



Fakultät für Bildungswissenschaften  
Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione  
Facoltà de Scienze dla Formazion

Brixen  
Bressanone  
Pesenon

PhD in

# Education and Social Sciences

## At a glance

Duration of the programme: 3 years  
Courses will be taught in Italian,  
German and English  
Places available: 7 (6 with scholarship)  
Campus: Brixen-Bressanone  
Tuition fees: € 167,50 per year



## Course description

The programme responds to the growing need in international research to develop complex interpretations of socio-cultural and educational systems and to deepen conceptual, theoretical and methodological models. The study plan foresees different activities to ensure that PhD students acquire basic epistemological skills, methodological skills, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as transversal skills.

Students and professors from different countries, different disciplines and scientific fields guarantee the international and interdisciplinary orientation of the programme.

Over the three-year period, several teaching activities are offered: lectures, practical sessions and seminars that aim to develop and illustrate the programme's subjects and research areas and to focus on the most recent findings in the education and in the social sector.

The main teaching areas are philosophy of science, epistemology of related disciplines, research methodology, current questions and methods drawn from the international context.

The cycles of compulsory and optional lectures, workshops and seminars (study plan) are defined by the PhD Course Committee at the beginning of the cycle.

## Programme structure

This is a full-time PhD programme and you can choose between two research areas: Education (which includes Pedagogical and Didactics fields) and Social science. The research areas share modules on research epistemology and on qualitative and quantitative research methods.

During the three years, you will have to take part in diversified teaching activities: a series of introductory lessons, workshops and seminars that illustrate and explore in depth the issues and research fields available in the programme and the most recent developments in education and the social sciences.

## Fieldwork abroad

During your PhD you are required to spend at least three months abroad. You can choose to split your trip abroad into three stays of at least three consecutive weeks each.

## Partner universities and institutions

Our faculty collaborates with many universities and research centres in Italy and abroad. Among our partners, besides the two Euregio universities of Innsbruck and Trento, are also the universities of Vienna, Vechta, Dresda, Oviedo and Thessaly.

## PhD in Education and Social Sciences

### Application and Admission

You can find key information to apply and gain admission to this PhD Programme. **For detailed information browse the general and specific calls below.**

In order to gain admission to the PhD programme, you will need to have obtained 300 ECTS credit points (master degree). You will also have to demonstrate competence in the languages of the PhD programme with a recognized language certificate and be successful in a public competition.

### Deadlines

**Application deadline:** 15 June 2023, 12:00 midday (CEST)

**Admission interviews:** online 21 - 22 - 23 June 2023

**Communication of the evaluation of the project proposal:** by 20 June 2023

**Communication of the interview details:** by 20 June 2023

**Publication of ranking lists:** by 14 July 2023

**Application with grant position:** starting from 14 July 2023 until 27 July 2023;

**Applicants without grant:** starting from 27 July 2023 until 04 August 2023.

**Enrolment:** Starting from 27 July 2023 until 31 October 2023, 12:00 midday (CEST)

- **Research areas:** PNRR/Public Administration 1 grant under Ministerial Decree no. 118/2023.

**Topics:** Conservation and promotion of musical heritage in public administration.

**Project description:** The project examines, from an international perspective and in the light of technological innovations in the sector, the legal framework for PA activity in the field of music heritage and the related promotion methods.

- **Research areas:** PNRR/Public Administration 2 grant under Ministerial Decree no. 118/2023

**Topics:** CLOSING THE GAPS? Towards transformative knowledge partnerships for the development of social policies and services.

**Project description:** The project aims to investigate challenges and possibilities of establishing effective knowledge partnerships aimed to close the gap between academic research and the development of social policies and services.

- **Research areas:** 01 - Permanent Education – Processes and Projects of Education and Development with a Focus on South Tyrol

- Topics:** Education for Economic Citizenship in school contexts: lines of research.
- Project description:** The doctoral project will address aspects of citizenship education declined in the field of financial literacy. The case study will focus on schools, especially primary schools, experimenting with different pedagogies/didactic paradigms, to educate to the economic-financial approach from childhood. Research areas: learning theories, competence frameworks, gender gap, teacher training.
- **Research areas:** 01 - Permanent Education – Processes and Projects of Education and Development with a Focus on South Tyrol  
**Topics:** Children’s Rights and Education for Sustainable Development - Kindergarten and Primary School as Spaces for experience-based Learning for Democracy and Natural Ethics.  
**Project description:** The study, which uses reconstructive methods of empirical social research, focuses on the question of how institutions of education (in South Tyrol) meet and can meet the challenge of enabling children to think and act in a sustainable way that is oriented towards a democratic, peaceful, responsible and interspecies coexistence in a planetary context.
  - **Research areas:** 02 - IN-IN Education: INnovative and INclusive Education  
**Topics:** Children’s views on (educational) equity.  
**Project description:** The qualitative study combines approaches of primary school research and childhood studies: focused are children’s views on equity and educational equity.
  - **Research areas:** 02 - IN-IN Education: INnovative and INclusive Education  
**Topics:** Professionalisation of teachers for collaboration and team-teaching in inclusive primary schools in international comparison.  
**Project description:** The internationally comparing study focuses on collaboration in inclusive primary schools in Italy and a second country. Implications for the professionalisation of teachers shall be drawn from the findings.
  - **Research areas:** 03 - Psychology and wellbeing promotion in educational contexts  
**Topics:** Life-skills promotion in educational settings.  
**Project description:** Since 1994, the WHO promoted the development of educational programmes to increase life-skills in school. The project is aimed at creating and testing ad-hoc activities to develop life-skills from primary through high school.
  - **Research areas:** 03 - Psychology and wellbeing promotion in educational contexts  
**Topics:** Executive functions and social-emotional skills in the transition between pre-school and primary school.  
**Project description:** The general aim of the study is to investigate early risk and protective factors beyond potentially socially maladjusted developmental trajectories in the transition from preschool to primary school. The study will focus Executive Functions and socioemotional-skills.
  - **Research areas:** 05 - Aesthetic experiences and communication  
**Topics:** Health is Education! Promoting Physical and Mental Health through Physical Activity.  
**Project description:** The proposal promotes research activities on the role of physical

activity in wellbeing and health promotion, adopting an educational point and view and focusing on adolescents and young adults.

- **Research areas:** 05 - Aesthetic experiences and communication  
**Topics:** Digital environment for Heritage Education.  
**Project description:**The proposal promotes research activities on heritage education in a digital environment, in formal and informal settings, exploiting the communication, processing and shaping potential of digital tools.
- **Research areas:** 06 - Educational Contexts, Disciplines and their Teaching in the Nursery and Primary School  
**Topics:** Plant Blindness: Can science education prevent it in primary school pupils?  
**Project description:**Plant Blindness is the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment. Is it possible to avoid this through science education in primary school? If yes, what is the most efficient way?
- **Research areas:** 06 - Educational Contexts, Disciplines and their Teaching in the Nursery and Primary School  
**Topics:** Metaphors in STEM Education.  
**Project description:**Metaphors are used by scientists, teachers, and textbooks when presenting, describing, and explaining science. The project will explore their use with respect to both real phenomena and abstract concepts in different disciplines (physics, mathematics, biology...).
- **Research areas:** 07 - Socio cultural worlds: institutions, welfare, social professions, environment and population  
**Topics:** Social Vulnerability and Health Outcomes in Older Adults: The Role of Informal Support Networks.  
**Project description:** A low socio-economic status and lack of social support and networks can be significantly associated with the health of older adults. The project aims to explore the impact of informal care on older people's health, analysing different types of data.
- **Research areas:** 07 - Socio cultural worlds: institutions, welfare, social professions, environment and population  
**Topics:** Sustainable Welfare: A Comparative Analysis of Linking Social and Environmental Policies in Europe.  
**Project description:** The project aims to investigate the relationship between social welfare policies and environmental sustainability in European countries. By comparing and contrasting policies and practices in a range of contexts, the aim is to identify best practices for achieving sustainable welfare outcomes.
- **Research areas:** 08 - EduSpaces teaching and learning environment  
**Topics:** The EduSpaces university laboratories of educational research: what theoretical foundations, methods, and activities for integration.  
**Project description:** The EduSpaces of the Faculty of Education are university laboratories for research, teaching and learning that have developed over time to meet the needs of primary education with different research topics, from basic theoretical and empirical research on teaching and learning to pedagogical and disciplinary research in collaboration with schools and other stakeholders.

All citizen, regardless of sex, age and nationality may apply to be admitted to a PhD:

- Applicants holding a postgraduate degree as per Italian Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999, a postgraduate degree as per Italian Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004, a degree of the former Italian university system, or an equivalent degree obtained abroad;
- Applicants achieving one of the above mentioned titles within the enrolment deadline. In this case applicants will be admitted conditionally to the selection procedure and they must produce the degree certificate within the enrolment's deadline. If not, their application is considered null and void.

If the required document is not uploaded by the time of enrolment, the applicant will be enrolled with reservation.

All candidates have to be proficient in at least two of the three languages of the programme: Italian, German, English. **Language certification at B2 level (CEFR) in two of the three languages of the PhD programme (Italian, German, English)** is a prerequisite for participating in the selection process according to the table of the unibz recognized language certificates.

Knowledge of the language may also be demonstrated by qualifications (secondary school/bachelor/master) related to a programme held entirely in the language to certificate. In this case, Italian and EU candidates must declare this on the pre-enrolment portal, both in the section related to the general application and in the one related to the language certificates. Also non-EU citizens must upload a copy of their diploma and any additional documentation indicating the language of instruction related to the foreign qualification in both sections. Candidates demonstrate their language proficiency in the application portal (in the section "upload language certificates") after they have created an application in the section "create/manage applications".

Candidates without the certification of language proficiency are excluded from the admission procedure.

In the application portal, applicants must upload, otherwise excluded:

- **if graduated in Italy:** diploma supplement or self-declaration (following the Italian D.P.R. no. 445/2000) of the degree awarded with the exams passed (if graduated) or just with the exams passed (if not graduated yet);
- **if graduated abroad:** diploma supplement or final degree certificate with exams passed (if graduated) or transcript of records (if not graduated yet) in Italian, German or English.
- Language certification at B2 level (CEFR) attesting proficiency in two of the official languages of the programme – Italian, German, English – according to the table of the unibz recognized language certificates: (in the case of Italian public institutions, the certificates MUST be replaced by a self-declaration).
- **Curriculum vitae containing:**
  - a) a list of research experience;
  - b) if available, a list of publications with the respective online links.
- **Research project** written in Italian or German or English (max. 3 pages, 10,000 characters using the attached template, Times New Roman 11 font, 10,000 characters including spaces) to be uploaded to the portal and containing the following information at the top of

the first page:

- a) the main research area, classified among the research areas mentioned in the table "Research areas" above,
  - b) the topic, which is coherent with one of the above-mentioned research topics.
- One of the topics proposed in the table above can be chosen.

Only one research project can be submitted per application.

1. Please download the Word file
2. complete the file and upload the research project to the portal as PDF/A file.

Research project can be written in Italian or German or English (max. 3 pages, 10,000 characters using the attached template, Times New Roman 11 font, 10,000 characters including spaces) and contains the following information at the top of the first page:

- the main research area, classified among the research areas mentioned in the table "Project description" above,
  - the topic, which is coherent with one of the above-mentioned project descriptions.
- One of the topics proposed in the table above can be chosen.

Admission is based on the successful outcome of the selection procedure. The selection procedure consists of the assessment of a research project, which applicants upload to the application portal, and a personal interview. The interviews will take place in video-call: MS Teams.

Those candidates whose project receives a minimum score of **40/60 points** will be admitted to the oral examination.

The research project to be submitted/uploaded to the portal contains the following information at the top of the first page:

1. the main research area, classified among the research areas mentioned in the table "Research areas" above,
2. the topic, which is coherent with one of the above-mentioned research topics (see the table "Research areas"). One of the topics proposed in the table above can be chosen.

Maximum length 10,000 characters using the attached template, font Times New Roman 11.

The research project can be completed in Italian, German or English, according to the free choice of the applicant.

#### **Evaluation criteria for the research project:**

- Formal register and terminological accuracy;
- Task completed according to the title indicated, which is coherent with the research topics of the doctoral programme;
- Clear and logical argumentative structure;
- Demonstrated knowledge of scientific debates in the field;
- Originality of the proposed research project;



- Clear methodological approach for the proposed research project.  
The evaluation criteria of the oral test take into consideration the following criteria:
- The quality of discussion on the subject of the research project submitted, on issues of general culture, and on personal research interests;
- The ability to present an argument for one's own research project with reference to the theoretical and methodological assumptions of the research field;  
To be successful in the oral examination, candidates must receive a minimum mark of 40/60.

**Communication of the evaluation of the projects and of the interview details:** within 20 June 2023

**Oral exam:** meeting via MS Teams

**Date and time:** 21 - 22 - 23 June 2023, from 9.00 a.m.

**Composition of the Admission Board:**

Prof. Giulia Cavrini, President

Prof. Annemarie Augschöll

Prof. Demis Basso.

**Substitute members:** Prof. Monica Parricchi, Prof. Elisabeth Tauber, Prof. Beate Weyland.

At the end of the exam period, the Admission Board will draw up a rank list of candidates (see Article 6 of the public competition announcement, general Call).

## Tasse di Iscrizione

Fees amount to **€ 180**

In order to confirm your study place, you need to log on to the application portal and pay the tuition fees (€ 180) which includes the provincial tax for the right to study of € 164 and a revenue stamp of € 16. by one of the methods indicated on the portal by the deadline indicated above.

If you do not respect this deadline, you will automatically lose your study place. If, by paying the instalment you have confirmed the study place, there will be no refund of the tuition fees unless you are a non-EU applicant resident abroad and you do not receive the necessary documents from the Italian authorities in your country.

**Application deadline:** by 15 June 2023, 12:00 midday (CEST)

**CALL GENERAL PART (PDF):** EN – IT – DE

**CALL SPECIFIC PART (PDF):** EN – IT – DE

Contact us by phone at +39 0471 012800 or send us an e-mail: [phd@unibz.it](mailto:phd@unibz.it)





## Faculty of Education - Secretariat

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## Opening Hours

Mo, Wed: 10:00-12:00

Thu: 14:00-16:00

Tue, Fri: online only, 10:00 - 12:00

Alternatively, you may call us  
throughout the week or book an  
online appointment