

Public Competition
for the admission to the PhD programmes
41st cycle
Academic year 2025/26

Art.1 – CALL

1. The Free University of Bozen/Bolzano (unibz) announces a public competition, by examination and/or qualification, for the admission to the following PhD programmes of the 41st cycle, starting from the academic year 2025/26:

MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE (MEA)

Duration: 3 years

Official course languages: English

A public competition for the allocation of **9** positions is announced, divided as follows:

- n. **3** positions with scholarship
- n. **6** positions with third-party funded/co-funded scholarship

FOOD ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (FEB)

Duration: 3 years

Official course languages: English

A public competition for the allocation of **5** positions is announced, divided as follows:

- n. **4** positions with scholarship
- n. **1** position with third-party co-funded scholarship

COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS)

Duration: 3 years

Official course language: English

A public competition for the allocation of **6** positions is announced, divided as follows:

- n. **4** positions with scholarship
- n. **1** position with third-party cofunded scholarship
- n. **1** position without scholarship

2. For each of the courses referred to in the present article, the possible research topics and the relevant supervisor(s), the admission requirements, the selection procedures, criteria and the evaluation of applications for the purpose of establishing the rankings are set out in the annexed documents, which form an integral part of the present call for applications.

3. The PhD programmes will start on **1 November 2025**.

4. The present call for applications has the value of notification for all purposes. Any changes, updates or additions will be announced **exclusively** through publication on the unibz web page dedicated to PhD programmes. The publications have the value of notification for all legal purposes and no personal communications will be sent. Any communications will be sent exclusively by e-mail to the personal e-mail address indicated during the online application procedure. Unibz is not responsible for the non-receipt of communications due to inaccurate indication of the address, lack of or late communication of the change of address, or for any causes attributable to third parties, fortuitous events or force majeure.

5. Pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 226/2021, PhD programmes may be activated subject to accreditation and verification by ANVUR (National Evaluation Agency for the university and its research activity) that the accreditation requirements are maintained. Winners will therefore only be able to enrol following the positive outcome of such verification.

6. The places can be increased in the event that additional funding becomes available from other universities, public research institutions or qualified private companies who are willing to provide funds after the publication of the present call and before its expiration date (**11 June 2025, at 12:00 midday, GTM +2:00**). Notification about the possible above-mentioned increase will be announced exclusively on the university webpage of unibz regarding the PhD programmes. Applicants who wish to be considered eligible for any additional scholarship which will fund specific projects, must make a specific request to the Selection Committee before the selection process so that they can also evaluate the candidate in this specific case.

Art. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application to the present public competition for the admission at the PhD programmes may be presented, 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, a degree of the former Italian university system, or an equivalent degree obtained abroad.

- b) 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. All applicants are admitted to the public competition subject to verification of the substitutive declarations pursuant to DPR no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions. In the event of false declarations, the University may at any time, by reasoned provision of the Rector, order the exclusion of applicants from the public competition or from the PhD programme, without prejudice to the resulting criminal liability.

3. Applications with degrees obtained abroad that have not already been declared equivalent to an Italian degree.

3.1 Based on the documentation produced, the selection committee will declare the foreign qualification equivalent to a master's degree, solely for the purposes of participation in the present public competition.

3.2 Applicants with a foreign qualification:

- a) will be **admitted to the public competition with condition** and will be excluded from the public competition or from the PhD programme if it emerges, following verification, that the qualification does not meet the requirements set out in the present call for applications and therefore does not allow enrolment in the PhD programme;
- b) to enable the evaluation of the foreign degree for access to the PhD programme in Italy, they must upload to the application portal the documents indicated in Articles 4 and 8 of the present call.

Art. 3 – SUPERNUMERARY ADMISSION

1. Eligible for supernumerary admission are those who are selected within the framework of European Union Research Programmes or other international cooperation programmes (such as, for example, Erasmus Mundus, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions etc.), despite not having submitted an application within the deadline set out in the present call for applications.

Art. 4 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC COMPETITION

1. Applications for admission to the public competition can be submitted starting **from the date of publication of the call for applications.**
2. Each application is subject to the contribution for administrative expenses (50 EUR). The contribution cannot be reimbursed under any circumstances.
3. To apply, it is necessary:
- 1) to create an account at <https://aws.unibz.it/exup/> and upload in electronic format a passport-size colour photo and a valid ID (passport or identity card, front/back);
 - 2) to select in the application portal the PhD programme and pay the registration fee of 50 EUR (see instructions in the portal);
 - 3) to fill in the online form in the same portal and upload the additional required documents (see the specific attachment for each PhD programme).

4. Completing the application online is the **only way** to submit the application. Applications will not be considered, should the latter be:

- incomplete or lacking required qualifications;
- sent by e-mail.

5. It is necessary to upload the required documentation for each PhD programme chosen in the portal. A traffic light system indicates complete/incomplete documentation (missing documents will be marked in red). Only documents uploaded by the deadline will be evaluated.

6. It is advisable to apply online well in advance and to check the portal regularly to take note of any notes concerning missing and/or incorrect documents.

7. The application must be completed **no later than 11 June 2025, at 12:00 midday (GTM +2:00)**. After this deadline, it will no longer be possible to complete/correct incomplete applications. The University assumes no liability for any malfunctions due to overloading of networks or application systems.

8. In accordance with the procedures indicated in the respective attachments concerning each PhD programme, a preference must be expressed for any positions tied to a subject-related scholarship. The preference expressed in the application will be indicative of the applicant's interests and not binding for the selection committee.

9. Applicants must upload on the application portal, under penalty of exclusion:

- **if graduated in Italy:** diploma supplement or self-declaration (following the DPR 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.

10. The above must contain the following information: final grade, exams passed with grade and date of passing, credit points, scientific fields (the latter only for Italian titles), university where the degree was or will be awarded and date of graduation.

11. For qualifications obtained abroad, also: scale of grades awarded by the home university (with a minimum final grade to obtain the qualification and a maximum final grade achievable). Unibz reserves the right to request a description of the contents of the single courses and/or teaching hours where necessary.

12. All applicants are admitted to the public competition conditionally to the verification of the requirements for admission. Unibz has the right to verify, also by sampling, pursuant to the provisions of art. 71 and subsequent of DPR 445/2000. Applicants may be excluded at any time by reasoned provision of the Rector for not meeting the requirements set out in the present call for applications.

Art. 5 – SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The selection procedure may involve assessment of the qualifications and/or documentation submitted in the application, written tests and/or interviews. The tests and/or interviews may be preceded by a pre-selection based on the qualifications and/or documentation submitted, including the drafting of a research project proposal. The selection procedures are indicated in the attachments relating to the individual PhD programmes, which are an integral part of the call for applications and published on the Unibz web page dedicated to PhD programmes. The schedule of the selections, the composition of the Commissions, the preliminary results and the final rankings will be published on the unibz web page dedicated to research doctorates.

2. If the attachments relating to individual PhD programmes indicate the possibility of taking the tests and/or interviews remotely via videoconference (e.g. Teams, Zoom), 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Art. 6 – SELECTION COMMITTEE

1. Each selection committee is appointed in accordance with the current Regulation on PhDs.
2. 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. For applicants who have expressed a preference for subject-related scholarship positions, if any, the Commission also ascertains their suitability for the specific subject.

Art. 7 – ADMISSION TO THE PHD PROGRAMME

1. Applicants will be admitted to the PhD programme according to the ranking list until all available positions are covered. In case of equal merit, the youngest applicant prevails. In the event of successful placement in several rankings, the winner must exercise the option for one position only. Where indicated in the attachments relating to the individual PhD programmes, separate merit rankings may be drawn up for positions tied to a subject-related scholarship.
2. The final ranking lists will be published on the unibz web pages of the PhD programmes. The mentioned **publication has value of official notification**. No individual communications will be sent.
3. In the event of non-enrolment or express renunciation in writing by the winner no later than the date of enrolment, the next placed applicant in the ranking list shall take over.
4. In the event of the renunciation or exclusion of the winner in the first trimester of the first year of the course, it is at the discretion of the Board of professors to consider filling the vacancy with another applicant according to the order of the ranking list.

Art. 8 – ENROLMENT

1. To enroll, admitted applicants on each ranking list must follow these steps.

1.1 PAYMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY FEES AND CONFIRMATION OF THE STUDY PLACE

Access the application portal, select the PhD programme and **pay the one-off tuition fee using one of the methods indicated in the portal** to confirm your study place (200 EUR - two hundred).

Deadlines	From	To (peremptory deadline!)
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Applicants admitted with scholarship	publication of the ranking list	24 July 2025 at 12:00 (GMT+2:00)
Applicants admitted without scholarship	25 July 2025	7 August 2025 at 12:00 (GMT+2:00)

Those who do not meet the deadline will automatically lose their position, which will be offered to the next applicant in the ranking list.

Please note: Paying university fees does not confer student status, which is only obtained by enrolling. If you pay but do not enrol, you are not entitled to a refund, except for non-EU citizens residing abroad who do not obtain the necessary documents from the Italian foreign representation.

1.2. ONLINE ENROLMENT

Enrol online in the application portal.

Deadlines	From	To (peremptory deadline!)
	25 July 2025	31 October 2025 at 12:00 (GMT+1:00)

Enrolment is recommended as early as possible, so you have the possibility to upload incomplete documents before the deadline.

Missing the enrolment deadline will result in the loss of the study place, which will then be offered to the next applicant on the ranking list.

2. Applicants with foreign qualifications must upload these documents in the portal (if not already uploaded during application):

- degree diploma of the Master
- official translation of the diploma into Italian (not necessary if the documents have been issued in German or English)
- diploma supplement for the Master's degree, indicating that it qualifies for a PhD programme.

3. If foreign qualifications do not include a diploma supplement, this document does not need to be uploaded.

4. Depending on the foreign education system the degree belongs to, the following documents must be uploaded:

A. EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein:

- [Statement of Correspondence of your Master's degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy](#)

B. Non-EU countries that are [signatories to the Lisbon Convention](#):

- [Statement of Correspondence](#) of your Master's degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy
- [Statement of Verification](#) of your Master's degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

C. Non-EU countries that are not signatories of the Lisbon Convention:

- [Statement of Comparability](#) of your Master's degree, to be downloaded from the ARDI - Automatic Recognition Database – Italy
- [Statement of Verification](#) of your Master's degree, issued by the Italian Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA)

6. If the required document is not uploaded by the time of enrolment, the applicant will be enrolled with reservations. The documents must in any case be submitted by **15 January 2026** under penalty of exclusion from the programme.

7. For a university degree obtained abroad and recognised in Italy, upload a copy of the recognition decree.

8. unibz verifies the foreign qualification and may request additional documentation if needed.9. Should the verification process determine that the qualification fails to meet the criteria outlined in this call for applications, thereby rendering the applicant ineligible for enrolment in the PhD programme, the applicant will be excluded.

10. For non-EU citizens residing abroad:

10. If eligible for the public competition and pre-enrolled on the [University](#) portal, the applicant will receive a study visa from the Italian representation in their country. This visa allows them to travel to Italy and enrol in the PhD programme after successfully completing the competition.

10.2 As per current legislation, the applicant must apply for a residence permit within 8 working days of entering Italy. Upon arrival, contact the unibz office Study and Tuition (phdunibz@unibz.it) for information to begin the procedure.

10.3 After obtaining the residence permit, the applicant must submit the original or email a front/back copy to the Student Office.

11. Please note:

11.1 Enrolments submitted outside the specified methods or terms in this article will not be accepted.

11.2 Applicants who are ranked in the rankings of multiple PhD programmes and/or individual positions within the same PhD programme must choose only one position.

11.3 Applicants who wish to renounce their enrolment and/or scholarship must provide written notice as soon as possible, and before the enrolment date, to phdunibz@unibz.it.

11.4 Any updates will be published on the unibz website of the PhD programmes.

Art. 9 – TUITION FEES

1. The one-off registration fee for the academic year 2025/2026, 41st cycle, amounts to EUR 200. This amount includes the EUR 16 stamp duty, paid virtually.

2. A PhD student who resigns from their position or is excluded from it is not entitled to a refund of the amount paid.

Art. 10 - SCHOLARSHIP

1. Scholarships are awarded in accordance with the rankings drawn up pursuant to art. 7 and the

provisions outlined in the attachments relating to the individual PhD programmes. If, because of withdrawals, places with a scholarship become available, the winner of a place without a scholarship or, if he or she are not available, the next eligible applicant may take over, according to the order of the ranking.

2. The yearly study scholarship amounts to **€ 28.000 gross**
3. The positions tied to theme-related scholarships oblige the winners to carry out research activities relevant to the indicated theme. These will be assigned preferentially to applicants who make a specific request in their application.
4. The scholarship is paid from the date on which the PhD student is physically present in Bozen/Bolzano or Brixen/Bressanone. Any payments for previous months are not paid.
5. In justified cases, the final date for arrival in Bozen-Bolzano or Brixen-Bressanone is **27 February 2026**. Any PhD student who fails to meet this deadline will be excluded from the PhD programme and will lose his or her position and scholarship.
6. In the case of scholarships financed by external funders, the annual amount may be increased.
7. The scholarship is also subject to national social security contributions (INPS) pursuant to legislation in force.
8. The scholarship is paid in monthly instalments and increased by 50% for duly authorised study periods spent abroad.
9. The duration of the scholarship is equal to the three-year duration of the course, except for suspension or forfeiture of studies. Scholarships are confirmed with the passing to the following year, unless a reasoned decision is taken by the Board of professors. Scholarship holders are not employees of the university.
10. The award of the scholarship excludes the establishment of an employment relationship with the university.
11. Scholarships cannot be combined with other scholarships or scholarships awarded for any purpose, except those awarded by national or foreign institutions which supplement, with stays abroad, the research activities of the student. Anyone who has already received a scholarship in Italy for a PhD programme cannot hold a further scholarship on the same purpose.

Art. 11 – RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PHD STUDENTS

1. PhD students are obliged to attend the PhD programmes and to carry out research activities according to the schedules and the regulations laid down by the Board of Professors. More details can be found in the following document: [Regulations of Ph.D Degree programmes](#)
2. Externally funded scholarships that require the performance of a specific research activity oblige the beneficiaries to carry out such activity.
3. The university provides, for the duration of the programme, insurance cover for accidents and liabilities to third parties that may occur during the activities related to the PhD programme.
4. Pursuant to Article 2(1) of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended, the civil servant admitted to the PhD programme may apply to be placed, for the duration of the PhD programme, on unpaid leave for study purposes, and may receive a scholarship if the requirements are met.

5. In the event of admission to the PhD programme without a scholarship, or if the scholarship is renounced, the applicant on leave shall retain the salary, social security and pension benefits paid by the public administration with which the employment relationship is established. If, after obtaining the PhD degree, the employment relationship with the public administration is terminated at the request of the person or employee within two years of the end of the programme, the amounts paid during the PhD programme shall be refunded.

Art. 12 – PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

1. The Administration of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, according to the European Regulation 2016/679, will use the applicants' personal data only for the selection procedure and for institutional purposes.

2. In observance of the above-mentioned law, participation in the selection requires the applicant to consent tacitly to the publication of his/her personal data and the data concerning the results of the selection procedure on the website of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano.

Art. 13 – REFERRAL RULE

1. For matters not explicitly mentioned in the present call for applications, art. 4 of law no. 210 of July 3, 1998, art. 19 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, Ministerial Decree n. 226, December 14th, 2021, the "Regulations for PhD Research at the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano" with subsequent amendments and the "Regulations for research scholarships referred to in article 22 of Law no. 240/2010" shall apply.

Art. 14 – ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCEDURE

1. According to law no 241 of August 7, 1990, and subsequent amendments, dott. Karin Felderer, is in charge of the present procedure. Address: Study and Tuition, Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, piazza Domenicani 3, I-39100 Bozen/Bolzano – Tel. +39 0471 012815, e-mail: phdunibz@unibz.it.

Information pursuant to Articles 13-14, EU Reg 2016/679 "European Data Protection Regulation"

This information notice represents a fulfilment of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, General Data Protection Regulation (hereinafter, GDPR), which, pursuant to Articles 13 and 14, provides for the obligation to provide data subjects with the information necessary to ensure the correct and transparent processing of their personal data.

1. Data subjects

The data controller is the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, with registered office at Piazza Università no. 1, 39100 Bozen/Bolzano, in the person of the President and legal representative pro tempore.

1.2. The Privacy Officer of the Free University of Bozen/Bolzano can be contacted at the following email address: privacy@unibz.it

2. Purposes of the processing for which the data are intended

2.1. The personal data provided by you are processed for the management of the competition or selection procedure with any pre-contractual measures and for the management of the rankings (where provided for in the notice) which also includes the publication of the rankings on the University website. The processing also includes any checks on the declarations of support pursuant to Article 71 of Presidential Decree 445/2000 (see point 4.2).

2.2. The processing may also include special categories of data (e.g. health status and disability, etc.) as well as personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences pursuant to Article 10 GDPR. The processing of this data is required by the rules governing selection (e.g. to provide appropriate support for candidates with disabilities, etc.).

2.3. The personal data of the candidates are processed by the members of the commission, and by the administrative offices in charge of the selection procedures of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.

3. Modalities of data processing and duration of data retention

3.1 The data will be processed in such a way as to guarantee the security and protection of the data in full compliance with the provisions of the "European Regulation" and the national legislation on data protection and may be carried out by means of manual operations and/or the use of computer and/or telematic tools.

3.2 In this case, applications to take part in the selection will be kept for 5 (five) years. The successful candidate's application will be retained indefinitely. The minutes of the Selection Boards and their annexes, and the approval and appointment measures shall be retained indefinitely.

4. Processing and scope of communication and dissemination of data

4.1. The processing of personal data collected is carried out by the offices in charge and by the selection committee, which has been adequately instructed for this purpose in accordance with Article 29 of the GDPR.

4.2. In particular, your data may be communicated to other public bodies for the purposes of carrying out checks on the declarations in lieu of identity pursuant to Article 71 of Presidential Decree 445/2000. In addition, the University may acquire certain information ex officio in order to verify the declarations submitted by candidates (e.g. request for verification of criminal records, requests for confirmation of qualifications from schools, universities, etc.; requests to municipalities for family status, etc.).

5. Nature of the provision of data and legal basis for processing

5.1 The provision of data is necessary for the achievement of the purposes referred to in paragraph 2.

5.2. Personal data are processed in accordance with Articles 6(1)(b) - performance of a contract, (c) - fulfilment of legal obligations, (e) - public interest or related to the exercise of public authority; (f) - legitimate interest), 9(2)(b) - labour law obligations, (f) - defence in court, (g) relevant public interest and 10 (personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences GDPR).

6. Rights of the data subject

6.1 In your capacity as a Data Subject you have the rights set out in sections 2, 3 and 4 of Chapter III of the GDPR (e.g. to request from the data controller: access to and rectification or erasure of personal data; restriction of processing concerning you).

6.2. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority (such as the Privacy Authority <http://www.garanteprivacy.it/>).

With regard to the exercise of these rights, you may send your request to privacy@unibz.it.