



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

AREA
FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

PHD PROGRAMME TABLE

Call for applications for the admission to the PhD programmes (41st cycle) - A.Y. 2025/2026
Second round

PROGRAMME'S NAME	CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2025 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Anna Maria Porcelli (annamaria.porcelli@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	9
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to research topics
1	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
2	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
3	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
4	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
5	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
6	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology with funds made available by the project HORIZON-EIC-2024-PATHFINDEROPEN-01-01 - Type of action: HORIZON EIC Grants - Project number: 101186900 - Project name: Advanced nanomaterials to target genomic and Z-DNA for bacterial biofilm eradication - BactEradix - CUP: J33C240028800006	Characterization of bacterial biofilm in priority pathogens
7	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology - Philadelphia - USA	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanisms
8	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology - Philadelphia - USA	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanisms
9	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology - Philadelphia - USA	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanisms

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Cellular and Molecular Biology” is €16,243.

Positions funded by The Wistar Institute require that the research activity be carried out at least in part at the funding body's headquarters in the USA. For these positions only, there is a maximum total research budget of €38,722.00 for reimbursement of mission expenses.

All winners of PhD positions must fulfil the study and research obligations decided by the Academic Board, as well as the obligations set out in the relevant regulations, in the call for applications, in the funding schemes and in any agreements relating to specific positions.

Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 23/07/2025
Oral examination	Date: starting from 28/07/2025 – 10.30 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Aula Farbiomot, Department of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, Via Selmi 3, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 04/08/2025

The results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation, as well as the oral examination detailed schedule, shall be available on the webpage [Studenti Online](#) (select “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.

During the oral examination, applicants may express their interest in one or more PhD positions linked to specific research topics.

Required and Supporting Documents to be attached to the application

Only documents in Italian or English will be considered valid and will be assessed by the Admission Board. Identity documents and diplomas/degree certificates issued in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation. The translation must be carried out by an authorized body or by the awarding university. Only qualifications obtained in the last 5 years will be taken into account, with the exception of university degrees. 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)
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)
Curriculum Vitae	<p>The Curriculum Vitae must be drawn up using exclusively the Curriculum Vitae form, downloadable in .docx from the University website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). A 5 points penalty on the total qualification evaluation score shall be applied to applicants not using the attached form. The curriculum vitae must contain the following pieces of information, subject to evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name and final mark of the awarded second cycle degree, name of the awarding institution, thesis title and supervisor - Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals), minor publications (i.e. contributions in proceedings of national and international conferences, book chapters) and abstracts and posters presented during academic conferences - Research activity (please, indicate the kind and lengths of the research period; include research activities covered by research grants, and as a staff member of research units) - Periods of study abroad, outside the country of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes) - Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc)

Research proposal	<p>The multi-annual research proposal must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it must be drawn up in English; - it must mention on the cover page the main research topic the applicant is interested to and the project is about; - it cannot exceed 20,000 characters, 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); - it must include: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; outline of the proposed findings assessment criteria; references. <p>The research proposals that successful applicants shall carry out during their PhD career may possibly differ from the one proposed at the application stage. This shall be defined together with the supervisor and approved by the Academic Board, according to the research topics linked to the available PhD positions (see "Available Positions and Scholarships" table, column "Positions linked to research topics").</p>
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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	Second cycle degree final mark	10 points max (in brackets the points awarded to applicants holding a non-Italian degree, calculated according to the percentage with respect to the maximum score) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 points - 110 e lode (maximum score with honour) - 8 points - from 109 to 110 included (98-100% with respect to the maximum score) - 6 points - from 105 to 108 included (95-97% with respect to the maximum score) - 4 points from 101 to 104 included (90-94% with respect to the maximum score) - 3 points from 95 to 100 included (89-90% with respect to the maximum score) - 1 point for scores below 95 (less than 88% with respect to the maximum score)
	(for graduands only) Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	8 points max (in brackets the points awarded to applicants holding a non-Italian degree, calculated according to the percentage with respect to the maximum score) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 points - from 29 to 30 included (98-100% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 6 points da 27 a 28 included (95-97% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 4 points da 25 a 26 included (90-94% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 3 points da 23 a 24 included (89-90% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 1 point for WAM below 23 (less than 88% with respect to the maximum WAM score)
	Publications	6 points max <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points for each publication on an internationally renowned scientific journal

		- up to 1 point for each minor publication, poster or other evaluable publication
	Other qualifications (CV, research activities, period of study abroad for no less than 1 continuative month)	4 points max (up to 1 point per month)
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	7 points max
	Description and structure of the proposal	7 points max
	Consistency of the proposal with the main research topics encompassed by the PhD programme	12 points max
	Proposal feasibility	4 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	5 points max
Research proposal presentation	30 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of programme's organization as described on the PhD programme's website	15 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. **During the oral examination, the applicant's English 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".