Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science

International programmes

international.unitn.it/cogsci

UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO

The Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science

The Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science – DiPSCo – is a lively and innovative centre for the study of cognitive science, experimental and clinical neuroscience, and for educational purposes. DiPSCo is recognized as one of the leading research centres in cognitive science. According to the 2016 report of ANVUR (the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes), the University of Trento ranks first among Italian State universities for psychology disciplines. The Department's core research focuses on three main areas: Clinical Neurosciences, The Social Mind, and Organization, Education, and Identity, with multidisciplinary approaches to Perception, Language, Memory and Attention; Cognitive and affective Neuroscience; Technologies and Cognitive Ergonomics; Education; Applied and Social Psychology; Organization Behaviour; Human Development. Empirical work, theoretical analyses, and model development in these areas have been pursued through the interplay of various skills and knowledge, different research perspectives, and the contribution of numerous disciplines. Behavioural as well as neurophysiological measures of behaviour are collected, and instrumentations include EEG – both fixed and mobile equipment, eye-tracking tools, ECG, EMG, and GSR. Collaboration with leading labs in several Countries – e.g. Riken Brain Science Institute (Japan), Child and Family Research-NIH (USA), IRRCS Stella Maris (Italy) - fosters comparative and cooperative research studies, complementing the collaboration with several Departments of the University – notably the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science, the Department of Humanities, and the Department of Sociology and Social Research, and with public and private research centres in the region, such as the Bruno Kessler Foundation and the Marica De Vincenzi Foundation onlus.

The research activity is closely linked to high-quality teaching, and DiPSCo offers training programs at Undergraduate, Master's, and Doctorate level. Specifically, DiPSCo is responsible for the following programs:

Undergraduate courses (in Italian):
- Science and Methods in Cognitive Psychology;
- Communication Technologies and Interfaces;
- Professional Educator (jointly with the School of Medicine, Ferrara University).

Masters:
- Psychology (in Italian): Track 1, Work and Organizational Psychology; Track 2, Neuroscience;
- Human-Computer Interaction (jointly with the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science).

International Doctoral program in Psychological Science and Education.

Students' evaluation of the courses is quite high, and 80-100% were satisfied with their courses.

Living in Rovereto

25 km south of Trento with nearly 40,000 inhabitants, **Rovereto** is a dynamic and culturally rich town. Depending on the season, many cultural and artistic events take place here, as well as in the surrounding areas, like the Lagarina Jazz Festival, historical reenactments in the city of Ala (a few kilometers south of Rovereto), the Comun Comunale (organized by the villages on the right side of the Adige River) and the autumn Ganzega.

Beside the **world-wide known Peace Bell**, the austere Veneto Castle which hosts the Historical War Museum, and the traces of its Venetian past in its historical center, is the **Mart museum**, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Trento and Rovereto, designed by architect Mario Botta, which has placed the city among the art capitals of Europe once again.

The Mart and the oldest theater in the region, the **Zandonai theater**, built in 1782, decorate Corso Bettini amongst other buildings from the 1700s. This is where the academic and research centers of the University of Trento are located, which contribute to highlight the cultural aspects that marked the life of Rovereto in the Eighteenth century.

The University of Trento is constantly working to develop its international dimension, establishing and strengthening networks and partnerships that guarantee the opportunity of cooperation with regard to education, research and relations with industry.

International students coming to the University of Trento are supported in all the necessary administrative steps related to their arrival and stay in Trento, such as: pre-arrival information, support in VISA and stay permit application, Italian tax code, health insurance, bank account, local transports, information on accommodation and scholarship opportunities, enrolment procedures, socio-cultural events.

Sports activities and facilities as well as special discounts to access gyms, sports centres, swimming pools and ski slopes are available for students who join the University Sports Network (UniSport).

Trento

Trento (117.000 inhabitants, 190 meters altitude) is set at the intersection of important routes leading to Garda Lake, the Dolomites (UNESCO world heritage), Venice, Verona, Bolzano and Innsbruck.

With its unique geographical position Trento represents on the one hand a crossroads between the Mediterranean and northern Europe cultures, on the other hand a natural production and technology platform for international business and an ideal trading hub between southern and continental Europe.

With a safe urban environment offering many cultural activities, set in an attractive natural landscape, with good employment opportunities, an excellent education system and an efficient health service, Trento is one of the top Italian cities to live in.

Master in Human-Computer Interaction (MHCI)

The Master in Human-Computer Interaction (MHCI) is offered **in collaboration with the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science**. It aims at investigating people and their actions as a starting point for the purposes of technology design. It provides an effective approach to address the many challenges (public engagement, participation, privacy, emotion) currently faced by computer sciences.

The ultimate goal of the Master is to train a new generation of researchers and professionals, who can understand the complexity of human cognition, behaviour and emotion at a micro-, meso- and macro-level and are able to embed this knowledge in new computing artefacts and technologies matching the most diverse human values, interests and needs.

MHCI aims at training professional figures and researchers with a wide range of multidisciplinary skills to understand, design and evaluate new interaction possibilities between human beings and IT devices.

The Master is structured into three specialisation areas:
- social-cognitive area: brain/mind interaction and cognitive ties;
- computer science area: user-interfaces; user-centred design; participatory design; human-machine interaction; prototyping of interactive systems, affective computing, e-learning;
- methodological area: qualitative and quantitative methodologies; visual, ethic and epistemological planning.

Specific learning outcomes:
- acquaintance with simulation, observation and experimental methods in the study of the interaction between human beings and complex systems;
- ability to plan a user-centred design of user interfaces;
- theoretical and practical knowledge of communication and decision-making processes;
- secure knowledge of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis;
- capability to analyse decision-making processes, at individual and collective level, in organisational, economic and social contexts;
- capability to autonomously carry out basic and applied research activity.

By virtue of its interdepartmental nature, the course:
1. offers an integrated programme that allows students to pursue their own research interests in an interdisciplinary research environment;
2. fosters the development of research skills in areas that several departments are concerned with;
3. provides specialised skills which are not included in traditional degree courses.

Programme overview

Main application deadline	Non-EU citizens living abroad: January/February each year EU and non-EU citizens living in Italy: June/July each year
Intake	September each year
Duration	2 years full time
Minimum requirements	Bachelor's degree and/or official university transcripts. A first-level degree (at least three years) awarded by an internationally recognized university-level institution is the minimum requirement in order to apply for MHCI. You are required to scan a copy of your degree and attach it to the application in the dedicated area.
Selection criteria	Curriculum vitae and motivation letter English language certificate – B2 CEFR level or higher Recommendation letters Specific preparation in Information science and/or Psychology attested by bachelor degree's exams
Further information	international.unitn.it/mhci
Contacts	mhci@unitn.it

Career opportunities

Graduates will acquire a solid background in the field of communication technologies for the creation and development of user-oriented and environmentally sustainable products and interfaces, thus meeting a demand which has been constantly increasing on the market of new technologies.

They can be employed in both the private (e.g. marketing, research, industries dealing with the creation and development of products requiring a human interface), and the public sector (e.g. health, services, research).

Graduates can also become self-employed and work as consultants for private and public institutions concerned with the analysis and development of human-computer interaction, ergonomic systems and computational models of cognitive processes.
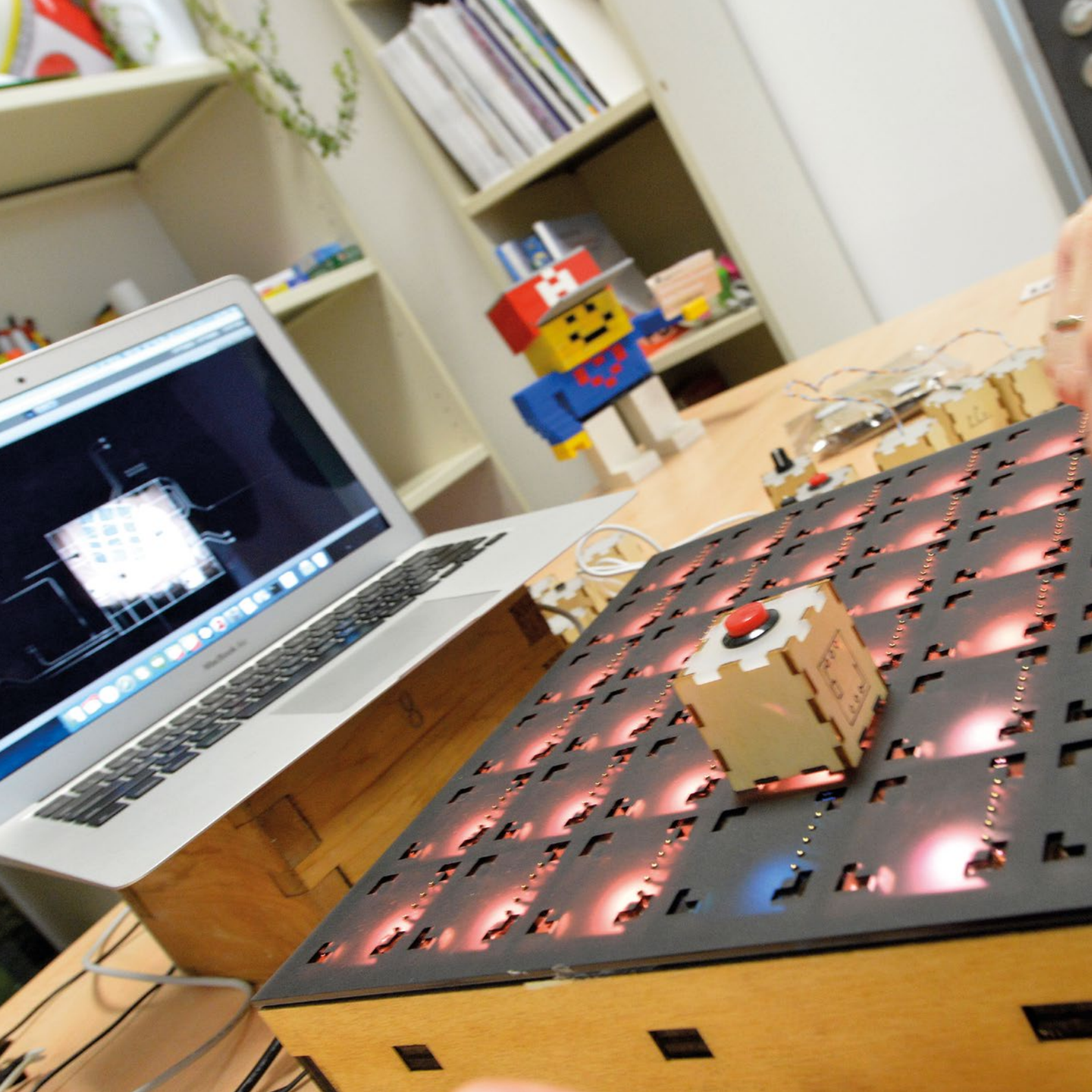
Admission requirements

Applicants having the minimum requirements will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Curriculum vitae and motivation letter
- English language certificate – B2 CEFR level and above
- Recommendation letters
- Specific preparation in Information science and/or Psychology attested by bachelor's degree exams

The MHCI Admission Committee strongly relies on motivation letters to select the most motivated applicants. In the online application, students are asked to submit a statement of maximum 4,000 characters where they provide information on their motivation for the Master's program, extracurricular activities and work experience.

Letters of recommendation should be written by your university professors and/or by managers in your company. A mixture of academic and business letters of recommendation may be the best solution if you have some significant work experience after graduating. Complete the section "Referees" in the online application form with the information required about your referees and ask your referees to send the letter directly to us (**mhci@unitn.it**) specifying your name in the subject line. We strongly encourage you to use the sample reference letter in the Download box. Contact us immediately if you or your referees have any problem.