



SAR (SCHOLARS AT RISK) Italy

The University of Trento for the promotion and protection of academic freedom

UniTrento “Temporary Protection for At-Risk Scholars” Project

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This document is intended as an addition to the [web page](#) of the SAR project of the University of Trento.

For further information, please write to: scholarsatrisk@unitn.it.

1. The Protection Project

In 2017, the University of Trento formally joined the international [SAR “Scholars at Risk”](#) network. In 2019 it co-funded the national section “Scholars at Risk Italy” (“[Polo Italiano SAR Italia](#)”) that it currently coordinates together with the University of Padua. The University’s SAR project, coordinated by Professor Ester Gallo, is positioned within the [Equality & Diversity](#) policies of the University of Trento. In addition to the actions of advocacy, training and research in topics such as academic freedom, SAR develops temporary protection program for scholars by inserting them in research projects with the university’s Departments and Research centers.

1.1 Call for applications and recruitment

Access to the project is gained via selection after issuance of a specific interdepartmental multi-disciplinary call for applications by the University of Trento for the awarding of two research fellowship of the duration of 12+12 month.

The call is published every two years, indicatively in the months of January or February, on the “[Lavora con noi](#)” (Work with us) page of the University’s website.

In order submit the application, the candidates must meet the eligibility criteria indicated in the call and send in the documents required within the specified terms. In general, in order to put in an application the candidates must meet the following criteria, under penalty of exclusion:

- a. hold a PhD in a scientific field related to the research activity the fellowship is concerned with, obtained from an Italian or foreign university, or an equivalent title obtained in a foreign country;
- b. have a professional/scientific CV suitable for the accomplishment of the scientific research activities described in Art. 1;
- c. be a foreign citizen in at least one of the following situations:
 1. possess the refugee status in Italy or in an EU-member state or in a country signatory to the Geneva Convention;
 2. hold recognition of the right of subsidiary protection in Italy or in an EU-member state;



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3. have asked for asylum in Italy or in an EU-member state;
4. be already recognised as an 'at-risk scholar' by Scholars at Risk (SAR-status) or by other accredited international organizations operating in this field [Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) and Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA)].

Scholars may apply to only one academic structure among the Departments and Research Centers of the University of Trento, relating to their specific scientific research fields, as indicated in the call for applications.

The complete list of Departments/Research centers of the University of Trento is available at the following link: [Structures](#).

The applications will be assessed by an internal interdisciplinary panel. Selection will be based on the evaluation of title, CV, motivational letter and project proposal, followed by a possible online interview. At the panel's discretion, the candidate may be asked to present a summary of the budget required for the performance of his/her research project. Candidates may attach up to three reference letters (or a file indicating the names of up to three referees), although they will not be used for scoring.

The list of candidates admitted to the oral interview, as well as the final ranking, will be published, in anonymous format via numerical codes matched to the candidates' names, on the following page of the University's portal: [Research contracts, scholarships, awards, contracts for tutoring](#).

The first two names on the ranking will then be contacted in writing by the University of Trento. For safety reasons, linked to the risky situation the candidates are experiencing, the University of Trento guarantees the right to anonymity throughout the entire evaluation process.

Any cases of incompatibility and the regulations regarding withdrawal and termination of the agreement can be consulted in the call for applications.

1.2 Research fellowship

The fellowship amounts to a variable yearly gross amount of approx. 25,000.00 euros for a period of 12 months (monthly net 1,835 Euro). The fellowship may be extended for another 12 months in presence of adequate financial coverage and subject to the mentor's certification of regular research activity and to the hosting academic structure's final approval.

The fellowship awarding procedure and the subsequent drafting of the agreement is overseen by the '*Ufficio Accoglienza e Servizi al Personale*' (Induction and Additional Services Office) of the University of Trento and by the hosting Department or Research Center that also issues the fellowship in deferred monthly instalments to the mentor's certification of regular research activity.

1.3 Privacy, protection and safety

Personal data processing is carried out by authorized personnel pursuant to the [legislation in force](#) and in consideration of the risks run by the subjects involved. Special attention is paid, at all levels, to the non-disclosure of sensitive data. The data collected during selection, incoming or professional activities will not be transferred to non-EU third countries.

Where necessary, additional precautionary measures will be applied in addition to those dictated by law. The university staff may also design an additional safety plan and take the precautionary measures most suited to each individual. These may include, for example: preparation of accommodation and organization of teaching; confidentiality of details regarding stay, such as the removal of the scholar's name from the University's website or from the program of conferences; specific attention to the scholar's preferences regarding introduction or not to colleagues inside and outside the University; creation of a list of institutional contacts regarding safety issues.

The University of Trento regards the assessment of the risk and safety of the hosted staff as a priority. Every action and publication, as well as every participation in events and meetings, is first discussed with the scholar involved. Scholars will also be accompanied by the university staff for the entire duration of the process of assessing his/her safety.

2. The University of Trento

The [city of Trento](#) is located in the north-eastern part of Italy, in the region called ‘Trentino Alto Adige’ (Trentino-South Tyrol in English), close to the borders with Austria and Switzerland, in one of the world’s most beautiful natural mountain environments, the [Dolomites](#), a UNESCO world heritage site.

The [University of Trento](#) is a middle-sized, dynamic institution that focuses on research. It provides excellent opportunities for teaching and for research as well as a first-class campus. The University was founded in 1962 and today has fifteen [Departments/Research Centers](#) that cover a vast range of academic subjects and specialties. The University to date has 16,000 students, 600 teaching staff members and researchers and the same number of technical and administration staff members.

The University of Trento currently implements tools and measures for identifying and removing any type of discrimination based on gender, religious belief or personal and political opinions, ethnic and cultural groups, sexual orientation and identity, disability, age or contract conditions.

The [Ufficio Equità & Diversità](#) (Equality and Diversity Office), in concert with all of the University’s structures, is committed to applying these intents to everyday life by setting up inclusion-oriented services.

2.1 Persons with disabilities

The University of Trento has always been committed to breaking down the structural and social barriers within it in order to guarantee the full participation of persons with disabilities in all of the aspects of the academia experience. For information regarding accessibility and to ask for forms of support, it is possible to contact the dedicated Staff Inclusion Service via the e-mail address inclusione.personale@unitn.it and visit the website: [Inclusione, disabilità, DSA e altri bisogni speciali](#) (Inclusion, disability, specific learning disabilities and special needs).

Access to the library system is possible through the website section: [Servizi per utenti con bisogni speciali](#) (Services for users with special needs).

2.2 Alias career

To protect transgender people or people of non-compliant gender and eliminate any situations of unease for those people, the University of Trento has set down specific regulations in the document “*Regolamento per l’attivazione e la gestione dell’identità alias per persone transgender e di genere non conforme*” (“*Regulations for the activation and management of alias identities for transgender people or people with a non-binary*”). For further information and to view the document, go to: [Regulations](#).

3. Being a scholar in Trento

3.1 Visas and stay permits for the scholars and their families

The scholar is supported in the procedure for obtaining the documents required for entering and staying in Italy by the specific offices of the University of Trento. Prior to departure, it is necessary to obtain the ‘**Nulla Osta**’ and then apply for a **researcher visa**. Once in Italy, the scholar must apply for a **stay permit for research purposes**. The duration of the permit is equal to or longer than the duration of the research project. Should a scholar want or need to seek asylum, the University will provide the scholar with info about the competent local bodies.

Scholars with a researcher visa or permit may apply for family cohesion and reunification rights regardless of the duration of the permit (or of the visa). The eligible members of the family are the scholar’s spouse and underage children (Leg. Decree No. 71 of 11 May 2018, Art. 29, § 1, letters a) and b)).

At the expiry of the stay permit, the scholar has the right to stay in Italy for another 60 days to actively seek a job. In this case, the scholar may enter into any type of contract regardless of the academic work done in previous years within the Protection Project. Moreover, when the fellowship expires, the scholar may apply for unemployment compensation if he/she is a resident in Italy or in another EU-member state. The ‘Ufficio Accoglienza e Servizi al Personale’ (Induction and Additional Services Office) will provide the fellows with the info about the offices to be contacted and the documentation required.



3.2 Induction and support

The scholar's costs for travel to Italy and travel costs for returning to his/her country of origin (or other places of residence/domicile prior to his/her arrival in Italy) will be charged to the fellowship project, that will also assist the scholar in booking the flight. Any further travel for personal reasons not linked to academic or research commitments will be charged to the scholar. Where necessary and/or required, the University will provide support in order to streamline the accomplishment of all of the formalities and activities necessary for the scholar's successful settling in.

3.3 Accommodation

The scholar will be assigned free accommodation for the entire duration of the project. The accommodation will be selected among the structures of the University of Trento based on the scholar's needs and the possible presence of any family members (spouse and children below 18). The accommodation will be made available as from the first day of the scholar's arrival.

3.4 Insurance

Regulations relating to a researcher's stay in Italy state that there must be a specific induction agreement between the researcher and the University, obligating the hosting structure to provide the researcher with health care insurance for him/her and his/her family, or to register them with the Italian health system - [Servizio Sanitario Nazionale](#) (SSN).

The cost for health insurance is charged to the University that will refund to the participant any expenses incurred for its activation.

Insurance coverage at the workplace regarding any occupational injuries and civil liability will become active as from the date on which the contract is signed by both parties (fellow and University). Such insurance will remain valid for the entire duration of the fellowship.

3.5 Health and medical treatments for the scholar and his/her family members will have access to the Italian healthcare system (SSN) that will provide them with healthcare for free or subject to a set public healthcare fee (in Italian: ‘ticket’). The scholar will be able to choose his/her own general practitioner (a physician that takes care of the person’s general health) from a list of physicians’ names provided by the ‘*Ufficio Accoglienza e Servizi al Personale*’ (Induction and Additional Services Office) of the University of Trento.

3.6 Living costs

The currency circulating in Italy is the Euro. Exchange rates into other currencies are available at this [link](#). The next [link](#) gives a table of examples of the cost of living in [the city of Trento](#). The following two tables give the main cost items that the University and the scholar are expected to cover during the scholar’s stay in Trento. The amounts shown are examples and only provide general guidelines.

Table 1: Cost items

COST ITEM	CHARGED TO	REMARKS
Fellowship	University	Paid in deferred monthly instalments
Health insurance	Department/Research Center	Health insurance is paid by the fellow and then refunded (taxes excluded)
Injuries and civil liability insurance	University	
Accommodation and utilities	University	
Board	Fellow	Non refundable
Entrance visa	Fellow	Non refundable
Return trip	University	

Any intermediate trips	Fellow	Non refundable
Transport pass	Fellow	Non refundable
Seminars / Conferences	Department/Research Center	Within the limits of the research fund made available to research fellows.
Contingent or emergency costs	ad hoc assessment	
Basic research expenses	Department/Research Center	Within the limits of the research fund made available to research fellows.

Table 2: Overview of a scholar's expenses in the first month of living in Italy

Expense item	Approx. cost	Refundable: yes/no
Stay permit	Variable cost	No
Health insurance	1,000 euros, variable	Yes
Any extra expenses for private health insurance	400 – 1,000 euros	Yes
Telephone expenses	20 - 40 euros/month	No
Food and staples	variable	No
Transport	30 - 50 euros/month	No

Should the scholar find it difficult to cover initial induction and living expenses in Trento, the University may provide support.



4. Living with the family in Trento

In the event that the scholar decides to have his/her family join him/her in Trento, the scholar will benefit from the local family support services as well as those offered by the University. The University undertakes to provide the family with information on any necessary local services and support associations.

4.1 Education and kindergartens

The scholar's children will have access to the free public schools of the municipality of Trento. In Italy, childhood services and education is organised as follows: daycare centers for children aged from 3 months to 3 years (for a monthly fee), kindergartens for children aged 3 to 6 (fees for meals and for any time before and/or after standard hours), primary school for children aged 6 to 11 (fees for meals and for any extracurricular activities), lower secondary school for boys and girls aged 11 to 14 (fees for meals, books and extracurricular activities), upper secondary school for boys and girls aged 14 to 19 (fees for books and extracurricular activities).

All of these schools envisage the teaching of foreign languages. The following schools also include the presence of bilingual classes, in which the English language is used for up to 18 hours a week:

- [Scuola Sanzio](#) - Via San Giovanni Bosco, 8 - 38122 – Trento;
- [Scuola Elementare E. Bernardi](#), Cognola - Via Ponte Alto, 2/1 - 38121 – Trento.

For more information about the schools available in the province, visit:

- <https://www.comune.trento.it/Aree-tematiche/Servizi-all-infanzia-e-istruzione/Servizi-istruzione-3-14-anni>;
- <https://www.vivoscuola.it/>.

In the province there are public and private daycare centers or [Tagesmutter](#) services for children under 3 years of age. For further information, visit the following website:

<https://www.comune.trento.it/Aree-tematiche/Servizi-all-infanzia-e-istruzione/Servizi-prim-infanzia-0-3-anni/Servizio-di-nido-d-infanzia>.



The province also has so-called '*istituti scolastici paritari*', namely private structures that are authorised to provide school services. View the list of these schools at:

<https://www.vivoscuola.it/Schede-informative/Scuole-paritarie>.

In order to help its staff reconcile work and family life, the University of Trento provides a Company Daycare Center in one of its structures, viewable at the following website: [Nido aziendale](#).

4.2 Other services

If the scholar's spouse arrives in Italy for 'family reunification' purposes (*'ricongiungimento familiare'*), the Italian law envisages the possibility of the spouse finding employment. If instead the spouse arrives in Italy for 'family cohesion' purposes (*'coesione familiare'*), he/she can seek employment only when he/she receives a stay permit for family purposes. In seeking employment, the spouse may ask for help by the [Agenzia per il lavoro](#) (Employment Agency), that provides support and indications for Trento residents. It is also possible to consult one of the many [Centri per l'impiego territoriali](#) (local employment centers) that act as agents between employers and job-seekers.

If necessary, the scholar's family can access the Italian language courses organized locally outside the University campus. To this end, the scholar is advised to visit the pages of the [Centro EDA](#) and of the [Associazione Gioco degli Specchi](#).

5. Services for the scholar

5.1 Mentor

Each person selected for the Protection Project becomes a full member of the academic staff of the University of Trento. In detail, the Fellow is flanked by three figures: the project's coordinator representing the University, the SAR referent of the hosting academic structure, and the scientific mentor. Each of these figures undertakes to aid the scholar in understanding the academic and civil context and in joining the academic and civil community. The scholar will also be supported in developing his/her own academic work. It is important that from the start the selected scholar engage in frequent communication and exchanges with the entire SAR network, especially with his/her mentor.

5.2 'Opera Universitaria'

The 'Opera Universitaria' is the structure that oversees the student community services (cafeterias, sports, culture and much more) for the University of Trento. At its headquarters (Via Malpensada, 140 - 38123 - Trento) the scholar will be able to apply for the personal badge and ID card, for free, necessary for using the University's services.

For further information, visit the website of the [Opera Universitaria](#).

5.3 Language courses

Various Italian language courses, as well as courses in other languages, are available both inside and outside the University. For information and registration:

- [Italian language courses](#);
- [Language Centre - CLA](#).

The University also offers scholars the chance to participate in [Tandem Language Learning](#) events.

5.4 Transport

Travel inside and outside the city of Trento is run by [Trentino Trasporti](#).

More information regarding the agreements between Trentino Trasporti and the University of Trento is available at the following link: [Bus and train travel card](#).

Train travel is provided by the following companies:

- [Trenitalia](#)
- [Deutsche Bahn](#)
- [ÖBB Italia](#)

5.5 Associations

There are many associations that can be joined, both in the academic community and in the civil society. Should the scholar wish to do so, the possibility of him/her taking part in events, actions or courses for facilitating his/her integration will be taken into consideration.

For the University: [Students Associations](#);



For the Municipality of Trento: <https://www.comune.trento.it/Citta/Vivi-la-citta/Associazioni>;
Migration-oriented associations: <https://www.cinformi.it/Comunicazione/Guide-e-brochure-tematiche/Guida-delle-associazioni-di-migranti-in-Trentino>.

5.6 Psychological support

On request, the scholar may access the psychological support service.

For further information: [Psychological counselling](#).

6. Contacts and useful links

6.1 Contacts

For further information, please contact one of the following:

- scholarsatrisk@unitn.it;
- person in charge of Academic and International Solidarity and SAR contact person representing the University of Trento: Prof. **Ester Gallo** (Department of Sociology and Social Research - ester.gallo@unitn.it);
- Equality & Diversity Office: equitadiversita@unitn.it.

6.2 Useful links

- University of Trento – [University of Trento](#);
- Cinformi – Immigration Information Center – <https://www.cinformi.it/>;
- Municipality of Trento – <https://www.comune.trento.it/>;
- Municipality of Rovereto – <https://www.comune.rovereto.tn.it>.