



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
First round

PROGRAMME'S NAME	POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DURATION	4 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Roberto Rizza (roberto.rizza@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Political Science 2. International Relations 3. Sociology
PhD POSITIONS	6
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description
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. Position reserved with priority for candidates who are beneficiaries of international protection (with refugee status or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) or residents and/or nationals of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Palestine, in line with the initiatives of the Scholars at Risk programme. Only if the Admissions Board does not identify any suitable candidates who meet this requirement will the position be assigned to other suitable candidates in order of ranking.
5	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget in the framework of the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative
6	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Political and Social Sciences

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Political and Social Sciences" 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 15/04/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 23/04/2026 – 10.00 a.m. CEST Place: Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 30/04/2026

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.**

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 must be drawn up using exclusively the Curriculum Vitae form , which can be downloaded in .docx from the University Website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). A 10 points penalty on the total qualification evaluation score shall be applied to applicants not using the said form for the CV.
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	The multi-annual research proposal (3,000 words max, not including the references) must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it must mention on the cover page the curriculum the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about; - it must include: the state of the art; research question; methodology; expected results; - it must include the abstract of the second cycle degree thesis (1,000 words max). Graduands applicants may submit the abstracts of their Master’s thesis’ draft. 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	
Reference letter/s	No more than 2 reference letters signed by Italian 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 in the scientific research. Letters shall be uploaded following the procedure 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 in Political and Social Sciences and the relevant experience and research interests that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD programme.
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals) and minor publications (conference papers, etc.)
Other documents	- 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)
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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	Publications	2 points max
	Reference letter/s	3 points max
	Personal statement	5 points max
	Foreign languages proficiency and/or periods of study abroad	5 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal, consistency with the applicant's previous research experiences (thesis abstract)	20 points max
	Consistency with the PhD programme's main topics	15 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 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 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".