

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 01/07/2022

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

Section “Research fields” integrated on 22/07/2022

PROGRAMME’S NAME	PSYCHOLOGY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2022 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti (elisabetta.crocetti@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Psychological Sciences 2. Joint PhD Program in Cognitive Neuroscience
RESEARCH TOPICS	Detailed list at the bottom of the present document
PhD POSITIONS	6
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Curriculum	Positions linked to research topics
1	PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 351/2022 - PA	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) – Public Administration	1	Development of Management Competencies in Public Administration for preventing stress and promoting the well-being and performance of “traditional” and “remote” workers
2	PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 351/2022 - PA	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) – Public Administration	1	Reinforce gender equality in human resource advancement
3	PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 351/2022 - PA	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) – Public Administration	1	Digital empowerment in Public Administrations: resources, processes, outcomes

4	Executive PhD	Position reserved for employees of SCS Azioninnova S.p.A.	1	Diversity at work: age and intersectionality
5	PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 352/2022	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 MindMaze spa	2	Rehabilitation of cognitive deficits with virtual reality
6	PhD Scholarship Ex M.D. 352/2022	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 IRCCS Centro San Giovanni di Dio Fatebenefratelli	2	An integrative neurophysiological approach toward the early detection of psychiatric disorders

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, extended to 12 months for Curriculum 2.

Admission Exams

The admission exams detailed schedule shall be published **starting from July 12th, 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	
Identity document	Valid identity document with photo (i.e. identity card, passport)
Curriculum Vitae	No specific CV format is required. The Curriculum Vitae must be written in English.
Degrees	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)
Research proposal	Multi-annual research proposal, drawn up in English . The proposal must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it must mention on the cover page the Curriculum, the PhD position linked to a specific research topic (cfr. table “Available Positions and Scholarships”, and detailed in the section Research Fields) the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about, and the number of words used to write the research proposal; - it must include: the state of the art; Aims; Hypothesis; Methodology / structure of the study(s) (sample, independent and dependent variables, analysis plan; Theoretical and practical implications); Temporal plan of activities - max. 3000 words, references excluded
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Reference letter/s	No more than 2 reference letters signed by Italian or 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) and written in English .
Personal statement	The statement shall include the reasons prompting the applicant to attend the PhD Programme and those relevant experiences and research interests , that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD Programme (3000 characters maximum, including spaces). The personal statement must be written in English.
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)

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	University degree final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Reference letter/s	2 points max
	Personal statement	1 point max
	Publications	4 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	13 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	35 points max
General knowledge of topics of the PhD Programme	5 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). **The oral examination is carried out in English.**

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

Research Topics

Curriculum 1: Psychological Science

General Psychology

- Emotions, attention and learning
- Psychophysiology of sleep and dream
- Chronopsychology and chronobiology
- Perception and decision making
- Body action and cognition
- Spatial cognition, memory and individual differences

Psychometrics

- Psychometric methods in cognitive and clinical assessment
- Advanced inferential statistics
- Qualitative methods for psychological research
- Bayesian Inference in Statistical Analysis

Developmental and Educational Psychology

- Typical and atypical development from early childhood to adulthood
- Risk and protection factors in development
- Development in the life cycle and technologies for information and communication
- Teaching, learning and social processes in educational settings

Social Psychology

- Gender inequalities and prejudices reduction
- Personal and social identity
- Equal opportunity and community participation
- Psychosocial factors in risk and safety

Work and Organizational psychology

- Diversity management in organizations
- Organizational change and development
- Employability and new careers
- Psychosocial factors in the workplace

Psychodynamic psychology

- Perinatal psychopathology
- Developmental psychopathology in childhood
- Child and parents psychotherapy research
- Emotional intelligence in clinical and educational settings

Clinical psychology

- Clinical assessment of psychological distress/well-being/adjustment/attachment
- Psychosomatics
- Applications of new technologies in clinical psychology
- Psychological interventions

Curriculum 2: Joint PhD Program in Cognitive Neuroscience

- Action, motivation and decisions
- Reinforcement learning
- Representation of space and time
- Representation of the body

Research fields

Scholarship 1: Development of Management Competencies in Public Administration for preventing stress and promoting the well-being and performance of "traditional" and "remote" workers

Adapting to the Public Administration (PA) the approach "Management Competencies for preventing and reducing stress at work" (an approach indicated by EU-OSHA and Eurofound, 2014 as a good practice to intervene on supervisors through the development of their management competencies), it will be developed: a conceptual framework specific to the PA, tailored tools, and specific interventions, aimed at the management and development of both "traditional" and "remote" workers. The approach emphasizes that the development of management competencies of supervisors promotes the development of non-stressful working conditions that facilitate workers' well-being and performance too.

Scholarship 2: Reinforce gender equality in human resource advancement

The research will develop strategies aimed at reinforcing gender equality in career advancement in the public administration by focusing on three main issues: a) reducing the impact of gender stereotypes on personnel evaluation and decision-making process concerning career advancement; b) analyzing whether female leader role models perceived as attainable would increase female employees motivations; c) examining whether multiple identifications (e.g., with family, organizations, other groups) would improve female employees' wellbeing and their career development.

Scholarship 3: Digital empowerment in Public Administrations: resources, processes, outcomes

The exploitation of digital tools in order to support innovation and efficiency of organisational processes is still to be completed. The project aims to deepen the analysis of some issues emerged from the project "E-Democracy" funded by the Ministry of University, call FISR2020 Covid19 (Departments involved PSI and DISI) in order to understand psychosocial and organisational factors the support processes of digital empowerment within Public Administrations (PA), to model and test them in pilot studies in Public Administration of different size (small to large).

Position 4 – Executive PhD: Diversity at work: age and intersectionality

The research topic is related to diversity at work with a specific focus on age and the intersectionality with other categories (e.g., gender, disability, ethnicity). The main goal is to study how to manage and enhance diversity to achieve positive results in terms of well-being, motivation and productivity, both for companies and for workers.

Scholarship 5: Rehabilitation of cognitive deficits with virtual reality (Supervisors: Prof. Caterina Bertini, Prof. Andrea Serino)

The project aims at assessing the effects of Virtual Reality-based trainings for cognitive rehabilitation, developing, validating and testing the efficacy of digitalized and gamified versions of standard exercises to improve attention, working memory and executive function deficits in patients with acquired brain lesions.

Scholarship 6: An integrative neurophysiological approach toward the early detection of psychiatric disorders (Supervisors: Prof. Vincenzo Romei, D.ssa Marta Bortoletto)

The project aims at developing methods able to identify individuals at risks of schizophrenia. For this purpose, the research will involve a population of healthy individuals and a schizophrenic population. Cognitive and neurophysiological alterations will be investigated through the study of oscillatory EEG activity and their causal manipulation via TMS, as well as the study of TMS evoked potentials, obtained through TMS-EEG coregistration, both in visual and multisensory tasks.