



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	EARTH, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2025 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Barbara Cavalazzi (barbara.cavalazzi@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Geology 2. Biology
PhD POSITIONS	9
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Curriculum	Positions linked to research topics
1	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	BIO	Neuro-endocrine alterations in the mussel <i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> exposed to emerging contaminants occurring in the marine-coastal environment
2	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	BIO	Transposable elements evolutionary dynamics in tiger mosquito genomes
3	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	High-resolution stratigraphy applied to Quaternary successions: perspectives and new frontiers for subsurface characterization
4	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	The Alps-Appennines junction along the Sestri-Voltaggio Tectonic Zone
5	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	The role of Deep-Seated Gravitational Slope Deformations (DSGSDs) in shaping groundwater flow and spring dynamics in the Northern Appennines
6	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	Detection of biosignatures in Planetary Field Analogs

7	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the project ERC - Prof. Alberto Canarini (EcoMEMO, J33C22004830006)	BIO	Effects of recurrent drought events on soil microbial communities
8	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the project HEU_2023_FORBEST_SABATI_F_01, CUP J93C24002090006, Grant Agreement n. 101181878, Ref. Prof. Francesco Maria Sabatini	BIO	Integrated approaches for innovative carbon and biodiversity monitoring in forests
9	PhD Scholarship	Funded by Regione Emilia-Romagna in the framework of the research training projects for PhD programmes 41st cycle "High skills for resilience and sustainability of land and communities - ESF+ PR 2021/2027 Priority 2. Education and Training Specific Objective e) - Action No. 2 - Ecological Transition" - under the public notice approved by resolution of the Regional Council n. 344 of 10/03/2025 – funding approved by resolution of the Regional Council n. 732 of 19/05/2025 – CUP J33C25000520006 	GEO	Role of marine gateway and straits on climate, and carbonate factory and sediment distribution

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Earth, Life and Environmental Sciences" is €17,805.

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 evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 14/07/2025
Oral examination	Date: starting from 21/07/2025 – 9.30 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Sala del Consiglio, Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences, Via Zamboni 67, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 30/07/2025

The results of the qualifications 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 will 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)
Curriculum Vitae	No specific CV format is required
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)
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Thesis abstract	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis . Graduands applicants may submit an abstract of the thesis to be defended. 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.
Reference letter/s	No more than 2 reference letters 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).
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 (3,000 characters maximum, including spaces).
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals), minor publications (conference papers, etc.), abstracts and posters presented during national and international conferences, etc.
Other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate vocational programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme - Specialisation thesis abstract (max 5,000 characters) - Teaching activity carried out at academic level - 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 - Work activity - Curricular and non-curricular training internships - Documents attesting the applicant's foreign languages proficiency - Periods of study abroad, completed by applicants outside their countries of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes) - Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc.)

Evaluation criteria*

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

1. Qualifications evaluation

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

Second cycle degree (Master's) final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	25 points max
Publications	5 points max
Personal statement	10 points max
Reference letter/s and other evaluable documents	10 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	40 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".