

Public Competition
for the admission to the PhD programmes
41st cycle
Academic year 2025/2026
Faculty of Education
PhD Programme in
Education and Social Sciences

Website: <https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/phd-education-social-sciences/>

Duration: 3 years

Academic year: 2025/2026

Start date: November 1st, 2025

Official language: Italian, German, English

Art. 1 - POSITIONS

1. A total of **5 positions** are available for the PhD programme in Education and Social Sciences.

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: <https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/phd-education-social-sciences/>

3. **Positions with unibz scholarship: 4**
Positions without scholarship: 1

4. For application to the PhD program, the candidate must present a research project proposal. The topic of this proposal may address one of the following topics proposed by Faculty researchers in the different research areas (see list below). Alternatively, the candidate may propose an original topic which, however, must be coherent with the activities of the Faculty research areas.

Research area 01 – M-PED/01 - Permanent Education – Processes and Projects of Education and Development with a Focus on South Tyrol

Topic:	Children's Rights and Education for Sustainable Development - Kindergarten and Primary School as Spaces for experience-based Learning for Democracy and Natural Ethics. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Iris Nentwig-Gesemann
Abstract:	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.

Topic:	Education for Economic Citizenship: lines of research Supervisor: Prof. Monica Parricchi
Abstract:	The doctoral project will address aspects of citizenship education declined in the field of financial literacy. The case study focuses on analysing the economic awareness of the population, in particular of certain vulnerable groups such as the elderly and women, in order to develop training proposals as a means of protecting and improving individual and social well-being, with the aim of reducing the gender gap and combating inequalities for all those at risk of social exclusion. Research areas: Well-being, skills frameworks, gender gap, lifelong learning.

Research area 02 – M-PED 03/04 - IN-IN Education: INnovative and INclusive Education

Topic:	Research on aspects of teaching, learning, education, school development and professionalization Supervisors: Katja Kansteiner, Beate Weyland, Simone Seitz, Susanne Schumacher, Daniele Morselli, Alessandro Colombi, Giorgia Ruzzante, Stephanie Mian, Petra Auer, Francesca Berti
Abstract:	Educational research s in schools and/or in the broader educational context including aspects of teacher professionalization, digitality and AI.

Topic:	Research in inclusive education Supervisors: Simone Seitz, Heidrun Demo, Vanessa Macchia, Giorgia Ruzzante, Silvia Dell'Anna, Petra Auer, Francesca Berti.
Abstract:	Research on education with a specific view on aspects of educational (in)equity, inclusive education and inclusive pedagogies. It may include the use of technologies and AI.

Research area 03 - Psychology and wellbeing promotion in educational contexts

Topic:	Life-skills promotion in educational settings Supervisor: Prof. Demis Basso
Abstract:	Since 1994, the WHO has 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.

Topic:	Executive functions and social-emotional skills in the transition between pre-school and primary school Supervisor: Prof. Antonella Brighi
Abstract:	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 area 04 - Languages and multilingualism in South Tyrol

Topic:	Literary reception research
Abstract:	Empirical qualitative literary reception research on dealing with children's literature (multimodal, multilingual or intermedial) in educational contexts.

Topic:	Reading and media socialisation research
Abstract:	Empirical-qualitative reading and media socialisation research in multilingual and intercultural contexts in the family, kindergarten or primary school.

Research area 05 - Aesthetic experiences and communication

Topic:	Values-based education through sport and physical education Prof. Attilio Carraro, prof. Benjamin Niederkofler
Abstract:	Applied research focusing on a critical reflection on the role (pros and cons) of sport and PE in teaching positive values, such as respect, equity and inclusion, looking at both school and sport (grassroot and elite) settings.

Topic:	Pedagogy and didactics of visual and/or performing arts Supervisor/Supervisors in music and/or art will be defined according to the specific research project.
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Abstract:	The research concerns characteristics, issues and potential of arts education, particularly visual and/or performing arts, in formal and non-formal educational contexts. It may also include reference to technology and AI.
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Research area 06 - Educational Contexts, Disciplines and their Teaching in the Nursery and Primary School

Topic:	Science education from theory to didactic practice Supervisor: Prof. Federico Corni
Abstract:	Science Education: Contributions from research in disciplinary education and from interdisciplinary approaches (systems thinking, embodiment, imaginative education, etc.). Research may include the use of technologies and AI.

Topic:	Scientific dissemination in Italian primary schools. Supervisor: Prof. Robert P. Wagensommer
Abstract:	The project aims to carry out an assessment of the current state of science communication (with a focus on biology and ecology) in primary schools in Italy.

Research area 07 - Socio cultural worlds: institutions, welfare, social professions, environment and population

Topic:	Migrant Women's Parenthood and Social Services Supervisor: Prof. Dorothy Zinn
Abstract:	In this proposed research topic, the PhD student would work together with researchers for the ongoing Project "GENMIG", which explores parenthood among migrant women and how agents for advocacy interact with them, focusing on critical points and best practices.

Topic:	Assessing Sustainability: impact study and its applications Supervisor: Dr. Federica Viganò
Abstract:	Sustainability assessment is at the core of the impact study discipline, which analyzes the social, economic, and environmental consequences of policies and projects. This multidisciplinary approach allows for measuring and predicting effects, enabling more informed and responsible decision-making.

Research area 08 - EduSpaces teaching and learning environment

Topic:	The EduSpaces university laboratories of educational research: what theoretical foundations, methods, and activities for integration.
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Abstract:	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.
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5. The project proposal ([template](#) to use and download) must state the preference for a maximum of **1** research projects. The preference expressed will be indicative of the interests of the applicant and not binding for the selection committee.

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 Education and Social Sciences 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, a degree of the former Italian university system of the following degree classes: **all degree classes**.
- 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. Language requirements: 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 recognised language certificates:

<https://www.unibz.it/assets/Documents/Languages/unibz-recognised-language-certificates-v2.pdf>

Knowledge of the two of the three languages of the programme: Italian, German, English, of at least level B2 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).

3.1 If language skills are proven by a high school diploma/graduate or master's degree, the latter must be uploaded a second time in the section above.

3.2 If the certificates or diplomas were issued by Italian public bodies, the relevant substitutive declarations must be completed in the portal.

3.3 If the certificates or diplomas were issued by foreign bodies, the certificates or diplomas must be uploaded to the portal.

3.4 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 graduates must upload the language certificates obtained or declare that they have passed the language examinations at the Unibz Language Centre (B2, B2+ or C1).
- c) A recognized language certificate (see the list of certificates recognized by the Language Centre: <https://www.unibz.it/it/services/language-centre/study-in-three-languages/>). 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) Research proposal in English or in German or in Italian, in PDF format: please use and download the relevant [template](#). In this document, up to a maximum of ONE preference must be indicated among the research areas listed. The research proposal may follow one of the research topics listed above, or the candidate may propose his or her own topic, which must however be coherent with one of the Faculty research areas. The proposal should include: applicant's name and surname, the title of the research project to be carried out, together with a draft of the project. The draft should include a discussion of the state of the art; aims and objectives of the planned research; a discussion of the research methodology. The illustrated research proposal 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.

b) Updated curriculum vitae in English or in Italian or in German pursuant to the European format, downloadable at the following link: <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>

b.1) - if available: a list of publications (published, in print or submitted).

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 communications 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 may be held in person or by videoconference, at the applicant's request to the selection committee (**mailto: PhD_Education@unibz.it**) 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 on the basis of 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.

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

- Formal register and terminological accuracy - up to a maximum of 8 points;
- Coherence of the proposal with the research topics relevant to the doctoral programme - up to a maximum of 15 points;
- Clarity of the logical and argumentative structure - up to a maximum of 10 points;
- Content related to positions of the scientific community – up to a maximum of 7 points;
- Originality of the project's research design; - up to a maximum of 10 points;
- Clarity of the methodological approach for the proposed research project – up to a maximum of 10 points.

3. Applicants who reach the threshold of 40/60 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; possession of a language level appropriate to the language of the programme; argumentative capacity in relation to the theoretical and methodological hypotheses of the research project presented.

The interview is considered passed if at least 40/60 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 if passed.

Art. 6 – RANKING

1. Applicants and candidates will be admitted to the programmes in the 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 an official communication. No individual communications will be made.