

**Admission PhD Program in “Neuroscience”
Padova Neuroscience Center, University of Padova**

Last update: Padova, 4/23/24

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1. What should I do if I am interested in a priority research-bonded grant (“borsa a tema vincolato”)?

A1. The PhD admission procedure requires that the candidate applies for the generic call (by default) and follows the general evaluation procedure even if s/he is interested in a priority research-bonded grant. If the candidate is interested in specific priority research-bonded fellowship/s as well (in Italian: “borsa a tema vincolato”), s/he should also explicitly choose those specific fellowship/s (if any) s/he wants to apply to, by selecting them during the online application procedure in PICA.

The procedure requires a general interview for all the candidates who pass to the second phase. In that occasion, they will also be asked to discuss about the project that could be within the PhD board Principal Investigators’ research lines (see: <http://pnc.unipd.it/phd-research-lines/>), where priority research grants are also listed. Although this is not a strictly necessary requirement, candidates are encouraged to propose a project at least generally related to two among the proposed research lines (also see Q&A2).

While the project to be written by the candidate will be only one, additional interviews will be run ad-hoc for those candidates who have applied for the specific priority research PhD fellowships. For instance, a candidate that has applied for two priority research fellowships will undergo an extra interview for each of them. The latter type of interview will be about the candidate’s competences relevant for the theme of the chosen priority research grant(s), and not necessarily on the proposed project (if this does not fall within the priority research theme) which, as stated above, will be preferentially (although not exclusively) discussed in the general interview.

Q2. What is the relationship between the candidate’s project and the suggested research lines?

A2. In the project form, you should indicate two preferred research lines from the set available at the following link: <http://pnc.unipd.it/phd-research-lines/>. It is advisable that you write your proposed project linking it to at least one of the chosen lines (ideally 2). The proposed project should be somewhat inspired from, and linked to the general big questions and methodologies of the PIs’ research lines. Caveat: please strictly adhere to the word limits of each subsection of the project form:

<https://pnc.unipd.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ProjectFormPhDNeurosci.docx>. Please refer to Q&A1 for more details.

Q2b. For some priority research-bonded grants (in Italian: “borsa a tema vincolato”), there is also an abstract and not just the title. Does it mean that, if I am interested in any of these grants, I should write my project strictly adhering to their abstract in this case?

A2b. No, the project should be “generally” inspired by that abstract (if you choose to write a project compatible with that research line). However, please try to avoid the temptation of copying-and-pasting from the abstract of the research lines, when the abstract is available.

At any rate, it is also possible to apply for some priority research-bonded grants and write the project based on other research lines not linked to priority research-bonded grants (also see Q&A1).

Q3. What if I realize that I need to integrate or modify my application after I have already completed the online application process?

A3. In this case, the candidate should simply cancel her/his original application from the system and start over again to integrate or modify the original application.

Q4. Can I perform my interview through Skype or Zoom?

A4. Yes, interviews can be held with Zoom upon request (see point 5.3 of the call for further detail). The details of the Zoom meetings for the interviews will be published in the following website: <http://pnc.unipd.it/admission/> according to the specific schedule for the PhD in Neuroscience

Q5. In the call for admission, 50/100 scores max could be assigned in the first step of the selection, but then the threshold to be admitted to the second step (i.e., interview) is 7/10. Isn't this contradictory?

A5. We will apply an appropriate conversion of the scores obtained during the first step to transform them into tenths (the minimum raw score would be 35/50 for the first step).

Q6. If I choose a Priority Research-bonded Grant ("borsa a tema vincolato"), does it mean that I am automatically excluded from the general competition for the non-bonded fellowships?

A6. Not at all. It means that the candidate will compete for both the non-bonded fellowships and all the chosen priority research-bonded grant/s. Please refer to Q&A1 and Q&A2b for further details on this topic.

Q7. Shall the documents that I attach during the application process be in English only?

A7. They could be either in English (preferable) or in Italian. However, candidate's CV, Project and Motivation letter should be in English.

Q8. I am interested in applying for several Priority Research-bonded Grants ("borsa a tema vincolato"), as well as for some free research themes, but my project could be linked to 2 research lines only, what should I do?

A8. Choosing 2 research lines (being those priority research-bonded or free) to link to the research project according to the form does not prevent candidates from applying for as many Priority Research-bonded Grants (1, 2 or even more than that) as they want during the submission step. Please refer to Q&A1 as well.

Q9. I like two different research lines but my project seems compatible with just one of them. What should I do?

A9. Although it is advisable that your project is coherent with the two chosen research lines, it is also ok to link it mainly to 1 research line (the first chosen). This would be preferable to writing a project which is not well focused/coherent, just because you want to stretch it so that it fits the two chosen research lines (e.g., if those are too different from each other).

Q10. There is something that is not covered either in these FAQ or in the information posted online. Could I contact somebody to ask for additional information?

A10. You may send an email to: pnc.generalinfo@gmail.com (for questions specific to the PhD in Neuroscience) or phd@unipd.it (for questions about the PhD at Unipd in general).

Q11. My master thesis is written in a language different from English or Italian. Should I submit the thesis in the original language or should I translate it to English?

A11. In this case, please submit the thesis in the original language but also provide a complete English abstract (with all relevant information) with it.