



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	COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Paola Salomoni (paola.salomoni@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	3
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	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN) – Call for Applications for the Funding of PhD Scholarships in the Field of Cybersecurity (Director General's Determination, Prot. No. 112148 of 5 March 2026) – 42nd PhD Cycle	AIACE: Advancing the Self-Sovereign Identity for Industrial Authentication and Certification
2	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by Ferrari S.p.A.	Accelerating the Development of Novel Lithium-Ion Battery Chemistries Using AI in the Context of Electrochemical Compatibility
3	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by CNR ISTC - Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione	Development of neuro-symbolic methods for the extraction, representation, and transfer of tacit knowledge in procedural contexts, through the integration of generative models, ontologies, and knowledge graphs. Particular attention will be paid to the identification and formalization of knowledge, constraints, and implicit

			assumptions, in order to make them interpretable, verifiable, and reusable in scenarios of knowledge transfer.
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The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Computer Science and Engineering” is €18.341,04.

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 13/10/2026 – 14.00 CEST Place: In presence, Sala Nadia Busi, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, Via Mura Anteo Zamboni 7, 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 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)
Curriculum Vitae	The Curriculum Vitae shall contain on the first page the CV Summary , duly filled, downloadable in .docx from the University website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). Versions of the Summary modified in content and/or in the order in which they are presented will not be accepted: therefore, it is mandatory to use only and exclusively the form provided by the University. If the uploaded Curriculum does not contain such a Summary as per the instructions above, the Admission Board will not proceed to the evaluation of any title provided by the applicant and he/she will be automatically excluded from the oral examination.
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)
Research proposal	Multi-annual research proposal (drawn up in Italian or in English), with special emphasis on the activities to be completed during the first-year course. The proposal must meet the following requirements: it must be written following the Research Proposal Template, downloadable in .docx from the University website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). Versions of the research proposal modified in content and/or in the order in which they are presented will not be accepted, therefore it

	is mandatory to use only and exclusively the form provided by the University. Should the research proposal not be drawn up as per the instructions above, the Admission Board will not proceed to assess any of the qualifications provided by the candidate and he/she will be automatically excluded from the oral examination; - 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; references. 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. The name of the possible PhD thesis supervisor should not be given, as this will only be identified by the PhD Academic Board after enrolment. 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 (drawn up in Italian or in English) . Graduates applicants may submit an abstract of the thesis about 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).
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals) and minor publications (conference papers, etc.), in Italian or in English
Other documents	- Postgraduate vocational programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme - Teaching 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 - 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.)

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

Second cycle degree (Master's) final mark. Graduates shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
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Consistency of the Second cycle degree final thesis with the main topics of the PhD programme	10 points max
Publications	5 points max
Curriculum Vitae, reference letters, other qualifications	10 points max
Research proposal (scientific value, structure and feasibility of the proposal)	15 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation and 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".