

**PhD Programme Table - 38th cycle**  
**NRRP “National Recovery and Resilience Plan” Call for Applications**



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NextGenerationEU



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Section “Available Positions and Scholarships” integrated on 19/07/2022

PROGRAMME’S NAME	PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, COGNITION AND SEMIOTICS (PSCS)
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2022 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Claudio Paolucci ( <a href="mailto:c.paolucci@unibo.it">c.paolucci@unibo.it</a> )
CURRICULA	1. Philosophy and Science Studies 2. Semiotics 3. Cognitive Science
RESEARCH TOPICS	<a href="#">Detailed list at the bottom of the present document</a>
PhD POSITIONS	3
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

**Available Positions and Scholarships**

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to a specific research topic
1	<b>PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 351/2022 - NRRP Research</b>	Funded by the EU - NextGenerationEU with funds made available by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) Mission 4, Component 1, Investment 4.1 (MD 351/2022) – NRRP Research	Cultural Heritage, Climate change and Foundational aspects of Artificial Intelligence
2	<b>PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 352/2022</b>	Funded by the EU - NextGenerationEU with funds made available by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) Mission 4, Component 2, Investment 3.3 (MD 352/2022) and by ARCHILABO’	Open Education, Digital Inclusion and Innovative Spaces for Learning
3	<b>PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 352/2022</b>	Funded by the EU - NextGenerationEU with funds made available by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) Mission 4, Component 2, Investment 3.3 (MD 352/2022) and by ART-ER	Data, Artificial Intelligence and Skills Dissemination Policies

Applicants awarded with Ex M.D. 351/2022 or Ex M.D. 352/2022 PhD scholarships shall have specific obligations (i.e. mandatory research periods abroad and/or in a firm) during their PhD programme. For detailed information, refer to the Call for Applications, articles 1.2 and 1.3, and to the text of the law.

For any other eventual PhD positions, a 6-month research period abroad is mandatory.

## Admission Exams

The admission exams detailed schedule shall be published **starting from July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**:

- on the [University website](#), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > “More information”, at the bottom of the page in the section “Notices”;
- on [Studenti Online](#) (select “summary of the requests in progress” > “see detail” and open the .pdf file at the bottom of the page). **No personal written communication will be sent to applicants.**

## Required and Supporting Documents to be attached to the application

All the documents listed below **shall be drawn up in English or in Italian**. In case of documents originally issued in any other language (e.g. identity document, qualifications), an official translation is required.

Only qualifications obtained **during the last 5 calendar years** shall be taken into consideration, except for the University Degree. The Admission Board will assess the relevance of the supporting documents to the PhD Programme.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	
<b>Identity document</b>	Valid identity document with photo (i.e. identity card, passport)
<b>Curriculum Vitae</b>	No specific CV format is required
<b>Degrees</b>	Documents attesting the awarding of the first and second cycle degrees, the exams taken and the marks obtained (see Art. 3 of the Call for Applications)
<b>Research proposal</b>	Multi-annual research proposal, with special emphasis on the <b>activities to be completed during the first-year course</b> . The proposal must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it must mention <b>on the cover page the Curriculum</b> the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about;</li> <li>- <b>it cannot exceed 20,000 characters</b>, including spaces and formula possibly used. This figure does not include: the title of proposal, the outline, references and images (such as graphs, diagrams, tables, etc. - if present);</li> <li>- <b>it must include</b>: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; outline of the criteria to be used to assess the findings obtained; references.</li> </ul>
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
<b>Thesis abstract</b>	Abstract of the <b>second cycle degree thesis</b> . Graduands applicants may submit the draft of the thesis. Abstracts cannot exceed 5,000 characters, including spaces and formula possibly used. The above figure does not include: the title of the thesis, the outline, references, and images such as graphs, diagrams, tables etc.
<b>Reference letter/s</b>	<b>No more than 3 reference letters</b> signed by Italian and international academics and professionals in the research field, which do not form part of the Admission Board, attesting the suitability of the applicant and his/her interest in the scientific research. Letters shall be uploaded following the procedure detailed in the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2).
<b>Personal statement</b>	This must include the reasons prompting the applicant to attend the PhD Programme and those <b>relevant experiences and research interests</b> , that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD Programme (3,000 characters maximum, including spaces).
<b>Publications</b>	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)
<b>Other documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postgraduate vocational training programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics</li> <li>- Teaching and tutorship activity carried out at academic level</li> <li>- Research activity of any kind - whether basic, applied, translational, etc. - carried out in any capacity, including when covered by research grants, and as a staff member of research projects</li> <li>- Documents attesting the applicant's foreign languages proficiency</li> <li>- Periods of study abroad, completed by applicants outside their countries of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes)</li> <li>- Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Evaluation criteria\*

Scores will be expressed in points out of 100, as follows.

### 1. Qualifications and research proposal evaluation

Minimum score for admission to the oral examination: 30 points, Maximum score: 50 points

Qualifications evaluation	First (Bachelor's) and Second cycle (Master's) degrees final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Publications and other evaluable documents	10 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	10 points max
	Structure of the proposal	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	10 points max

### 2. Oral examination

Minimum score for eligibility: 30 points, Maximum score 50 points

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	30 points max
General knowledge of issues encompassed by the PhD Programme	10 points max

Oral examination aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as the general knowledge of issues encompassed by the PhD Programme (see the list of [research topics](#) at the bottom of the present document).

**During the oral examination, the applicants's English language proficiency shall be assessed.**

The oral examination is carried out in Italian or English.

\* Possible further evaluation criteria will be available on the [University website](#), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > "More information".

## Research Topics

### Curriculum 1: Philosophy and Science Studies

The curriculum in Philosophy and Science Studies deals with:

- aesthetics, regarding the structures of human experience and the question of sensitivity, the expressive practices of taste and the knowledge of different traditions of the Arts;
- moral philosophy, which include knowledge and skills relating to human action in its ethical-social, normative, political, anthropological and communicative dimensions;
- philosophy of law, in its deontological, historical-doctrinal and political dimensions;
- theoretical philosophy, which concern the activity of thought in its genesis, the structuring of concepts and the different forms of experience, in particular the theory of knowledge, phenomenology, metaphysics, ontology, hermeneutics and religion;
- logic and philosophy of science, which address the forms of scientific knowledge, logic and natural languages, the representation of knowledge and computation, the methodological and foundational issues specific to the individual sciences;
- historical-philosophical studies, which include the forms and development of philosophical thought from antiquity to the present day, also extending to political philosophy, philosophy of history, Italian philosophy and the cultural expressions of philosophical doctrines;
- social studies of science and sociology, inherent in the dynamics of production, dissemination and use of expert knowledge, technological artifacts and socio-technical infrastructures;
- studies of the history of science and techniques, which aim - in a diachronic and synchronic sense - at the historical-critical reconstruction of the development of sciences, techniques and scientific institutions, also understood in their social, communicative and gender implications;
- philosophy of language and mind, which address language as an eminently theoretical object of investigation, also including the most recent trends in cognitive semiotics and analytical philosophy.

### Curriculum 2: Semiotics

The educational goals of the curriculum in semiotics are to develop theoretical and practical competencies in semiotics both from a theoretical-philosophical perspective, and in terms of their practical-methodological application.

In particular, from a theoretical perspective, we shall examine relevant themes related to the development of philosophical and linguistic theories of signs and semiosis, key elements in the history of semiotics, as well as comparisons between different sign systems: linguistic, visual, multimodal, etc.

On the application plane, necessary methodological tools will be provided to carry out in depth analyses of different types of textual objects: verbal, visual, behavioral , musical , audiovisual , etc.

To this end the principal theoretical and methodological currents characterising the semiotic tradition, from structuralism to interpretational semiotics, will be examined in depth.

### **Curriculum 3: Cognitive Science**

The main research topics of the curriculum on Cognitive science are:

- Attention
- Objects and action, affordances
- Role of the body in cognition, sense of body
- Language grounding in the perception, action and emotion systems
- Emotions and sensorimotor system
- Numerical cognition and its relationship with embodied cognition
- Social cognition

Students are required to learn to perform experiments in the lab - they will have to learn to plan them, to execute them and to analyze the data. They will be required to learn to realize classical behavioral experiments, in which reaction times and errors are recorded. In addition, they will be invited to learn to use at least one of the three instruments that we possess - eye tracking, motion tracking or TMS.

In order to discuss with students the experiments they are conducting, from their planning to the data analysis, we will organize a lab meeting to be held every month. Students and professors will discuss together research projects, and students will have the opportunity to learn how to present a study. We will also organize periodical meetings to discuss some scientific papers. Students will be invited to present to the others an overview of the main topics and open issues in their area.

Compared to other doctoral curricula in cognitive science, our curriculum is characterized by a higher attention paid to psychology (especially cognitive psychology and communication psychology).