



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

Rettorato e Direzione Generale
Sezione Ricerca e Dottorati
Ripartizione Dottorati

LAST REVISED 23 settembre 2013

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN
NEURAL AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES**

NOTE: This attachment provides only partial information. Exhaustive information, including how to register for the selection, is published in the Admission Announcement posted in the web page <http://www2.units.it/dottorati/> >> Admission Announcement.

Deadline for online application

16th September 2013 h.11:30 a.m. CET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREA:

- main area: 11
- other areas: 05; 06

MACRO RESEARCH FIELDS:

- main area: 11/E
- other areas: 11/C; 05/D; 05/I; 05/B; 06/D

SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINARY SECTOR:

- main area: M-PSI/01
- other areas: M-PSI/02; M-PSI/03; M-PSI/04; M-PSI/05; M-PSI/08; M-FIL/01; BIO/06; BIO/09; BIO/18; MED/26

DOMAIN EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL:

- main area: SH
- other areas: LS

ERC PANELS:

- main area: SH4
- other areas: LS5

Information on the codes can be found online at the address: <http://www.units.it> >> Research >> Doctorates >> Admission >> Admission Announcement and relative attachments - Board of Examiners - Eligible Candidates/Merit list>> Research codes

RESEARCH FIELDS:

1. Neurobiology and neurogenesis
2. Cellular neurophysiology
3. Clinical neurosciences
4. Neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics
5. Perception, action and attention
6. Memory and executive control
7. Thinking, judgement and decision making
8. Typical and atypical development
9. Personality and social psychology
10. Sport psychology

Legge 241/1990 - Responsabile del procedimento: Elena Ferraro

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Sezione Ricerca e Dottorati
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LOCATION: Trieste

- ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT: Dip. di Scienze della Vita

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES: Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici

NON-ACCREDITED PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:

- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche -Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione
- Università degli studi Suor Orsola Benincasa (Napoli) - Laboratorio di psicologia sperimentale
- Università IUAV di Venezia - Dipartimento di culture del progetto
- Udine - Università degli studi di Udine - DISU-Dipartimento di Scienze Umane
- IRCCS "Eugenio Medea" - Polo di San Vito al Tagl. (PN) - Pasiano (UD)
- Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia - Center for Neurosciences and Cognitive Systems CNCS@UniTn

DURATION: 3 anni

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MONTHS TO BE SPENT ABROAD IN THREE YEARS: min 6 – max 12

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: italian

OTHER LANGUAGE: english

ADMISSION INFORMATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE: 8

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE WITH INDICATION OF FUNDING BODY:

- [cod D/1] Dip. di Scienze della Vita funded by IRCCS Burlo Garofolo Trieste + other funds (Project title “*Analysis of factors influencing reading abilities in dyslexia*”) 1
 - [cod D/2] Dip. di Scienze della Vita funded by Suor Orsola Benincasa - Napoli + altri fondi (Project title “*Cognitive correlates of driving*”) 1
 - [cod FSE/M/3] Università degli Studi di Trieste funded by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, with resources provided by the European Social Fund, Operational Programme 2007/13, Axis 5 Transnational and Interregional Cooperation..... 1
- NOTE: candidates applying for this scholarship must hold a degree in the ERC sector “Social sciences and humanities” and must submit a project in one of the following scientific areas: M-PSI/01 M-PSI/02; M-PSI/03; M-PSI/04; M-PSI/05; M-PSI/08; M-FIL/01
- [cod M/4] Università degli Studi di Trieste 1

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

PLACES WITH JOINT SUPERVISION OF THESIS: students from foreign universities may be admitted to the Ph.D. programme with a joint supervision of their thesis

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION REQUIRED: see Announcement (art. 2 - Requirements)

1. Italian Master’s Degree “Laurea Specialistica/Magistrale” or Degree awarded prior to approval of Ministerial Decree D.M. n. 509 of 3 Novembre 1999, updated with D.M. n. 270 of 22 October 2004, n. 270, (or a qualification corresponding to a Master’s -second level- degree);
2. an equivalent foreign academic qualification awarded abroad
3. an academic qualification awarded abroad which is considered to be equivalent to the Italian degree that allows the holder to undertake Ph.D. studies for duration, level and area of study

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DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE:: **31.10.2013**

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: qualifications (project included)+ oral interview (upon request from the candidate, the interview may be carried out through videoconference – art. 6.1 bis of Announcement) **LAST UPDATED 23.09.2013!**

- MAXIMUM 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):.....100/100
- MINIMUM FINAL SCORE REQUIRED:.....50/100
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS AWARDED FOR QUALIFICATIONS+PUBLICATIONS (project included).....60/60

WEIGHTING OF THE QUALIFICATIONS:

- “Integration to application” (unless this form is presented, qualifications and publications CANNOT be assessed by the Examining Board):

- a. a detailed curriculum vitae et studiorum: 13/60
- b. full copy of the MA thesis, see Announcement (art. 2 - Requirements): 10/60
- c. degree score: 10/60
- d. articles published *in extenso* on journals with IF and presentations to Italian and international conferences: 7/60
- e. research project (in english language): 20/60

Project assessment shall take into account:

- 1 the value of the Research Project in relation to set objectives
- 2 the quality of the Research Project with specific attention to adopted methodology and chronogram of activities

ONLY FOR ESF SCHOLARSHIP: Submit the research project using the form that can be downloaded from the following link <http://www.units.it> >> Ricerca >> Research Doctorate >> Admission Procedure >> Application Forms >> “Research Project - ESF”

FOR CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT SELECT THE ESF SCHOLARSHIP: Submit the research project using the form that can be downloaded from the following link <http://www.units.it> >> Ricerca >> Research Doctorate >> Admission Procedure >> Application Forms >> “NeSC Research Project”

MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS:30/60

- ORAL EXAMINATION MARK OUT OF:40/60

MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEW:.....20/40

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECT (IF FORESEEN)::..... 18.10.2013

QUALIFICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED (art. 5.1.4 of the Ph.D. Announcement):

- as an attachment to the online admission application (upload);
The Research Project must be uploaded online and also sent to the email address didattica.dsv@units.it
- only for publications that are voluminous or not available in electronic format, as long as they are listed in the form “Integration to application” (digital format)

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preferable):

- by email to the Secretary's Office of the DSV Doctoral (didattica.dsv@units.it),
- by mail to the Secretary's Office of the DSV Doctoral Course at the address, via Valerio 12/2, ed. H3 (I p.), Trieste,
- by hand to the Secretary's Office of the DSV Doctoral Course (lun-ven 10:30-12:30).

In the email subject line or on the envelope write "Admission Examination for Ph.D. Programme NeSC-XXIX cycle"

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

- INTERVIEW: : **29.10.2013 at 10.00 a.m.**, Università degli Studi di Trieste
– Aula Riunioni, building W – Via Weiss, 21, Il floor. – TRIESTE

Upon request from the candidate, the interview may be carried out through videoconference on 29 October 2013 from 10 am to 6 pm. Candidates have to request an appointment and specify the technical details for the remote connection (video conferencing software and personal account) by sending an email to didattica.dsv@units.it and in copy to gerbino@units.it before 9 am of 28 October **LAST UPDATED 23.09.2013!**

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE TO ITALIAN FOR THE INTERVIEW: english
CEFR LEVEL B2

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHAIR: Prof. Walter Gerbino - Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita - Università degli Studi di Trieste
- tel. 040/558.8868, fax 040/ 558.4220, e-mail: gerbino@units.it

VICE: dott. Paolo Bernardis - Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.8872, fax 040/558.4220, e-mail: paolobernardis@units.it

WEB SITE: under construction

EDUCATIONAL AIMS: The PhD Program in Neural and Cognitive Sciences (NCS) provides 3rd-level students with academic training in fields such as molecular and cellular neuroscience, neuropsychology, experimental psychology of cognitive processes, social psychology, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to the study of mind/brain and on applications to clinical, ergonomic, and sport contexts. Specific learning outcomes will refer to the expertise of the PhD Program Staff, which includes professors belonging to the Universities of Trieste, Udine, IUAV-Venice, Suor Orsola Benincasa-Naples, as well as to NRC-ISTC.

The three years of the PhD Program will support the acquisition – also as a function of activities chosen by the student - of competences and skills necessary to develop autonomous scientific research in universities, as well as in other private/public institutions, on the following topics: neurobiology and neurogenesis; cellular neurophysiology; clinical neuroscience; neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics; perception, action, and attention; memory and executive control; thinking, judgment and decision making; typical and atypical

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development; personality and social psychology; sport psychology.

The PhD Program in NCS aims at training young researchers capable of designing and conducting empirical investigations at a level defined by the output of leading scientific journals in the specific field, and of appropriately integrating themselves in public and private research centers.

In particular, every PhD in NCS will be able:

- 1) to plan a research project in all its aspects, including the theoretical background and the experimental design;
- 2) to coordinate data collection, in particular by solving problems related to the integration of techniques and methods that characterize the interdisciplinary approach to the study of mind/brain systems and the intersection of natural and social sciences, to which the study of cognition belongs;
- 3) to evaluate obtained results and possible developments, including innovative applications to technology, therapy, and rehabilitation.

The multidisciplinary composition of the PhD Program Staff and the broad range of available research topics are the strength points of the Program, which provides students with the possibility of developing knowledge in interrelated fields such as molecular and cellular neuroscience, neurophysiology, neuropsychology, experimental psychology of cognitive processes (perception, learning, thinking, decision, memory, language), social cognition, personality.

The PhD Program in NCS includes formal learning periods and stages in Italy and abroad, to experience research environments different from the Department of Life Sciences. Since it is designed to attract students who may hold rather different second-level degrees (mainly, in Neuroscience, Psychology, Cognitive Sciences), the Program will be organized to provide students with basic knowledge on various aspects of neural and cognitive sciences, in particular by means of enrollment to courses of Master programs in Neuroscience and Psychology, both offered by the University of Trieste. To fulfill this goal, the profile of each student will be evaluated by the PhD Program Staff, to define an appropriate personalized study plan.

The achievement of learning outcomes will be evaluated by the PhD Program Staff, which is responsible for conceiving, approving, and executing study plans that should include an individual component, focused on the integration/consolidation of basic knowledge previously possessed by the student, and a component specifically referred to third-level training, focused on the empowerment of competences necessary for the production of original research.

The study plans of the PhD Program in NCS will include the following activities:

- 1) formal lectures, either specifically organized for the students of the PhD Program in NCS or shared with students of other PhD Programs (in particular the PhD Program in Cognitive Neuroscience at ISAS-SISSA, on the basis of an agreement that only awaits formalization), as well as lectures from Master courses in Neuroscience and Psychology at the University of Trieste;

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- 2) journal club;
- 3) seminars and talks by members of the PhD Program Staff and invited speakers, utilizing the TACS - Trieste Area Cognitive Science network, <https://list.units.it/mailman/listinfo/tacs>, already supported by UniTs and coordinated by Paolo Bernardis, member of the PhD Program Staff (the network distributes information about talks on neural and cognitive topics organized by UniTs, ISAS-SISSA and other local institutions);
- 4) development of a research plan and writing of intermediate reports, structured as chapters of the doctoral dissertation;
- 5) stages and study visits spent in other research centers, in Italy and abroad, or in companies interested in research applications, on the basis of well defined collaboration agreements;
- 6) seminars organized by students and monitored by supervisors, focused on scientific reporting of research activities of PhD students;
- 7) active participation in dissemination and promotion of scientific knowledge, organized by UniTs, with special attention to those organized by the BRAIN Center for Neuroscience;
- 8) participation in national/international congresses and Summer schools (like the one on methodology organized by AIP in Bertinoro).

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