



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

AREA
FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

PHD PROGRAMME TABLE

Call for applications for the admission to the PhD programmes (42nd cycle) - A.Y. 2026/2027 Third round

PROGRAMME'S NAME	ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN CULTURE
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Matteo Cassani Simonetti (matteo.cassani@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	2
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to a specific research topic
1	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Architecture	Planning strategies for soil restoration and nature recovery across urban, peri-urban and rural territories
2	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Architecture through funds from the HARMONIA Project, Horizon Europe – New European Bauhaus, Grant Agreement No. 101308922, CUP: J33C25001980006. Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Ferrante	HARMONIA: Housing Affordability through Renewal, Modernization and New Integrated Approaches

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Architecture and Design Cultures” is €16,982.64.

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 12/10/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 19/10/2026 – 9.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Aula ex-Biblioteca, Department of Architecture, Via del Risorgimento 2, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 20/10/2026

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 shall 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. 3.2 of the Call for Applications)
Research proposal	Multi-annual research proposal, with special emphasis on the activities to be completed during the first-year course. The proposal must meet the following requirements: - it cannot exceed 15,000 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 be consistent with the PhD programme’s main research topics and/or with the research topics linked to the available PhD positions; - it must include: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; references. In accordance with the University's policy on the ethical and responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in teaching and research activities, candidates must explicitly state whether they have used Generative Artificial Intelligence systems in the production of the research proposal attached to their application form, specifying which tools were used and for which parts of the document. During the oral examination, the Admission Board will assess the candidate's full mastery of the content included in the document and their ability to justify the methodological and scientific choices made in the project.
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 3 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 on Studenti Online , detailed in the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2).
Personal statement	The statement should include the reasons why the applicant wishes to join the PhD programme and the relevant experience 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	- Postgraduate vocational training programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Teaching and tutorship activity carried out at university 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 activities - Documents attesting the knowledge of foreign languages - Study periods 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.)
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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 (Master's) final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Publications and other qualifications attesting the applicant's training and skills	5 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value, ground-breaking nature and structure of the proposal	20 points max
	Consistency with the main research topics of the PhD programme and/or to the topic linked to the available PhD position	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	5 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	25 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	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 position. During the oral examination, the applicants's English language 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".

Research Fields

Pos. 1 with scholarship funded by the Department of Architecture, with research topic "Planning strategies for soil restoration and nature recovery across urban, peri-urban and rural territories"

The PhD will investigate how spatial planning can support restoration actions and nature recovery across urban, peri-urban and rural territories. The research will focus on planning strategies, policy instruments and implementation mechanisms that reduce soil sealing, promote the restoration of degraded and sealed soils, and enhance ecological connectivity, landscape and community resilience, and aims to define decision support mechanism and methods for including these topic into spatial and urban planning instruments. Particular attention will be paid to the opportunities and challenges introduced by the EU Nature Restoration Law, exploring how its targets can be translated into planning policies and practices at different territorial scales through integrated and collaborative approaches.

Pos. 2 with scholarship funded by the Department of Architecture through funds from the HARMONIA Project, Horizon Europe – New European Bauhaus, Grant Agreement No. 101308922, CUP: J33C25001980006. Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Ferrante, with research topic "HARMONIA: Housing Affordability through Renewal, Modernitazion and New Integrated Approaches"

The research project develops innovative approaches for the construction of new buildings and the renovation or retrofitting of existing buildings in the social and affordable housing sector. HARMONIA embraces, yet goes well beyond, the cost reduction or the efficiency of available technologies. The research in fact, requires adopting an interdisciplinary and multiscalar approach, considering the main environmental, social and economic demands related to the housing affordability. Thanks to this intersectoral approach HARMONIA will be able to select and implement two ambitious packages of measures in real social and affordable housing projects to improve the efficiency and speed of construction and renovation or retrofitting, and adopts environmentally sustainable practices, which are aesthetically pleasing, while also respecting local context and the architectural heritage.