

**Public Competition  
for the admission to the PhD programmes**

**42<sup>nd</sup> cycle**

**Academic year 2026/27  
Faculty of Economics and Management  
Joint PhD Program in  
Economics and Finance**

**Website:** [PhD in Economics and Finance / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano](#)

**Duration:** 3 years

**Academic year:** 2026/27

**Start date:** November 1st, 2026

**Official language:** English

**Art. 1 - POSITIONS**

1. A total of 9 positions are available for the PhD programme in Economics and Finance
2. All information about the PhD programme in general, the schedule and its structure as well as the possible research projects listed below can be found at the following link: [PhD in Economics and Finance / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano](#)

**3. Positions with unibz scholarship: 4**

**Positions with unitn scholarship: 3**

**Positions without scholarship: 1**

**Positions tied to subject-related scholarship: 1**

**Institute for Economic Promotion of the Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano/Bozen**

**Research Topic:**

**A research topic concerning the economy of South Tyrol.**

4. The application for admission must state the preference for the position with a subject-related scholarship. The preference expressed will be indicative of the interests of the applicant and not binding for the selection committee.

5. Separate rankings will be compiled for positions tied to subject-related scholarship. The positions tied to subject-related scholarships oblige the winners to carry out research activities relevant to the indicated subject. These will be assigned preferentially to applicants who make a specific request in their application.

6. Pursuant to the general part of the present call for applications, the number of positions may be increased as a result of funding provided by other universities, public research bodies or qualified private companies. Notice of such an increase will be given exclusively on the Unibz web page dedicated to PhD programmes. Applicants wishing to obtain eligibility for any additional subject-related scholarships may make an explicit request to the selection committee during the interview, in order to allow it to assess the specific eligibility.

### **Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Application to the present public competition for the admission at the PhD programme in Economics and Finance may be presented pursuant to art. 4 of the general part of the present call for application, without limitations regarding gender, age or citizenship, by:

- a) Applicants holding a postgraduate degree as per Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999, a postgraduate degree as per Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004 or a degree of the former Italian university system
- b) Applicants holding an equivalent degree obtained abroad;
- c) Applicants achieving one of the above-mentioned titles within the enrolment deadline. In the latter case, applicants will be conditionally admitted to the public competition and are **required to present the qualification by the enrolment deadline, under penalty of forfeiting admission to the programme.**

2. The minimum grade required for Italian degrees is 100/110 and for foreign degrees is ECTS 'C' or GPA 3.00/5.00. In the event that the above-mentioned grading scales do not apply, the selection committee will use the following grading formula for the conversion of foreign grades:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} - V_{\min}} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

- V= grade to be converted
- V<sub>min</sub>= minimum passing grade at the foreign university
- V<sub>max</sub>= highest final grade at the foreign university
- I<sub>min</sub>= minimum passing grade at Italian universities: 66/110
- I<sub>max</sub>= highest final grade at Italian universities: 110/110;

In the case of candidates not yet in possession of the master's degree a grade point average of at least 27/30 on the Italian scale is required for the examinations taken as part of the master's degree or equivalent qualification.

3. Language requirements:

Knowledge of the **English** language of **at least level C1** is required, to be proven in the application portal by uploading the relevant language certificate (section 'upload language certificates' after filling in the pre-enrolment form in the 'create/manage applications' section).

Language skills can be proven by:

- a) if the main language of instruction in the last year of high school is English, it counts as C1;
- b) a bachelor's or master's degree in English certifies the C1 level. Unibz and unitn graduates must upload the language certificates obtained or declare that they have passed the C1 exam at their universities.
- c) A recognised language certificate (see the list of certificates recognised by the Language Centre: [unibz-recognised-language-certificates-v2.pdf](#)). Please note: the certificate must not have been obtained more than 5 years before the application for recognition

### **Art. 3 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

1. In addition to the documentation listed in the general part of the present call for applications, the following documents must be uploaded to the application portal:

- a) A short statement of purpose in English (maximum 500 words), outlining the reasons for undertaking doctoral research and, in particular, for applying for the PhD programme in Economics and Finance at the University of Bolzano and the University of Trento.
- b) A research proposal (in English in PDF format, max. 1,200 words plus bibliography, tables, graphs, if applicable), which is scientifically rigorous and highlights the applicant's particular research interest and possible research questions as well as conceptual and methodological approaches. The illustrated research statement does not necessarily represent the research to be developed during the PhD; in the event of admission, the PhD research project that will actually be carried out will subsequently be defined and approved by the Board of professors, after the start of the PhD activities as provided for in the Unibz Regulation on PhDs.
- c) Updated curriculum vitae in English pursuant to the European format, downloadable at the following link: <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>
- d) Two letters of reference, written in English by a university lecturer or researcher from a research institute, in which the work carried out and the quality of the same is described.
- e) a list of publications if relevant; preferably with respective links to the full text. Certificates of special courses or awards and special achievements of relevance with regard to the PhD programme.

### **Art. 4 – SELECTION PROCEDURE**

1. The selection procedure consists of three phases:

- a) applications will be examined ex officio for completeness and fulfilment of the formal requirements; applicants excluded due to incomplete applications or lack of requirements will be notified on the dedicated unibz web page. The publication will have the nature of a notification to all effects. No individual communication will be made.
- b) The selection committee will assess the complete applications in accordance with Article 5, considering the qualifications and attached documentation referred to in Article 3. Applicants who reach the minimum score referred to in Article 5 will be admitted to the interview. Admission to the interview, as well as the relevant dates and times, will be communicated on the unibz dedicated web page. Individual communications will be sent in due time to the e-mail address indicated in the application form to applicants admitted to the interview.

c) Interviews will be held by videoconference and will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in article 5. Applicants must ensure the use of a webcam to enable them to identify themselves to the selection committee by showing a valid identity document or passport, under penalty of exclusion from the public competition.

2. Absence from the tests and/or interviews, non-connection, unavailability of the applicant on the appointed day and/or time or non-exhibition of a valid identity document or passport are a cause for exclusion from the public competition.

3. If technical problems occur during the interviews by videoconference, if the problem concerns one or more members of the selection committee, the interview is deferred to another date ex officio; if the problem concerns the applicant, the committee may, subject to the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment of applicants, postpone the test to another date for justified reasons.

4. Once the examinations have been completed, the relevant selection committees draw up rankings based on the scores obtained by the applicants in the individual tests.

### **Art. 5 – EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. The selection committee carries out a comparative assessment of the applicants. For applicants who have expressed a preference for positions tied to subject-related scholarships, the committee also ascertains their suitability for the specific subject.

2. The following scores will be awarded during the evaluation of the documents submitted with the application under Article 3:

a) Qualifications: scientific proximity of the qualification to the PhD and final mark or average of the examinations taken for applicants not yet in possession of a Master's degree or similar - **up to a maximum of 5 points.**

b) Statement of purpose: coherence of the applicant's profile with the scientific fields relevant to the PhD - **up to a maximum of 25 points.**

c) Quantity and quality of scientific publications and/or research-related work experience (only those that match the subject content of the PhD programme in Economics and Finance will be considered), if this represents added value for the PhD programme and the targeted research area - **up to a maximum of 5 points.**

d) Comprehensive evaluation of the curriculum vitae and letters of reference. If the candidate has a very good GMAT or GRE test (not older than five years), it will be credited here - **up to a maximum of 20 points.**

**Candidates who do not reach a threshold of 35 points (out of 55 points) in the evaluation of criteria a) to d) are declared ineligible at this stage and their research statement is not evaluated**

e) The evaluation of the research proposal by the members of the admissions committee consists of assessing its formal correctness and terminological accuracy, its consistency with the doctoral programme's research topics, the clarity of its logical and argumentative structure, the originality of its design, and its scientific quality and independence - **up to a maximum of 15 points.**

3. Applicants who reach **the threshold of 45/70 points** will be admitted to the interview. Admission to the interview and the relevant dates and times will be communicated on the unibz dedicated web page. Individual communications will be sent in due time to the e-mail address indicated in the application form to applicants admitted to the interview.

4. The following elements will be assessed during the interview: aptitude for research; argumentative capacity in relation to the theoretical and methodological hypotheses of the research project presented. **A maximum of 30 points** will be awarded. **The interview is considered passed if at least 20/30 points are obtained.**

5. The final score is made up of the sum of the scores obtained in the assessment of the documentation and interview. Applicants who have obtained **at least 65/100 points** will be eligible.

#### **Art. 6 – RANKING**

1. Applicants and candidates will be admitted to the programmes in order of their ranking until the number of positions available is reached. In the event of equal merit, the applicant who is younger in age shall prevail. In the event of successful placement in more than one ranking list, the winner must exercise the option for only one position. Separate rankings will be drawn up for each position tied to a subject-related scholarship.

2. The final rankings will be published on the unibz website on the page dedicated to PhDs. Such publication has the value of official communication. No individual communication will be made.