination will include an assessment of the specific skills required to qualify for the scholarships listed by the candidate.

Important! Applying for one or more topic-specific scholarships implies that the candidate will be prioritized for these positions over non-specific (general) scholarships.

The candidate may also declare their availability to be considered for the assignment of topic-specific scholarships in addition to those for which they have expressed a preference, should there be scholarships left unassigned due to a lack of interest from other candidates or if no one has been deemed eligible.

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

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

A copy of the applicant's valid **identity card** (for *EU citizens*) or **passport** (*non-EU citizens*), in particular of the pages reporting his/her photograph, personal data, number, place and date of issue, expiry date and signature;

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

a. **Italian qualification:**

- **already obtained/to be obtained:** a self-declaration, in accordance with D.P.R. art. 46 no. 445 of 28.12.2000 and subsequent amendments, stating the list of passed exams together with date, mark and credits obtained in each examination. A facsimile is available at the selection web page but similar documents are also accepted as long as they report the information requested in the call.

b. If the qualification was issued by the University of Trento, the information will be acquired automatically. **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 relevant grade;
- a **list of examinations taken to obtain the qualification to access a PhD Programme** (*academic transcript of records of the Master's degree*) with relevant credits (if provided for in the university system of the country that awarded the qualification), marks, and rating scale. If the university career is divided into first and second levels, it is preferable to also attach the first-cycle degree (*Bachelor's degree*) and the list of exams passed to obtain that degree (*Bachelor's degree academic transcript of records*).

● **to be obtained:**

- a **certificate of enrolment in a course of study that allows admission to a PhD Programme** (see art. 2 paragraph 1 letter c), with a list of the examinations successfully passed, credits (if provided for in the university system of the country that awarded the qualification) obtained in each examination, marks, rating scale (*academic transcript of records*) and the possible award date. If the university career is divided into first and second levels, it is preferable to also attach the first-cycle degree (*Bachelor's degree*) and the list of exams passed to obtain that degree (*Bachelor's degree academic transcript of records*).

If the aforementioned documents are not in English, they must be accompanied by a translation in Italian or in English made provisionally by the applicant who takes responsibility for the accuracy of the translation and its compliance with the original text.

C. **A curriculum vitae et studiorum, including a list of publications, if any** (in Italian or English).

The CV must detail all previous and, if applicable, current training (upper secondary education diploma, degree, Master's degree, PhD, higher education or specialisation courses, etc.), any research skills acquired or other elements relevant to the subject of the call (e.g. any publications, participation in conferences, etc.);

D. **Abstract of the thesis in english** (*Magistrale* or *Master's degree*), including: reasons for the dissertation, methods of investigation, and results obtained (max. 3.000 characters including spaces); those who have not yet graduated may attach a statement with the data and contact details of the supervisor;



- E. **Statement of Purpose in English** (maximum 3,000 characters, including spaces, using the template available in the online application), which must specify: the motivations for pursuing a PhD and, in particular, for choosing the PhD Programme in Space Science and Technology; research interests consistent with the chosen Research Area and the selection of a specific research project among those proposed, with reference to the skills and experience acquired.
- F. **Research Proposal in English**, which will be used for evaluation purposes only and will not be binding for the research activities that would eventually be carried out during the PhD. The proposal may cover a topic of the candidate's choice related to the foundational disciplines of the PhD Programme in Space Science and Technology; it should be a maximum of two pages (max 4,000 characters, including spaces) divided into: "Background and Rationale" and "Objectives" of the project.
6. **OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS:**
- G. **Names of up to two referees (experts in the PhD research field)**, who are members of staff at national or international universities or research institutions, including their respective e-mail addresses. Once the relevant section of the application has been completed and saved by the applicant, the system automatically sends (within 24 hours) to the referee(s) an e-mail with instructions and forwarding method. The letter must be completed according to the model provided to the referee(s). Applicants are recommended to make sure that the referee(s) submit the letter of presentation by **July 22, 2026**.
- H. **Other qualifications**, such as English language certifications, international test scores (e.g., GRE – Graduate Record Examination or equivalent), and any other documents demonstrating the candidate's aptitude for research;
- I. **Copy of the first-level academic degree** (Bachelor's degree) and relevant transcript of records;
- J. **Copy of the title page** of the thesis containing the title of the thesis and the name of the thesis supervisor; candidates who have not yet obtained the title may attach a statement with the data and contact information of the thesis supervisor;
- K. **For applicants holding a foreign academic degree:**
- Academic Diploma of the Master's degree (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent), in its original language;
 - Diploma Supplement (DS) drafted according to the form developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO / CEPES;
- alternatively
- The "*Dichiarazione di valore in loco*" (Declaration of Value), which must certify that the degree held is valid in the country of issuance for admission to an academic programme equivalent to a PhD (a third-cycle degree according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area QF-EHEA, EQF level 8 according to the European Qualifications Framework EQF);
- alternatively
- Statement of comparability of foreign university qualification² issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center in Italy (CIMEA) that contains all the information necessary for the assessment of the qualification.
- If the foreign academic qualification has already been declared equivalent³ to an Italian second cycle degree by the competent academic bodies of an Italian university, the equivalence decree (Rectoral Decree) must be attached.
7. If, once the application has been definitively closed, the applicant wishes to supplement his/her documentation, any additional material (accompanied by an explanatory note specifying the purpose of the added/integrated material)⁴ must be sent **by 4:00 PM (Italian time) on July 20, 2026**, to the e-mail address ateneo@unitn.it (indicate in the subject line: "Application ID - Surname Name - National PhD in Space Science and Technology – 42nd cycle - application supplement"). Integrations received by means other than the one described above will not be accepted.

² The University of Trento signed an agreement with the CIMEA Association about evaluating and verifying foreign titles through the online platform Diplome.

Further information at <https://www.unitn.it/en/international/coming-unitrento>.

The certificate of comparability of qualifications for the 55 countries of the Lisbon Convention can be downloaded directly and free of charge via ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database Italia (<https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-ardi-automatic-recognition-database-italia>).

³ For further details please consult <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico>, p 3 "Nostrification Procedure".

⁴ Please ensure that all files are named correctly and appropriately.



8. Certificates, whether originals or copies, are accepted in Italian or English; for all other languages, it is mandatory to also attach a translation into English or Italian, signed by the candidate. The mandatory attachments referred to in points D, E, and F must be submitted in English only.
9. Applicants are admitted to the selection process **subject to verification that they meet the admission requirements set out in Art. 2 of this call**. The University of Trento reserves the right to carry out checks in accordance with Art. 71 et seq. of Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) no. 445 of 28.12.2000. **Forfeiture of the right to enrolment or exclusion from the programme may be ordered at any time, even after enrolment, by a reasoned provision, for failure to meet the requirements set out in this call.**
10. Pursuant to Italian Law 104/92, Art. 20, and Italian Law 68/99, Art. 16 paragraph 1, applicants with disabilities and/or Specific Learning Disorders (SLD) may, in relation to their certification, make an explicit request in the application for any measures or aids necessary to take the examination. In this regard, personal data will be processed in compliance with current legislation on the processing of personal data, as stated in the relevant privacy policy.

Art. 4 – EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. The evaluation is made by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector upon advice from the PhD Committee, in accordance with the University Regulations for PhD Programs. The Selection Committee sets the evaluation criteria during a preliminary meeting.
2. The selection is aimed at ascertaining, comparatively, the preparation and aptitude of the candidates to carry out research activities concerning the topics of the PhD Course and the scholarship on reserved topics in the chosen Curriculum. The selection consists of:
 - the assessment of the qualifications referred to in the previous Art. 3 of the present call;
 - an interview, based on the criteria established in the following paragraph 4.
3. The Committee will assess eligibility for reserved topic scholarships for which the candidate has declared a preference, based on the documentation (research project) submitted in the application or subsequent supplement.
4. The Admissions Committee has a total of 100 points available, distributed as follows:
 - a) **Comparative evaluation of all mandatory qualifications (max 60 points)** as set out in Art. 3 of this call. In particular, the Committee will award points as follows:
 - evaluation of Curriculum Vitae and Course of study (points B, C e D of the attachments to the application): **maximum 25 points**.
 - evaluation of the Research Proposal and Statement of Purpose (referred to in points E and F of the attachments to the application): **maximum 35 points**.

Candidates who achieve a score of **at least 35/60** in the aforementioned evaluation will be shortlisted for the interview.

- b) **Interview and (if applicable) letter of reference (max 40 pts)**: the interview is conducted **in English via internet** and will focus on a discussion of the qualifications submitted (points B, C and D of the qualifications attached to the application), the Research Proposal and the Statement of Purpose (referred to in points E and F of the qualifications attached to the application). The presentation by the candidate of the above may also take place, at his/her discretion, **through the use of video-shared slides**. For each of the research topics put forward in the call for applications, the Committee may invite experts with proven expertise in the field to take part in the interview, including those belonging to the PhD Committee. During the interview, the Committee will ascertain the possession of the basic disciplinary knowledge required to attend the PhD course and evaluate the candidate's suitability with respect to each of the scholarships for which the candidate expressed interest in the application. The Selection Committee will evaluate the interview by awarding a maximum score of **40 points**. Candidates who obtain a score of **less than 25/40** in the interview will be excluded from the final merit ranking. **Important:** Any request by the applicant to be considered for one or more topic-specific scholarships, or for all scholarships listed in the call, implies that topic-specific scholarships will be awarded as a priority over non-specific ones.
5. The interview will be held remotely using audio-video connection tools that ensure:
 - the correct identification of participants (via webcam);
 - the public nature of the oral examination.



6. The selection will take place with the following schedule:

- titles evaluation: starting from **27/07/2026**;
- interviews: starting from **31/07/2026**.

The start time for the interviews will be set by the Committee.

The results of the evaluation of qualifications, the detailed interview schedule (including any subsequent changes), and the results of the interviews themselves will be published on the application webpage.

The University declines all responsibility in case of technical difficulties that might prevent the interviews from being conducted correctly.

Any changes to the date of the interviews will be published exclusively on the application website.

In order to facilitate identification formalities, candidates must show the same identity document attached to the application form in order to undergo the interview.

Absence or failure to log in for any reason whatsoever, unavailability on the scheduled day or at the scheduled time, or failure to provide identification documents, are grounds for disqualification from the selection procedure.

Art. 5 – RANKINGS

1. Upon completion of the evaluation work, the Committee compiles for each Curriculum an overall merit ranking.
2. Positions are assigned to successful candidates based on:
 - a. the position in the overall ranking list;
 - b. for topic-specific scholarships, for positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries, and for positions reserved for candidates with Kenyan citizenship, according to the ranking order, taking into account the priority order and specific eligibility;
 - c. in the event of a tie, the provisions of Article 6 below apply.
3. Failure to award the topic-specific scholarships and/or the positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries and candidates with Kenyan citizenship will result in a reduction in the total number of positions offered in the call.
4. Results will be available on the selection webpage. This notice shall constitute official notification for all legal purposes regarding the publication of acts.

Art. 6 – ADMISSION TO THE PHD PROGRAMME AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFER

1. Admission to the PhD Programme is granted for each Curriculum according to the order of the relevant ranking list, up to the number of positions available.
Forfeiting the scholarship awarded according to the Curriculum ranking list described in Art. 5 entails the loss of the right to admission.
2. Should two applicants obtain the same score, regarding the award of the scholarship, the applicants' economic situations shall be the deciding factor, in accordance with the criteria established by the Italian Prime Minister's Decree of 09.04.2001 and subsequent amendments and integrations. As for positions without scholarship, the younger of the two applicants will be selected.
3. Winners will have to confirm acceptance of the position, using the appropriate online procedure [Instructions available on the webpage "[Enrolling in a PhD](#)"]:
 - **within 8 days** from the day following the day of the final ranking publication if awarded **a scholarship position, or other form of financial support, or a reserved position for scholarship holders from foreign countries or a reserved position for candidates with Kenyan citizenship**;
 - **within 14 days** from the day following the day of the final ranking publication if awarded **a NON-scholarship position or other form of financial support**.

N.B.! Admitted applicants with a qualification that has not been awarded in Italy must deliver (if they had not already done so during the application phase - "Application procedure", in the "*Domanda di partecipazione alla selezione*") the PhD Office S&T (sending them in advance by email: phd.office-st@unitn.it) by **November 6th 2026**:



- *academic diploma of the Master's degree* (Master of Science/Arts or equivalent) in the original (or certified) copy, together with the Academic transcript of records, with the relevant translations and legalisations or 'apostille' stamp attached (please carefully check the requirements based on the country where the degree was obtained).
- *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*⁵ issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular representations in the country whose educational system governs the institution that awarded the degree;

Alternatively

- *Statement of comparability* of foreign university qualifications issued by the ENIC-NARIC Center (CIMEA in Italy) that contains all the information necessary for the assessment of the qualification.

For the issuance of ENIC-NARIC certificates, the University of Trento has activated a partnership with CIMEA.

If the Diploma Supplement, the Declaration of Value, or the Statement of Comparability mentioned above are not yet available by the specified date, a document proving that the request for issuance has been submitted to the University, the Diplomatic Representation, or the competent ENIC-NARIC centre must be submitted.

Those who do not deliver the required documentation by 6 November 2026 will be enrolled with reserve and will forfeit their position in the PhD programme if:

- they fail to provide such documentation within 6 months of the start of the Programme;
- following verification, the degree produced does not meet the requirements set out in this call.

Forfeiture from the Programme will result in the obligation to return any scholarship instalments already received.

4. The acceptance of the position must be accompanied by the stamp duty and the receipt of payment of the "Provincial Tax for the Right to University Studies" - TDS, except in the case of exemption. To date, there are no fees charged to PhD students for access to courses and attendance, with the exception of the aforementioned annual provincial tax for the right to study (TDS).
5. Failure to accept the position within the above-mentioned time limit shall be deemed a renunciation and the corresponding positions shall be made available to the next eligible candidates in the order of the corresponding ranking.
6. In the event of **renunciation** of the eligible candidate **before the beginning of the course** (*November 1st, 2026*), the position shall be taken by the next candidate according to the order of the relevant ranking and taking into account the specific eligibility. Said candidate must accept the position **within 4 days** starting from the day after the communication is sent by the Division for Support of PhD and Higher Education Courses - Polo Collina.
7. In the event of **renunciation** or **exclusion** of an enrolled student **during the first quarter of the first year of the programme**, the PhD Committee reserves the right to evaluate the opportunity to proceed with the admission of the next candidate in the ranking, according to the ranking order and any specific eligibility requirements.
8. Upon the closure of the enrolments, the doctoral candidates must inform by e-mail (dn_sst@unitn.it) the Secretariat of the Doctoral Course of the precise date of their arrival at their own operational site. In the event that for proven reasons he/she cannot be at his/her place of operational site for the beginning of the academic year, the PhD student must give timely and documented notice by e-mail (dn_sst@unitn.it) by **November 6th, 2026** at the latest, under penalty of exclusion from the Course. In the event of failure to notify or to arrive at the operational site by the above-mentioned dates, the PhD student shall be deemed to have withdrawn.

Art. 7 – POSITIONS RESERVED FOR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. Candidates holding scholarships funded by foreign countries may choose to compete only for the positions reserved for them within the research area of their interest.

⁵ If the Declaration of Value di Valore has not yet been issued on the date indicated, a document proving that the request for issue has been submitted to the competent diplomatic representation must be presented. **The PhD candidate must transmit, as soon as available, the original Declaration of Value.**



2. When filling out the online application form for admission to the competition, candidates must select, within their preferred Curriculum, the 'Positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries' selection mode and attach, in addition to the documents indicated in art. 3 of this call, a certificate attesting to the ownership of the scholarship provided by the country of origin, specifying the period of coverage and the amount received annually (minimum amount equal to the value of the doctoral scholarship provided by the University of Trento as indicated on page: [PhD Scholarship](#)) or a copy of the application submitted to the competent authorities for the award of the same.
3. The selection for positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries shall be carried out in the same manner and on the same dates as the selection for the other positions.
4. For the reserved positions, the Selection Committee will draw up separate rankings in relation to each Curriculum providing for such positions.
5. In the event that there are no suitable candidates, the positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries remaining vacant may not be assigned.
6. When establishing the rankings, the Commission, on the basis of the candidates' skills and of the research project submitted, shall formulate a proposal for assignment to an operational site, to be identified among suitable Universities or Research Institutions on the national territory.
7. Candidates intending to compete for the positions reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries must prove that they are definitively in possession of the scholarship by the peremptory deadline of **31 October 2026**. Proof of possession of the scholarship must be sent by email to phd.office-st@unitn.it by that date, under penalty of exclusion from the PhD course.

Art. 8 – POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES WITH KENYAN CITIZENSHIP

1. Kenyan citizens may opt to apply for the positions reserved for them under the Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kenya concerning the Luigi Broglio Space Centre in Malindi, Kenya, including its Annex and Implementing Protocols, signed in Trento on 24 October 2016 (Law no. 149 of 25 November 2019), within their chosen Curriculum. In addition to the scholarship provided for course attendance, candidates selected for the aforementioned reserved positions will benefit from further forms of support and supplementary financial coverage, as governed and provided for by the implementing protocols of the cited bilateral Agreement⁶.
2. When completing the online application for admission to the selection process, candidates must select the selection mode "Positions reserved for Kenyan citizens" within their preferred Curriculum and attach all documents indicated in Art. 3 of this call.
3. The selection for the reserved positions will be carried out using the same methods and on the same dates as the selection for the other positions.
4. For these reserved positions, the Examining Committee may be supplemented by a representative appointed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI). The Committee will then draw up separate rankings for each Curriculum that includes such positions.
5. Should there be no eligible candidates, any vacant positions reserved for Kenyan citizens cannot be assigned.

Art. 9 – POSITIONS RESERVED FOR CANDIDATES COLLABORATING WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS OR RESEARCH CENTRES IN ITALY OR ABROAD

1. Candidates engaged in highly qualified activities at Academic Institutions or Research Centres in Italy or abroad, by virtue of a formalized contract whose expected duration extends for at least twenty-four months starting from the start date of the PhD Programme and who receive a remuneration of an amount not less than the PhD scholarship, may choose to compete for the positions reserved for them (pursuant to Art. 17, para. 2, letter e of the University Regulations on Doctoral Studies).
2. When completing the online application or admission to the selection process, candidates must select the selection mode "Positions reserved for candidates collaborating with Academic Institutions or Research Centres in Italy or abroad" and attach, in addition to the documents indicated in the previous Art. 3 of this call, a certificate proving that an employment contract is in place, specifying the Academic Institution or Research Centre with which the contract is held, the duration of the collaboration

⁶ For details regarding the amount, disbursement methods, and nature of these additional benefits, full reference is made to the Agreement of 24 October 2016 and the related Implementing Protocols, which can be consulted at the relevant institutional offices.



of at least twenty-four months starting from November 1st 2026, the remuneration (with a minimum amount equal to that indicated on the “Information on the Doctoral Fellowship” [page](#)), and the type of activity performed.

3. The selection for positions reserved for candidates collaborating with Academic Institutions or Research Centres in Italy or abroad will be carried out using the same methods and on the same dates as the selection for the other positions.
4. For these reserved positions, the Examining committee will draw up separate rankings for each Curriculum that includes such positions.
5. Should there be no suitable candidates, any such vacant position cannot be assigned.
6. Candidates intending to compete for the positions reserved for candidates collaborating with academic institutions or research centres in Italy or abroad must prove that they definitively meet the requirements set out in paragraph 2 of this article by the peremptory deadline of **31 October 2026**. All documentation must be submitted via email to phd.office-st@unitn.it by that date, under penalty of exclusion from the PhD Programme.

Art. 10 – PHD COURSE ENROLMENT

1. The enrolment in the PhD Programme for those who have accepted the position according to the aforementioned procedures will be automatically finalised as soon as the administrative process set out by the Ministry for the continuation of the PhD Programme for the 2026/2027 academic year is completed.
In the event of non-confirmation of accreditation, candidates who have accepted the position will be promptly notified by email and the Right to Study Fee (TDS) will be refunded.
2. To finalise the enrolment process, those who have obtained their qualifications abroad, upon arrival in Italy, are required to present the official documents (in original or certified copy), relating to the academic course, already scanned during the admission to the selection phase or during the position confirmation stage, to allow the appropriate assessment of the validity of the titles, also through the national information centres for the recognition of foreign titles belonging to the ENIC-NARIC network. Until then, candidates are admitted to the course subject to reservations and may be excluded if they do not meet the requirements.

Art. 11 – 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 any results achieved by the 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 involved⁷.
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 assignment of intellectual property rights to the University, to ensure awareness of the application of the relevant legislation and the University Regulations regarding intellectual property and, where necessary, a Confidentiality Agreement with the funding body, in the event that the position is funded by an entity external to the University.

Art. 12 – REFERRAL RULES

1. For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present call, refer to Law no. 398 of 1989.11.30, art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 1998.07.03 as amended by art.19, par. 1, of the Law no. 240 of 2010.12.30, to Ministerial Decree no. 226 of 2021.12.14, to the University Regulations for Phd Programs issued by Rector’s Decree no. 250 of 2022.03.11, to the Code of Ethics of the University of

⁷ See: <https://www.unitn.it/en/third-mission/recongnising-value-research/intellectual-property>



Trento, to the Students' Honour Code, to the Internal Regulations in force of the PhD Programs, and to the other relevant provisions contained in the current legislation.

2. This call, accompanied by its translation into English, is published on the University website, on the website of the Italian Ministry of University and Research and on Euraxess.
3. Any changes or additions to the call will be made available on the selection website.
4. The person responsible for the administrative procedure is the Head of the Education and Student Services Department at the University of Trento.
5. The processing of personal data provided by virtue of participation in this call for applications shall be carried out in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ('GDPR') and Legislative Decree no. 196 of 2003.06.30, as amended and supplemented.
6. The reference office is the Division for Support of PhD and Higher Education Courses - Polo Collina; email: phd.office-st@unitn.it.

The Selection Committee shall be responsible for the application selection procedure, ranging from the evaluation of qualifications to the drafting of the minutes and the formulation of the final merit rankings.

On behalf of

The Rector

The Head of Education and Student Services

Paolo Zanei