



**Freie Universität Bozen**  
**Libera Università di Bolzano**  
**Università Lìedia de Bulsan**

## **Faculty of Education**

### **PhD-programme in General Pedagogy, Social Pedagogy, and General Didactics and Disciplinary Didactics**

**Website:**

<https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/phd-in-general-pedagogy-social-pedagogy-didactics/>

**Duration:** 3 years

**Academic year:** 2018/2019

**Start date:** 01.11.2018

**Official programme languages:** Italian, German, English

**Places and grants:**

Total places: **12**

Places covered by grants: **9**

Places covered by a grant from a specific international PhD-programme: **1**

Places without grants: **2**

### **Programme contents**

Over the three years, PhD students are expected to actively attend the theoretical and methodological course of studies and dedicate themselves full-time to the programme, which aims to develop both the broad research areas in pedagogical sciences and specific disciplinary subjects.

PhD students will work on a piece of original research as an individual research project. The research project is defined by the student with a supervisory team, and is developed under their guidance according to the guidelines established by the PhD Course Teaching Committee.

PhD students shall draw up the **Research and Study Plan** in collaboration with the main supervisor and the PhD Coordinator. The Research and individual Study Plan documents in detail the training provided for each student, showing clearly the type and the outcome of any intermediary assessment.

Periodically, the student, along with her/his main supervisor updates her/his Research and Study Plan, in light of progress made and developments in the research area (research report every 6 months).

The Research and Study Plan contains a description of the work undertaken by the PhD student. Specifically, it does the following:

- describes the research field of the student and the relevance of the chosen topic within the PhD research areas;
- includes a literature review of scientific work related to the research area up to where current research has arrived (contents should reflect the positions of the scientific community and updated references);
- determines and gives reasons for the theoretical and methodical research procedures undertaken;
- defines the research findings and their relevance for the broad scientific community and for the specific regional territory;
- justifies the choice of research methodology, the originality of the research design and the

- critical analysis carried out;
- outlines a plan for publications, presentations, papers, participation in national and international conferences and stays abroad.

Over the three-year period, several **teaching activities** are offered: lectures, practical sessions and seminars that aim to develop and illustrate the programme's subjects and research areas and to focus on the most recent findings in the Education and Didactics research sector.

Teaching activities mainly concern the philosophy of science, the epistemology of related disciplines, research methodology, actual questions and methods drawn from the international context.

The cycles of compulsory and optional classes, workshops and seminars (study plan) are decided by the PhD Course Committee at the beginning of the cycle.

PhD students regularly **present and discuss** their research progress in front of the members of the Course Committee. Periodical reflection and presentation seminars are organized in order to monitor and develop the skills of the students (Coaching).

PhD students are also expected to participate in **scientific conferences**, in Italy and abroad, and to submit a proposal for a peer-reviewed contribution in a journal or edited volume.

Over the three years, students are required to spend a **research period abroad**, of at least 3 months, in order to deepen the field of their project. This period can be divided into three stays.

### **Research areas**

The PhD programme is divided into three distinct branches of study and research: General Pedagogy, General Didactics and Disciplinary Didactics, as well as Social Pedagogy.

The three programmes share core training on the epistemology of research and on qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.

**“Educational development projects and processes”** main research areas include:

- development and learning in childhood (history of educational institutions, pedagogical-didactic methodologies, methods and theories; early education in the context of lifelong learning; personal, emotional and social skills development, soft and life skills);
- quality and effectiveness of school services and pedagogical-didactic innovations;
- individual and linguistic-cultural diversity and inclusion (personal characteristics, gender training, deficit/talents);
- lifelong learning (lifelong, lifewide, lifedeeep learning; inter-generational relationships).

**“Training areas, disciplines and their didactics in nursery and primary school”** main research areas include:

- language, media, “language L1” and “L2, L3 Language” in multilingual contexts;
- the world's knowledge, mathematics, science, technology, environment;
- aesthetics, art and culture; music, dance and vocals; movement and physical education;
- The self and the other. Spirituality, society and democracy; history and geography.

**“Social Pedagogy”** main research areas include:

- participatory research and methods for the development of democratic processes in social and socio-educational services;
- development of social organizations, care and educational quality;
- migration and interculturality;
- independent living and social relations in advanced age.

**Research questions and research methodologies** are defined in accordance with the supervisors and in cooperation with the Coordinator and the Course Teaching Committee.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

**Requirements:** *see Article 2 of the public competition announcement*

All Master (laurea specialistica/laurea magistrale) and all degrees from the old Italian system with final mark/grade of **minimum 104/110 (Italian system)**.

**Prerequisites for admission** to the PhD-programme are related to having acquired an appropriate educational, and/or cultural, and/or professional background in the field of General Pedagogy, of Social Pedagogy and Social Sciences, or of General Didactics and Disciplinary Didactics.

**Language requirements:** The PhD-programme is trilingual: Italian, German, English.

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) for 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 recognized language certificates:

<https://www.unibz.it/assets/Documents/Languages/unibz-recognised-language-certificates-2016-2017.pdf>

Candidates without these certificates of language proficiency are excluded from the admission procedure.

Language certification at C1 level (CEFR) for the second or third language is required by the end of the third year of doctoral studies.

### **Admission procedure and evaluation criteria for examinations**

Admission is based on the successful outcome of the selection procedure consisting of a written exam and a personal interview.

The written exam consists in the succinct drafting of a research idea, which can be completed in Italian, German or English, according to the free choice of the applicant.

Evaluation criteria for the written examination:

- Formal register and terminological accuracy;
- Task completed according to requirements;
- Clear and logical argumentative structure;
- Demonstrated knowledge of scientific debates in the field;
- Originality of the research design;
- Clear methodological approach for the proposed research project.

Candidates who pass the written test with a minimum mark of 40/60 are admitted to the interview.

To be successful in the interview, candidates must receive a minimum mark of 40/60.

Interviews will be conducted in the three languages of the programme.

The evaluation criteria of the oral test take into consideration the following criteria:

- The quality of discussion on the subject of the written test, on issues of general culture, and on personal research interests;
- The ability to present an argument for one's own research project with reference to the theoretical and methodological assumptions of the research field;

At the end of the exam period, the Evaluation Committee will draw up a rank list of candidates. In case of a tie between candidates, names will be drawn to determine the ranking order.

*Examination dates:*

**all candidates must personally attend both the written and oral exams in Brixen-Bressanone (Italy)**

Description	Date and time	Place
written exam	<b>23 July 2018, 2.30 p.m</b>	Faculty of Education Viale Ratisbona 16, 39042 Brixen Bressanone <b>Room 1.50</b>
oral exam	<b>24 July 2018, 9.30 a.m</b>	Faculty of Education Viale Ratisbona 16, 39042 Brixen Bressanone <b>Room 1.25</b>

The following documents are required for the application to the doctoral programme (*see Article 3 of the public competition announcement*):

- **Degree certificate/exam transcript** (in case of Italian university qualifications, the certification **MUST** be substituted by a self-declaration or by the Diploma Supplement) with an indication of the **final mark/grade obtained**
- **Curriculum vitae** containing:
  - a) a list of research experience;
  - b) if available, a list of publications with the respective online links.
- **Language certificates for B2 level** (CEFR) attesting to proficiency in two of the three official languages of the programme – Italian, German, English – (in the case of Italian public institutions, the certificates **MUST** be replaced by a self-declaration)  
To be valid, these language certificates must be ones recognized by the Language Centre of the Free University of Bozen Bolzano: <https://www.unibz.it/en/services/language-centre/study-in-three-languages/>
- **Reference letters** if available.