

**PhD Programme Table - 39th cycle**  
**Call for Applications for the admission to the PhD programmes (39<sup>th</sup> cycle) A.Y. 2023/2024**  
**for scholarships funded by Next Generation EU – NRRP ex M.D. 117/2023 and M.D.**  
**118/2023 and from other sources**



PROGRAMME'S NAME	<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2023 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti ( <a href="mailto:elisabetta.crocetti@unibo.it">elisabetta.crocetti@unibo.it</a> )
CURRICULA	1. Psychological Sciences 2. Joint PhD Program in Cognitive Neuroscience
PhD POSITIONS	13
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	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative	1	
2	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative	2	
3	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	2	
4	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Psychology	1	The impact of stigmatization on wellbeing of people with dementia, older people with depressive disorders and their informal caregivers
5	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Psychology with funds made available by the project H2020 MAIA G.A. N. 951910 -cup J59C20000510006 R.S.Prof. Alessia Tessari	1	Body, action and the processes of embodiment
6	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Psychology with funds made available by the project H2020 ESCAPE G.A. N. 945377 - cup J35F21000670006 R.S.Prof. Chiara Rafanelli	1	Clinical outcomes of a patient-centered Intervention for elderly patients with multimorbidity and their caregivers

7	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Funded by MUR under the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative	1	
8	<b>PhD Scholarship</b>	Funded by the Department of Psychology with funds made available by the project IDENTITIES_ERC G.A. N.101002163 - cup J35F21000520006 R.S. Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti	1	Managing Identities in Diverse Societies: A Developmental Intergroup Perspective with Adolescents
9	<b>PhD Scholarship PNRR ex M.D. 118/2023 - Public Administration</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 (M.D. 118/2023) - Public Administration	1	The psychosocial factors involved in public administration personnel assessment and development procedures for sustainable human resource management
10	<b>PhD Scholarship PNRR ex M.D. 118/2023 - Public Administration</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 (M.D. 118/2023) - Public Administration	1	Improving support to children witnessing gender-based violence in the family and their mothers
11	<b>PhD Scholarship PNRR ex M.D. 118/2023 - Public Administration</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 (M.D. 118/2023) - Public Administration	1	Research on factors that modulate the development and implementation of Meeting Centres for people with dementia in border territories
12	<b>PhD Scholarship PNRR ex M.D. 118/2023 - Public Administration</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 (M.D. 118/2023) - Public Administration	1	Assimilation or diversity management?
13	<b>PhD Scholarship PNRR ex M.D. 118/2023 - PNRR 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 (M.D. 118/2023) – PNRR Research	1	Asymmetry as an index of well-being: the proposal for a new use of actigraphy

All PhD positions winners shall fulfill the learning and research obligations decided by the Academic Board and the obligations foreseen in the relevant regulations, funding schemes and eventual agreements, and in the Call for Applications. Moreover, applicants awarded with PhD scholarships funded by Next Generation EU shall fulfill specific obligations foreseen in the relevant funding scheme, in the relevant regulations and in the Call for Applications.

## Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
<b>Qualifications and research proposal evaluation</b>	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from <b>11/07/2023**</b>

<b>Oral examination</b>	<p><b>Date:</b> starting from <b>18/07/2023 – 9.30 a.m. CEST*</b></p> <p><b>Place:</b> In presence, Aula 1, Department of Psychology, Via Filippo Re 10, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams: Applicants unable to be present in person for serious reasons can request to be interviewed via Teams by writing an email to the members of the Admission Board (subject line: "Request of online interview"). Applicants are required to specify exactly the reason why they cannot be in presence. The Board will evaluate the request and, if approved, will send the Teams link for the interview.</p>	Available from <b>20/07/2023**</b>
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\* In case that the oral examination cannot be completed in one day due to the large number of applicants, the oral examination detailed schedule shall be made available on the webpage [Studenti Online](#) together with the results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation. **During the oral examination, applicants may express their interest in one or more positions linked to specific research topics, and for the preferred Curriculum.**

\*\* The **results of the admission exams** will be available on the webpage [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 concerning the examinations results.**

### 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>The Curriculum Vitae must be written in English.</b>
<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, <b>drawn up in English</b> . The proposal must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it must <b>mention on the cover page the eventual topic-specific PhD</b> (cfr. table “Available Positions and Scholarships”, and detailed in the section <a href="#">Research Fields</a>) the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about, and the number of words used to write the research proposal;</li> <li>- <b>it must include:</b> 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 - <b>max. 3,000 words</b>, references excluded</li> </ul>
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
<b>Reference letter/s</b>	<b>No more than 2 reference letters</b> 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 <b>written in English</b> .
<b>Personal statement</b>	The statement shall include the reasons prompting the applicant to attend the PhD Programme and <b>those relevant experiences and research interests</b> , that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD Programme (3,000 characters maximum, including spaces). <b>The personal statement must be written in English.</b>
<b>Publications</b>	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

<b>Qualifications evaluation</b>	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
<b>Research proposal evaluation</b>	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 PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	5 points max

Oral examination aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as the general knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions.

**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 fields

### **The impact of stigmatization on wellbeing of people with dementia, older people with depressive disorders and their informal caregivers (1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Rabih Chattat)**

The recruited PhD student will conduct research within the project regarding stigma and mental health. Dementia and Depression among older people are considered a public health issue by the World Health Organization. Within the United Nations decade on healthy aging, a specific action to address the need of combatting ageism and related stigma is indicated. Stigma impacts quality of life and wellbeing of both people with the disorders and their family caregivers. Stigma can be considered as a public aspect (perceived stigma or social stigma) and as self-stigma (subjective stigma). The aim of the research is to address self-stigma of older people with dementia and depression and their caregivers and its impact on help-seeking attitudes, wellbeing and social participation. This research will be developed as a first pillar in the development of interventions aimed to address self-stigmatization and to improve wellbeing (medical research council framework for complex interventions). The social health framework will be adopted, mainly the subjective dimensions of social health (fulfilling potential, managing one life and social participation). To fulfill these aims a survey will be developed using online questionnaire to assess stigma (selfstigmatization), emotional wellbeing, help-seeking behavior and socio-demographic variables. The study will be integrated with qualitative interviews. The final aim is to model an intervention to reduce self-stigma and to promote social participation and wellbeing.

### **Body, action and the processes of embodiment**

#### **(1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Alessia Tessari)**

The project aims at investigating the cognitive processes presiding over the representation of the body and actions in healthy people and individuals with physical alterations (e.g., traumatic amputation, acquired motor disabilities). Moreover, the processes of incorporation (embodiment) of prostheses or assistive devices in body representation and action planning will be investigated within a European project (MAIA) aiming at developing a human-centric AI to decode patients' intentions and control prosthetic and assistive devices in daily routines.

### **Clinical outcomes of a patient-centered intervention for elderly patients with multimorbidity and their caregivers**

#### **(1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Chiara Rafanelli)**

The recruited PhD student will conduct research within the Horizon 2020 project ESCAPE (n. 945377). The ESCAPE project aims to develop an integrated and patient-centered intervention to improve the quality of life of older

multimorbid heart failure patients and their caregivers. To reach this aim, a randomized controlled trial is being conducted. The research will focus on clinical outcomes in specific subpopulations to gain a better understanding of the intervention's benefits for these groups.

**Managing identities in diverse societies: A developmental intergroup perspective with adolescents (1 scholarship, Supervisor: Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti)**

The recruited PhD student will conduct research within the ERC project IDENTITIES (GA n 101002163). The IDENTITIES project aims to examine: (a) how intergroup experiences in ecological contexts (from parents, friends, school, and leisure microsystems to cultural macrosystems) influence the development of adolescents' (personal, social, and human) identities; (b) how the interplay of identities affects adolescents' (physical, psychological, and social) wellbeing; and (c) how intergroup experiences in multiple ecological contexts influence adolescents' well-being disentangling direct and indirect effects (mediated by identities). To reach these aims, a longitudinal study with adolescents from two cohorts is being conducted, including multiple annual, monthly, and daily assessments and applying a multi-informant and multi-method design (with quantitative data collected from adolescents, parents, teachers, school principals, municipal administrators, archives, and non-invasive medical devices) and it will be complemented by a case study with a narrative approach conducted with adolescents who have lived abroad for at least three months.

**The psychosocial factors involved in public administration personnel assessment and development procedures for sustainable human resource management (1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Marco Giovanni Mariani)**

Recently, public administration has adopted various personnel evaluation and development methods, which effects have not always been monitored. This doctoral project focuses on the role of psychosocial dimensions, such as perceptions of fairness, employability, and career-related factors, implicated in personnel evaluation and development procedures. Also, this project aims at examining their antecedents, such as managers' management competencies and leadership styles, as well as their outcomes, such as productivity, well-being, and career sustainability. The project presents an original contribution to the literature on the sustainability of the workplace, people's work, and career experience, and the findings may provide the basis for developing sustainable ways of managing human resources, even from the perspective of diversity management. Most of the project will be conducted within a regional structure of an Italian public administration that has recently introduced performance management and vertical/horizontal staff development procedures.

**Improving support to children witnessing gender-based violence in the family and their mothers (1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Carlo Tomasetto)**

The project aims at enabling the Public Administration (PA) to improve their support to children who witness gender-based violence against women in the home environment and their mothers, in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The research will focus on a) deepening up-to-date knowledge on the beliefs, practices and training needs of professionals involved in the support and protection of children witnessing gender-based violence in the family and their mothers, and b) identifying good practices to promote shared knowledge and coordinated approaches among professionals from the diverse agencies and services operating in the field.

**Research on factors that modulate the development and implementation of the Meeting Centres for people with dementia in border territories (1 scholarship; Supervisors: Prof. Alessia Tessari; Dr. Giovanni Ottoboni)**

The project investigates the economic, sociocultural and psychological factors that can foster or hamper the development and implementation of Meeting Centres for people with dementia. The studies will be carried out in a territory next to the Italian border. The data will be matched with the one collected in some regions of Emilia-Romagna. The investigation will be carried out alongside the local health authority. By valuing the existing health services, the PhD student would make an impact analysis concerning the revision of the actual service offer for people with dementia and their caregivers.

**Assimilation or diversity management?**

**(1 scholarship; Supervisors: Prof. Monica Rubini; Dr. Francesca Prati)**

In the light of the multicultural asset of the current time, the topic of this project concerns the selection, management and career development of ethnic minority group members who can be recruited for positions varying in terms of social status within public administrations. On the one side, research will address acculturation preferences of majority members working within public administration as an implicit yet powerful view that might influence recruitment procedures; on the other side, the effects of the organizational climate in terms of cultural norms in support of diversity

will be assessed with reference to organizational identification of majority members as well as members of ethnic minorities.

**Asymmetry as an index of well-being: The proposal for a new use of actigraphy  
(1 scholarship; Supervisor: Prof. Vincenzo Natale)**

In this project the PhD student will work, within the two-process model framework, to ecologically assess the functional motor asymmetries and their associations with cognitive performance both in healthy participants, as well as in a population of ADHD patients. Specifically, the project will assess the changes of homeostatic and circadian processes in both hemispheres during the 24-h cycle. To reach this main goal, first a new method to assess the homeostatic and circadian processes of both hemispheres, considering the gross motor activity provided by actigraphs, will be developed. In addition, a cognitive battery administered at a specific time-of-day will be developed to better measure the cerebral asymmetry. Second, the influence of homeostatic and circadian processes on cognitive performance in children and adolescents with ADHD will be assessed throughout the comparison with a gender and age-matched healthy control group.