UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES – TRIESTE

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Call for applications – Academic Year 2021/2022

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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 selected for the Master’s course in Cognitive Science at UniTrento. Students enrolled in the Program will spend the first year at the Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC) and the second year at SISSA and will receive economic benefits, as specified in paragraph 6 of the present call.

3. The total number of university credits (CFUs) to complete the SISSA-UniTrento program is 132, of which no less than 60 should normally be earned in each of two institutions. Students who succeed in fulfilling the requirements of the Program will 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.
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://offertaformativa.unitn.it/en/lm/cognitive-science/unitrento-sissa-programme

**Art. 2 - Application Procedure**

1. Candidates are required to apply online at the website http://www.unitn.it/en/apply/master filling all the sections of the online application form for the Master’s course in Cognitive Science and to submit a specific motivation letter for this Program in the section “Apply for SISSA Program”.

2. The deadline for applying is **March 5th, 2021** for both non-EU and EU applicants. In case of a second selection round (if places are still available), the deadline is **28th June 2021** only for EU students and non-EU students permanently resident in Italy.

**Art. 3 - Selection Procedure**

1. Candidates will be selected by an Evaluation Committee through the admission procedure aimed at assessing their competence and potential for research. The positions available are **four**. Two positions will be offered to candidates from countries other than the European Union who do not reside in Italy (hereafter **non-EU candidates**). The remaining positions will be offered to citizens of the European Union and to citizens of other countries already residing in Italy (hereafter **EU candidates**).

2. In order to be eligible for admission to the Program, candidates must have passed the selection and have accepted the position at the Master’s course in Cognitive Science offered by UniTrento.

3. The Evaluation Committee is appointed by the Director of CIMeC/ Center for Mind and Brain Sciences, and is comprised of four faculty members, two from UniTrento and two from SISSA. Applicants will be assessed according to the following criteria:
   a) *Curriculum vitae et studiorum* and reference letter (0-40 points);
   b) Statement of purpose specific for the Program (0-30 points);
   c) Interest and/or experience in relevant research topics (0-30 points), as listed here:
      - ILAB - Inference, Learning, and Action in the Brain (PI Chris Mathys): https://chrismathys.com
The Evaluation Committee will examine the documents of each applicant, assigning each candidate a numerical score between 0 and 100. Candidates scoring more than **70 points** will be declared eligible to the Program. All of the candidates who meet the minimum admission requirements will be listed according to a ranking determined by their score. Should the candidate’s suitability for the Program not clearly emerge from the written application, the Evaluation Committee may decide to interview the applicant (via Skype) to acquire more exhaustive information about the applicant’s competence and motivation.

4. The short list of eligible **non-EU-candidates** will be posted online (https://international.unitn.it/mcs/unitrento-sissa-program) by 30th April 2021. In case of a second selection, the short list of **EU-candidates** will be published online by 31st July 2021. A personal notification will be sent via email to all candidates.

5. Once accepted candidates are offered the admission via email, they must accept or decline it within the deadline written in the official notification. Candidates failing to do so will be taken to have declined admission to the Program.

6. In case either an EU or non-EU candidate declines the offer, the first eligible candidate of the respective short list will be offered the admission and will receive an admission notification.

**Art. 4 - Admission and Enrolment**

1. Candidates admitted to the Program must enrol at UniTrento as students of the Master’s course in Cognitive Science under the terms indicated by the general rules of student admission of UniTrento (please refer to the web page https://infostudenti.unitn.it/en/enrollments/enrolment-in-masters-degree-courses). Failing to do so will result in automatic exclusion from the Program.
Art. 5 - Organization of the Program

1. During the first year at UniTrento, students enrolled in the Program are expected to attend the courses and to take the exams required by the career plan of the Master's Degree in Cognitive Science of the University of Trento (please refer to the web page http://offertaformativa.unitn.it/en/lm/cognitive-science/rules-and-regulations).

2. During the second year at SISSA, students are required to attend the courses offered by SISSA (please refer to the web page http://phdcns.sissa.it/courses) in order to acquire the 12 additional CFUs required for completing the UniTrento-SISSA Program. Moreover, students have to earn the university credits required to complete the Master's Degree, including the internship and the Master's thesis, under the supervision of two faculty members (one from UniTrento, one from SISSA).

Art. 6 - Economic Benefits

1. UniTrento and SISSA will 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. For the period spent at UniTrento, the student enrolled in the Program will receive a yearly benefit determined from the average amount of living expenses in 2,500,00 Euro. Lodging will be granted at the facilities managed by the University Guild in Trento.

By accepting the UniTrento-SISSA fellowship, non-EU-students automatically waive the UniTrento scholarship - if awarded one. The tuition fee amount for non-EU students depends on their application score in the ranking list for the Master's course in Cognitive Science (please refer to the web page http://international.unitn.it/incoming/tuition-fees). EU students can apply for the Opera Universitaria benefits according to the respective Call (please refer to the website http://www.operauni.tn.it/servizi/borse-di-studio). The tuition fee amount for EU students is based on the ISEE system (please refer to the website https://infostudenti.unitn.it/en/tuition-fees).

3. For the period spent at SISSA, the student enrolled in the Program will receive a grant of maximum 500,00 Euro/month (gross) and a contribution of maximum 250,00 Euro/month (gross) towards the coverage of lodging expenses in Trieste, only after providing a copy of the official lodging contract.

4. All students will be provided access to the facilities of SISSA and UniTrento (library, computers, laboratories, Internet).
Art. 7 - Requirements for Completing the Program

1. At the end of the first year the students will be evaluated by the Program Board in order to confirm the fellowship and the participation to the Program. Students must satisfy the following conditions for being admitted to the second year: obtaining at least 45 university credits (CFU) with a GPA of at least 27/30, and no marks lower than 24/30, by 30th September 2022.

2. Students failing to meet the criteria specified above for admission to the second year of the Program will receive no further payment for the fellowship and will be excluded from the Program. However, all the exams and credits already acquired will be 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 must notify the administrative offices at UniTrento (mcs@unitn.it) and SISSA (riccardo.iancer@sissa.it). In case of withdrawal without justified reasons, the student has to pay back the full amount of the economic benefits awarded, including the lodging expenses, as long as the student benefited from the facilities managed by the University Guild in Trento.

4. In case of withdrawal before 30th September 2022, the next eligible candidate (from the respective shortlist, if available, and enrolled in the Master’s Degree) may be offered the opportunity to participate in the remaining portion of the Program.

Art. 8 - 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. 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.

Rovereto, 18 December 2020

The CIMeC’s Director

f.to Prof. Carlo Miniussi