The University of Bologna offers multidisciplinary competences on ethical dimensions of different research fields, responding to societal needs, addressing issues raised by advances in scientific research and innovation and reflecting the basic values of society.
Ethics and economics
- Business ethics
- Ethics and enterprise
- Ethics of consumption
- Corporate Social Responsibility in profit and non profit organizations: social responsible behaviours, internal governance
- Fund Raising and Non Profit Organizations: the ethical motivations of donors
- Ethics in finance and ethical finance

Ethics and environment – food
- Ethics and protection of environment and against waste
- Environmental justice

Normative ethics applied to biological issues
- Bioethics and biolaw
- Ethics of biological innovation (vulnerability, body and rights)
- Bioethics and politics (impacts of public debate on bioethics on democracy)
- Medical ethics, philosophy of illness
- Biotech law, ethics of genetics
- Neuroethics

Ethics, data and computing
- Privacy and data protection
- Ethics and big data
- Information ethics and AI

Ethics and philosophy
- Ethics and political philosophy
- Law and Morality
- Moral argumentation
- Ethics of human rights
- Ethics, religion and politics
- Ethics of scientific research
- Professional ethics

Responsible Research
- Development of ethical guidelines and operational standards for the ethical committees and the research community
- Rules, values, principles of research integrity compliance
- Analysis of research protocols
- Methodologies for teaching ethics, research integrity
- Economics of science: the analysis of scientists’ incentives both in academia and the private sector

Interdepartmental Centre for Research in the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Law, and in Legal Informatics (CIRSFID): the center works in a multidisciplinary environment where bioethics, law, computer science, ethics, sociology, and philosophy are brought together to provide the tools with which to explore and analyse the ethical, philosophical, sociological, and scientific issues pertaining to the development of new technologies and their application to medicine, the life sciences, computer science, and law.
The University of Bologna scholars in gender studies promote innovative knowledge seeking to implement cultural and social changes that enhance gender equality and cultural diversity. The main research areas are studied through a multi-disciplinary approach.
Research areas

- Gender violence and representations, gender-based violence
- LGBTI studies; Queer studies
- Women’s literature
- Gender in literature, language, audiovisual and performing arts
- Feminist studies and theory
- Women, conflict, trauma, peace processes
- Women, memories and cultural heritage
- Women and gender history
- Gender stereotypes in education and media
- Gender identity, socialization and development in childhood
- Gender representations in media, new media and social representations
- Gender-based discrimination and prejudices
- Gender and migration, women’s empowerment and development studies
- Reproductive rights and health
- Sexual health, sexual orientation, sexual education
- Health, demographic change and wellbeing to women’s bodies
- Gender and healthy ageing and quality of life, including nutrition
- Cultural, Gender, and Social Studies of Science and Technology
- Women in Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics
- Gender digital and new technologies divide
- Gender and new practices of culture, sport and consumption
- EU law, International law, Fundamental Rights, Immigration studies
- Anti-discriminatory law, equal opportunities in jobs
- Women’s citizenship and democracy; gender and political leadership
- Institutional change towards gender equality

Disciplinary approaches

- Gender and Anthropology
- Gender and Cultural Studies
- Gender and Economics
- Gender and Education
- Gender, Law, and Political Theory
- Gender and Media
- Gender and Social Sciences
- Gender and Psychology
- Gender and Social Studies of Science
- Gender and Women’s History
- Gendered Innovations in Science and Technology
- Gendered Medicine

HIGHLIGHTS

ALMA GENDER - INTEGRATED RESEARCH TEAM (IRT)- is a group of more than 100 scholars studying gender issues at the University of Bologna.

Horizon 2020 project PLOTINA Promoting gender balance and inclusion in research, innovation and training to implement and assess self-tailored Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) for the Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) and to integrate sex/gender variable in research and teaching.

Lifelong Learning Programme - EDGES European PhD in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Erasmus Mundus Masters of Excellence GRACE Gender and Cultures of Equality in Europe.

Erasmus Mundus GEMMA Master’s Degree in Women’s and Gender Studies.
Research at the University of Bologna addresses, in a multidisciplinary perspective, all aspects of open science and open innovation and the quadruple helix model, open data applications, digital humanities, skills and competencies for open science.
Open innovation
• Technology and innovation management
• R&D management; internationalization of R&D
• Economics of innovation
• Models of developing, protecting and exploiting innovation
• Technology transfer
• IPR, patenting activities and technology licensing
• Intellectual capital and innovation
• Determinants and knowledge spillovers in invention processes
• Role of skills and division of labour in collective inventions and entrepreneurship in virtual environments
• Collaborative practices and innovation, collaborative automation
• International sourcing of Knowledge and offshoring processes; offshoring of intangibles
• Scientometrics
• Economics of science; scientists’ incentives
• Organizational capabilities, inter-firm networks, industrial districts
• University-industry collaborations
• Academic entrepreneurship; academic spin offs; academic patenting
• Communication and engagement of civil society

Open data
• Big data, open data, policy making and decision-making processes
• Open data, open government, democracy and participation
• Scholarly communication
• Document engineering
• Ontology engineering
• Semantic web and ontologies; semantic publishing; digital publishing
• Knowledge management
• Knowledge management for e-Government

Skills for Open Science
• Open access publishing
• Data management and open data
• Research ethics and integrity

Horizon 2020 project BISON Big Speech data analytics for contact centers aims to create a multi-lingual, modular and highly versatile software system for big speech data analytics in contact centers. To reach this objective, the BISON project works on: basic speech data mining technologies; transforming the basic data into information valuable for business strategies; real-deployment of the systems by real CCs.
Research at the University of Bologna addresses: science teaching and learning in formal and informal contexts, scientific citizenship, public engagement, dissemination and communication of science, science teacher education.
Science teaching and learning

- Education to scientific knowledge
- Development of STEM skills; making STEM careers attractive
- RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) and science teaching
- Pre-service and in-service teacher education
- New technologies for teaching and learning
- The role of history, philosophy and epistemology in teaching/learning science
- Educational reconstruction of advanced current topics in physics (thermodynamics, relativity, quantum physics)
- Physics education in a multi-disciplinary perspective
- Development of computational thinking in K-12 education
- Appropriation and conceptual change models
- Analysis of complex learning environments
- Instruction design about environmental issues
- Social development, cognition and gender stereotypes
- Social and cultural history of science

Citizen science and scientific citizenship

- Training needs in citizen science and impact assessment of citizen science initiatives
- Science education and scientific citizenship
- Future-oriented science education;
- Public engagement, community-based participatory research and involvement of citizens in S&T research
- Communication of science; skepticism and trust in science
- Dissemination, awareness, knowledge sharing activities and events to connect science and society
- Science and society in modern and contemporary age

Informal science education

- Science education in informal contexts
- Science education and storytelling
- Science teaching tools (museums, science centers, popular books, communication of science)
- Museums education
- Evaluation of museum programs

HIGHLIGHTS

ERASMUS + I SEE Inclusive STEM Education to Enhance the capacity to aspire and imagine future careers project designs innovative teaching modules to develop transversal future-scaffolding skills through science education: they refer to the ability to construct visions of the future that empower action in the present. The modules, targeted to upper secondary school students, address interdisciplinary topics (e.g. climate change, artificial intelligence). Future-scaffolding skills can be developed through activities inspired by Futures studies or Design thinking, but also through activities aimed to flesh out the temporal and causal structures that science progressively developed from the deterministic to the probabilistic models of the science of complex systems.