



**DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN
NEUROSCIENCES AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREAS COVERED BY THE SCHOOL:

- main area: --
- other areas: BIO/05, BIO/06, BIO/09, BIO/18, ING-INF/06, MED/26, MED/30, M-PSI/01, M-PED/04, M-PSI/02, M-PSI/03, M-PSI/04, M-PSI/05, M-PSI/08

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT: Dip. di Scienze della vita

DURATION: 3 years

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MONTHS TO BE SPENT ABROAD: 6

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE SCHOOL: Italian

INFORMATION RELEVANT TO ALL THE CURRICULA

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: See Announcement (Art. 1.1 - Requirements)

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE: 14.11.2011

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: qualifications + interview

- FINAL SCORE: the final score is based on the sum total of marks obtained in the interview plus the points given for qualifications and publications: 100

MINIMUM FINAL SCORE REQUIRED: 50/100

- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS AWARDED FOR QUALIFICATIONS + PUBLICATIONS: 40

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED/RELATIVE WEIGHT:

- Art. 11 Rules for Doctorates: all candidates are required to present the following documents, regardless of whether or not a score is assigned to them (see below):

a. a detailed curriculum vitae et studiorum, (relevant academic qualifications, certified research activities, scholarships, contracts etc.): 13/40

b. a copy of the Master's degree thesis: 10/40

For students with a degree awarded by a non-Italian university, an abstract of the thesis in English or Italian is sufficient.

as well as

a degree score: 10/40

b articles published *in extenso* on journals with IF and presentations to Italian and international conferences: 7/40

- Qualifications Assessment Form (unless this form is presented, qualifications and publications CANNOT be assessed by the Examining Board)

MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS: no

- ORAL EXAMINATION MARK OUT OF 60

MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEW: no

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING CERTIFICATES: 18.11.2011

ADDRESS TO WHICH CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE SENT: Prof. P.P. Battaglini- Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita – Via A. Fleming,22-34127- Trieste

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

- INTERVIEW **29.11.2011 at 09.30 a.m.** at Dip. di Scienze della Vita, Ed.Q- first floor – workshop room (aula seminari) – TRIESTE

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE TO ITALIAN FOR THE INTERVIEW: English

CEFR LEVEL: A2

Other details on the Doctoral School and on the admission examination are available on the School website

<http://www.units.it/brain/scuoladottorato>



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Ripartizione Dottorati

NB: APPLICANTS FOR BOTH CURRICULA NEED ONLY TO PAY ONCE. They can therefore pay according to the announcement provisions (see Article 3), either for one or both curricula.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL: Prof. Piero Paolo Battaglini - Dipartimento di Scienze della vita - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.7183, fax 040/567862, e-mail: battagli@units.it

VICE: Prof. Walter Gerbino - Dipartimento di Psicologia - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2739, fax 040/4528022, e-mail: gerbino@univ.trieste.it

WEB SITE: <http://www.units.it/brain/scuoladottorato>

SCIENTIFIC PROJECT: The Programme in Neurosciences and Cognitive Sciences offers a competitive PhD title leading to the formation of independent and creative neuroscientists. It consists of two specialised curricula: Neurobiology and Psychology. Students can pursue their research activities in the following fields: Molecular and cellular neurosciences; Applied and clinical neurosciences; Neuropsychology; Cognitive, developmental and social psychology; Psychometrics. Teaching includes lectures, seminars and annual activity reports involving invited foreign scientists. Students are encouraged to complete their preparation not only at the University of Trieste but collaborating nationally and internationally. The PhD course supports students in presenting their results at national and international congresses. The goal of the Neurosciences and Cognitive Sciences Program is to teach students how to investigate and approach research problems relevant for the understanding of neural and cognitive systems. We wish to develop students' research skills by improving their ability in approaching modern neuroscience methods, and in evaluating the scientific literature or scientific judgements. Applicants can apply for one or both curricula. In addition to the documents required by the Registrar's Department, also required is a curriculum vitae et studiorum, a list of publications (if any), an abstract of the degree thesis (not exceeding 4000 characters), one or more reference letters and any other relevant information or documents. Admission is given on merit after evaluation of the titles and an interview, where the knowledge of English is also assessed.

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CURRICULUM: NEUROBIOLOGY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREAS COVERED BY THE CURRICULUM:

- main area: BIO/09
- other areas: BIO/05, BIO/06, BIO/09, BIO/18, ING-INF/06, MED/26, MED/30

RESEARCH FIELDS:

- 1 Applied and clinical neurosciences
- 2 Molecular and cellular neurosciences

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT: Dip. di Scienze della Vita

ADMISSION INFORMATION

NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE: 6

- SCHOLARSHIPS: 3

FUNDING BODY/IES:

- [cod MD/1/1] Università degli Studi di Trieste funded by Fondazione NEURO-ZONE s.r.l. (Project title "*Analysis of the specific role played glial cell populations in rodent models of neuronal maturation*")..... 1
- [cod MD/2/1] Università degli Studi di Trieste funded by AO/UTS-Azienda Ospedaliera-Università di Trieste/Fondazione CRTrieste (Project title "*Neurotrophic factors as biomarkers*")..... 1
- [cod MD/3/1] Università degli Studi di Trieste funded by Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita..... 1

Candidates who accept an earmarked scholarship are committed to the pre-assigned topic.

NON-FUNDED PLACES:

- holders of a research grant (see Art. 1.1 - Requirements)..... 2
- grant-holders funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs permitted to sit the entrance examination in the country of origin..... 1
- grant-holders funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sitting the entrance examination in Trieste 2

CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRICULUM SUPERVISOR: Prof.ssa Laura Ballerini - Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2411, e-mail: lballerini@units.it

VICE: Prof. Gianpiero Leanza - Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2210, e-mail: gleanza@units.it

EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND RESEARCH TOPICS: Within the main framework of the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science

Programme, the Neurobiology Curriculum offers a third level university education on topics related to the study of the Nervous System, with special reference to the human. The main aim is to train professionals able to independently design and conduct high level Neurobiology research in the Academy or Enterprise. A Research Doctor in this curriculum will manage to:

- i) plan a research project in all its aspects, from the theoretical basis to the experimental design;
- ii) critically evaluate the obtained results and the possible follow-ups, including innovative applications.

The Neurobiology curriculum offers an interdisciplinary training programme, specifically designed to enable the achievement of a qualified and competitive expertise in both theoretical and methodological aspects of neurobiological research.

The training programme reflects a strong collaborative effort held by the B.R.A.I.N. Centre for Neuroscience, and the Department of Life Sciences in close collaboration with the Department of Electrotecnics, Electronic and Informatics, the Department of Clinical Medicine and Neurology, and the Department of Specialised Surgical Sciences, Biomaterials and Bioimplants, all from the University of Trieste. The teaching board and the respective research topics warrant a broad knowledge, spanning from Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology to System and Clinical Neurobiology. In order to further improve their professional qualification



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enrolled students are strongly encouraged to spend extended periods in outstanding scientific institutions not directly involved in the programme. Formation for the enrolled students is based on the following main activities, which are also designed to overcome the possible background heterogeneity of the enrolled students:

- 1) Formal classes;
- 2) Scientific seminars and Journal Clubs;
- 3) Student seminars and annual activity reports;
- 4) Attribution of a specific research project and discussion of the experimental plan and its implementation

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CURRICULUM: PSYCHOLOGY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREAS COVERED BY THE CURRICULUM:

- main area: M-PSI/01
- other areas: M-PED/04, M-PSI/02, M-PSI/03, M-PSI/04, M-PSI/05, M-PSI/08

RESEARCH FIELDS:

- 1 Psychobiology and physiological psychology
- 2 Developmental and educational psychology
- 3 General psychology
4. Social psychology
5. Psychometrics

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT: Dip. di Psicologia

ADMISSION INFORMATION

NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE: 6

- SCHOLARSHIPS: 3

FUNDING BODY/IES:

- [cod D/1/2] Dip. Psicologia (Project title "*The application of the methods of experimental psychology in the identification of cognitive biases in the forensic field*") 1
- [cod MD/2/2] Università di Trieste + Dipartimento di Psicologia 1
- [cod M/3/2] Università degli Studi di Trieste 1

Candidates who accept an earmarked scholarship are committed to the pre-assigned topic

NON-FUNDED PLACES:

- holders of a research grant (see Art. 1.1 - Requirements) 1

CONTACT INFORMATION

CURRICULUM SUPERVISOR: Prof. Tiziano Agostini - Dipartimento di Psicologia - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2733, fax 040/4528022, e-mail: agostini@univ.trieste.it

EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND RESEARCH TOPICS: The curriculum in Psychology aims at forming researchers who will be of interest to both public structures and private companies. They will be able to plan a research project in all its aspects, from theoretical background to experimental design and to understand the obtained results, their possible development and related innovative applications.

The curriculum offers an interdisciplinary program, based on the composition of the teaching staff and his scientific interest which guarantee the students to achieve a wide knowledge in the field of psychological and cognitive sciences such as perception, learning, though, memory and language. Moreover, students are also allowed to spend part of their training program abroad, in qualified laboratories.

Since student come from very different cultural backgrounds, the curriculum provides the way to achieve fundamental and basic knowledge, so as to be able to deal with the many different fields of Psychology. For this purpose, the academic background of the admitted student will be evaluated by the teaching staff, who will also assign specific programs to fit his needs so as to complete and ameliorate his preparation for a better professional qualification.

The curriculum offers the following research topics:

- 1) Psychology of cognitive processes
- 2) Developmental psychology
- 3) Social and personality psychology
- 4) Applications of experimental psychology
- 5) Cognitive neuroscience and psychobiology



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6) Industry applications

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