UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES – TRIESTE

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Call for applications – Academic Year 2024/2025

Summary

Art. 1 - General Description

1. The University of Trento (hereafter named UniTrento) and the International School for Advanced Studies in Trieste (hereafter named SISSA) offer a joint education program named "Graduate Program in Cognitive Science" (hereafter named "Program").

2. The two-year program is offered to **students enrolled in the first year of the Master's course in Cognitive Science at UniTrento**. Admitted students complete their first year at the Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMeC) in Rovereto and then move to Trieste at SISSA in the second year. They receive economic benefits, as specified in Article 6 of this call.

3. The total number of university credits (CFUs) to complete the SISSA-UniTrento joint program is **132**. Students who succeed in fulfilling the requirements of the Program obtain the official Italian degree *Laurea Magistrale in Cognitive Science - Scienze Cognitive* (*classe LM-55 Scienze Cognitive*) from UniTrento and the Diploma (*Magister*) in Cognitive Science from SISSA. The Program is managed by a Program Board, which includes members of both institutions.

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4. More information about the Cognitive Neuroscience Sector at SISSA can be found at the following link: http://www.sissa.it/cns

5. The guidelines for the UniTrento-SISSA Program are available here: https://corsi.unitn.it/en/cognitive-science/study/unitrento-sissa-programme

Art. 2 - Application Procedure

1. Candidates are required to apply online at https://webapps.unitn.it/Apply/it/Web/Home/mob-out

2. The application period is: from Monday, February 17th to Friday, February 28th at 12:00 (noon - Italian time).

Art. 3 - Selection Procedure

1. Candidates are selected by an Evaluation Committee through an admission procedure aimed at assessing their competence, their motivation and interest in the Joint Program and potential for research.
   The available positions are four.

2. The Evaluation Committee is appointed by the Director of CIMeC - Center for Mind/ Brain Sciences, and is composed of four faculty members, two from UniTrento and two from SISSA.
   Applicants are assessed according to the following criteria:

   - Curriculum vitae et studiorum and transcript of the exams taken in the winter exam session of the Master in Cognitive Science (**max 30 points**);

   - Statement of purpose specific for the Program (**max 20 points**);

   - Interest and/or experience in relevant research topics studied by the SISSA CNS Labs **(max 20 points)**. Here below is a non-exhaustive list of Labs at SISSA, but any neuroscience Lab is a possible place for the exchange:

● Neural Computation Lab: Inference and Prediction (PI: Eugenio Piasini): https://people.sissa.it/~epiasini/

● iNSuLa - Neuroscience and Society Lab (PI: Raffaella Rumiati): http://insula.sissa.it

● LIMBO - Liminar Investigation of Memory and Brain Organization (PI: Alessandro Treves): http://people.sissa.it/~ale/limbo.html

- Tactile Perception and Learning Lab (PI: Mathew Diamond)
https://www.sissa.it/cns/tactile

- Time Perception Lab (PI: Domenica Bueti): http://www.buetilab.com/

- Visual Neuroscience Lab (PI: Davide Zoccolan):
https://www.visualneurolab.sissa.it

- Flexibility in Circuits & Behaviour Lab (PI: Katja
Reinhard): https://www.reinhardlab.org/

- Neurons and Nanomaterials Lab (PI: Laura
Ballerini): http://phdneurobiology.sissa.it/eng/faculty/laura-ballerini.asp

  - Oral interview (**max 30 points**)

  To assign the final score between 0 and 100 points and to draw up the admission ranking the Evaluation Committee firstly examines the mandatory documents submitted by the candidates and then interviews them.
  The first **four candidates** in the ranking are admitted to the joint programme.
  All the other students with a **score higher than 70 are considered as eligible**: that means that they could be admitted in case one of the four admitted candidates rejects the place.
  Candidates who receive a score lower than 70 are not eligible.

3. The short list of admitted and eligible candidates is going to be posted online (https://corsi.unitn.it/en/cognitive-science/study/unitrento-sissa-programme) within the end of **March 2025.**

4. The four candidates admitted to the Joint Program are offered the admission via email and they have to accept or decline it within the deadline written in the official notification. Candidates who do not confirm the acceptance by the aforementioned deadline are considered to have rejected the place.

5. In case a candidate declines the place, the first eligible candidate in the shortlist is offered the admission and immediately receives an admission notification.

Art. 4 - Organization of the Program

1. Admitted students are expected to attend courses and to take exams in order to complete their first year of the Master's programme in Cognitive Science.

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2. During the second year at SISSA, students are required to attend courses and activities (please refer to the web page http://phdcns.sissa.it/courses) in order to acquire:

- 12 additional CFUs required for completing the UniTrento-SISSA Program

- 6 or 9 credits to replace the Master's second-year compulsory course, according to the track students are enrolled in (*Advanced Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience* for CN students; *Computational Modelling of Perception* for CLC students; *Brain Development and Disease* for FBN students). Students should choose a course at SISSA that is a good match to the second-year CIMeC course: professor Roberto Bottini and Scott Fairhall check that the choice is adequate and give their approval.

- Lastly, students have to complete the 15-credit internship and the Master's thesis at SISSA, under the supervision of two faculty members (one from UniTrento, one from SISSA).

3. Students can also choose whether to acquire the 12 free choice credits of the Master's programme in Cognitive Science either at CIMeC or at SISSA

Art. 5 - Economic Benefits

1. UniTrento and SISSA guarantee similar economic benefits during the stay at the respective locations. Benefits might be given all or in part in the form of fellowships, as specified in points 2-4 of the present paragraph.

2. Economic benefits **for the first year,** spent at UniTrento, depend on the student's situation: admitted students who already have a UniTrento (non-EU students) or Opera Universitaria (EU and non-EU living in Italy) scholarship in their first year do not receive any other economic benefits. Admitted students who do not have any scholarships instead are awarded a 5.000 euro UniTrento-SISSA scholarship.

3. **For the second year** at SISSA, admitted students receive **from SISSA** a scholarship of € 500 per month and a contribution of maximum 250,00 Euros per month (gross) towards the coverage of lodging expenses in Trieste, only after providing a copy of the official lodging contract and only for those students who do not have permanent residence in the province of Trieste.
Since it is not possible to benefit from two different scholarships at the same time, admitted students who had a UniTrento or Opera scholarship in their first year cannot receive a UniTrento or Opera scholarship in the second year and can benefit only from the scholarship awarded by SISSA.

4. The admission in the UniTrento-SISSA joint program does not give the right to any reductions nor exemptions on/from the amount of tuition fees due for the first year of the Master's in Cognitive Science.
For tuition fees of the **second year**, non-EU students admitted in the UniTrento-SISSA programme have to abide by the **UniTrento tuition fees system for non-**

Eu students. Italian and EU students' tuition fees in the second year depends on their ISEE or Equivalent ISEE.

5. All students are provided with access to the facilities of SISSA and UniTrento (library, computers, laboratories, Internet).

Art. 6 - Requirements for completing the Program

1. At the end of the first year, the four admitted students are evaluated by the Program Board in order to confirm the fellowship and the participation in the Program for the second year. Students have to satisfy the following conditions for being admitted to the second year:
   - obtaining at least 45 university credits (CFU)
   - a GPA of at least 27/30
   - no marks lower than 24/30

   These requirements have to be met by **30th September 2025**.

2. Students failing to meet the above mentioned criteria for admission to the second year of the Program do not receive any further payments for the fellowship and are excluded from the Program. However, all the exams and credits already acquired are acknowledged towards the completion of the Curriculum to obtain the Master's degree in Cognitive Science from UniTrento.

3. In case of **withdrawal** from the UniTrento-SISSA Program the student has to immediately notify the administrative offices at UniTrento (mcs@unitn.it) and SISSA (riccardo.iancer@sissa.it). In case of withdrawal without justified reasons, if the student has received the € 5.000 UniTrento-SISSA scholarship he/she has to pay back the full amount received.

4. In case of withdrawal before **30th September 2025**, the next eligible candidate on the shortlist may be offered the opportunity to participate in the remaining portion of the Program.

Art. 7 - Final Remarks

1. Topics which are not explicitly addressed in the present call are regulated by the official documents instituting the Program: the general agreement and its attachments, the Program Syllabus, and the Syllabus of the Master's degree in Cognitive Science of UniTrento.
2. As stated in the general agreement, the Program is directed by a committee of two faculty members from UniTrento and two faculty members of SISSA. The committee is in charge of guaranteeing the regular functioning of the Program in all its aspects.

Note 1 – Information on the processing of personal data

Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the "General Data Protection Regulation" (hereinafter "GDPR"), provides that everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her.

In compliance with Article 13 of the EU Regulation 2016/679, the University of Trento provides the present notice to persons who want to participate in this selection procedure (hereinafter "data subjects").

1. Data controller

The Data controller is the University of Trento, via Calepina 14, 38122 Trento; email: ateneo@unitn.it; ateneo@pec.unitn.it.

2. Contact details of the Data Protection Officer (DPO)

The DPO can be contacted to request information on personal data at the following email address: dpo@unitn.it.

3. Purpose of the processing and legal basis

The University of Trento shall process personal and particular data exclusively for the management of this selection procedure, as part of the performance of its public interest tasks as well as for the fulfilment of legal obligations (article 6(1), points e) and c) of the GDPR).

4. Acquisition of data

The provision of personal data for the purposes indicated above is mandatory to participate in the selection procedure; failure to provide it will make it impossible to participate. The provision of particular data is optional and failure to provide it will make it impossible for the University to guarantee the use of the facilities requested.

5. Data processing methods

The processing of personal data shall be carried out manually and by automated means by authorised staff, according to their tasks. Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently, confidentially, in a manner that is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed (GDPR, article 5(1)).

No profiling is carried out, and decision are not taken by automated means.

6. Recipients of personal data

Personal data will be disclosed to all the University personnel acting for the above-mentioned purposes.

In any case, personal data must be disclosed in compliance with legal obligation and/or a provision of the judicial Authorities.

Personal data may be published on the University website in fulfilment of the obligations of publicity and transparency provided for by current legislation.

7. Data retention period

Personal data will be stored as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they were collected, and in any case as long as it is necessary by law. In any case, the data will be stored as long as necessary by the regulations in force and/or by University regulations on the storage of administrative documents relevant to the performance of its services.

8. Rights of the data subjects

At any time the data subject can exercise the rights referred to in article 15 et seq. of the GDPR towards the Data Controller, at the contact details indicated above, and in particular: the access to his/her own personal data and to other information as mentioned in art. 15 of GDPR; the request of rectification of his/her own personal data when inaccurate and/or their integration when incomplete; the erasure of his/her own personal data, except when the University is obliged to data storage to comply with article 17 (3) of the GDPR; the restriction of processing as per article 18 of the GDPR; the object to processing of personal data concerning him or her when allowed as per art.21 GDPR.

This is without prejudice to the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority pursuant to Art. 77 of the GDPR and/or to take the appropriate judicial offices.

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