



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
Third round

PROGRAMME'S NAME	LAW, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATED PARTNERS pursuant to art. 3, para 2, lett. a) of the M.D. n. 226/2021	Università degli studi di Torino
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)
LANGUAGE	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Antonino Rotolo (antonino.rotolo@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	2
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Position linked to a specific research topic
1	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Legal Studies in partnership with Alma Mater Research Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (Alma Human AI) and "Ercole De Castro" Advanced Research Center on Electronic System - ARCES	Machine learning for legal analyses and assessments
2	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Legal Studies with funds made available by the project ERC Hyperdimensional Modelling of the Legal System in Digital Society (acronimo Hypermodelex), G.A. 101055185, Ref. Prof. Palmirani	Agentic AI and Parliament using neuro-symbolic approach

The yearly gross percipient amount of PhD scholarships is €17,500.

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, in the Call for Applications.

Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 13/10/2025
Oral examination	Date: starting from 15/10/2025 – 9.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Sala Kelsen, CIRSFD, Via Galliera 3, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 20/10/2025

The results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation 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) together with the oral

examination detailed schedule. **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 positions linked to specific research topics.

Required and Supporting Documents to be attached to the application

All the documents listed below **shall be drawn up in English**. In case of documents originally issued in any other language (e.g. identity document, qualifications), an official English 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	CV must be written in English
Qualifications	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)
Multi-annual research proposal	<p>A multi-annual research proposal, in English only, with special emphasis on the activities to be completed during the first-year course. The research proposal shall meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it shall indicate on the cover page the research topic covered by the research proposal and for which the applicant is applying; - it cannot exceed 4.000 words, including spaces and formula possibly used. This figure does not include: the title of the proposal, the outline, references and images (such as graphs, diagrams, tables etc. - where present); - it must include: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; lead-time for implementation; references. <p>The research proposal that successful applicants shall carry out during their doctoral career may possibly differ from the proposal presented at the application stage. This shall be defined together with the supervisor and approved by the Academic Board.</p>
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Thesis abstract	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis . Graduands may submit an abstract of the thesis to be defended. Abstracts cannot exceed 5.000 characters, including spaces and formulas, if present. The above figure does not include: title, outline, images such as graphs, diagrams, tables etc. if present – In English only .
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 (2000 characters maximum, including spaces) – In English only .
Reference letter/s	No more than 2 reference letters signed by Italian and/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 for the scientific research. For more information about the specific uploading procedure, see the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2) – In English only (the applicants must inform the academics/professionals about the required language)
Publications	List of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals, volume chapters) and minor publications (conference papers, etc.) – In English only
Other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language proficiency certificates (i.e. TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge Assessment, ESOL or other certificates attesting at least B1 level) - Periods of study abroad, outside the country of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes) – In English only - Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc.) – In English only

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	Graduation final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated on the basis of the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	7 points max , awarded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 points corresponding to 110 with honors - 5 points from 110 to 105 - 3 points from 104 to 100 - 0 points if the final mark is less than 100 For graduands, Weighted Average Mark (WAM) evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 = 7 points - 29 = 5 points - 28 = 3 points - less than 28 = 0 points
	Publications	5 points max
	Reference letter/s	5 points max
	Personal statement	5 points max
	Other qualifications	2 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	11 points max
	Structure of the proposal	5 points max
	Proposal feasibility	10 points max

2. **Oral examination** - minimum score for eligibility: 30 points, maximum score: 50 points

English proficiency	5 points max
Research proposal presentation	20 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	25 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".