



**DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN  
NEUROSCIENCES AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT: Dip. di Scienze della vita  
PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS (UNIVERSITY OF TRIESTE): Dipartimento di Psicologia  
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: ..... 15.11.2010  
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: 15.11.2010  
ADDRESS TO WHICH CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE SENT: Prof. Piero Paolo Battaglini, Dip. di Scienze della Vita - Via Giorgieri, 10 – 34127 TRIESTE

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:  
- INTERVIEW 23.11.2010 at 09.30 a.m. at Dip. di Scienze della Vita, Ed.C11- second floor – meeting room (sala riunioni) – TRIESTE

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE TO ITALIAN FOR THE INTERVIEW: English

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

Università degli Studi di Trieste  
Piazzale Europa, 1  
I-34127 Trieste

Tel. +39 040 558 3182  
Fax +39 040 558 3250  
[dottorati@amm.units.it](mailto:dottorati@amm.units.it)

[www.units.it](http://www.units.it)



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

**Sezione Ricerca e Dottorati**

**Ripartizione Dottorati**

VICE: Trieste - tel. 040/558.7183, fax 040/567862, e-mail: [battagli@units.it](mailto:battagli@units.it)  
 Prof. Walter Gerbino - Dipartimento di Psicologia - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2739, fax 040/4528022, e-mail: [gerbino@univ.trieste.it](mailto:gerbino@univ.trieste.it)

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

OVERVIEW: The Programme in Neuroscience and Cognitive Neurosciences offers a competitive Doctoral degree 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 three main fields: Molecular and cellular neurosciences, Applied and clinical neurosciences, Neuropsychology and cognitive sciences. 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 also via collaborations with other national or international research institutions. The Doctoral course supports students in presenting their results at national and international congresses.

The goal of the Neuroscience and Cognitive Neuroscience Program is to teach students how to investigate, approach and solve research problems in Neuroscience. 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 based on merit after evaluation of the titles and an interview, where the knowledge of English is also assessed.

## 1. CURRICULUM: NEUROBIOLOGY

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT AREAS COVERED BY THE CURRICULUM:

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

RESEARCH FIELDS: 1 Applied and clinical neurosciences  
2 Molecular and cellular neurosciences

### ADMISSION INFORMATION

NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE: ..... 8

- SCHOLARSHIPS: ..... 4

- FUNDING BODY/IES:

- Università degli Studi di Trieste ..... 1
  - Università di Trieste + Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita ..... 1
  - MIUR funded by "Fondo Giovani Ricercatori" (earmarked for the project "Theme health") ..... 1
- N.B: This scholarship does not provide extra funding for eventual periods of study abroad within the duration of the doctorate, unless the organizing Department decides to make these funds available.
- Dip. Di Scienze della vita funded by Dip. di Scienze Farmaceutiche (EU grants) Carbonanobridge Project (earmarked for the project "Neuron Networking with Nano Bridge via the Synthesis and Integration of Functionalized Carbon Nanotubes - CARBONANOBRIDGE") ..... 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 sitting the entrance examination in Trieste ..... 2
- grant-holders funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs permitted to

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sit the entrance examination in the country of origin ..... 1

**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](mailto: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](mailto:gleanza@units.it)

OVERVIEW: Within the main framework of the Neuroscience and Cognitive Neurosciences 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:

- a) plan a research project in all its aspects, from the theoretical basis to the experimental design;
- b) 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 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

**2. 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

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE: ..... 6

- SCHOLARSHIPS: ..... 3

- FUNDING BODY/IES:

- Università degli Studi di Trieste ..... 1
- Università di Trieste + Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita ..... 1
- Dip. Psicologia (funded by Associazioni Mind in Action) (earmarked for the project

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Human performance as the product of mind body interaction”)..... 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 sitting the entrance examination in the country of origin ..... 1
- non-EU citizens residing abroad ..... 2

**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](mailto:agostini@univ.trieste.it)

VICE: Prof.ssa Lucia Lumbelli - Dipartimento di Psicologia - Università degli Studi di Trieste - tel. 040/558.2704, fax 040/4528022, e-mail: [lumbelli@univ.trieste.it](mailto:lumbelli@univ.trieste.it)

OVERVIEW: 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, thought, 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
- 6) Industry applications

**CHANGES SUBSEQUENT TO 23.07.10**

N.B: the original announcement may be subject to continuous modification. Any changes made subsequent to the original date of publication are listed below :

- 1st addition:
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**IN PRESS**

N.B: the following additions/changes have been requested by the organisers of the Doctorate and will be made official with an supplement to the:

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