PhD Course in Psychological Sciences

The post-graduate course in Psychological Sciences at the University of Padova offers highly competitive PhD programmes in the fields of Psychology. Scholarships are provided by:

- The Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)
- The Cariparo Foundation
- China Scholarship Council (CSC)

Every academic year, the School, together with the China Scholarship Council (CSC), offers 1 (one) scholarship to a candidate from the People’s Republic of China. Additional openings are available for candidates from the PRC through standard annual selection procedures, held by the University of Padova.

Info for applicants from the People’s Republic of China:
china.phd@unipd.it
Psychological Science at UNIPD: understanding the functioning of the human being

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT UNIPD: GENERAL ACTIVITY

The PhD Course in Psychological Sciences offers a highly competitive 3-year programme to train high-level researchers in the field of Experimental Psychology, Cognition, Behavioural Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology and Clinical Psychology. The programme is centred on providing general skills that can be applied across diverse fields of research, with particular emphasis on the theoretical plan and the rigour of methods.

The training is supported by numerous laboratories, where different behavioural and neural variables can be measured. Students have access to laboratories for the study of the electrical activity of the brain and neuroimaging (EEG, fNIRS, TMS, fMRI), animal cognition, infant and child behaviour, and psychophysiological variables.

The supervisor of PhD students can be chosen from the approximately 60 faculty members, experienced researchers in different areas of psychology. Each student defines the main area of research together with his/her supervisor and the experimental work is carried out, starting from the first year.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT UNIPD: STRUCTURE

During the first year, PhD students have to start to develop their research project and follow some courses in methodology, statistics, programming and practical skills.

During the second year, students have the opportunity to visit Laboratories in Europe or other countries, working under the supervision of external tutors.

The course strongly encourages PhD students to attend conferences and meetings abroad. Additional funding is provided.

The third year is mainly devoted to the preparation of the PhD Thesis. At the end of each year, doctoral students have to present a summary of their theoretical area of research and of the general content of their research project. At the end of the 3rd year, they have to present their work at the “School Lunch” meetings. After the conclusion of the three-year program, each student will discuss his/her PhD Thesis.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT UNIPD: COURSES

Several advanced level courses are offered (around 250 hours). The students must attend to some compulsory classes and can then select other classes following their main interest. Following are some of the courses available:

**COMPULSORY CLASSES**
- Methodology for the behavioural sciences
- The Null Hypothesis Significance Testing: limits and errors. New statistics and “best research practices”
- APA, APS, Psychonomic Society statistic recommendations
- R. Language
- Multiple regression
- Linear models, general models and mixed models
- Citations and references in APA style
- Publishing in and reviewing for high-impact journals

**OTHER METHODOLOGICAL CLASSES**
- Bayesian approach to statistics
- Outlier evaluation and influence
- From statistical significance to clinical and practical significance
- The importance of replicability in science
- Exploratory factorial analysis
- Linear models, general models and mixed models
- Hierarchical models in social contexts
- Meta-analysis

**PROGRAMMING SOFTWARES**
- E-prime
- Mat lab
- SPSS