

Call for applications for the award of the “Beyond Limits Through Sport” degree award

The **Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova**, with the support of **Crédit Agricole Italia** and in collaboration with **Obiettivo3**, **CUS Padova** and the **Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS**, announces the call for applications for the “Beyond Limits Through Sport” [Oltre il Limite, Dentro lo Sport] degree awards.

Promoting sport as a tool for social inclusion is a matter of significant public interest and is fully aligned with the principles of equity, equal opportunity, and accessibility. Within this framework, the relationship between disability and sport plays a central role: sport is not only a form of physical activity but also a powerful means of fostering inclusion, well-being, and active participation in society.

More than fifteen years ago, **Crédit Agricole Italia** embarked on a journey to strengthen its commitment to Diversity & Inclusion, also thanks to the synergy with its French parent company and the Group's Italian entities. Through dedicated programmes, the Bank promotes cultural change that reflects the diversity of society and its customers while creating an increasingly inclusive workplace.

In particular, Crédit Agricole Italia is committed to reducing inequalities through awareness-raising initiatives and concrete actions, including the development of dedicated products and services. In 2023, the Bank launched “*Conto Accanto a Te*”, a product available free of charge to all people with disabilities. At the end of 2025, as part of the ABI–Federcasse initiative “*One woman, one job, one bank account*”, the Bank introduced a dedicated commercial initiative to support the financial independence of both customers and prospective clients. It also partnered with the online magazine “*Rotture*” to launch a social media campaign aimed at raising awareness of personal savings management and combating economic violence.

Obiettivo3 is a project founded by Paralympic champion Alex Zanardi with the mission of identifying, supporting, and providing financial assistance to people with disabilities who wish to pursue a sporting activity. Based on each participant's individual needs, Obiettivo3 offers ongoing technical, financial, and athletic support. By joining the community, participants find not only experienced coaches but also teammates who become important sources of encouragement, helping them cultivate their passion for sport through a strong sense of community. Above all, Obiettivo3 aims to serve as a listening and support centre, facilitating access to Paralympic sport while acting as a bridge between disability and sport through meaningful and socially valuable action.

The Centro Universitario Sportivo dell'Università di Padova manages the University's sports facilities and promotes sport as a vehicle for well-being, personal development, and inclusion. Through dedicated activities and projects, it encourages participation in sport among the University community and the wider local area, while supporting initiatives that improve accessibility and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Objectives

The competition aims to recognise and reward the best Bachelor's, Master's, or Single-Cycle Master's degree theses that explore the relationship between disability, sport, and inclusion from both a theoretical and empirical perspective.

In particular, the call seeks contributions from a wide range of academic disciplines that propose models, strategies, and practical solutions to promote the participation of people with disabilities in sporting activities.

Particular consideration will be given to theses addressing one or more of the following areas:

- Public policies and governance for inclusive sport;
- Best practices, organisational models, and tools to improve access to sport for people with disabilities;
- The role of sport in promoting the well-being, health, and quality of life of people with disabilities;

- Educational experiences and professional competencies of sports practitioners in the fields of disability and inclusion;
- Communication, culture, and the representation of disability in sport;
- Paralympic sport: economic, legal, technological, psychological, and management-related aspects;
- Innovation and technologies supporting autonomy and inclusion in sport.

Eligibility criteria for the call for applications

The awards are intended for individuals who have obtained a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or a Single-Cycle Master's degree from the University of Padua in any scientific or academic discipline between 1 January 2025 and the deadline of this call. Eligible applicants must have worked or be working on a thesis, which may also be interdisciplinary, on the themes and objectives outlined in this call.

Candidates are also required, at the time of submitting their application, to register their profile free of charge on the Alumni Association of the University of Padua portal, using the online form available at www.alumniunipd.it/member-register.

Application procedure and deadlines

The application, addressed to the President of the dell'Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova, must be completed on the attached form (Attachment A) and should be signed in original form. Non-compliance will result in exclusion from the competition. Applications must be submitted by the non-extendable deadline of **2 March 2027**, via the online form at this link

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AssociazioneAlumniDellUniversitaDegliStudiDiPadova/PremiDiLaureaOltreILimiteDentroLoSport>, using one of the following methods:

- signed with a certified digital signature on both the application and all documents requiring a handwritten signature;
- signed by hand, along with a copy of the applicant's valid ID. All documents requiring a handwritten signature must similarly be submitted signed copies. Scanned copies of these documents should be provided.

The following documents must be submitted along with the application (Attachment A) via the online form at this link

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AssociazioneAlumniDellUniversitaDegliStudiDiPadova/PremiDiLaureaOltreILimiteDentroLoSport>, under penalty of exclusion from the competition:

- a copy of the Bachelor's or Master's/Single-Cycle Master's thesis;
- a presentation video explaining the motivation for applying to this call (max. 2 minutes);
- curriculum vitae et studiorum;
- a copy of a valid personal identification document.

Applications that do not fully meet the required criteria will not be considered.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

By submitting an application, candidates accept the terms and conditions of this competition in full.

The submission of false or forged documents, or the making of false declarations, shall result in the applicant's disqualification from the competition or, if an award has already been granted, the right of the Organisers to revoke the award and recover any prize already disbursed.

Amount of the awards and payment method

N°2 prizes will be awarded, with a total gross amount of €3,000.00 (three thousand/00), inclusive of all charges to be paid by the organization, distributed as follows:

- 1 Prize of € 2.000,00 (two thousand/00) for the best Master's or Single-Cycle Master's thesis;
- 1 Prize of € 1.000,00 (one thousand /00) for the best Bachelor's thesis.

The prize will be paid by the Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova.

Awarding procedure

The award will be granted based on the final and binding decision of a Committee composed of at least five members representing the Università degli Studi di Padova, the Associazione Alumni, Obiettivo3, CUS Padova, and Crédit Agricole Italia.

The Committee may consult experts to assess the level of quality, innovation, and the specific contribution of the candidates.

The Committee will evaluate the submitted applications based on the following criteria:

- content of the thesis, with particular regard to its relevance to the themes of the call, its originality, and its scientific rigor;
- degree of innovation and the project's potential impact at both the national and international levels;
- the project's potential economic, social, cultural, and scientific impact;
- curriculum vitae et studiorum.

The Committee reserves the right not to award the prize if, in its sole judgment, none of the applications submitted are deemed worthy.

The winners will be notified of the award via email to the address provided in the application.

The winners will also be informed of the date of the award ceremony, which they are required to attend.

Person in charge of the administrative procedure

Pursuant to article 4 of Law 241 of 7 August 1990 (New rules on administrative procedure and right of access to administrative documents), the administrative manager of the Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova is appointed as the person in charge of the administrative procedure.

Candidates may exercise their right of access to the application documents according to the provisions of Italian Presidential Decree No. 184 of 12 April 2006 (Regulation governing access to administrative documents pursuant to Chapter V of Law 241/90).

Processing of personal data

Personal data collected for the purposes set out in this call for applications is processed in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 679 of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

The "Data Controller" is the Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS, with registered office in Via 8 Febbraio, 2 - 35122 Padua, Italy. The full privacy policy is available from the Data Controller or at the following [web page](#).

General information

This call for applications, along with the application form template, is available on the following pages:

www.alumniunipd.it

www.amiciunipd.it

www.unipd.it/premi-studio-laureati

Further information and detailed regulations can be obtained directly from the Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova, web page: www.alumniunipd.it

e-mail: alumni@unipd.it

Padova, 10/07/2026

Gianni Dal Pozzo
President

Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova

